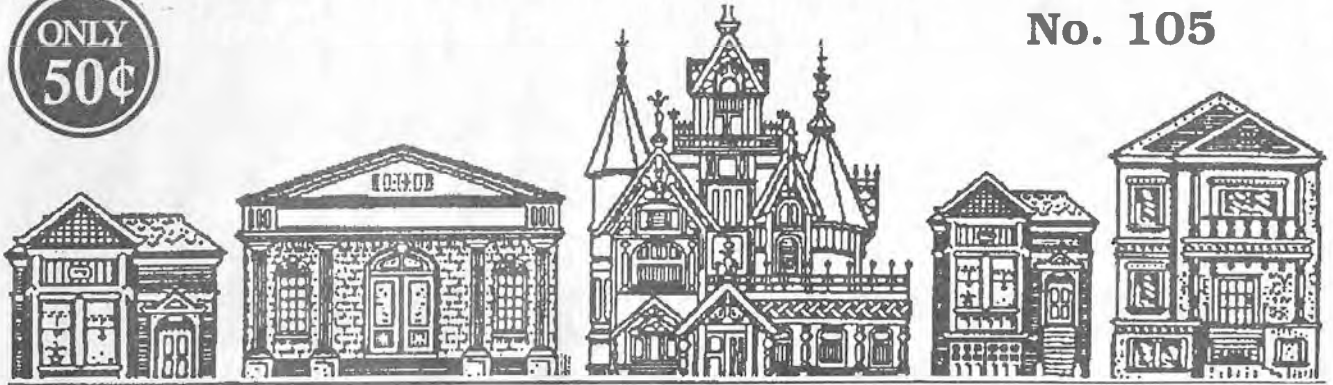


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# FBI

Files Of  
Wernher von Braun

Director, FBI  
Special Inquiry

... is requested to obtain all pertinent information concerning Wernher von Braun, including his living habits and all available derogatory information which would indicate whether or not his presence in the United States is or might be a threat to security...

Also in this issue: A Yankee Soldier In Huntsville

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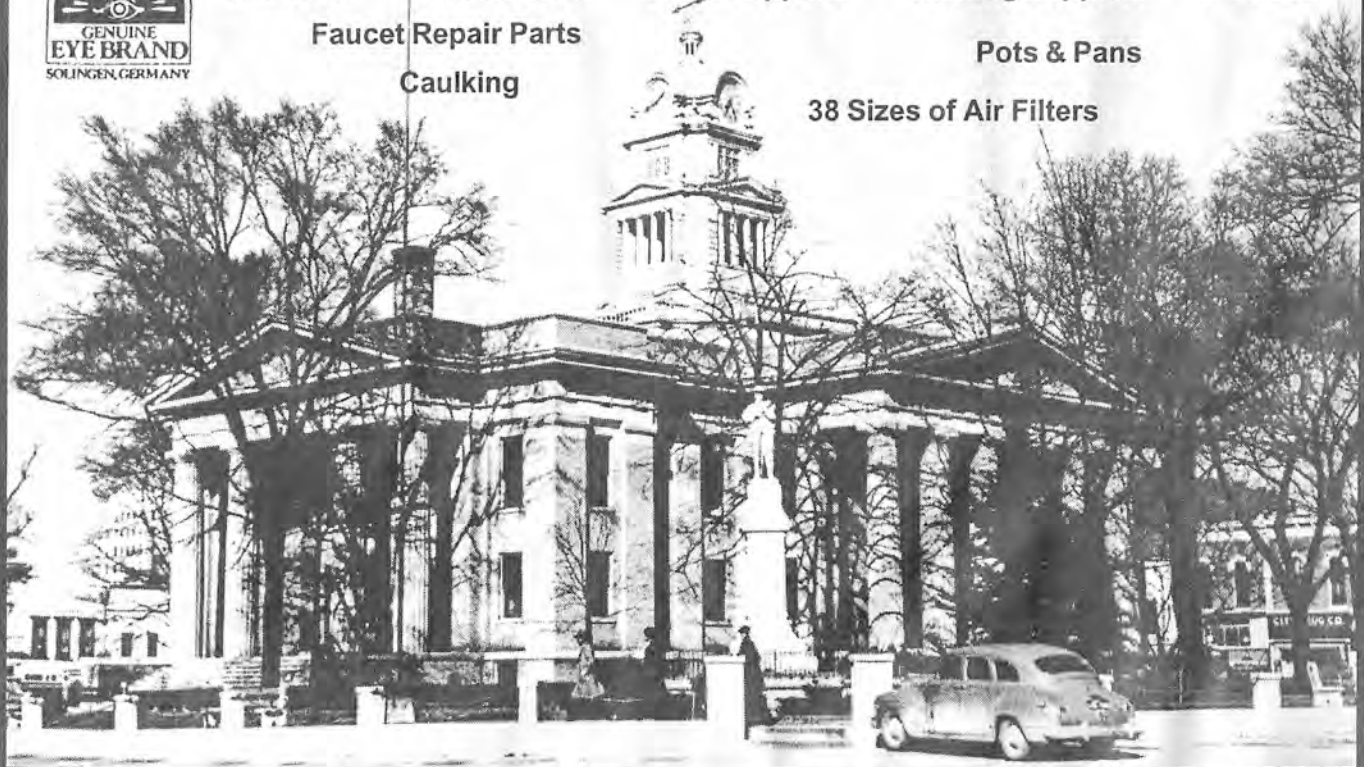
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# FBI

## Files Of Wernher von Braun

The following material was obtained from the files of the FBI and Army Intelligence as well as personal interviews conducted in Huntsville

Director, FBI  
August 16, 1948  
Special Inquiry

This is to advise you that by memorandum dated July 26, 1948, Mr. Peyton Ford, the Assistant to the Attorney General, advised the Bureau that it is the desire of the Attorney General that the Bureau conduct a thorough investigation concerning Wernher von Braun with particular emphasis on the internal security aspects of the emigration of von Braun into the United States for permanent residence.

The El Paso Division is requested to obtain all pertinent information concerning von Braun, including his living habits and all available derogatory

information which would indicate whether or not his presence in the United States is or might be a threat to the security of the United States.

With this note J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI, set into motion an investigation and surveillance that would last more than three decades and fill thousands of pages with facts, but also gossip and often frivolous innuendo.

At the end of WW II, Wernher von Braun was considered to be the most eminent rocket scientist in the world. At the age of twenty he had been employed by the German military and within a few years was in charge of Peenemunde, a rocket research center in northern Germany employing over 15000 people. Although employed by the military to build weapons of war, von Braun and his team of scientists shared the dream of space flight, something most people considered sheer fantasy at the time.

Among many other projects, his group of German scientists had developed the V-2 rockets used to successfully bomb London. For better or worse, the V-2s brought von Braun to the attention of intelligence agencies around the world. With the end of hostilities in Europe a mad



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scramble was begun to recruit von Braun and his team. Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that some of the Germans possessed what some people considered to be Nazi backgrounds.

Although many departments of the government were prepared to ignore this fact, and offer contracts of employment, President Roosevelt had earlier squelched the idea.

*"I do not believe that we should offer any guarantees of protection. ... I think that any offering of guarantees would be difficult and misunderstood in this country and abroad."*

After Roosevelt's death, a plan was developed whereby von Braun would be brought to this country temporarily "under the protective custody of the JIA." (Joint Intelligence Agency)

"We were told," recalled one of the scientists, "that we would enter the country with the knowledge and approval of the President (Truman). We had no legal status, but we came under the auspices of the Army."

In a 1952 interview, however, President Truman stated, "He (von Braun) may have been brought over here by the Army, but I knew nothing about it."

Von Braun and select members of his team were sent to Fort Bliss, Texas where investigators

from different government agencies began an endless round of interrogations. The Germans were quizzed relentlessly about their backgrounds, their work, the Nazi party and contacts in the Russian zone. Von Braun answered the questions truthfully; he freely admitted to having joined the Nazi party and the SS. If he had done otherwise it would have been discovered immediately.

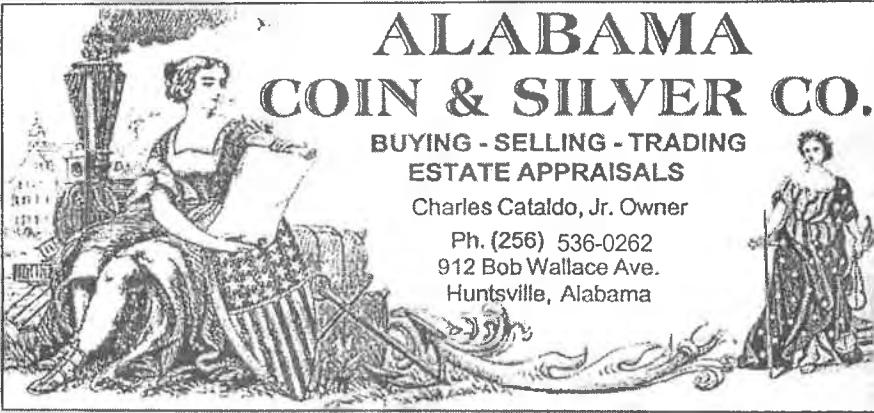
The Army had captured all of their records and background information and used it to double-check the scientist's replies. Every time a different, or wrong, answer was given, it would start another round of interrogations.

Although many of the Germans diplomatically described their stay at Fort Bliss as being "prisoners of peace," in reality they had no legal status. They had been brought into this country without visas, confined to a small area under constant surveillance and with their mail and phone calls censored. Von Braun, realizing that their ultimate fate might be determined by their actions, implored his team to observe the regulations.

*El Paso Division, FBI  
Special Inquiry*

*Major Hamill advised that Magnus von Braun, the brother of Wernher, sold a bar of platinum for \$100. ... He admitted he had brought the bar to the*

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United States in violation of the customs laws. Major Hamill stated that when this matter was brought to the attention of Wernher von Braun ... he administered a severe beating to his brother.

Major Hamill stated that from his conduct he had always thought Wernher von Braun to be very honorable ... and the violation of the trust by his brother and subsequent action strengthened his view.

