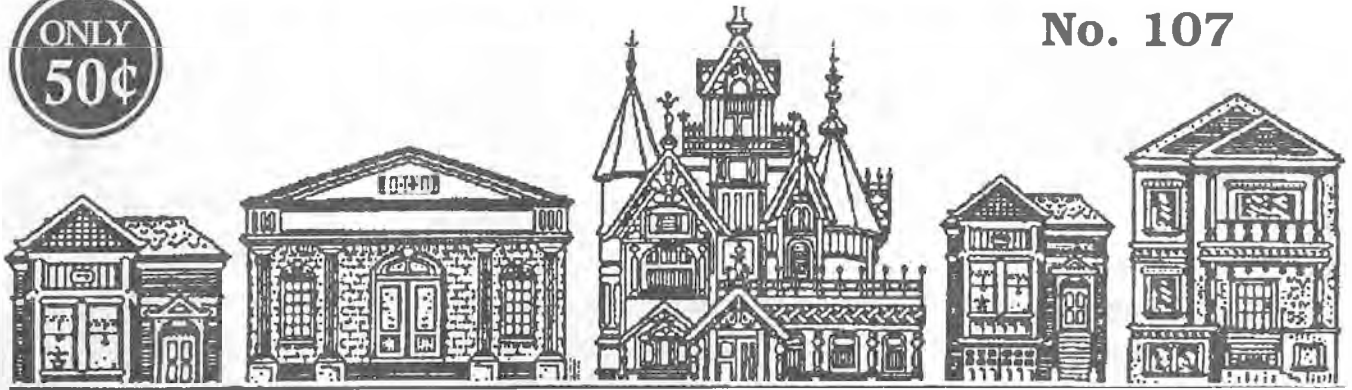


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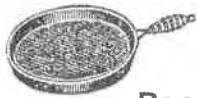
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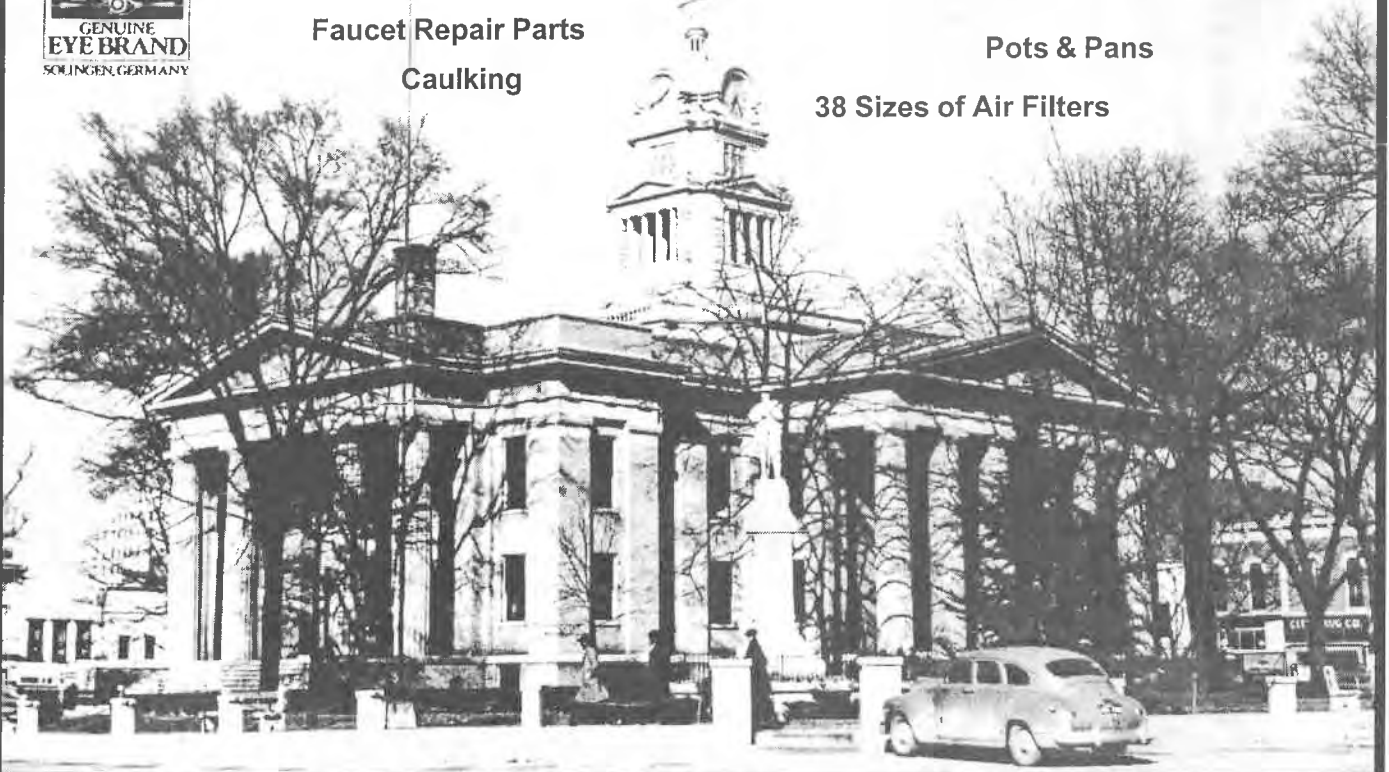
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We see these men every day in Huntsville. Some of them are our family, neighbors and friends. Others are the nameless people we see at the Senior Citizens Center or at the drug stores getting their prescriptions filled.

