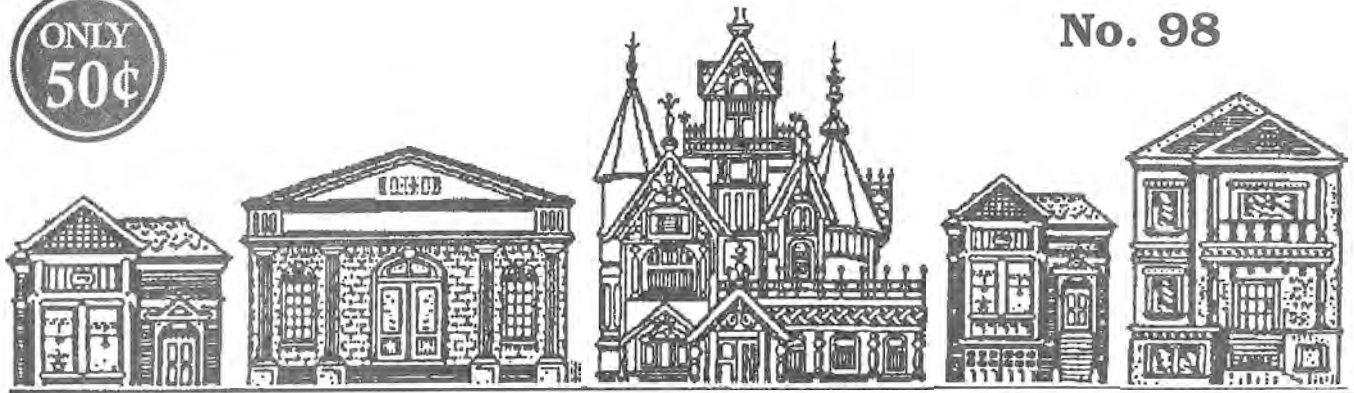


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The President's Sister

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Old Timer's Sale



The President's Sister

In the late fall of 1823 a small handful of mourners followed a horse-drawn wagon carrying a simple wooden coffin as it made its way from a boarding house in downtown Huntsville to the Maple Hill Cemetery.

If an eulogy was given it was probably a short one for few people in Huntsville knew her. She had been a recluse, spending much of her time in bed sick, or perhaps sitting in a darkened room of the boarding house remembering a time when she was the confidant of this country's greatest leaders.

At the conclusion of the short funeral service the family returned to town, leaving behind only the scar of a newly filled grave to remind people of the passing of a loved one. Within a few years grass began to cover the site, and a few years later the marker, if there ever was one, disappeared. People who knew her died or moved away and the Huntsville newspapers of the day ignored her presence. By the time historians began to write Huntsville's early history she had been forgot-

ten.

Ironically, the only mention of her presence in Huntsville was a short obituary that appeared in an 1823 Washington D.C., newspaper which stated that Frances Taylor Madison Rose, sister of President James Madison, had died in Huntsville, Alabama.

Frances Madison was born in 1774, the youngest of ten children born to a wealthy and influential family in Orange County, Virginia. The family estate, Montpelier, was considered to be one of the finest plantations of the day. It consisted of over ten thousand acres with hundreds of slaves working the fields and taking care of the house. The estate was virtually a self contained community with its own grist mill, wheelwrights, black smith and wagon maker. Numerous cousins lived nearby giving the estate a sense of being a small town. One of her cousins, Zachary Taylor would later become the twelfth president of the United States.

Fanny, as Frances was called, was raised as virtually an only child. Her siblings were all older than her, with James, her eldest brother, being 23 years old when she was born. At an early age she earned the reputation of being an out spoken tom-boy, often forsaking her dolls and parlor games to explore the estate in company of one of the numerous slaves. Once while out riding on the Sabbath she earned the wrath of a local



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parson. The church leaders of the day literally controlled the communities and its politics, forbidding any type of frivolous activities on the Sabbath day. Violators could be fined or imprisoned.

When the parson visited Fanny's father to lodge a protest against her joy riding, Fanny remained obstinate, refusing to admit she had done anything wrong. She could not understand why her country was fighting for its freedom but yet let the Church impose another type of dictatorship. Her obstinacy about this would later help shape her brother's views about separation of state and religion.

While growing up Fanny was immersed in the political future of the new country. Her brother James had entered politics the same year she was born and was a member of the Virginia Convention and the Continental Congress. James Madison was widely regarded as the intellectual shining star of the newly-founded government.

Fanny assumed the chores of hostess while still a young girl. Her mother was regularly incapacitated with the lingering effects of malaria. Fanny often assumed the duties of entertaining guests, of which there were many. As

James Madison became more well known in political circles, Montpelier was often over run with guests, some of whom stayed for weeks at a time discussing the future of the country.

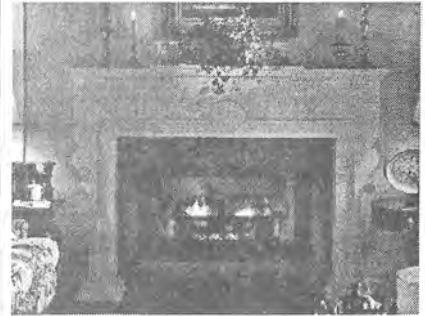
For a young girl, these were heady times. Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock and James Monroe would often sit at the dinner table with her while discussing the Declaration of Independence. Aaron Burr fascinated her with his rakish devil-may-care attitude. Henry Clay practiced his oratory while pacing in the living room and Benjamin Franklin reminded her of a kindly grand father figure who always had time to answer her questions.

Education for a young lady at that time was practically non-existent. Girls were expected to take care of the house and obey their husbands. Education was something for boys and not to be wasted on girls. James Madison, however, assumed the role of tutor for his youngest sister. While visiting Montpelier during breaks of Congress he would patiently instruct her in the same subjects he was taught while a student at Princeton College. With a lack of text books the lessons often consisted of political essays, which they would discuss, and argue,

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passionately.

While James Madison was serving in the Philadelphia Congress, Fanny often stayed with him, taking the role of hostess for her bachelor brother. There she became lifelong friends with George Washington, and entertained Patrick Henry and Alexander Hamilton while becoming the belle of Philadelphia's social set.

The young country named the United States of America had been victorious on the battlefield but now another crisis loomed. James Madison realized that no nation could survive for long without strict guidelines for its government and citizens. This was a problem that would perplex him for years.

During this time Madison would often retire to Montpelier with his collection of books to ponder what form of government would be best. Many times, wracked by excruciating headaches, he would lie on the couch while Fanny read discourses from books on governmental studies.

According to a family historian, Fanny would argue passionately for her views on what the government should be. One of her strongest beliefs was a separation of Church and State, a view that her brother agreed with but was considered almost heretical in those days. One battle she lost, however, was equal rights for women, an idea considered outrageous even by her brother.

Many of their ideas would later be incorporated into The Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

One of Fanny's many friends was Dolly Payne, an attractive young widow who had been raised as a Quaker and was also a cousin of Martha Washington. James Madison was courting Dolly but she was unable to decide whether to accept his proposal of marriage. According to a family legend, Fanny and Dolly were visiting Martha at Mt. Vernon when the subject of the proposed marriage came up. Suddenly, George Washington entered the room and began a lengthy impassioned discourse on the merits of

James Madison as a potential husband. Faced with such insurmountable odds Dolly quickly agreed to the proposed wedding. Later she discovered that the Madisons, brother and sister, had enlisted the aid of the venerable Washington as a match maker.

Fanny was by all accounts considered an attractive and intelligent young lady and most people assumed that with her connections she would marry into politics. In 1800, however, she announced her intentions to marry a local doctor, Robert H. Rose, a somewhat rakish individual with a penchant for speculative endeavors. Although he was well educated and came from a well known family he brought little money to the marriage. Fortunately Fanny's father made the couple a gift of an adjoining plantation.

In this same year her father died leaving James Madison as his executor. The Madison family was about to become heir to a problem that plagued many early families. With over fifty cousins living within a few miles, it was impossible to divide the estate in a manner satisfactory to everyone. With Fanny supporting him, James Madison filed a suit against all the members of the family in an attempt to bring about a timely settlement. In the end a settlement was reached but many of the family remained bitter. Fanny and her husband, in addition to the plantation of Litchfield, were awarded claims to thousands of acres of raw untamed lands in Kentucky and western Virginia.

Married life for the young Fanny Madison Rose was totally

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different from anything she had known before. Where she had always been fascinated by politics, vocal in her beliefs, and somewhat of a society lady, she was now faced with the traditional role of housewife, and of having another baby every year.

Managing the plantation also fell upon her as her husband was away much of the time pursuing hapless business ventures. He invested heavily in a Philadelphia business that exported tobacco to Europe, only to see the bottom fall out of tobacco prices. Another venture was a proposed canal near New York that had to be abandoned once it was realized the surveys were faulty. Along with two cousins he traveled to Kentucky several times to promote various land development schemes with Fanny's inherited lands but again was thwarted when the titles proved defective. Each time he would return to Orange County where he would practice medicine until another scheme came along.

All of these ventures proved a heavy weight to the family fortunes, burdening the plantation with more debt each year. However, Robert Rose had become known as "Madison's brother in law" and there was always someone else willing to extend credit or get his support for another scheme. On the other hand, Fanny, who had once been the Belle of the Ball, as well as a budding intellectual, was consigned to the role of dutiful wife, subservient to her husband's wishes. Probably even more humiliating was the fact that once she was married, she was not expected to have any opinions, even though people constantly sought her husband's ear for the mere fact he was married to James Madison's sister.