In all fairness, it must be stated the Magnus von Braun had used the money from the sale to purchase food to send to his family in Germany where it was virtually impossible to obtain any-

thing.

It was at first thought that government authorities would "pick the Germans' minds" for the information they had and then send them back to Germany. After a short while, however, the authorities realized the team's knowledge was so vast that short-term interrogations would serve no meaningful purpose. The only alternative was to keep von Braun in this country by letting him legally immigrate.

In February of 1947, the JIA submitted von Braun's name, and his background information, to the State Department for review prior to granting a visa. Samuel Klaus, the State Department representative, angrily denied the application pointing out that von Braun was an "ardent Nazi and a security risk."

At the end of the war the Army had automatically rejected anyone who belonged to the Nazi party or the SS. After a few months this was changed when they realized that 1 out of 4 adult males in Germany had belonged to the party

and many people had held honorary memberships in the SS and other organizations. To have excluded everyone in this classification would have made the recruitment of specialists virtually impossible.

The State Department, however, insisted on strict interpretation of the prior policy.

The JIA then developed a plan to sanitize the records. A General in the United States Army approached J. Edgar Hoover and explained how critical it was that von Braun remain in this country. Hoover then ordered his agents to begin their own investigation.

In conjunction with the FBI, Army Intelligence and the JIA, von Braun's background was carefully gone over, with many questionable matters deleted or changed. Derogatory statements were ignored, or reinvestigated, until the findings suited the Army's purpose.

*El Paso Division, FBI  
Confidential*

*It is noted that XXX made statements to the effect that von Braun was, in his opinion, an avowed Nazi party member and that his opinion is based on von Braun's actions and talk and the personal impression he gained from conversation with von Braun. He also stated that he had learned from British Intelligence that von Braun held a commission in the SS and was personally decorated by Hitler for his work on the V-2.*

*El Paso Division, FBI  
Confidential*

*In view of the information contained therein reflecting that XXX has no definite information ... no further investigation in this case is being conducted and it will remain in a closed status in*

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The new dossiers, once they had been changed, were resubmitted to the State Department. Several of the Germans, after learning of the changes and fearing repercussions in the future, vehemently protested. The last thing they wanted were to be accused of lying at some future date.

Although it is impossible to know exactly what transpired, von Braun evidently had reservations too, as in the end he did not even sign his "new affidavit."

"We were told to not say anything," one German recalled. "If anything ever came up, they said they would take care of it."

To clear up the problem of conducting personal interviews with people who might say something derogatory about the scientists, the FBI simply interviewed the Germans about one another. Many of the interviews read as if they were written by the same person.

The new security application was quickly cleared by the State Department and in the winter of 1948 von Braun walked across the border at Juarez, Mexico where he applied for a visa to enter the United States. A few hours later, after receiving the proper documentation, he crossed the border back into the States as a legal immigrant. His new papers were duly stamped with Mexico being his entry point into the United States.

Even though the FBI considered the case closed, it continued to collect information about von Braun.

*El Paso Division, FBI  
Classified*

*... under no circumstances does XXX recommend von Braun for citizenship, inasmuch as he*

*felt von Braun would never lose his Nazi sympathies. He stated, however, that he felt von Braun would be of a greater danger to this country if he became a national of some other nation rather than the United States. He felt von Braun's knowledge and capabilities were needed and that it would be dangerous to let him return to Germany or Russia.*

In 1950, the government transferred the rocket program from Fort Bliss to Huntsville. For von Braun and his team members, it was a new beginning. Most of the scientists had lived and worked, under tight military control, on military bases since the 1930s. Citizenship, which was once thought of as merely a means to live in this country, took on a new meaning as the Germans began experiencing a new found freedom. Within a short while many had become members of civic organizations and were becoming fiercely loyal to their adopted country.

*June 14, 1951*

*Internal Security, FBI*

*... The interview with the subject should be conducted by an experienced agent in a discreet and tactful manner. ... In reporting the information received during this interview, the*

*interviewing agent should include his comments and evaluation concerning the attitude, cooperation, and sincerity of subject ... as to his intention of obtaining United States Citizenship.*

*July, 19, 1951*

*Director, FBI*

*... von Braun and his wife have applied for their first citizenship papers and he stated they were looking forward to becoming American citizens. As previously stated, he has purchased a home in Huntsville, and*

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mentioned that his plans at the present time are to reside in Huntsville, Alabama.

The United States was entering the Cold War period. Any allegation of Communist sympathies, regardless of how absurd, was investigated. When it was reported that von Braun had been receiving the "Daily Worker," a Communist newspaper, the FBI, the Army Intelligence and Redstone Security launched an investigation.

Nov. 20, 1952

Internal Security, FBI

... von Braun also stated he had never received the "Daily Worker" Communist newspaper, never read a copy of the newspaper, and had never received any literature which he felt was Communistic in any way.

Colliers Magazine, in 1952, had made von Braun a household name when they ran several articles about his quest for outer space flight. During the resulting publicity, someone leaked to Drew Pearson, a well known New York columnist, information about von Braun's membership in the Nazi party.

When Pearson published the

allegations it caused a minor uproar, with many people demanding an investigation. After a brief period of silence, the Army issued a statement that it, as well as the FBI, had investigated von Braun's past and had found nothing to justify the accusations.

Von Braun was questioned by several reporters about the allegations, but referred them to the Army. Already, he was caught in a catch 22. He could not deny the stories without lying but if he had confirmed them, he would be disputing the very government that he worked for.

As Huntsville grew used to a smiling von Braun enjoying the benefits of living in a free country, there was another side they never saw. His every movement was monitored by different security agencies, he was forbidden to travel outside the country and even his friends were closely scrutinized.

Director, FBI

Internal Security

... In addition he mentioned that perhaps the FBI... would be interested to know that Wernher von Braun, scientist, was a houseguest of XXX.

Once after moving to Hunts-

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ville, von Braun was riding in a car with a friend when suddenly he began to express frustration. "I don't like being treated like a foreign spy. Everywhere I go, the FBI has me followed. I can't even go to the bathroom without the FBI following me."

When his friend showed surprise, von Braun told him to look behind them. "That third car in the back has been following us since we left. It's FBI men. They're always around. My telephone is bugged, and the FBI reads more of my mail than I do. I hope someday they will trust me and leave me alone."

*Director, FBI  
Internal Security*

*This office is now in receipt of information through the Post Office Inspector, Chattanooga, Tenn., originating from XXX, Postmaster, Vinemont, Alabama as follows:*

*The Postmaster at Vinemont has had on occasion to notice a number of letters mailed at the Vinemont Post Office by a XXX, whose mail bears the return address of Dr. Wernher von Braun ... Huntsville, Ala. ... and on Oct. 6, 1953, a 13 oz. letter was mailed first class to XXX, London, England. Postmaster advised that previous letters were addressed to Sweden, Germany and some place in Florida ... it does appear that for some reason Von Braun does not wish that such mail pass through the Huntsville Post Office.*

On April 21, 1955, in the auditorium of the old Huntsville High School, Wernher von Braun was sworn in as an American citizen. The FBI duly noted the event by carefully clipping the newspaper articles and placing them in his files. Later, when he received an

award from Notre Dame, that clipping was also added.

Von Braun was finding out that the United States was a much different place than Nazi Germany, where Hitler could budget a massive rocket program on a personal whim. In the U.S., politicians controlled the budget and were squeamish about voting for anything that did not have public support. Von Braun and the Army realized this and began a massive publicity campaign to garner public support. By 1957, Wernher von Braun had become one of the best known men in the United States.

*Hon. Edgar Hoover*

*... The latest issue of Life Magazine pinpoints the life and habits of Wernher von Braun,*



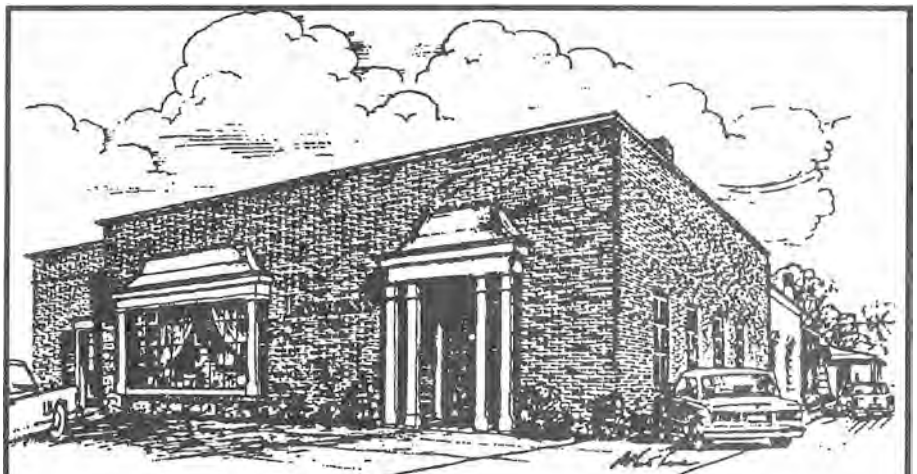
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one of the great scientists at Redstone. ... This letter may sound farfetched to you, but when the Russians can kidnap several men in New York City in broad daylight, it would seem a simple matter for a fellow traveler to sabotage Von Braun's private plane. ...

Evidently Hoover had the same concerns as he forwarded a copy of the letter to the Secretary of the Army. The warning proved oddly prophetic considering what happened later.

Director, FBI  
Attempt To Wreck Plane  
Huntsville, Alabama

... von Braun was scheduled to take his test on instrument flying ... in preparation for this flight, the plane was completely examined and declared to be in perfect condition. XXX took the plane on a short test flight and when only a short distance from the airport the engine cut out. XXX said the engine cutout was caused by someone deliberately placing oil on the back side of the magneto post. It was common knowledge that von Braun

was to take a test flight ... it would have to be someone who was familiar with the mechanics of an airplane ... no way for oil to get there unless it had been placed there ... by placing oil in this position it would soon cause the magneto to become overheated and then result in the motor cutting out.