They are the men who place their hand across their hearts at parades when Old Glory passes in review.

They talk about our country's heritage with pride but few of them ever talk about a time, over a half century ago, when they were the heroes.

In June of 1944 the world was preparing for the biggest military invasion in the world's history. Huntsville had watched, and cried, as its fathers, brothers, uncles and cousins had boarded trains and ships bound for the staging grounds in England.

England was a vast armed camp, with large parts of it surrounded by barbed wire and under the tightest security. Every field and vacant lot was crammed full of jeeps, ammunition, medical supplies and the thousands of other things an invading army would need. Soldiers everywhere

were doing what they had been doing for ages ... waiting.

Leon Towry was stationed at Bath, England when he managed to get a one day pass to visit London. After touring the city all day he stopped at the train station to use the rest room. While trying to sort his change out to get the correct amount to place in the slot he heard a horrendous explosion. A V-1 rocket had exploded a short distance away.

Jack Hines worked in a medical corps supply center. Among the thousands of items coming and going through the warehouse was a shipment of ten thousand large canvas bags. A cold chill enveloped him when he realized they were body bags. He wondered how many of his friends would need them.

At the staging area for the 82nd Airborne Division, Chaplain George Wood spent his time comforting the troops. The division had been confined behind barbed wire for weeks and with each passing day anxiety mounted. Wood, an Episcopal priest, had initially opposed the war but changed his mind when he realized that many soldiers had no source of spiritual comfort.

On the night of June 5, 1944 the 82nd Airborne began boarding the planes and gliders that would take them to the coast of France. The soldiers were so



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heavily laden with parachutes, weapons and extra ammunition that they had to be literally pushed into the planes. Chaplain Wood, although not required, had already decided he would follow his men into battle. He carried a bible in his pocket, a first aid kit and a cross on his helmet. An officer had earlier suggested the Chaplain carry a weapon for personal protection. Wood politely declined.

Dennis Franklin was with the Army Air Corp. He realized the invasion was beginning when he saw vast armadas of airplanes flying over. A few hours later some of the planes began returning. Franklin remembered one crippled plane making a "belly landing" at the far end of the runway. When the rescue team reached the plane they found everyone on board dead, killed by anti-aircraft fire. The pilot, whose body had been riddled with flak, was still clutching the controls. "Only God," remembered Franklin, "could have landed that plane."

In the early hours of June 6, airplanes carrying over 13,000 American paratroopers began crossing the Normandy coast. Many of the men had dozed on the flight but as the anti-aircraft batteries began their devastating fire everyone was jerked into wide awake consciousness. Chaplain Wood recalled the noise being

deafening, with the skies lit up in what seemed like a colossal fireworks display, as the planes twisted and turned trying to avoid ground fire. A young man sitting next to him spent the flight writing a letter to his wife. When he finished he gave it to the Chaplain and asked that it be delivered if anything happened to him. Several weeks later Father Wood mailed the letter, along with a letter of condolences to the wife.

Chaplain Wood was among the paratroopers who landed near St. Mere Eglise shortly after one o'clock in the morning on June 6. The landing troops were scattered over a large area and it would be several days before some units were completely regrouped.

The airborne soldiers had been issued toy "crickets" to use for identifying one another in the dark. After landing, and finding himself all alone, Wood began anxiously snapping his cricket as fast as possible trying to get someone's attention. Suddenly a voice came out of the darkness. "Chaplain, quit snapping that damn thing or we will all be killed!"

The pitch dark hours before dawn were mass confusion as the Germans began to realize an invasion was underway. The sounds of bombs and shell-fire were interspersed with the piercing screams of the wounded. Isolated units fought in total darkness, with the only illumination coming

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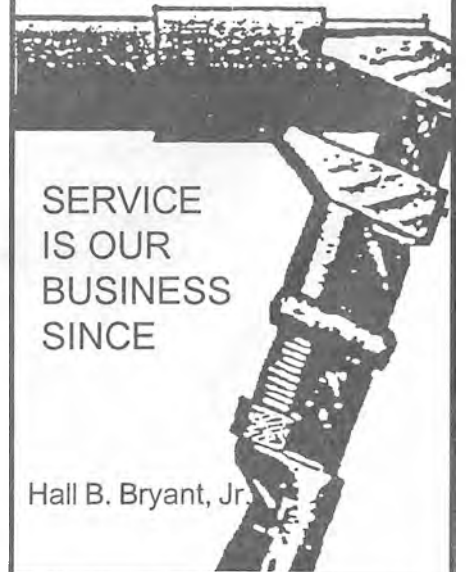