Fanny Madison had gone from being a person in her own right to being "the wife of Madison's brother-in-law."

In 1808 James Madison was elected President. Fanny traveled to Washington to see her brother inaugurated and even though she was pregnant again, insisted on attending several of the balls. Her visits to the White House, where she would often stay for extended periods must have reminded her of her youth. Once again she was in the company of the men who had helped shape the destiny of our country. Her vivacious charm and spirited intellect made her a highly desired dinner guest with political luminaries such as Jefferson, Monroe and John Quincy Adams.

However stimulating Washington was, Fanny was always faced with reality once she arrived home. The plantation was getting deeper in debt and prospects for relief looked grim. Even James, the brother she had turned to so often in the past could not help even though he was now the President. Failed crops and the expenses of a political career had practically wiped out his fortune.

Adding an even greater strain

to Fanny's marriage was the relationship between her husband and the President. At the outbreak of war with Great Britain, Robert Rose had lobbied for a position in the government and even though Madison had appointed eleven of his own kin to various posts, he had refused to help Rose.

In 1813 Robert Rose left his wife to tend to the family and finances alone, and in the company of several others traveled to New Orleans. He claimed to have served as a surgeon with the army but later applications for land grants, based on his service, were turned down three different times by Congress. Most likely he had been involved in cotton speculation.

When James Madison left office in 1817 he went back to a much different Montpelier. His estates, as well as his family's, were on the point of bankruptcy. Worn out land, bad investments, spiraling expenses and heavy debts all combined to spell the end to the Madison estates. The

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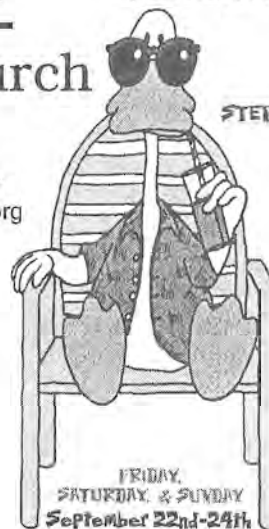
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vast plantations had literally become little more than breeding farms for slaves to be shipped south, often providing the only source of income to the family.

Meanwhile, Robert Rose had heard about the great fortunes being made by land speculators in Northern Alabama. Some land, purchased for as little as fifteen dollars an acre was being immediately resold for hundreds of dollars. Rose assembled a group of investors who agreed to invest in shares of the Cypress Land Company, a company involved in land development near Florence. Many prominent people such as Andrew Jackson and James Monroe had also purchased stock in the company so it appeared to be a safe venture.

One can imagine the heartache Fanny must have felt when she learned that she would have to give up her home and family to move to the wilderness of Alabama. Doubtful of the educational facilities in the new territory, Fanny had made arrangements for two of her sons to attend school in Kentucky. After selling almost everything of value to pay the accumulated debts, the family loaded a few possessions in several wagons, and accompanied by a good number of slaves, be-

gan the long trek southward.

It was decided that Fanny, her daughter Nellie and her youngest son James Madison Rose, would stay in Huntsville with the Newman family. The Newman family had been neighbors of the Roses in Virginia and Fanny's oldest son, Hugh, would later marry one of the Newman daughters. Robert and the other boys would go on to Florence to cash in on the land boon and begin building a house for the family.

With her husband gone for much of the time, Fanny began to build a life of her own. Her son, James Madison, had always been her favorite and had inherited his mother's interest in politics. He adapted well to the Alabama wil-

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derness, making friends easily and while still a youth would disappear for days at a time on hunting trips. One of his friends and hunting companions was Davy Crockett who would later have a deciding influence on his life.

Her daughter Nellie, said to have been an exceptionally attractive lady, soon caught the eye of a suitor, Captain John Newman, the son of the family they were staying with. For propriety's sake, Fanny decided to move to a nearby boarding house.

Robert Roses' speculation in the Cypress Land Company proved to be as unsuccessful as all of his other ventures. Rather than making a profit he managed to squander most of what remained of the family fortune. The family was reduced to living off the rental of the few slaves they had brought from Virginia.

Robert Rose, like so many others who had lost their fortunes, began to seek solace with alcohol. He spent much of his time in bars regaling listeners with stories of times gone by. In 1820 he ran for public office but was easily defeated by the "Georgia Gang," led by LeRoy Pope, who had been adamantly opposed to many of President Madison's policies. It is believed that Rose practiced medicine occasionally during this time.

In 1822 Robert Rose announced to his family that they were moving to Giles County, Tennessee. A group of investors, hoping to capitalize on his connection with the ex-president, had offered him a farm in an attempt to lure other people into buying nearby land.

Fanny's husband and sons thrived on the new adventure. It was rugged, untamed wilderness with the closest neighbors miles away. Bears, deer and other types of wild game were abundant and

the boys easily adjusted to the frontier life.

For Fanny, however, it was a different story. Her husband disappeared for days at a time practicing medicine and drinking with his friends, leaving her and her daughter alone in the rough log cabin they called home. Even worse, Fanny was suffering the lingering effects of malaria and was often bedridden for days at a time.

One has to wonder what went through her mind as she lay in her sick bed. Did she remember the times when she visited George Washington at Mt. Vernon or did she think about her life in Virginia when she dressed in the finest gowns and kept company with famous people like Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe.

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Her family fortunes were gone, her once fine dresses had become tattered cleaning rags. The only thing Fanny had left of value was her pride.

After living in Giles County for only a few months, Fanny announced to her husband that she was leaving him. Possibly she was concerned for her daughters future, or more likely, she was fed up with her husband's empty promises.

Accompanied by her daughter Nellie, she returned to Huntsville where she lived in a boarding house. Life could not have been pleasant for her. For a woman to leave her husband was almost unheard of at the time and doubtless the community looked on her as a scorned woman, and all the memories in the world could not change that.

Family accounts say that she was a recluse with few friends and hardly ever leaving her room.

Fanny Madison Rose died in the fall of 1823. She was buried in Maple Hill Cemetery. No one knows if her family was at the funeral. If there ever was a headstone it disappeared with the passage of time.

Her daughter Nellie married John Newman the following year and eventually most of their family moved to California. Robert Rose and three of their sons moved around almost continuously until the early 1830s when they settled on a farm near Memphis, Tennessee. He died in 1833.

James Madison Rose, Fanny's youngest son stayed with his father. In 1835, while taking a shipment of cotton to market in New Orleans he learned that his close friend, Davy Crockett, had gone to Texas to help fight for independence. James left to join his friend in Texas and in March of 1836 they both died at the Alamo.

President James Madison lived until 1836. His estates were practically worthless at his death and Dolly Madison lived as a virtual pauper in Washington D.C., until Congress purchased her husband's papers for the National Archives. She died in 1849.

A special thanks to Catherine Rose of the Rose Family Association, Jane Reynolds of Chicago, Ill., David Madison Kent of Salt Lake City, Utah and Nancy Hardin of Nashville Tn. who generously shared their research with Old Huntsville.



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Jacob Emory Pierce, Editor of Huntsville Daily Times Arrested for Liberty Drive Fraud.

From 1918 Newspaper

J. E. Pierce, editor of the Huntsville Daily Times, and one of the most strenuous reform politicians in North Alabama and candidate for the State senate last summer, was arrested here last night on a federal warrant sworn out by federal officials charging him with obtaining money under false pretences by representing himself to be a government official. Pierce made bond in the sum of \$500.

Mr. Pierce waived a preliminary hearing before U.S. Commissioner Watts and he was bound over to the federal grand jury. The charges upon which Mr. Pierce was arrested by the federal authorities were first brought informally before a meeting of the Campaign Committee of the Fourth Liberty Loan Drive during the last week of that campaign. The district and county chairmen, with a full attendance of various subcommittees composed of the best citizenship of the county, af-

ter hearing the charges presented against Mr. Pierce, recommended the matter be referred to the Madison County War Defense Council and the Council of Defense for Investigation. At a called joint meeting of these two federal bodies, witnesses appeared and under oath gave their testimonies concerning these wholesale frauds practiced upon fifty or sixty odd Negro citizens of the county.

By unanimous motion of these federal boards the chairman was instructed to lay the matter before the United States District Attorney of this district for further investigation and action. At this point all local activities ended and all subsequent developments proceeded from the government.

Many prominent and well respected Negroes appeared before the War Council and claimed that Pierce enforced collection of \$30 from each of them on the grounds that it was compulsory and levied by the Federal government. This was during the last ten days

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of the Fourth Liberty Loan campaign and all the witnesses declared that they were given to understand that this constituted a part of the government's bond drive.

Some stated that he declared these sums were assessed to be expended in patriotic advertising, some stated they were led to believe they were making first payments on Liberty Bonds and all declared they would not have contributed unless they had believed it was obligatory.

Leaders among the Negroes here declare that Pierce collected about \$2000 from well to do as well as needy Negroes of the county in these solicitations and that the fraud greatly hampered the success of the Liberty Bond campaign.

A few were given receipts for display advertising in return for their money, but in most cases no receipt was given.

Witnesses stated that Pierce's operations had created great consternation and resentment among the Negroes of the county.

Witnesses who appeared and were placed under oath testified that the collection of money in Pierce's advertising campaign was practically by force.

One person testified that Pierce told him the government was requiring this contribution, and that Pierce and the Huntsville Daily Times were merely acting as agents for the government.