Much of the data the FBI collected on von Braun raises more mysteries than they solve. When Khrushchev visited the United States in 1959, six pages of data, labeled "Classified" and entitled "Khrushchev In The United States" were placed in von Braun's files. When they were released under the Freedom of Information Act, the file was completely

blacked out. Another memo, also blacked out and dealing with Internal Security, Germany, was entitled "Reactivation of Nazis."

An idea of the tight surveillance von Braun was under is suggested by the following entry.

Director, FBI  
Secret

XXX had told him that a brother of von Braun's in Germany had suggested to the subject that he get in touch with Wernher von Braun who might help get him a job ... about 18 months ago he telephoned long distance to von Braun ... and that shortly afterwards he was interviewed by the FBI. ...

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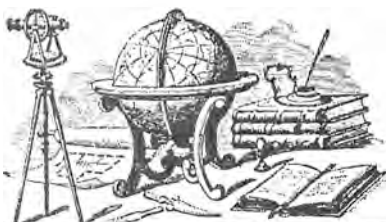


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tion from Senator John Sparkman inviting Hoover to the premier of "I Aim At The Stars," a movie based on von Braun's life. Although it is not known if Hoover attended, in a later memo, Clyde Tolson, Assistant Director of the FBI, declined to have von Braun talk at a FBI breakfast, writing "von Braun is a phony, and the director agrees."

By the early 1960s, confidence in our government's policy was at an all time low. The Russians were beating us in space and we had just suffered the embarrassing debacle at the Bay Of The Pigs. To counter this, President Kennedy proposed a bold new national incentive of placing a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The attention of the free world was immediately focused on Huntsville, Alabama as people everywhere looked to von Braun and his team of German scientists to salvage American prestige.

*Director, FBI  
Confidential*

*... states that von Braun is a German and will always remain a German. ... states that von Braun exhibits an arrogance and aloofness characterized by*

*his racial pride.*

*Ironically, at the same time the FBI was gathering derogatory information about von Braun, they were also enlisting his help, apparently for purposes of espionage.*

*Director, FBI  
Espionage*

*... many of these people have contacts in the Russian zone. ... many of the scientists make trips to Europe to confer concerning missiles and therefore would be possible subjects for this type of program. ... von Braun has become very Americanized and in the past has mentioned that he would try to find out anything that is required and would completely cooperate insofar as setting up anyone who would possibly be considered for such a program ... the scientists are completely under the control of von Braun and generally look to him for guidance and control.*

Many politicians and people in private industry resented the fact that von Braun, a German, was in charge of the space program. Files began to surface concerning his past.

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Director, FBI  
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... von Braun was a member of the following German organizations:  
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NSDAP - Nazi Party  
SS - Schutzstaffel  
SS Riding School

Once the documents became public they created a furor. Enterprising reporters from around the world began digging, searching for any morsel that would sell more papers.

One writer ran a story about von Braun not returning to Germany, in 1947, to testify in a war crimes trial of an associate. The same story claimed von Braun was wanted in Germany for De-Nazification hearings.

The author neglected to point out that von Braun was under the control of the Army at the time and they had refused to let him leave the country. Even though, he submitted a written statement that was presented at the trial. Virtually ignored was the fact that the associate had been found inno-

cent.

Another reporter dug up a story about von Braun being named a professor, and later receiving a high medal, from Adolph Hitler personally.

All of the accusations could have been explained easily in a few short sentences if someone had spoken up. Von Braun had been a member of the Luftwaffe Reserve. As a high ranking official, he had been required to join the party in 1937, a time when Germany was at peace and few people had the slightest idea of the horrible excesses which was to follow. He had received an honorary membership in the SS from Himmler for his work on the rocket program, which would have been difficult, if not suicidal, to turn down.

One of the most esteemed members of the rocket team later explained von Braun's actions. "Germany, in many ways, was like the United States. You could support your country without liking the president. The difference was that as a US citizen you are entirely free to express your opinions. In Nazi Germany, you lost at least your freedom, and possibly your life if you did so."

Another scientist explained it differently. "Don't kid yourself, we were at war. Our cities were being bombed daily. When the V-2s hit London there was an opening of Champagne bottles."

For von Braun, however, there was no explaining. The government, of which he was now a citizen, had instigated a cover-up years earlier and to have said anything would have exposed the government's actions, as well as jeopardizing the future of the space program.

Despite being under constant surveillance and enduring relentless attacks on his character, von

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Braun had nothing but praise for his adopted country. When one person wrote him, suggesting that severe measures be taken with people who opposed national interests, he wrote back, "Years of direct exposure to the Hitler regime, and its excesses, taught me a few unforgettable lessons and made me solidly opposed to any form of government which would deprive man of human dignity."

*Army Intelligence  
Wernher von Braun*

*Subject had dinner and two drinks at Murray's Restaurant on west 47th street at 7:15 until 8:20. Subject was accompanied by two males, one known and one unknown. Subject returned to hotel approximately 9:00 and did not leave room for the rest of the night. More information on unknown not available at this time.*

In private, however, von Braun was willing to talk. When an acquaintance wrote him about the accusations, von Braun replied, "... yes, I was a member of the Nazi party and the SS. I would appreciate it if you would treat this as confidential ... for the sake of NASA."

A high official at NASA offered his view. "We lied when we brought von Braun over here, and then told him to keep his mouth shut. Can you imagine him holding a press conference to explain why he joined the Nazi Party? That would have been the end of him and the space program. The poor S.O.B., didn't have a chance! He just had to stand there and take it. People say von Braun used us, but the truth is ... we used him."

*Urgent, FBI  
Domestic Intelligence  
Source advised that a group*

*of concentration camp survivors picketed Wernher von Braun, NASA official who attended a banquet. ... Twenty-five pickets paraded from 5 to 7 PM carrying signs referring to von Braun's Nazi background.*

In 1968 an enterprising reporter uncovered documents from von Braun's 1947 background investigation. After comparing the files to the official records from Germany he realized they had been altered, and assumed von Braun had done so. The following story was entitled, "Nazi Lies!"

"That was hardest for von Braun," recalled one scientist, "to be called a liar. The only time I ever mentioned it to him, he told me to be patient and everything would work out."

Von Braun had suffered in silence, for decades, for the dream of sending a man to the moon. In 1968 the huge Saturn V rocket was at Cape Canaveral waiting to be launched. All systems were go and it would have been virtually impossible to kill the program at that point. Von Braun, realizing this, seized the opportunity to do something he had waited years for. The German government had quietly been investigating rumors and collecting documents concerning his war time past. In February of 1969 he appeared at the German Embassy in New Orleans to answer the accusations. The

Embassy was supplied with the relevant files from the FBI, the CIA, the Army, and the German Archives. After days of intensive probing and questioning, Wernher von Braun was completely exonerated.

It barely made the news.

Several months later in July of 1969, Wernher von Braun saw his lifelong goal of putting a man on the moon come true. To honor the occasion, President Richard Nixon invited von Braun and his wife to a dinner at the White House.

*Secret*

*John Ehrlichman,  
Counsel to the President*

*Reference is made ... in connection with the White House Affair. ... Dr. Wernher von Braun ... was subject of investigations*



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conducted by the FBI in 1948 and 1961 ... information was developed that he received an honorary SS Commission as a Lieutenant and had been a member of the Nazi Party. ...

He had worked for the United States for twenty-eight years, placed a man on the moon and was the Director of Marshall Space Flight Center with a budget of 1.5 billion dollars and 8,000 employees, but to the FBI he was still a Nazi.

In 1977 President Ford awarded von Braun the National Medal of Science. He was in the hospital, his body wracked with cancer, and unable to attend the White House ceremony. Later a friend visited the hospital and gave him the medal.

As von Braun looked at the medal he probably remembered when he was a small child dreaming of building a spaceship someday that would carry men into outer space. He probably thought of the country he had grown up in and how it had been devastated by war. And he probably thought of his adopted country, a former enemy, which had given him the medal.

They said a tear rolled down his cheek as he laid in the hospital bed with the medal clutched tightly in his hand.

Wernher von Braun supported his native country in a time of war, and for that he bore the stigma of Nazism for the rest of

his life. When all the accusations are finally put to rest, perhaps historians will look at the man and discover who he really was ... a loyal German citizen, who became a great American hero.

# Jealous Husband Cured

*From 1873 Newspaper*

There is a man in this city who is so affectionately fond of his wife that he is jealous if a man looks within forty-five degrees of the direction in which she may happen to be.

The other day a gentleman spoke to her, and the husband immediately threatened suicide. His wife was dispatched for a bottle of poison which she had put up at the druggist's consisting of a little water, colored with licorice and bottle, with a glaring poison label on the side.

When he threatened to take some of it, and actually poured it into a wine glass she screamed for help and ran into another room.

She then rushed back, apparently frantic with grief and implored him not to do the rash deed. He merely pointed at the

glass, and laying down on the floor began to kick out his legs like a jumping jack.

She told him, she was determined to share his fate, and swallowed the rest of the licorice water, whereupon he became really frightened, called the neighbors, confessed that he only shammed, and said that if she only survived he never would trouble her again. Then she explained the ruse, and he was so mortified he tried to buy up the silence of his neighbors, but the story was too good to keep it quiet.



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# Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



Hey friends. Here it is July and the year is half gone. Hope everyone is enjoying the summer. Seems we're getting lots of rain, but that's better than drought and life is good.

**Mrs. Winnie Hanvey** guessed the Picture of the Month. It was **Missy Ming Smith**. She brought **Floyd and Gladys Harris** to breakfast, and they really enjoyed their ham. So don't forget to call if you think you know the picture of the month. Call me at 534-9550.

We've had lots of sadness this month. We have had lots of deaths from within our restaurant family, and our sympathy goes to the families of **Mrs. Carolyn Vann** (Mother of **Mack Vann**), **Mrs. Edna Homer** (Godmother of **Todd Homer**), **Mrs. Vivian Brody** (Mother of **Steve Brody**), and **Mrs. Cloud Gates**, whom we've known and loved for many years.

Our Sheriff's office has also been hit hard with sadness.

**Herman Daniel**, a beloved officer for years, died. He had been a dear friend to lots of us for so long. He served our county in the greatest way. He will be missed. Of course, the tragedy of deputy **Haskel McLane** was terrible. He was a special man in lots of ways. He served his community with great honor. He was loved because he loved people and he will be greatly missed. We say to **Sheriff Whisante** and all the Department; we love you and our love goes out to you.