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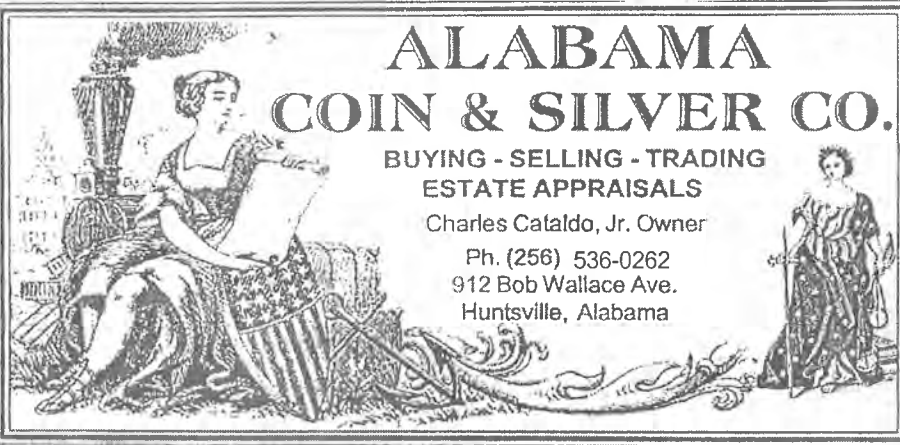
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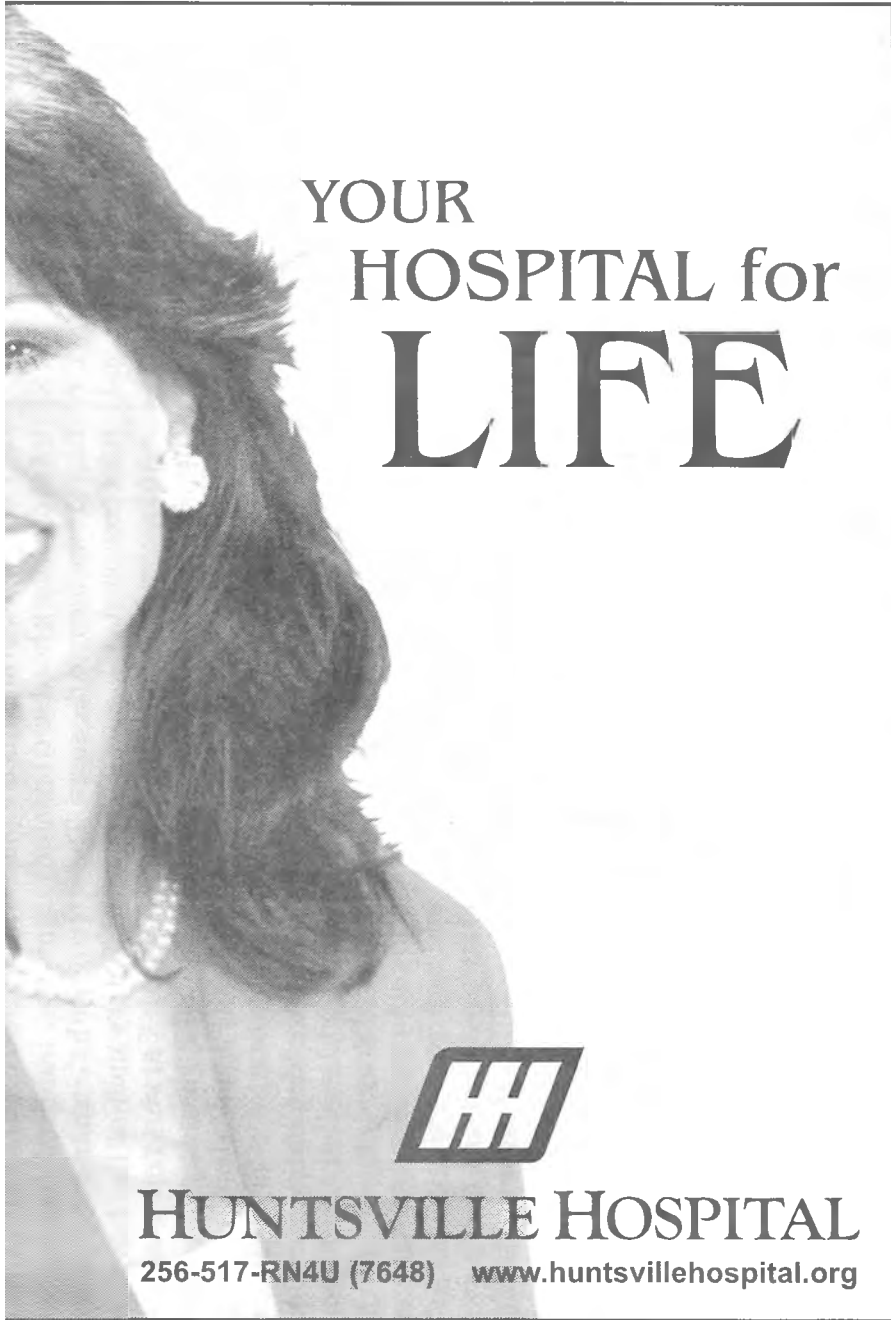
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from exploding shells and burning buildings. Within minutes of landing Chaplain Wood was busy giving last rites to many of his comrades.