Another witness declared that Pierce stated to him that he had to make the contribution, that he saw Mr. Pierce's brother, the United States deputy collector, in Mr. Pierce's car a short distance off, and that Pierce gave him to understand that these demands were being backed by this official. The witness further stated that he paid the money because he be-

lieved he had no other choice.

Another witness stated that Mr. Pierce said to him, "Do you know that gentleman in the car?" Pointing to his brother, the deputy collector. "I want \$30 from you

for the Fourth Liberty Bond Drive."

The witness then stated that after paying the money he was given a receipt which he read as Pierce was leaving the place; that as soon as he saw on the face of



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the receipt that it was for patriotic advertising, he ran after Pierce in an effort to catch him so as to get his money back but could not outrun the car.

Another witness testified that Mr. Pierce stated to him that he wanted him to take out Liberty Bonds, where upon witness replied he had no money. Pierce replied that he would lend it to him if he would sign a note for it; that if he didn't do so, he (Pierce), would put him in jail.

The witness stated that he believed Pierce because Pierce pointed to his brother who was waiting nearby in the car.

Two other witnesses stated that Pierce declared these were first payments on Liberty Bonds which were assessed against the witnesses and that they were compelled to pay the assessments to him.

Some twenty odd Negro farmers, out of the great number alleged to have been defrauded by Pierce, gave sworn testimony substantially along the same lines.

Never lend your car to anyone to whom you've given birth. Erma Bombeck

Dangerous Love

from 1919 newspaper

Police were summoned yesterday to break up a wild melee at the corner of Jefferson and Holmes between Roberta Hensley and Alice Rowe. The melee began when the two ladies noticed each were wearing the same type of love bracelet. After comparing notes it was discovered that both were being courted by the same suitor. Words quickly turned into fisticuffs.

The two combatants were placed in the city lockup where they are awaiting a hearing. The suitor is now where to be found.



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The Last Yell

In the spring of 1949, the Smithsonian Institute hired Frank Tolbert, a renowned historian, to capture on a tape recording the most spine chilling sound ever created by man ... the infamous "Rebel Yell."

Time was of the utmost importance. There were only four veterans of the Civil War, all Confederates, still living and they were all over 100 years old. Fortunately, they all lived in Texas, which appeared to make his job much easier.

The first veteran Tolbert visited was Joseph Haden Whitsett, a feisty 103 year old.

"Can't do it," Whitsett answered. "Can't Rebel yell. I'm sorry. I tried to learn it a thousand times when I was with General Joseph Shelby's escort during the war. I didn't seem to have the right kind of voice."

Walt Williams, 107 years of age, was next on Tolbert's list. "Used to could do it," he replied. "But I haven't got the throat linings for it now. When you get a hundred seven you can't do everything you want no more."

Disappointed, Tolbert next traveled to Wichita Falls, where 104 year old Thomas E. Riddle made his home. Riddle had recently divorced his third wife and claimed to be looking for a fourth.

Unfortunately, though Riddle remembered the yell well, he

could not do it. "Takes a young man," he said, "and I ain't got the strength no more." Only one name was left on Tolbert's list-- Samuel Merrill Raney, 103 years of age.

"Can you do the Rebel yell?" Tolbert asked Samuel.

Abruptly the old veteran threw back his head and started yelling, "like an opera singer hitting an almost impossibly high note, as if a mountain lion and a coyote were crying in chorus," Tolbert later remarked.

Tolbert listened in awe to the historically significant shout. He, alone, was listening to the last person left alive in the world who could do the Rebel Yell the same way it had been done during the Civil War.

When the old man had finished, Tolbert inquired about making a recording of the yell.

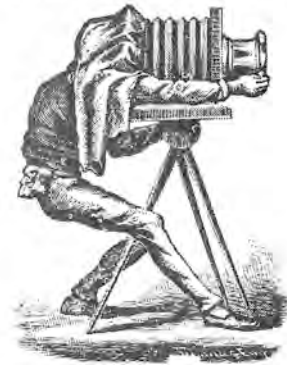
"Can't," the old man replied. "Ain't got no electricity."

Undaunted, Tolbert went to town in search of a battery powered tape recorder. A few days later he returned to Raney's farm and knocked on the door. A strange man opened the door.

"I'm looking for Mr. Raney," Tolbert said.

"He ain't here," the man replied. "He died."

Bob Gathany



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Why is the time of day
with the slowest traffic
called "Rush Hour"?

Huntsville News From 1907

John T. Howland is visiting his brother, Charley Howland at the McGee Hotel.

James Murphree will leave for Cincinnati next week to purchase the fixtures for the new Henderson National Bank. The fixtures will be mahogany and marble base and mosaic tiles.

Mr. John Sutherland, about 50 years of age, died yesterday from hydrophobia. He was bitten about six weeks ago and was sent to Atlanta. He died in awful agony, six men being required to hold him.

Children will not be allowed in the pool rooms in Huntsville. Mayor Smith has given instructions to the police on the enforcement of the city laws and minors will not be allowed to enter pool rooms in this city. Proprietors will be required to remove their curtains so that people can see in as they pass along the street.

Renters of the stalls in the city market have been notified that they must keep their stalls clean.

A Rebel To The Last

from 1863 newspaper

The suburbs of Huntsville and the lands for some distance around the town are being fast denuded of timber. The beautiful groves are fast disappearing under the ruthless axe of the invader. There is scarcely a fence around any of the grounds in the vicinity. In all parts of the town there is similar evidences of destruction, but not to the same extent.

The soldiers are, for the most part, Regulars, and under better discipline than formerly, and being prohibited from entering private houses or lots, without special leave. Not a single Negro company is stationed there or has been organized there. Negro men, women and children are quartered in Greene Academy. When Governor Chapman was ordered out of his home for refusing to take the oath, and was on the eve of starting, he received notice that

the family must vacate the house in a specified time and it was said that he was ordered not to remove any of the furniture, and that Negroes were to be quartered there, but the latter needs confirmation.

Thurstan Lumpkin, a citizen of Huntsville, who was sent to the Nashville Penitentiary, several months ago, for telling the Yankees that he believed that they were stealing Negro men to carry them North and improve the Yankee breed, is reported to have died there, a short time since.

It is said that he was a Rebel to the last and denounced the Yankees, almost with his dying breath.

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Sept. Birthdays

5 Jesse James
8 Robert A. Taft
9 William H. Taft
10 O. Henry
19 Charles Carrol
20 Alexander The Great
23 Caesar Augustus
23 Euripides
23 William McGuffey
24 John Marshall



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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



It's hard to believe that this summer is just about gone, and it's been a hot one. We've had lots of enjoyment and also lots of sadness among my restaurant family.

My friend **Susan Kirkland** guessed the picture of the Month so she's gonna have a large country ham breakfast when she comes in. The picture was our dear **Sandra Steele**. Congratulations also to Sandra on her wedding - she was such a beautiful bride.

Congratulations to my pals **Tom and Cathey Carney** on their new granddaughter. Tom says she's the most beautiful baby he's ever seen, and that he's being very objective. The proud parents of **Hannah Catherine** are **Stefanie and John Troup**.

My grandson **Duane**, and **Beth** had a beautiful wedding. They married at the Hartselle Church of God. We wish them lots of happiness.

My pal **Benny Wilson** and his

lovely wife brought friends to breakfast over the weekend. You're looking great, Benny.

We've been hearing good things about the Huntsville Music Club and it's president **Margie Garrett**. This is one of the oldest clubs in town (1920) and awards scholarships to local students. Keep it up!

Bill Easterling and Pat came to see us this week. All of you know Bill - he is one of our greatest writers. Looking good, Bill, and you know I love you.

Congratulations to **Mr. Bob Ward** on his retirement. We sure will miss you at the paper - Mr. Bob worked at the Times for many, many years

Some of the sadness that happened this month were for people we lost from our restaurant family. Sympathy to **Dr. Herbert Gray** in the death of his wife, also to **Duane Dolan** on the death of his wife. To **Carol Tharmington** on the death of her mother, **Mrs. Patterson**. We love you all and

you're in our prayers every day.

An old friend has come back to Huntsville from Orange Beach, Florida. She's **Ruby Blessing**, and **Joline Stafford** brought her to breakfast.

Glenn Watson brought his mother here to see me - she's 88 years young and a pistol, just like Glenn.

Remember **Jimmy Taylor** from the **Sno White Cafe** here years ago? He lives back here now and he brought his wife **Lucy** and several of her family to see us at breakfast.

I only have 3 sisters and 1 brother left of my large family, and my sister **Naomi** (who lives in Florida) has been here and we had the best time; My older sister **Ruth** is 91 now and she cooked us a big ole peach cobbler. My niece **Betty Kirkland** drove us everywhere we wanted to go. It was a great time and lots of fun.

Congratulations Loretta!! I knew you'd do it. Gee, it was a happy crowd when the votes were finally counted. In addition to a lot

Photo of The Month

Welcome to our world, Hannah Catherine Troup, born August 24, 2000. Hannah, just remember, if you love people, they will love you back!

Your Aunt Eunice



Last month's photo was Sandra Steele

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Sandra Steele, President

of other things, we hear comments all the time about how beautiful downtown Huntsville is after Loretta started having the planters, hanging plants and landscaping added to the streets near the courthouse.

Congratulations also go to **Glenn Watson** on his win - he ran on the platform that he's kept his promises.