Hope our friends **Clarence** and **Ida Mae Keel** from North Scotsboro are doing much better. They've been coming down to the doctor and stopping by to see us.

**Jan Morris** of Navato, California has been visiting her mother, **Mrs. Becky Pierce** and they've come to eat several times. She loves this Huntsville food, (love you Jan).

**Mrs. Eunice Joanne Anderson** and husband, **Norman Anderson** from Grant Park, Illi-

nois left a note on the table saying they drove 250 miles to be with their son and his wife and two children for Father's Day. They wanted to eat here because my name is the same as hers. They really had a great time. Fine people.

Happy Good Day to my friend **Nell Lang** who has had surgery in Birmingham and is doing well. Her daughter, **Peggy** has kept me informed of her condition. Great!

My dear friend, **A.C. Deloach** (Tony) is in the hospital. We are sure praying for you and love you and **Faye**. Faye, keep us up to date on his condition.

Our prayers go out for several dear friends who have been real sick. **Ellis Bedwell**, **June Young**, and **Marie Osharne**. Please get well soon.

Congratulations to New Market Elementary School for getting the highest S.A.T scores in Madison County.

## Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the picture of this young girl wins a free breakfast at Eunice's Country Kitchen. So stop on by and tell Aunt Eunice who you think it is!

Hint: A preacher's wife seen around town a lot.



Sandra Steele, President

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A very fine young man named **Pat Ribas** came to breakfast with **Mr. and Mrs. W.L. Halsey**.

Congratulations to **Mrs. Ruby Cooper** whose 92 birthday is soon. Her grandsons, **Benny** and **Chris Parker** eat with me lots.

Good luck to **Byron Laird** who recently began working with the Swearingin Church of Christ. Bet **Mrs. Tillie** writes his sermons for him (just kidding).

A dear young friend, who I've fed all his life, is now working with the Madison County Sheriff's Department. His name is **Scott Brown** and I'm sure he will serve his community well.

We hear that the **Mayor of Hurricane Creek, J.B. Tucker** is spending time with his fishing pole at the Madison County Lake. The catfish had better beware!

**Kathryn Lynn Rubin** and **Eric Casey Zellner** were married June 9<sup>th</sup>. Their parents are **Donald** and **Linda Rubin** and **Eugene** and **Robin Zellner**. Congratulations!

**Governor Siegleman** visited us this month. It was good to see him and to know his family was doing well. So good to see that Don still knows how to pour coffee!

Have you been to **Outback Steakhouse** lately? I was there the other Friday night. I told **Loyd** that it was the best ever!

For those nights when you just want to lay in bed and read, stop by **Shaver's Bookstore** and get a copy of **Bryce Davis'** new book, **Texakana Belle**.

I was thinking of my dear friend **Floyd Hardin** recently. People like him are what makes Huntsville such a wonderful place to live. He's always willing to help anyone. I wish every community could have someone like him but we sure don't want to give him up!

We added a lot of members to our **Liar's Club** this last month:

**Jan Davis** brought **Jackie Steadman, Teresa Vanhouser, Scott Groomes, Ben Grumbley, Lewis Wooten, John Howell, Ann McNair, Bal Goss, Tony Levoie** and **Barbara Thurman**. And believe me, they all seem to be real Qualified. Welcome!

**Ray Congo**, (son of **Lisa** and **Marl Congo**) and **Heather Harvey** (daughter of **Michelle** and **Jeff Cole**) were married on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the home and garden of the Congos in Gurley, with **Dr. Ralph Langley** officiating. The couple spent their first breakfast as Mr. And Mrs. Congo with me before leaving for a Las Vegas honeymoon.

Be sure and watch the paper and news about the big **Elvis Show** that's coming to Huntsville on August 11<sup>th</sup> at Huntsville High School.

In closing I want to say a great big "I love you" to my sister, **Ruth Moon** who will be 92 years old on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

That's all for this time, but remember, God loves you and I do, too.

*Don Siegleman*

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# Spicy Vegetarian

## Zesty Black Bean with Pasta Salad

- 1 lb. thin spaghetti
- 2 T. oil
- 2 habanero peppers, seeded and cut in rings
- 2 shallots, chopped fine
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 3/4 c. black beans, cooked (canned OK)
- 1/2 c. vegetable stock, or water
- 1/4 t. red pepper flakes
- 3 t. rice vinegar

Cook your pasta 7-8 minutes, drain and run cold water over to stop the cooking process. Set aside. Heat the oil and peppers in a skillet til hot, discard peppers and add shallots and garlic, cook over medium heat for 4 minutes. Add rest of the ingredients except the vinegar and cook 6 minutes. Remove from heat, add the vinegar, toss with the pasta, chill 1 hour before serving.

## Hot Pesto

- 2 c. packed fresh basil leaves
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1/4 c. pine nuts or sunflower seeds
- 1/2 jalapeno, seeded and minced
- 1/2 c. fresh Parmesan, grated
- 1 c. olive oil

Put all ingredients except the oil in a blender or food processor. Add oil slowly and puree. Toss with your favorite pasta, pour over sauteed vegetables, or add to soup.

## Carrot and Cilantro Rice

- 1 1/2 c. rice
- 3 1/4 c. vegetable broth, or water
- 1 1/2 c. raw carrots, grated
- 1/2 c. green onions, finely chopped
- 1/2 t. cumin, ground
- 1/8 t. cayenne

- 2 T. fresh cilantro, finely chopped

Cook your rice in the broth or water for about 17 minutes, and all the liquid is absorbed. Stir remaining ingredients into the rice and serve.

## Sweet and Hot Carrots

- 1 lb. carrots, peeled and sliced 1/8-inch
- 1/4 c. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 t. cumin, ground
- 1 t. brown sugar
- 1/4 t. ground cayenne
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 t. fresh parsley, minced

Steam your carrots til just tender. Mix the oil, cumin, sugar, cayenne, and garlic together in a bowl.

Pour this over your carrots and mix well. Add the parsley and toss again.

## Avocado Soup

- 2 ripe avocados
- 1 c. vegetable broth
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1/2 c. half-and-half
- Fresh ground pepper
- 1/2 t. ground paprika

Combine all ingredients except paprika in a blender or food processor and blend well. Chill one hour, then top each serving with a dash of paprika.

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## Hot Thai Soup

6 c. vegetable broth  
2 T. fresh ginger, grated  
1 jalapeno, seeded and cut into strips

1 habanero pepper, seeded and halved

1 lb. broccoli, trimmed, peeled, and cut into small pieces

1/2 lb. Chinese cabbage (bok choy), shredded

8 mushrooms, thickly sliced

3 T. fresh cilantro, minced

1/2 c. scallions, thinly sliced

2 T. soy sauce

1 lemon, cut into wedges

Mix the broth, ginger and peppers in a large soup pot and bring to boil. Add broccoli, cabbage and mushrooms, return to boil, reduce heat and simmer covered til the broccoli is cooked but still crisp, 8 minutes or so. Stir in the rest of your ingredients and simmer another minute.

Take out the lemon wedges and habanero pepper before serving.

## Spicy Avocado Salsa

2 avocados, diced  
2 tomatoes, diced  
2 Serrano peppers, seeded and minced

1/2 c. extra-virgin olive oil  
juice of 2 limes

3 T. fresh cilantro, chopped

1/4 t. cumin, ground

1/4 t. salt  
Combine all ingredients and serve with chips.

## Harissa

8 hot peppers (1/2 cup) seeded and chopped

1 t. caraway seeds

4 cloves of garlic

1/3 c. olive oil

salt to taste

Put all ingredients into a blender or food processor and puree. This hot sauce is very good with couscous, pasta or rice dishes - a little goes a long way!

## Black Bean Salsa

2 c. black beans (canned OK)  
1/2 jalapeno, roasted, peeled and seeded

Juice of 1 lime

1/2 c. jicama, chopped

1 1/2 T. fresh cilantro, chopped

1/2 red onion, chopped fine

1/4 t. cumin

1/4 t. salt

1/4 t. pepper

1 t. fresh ginger, grated

Mix all ingredients and let rest 30 minutes prior to serving. This can be a meal in itself wrapped in a flour tortilla, or alongside any Mexican dish. Or just do it simple with warmed tortilla chips.



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# A Trip To Town

by Mildred Thomas

The residents of Lacey's Spring and other points south of the Tennessee River were somewhat isolated from civilization for years, until the C. C. Clay Bridge was built in 1931. Before the bridge was built, the only way people could get to Huntsville and Madison County was by ferryboat at Ditto Landing.

Before there was a bridge across the Tennessee River, the postman and his horse or mule rode a ferry to the north bank, then went on to the train station at Farley to send off a sack of letters and pick up any mail coming in. Man and beast would then take the ferry south across the river and deliver their route.

At one time, Mr. Bill Thomas rented Hobbs Island where he grew cotton and corn. He would take his farming equipment and mules to the ferry, cross the river, then go down Hobbs Island road to the island. When he got to the island, he would ford the Little River to the island where the animals and equipment would stay until the first stages of the plowing were complete. Mr. Bill would

do this two or three times a year. He and his sons, along with some hired hands would board a large canoe type boat, (they called it a Yawl), at Johnston Landing and paddle across the Tennessee River to the island. They worked in the field all day then paddle back to the other side before daylight's end. It was a hard life, but it was the only life we knew.

At this time a railroad ran from Huntsville to Whitesburg. Our train was transferred from the rails to a riverboat where it was carried to Guntersville.

Mrs. Berta Kay of Lacey's Spring was a large landowner and very nice lady. She thought it would be a nice gesture to take a truckload of youngsters to see a movie in Huntsville. The C. C. Clay bridge had just been built and at the time was a toll bridge, (I think the toll was about a nickel). Mr. Nat Hough was the toll bridge keeper. Mrs. Kay furnished a truck for about fifteen to eighteen of us kids and paid the toll for all of us to go over the bridge. Buford Garrett drove the truck.