In the waters off Utah beach a vast armada of ships were assembling in preparation for the landing. Hilary Burton, of the 29th Infantry, was in one of the landing craft. An eerie silence, broken only by the sounds of the motor and the waves, had descended over the crafts. Some of the soldiers were praying. Others were taking last looks at pictures of loved ones. Practically all of them were sea sick.

As dawn began to spread over the smoke filled countryside, hundreds of landing craft began to disgorge their human cargos onto the narrow beaches. Men who only a short time before had been working in cotton mills and grocery stores waded through waist deep water as a withering machine gun fire and exploding shells cut huge holes in their ranks.

Tom Moon was on the U.S.S. Tuscaloosa. He remembers the sky being lit up by tracer fire and watching the paratroopers jump into the darkness. He remembers

the ship's guns firing constantly, the paint melting off the barrels and the barges that sank after hitting mines, carrying soldiers to a watery grave. His most painful memory is of dragging the wounded and the dying from the water.

Emmett Deaver remembered being so terrified he wet his pants while waiting to disembark from the landing craft. A kindly sergeant standing next to him noticed and said, "Don't worry son, I'm scared too." Seconds later the sergeant was dead.

On board another landing craft were Bob Storrs and Bud Drake who had been close friends since early childhood. The pilot of their boat refused to take the men close to the shore within range of the German guns. All around them they saw heavily laden soldiers struggling hopelessly in the deep waters, many drowning because they had been dropped into waters too far from shore. An officer on Storrs' craft aimed a pistol at the pilot's head and ordered him to take them to the shore. The pilot complied.

Minutes later as they rushed the beach a bullet found Bud

Drake and his body sank into the bloody waters. Storrs plunged into the sea again and again in search of his friend until his commanding officer forced him out of the water and onto the beach. Almost immediately his right hand was shattered by a shell.

Ralph Sturgill of the 147 Combat Engineering Battalion was among the first to hit the beach. His job was to help clear openings in the barbed wire entanglements for the soldiers behind him. His memory was that of deafening noise and the cries of the wounded. By the time a foothold had been established on the beach over 80% of the men in his platoon were dead.

Aubrey Darron was among the first wave to hit Omaha beach. Three hours later he was the only one in his platoon still alive.

A few miles up the beach Kenneth Barker and Luke McCarver were among the men who assaulted a fortified cliff known as Pointe Du Hoc. The cliff was almost two hundred feet of sheer terror with German guns controlling every inch of the beach below. McCarver remembered thinking he was never going to see his home again. Despite the terror in his heart, McCarver climbed the rope ladder, hand over hand, as his buddies died around him. Barker also made it to the top but was captured shortly afterwards and sent to a POW camp in Brest, France. Almost one out of every three soldiers who assaulted the cliff died.

J.B. Tucker was stationed in Norwich, England with the Army Air Corp. He realized the invasion was underway when crippled, bullet ridden planes began limping back to the air base. He was loading bombs onto planes when a German fighter crashed a few yards from him, shot down by

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antiaircraft fire.

People in England were anxiously waiting for news from the Normandy beach heads. Jack Hinds remembered waiting for a hospital ship to come back from the beach head. When hours had gone by without any sign of the ship he started to think the casualties were much lighter than expected. Later that afternoon they heard the ship had been sunk.

As the sun began its slow rise over Normandy, scenes of horror and devastation covered the bloodstained beaches. Men with their heads wrapped in makeshift bandages helped drag other wounded men to the safety of shell holes. Burning tanks, trucks and jeeps were intermixed with the sounds of exploding shells and wounded men screaming in agony.

Hilary Burton earned a Purple Heart after advancing only a few feet on the beach. Emmett Deaver was wounded in the shoulder and seconds later took another hit in the leg. A medic who was trying to bandage the wounds fell lifeless across his body after taking a machine gun burst in the back.

Benny Scott was assigned to temporarily guard two German prisoners. Other units, wanting a place to dump their captives, began leaving their prisoners with him. In a matter of hours he found himself all alone, guarding hundreds of German POW's.

By late evening on June 6, 1944, the beaches of Normandy had claimed almost 10,000 Allied casualties. Despite the high cost in human lives the soldiers had established a foothold in Europe and they would keep marching forward until Hitler's war machine was totally defeated.

Heroism did not end once the beaches were secured. Hundreds of other brave men, who now call

Huntsville home, trudged ashore in the following days to do battle with America's enemies.

Joseph (Jiggs) Roper, Jimmy East, William Hughes and Joe Bickley landed on D-Day +3. Their job was to secure communications, which often involved climbing telephone poles while the enemy took pot shots at them. George Melochick was a rifleman with the 134th Division. He saw towns bombed to rubble heaps and he saw the dead and the dying. He said mere words would never be able to do justice to the heroism he saw all around him. All the medals he won that day could never erase the memories.

Clarence Hollingsworth was a medic with the 95th Infantry. His unit was assigned the deadly task of clearing the hedgerows for the armor to go through. Every hedgerow was a veritable death trap with German machine guns dug in every few yards. He never shared his memories about the war but another medic with the same unit described it as "days of agonizing terror with friends dying in your arms."

Walt Terry was aboard the U.S.S. Atlas stationed a few hundred yards off the beach. Ships all around him were burning and sinking. He remembered the smoke, noise and the utter chaos that enveloped the whole landscape. He said the ship's crew

were in harm's way but in no manner compared to the men who had to wade ashore in the initial assault. Later when he realized the terrible cost in lives he felt saddened. "There were so many young men who would never return home."