Happy Birthday, Rita! Folks, don't tell her I told you but she's as old as I am and now you all know that I'm close to the big 80.

Have any of you tried **Mrs. Lorene Gadlehere's** blueberries? They're great, thank you Mrs. Lorene.

Congratulations to my son and daughter-in-law **Donald** and **Wanda** and to my daughter and son-in-law **Doris** and **Wayne Elkins**. We celebrated 3 wedding anniversaries in August.

September 14 is the big day for the **Senior Crime Prevention Class** to start at the Senior Center at 1:30 p.m. Be sure and attend, do it for you.

Did you know that a local young lady has had a street named after her in Research Park? The Jan Davis dedication ceremony in honor of **Dr. N. Jan Davis**, the former astronaut. The unveiling of the street sign, called N. Jan Davis Drive was held recently.

Now you all remember that we're giving **Mike Gillespie** a political party September 12 here at the restaurant and one for **Jane Smith** on September 26. You are all invited to attend, and it may be more exciting than you think!

In August **Martha Deloney** celebrated her birthday along with her pals **Kathy Isabell** and **Doris Lumpkin**. Then on September 1, Kathy celebrated her birthday with pals **Martha Deloney** and **Doris Lumpkin**. These gals have

been celebrating for 2 months now! The sure have a great time together.

John and Judy McLure from Woodworth, Louisiana, are visiting their sister **Carol** and her husband **Art**. John lives where they grow mayhows and muscadines. So he brought me some mayhow jelly.

My good friends **Sandra Harper** and **Marie Mitchell** from Scottsboro came to see me. Mrs. Marie's mom is **Pam Mitchell**.

Ken Follett, the British author, sent *Old Huntsville* a pre-release copy of his new book. The story takes place in Huntsville in the late 50s and is guaranteed to keep your attention!

Please make your plans to attend the **Arthritis Breakfast** this year at Eunice's Restaurant - the cost is \$15 per person to attend and your donation goes to the Arthritis Foundation. You'll get good food, you'll get your coffee poured by celebrities and all your friends will be there - you can't beat that!

That's all for now, you all know that I love you!

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Civil War Cooking

Bean Soup

½ lb. uncooked navy beans
 ¾ lb. ham shank
 1 c. diced potatoes
 1 c. diced onion
 3 large tomatoes, skinned and chopped
 Salt and pepper to taste
 parsley

Cover beans with cold water, soak overnight. Next day rinse beans, cover with fresh water, cook til tender, strain. Cover ham with cold water and simmer til tender, then add the beans, potatoes, and onion to the ham. Simmer til vegetables are almost tender, maybe 15 minutes. Add tomatoes, salt and pepper and a bunch of parsley, cook another 10 minutes.

Red Flannel Hash

1 lb. corned beef
 4 cold boiled potatoes, chopped
 1 large onion, chopped
 salt, pepper and nutmeg

2 cooked beets, peeled and diced
 fresh herbs to taste
 3 T. butter

Cut beef into small pieces, combine all remaining ingredients except the butter. Melt butter in pan and when foaming add the meat mixture, spooned out evenly on the pan. Cook over low heat, pressing mixture down with spoon. Cook for 20 minutes, when a crust forms on the bottom flip all and cook for another 20 minutes. Cut into wedges and serve.

Omelet Souffle

6 eggs
 Grated orange or lemon rind
 6 T. confectioners sugar
 piece of butter size of an egg (4 tablespoons)

Separate yolks from whites. Add the sugar and grated orange/lemon rind to the yolks and blend til the mixture turns white. Beat whites til they form stiff peaks and fold this into the yolk mixture.

Melt butter in a pan, pour in the omelet mixture, stir til butter is absorbed by the eggs. Lightly butter an ovenproof dish, pour in the omelet mixture, sprinkle top with a bit of powdered sugar and bake in very hot oven til it just starts to turn light brown.

Sauerkraut

Cabbage
 Salt

Wash cabbage and cut into quarters. Remove core, then shred cabbage finely with sharp knife. Place a layer of cabbage in a wide mouthed jar or crock, sprinkle with salt and press down firmly. Continue to layer til the jar is full. Cover top with a clean cloth, put a plate on top and add a weight to weigh it down. Place jar in a warm place to ferment. After a few days remove the froth on top, replace cloth, plate and weight, allow to stand for another 3 days, then repeat process. The jar should now be moved to a cool place and ready in 2 weeks.

Sweet Potato Pudding

6 medium sweet potatoes
 1 c. milk
 1 c. sugar

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3 eggs
juice of a lemon
1 t. cinnamon

Boil potatoes for 30 minutes and they are soft, mash with the milk to a smooth consistency. Add the remaining ingredients, beat til smooth. Pour into a shallow, lightly buttered dish and bake in 375 degree oven for 30 minutes.

Apple Pie

8 medium apples
1 T. butter
1 c. white sugar
½ c. culinary rose water
grated nutmeg
½ c. butter
2 c. flour
pinch salt
cold water

Make your dough as follows: Rub butter into flour, add salt and mix in enough cold water to make a nice dough. Roll out enough dough to line a deep pie dish. Line dish with the dough and fill with apple mixture.

Core apples, chop and stew til softened - 15 minutes. Add butter, sugar, rose water and nutmeg - mix well. When you have poured this into the pie dough, top with another layer of dough for the top - pierce a couple of knife holes in top. Glaze with beaten egg and bake for 30 minutes in moderate oven.

Maryland Crab Cakes

1 lb. Crab meat

1/8 lb. melted butter
2 slices bread, moistened with water, parsley, salt and pepper to taste

1/2t. garlic powder
1 egg

1 small onion, minced

Carefully pick over the crab meat for shells. Add 1 teaspoon salt and a pinch of pepper. Add a bit of dried hot pepper for bite. Mix all the rest of the ingredients except for the butter and shape into cakes. Fry on griddle or in skillet in butter til lightly browned on each side. Serve immediately.

Gourmet Onions

3 T. butter
½ t. sugar
salt to taste
1/4 t. pepper
1/4 c. sherry
10-12 small onions, peeled, cooked and drained
1/4 c. Parmesan cheese, shredded

Melt butter in saucepan, add the sugar, salt, pepper and sherry. Add onions and heat quickly for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Put into serving dish and sprinkle with cheese.

You don't get to choose when you're going to die, or how. All you can do is decide how you're going to live.

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Huntsville Imposes Quarantine Against Yellow Fever

From 1879 newspaper

A lewd woman from Memphis reached Huntsville last night, went to a bawdy house in Pin Hook, took sick, and the case is pronounced yellow fever. Our city officials have fenced in the bawdy house and forbids all communication. The public is urged to take careful note of the situation.

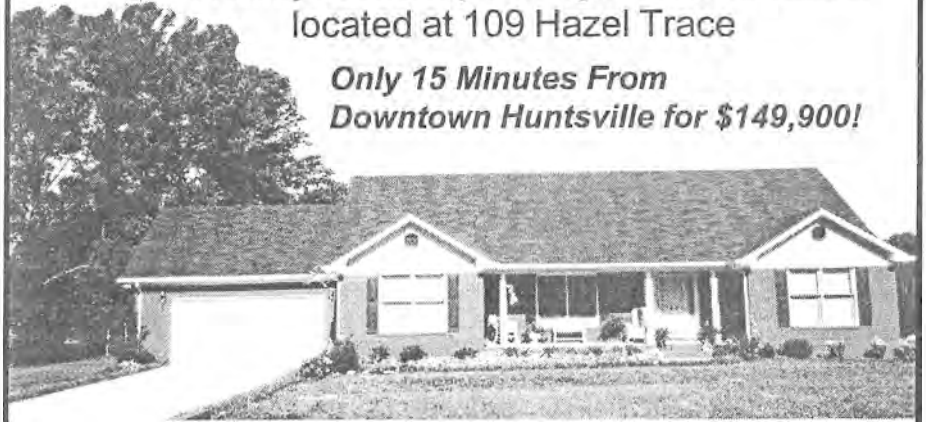
Saturday night, the Mayor and Aldermen met and passed a resolution by advice of the Board of Health of Huntsville, that a quarantine be established against all persons, freight and baggage, of every description, from Memphis; that R.R., trains from Memphis be stopped at a station one mile east and one mile west of Huntsville, and that the health officer shall board and rigidly inspect every train, and allow no person from Memphis or any other infected town to get off here; that no train shall run less than six miles an hour though Huntsville or stop within the city limits; that one health officer and one policeman be appointed to enforce this quarantine; and that any violator of these regulations shall be fined and punished to the full extent of the law.

From Saturday to Tuesday, one or two hundred, perhaps, of persons from Memphis came to Huntsville. On Tuesday, a number were required to pass on, and some of them, we understand, returned on the western bound train and stopped here. Absolute nonintercourse is, probably, impossible by any municipal regulations, but should now be enforced as far as possible.