The old truck was a ton and a half that was used to haul cotton and do work around the farm. It had high sideboards and we all stood up in the truck like cattle--singing songs, laughing and telling jokes. We had a lot of fun.

We parked at T. T. Terrys and walked to the Elks Theater that

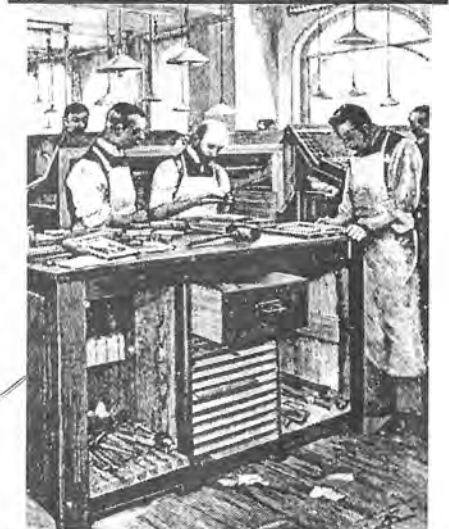
was on Eustis Street behind the Schiffman building. My sister Ebb, who was four years younger than I, had never been to the city before. So when she saw street lights for the first time in her life, she didn't know what to think. She was so amazed that she just wanted to look at the pretty lights. We almost got lost from the others while I was trying to get her to come along!

Mrs. Kay bought everybody's ticket to get into the movie theater. I don't remember what movie we saw, but we had a wonderful time. On the way back home, about halfway between the bridge and what is now Hwy. 36 (which wasn't there then) the truck broke down. We had to walk at least two miles to get home.

The evening was one of the wonderful memories of my childhood and of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Berta Kay.

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# The Law in 1860

A person was permitted to burn out a stove pipe or chimney flue only when the roof was wet from rain or covered with snow.

A fine of from \$5 to \$10 was assessed upon any individual who carried an unguarded candle or lamp into a stable, or who kept ashes in barrels, boxes or wooden vessels of any kind.

All persons attending a fire, and not a member of any company, were required to assist the firemen, if called upon, or pay a fine of \$10.

The community bell, a vital factor in the life of the community back in those days, was rung by the police every two hours. This was one of their standing duties, and could not be overlooked under penalty.

Sunday was the day of rest in Huntsville of 1860. To insure this, an ordinance was inserted in the code to notify residents that "no person shall in this city do or exercise any worldly labor on that day under a penalty of \$5 for each offense."

All businesses except hotels, boarding houses and apothecaries were required to close on Sundays. Barbers could keep their shop open until noon.

A fine of \$1 was assessed

upon any person who bought goods or commodities of any sort on Sunday. An exception was made in the case of sickness or necessity.

"Bawdy houses or houses of ill fame" were banned. The ordinance further read that "all public prostitutes, or such persons as lead a notoriously lewd and lascivious course of life, and all persons not being lawfully married, who shall cohabit, or live together as man and wife, shall pay a fine of not less than \$25."

Billiard saloons, Jenny Linds, bagatelles and other table devices were required to be closed at midnight under \$20 penalty. So were saloons and ten pin alleys.

Whoever galloped or ran a horse or any other animal used for the saddle or gear within the city limits, except in case of emergency judged by the mayor, had to forfeit one \$1 for each offence.

A tax of .50 cents per head was levied annually on dogs.

Kite-flying was banned as a misdemeanor.

Bathing in the Big Spring branch within less than 300 yards below the dam, between the hours of 4 a.m. and 10 p.m., constituted another misdemeanor.

Freed slaves had to be registered by the city clerk every January 1. If any one of them was caught with a gun, pistol, knife or with ammunition on his person, he was fined \$25.

It was unlawful for the master of a slave to permit the slave to work as a public porter, or by the job, in the city without first obtaining a license. The fee was \$5 per year, and entitled the slave to a lettered and numbered badge, which he was required to wear in a conspicuous place.



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# Interesting Predictions

- "It doesn't matter what he does, he will never amount to anything." - Albert Einstein's teacher to his father, 1895.

- "Other technologies, like electronic mail, worked as promised but failed to overcome human habits. E-mail was ... readily embraced by techie types, [but] it was shunned by secretaries and others because it proved too difficult to use." - Time Magazine, 1991.

- "Before man reaches the moon your mail will be delivered within hours from New York to Australia by guided missiles. We stand on the threshold of rocket mail." - Arthur Summerfield, U.S. Postmaster General under

Eisenhower in 1959.

- Nothing has come along that can beat the horse and buggy." - U.S. Senator Chauncey Depew advising his nephew against investing \$5,000 with Henry Ford.

- "By [1993] longevity will be so improved that 150 years will be no unusual age to reach." - Reverend Thomas De Witt Talmage, 1893.

- "By the year 2000 ... There will be pills that cure phobias. Fear of heights, crowds, strangers, elevators, closed-in places, even fear of flying will be a phobia of the past." - Marvin Cetron and Thomas O'Toole, Encounters with the Future, 1982.

- "Rail travel at high speeds is not possible because passengers, unable to breathe, would die of asphyxia." - British scientist Dionysius Lardner, 1823.

- It will always be impossible for man to fly through the use of machines. - Thomas Edison, 1891

# Sleepwalker Walks out of Window

Huntsville Democrat, 1913

Anderson Hammer of New Hope walked out of a second story window in the Tulane Hotel on Washington Street early Sunday morning while asleep and was seriously bruised about the head and body. Hammer had retired only a short time before and after about an hour got up and walked about in the room, finally going to the front window, out of which he stepped and tumbled head first to the concrete pavement. The doctors say that if he had been awake and fallen in this way, he would probably have been killed. Hammer is subject to somnambulations and has been known to take nocturnal rambles before, it is stated.

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# Oil Discovery in Madison County

*(Taken from the Weekly Democrat, 1880)*

Huntsville has a new sensation in the discovery of coal oil on the farm of Mr. T. Crawford, who resides on a part of the old Mack Jones plantation, 34 miles in a northwestern course from Huntsville. We learn that Mr. Crawford commenced digging a well near his ginhouse last October and after reaching a depth of about 40 feet stopped digging on getting to a seam of limestone rock.

Subsequently, he began to blast the rock, and reaching the depth of 12 to 15 feet, encountered a strong smell of coal oil.

Having had some experience in supplying pumps for the oil wells in Pennsylvania, his attention was arrested, as he believed, by the discovery of an abundant source of oil. A piece of the excavated rock retained a strong oil smell some time after it was brought to the surface of the ground, and the surface of the water in the well is covered with oil.

These indications of a coal oil bonanza have so impressed Mr. Crawford and some of his friends that they set about getting up a company to establish a coal oil

factory. The following persons have united to form a coal oil company: T.B. Crawford, J.M. Moss, L.W. Day, Henry McGee, A.W. McCullough and J.D. Vandeventer. This is not one of the "we four and no more" enterprises, of which we have heard, but the books are open for more subscribers.

The Company, under the name of T.B. Crawford & Co., believing that like indications of coal oil exist in this area, propose to procure from owners of land leases of large tracts - say 10,000 acres with a view of sinking wells for oil, and we have seen one of their printed blank leases. We trust that the enterprise will prove successful, and that there may be "millions in it." Huntsville - indeed, all North Alabama - needs something to stimulate the dormant enterprise and energies of our people, and we trust that Nature, has opened the way, in this instance, to test the wisdom and capacity of our people to avail themselves of her bounty, and reap rich profits from their investment.

# The Fight

*from 1890 paper*

Sept. 18th, 1890 Mary Herben and Mable Brown, daughters of prominent residents of Pleasantville, fought a prizefight in a 16 foot ring pitched in an old bam 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, seconds and spectators were all females, friends of the principals.

Woodward has since declared that he will have nothing to do with either of the combatants.



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# Dear John

"Suicide!"

"A man is on top of the Russel Erskine Hotel and he's gonna jump!"

Within minutes all the citizens of downtown had heard the news. Eagerly, almost morbidly, they rushed to the scene of the impending tragedy. The street in front of the hotel became a mass of swirling humanity as crowds jostled for a better look.

"Someone said he works at the Arsenal and he just got a letter from his wife saying she is leaving him."

This news, by some unidentified source, was quickly consumed and spread by the four winds to the crowds who were now grasping at every morsel of new information.

Suddenly the still night air was rent by the screeching sounds of police cars arriving on the scene. Emerging from their cars the policemen began pushing the crowds back with night sticks, trying to establish some sense of order.

"Be careful. He's got a gun," yelled a voice from out of the darkness.

The crowd ran scurrying for cover and the policemen quickly ducked behind their automobiles for safety.

When a few minutes had passed with no shots being fired, the throng, now emboldened by the latest developments, began surging forward. The crowd now numbered in the hundreds and was growing larger by the

minute. The the police were frantically working to regain control, when suddenly the sounds of a woman screaming emerged above the noise of the mob. The crowd had inadvertently pushed her into a store front window, breaking the glass, and now she was running hysterically down the street with blood streaming down her arms. Before the police could reach her, another woman began screaming. This woman had been knocked down by the crowd jostling for a better look.

Sensing that something had to be done, and quickly, the brave officers of the Huntsville Police Department drew their pistols and resolutely began making their way to the front entrance of the hotel where the unseen assailant lay in wait.

There was no hesitation in the purposeful stride of the policemen on that cold day in in the early 1940s. This was their town and this was their job. Someone had to take charge and they were the ones.

Cautiously, with their guns drawn, they took the elevator to the top floor. The men were silent, probably thinking of their loved ones and the danger that lay ahead.

History does not record the name of the first policeman to exit onto the roof, ready to do battle with the fiend lurking in the shad-

ows. Nor is there the name of the man who, after receiving the dear John letter, tried to commit suicide.

You see ... it never happened. There was no Dear John letter and there was no man man on top of the hotel.

Some unknown person had started the rumor and within minutes downtown had been caught up in a frenzied state of anticipation. Every rumor became fact and every fantasy became reality. And with every passing year the story became even more exaggerated. To this day there are people who will point at a spot on the sidewalk in front of the old hotel and tell you that it is where the "Dear John" jumper ended his life.