On a nearby ship, the U.S.S. Addonis, Joe Sloan was wondering if his luck was about to run out. He had already participated in landings in North Africa, Sicily and Salerno. One of his most vivid memories of Normandy was the bodies floating face down in the rolling surf.

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Leon Towry landed in Le Harve, France "scared as hell with people shooting everywhere. But we knew we had a job to do."

Legions of other brave men followed in their footsteps in the weeks and months to come. These men went on to fight in battles which have become immortalized in our country's history. Obscure names like Remagen and the Bulge became words of courage for the families waiting anxiously at home.

Benny Scott came home with an assortment of medals. His family never knew what they were for. Paul Bolden and Bushy Bolton both received the Medal of Honor. Hal Wentworth received the Bronz Star and a Purple Heart for leading a charge against the enemy in a small French town. He doesn't remember the name of the village and says he doesn't want to.

Bob Storrs returned from the war, married and raised a family. In 1994, the fiftieth anniversary of D-Day, he broke down crying while watching the ceremonies on TV. Only then did his family know he had been there.

There are thousands of other stories about these brave men but most will remain untold. They came home from the war, hid their medals on a closet shelf and put

the memories behind them.

These men, and the thousands like them, were Huntsville heroes.

Today they rest. Their battles are over. It's time for another generation to answer the call of freedom.

God bless America.

A Personal Note

We were all deeply saddened by the events that happened on September 11. None of our lives will be the same, ever.

We were struck by the courage and dedication of a nation that had come together as one. The sadness of the moment was mixed with a pride in our country that most of us have never seen before.

As we take a deep breath and get back to every day events, don't forget the patriotism you feel right now.

Remember how you called friends and family that you haven't talked to in a long time? Don't lose that feeling. Relationships are the most important thing in this life.

Shaver's top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

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2. An Alabama School Girl In Paris 1842-1844 - the letters of Mary Fenwick Lewis and her family, by Nancy Rohr, \$15.95.

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Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 13, 1891

A right pitiful story is that of the misfortunes of Mrs. Elizabeth Haynes. Saturday night she slept at the police station, because she had no other place to stay.

Mrs. Haynes is a widow, and up to Saturday morning she had three children. Now she has but one.

She and her oldest boy earned a livelihood for the family by working at Esas and May's big factory. She says they were discharged from there two days ago because she resented the cruelty of a foreman. She decided to go to Rome, Ga., with the family of George Armstrong. Armstrong was an employee of the factory, and he represented that they could get work in the factory at Rome.

Saturday morning all her earthly belongings were loaded upon a dray with the household goods of Armstrong. Armstrong, his wife and, Mrs. Haynes' two young children went with the dray. Mrs. Haynes and her eldest boy stopped along the way to the depot to bid some neighbors goodbye. When she arrived at the depot she could find neither Armstrong, his wife, nor her two children. She looked everywhere and finally found at the Georgia Pacific Railroad that Armstrong had shipped her goods, together with his, to Huntsville, Alabama. She was in despair, and at a loss to know what to do. She found later that Armstrong and his wife had left for Huntsville with her two

children. She called at police headquarters to get help in her distress. The officers could do nothing for her. She said she didn't have the money to follow her children to Huntsville where Armstrong had taken them.

She was given a room at the police station to remain throughout the night. She spent the night in the room provided for her, hoping that through some means she might yet reach her children.

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she is 90 and we don't know where she is.



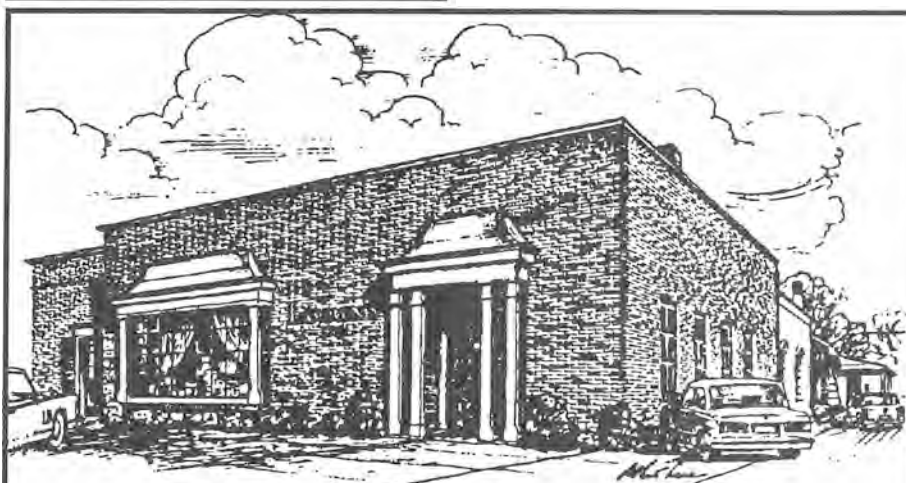
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Calling The Hogs

by Jim Harris

We lived on Gurley Pike about a quarter of a mile on the Gurley side of the Rutland Road-Gurley Pike intersection at the bottom of the hill. I was 17 years old and it was the summer between my junior and senior years of high school. I remember because I tried to join the Army, but the recruiter talked me into finishing school.