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- The **Master bedroom**, a large **12.5x23.5**, set apart and private, with trey ceiling joins the bath which features, a double vanity with custom made mirrors and original artistic designs decorating the walls of the whirl-pool bath. Two large walk in closets bank the sides of the tub, with picture window over looking the private backyard and pond.
- **2d Bedroom is 12x15.5** with floor to ceiling double windows over looking back yard. A full bath separates the two guest bedrooms.
- **3d Bedroom is 12x15.5** also with large double windows facing the front of the home. Both bedrooms have large lighted closets with louvered doors.
- **Family room is a spacious 19x23.5** with three-step trey ceiling with impressive crown molding. This large room is made warm with the natural gas log fireplace and beautiful mantel. The Hunter ceiling fan and recessed lighting help to create a mood for any occasion. A Doric column identifies the spaces between the foyer and family room. This with the artistic designs through out gives this home an Old World feeling.
- **Kitchen and joining Breakfast area are 12x29.** Matching crisp white custom cabinetry through out the home and kitchen are dramatic with window pane panels. This up to date kitchen has all modern appliances: including dishwasher, disposal, G E solid surface cook top with oven, and built in microwave. The pantry and island make for plenty of storage.
- **Dining room is 11x14** with two step trey ceiling and crown molding. The chair railing is accentuated with hand painted designs, which mirror and complement the breakfast room designer wall coverings.
- **Two-car garage is 22x32**, insulated and has remote door opener. The 3rd full bath is accessible from the laundry/mud room in the garage. The attic is partially floored. The central air-conditioning and gas pack system made by Janitrol, is still under warranty, as is all of the appliances.

You will love resting in the serene setting of this front porch rancher. This home may be seen by appointment, only. Please call Kathy today at work 539-4408 or page 518-1053.

Dear Editor,

Your recent article, "Those Damn Revenuers," brought back many memories. My late wife's father was Willie (Bill) S. Lamon who served as a "revenuer" from the early 1920s to about 1958 when he retired. He worked for a time in Huntsville, Birmingham and Mobile before returning to Huntsville in about 1938.

While visiting the Lamons on their Limestone County farm I recall many mornings when Mr. Lamon would arrive home cold, wet, full of chiggers and fighting mad after laying out all night trying to catch the men tapping a still. On other occasions he would stake out a house where he knew whisky was being sold but hard to find in the house. Sometimes it would be in a closet ceiling or behind a false wall. One particular bootlegger had a tank in the attic and had rigged a faucet in the kitchen to yield water when turned one way and whiskey when turned the other. If an agent had not tried to wash his hands, it would probably not have been found. There were also occasions when raids would get pretty scary if the bootleggers tried to put up a resistance.

I really appreciate the articles about Huntsville people. A few months ago you ran one about John Stegar and his Confederate service. His son, Alex Stegar, married my Aunt Eva Ormond and they lived in Maysville for many years. All, including John, are buried in the family plot at the Shiloh Methodist Church near Maysville along with my own grandparents, Thomas and

Martha Ormond. Thomas was in the 5th Alabama Infantry Battalion and served from First Manassas to Appomattox.

I have many ties to Huntsville and really enjoy your magazine.

Bill Ormond

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White and Read,
Huntsville, July 14, 1817.

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Lemon hair spray

You will need one lemon and 2 cups of water. Take your lemon and chop it up well in a wooden bowl. Add the lemon to the top of a double boiler in which you have put the 2 cups of water. Simmer til the mixture is reduced by about half. Strain this through cheesecloth or a fine silk cloth and pour the liquid into a pump type sprayer. This is gentle, with no alcohol or chemical additions, and can be used for children as well as adults.

Facial mask

- 1 tablespoon yogurt
- 1 tablespoon honey

Mix the two together and apply to you clean, moist face. Pat this mask onto the skin for a

moisturizing and penetrating application that will hydrate and soothe the face, and help to clear up skin problems.

Perfect skin oil

1 ounce each of soy oil, safflower oil, wheat germ oil, orange oil, peanut oil, corn oil, and vitamin E oil. Mix in 3 drops each of lemon oil and orange oil. Mix all in 8 ounce bottle and store. This is excellent for use on body and face, as a moisturizer and skin food.

Underarm Deodorant

5 drops of lavender or lemon oil, 1/2 cup water

Mix the above in a pump bottle, shake up each time before use. Spray directly to the underarm area.



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Know Your Rights

Marriage Without A License

In Alabama, you don't have to buy a license and you don't have to see a preacher in order to get married because Alabama recognizes "common law marriage."

There is much misunderstanding about the common law marriage. Some think that, if you have a child together (or perhaps several children), you have a common law marriage. Others think that, if you live together for six months (or some other 'magic' period of time) you have become married. These myths are not true. It is possible to live together for fifty years and have twenty-five children, and still not have a common law marriage.

There are three elements to a com-

mon law marriage and, unless all three elements exist, there is no common law marriage.

FIRST. Each party must have the capacity to marry. This means that each must be an adult of sound mind who is not married to someone else. There are people who have lived together for many years, call themselves husband and wife, and have numerous children, but still do not have a common law marriage because one of the parties is still married to someone else. If the relationship is not a common law marriage because of the lack of capacity, it can later become a common law marriage (if, for example, the married party obtains a divorce, or when the party who is legally a child reaches the age of adulthood).

SECOND. Each party must have the intent that their relationship is a marriage relationship. If one of the parties does not have this intention, no common law marriage exists. A common indicator, recognized by the courts, that there was no 'intent is the fact that the couple intended to enter into a Ceremonial Marriage some time in the future.

THIRD. The couple must 'consummate' the marriage. Consummation does not necessarily require a sexual relationship, but it does require that the couple achieve public recognition of their status as husband and wife. There are no hard-and-fast rules about public recognition, but there are many indicators that the courts have considered. Do they live together? Does the

woman use the man's last name? Has the couple entered into joint contracts (to buy a home, car, etc.)? Has the couple filed joint tax returns? Do the couple maintain joint bank accounts? Do they refer to each other as spouse? Do they share household duties and expenses? Do they rear children together? The answers to any of these questions is not necessarily determinative.

If all three elements exist, there is a common law marriage and it has exactly the same effect as a ceremonial marriage. It lasts until "death do us part" or until there is a divorce.

The validity of the relationship is only evaluated by the courts under special circumstances. If the couple breaks up and one party files for divorce, the other party may claim that no marriage existed. There may be a dispute about inheritance rights that hinges on the marital status of the couple. There may be a dispute about entitlement to insurance coverage or benefits, Social Security benefits, pensions, etc.

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William Rufus Devane King

Our Country's Only Gay Vice President

William Rufus Devane King was a man of many firsts. He was the first and only Vice President from Alabama, he was the only one to ever be sworn in while in a foreign country, and he was the only openly gay, and transvestite Vice-President.

King was born in Sampson County, North Carolina in 1876 to a wealthy and influential family. He graduated from the University of North Carolina, where he studied law, and after being admitted to the bar was elected to the state legislature.

In an age where politics were the domain of the rich, and often jaded, King quickly developed skills that would make him one of the most influential politicians of his days.

Rather than arguing on the house floor, King preferred to work in the background, wining and dining legislatures until they would be persuaded to his view.

In 1811 he was elected to Congress where he soon became the main topic of gossip in the new capital. Considered to be highly attractive, an immaculate dresser and with unimpeachable manners, the newly elected congressman made no secret of his preferences.

His parties were the talk of Washington D.C. One wag commented that the only thing worse than being seen at King's parties was not being invited.

Often meeting his guests at the front door while wearing flowing gowns, a wig and heavy makeup he would ask people to call him "Divine," a takeoff on his middle name, Devane.

Despite his peculiarities, or perhaps because of them, King

became one of the most powerful figures in Congress. When many Congress members opposed the War of 1812, King was reputed to have used his "address book" to garner the needed votes.

Not everyone, however, approved of King's life style. The crusty, and often outspoken, Andrew Jackson referred to King as "Miss Nancy," and a Philadelphia newspaper suggested that "God Save The Queen" be played at his inauguration.

In 1816, at the suggestion of some of his fellow congressmen, he resigned to become secretary of the U.S. Legation in Naples, Italy and then St. Petersburg, Russia.

Upon returning to the United States King moved to the Alabama territory, near present day Selma, where he established a large plantation. In 1819 he became a del-



egate to the convention here in Huntsville that organized the new state of Alabama. He soon rose to prominence in Alabama politics, and its social life, and became one of the most powerful figures of that era. Afterwards he served for almost a quarter century in the Senate.

Although King was still openly gay, he had learned that discretion is often the better part of

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valor and began to keep a lower profile.

During this time his name was linked romantically with several of the most prominent names in American politics.

In 1844 King resigned to become minister to France, a position he held until 1846. The French were much more liberal in their attitudes and King, free to live life as he chose, was reported to have been the "Belle of the Ball" at many elaborate social functions.

King reentered the Senate in 1848 where he served as president pro tempore and was next in line for the presidency for two and a half years after Millard Fillmore became president upon Zachary Taylor's death.

When Franklin Pierce decided to run for president in 1852 he chose King to run as his running mate. It was imperative that Pierce win the southern electoral votes in order to be elected.

Although most politicians were aware of King's "peculiarities" it was a well kept secret from most voters. He was still considered one of the shrewdest politicians of the day, and that, and sectional pride helped him carry the south.

Most historians doubt if King really considered he had a chance, for instead of campaigning he left for an extended visit to Havana, Cuba.

Regardless, when the votes were counted, he was elected vice president of the United States. Congress hurriedly passed an act allowing him to be sworn in while still in Cuba.

William King returned to his home in Alabama but before he could leave for Washington D.C. to take office, became ill with tuberculosis and died.

No one was appointed to the

office to take his place and the country spent the next four years without a vice president.

Among other distinctions, King earned the shortest biography of any person ever elected as vice president. This was mainly due to the fact that historians did not know how to deal with his controversial life style.