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# Sewing For The Confederacy

from 1862 Huntsville paper

Maj. G. W. Jones, C.S.A. Quartermaster in Whiting's Division, of the Army of Virginia, was sent here by the War Department, some weeks ago, to procure clothing for the troops of his brigade; of which the immortal Fourth Ala. forms a part.

We learn from him that he has secured 110,000 yards of woolen goods, and wishes to have 4,000 suits of clothing made as rapidly and as well as possible.

He invokes the aid of the ladies, whose patriotism has never yet failed to respond promptly and efficiently. The clothing will be cut at Herstein's Store, and all who wish to make, or have made, any

of the required articles, will please go there at once and procure them.

The Government will pay good prices for good work. This will be a fine opportunity for females in want of work.

(Herstein's store is now the Schiffman Bldg.)

## Old Huntsville Trivia

**1808** - Stephen Neal is appointed Madison County's first sheriff.

**1958** - Secretary of Defence Charles Wilson is hanged in effigy by Huntsvillians who blame him for Russia being first to launch a spacecraft,

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# Damn Yankees

He was a Confederate hero. Bom in Huntsville, Alabama, Henry Bolden served in many theaters of the war and saw action in the battle of Nashville. When the Union troops began to overrun his position in bloody hand to hand fighting, Bolden, who did not have a gun, picked up a stick and began swinging it furiously. When the battle was over, five dead Yankee soldiers lay sprawled about his feet.

Later when asked how he did it, his only reply was, "I knocked them in the head."

Henry Bolden was a black man.

Although few people realize it, there were a number of black Confederate veterans in Madison County. These men, all of whom were valued and respected citizens, earned a unique place in Huntsville history.

Essex Lewis, one of the best known and highly respected, went to war with his master, Colonel Nick Lewis, and saw action in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. After the war, he returned to Huntsville, where he

worked as a farmer and as a janitor at the post office. Lewis was a loyal member of the Egbert Jones Camp of Confederate veterans here in Huntsville.

In 1910 he was chosen to represent the Huntsville camp at a Confederate reunion in Richmond, Virginia. When Lewis died at the age of 106, his funeral was attended by an honor guard consisting of ex-Confederate soldiers.

Another Huntsville black who saw service in the Civil War was Matt Gray. "Uncle Matt," as he was known, always wore an old gray uniform with the bronze "medal of the Confederacy" pinned to his lapel. He also was a member of the Confederate veterans organization here in Huntsville and had the distinction of a "special" chair being reserved for him at the monthly meetings. According to newspaper accounts of the day, the only meetings he ever missed were when he was sick. At his death, the Huntsville newspaper ended his obituary with, "Now Uncle Matt has gone himself to aid with the Rebel yell."

Historians researching this period of our history might be interested to know that Huntsville was not an unusual case. During a Confederate reunion held in Tampa, Florida, in the early 1920s, twenty-five black veterans attended. Dan Winset, another black veteran, lived at the Confederate Old Soldiers home in Little Rock, Arkansas, while New Or-

leans had a militia made up entirely of black soldiers who served the South.

But perhaps the final word was spoken by Essex Lewis in 1898 when soldiers were stationed here during the Spanish-American war. While walking downtown one day a group of soldiers rode hurriedly by, splashing mud on his trousers. Essex was reported to have glared at the soldiers while muttering to himself between clenched teeth, "Damn Yankees!"

## A War Letter

Dear Ma,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health. We are in camp now in a place called Huntsville. The people here aren't too friendly and there is not much to do. There is a big spring here and that is where people go to see other people.

They say that Morgan is going to try and take the city back but we are ready for him. We got a lot of defenses and no one would try to overcome them. We march all the time.

This war cannot last much longer because people are going to get tired of killing. People can't kill but so much and they will get tired of it and then there will not be any more wars.

Roy is coming back home on leave soon. He got a bullet but not bad. I hope this war will be over by Christmas and I can come home. Please send me a comb and some real sugar if you can, we don't ever get none of that here.

Don't forget me Ma,  
Your son Ben

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# Cahaba, Alabama's Lost Capital

by Stefanie Troop

When the Alabama Constitutional convention first convened in 1819, the most pressing matter at hand was the location of Alabama's permanent state capital. The temporary site in St. Stephens was considered too far to the south, and the Huntsville site, near the Tennessee line, too far north. Governor Bibb quickly recognized the need for a more central location for the state's first seat of government.

After much discussion, a site was agreed upon. The point where the Cahaba River met the Alabama River in Dallas County had all the requirements outlined by the commission formed to select the site. Its proximity to the two rivers and central location made it a perfect choice for cotton shipping as well as governmental functions. And the fact that much of the land being considered was owned by wealthy, politically important planters was not overlooked. The site was officially roved in November of 1818 and while the new capitol was being developed, the temporary capitol was moved to Huntsville.

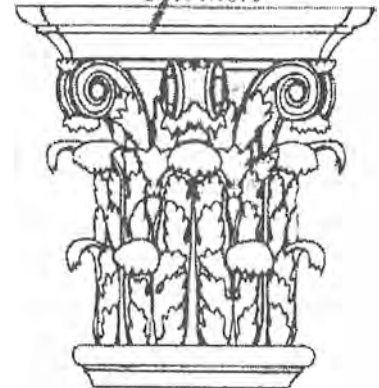
In October of the following

year, Governor Bibb announced that the layout of the new capital town of Cahaba was complete and lots were to be auctioned off to the highest bidders. Using the city of Philadelphia as a model, the planners named the streets running north and south for trees, and streets running east and west were named for famous men.

Prospective landowners from all over the state rushed to the area and quickly bought up the choice property. The first Capitol building, a large, two-story, brick structure, was erected with much fanfare and it soon was surrounded by a bustling, burgeoning, boomtown. By 1820, the capital town of Cahaba boasted two newspapers, and many fine shops, churches, and doctors and lawyers offices stood on its tree-lined streets. With its fine residences, many of them stately brick mansions, and private boarding houses catering to state dignitaries and legislators, Cahaba was considered not only the governmental but also the cultural center of Alabama. The social whirlwind of the town culminated in an annual gala at the grand Bell Tavern, an event attended by the most influential and wealthy residents of Alabama. It was not an uncommon site to see ladies and their escorts dressed in the most elegant fashions of the day, trudging along, up to their knees in mud, intent on being among the first visitors to Alabama's most talked about so-

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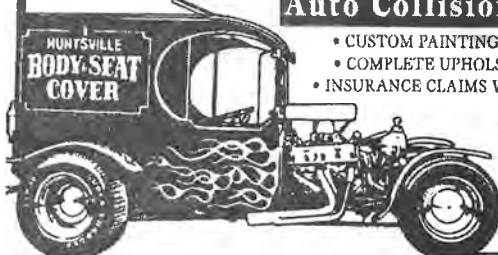
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cial gathering.

Then in 1825 the first death knell for Cahaba sounded. A devastating flood of the Cahaba River destroyed a large portion of the capitol building rendering it all but useless and many of the fine homes, schools, and flourishing businesses of the town succumbed to the raging waters. A decision was made after much heated debate to move the capital to Tuscaloosa. Cahaba struggled to regain its position as a leading cotton shipping point, and as the seat of wealthy Dallas County, it did remain vital for a time. But when the Civil War broke out the town's young men deserted Cahaba to defend their besieged flag. The abandoned buildings of Cahaba became the site of a prison for captured Union soldiers called Castle Morgan and by October 1864 housed over 2000 prisoners.

When the Civil War was lost, a society that depended mainly on slave labor was destroyed. After another devastating flood in the Spring of 1865 struck the crumbling town, the combination of war, flood, and economic destruction brought a final and rapid demise to the grand old town. When the county seat was moved to nearby Selma, the majority of Cahaba's inhabitants went with it, leaving Cahaba a virtual ghost town.

Ironically, just before the turn of the century, the site of the former illustrious capital was bought for \$500 by a former slave. The town was razed, and the bricks and lumber were carted off to help build neighboring towns, leaving the land to eventually return to its natural state.

Today, the only remnant of Cahaba is a historical marker at the turn onto a dirt road about 5 miles southeast of Selma. Walking along this road, the only evi-

dence you might find would be a few crumbling bricks, or maybe a hand full of rusty, hand-forged nails under the overgrown brush and shrubs that have reclaimed the site that was once the capital of Alabama.

You know you're getting old when most of the names in your little black book are doctors!

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# A Military Funeral



During the Civil War, in 1862, Union Army Captain Robert Elicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Elicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention,

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the Captain finally reached his own lines he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern, and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier, It was his own son, The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out, Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heart-

broken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status, His request was only partially granted, The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral, The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate. But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform, This wish was granted

The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" used at military funerals was born,

## Tipsy Pudding



Put stale sponge cake or lady fingers into a dish and pour brandy or sherry over them. When soaked, stick full of blanched almonds.

Make a custard of 1 pint milk and 3 eggs, leaving out one white. Sweeten to taste; flavor with vanilla, boil. When thick, pour over cake. Beat the white of an egg to a stiff froth with sugar, then add custard. Serve cold.

## Did You Know that in the year 1902..

by Louie Tippet

- A Princess China dinner set cost only \$11.75.
- A Remington rifle could be purchased for as low as \$3.75.
- A 10 foot tent was \$11.80.
- A horse and buggy with the best tires could be had for \$54.90.
- A pocket knife was .50 cents.
- A solid wood dresser was \$8.40.
- A tool box cost \$5.00.
- A queen size mattress was \$2.75.
- A suitcase - \$1.50.
- A wood burning stove could be had for only \$16.00.
- A carpet sweeper cost \$1.65.
- A wooden refrigerator was only \$11.70.
- A washing machine for \$2.00.
- Socks were .37 cents a pair.
- Paintbrushes were .29 cents each.

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# A Love Story



"April 11, 1862: On the morning of April 11, General Mitchel's division took possession of Huntsville. There was no opposition, only a few sick and wounded Confederates in town. They entered at daybreak, first taking possession of the railroad. The Southern was just coming in, having on board 150 Confederate soldiers, some wounded, going home on leave. The train endeavored to make its escape but was fired on by two cannons. All aboard were taken prisoner. The well soldiers were confined to the depot house and the wounded remained in the railroad cars."