It was a time when I was tired of working from daylight until dark almost every day. I was not in school and having nothing to show for it. At that time in my life I felt that there had to be more to life than the bare necessities. I thought the Army was the answer.

On this particular day I went to the barn to feed the livestock. I must have gone a little early because the stock were not at the barn. I could see them at the other end of the pasture which was about a quarter of a mile away.

Usually, the animals were

where they were supposed to be at feeding time. Occasionally though, they weren't and would ignore your calling. Then you had to go look for them. Where did you eventually find them? At the edge of the pasture, behind a bush or tree looking out at you looking for them-and we call them dumb animals.

On this occasion I could see them, so I started calling. The cow started for the barn immediately but not the hogs. I had to call them a good five to ten minutes just to get them started.

Just as they got to the barn, Mr. Kenneth Houk with a half dozen boys and men (one or two of the boys were Rutland boys, grandsons of the man for whom Rutland Road was named) in a

pickup truck stopped on the road above the barn. Mr. Houk asked if I had heard anyone hollering for help, that it stopped only a couple of minutes ago. I told him that I hadn't heard any hollering.

They had been at Mahaffey's store at the intersection of Harrison Cove Road and Gurley Pike, a mile away, when they heard what sounded like someone hollering for help. After it went on for five minutes or so, they decided that it was time to check into it.

Mr. Houk asked me what I had been doing for the last ten minutes. I told him that I had been at the barn feeding the stock. They left and continued on up the hill.

That was the end of my hog calling.

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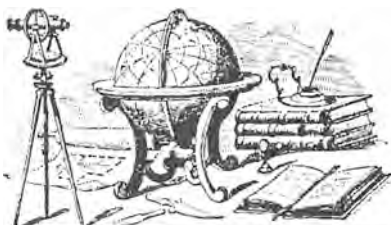
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As of February 8, 1858, public printers would receive \$1.50 per page for 35 copies or less, \$2.25 per page for 100 copies, and \$2.75 per page for 150 copies for press work on bills ordered by either branch of the General Assembly.

As of February 2, 1858, it became unlawful for any slaves or free persons of color to play any game with cards or dice, or with any device or substitute for the same. The offender could be arrested with or without a warrant and taken before a justice of the peace. If found guilty, the offender could receive not less than ten stripes nor more than 39. A constable would inflict the punishment unless the master or owner if he be a slave, shall voluntarily inflict the punishment. For their services the justice and the constable received the sum of \$1.00 each, to be paid by the free person of color or the owner of such slave, as the case may be.

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Cavalry Troop Now Forming In Huntsville

from 1904 newspaper

Hurrah for Huntsville! The new cavalry troop now has more than the minimum amount of men and more are signing every day. There are more than seventy five men who have signed all necessary papers and are now members of the First Alabama Cavalry.

The boys will begin to draw their salaries beginning next Monday night, September 18th, at which time they will be mustered in by Major R.E. Steiner and Captain Roberts.

The men will all assemble in the event house and await the organization by these officers. Then they will drill once a week until ordered to go to the training

camp to complete their training as to the duties of a soldier.

Secretary Aiken of the of the local Chamber of Commerce will be on hand to render all the assistance he can and will at the regular meeting of that body tonight do what he can to have an understanding with the businessmen of this city who will no doubt agree to give the boys their jobs back when they come back from the training camp. This has been done in every town in the United States, and Huntsville will not be slack in this or anything pertaining to the new organization.

One businessman said yesterday he was glad Huntsville had succeeded in obtaining a military organization. It is a protection to the town of all sorts of riots and disorders. Cavalry has never yet been called out to protect a Negro against a mob, and that is one reason we are glad Huntsville has a cavalry company, but nobody expects to see anything of the sort here.

Henry Ford, the automobile manufacturer, is suing The Chicago Tribune for saying he would refuse to give his men their jobs back when they returned from the border of Texas and this is the attitude of every broad-minded man. Everybody thinks the boys of the country should be prepared to fight when the war times roll around and no businessman wants to be a traitor to his country.

America first is the way they look at it and they all give the boys their old positions. Many corporations are paying their men their regular salaries and the men are also drawing pay from the government.

The Huntsville troop will assemble in the event house at 7:30 Monday, September 18. Everybody will be there.

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Bits Of Huntsville History

1808 - The first record of deed by the City of Huntsville is deeded to Martin Beatty for "one thousand acres in a square and including the Huntsville Spring," the consideration being one thousand dollars.

1812 - Inflation had driven the price of Whiskey to an astonishing price of five cents a shot.

1832 - Lemuel Jackson successfully bids on two slaves being auctioned in front of the courthouse. Mr. Jackson, a local business owner, is black.

1862 - Huntsville is taken by Union troops. The advance unit that entered Huntsville was led by Union Colonel Ivan Valsilovich Turchinoff, a Russian emigre.

1876 - Faced with a budget deficit, Madison County is forced to sell the County Poor House. An outraged citizen, Donald Finney, suggested it might make more sense to sell the City Hall, as it was responsible for the deficit.