Even in the 1970s when personal papers of King and his associates were discovered, main stream historians continued to ignore him.

William King might have continued to remain a footnote to history had it not been for a controversy that arose in Seattle, Washington in 1999.

King County, of which Seattle was part of, had been named for Vice-President William King in 1852 when it was still a part of the Oregon territory. When Washington became a state the county retained the name.

Most people had probably no idea who King was, so in 1999 when a proposal was made to change the name to honor Martin Luther King, rather than William King, no opposition was expected.

The proposed name change, however, outraged the Gay community who began holding protests and demonstrations.

The ensuing publicity helped assure King of his place in history for all time to come. The controversy made headlines all across the country - except in Alabama.

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Tips from Earlene

Position a section of old inner tube on your garage wall so that when you open the car door it doesn't hit anything hard.

- Snacks that mix carbohydrates with protein give you the biggest energy boost. Try fruit chunks dipped in yogurt, whole wheat crackers topped with peanut butter, or popcorn topped with Parmesan cheese.

- Should it happen that paper, because of moisture, becomes stuck on some surface or other

of your furniture, do not try to scrape it off. Instead, moisten it with a little linseed or sweet oil, and let the paper remain until it is easily removed by rubbing it with a finger.

- Shoe polish can make an excellent finish for wooden frames - it adds color as well as a water-proof shine.

- Use an old waiter's trick - if you have a water spot on wood, put a pat of butter inside a cloth napkin and rub.

- An extra bread box will hold all the tools you'll need to take care of any household repair.

- You'll want to clean your dishwasher every so often by filling it up with warm water and adding about a gallon of distilled vinegar. Let it go through its cycle

and you'll have a fresh-smelling washer.

- If you drink coffee at all, and like the taste, you have got to go out and buy one of the coffee bean grinders. I had thought about it for some time and then finally did. It makes a huge difference in the taste, and you can grind up enough for a couple of weeks. It just tastes fresher and more like real, full-bodied coffee without being strong. And the little grinders are inexpensive and easy to clean.

- When your clock runs slow, don't spend money right off by taking it to a watchmaker. Instead, put it overnight in a barely warm oven. This treatment loosens clogged oil in the works and puts your timepiece back on schedule before you know it.

- A saucer of sifted ashes should always be standing at hand to clean unvarnished paint that has become badly smoked. It is better than soap.

- If you don't want oil dripping on your carpet, use petroleum jelly on door hinges instead of the spray or liquid oil.

- Cold tea is the best liquid for cleaning varnished paint, windowpanes and mirrors.

- Housewives who are expert laundrywomen say that snow-white linen has a great chance of staying that way if a tablespoon of turpentine is added to the tub of water for the last rinsing.

- Linen that has a yellow tint may become whiter by adding a tablespoon of kerosene, instead of turpentine, to the tub of the last rinsing.

- To get rid of that fireplace soot odor, do the following. After you've cleaned the ashes out of the fireplace, place a shallow pan of baking soda in the fireplace for at least a couple of hours, or overnight.



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Patent Medicine Kills



from 1902 newspaper

"Dr." Charles Donaldson, a patent medicine fakir by profession, and who claims to be a painter by trade, is in jail here charged with the murder of the wife of J. D. Key. Last Thursday, he gave Mrs. Key a dose of medicine and in less than two hours the lady was dead. Color is given to this case by the fact that pre-

viously he gave it to a child, who at once sank into a stupor and it took the combination of physicians and a nurse to revive it.

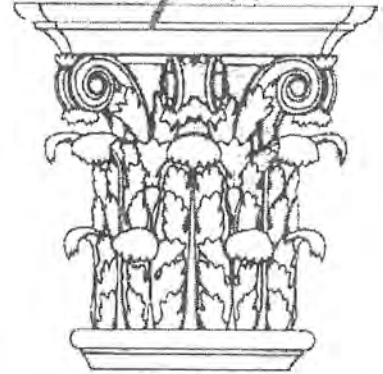
Donaldson claims the medicine administered is made from herbs and he has been making it and selling it for twenty years, having disposed of much of it in East Alabama. A quantity of his medicine has been sent to the state chemist and the "herb doctor" will remain in jail awaiting developments.

Donaldson is about 50 years of age, and is accompanied by a lady of about 18 years of age, whom he claims is his wife. He says he married the former Miss Miller, about eight months ago in Goodwater, Ala., and that she has a father who is a carpenter and a brother, who is a painter living there. "Dr." Donaldson had visited Goodwater in March, 1897. He was engaged in painting and peddling a liniment and smelling bottle of his own manufacture. No one knew from where he came, and, while possessing of mystery, he was, while in Goodwater, quiet and law abiding.

When the pair first arrived here, they had spent a night in a thicket on the edge of town and said they were enroute to Florence. The universal verdict is that something strange is connected with the couple.

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The Ladybug Man

by Robert E. Quick & Eldon M. Quick

In the 1940s, strange air express cartons began departing from the Sky harbor airport in Phoenix, Arizona. These strange cartons were full of sleeping ladybugs that had been processed and then sold to farmers. Sometimes mail received in the local Post Office was addressed to "The Ladybug Man." The ladybug Man was a local celebrity also known by his real name, George Curtis Quick, sometimes called "Pappy." George and his wife Kelly and son Eldon had an unusual business that literally had them up to their ears in ladybugs. Their company was officially known as "George C. Quick & Son."

Curtis was a Madison County, Alabama native and a pioneer in early aviation. His father, William Lafayette Quick, built the first airplane in Alabama in 1903 (see "Old Huntsville," vol. 2, Issue 4, 1991, Page 1). The plane flew one time piloted by Curtis' brother William Massey Quick. Of the nine brothers and sisters that Curtis had, seven of them became aviation pioneers and barnstormers. Curtis learned to pilot a plane in October 1913. He and three of his brothers pooled their money and purchased an OX-5 powered Canuck (a Canadian Built JN4D) from a man in Pulaski, Tenn. His only pilot training was about one and one half-hours of flying instruction over three day's time.

Curtis was a pioneer in crop-

dusting. His brother, Herbert Spencer Quick, designed and built the first dusting rig for Curtis and another brother, Thomas Edison Quick, were soon converting airplanes to crop-dusters in San Antonio, Texas. They had a partnership with a Mr. Hammond who would furnish the airplanes. The Quick brothers also taught flying and carried passengers while building the crop dusters.

Curtis first became interested in ladybugs in 1923 while working as a crop-duster at a large cotton farm in Texas. There he used a post-world War I surplus biplane. The farm consisted of about 1,000 acres of cotton that had to be dusted for boll weevils and cotton armyworms. A few weeks later it had to be dusted again, this time for aphids because there were no ladybugs to kill them. The dust was killing good and bad bugs, but it did not kill all of the bugs in the fields. The cotton grower requested a team of entomologists from Texas A & M University to come and study the problem. This is when Curtis was

introduced to the benefits of ladybugs. He found out that chemicals were not the only way to combat insect pests that can cost growers a large part of their income in a year.

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lot more than just collecting them, packing them and sending them to the farmers. Of the 350 types of ladybugs in North America, only one type was suited for this job. The convergent ladybug or *Hippodamia Convergens* hibernates in large groups and also takes a prolonged rest during the summer months. Unfortunately, these spotted little bugs do not gather in town for their long nap. Since warmth and dryness disturb their sleep, they seek the cool, moist mountain elevations five thousand feet or higher above sea level for their bedrooms. This required a lot of strenuous hiking in the western mountains to find the bugs. The pretty little bugs will hibernate in areas that slope to the northwest so the morning sun is late hitting the tall trees they sleep in. The sleeping bugs will cover an area of one fourth to one half-acre, coating the ground and trees from the roots to the top-most branches.

To collect the ladybugs, Quick or his contract workers used a net like a butterfly net only much stronger and heavier. The gatherer would hold the net with one arm bracing the pole with an elbow. The other hand was holding a stick that was used to hit a branch laden with ladybugs. Only a couple of branches were needed to supply a gallon of bugs. Another method was to use a whisk-broom on limbs and tree trunks that were too large to shake.

Some of the workers may have used plastic sheets under the trees and tall plants. The bugs fell on the plastic sheets and since they can't get a grip on the slick surface, they are easily poured into gallon pails. Curtis spent almost two days counting to find out that about 135,000 ladybugs would fill a one gallon pail.

As soon as the ladybugs arrived at the Quick home, they were placed in an air-cooled and humidified building near the house. A lot of experimenting took place, and a lot of bugs died before Quick was able to recreate the mountain conditions in the processing building. Kelly kept various containers of ladybugs in different parts of her refrigerator for several years to determine the optimum conditions for survival. The trip down from the cool mountains to hot Phoenix was the most dangerous part for the bugs. If there was any delays, warmer than usual nights or an improperly packed container, a large percent of the ladybugs did not sur-

vive. Quick's son Eldon operated the bug separator which was a conveyor belt. The live bugs would cling to the belt while the dead ones fell off the end. Any debris and unwanted bugs were removed also. The ladybugs had to be very carefully packed for

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shipping to the farms. Heat will wake them up, which begins a frantic search for food (edible insects) which is not there. This frustration at not finding food often leads to a fatal form of dysentery. If the ladybugs are packed too tightly in the container, their own body heat can kill them. The cardboard shipping cartons are fitted with dividers to create small compartments each containing a pinecone. The compartments help insure the survival of the cargo. One side of each carton was a wood framed window screen. Since coolness is of the greatest importance, the cartons are usually shipped by air express for fast delivery. The boxes were labeled to warn shippers of their contents and to impress the need for careful handling. Once a TWA Lockheed Constellation was forced to make an emergency landing during a flight with ladybugs as part of the cargo. A broken carton allowed the bugs to get into the passenger compartment. TWA was unhappy and threatened a lawsuit to recover their costs. Curtis contended that TWA mishandled the carton and it was their fault. Curtis won.