This is how Jane Chadwick, writing in her diary, described the events of that day, thus marking

the beginning of one of the strangest legends in Huntsville's colorful history.

Emily McClung was at the depot that morning when the cannons opened fire on the train. Her fiance had been wounded at the battle of Vicksburg and was coming home to recuperate when the train was captured that morning. She watched with terror as the blue-coated invaders herded John and the other prisoners to the depot at the points of bayonets.

John and Emily had been childhood sweethearts for as long as anyone could remember. People used to tease their families that if John ever got lost, all they had to do was to find Emily; John was sure to be close by. As the winds of war swept across the valley John enlisted into the Confederate army, postponing their plans for marriage. When Emily received word that John had been wounded and was coming home, she immediately started making plans for their wedding.

Years later, people would talk about how sad it was to watch Emily standing off at a distance, staring at the depot with tears in her eyes while John would stand in the window helplessly looking back at his love.

The other prisoners, upon learning of John and Emily's

plight, began conspiring to help John escape. Word was passed to Emily that she should be waiting across the road from the depot at the stroke of midnight.

Late that night, John put on a Yankee officer's uniform, and

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while the other prisoners created a loud commotion, he walked boldly out the front door. Walking slowly at first in order not to draw attention to himself, he made his way across the road.

According to legend, when John saw Emily standing at the side of the road, he began running toward her with his arms spread. A Union guard seeing what he thought was a fleeing prisoner ordered John to halt. When John continued to run, the guard opened fire. After firing the first round, the guard noticed another figure across the road. The gun roared again, leaving both Emily and John lying in the road dead.

The Union soldiers placed their bodies in an empty railroad car until they could make arrangements to bury them. The next morning, a burial detail went to remove the bodies but they were gone. A guard had been posted all night and it would have been impossible for anyone to approach the railroad car without being seen.

An alert was sounded, but the bodies were never found.

1884—People waiting to buy tickets at the depot told of seeing a young couple walking and holding hands late one night. The man was dressed in an old-fashioned Federal uniform. When the couple were approached, they disap-

peared.

1890—A man by the name of Dilworth buys the property and builds a lumber supply store. While building the store he experiences problems with his horses. Regardless of how well they are fenced in, the horses refuse to spend the night on the property. Every morning, upon arriving at work he would find the fences torn down with the horses standing across the road trembling as if in terror.

1909—Police are called to the lumber yard. Neighbors had called and complained of a loud party, with people dressed in Confederate uniforms. One man was supposed to have been dressed in blue, escorting a beautiful young lady. The police could not find any signs of a party.

1933—Mr. Dilworth is called to the lumber yard early one morning. It had been snowing the night before and the night watchman had found fresh footprints in the snow. Mr. Dilworth and the guard followed the prints to where they disappeared into the side of his warehouse. After a complete search, they were still at a loss to explain the strange trail that led to nowhere.

No one has ever been able to offer an explanation for the curious events surrounding this legend. Maybe there is no answer.

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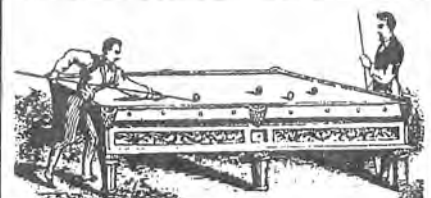


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# A Yankee Soldier In Huntsville

by Jim Coleman

When Colonel John Beatty arrived in Huntsville in April 1862 at the head of his 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, he felt his organization would never see combat.

"After all," he wrote in his diary, "nineteen years earlier the 3rd went all the way to Mexico and saw no fighting."

What Beatty had no way of knowing was that he would spend only four months with General Ormsby Mitchel's occupation forces in Huntsville.

In August he would receive orders for his regiment to move northward where he would take part in all the major battles in the west, with the exception of Shiloh.

Before coming to Huntsville, Beatty found camp life boring in Kentucky and Tennessee, but he attempted to overcome it with a wry sense of humor. "The water is bad," he said, "whiskey is scarce, dust is abundant, and the air loaded with the scent and melody of a thousand mules."

His uniform had become so tattered in the battle zone by 1862, he wrote home to his wife, "My pantaloons are in a revolutionary condition, the seat having seceded." The most exciting action he saw during his tenure in Huntsville was when he ordered the burning of Paint Rock.

Yet, Beatty made the best of his light duties in Huntsville. He served two months as Provost Marshal of the town before coming down with jaundice, a bile disorder probably caused by hepatitis. One of his close friends and fellow officers, General James A. Garfield, also contracted jaundice.

But Beatty, who said when writing his memoirs later, he'd rather write about everyday happenings, rumors and observations than describe the tactical operations of armies. True to his word while in Huntsville, expressed his interest and fascination with the ways of the Southern people, white and colored.

"The busiest time in the Pro-

vost Marshal's office," he said, "is between eight in the morning and noon. Then many persons apply for passes to go outside the line and for guards to protect property. Others come to make complaints that houses have been broken open, or that horses, dogs, and negroes, have strayed away or been stolen."

"In June," he said. "The men of Huntsville have settled down to a patient endurance of military rule. They say but little, and treat us with all politeness. The women, however, are outspoken in their hostility, and marvelously bitter. A flag of truce of rebels came in last night from Chattanooga, and the bearers were overwhelmed with visits and favors from the ladies. When they took supper at the Huntsville Hotel, the large dining room was crowded with fair faces and bright eyes, but the men prudently held aloof."

"A day or two ago one of our Confederate prisoners died. The ladies filled the hearse to overflowing with flowers, and a large number of them accompanied the soldier to his last resting place.

"The foolish, yet absolute, devotion of the women to the Southern cause does much to keep it alive. It encourages, nay forces, the young to enter the army, and compels them to continue what the more sensible Southerners know to be a hopeless struggle. But we must not judge these Huntsville women too harshly. Here are the families of many of the leading men of Alabama; of generals, colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants in the Confederate army; of men, even who hold cabinet positions at Richmond, and of many young men who are clerks in the departments of the rebel Government. Their wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts feel, doubtless,



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that the honor of these gentleman, and possibly their lives, depend upon the success of the Confederacy."

On April 14, 1862, as various regiments converged on Huntsville from the north, progress was slowed because of bad roads. Beatty said, "We bivouacked for the night near a distillery. Many of the men drunk; the 10th Ohio particularly wild."

The next day Beatty's men resumed the march at six in the morning. He remarked, "Passed the plantation of Leonidas Polk Walker. He is said to be the wealthiest man in North Alabama. His domain extends for fifteen miles along the road. The overseer's house and the negro huts near it make quite a village.

"Met a good many young men (Confederates) returning from Corinth and Pittsburg Landing. Quite a number of them had been in the Sunday's battle (Shiloh), and being wounded, had been sent back to Huntsville. General Mitchel had captured and released them on parole. Some had their heads bandaged, others their arms, while others, unable to walk, were conveyed in wagons. As they passed, our men made many good-natured remarks, as, "Well, boys you're tired of soldiering, ar'nt you?" "Goin' home on furlough, eh?" "Played out." "Another bold soger boy!" "See the soger!"

"As the 10th Ohio approached

Huntsville, at one point a hundred or more colored people, consisting of men, women, and children, flocked to the roadside. The band struck up, and they accompanied the regiment for a mile or more, crowding and jostling each other in their endeavors to keep abreast of the music. "They boys were wonderfully amused."

"As we approach the Alabama line we find fewer, but handsomer, houses; larger plantations, and negroes more numerous. We saw droves of women working in the fields. When their ears caught the first notes of the music, they would drop the hoe and come running to the road, their faces all aglow with pleasure. May we not hope that their darkened minds caught glimpses of the sun of a better life, now rising for them."

Beatty entered the following in his diary, "Reached Huntsville at five in the afternoon. Just after sunset Colonel Keifer and I strolled into the town, stopped at the hotel for a moment, where we saw a rebel officer in his gray uniform running about on parole. Visited the railroad depot, where some two hundred rebels are confined. The prisoners were vari-

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ously engaged; some chatting, others playing cards, while a few of a more devotional turn were singing."

By his timely arrival, General Mitchel cut a division of rebel troops in two. Four thousand got by, and were thus enabled to join the rebel army at Corinth, while about the same number were obliged to return to Chattanooga.

"We're now at Decatur," Beatty wrote. "The Memphis and Charleston Railroad crosses the Tennessee River at this point. The town is a dilapidated old concern, as ugly as Huntsville is handsome.

"Colonel Keifer and I have been on horseback most of the afternoon, examining all the roads leading from Decatur. On our way back we called at Mr. Rather's. He was a member of the Alabama Senate, favored the secession movement, but claims now to be heartily sorry for it. He received us cordially; introduced us to Mrs. Rather, brought in wine of his own manufacture, and urged us to drink heartily.

"Before leaving this place, the rebels built a cotton fort, using in its construction probably 500 bales.

"Today we filled the bridge over the Tennessee with combustible material, and put it in condition to burn readily, in case we find it necessary to retire to the north side.

"A man with his son and two daughters arrived tonight from

Chattanooga, having come all the way - 150 miles probably - in a small skiff.

"Started at nine o'clock p.m., for Stevenson; marched all night. Whenever we stopped on the way to rest, the boys would fall asleep on the roadside, and we found much difficulty in getting them through."

On May 1, Beatty wrote, "Moved to Bellefonte. Took the cars for Huntsville. At Paint Rock the train was fired upon, and six or eight men wounded. As soon as it could be done, I had the train stopped and, taking a file of soldiers, returned to the village. The telegraph line had been cut and the wire was lying in the street. Calling the citizens together, I said to them that this bushwhacking must cease. The Federal troops had tolerated it already too long. Hereafter every time the telegraph wire was cut we would burn a house; every time a train was fired upon we should hang a man; I and we would continue to do this until every house was burned and every man hanged between Decatur and Bridgeport. If they wanted to fight they should enter the army, muster against us like honorable men, and not, assassin-like, fire at us from the woods and run. We proposed to hold the citizens responsible for these cowardly assaults, and if they did not drive these bushwhackers from amongst them, we should make them more uncomfortable that

they would be in hell. I then set fire to the town, took three citizens with me, returned to the train, and proceeded to Huntsville."