1885 - A religious revival takes Huntsville by storm. Before the end of the revival, over six hundred people would be baptized in the Big Spring.

1890 - The Columbus Buggy Company is doing a brisk business at the corner of Green and Lincoln Streets.

1895 - The Milligan Sluggers wins the Madison County Championship. The Sluggers were one of Huntsville's first baseball teams.

1897 - Captain Frank Gurley sells the Paint Rock Railroad. Over fourteen miles of it had been graded.

Electric Lights In Country Houses

from 1873 newspaper

It is stated on what is thought to be good authority that within a few years electric lighting by means of windmills will be common in all country districts. The windmill has great possibilities if properly arranged. It is suggested that water may be pumped to a reservoir and then utilized as a power. The objection to the windmill is there that are many times when there is no breeze, and of course the windmill is stationary. This would be certain to occur when it is most needed, and might cause great inconveniences. A well filled tank or reservoir with a good pressure would, on the contrary, be always in working order, of course, accidents being allowed for. The best reservoir would be made of pipe standing upright

and closed in with suitable masonry, spaces being allowed for air chambers to prevent freezing. The waterpipes could be laid underground and in this way a tank from ten to thirty feet high might be filled by suitable pumping apparatus. An extremely small stream would be sufficient to operate a dynamo, and every house could have its independent electric plant. The advantage of electric lights all around one's garden and farm buildings will be readily understood by the average farmer.

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Woman's Guild Plans Bazaar at Silver Moon

from 1908 newspaper

The Woman's Guild of the Episcopal Church will hold its annual bazaar in the room formerly occupied by the Silver Moon Cafe Dec. 3rd, 4th and 5th. There will be for sale very attractive gifts for Xmas, including dolls, fancy bags, collar boxes, Irish crochet neckwear, centerpieces, pin cushions and many other hand embroidered articles. The menu is as follows:

Roast turkey or barbecued pig, baked ham, potato balls, cream dressing, cranberry sauce, celery, pickle, hot rolls or beaten biscuit and coffee for 50 cents.

Chicken salad, beaten biscuit and coffee, 25 cents.

Oysters, any style, crackers, beaten biscuit and coffee, 25 cents.

Tutti fruitti cake with vanilla and chocolate ice cream, 15 cents.

We are last but not least and only ask you to come to see us, and judge for yourselves whether we deserve your patronage.

In Alabama It Was Against the Law

It was illegal to wear a false moustache in church if it made people laugh.

It was forbidden to put salt on railroad tracks.

It was taboo for a man to beat his wife with a stick larger than his thumb. Books about outlaws were banned.

Dallas Doctor Arrested After Lively Chase On Washington Street

from 1907 newspaper

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

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

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

The real punishment for bigamy is having two mothers-in-law.

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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



daughter **Peggy** brought them out to breakfast for a part of their celebration of their 62nd wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Some of you may remember **Marmal W. Davis** and his wife **Helen**. He was raised in **Lincoln Village** and now lives in Harvest. They were here and asked about a lot of our old times.

A big thanks to the **Huntsville Times** for printing a full page American Flag. I see them in windows all over town.

My dear friend and emergency helper, **Kurt Lineback** had a wonderful story in the **Huntsville Times** about his catering business. Congratulations Kurt. I love you.

I'm so sad to say we lost (by death) our dear friend **Mr. Woodie Wilson**. I want to say to the family that he was one of the finest. One of the most caring and sharing people I've ever know. Great sympathy to you all.

Hello out there. How are my friends this time? Aren't we proud to be Americans? So much has gone on this month. It is so sad the things that happened in **New York, Washington D. C.**, and in **western Pennsylvania**, but we know that God is with us when our people of our great country come together like we have. It seems like everyone wants to help and that is wonderful.

Missy Ming Smith guessed the **Picture of the Month**. It was our Probate Judge, **Tommy Ragland**. When Missy saw the clue that he had a heart of gold, she said it had to be Tommy.

I have a new friend that has been stopping by for a sausage and biscuit. Her name is **Cindy** and she owns the **Café 302**. Hope lots of you are eating with her. She's a very sweet lady.

Guess who turned the Big 50? My old Pal, **Ron Dodson**. His wife **Sheila** had him a birthday party here. Boy, we had cake, balloons and everything. Congratulations

Ron, we love you. He's one of our **Firemen!**

Congratulations to **Reba Neaves** on her birthday. **Connie Mason** is having a birthday. I can't find out how old she is. Gee, this was birthday month. **Anna Lee** had a great birthday. **Marjorie Walker** brought her to lunch.

We were saddened to learn of the death of **Larry Robinson**, of Birmingham. Larry and Joyce have eaten breakfast with me many times and he was the sweetest man.

I want to say hello to our breakfast buddy, **Lyn Brown**, who isn't feeling well. I ask you all to pray for him.

Have you been wondering about **Dr. Jerry Green**? He came to see me recently. He is now pastor of **Central United Methodist Church** of Gadsden.

Our sympathy goes to the **Ray Merrell** family, and to **Boots Ellett** and all his family in the death of his mother.

James and Nell Lang's

Photo of The Month

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

Hint: Always has a smile and has cleaned up in Huntsville.