Curtis was involved in all aspects of his unusual business. He did the research to create the right conditions for the survival of the bugs during picking, shipping, processing, repackaging and

shipping again. His teenage son Eldon worked in many of these areas also. Kelly handled the clerical details of the business, including some strange requests from people who knew little about the ladybugs. One request was for a pair of "registered ladybugs" and instructions for breeding. Another person wanted some ladybugs to chase grasshoppers. Curtis' younger brother Herbert would spend about 3 months each year touring in search of new hibernating beds of ladybugs and more efficient gatherers. He also helped during the two busy seasons each year with the packing and transporting to the airport.

Most of the ladybug sales were to large commercial growers, but small packets of 2,000 bugs selling for \$1 were available for home gardeners. One local customer had 4,000 acres in crops and made \$1 million a year (in 1953 dollars.) He used to spend about \$4,000 per year for chemical insect control. By using ladybugs from George C. Quick & Son, his yearly expense was only \$800 to \$1,000.

George Curtis Quick was not the first one in the ladybug business, but he dominated it during the 1940s and until his death in 1955. At least four other people in western states were in the business at that time, but their combined sales did not equal his.

At my age I've done it all, said it all, read it all, heard it all - I just can't remember it all.

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Last Will and Testament of James Nimmo

All debts and funeral expenses be paid.

To my son Amos M. Nimmo a Negro boy age 15 or 16 and \$300.00. His share estimated at \$1,000.00.

To my son James P. Nimmo a Negro woman aged 18 years, my gold watch, one yoke of oxen, also \$35.00. His share estimated \$1,000.00.

To my daughter America N. Watkins wife of Isham Watkins a Negro woman 22 or 23 years of age and her son 13 months. Also one feather bed, her share estimated \$1,000.00.

To my son William H. Nimmo a Negro woman 18 years of age and \$150.00, his share estimated at \$1,000.00. To be paid to him when he reaches the age of 21 years.

To my wife Ann M. Nimmo in trust for my youngest son Clement N. Nimmo five slaves and from the hire and profits of the same to be used to rear and educate my youngest son. When he reaches the ages of 21 he is to have the slave Minerva and as many of the other slaves to make his share \$1,000.00.

After taking out my youngest

son's share the other slaves be returned to the bulk of my estate and divided as follows: To my wife Ann W. Nimmo during her natural life five slaves and at her death returned to the bulk of my estate. Also to my executors in trust for the use and benefit of my wife Ann W. Nimmo \$1,000.00 to be put out at interest and the interest be paid to her annually and to cease at her death. The \$1,000.00 be returned to my estate for distribution. Also to my wife Ann N. Nimmo two of my horses, three good cows and calves and all my household and kitchen furniture.

At the death of my wife Ann M. Nimmo all the properties and monies in her possession be divided among my children and the lineal heirs equally share and share alike. When my youngest son reaches the age of 21, all the slaves bequeathed to my wife in trust and which are not taken to make his share of \$1,000.00 be equally divided as above stated to my children and lineal heirs. If any of my children should die without children then their share be equally divided among my children and lineal heirs. My sons Amos N. and James P. Nimmo executors.

Witnesses: John J. Coleman & Robert W. Coltart

Signed: James F. Nimmo

Recorded: 27 May 1856

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Army Aircraft Crashes Near Monrovia

by Charles E. Wells

On an early summer morning in June of 1944, I decided to go fishing. With Mama and Daddy's permission, I found my fishing pole, dug a can of worms, got my new (to me) bicycle and got ready to leave. I had celebrated my fourteenth birthday about three weeks earlier (June 2nd), and Daddy had scrounged together enough money (\$6.00) to buy me a Hienz 57 used bicycle. By this, I mean it had oversize handlebars, no chain guard, a 26-inch wheel in the back and a 24-inch in the front. I was always going downhill. I rolled up my right overall leg to keep it from being caught in the sprocket and headed over to one of my favorite fishing holes on Indian Creek.

After traveling about three or four miles, I had gotten to the hill on the west side of the creek and the north side of 72 Highway. I was pushing my bicycle along a cow path that ran about halfway up the side of the hill. As I was nearing the highway, I heard a huge explosion to the south and looked that way. It appeared that

the whole end of Rainbow Mountain was gone. There was fire and a lot of smoke, and I could see trees falling from the sky.

I looked up and saw a plane (B-26 Marauder) coming toward me. It was on fire and smoke was coming out of the cockpit and the bomb bay doors. It was losing altitude rapidly as it passed over me and headed toward a cultivated field at the top of the hill. Its nose was down at a very steep angle and did not flair out before impact.

Upon impact, the nosewheel collapsed, the nose of the plane dug into the ground, the tail went up into the air and a matter of seconds later, it blew up. The pilot had apparently dropped part of his bomb load on Rainbow Mountain. I made my way closer to the crash site.

The pilot must have radioed the base that he was in trouble because only minutes after the crash, the area was crawling with NVs, police cars and ambulances. Within minutes, they had formed a circle of guards around the site. There were several planes flying around the area. Curiosity seekers began to gather on the highway but were not allowed to approach the crash site.

No one questioned me as to what I may have seen. I was told to leave the area immediately. I guess a freckled face, barefoot boy dressed in overalls, carrying a

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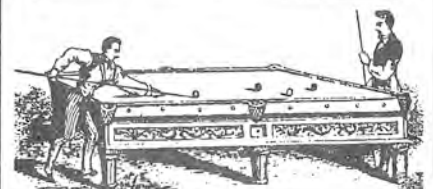
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fishing pole in one hand and a can of worms in the other and holding on to a weird-looking bicycle could not tell them anything they wanted to know. I was not questioned then or later. An article in the *Huntsville Times* stated that the only witness to the crash was a Negro woman who could not tell them very much.

Besides myself, the McMurtrie family, working in their field across the highway, were also witnesses to the crash. For whatever reason, none of us were ever questioned about the crash.

I had seen the plane many times before. Almost daily, depending on the weather, it would come over the farm several times — always approaching from a southeasterly direction, pass over and then go on to the southwest. A few minutes later, we would hear the report of exploding bombs dropping on a mock village on the Arsenal. Sometimes it would be flying low enough that we could clearly see the pilots. We would wave and sometimes they would wave back or dip their wings to let us know that they had seen us.

The crash site is now occupied by Huntsville Memory Gardens. Perhaps a fitting tribute to the three men who perished there.



Delivering The Mail

Local mailman still using horse and buggy in 1948

by Cathey Carney

This may be hard for Huntsvillians to believe, but as German rocket scientists were preparing to move here to set up an arsenal that would change the world, our mail was still being delivered by horse and buggy!

Clarence Celia Powers, a mail carrier for the Huntsville Post Office for over 30 years, refused to change to the automobile and delivered mail to his customers by horse and buggy until he retired in 1948.

Having served several territories throughout Huntsville, his last route covered the area of Pulaski Pike and West Clinton Avenue. One of the few black men working in the post office at that time, Clarence was born in March of 1878 and was the youngest of five brothers. His father was a farmer and a Methodist minister, and Powers had always taken an interest in church work. When he wasn't delivering mail, he was usually found at the church. Clarence became a mail carrier on June 1, 1917 after working for Chattanooga, Memphis and other Huntsville employers. He liked carrying the mail, he said, because he

liked seeing the same people every day.

The last day that he served, January 27, 1948, was one of the most difficult he had ever experienced, due to the severe icy conditions of the Huntsville streets. His horse had gotten old by this time and found it very hard to maneuver the slick roads.

Powers was recognized by the post office for all the years of dedication he had given by a dinner in his honor, and the gift of a beautiful pocket watch.

Clarence Powers was 70 when he retired.

Upon his retirement, the horse and buggy were consigned to the county barn. Two months later, a group of people led by farmer Ben Lucas bought the buggy and horse and presented it to the retired mail carrier in appreciation of his years of dedicated service. For several years thereafter Clarence and his horse remained a familiar sight to Huntsvillians.

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Remembering Vance Morris, *A Legend and a Friend*

In July of this year Vance Morris died. Most people in Huntsville knew him as a gentle, philosophical grandfatherly type who operated a garage on Oakwood Avenue.

But if they had traveled a few miles north, to Nashville, and walked through the Country Music Hall of Fame; talked to some of the older stars of the music industry, then they would have heard tales of a musical legend.

They would tell you stories of a time, almost half a century ago, when *Vance Morris and the Alabama Playboys* thrilled audiences and dance crowds in giant dance parlors and ballrooms all across the eastern United States.

Others might have laughed as they remembered stories of times when they dodged flying beer bottles while performing on stage.

But regardless of who you talked to, they would all remember.

"I would never have gotten into music if it hadn't been for an old mule," recalled Vance Morris in an

interview several years ago.

"We had this old plow mule on our Oklahoma farm and one day I was following along behind it and I got to studying it. It never looked ahead to see where it was going, nor did it look off to the side to see what it was missing. He just plowed ahead for 12 hours a day with nothing to look forward to.