"Paint Rock has long been a rendezvous for bushwhackers and bridge burners. One of the men taken is a notorious guerrilla, and was of the party that made a dash on our wagon train at Nashville.

"The week has been an active one. On last Saturday night I slept a few hours on the bridge at Decatur. The next night I bivouacked in a cotton field; the next I lay from midnight until four in the morning on the railroad track; the next I slept at Bridgeport on the soft side of a board."

On May 1, Beatty said, "Captain Cunard was sent yesterday to Paint Rock to arrest certain parties suspected of burning bridges, tearing up the railroad track, and bushwhacking soldiers. Today he returned with twenty-six prisoners.

"General Mitchel is well

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pleased with my action in the Paint Rock matter. The burning of the town has created a sensation, and is spoken of approvingly by the officers and enthusiastically by the men. It is the inauguration of the true policy, and the only one that will preserve us from constant annoyance.

On May 10, Beatty was appointed president of a board of administration for the post of Huntsville. After an ineffectual effort to get the members of the Board together, he concluded to spend a day out of camp, the first for more than six months. "I strolled over to the hotel," he said, "took a bath, ate dinner, smoked, read, and slept until supper time, dispatched that meal, and returned to my quarters in the cool of the evening.

"The gentleman of the South have a great fondness for jewelry, canes, cigars and dogs. Out of forty white men thirty-nine, at least, will have canes, and on Sunday the fortieth will have one also. White men rarely work here. There are, it is true, tailors, merchants, saddlers, and jewelers, but the whites never drive teams, work in the fields, or engage in what may be termed rough work.

"Judging from the number of stores and present stocks, Huntsville, in the better times, does a heavier retail jewelry business than Cleveland or Columbus. Every planter, and every wealthy or even well-to-do man, has plate. Diamonds, rings, gold watches, chains, and bracelets are to be found in every family. The negroes buy large amounts of cheap jewelry, and the trade in this branch is enormous. One may walk a whole day in a Northern city without seeing a ruffled shirt. Here they are very common."

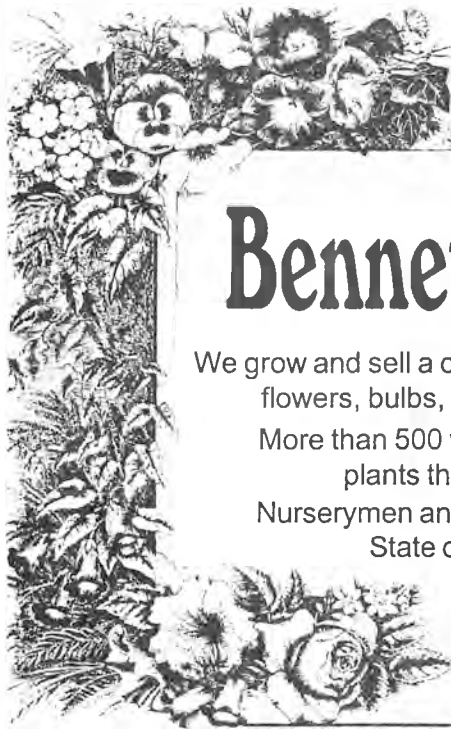
Beatty states that he and Captain Mitchell were invited to a

strawberry supper at Judge Lane's. "Found General Mitchel and staff, Colonel Kennett, Lieutenant Colonel Birdsall and Captain Loomis, of the army, there," he said. "Mr. and Mrs. Lane, Colonel and Major Davis, and a general, whose name I can not recall, were the only citizens present. General Mitchel monopolized the conversation. He was determined to make all understand that he was the greatest of living soldiers. Had his counsel prevailed, the Confederacy would have been knocked to pieces long

ago.

Rumor's began to float into camp at Huntsville. On July 2, Beatty said, "We know or think we know that a great battle has been fought near Richmond, but the result for some reason is withheld. We speculate, talk and compare notes, but this makes us only more eager for definite information. An Atlanta paper of the 1st instant says the Confederates have won a decisive victory at Richmond. No northern papers have been allowed to come into camp.

"It is exceedingly dull; we are resting as quietly and leisurely as we could at home. There are no drills, and no expeditions. The army is holding its breath in anxi-



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ety to hear from Richmond. If McClellan has been whipped, the country must in time know it; if successful, it would be rejoiced to hear it. Why, therefore, should the particulars, and even the result of the fighting, be suppressed?

"Rumor gives us a thousand conflicting stories of the battle, but rumor has many tongues and lies with all.

"General Mitchel departed for Washington yesterday. The rebels at Chattanooga claim that McClellan has been terribly whipped, and fired guns along their whole line, within hearing of our troops, in honor of the victory.

"A lieutenant of the 19th Illinois, who fell into the enemy's hands, has just returned on parole, and claims to have seen a dispatch from the Adjutant General of the southern Confederacy, stating that McClellan had been defeated and his army cut to pieces. He believes it.

"Toward the end of July, the Ohio 10th went on a foraging expedition, under Colonel Keifer, and was some fifteen miles from Huntsville, in the direction of the Tennessee River.

"At one o'clock last night our picket was confronted by about one hundred and fifty of the enemy's cavalry; but no shots were exchanged.

"The rebel cavalry were riding in the mountains south of us last night. A heavy mounted patrol of our troops was making the rounds at midnight. There was some picket firing along toward morning; but nothing occurred of importance."

On August 25, 1862, General Mitchel ordered Beatty's regiment to move. Four days later the 10th Ohio was at Decherd, Tennessee, and on October 8 arrived at Perryville, Kentucky, where they engaged the Confederate forces of

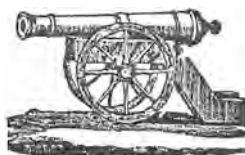
General Bragg.

"The next day," Beatty said, "we went to the field where the fight occurred. We found a hundred men of the 10th and 15th (Ohio) lying stiff and cold. Besides these, there were many wounded whom we picked up tenderly, carried off and provided for. Men are already digging trenches, and in a little while the dead are gathered together for interment. We hear convulsive sobs, see eyes swollen and streaming with tears as our fallen comrades are deposited in their narrow grave."

Beatty continued with, his new regiment under General Rosecrans until January 1, 1864, when he resigned and returned to his home in Columbus, Ohio, where his brother William Beatty was running their bank. Beatty had promised his brother that he would return and allow William to get a taste of army life. William entered the army in 1864 and rose to the rank of major before the end of the war.

In 1868 Beatty was elected to fill an unexpired term in the U.S. Congress. He was re-elected to two full terms before returning to Columbus to establish another bank where he served as president for 30 years.

In 1884 he ran unsuccessfully for governor on the Republican ticket. He died in Columbus in 1914, five days after his 86th birthday.



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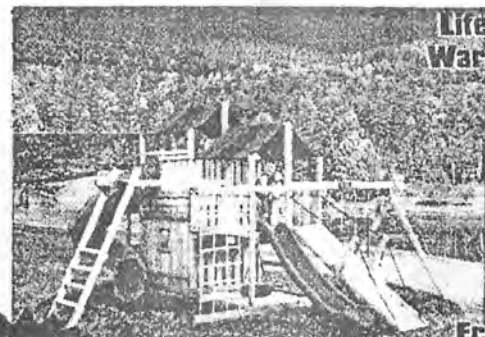
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For pain from sciatica, grip both hands on a branch or overhead pipe to get the entire body off the ground. Hang the body loosely for a few seconds to stretch the spine. Draw the knees up as far as possible several times, then rest.

A good cleansing fast: after a day of only drinking water, drink 1/4 cup unsweetened fruit or vegetable juice the first day and every 2 hours thereafter. Eating too much after a fast can be harmful and undo the benefits of the fast. Diabetics should not try this.

Chew honeycomb honey to help dry runny nose and unblock congested sinuses.

Allergies may be caused by tension, emotion, toxic burden, or

undigested protein particles.

For low blood pressure, drink plenty of beet juice and eat fresh greens.

Avoid pennyroyal if you want to get pregnant. Pennyroyal discourages conception.

To stop morning sickness in pregnant women, drink a tea made from one (only 1) peach leaf daily.

To encourage milk supply, a nursing mother should drink 1 quart of catnip tea daily. this calms both mother and infant.

For a quick energizer, make homemade ginger ale by chopping up a fresh ginger root in a quart of water. Simmer til water is yellow, strain, add honey and carbonated water.

*These remedies are presented for amusement only. For proper medical advice see your doctor.*

It's really great to grow old, if you just remember to stay young while you're doing it.  
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# An Honest Mayor

from 1912 newspaper

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.

# Horse Thief

from 1827 newspaper

On the 23 of October last, a man who called his name J. Wilbond sold me a Horse, and said he was going back to Huntsville, from which place he came here; I paid him, he then took the stage, went a few miles, whereupon the driver said he got out and went into the woods. That night my stable was broken open, and the horse I bought off him stolen out, with a new saddle and bridle.

As said Wilbond has not been heard of since, no doubt but he returned that night and stole my horse. Wilbond is a large man, blue eyes and fair complexion, and says but little, wore a black cloak, and black cloth coat.

He limps on one leg and speaks with an educated voice. He is around 25 years of age with a heavy black beard.

I will pay \$50 for the delivery of said Wilbond and the horse to me, living at the Bell Tavern in Winchester, Tennessee, and for the horse alone, \$25. Wm. Rawkins.

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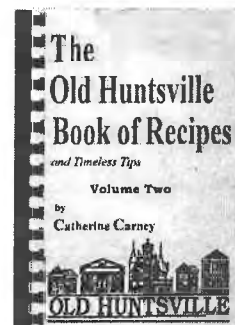


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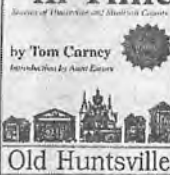
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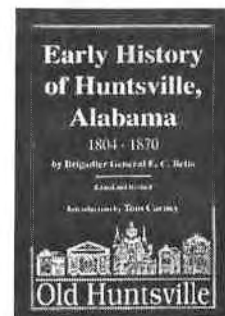
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