"That's when I decided that I didn't want to go through life hooked to the wrong end of a mule."

His father was an avid lover of country music and was friends with the legendary country star Bob Wills. It was Wills who influenced Vance in his choice of a musical career.

Determined to be a musician, Vance bought a guitar for five dollars and spent hours trying to emulate Wills' style. Unfortunately, the Great Depression and the

dust bowl put Vance's budding career on hold.

"My father had been a prosperous man, but when the Depression hit, it just about wiped him out. A few years later the dust bowl came along and took what we had left. My mother had kin in Mississippi so we moved there. If we were to be poor it may as well be around family."

A few years later he came to Huntsville to visit a friend.

"I took a drink of spring water, bought a pair of shoes, and decided to stay," said the amiable guitarist.

Another inducement to staying here, according to a niece, had something to do with a Mississippi sheriff who was not very understanding of young people and their street-screaming hot rods.

The sheriff had attempted to put a halt to racing in the city limits by harassing everyone who

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owned a hot rod. Angered by the sheriff's high-handed actions, the spirited young men planned their revenge.

Creeping into town late one night, they attached a length of chain from the rear axle of the sheriff's car to a nearby tree, then raced their noisy hot rods past the jail. The sheriff, livid by this time, ran out of the jail to give chase. Unfortunately, his patrol car only went the length of the chain. The county got a large repair bill, the sheriff got a warrant and Vance got a sudden interest in Huntsville.

Vance grew up listening to a type of music which was unfamiliar to many Southerners. It was a combination of Dixieland jazz, black man's blues, and country sounds. After moving to Huntsville, he began experimenting with this new sound, which was called Texas swing.

"Our music lessons consisted of listening to the radio and trying to copy the same sounds," he recalled.

In 1943, Morris organized "The Alabama Playboys." With 13 members, it was one of the largest bands in this part of the country.

Among the members was young WC. Williams, whom everyone called "Hank." Years later he had to change his moniker because a young upstart named Hiram Williams from south Alabama began using the same name and became famous.

"At first we just played at store openings and street dances," recalled Williams. "But then we started getting invitations to play out of town, and not from the sheriff, either."

A local radio station featured the swing orchestra. It was during World War II and for a country accustomed to daily doses of

depressing news, the fresh sound of "The Alabama Playboys" was just what the doctor ordered.

Offers came from all over the country asking the band to perform.

"We would pack ourselves into a couple of cars, like sardines in a can and drive like the dickens to Arkansas or wherever we were playing," recalled Vance. "Often, when we finished playing, we'd load up and drive back home the same night. Most of the boys had families and day jobs here in Huntsville."

Vance had also established himself as a pretty good race car



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vegetarian.

driver. En route to dance gigs in faraway cities, band members said, he often slid the car around curves at 90 miles an hour, a practice which certain members of the band found upsetting. A few years later he would win the Tennessee State Championship for stock cars, driving a 1933 modified Ford with, as he described it, "a few goodies under the hood."

The "Alabama Playboys" continued to gain in popularity. Within a period of five or six years they had become the most popular swing band east of the Mississippi River. Vance and his band traveled continuously, making personal appearances on radio stations all across the country and playing to overflowing crowds at every stop.

In 1948, the "Alabama Playboys" were offered a contract with the Saturday night Grand Old Opry.

"I had already opened up my garage by this time and we were still playing major Saturday night gigs all over the country. It didn't seem like a good thing to do at the time, to give everything up just to work on the Opry. Most of the boys felt the same way.

"Besides," Vance said as he grinned, "they only offered me \$60 a week."

Hank Snow, during the same period, was paid only \$46 a week as an Opry regular.

Versions of several of Vance's songs such as "Faded Love," "Crazy About the Boogie," and "Some of These Days" were well on their way to becoming classics.

With the band's popularity growing by leaps and bounds, record companies began to take interest. In 1952, the band signed a contract to cut a series of records for a Nashville recording company. Several of the songs became big hits nationally, as well as in Asia, Europe, and elsewhere.

Unfortunately for Morris, fame was all he got. The record companies, after discovering he had not copyrighted the songs, released them under another artist's name.

Disillusioned by Nashville and stardom, the "Alabama Playboys" returned to Huntsville, where Vance began spending more time in building up his automotive repair business.

He quickly earned a reputation for building "custom" cars that were in great demand at the time.

"This was back in the whiskey running days," recalled one old-timer. "His cars looked just like any other car on the road, but

there wasn't a police car around that could stay up with them. And if the police did catch them they couldn't find the whiskey!

"Vance had secret compartments built all over those cars. Why, he even had the headlights fixed where you could unscrew them and hide a case of whiskey in the fender behind each one of them."

Music was in his blood, though, and it wasn't long before the band was performing again. This time, instead of traveling, they chose to play in area nightspots.

Among these night spots, and probably the most infamous, was the White Castle, which was located at the intersection of Winchester Road and Meridian Street. It was illegal to sell alcohol in those days, but the management of the White Castle had made "certain arrangements" with the local authorities.

The White Castle was a rough establishment, but the owner, Laurel Hardin, had her own way of keeping order. When a fight would break out, "Aunt Laurel" would wade into the fracas, pushing people right and left. Grabbing the offenders by their shirt collars, she would shove her .45 caliber pistol in their faces.

"Boys," she would say, "you can fight in here or you can go outside, but if you fight in here you better call yourselves an ambulance. 'Cause when I get done, you'll need one!"

WC. "Hank" Williams remembered playing at the Castle during its heyday. "You could say it was good exercise. If they ever had a contest for dodging flying beer bottles we would have won easily. One night they had a fight and several beer bottles came flying on stage. I managed to get out of the way, but when I looked



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down I saw that one of the bottles had hit my bass and was sticking out by its neck!"

"We had a good time playing there," Morris said. "But we couldn't take any breaks. Every time a fight would start, Aunt Laurel would holler at us, "Play, boys, play!"

By the mid 1950s the band members started drifting their separate ways. Guitarist Malcome Buffaloe moved to Chicago where he continued to perform until recently. "Hank" Williams opened a small gas station that has today grown into a chain of Williams Oil Company service stations. Other members moved away and never returned.

In 1981, twelve recordings by Vance and the "Playboys" were placed into the Country Music Hall of Fame at Nashville. In 1986, the band was reunited in Chicago, where they played their last public performance to a standing ovation.

Once while talking to Vance, the subject of death came up.

"I'm not afraid of dying," Vance said. "I've had a good life, I've had my music and I hope I have made a lot of friends."

That, he did.

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Doors - Do not allow closed doors in any room. To get a door opened, stand on hind legs and hammer with forepaws. Once a door is open, it is not necessary to use it, you just want it to stay open in case you need to use it. After you have ordered an outside door opened, stand half-way in and half out and think about several things. This is particularly important during cold weather, rain, snow and mosquito season.

Chairs and rugs - if you have a hairball that you feel coming up, get into a chair quickly. An upholstered one is the best. If you can't make it to a chair and there is no oriental rug, shag is best.

Guests - Quickly determine which guest hates cats the most. Sit on that human's lap for as long as you possibly can. If you can arrange to have tuna or liver breath, so much the better.

For sitting on laps or rubbing against trousers, select a fabric color that contrasts well with your fur. For example, if you're a white cat always be on the lookout for dark wool clothing - that's the best.

For guests who gush, "Oh, what a sweet cat, I just love kitties," be ready with aloof disdain, apply claws to stockings or use a quick nip on the ankle.

When walking among dishes on the dinner table, be prepared to look surprised and hurt when scolded. The idea to convey is, "But you always allow me on the table when company isn't here."

Work - If one of your humans is sewing or writing and another is idle, stay with the busy one. This is called helping, or otherwise known as hampering.

Rules for hampering:

1. When supervising cooking, sit behind the left heel of the cook. You cannot be seen and thereby stand a better chance of being stepped on, picked up and consoled.

2. Tax season is a great time to hamper. Wait til your human has all her paperwork laid out on a large table, take a running start and jump into the middle of it. You have succeeded when all bits of paper go flying in all directions. This is great fun.

2. For book readers, get in close under the chin, between the human's eyes and the book.

If you can lie across the book or magazine, so much the better.

3. For knitting projects, curl up quietly onto the lap of the knit-

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ter and pretend to nap.

Occasionally reach out and slap the knitting needles sharply. This can cause dropped stitches or split yam. The knitter may try to distract you with a scrap ball of yam, but ignore it. Remember, your goal is to hamper work.

Play - this is very important. Be sure to get enough sleep during the day so that you are fresh for playing Catch Mouse, or King of the Hill on the bed between 2 and 4 am.

Training - Begin training your humans early and you will have a smooth-running household. Humans are happy when they know basic rules. They can be taught if you start early and are consistent.

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"There was no way to save her. It was impossible to stop or even slack much in that distance, as my train was heavy and the grade descending. In ten seconds, it would have been all over, and after reversing and applying my brake, I squeezed my eyes shut. I didn't want to see any more." "As we slowed my fireman stuck his head out the window to see what I'd stopped for, when he laughed and shouted to me, "Jim, look here!"

"I looked and there was this big Newfoundland dog holding that little girl in his mouth, just walking leisurely as you please towards the house where she evidently belonged. She was kicking and crying so I knew she wasn't hurt, and that big dog had saved her. My fireman kept on laughing - he thought it was funny as could be but I started to cry. I just couldn't help it. I have a little four-year-old girl of my own back home."

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