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Sandra Steele, President

Happy birthday to my grandson **Duane** (September 21). Also to another one, **Benjie** on October 10.

A big congratulations to my good friend, **Cecil Ashburn**. The city recently renamed the old Four Mile Post Extension to Cecil Ashburn Drive. Cecil is a true Huntsville success story and I'm so glad he was honored.

In the aftermath of September 11 we hear news everyday about the airlines, hotels and resorts that are having a terrible time. But please also remember your locally owned businesses. With the deteriorating economy, they need your support now more than ever. Usually there's not much difference in the products, so why not spend your money and help your neighbors at the same time?

So who is going to run against Loretta for mayor? Right now it seems as if no one wants to, and that's probably a smart choice.

Mary Medley, I'm so glad you are getting well after the knee replacement. A little pal of mine, **Kara Case** is doing well this week after surgery. We love you Kara.

We had a very special group in town recently for a reunion - members of the 78th Infantry Division who served in Europe in WW11, hosted by **Chuck** and **Annelie Owens**. They were made honorary citizens by our mayor and city council. We are so proud of our citizens in every part of the country.

My **Sister** from Brandenton, Florida has been visiting us this month. Always so good to see you here.

Well, you heard it here first. Despite all the rumors about **Bill Kling** going for the Tax Assessor's job, he's decided to run for the city council again. Go for it, Bill!

Mrs. Thelma Whitaker Freeman, an old time friend from high

school had her granddaughter to bring her to see me. It was good to see her. She's 91 years old.

Happy birthday to my friend **Glen Smith**.

Always great to see **Kathy Isabell**. She's feeling much better. She, **Martha** and **Doris** celebrated Kathy's birthday. They all have such a great time together.

We hear the Mayor of Hurricane Creek, J.B. Tucker, is spending a lot of time with a fishing pole at the Madison County Lake. Now that's a job I would not mind having!

Anthony Cowan is doing well after being in a bad car wreck. We're happy that you're better.

Our sympathy goes to Huntsville City councilman, **Glen Watson**. Glen, we love you.

Thanks to everyone who helped make my birthday such a great the Big 82nd. Many cards and gifts, and flowers all so beautiful. Thanks to all who called or came by to say happy birthday.

I love you all and will write you again next month.

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2 c. raw dry peanuts (not green)

1/2 c. water

1 c. sugar

1/2 t. each cinnamon and nutmeg

Boil all ingredients til water boils out. Peanuts will begin to look sugary but be careful not to burn them. Spread on flat cookie sheet, sprinkle with the cinnamon and nutmeg and bake at 300 degrees for 15 minutes. Stir and bake an additional 15 minutes.

Georgia Pecan Mist Cake

12 egg whites

3 1/2 c. powdered sugar

12 egg yolks

1/2 t. salt

1 t. vanilla or almond extract

3 c. pecans, chopped finely

Beat whites and salt til foamy, gradually add sugar and continue to beat til stiff but not dry. Beat yolks til thick, fold into whites. Gently fold in the pecans and bake in greased tube pan for 50 minutes at 350 degrees. This freezes very well.

Chocolate Heaven

1 c. flour

1/2 c. butter

1 c. chopped pecans, chopped fine

1 carton whipped topping (9 oz.)

1 c. powdered sugar

3c. milk

1 pkg. instant chocolate pudding

1 pkg. instant vanilla pudding

1 cream cheese, 8 oz.

Mix the flour, butter and pecans. Press into 9 x 13" pan and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Cook, and mix 1 cup whipped cream, powdered sugar

and cream cheese. Spread this over the crust. Mix both puddings and milk til thickened. Spread into pan. Top with balance of the whipped cream. Chill 2 to 3 hours before serving, keep refrigerated. This will go fast!

Ice Box Pudding

1 egg, beaten

1 c. pecans, chopped

3/4 c. sugar

1 can crushed pineapple

1/3 c. butter

vanilla wafers

Cream the butter and sugar, add pineapple, egg and nuts. Put a layer of vanilla wafers in a pan, layer of pudding, another of wafers, then pudding til it's all used up. Pudding should be on top. Set in ice box several hours and serve with whipped cream.

Frosted Grapes

Beat one egg white til stiff, dip small bunches of grapes into it. Let grapes stand on wax paper til nearly dry, then sprinkle with granulated sugar. Refrigerate til dry in closed container. Serve as garnish.

Black Bottom Pie

3 egg whites

Dash salt

3/4 c. sugar

3/4 c. crushed chocolate

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cracker crunbs

1/2 c. chopped nuts

1/2 t. vanilla

1/2 pt. whipping cream

Beat your egg whites and salt til soft peak forms. Add sugar gradually til stiff peaks form. Fold in crumbs, nuts and vanilla. Spread evenly in 9" pie pan. Bake 35 minutes in 325 degree oven. Cool and spread with whipped cream and chill.

Butterscotch Pie

3 egg yolks

3 T. flour

1 1/2 c. brown sugar

1 1/2 c. sweet milk

3 T. melted butter

1 T. vanilla

1 baked pie crust

Mix your flour and sugar together, then mix eggs and milk together, adding milk gradually. Put in saucepan and cook til thick. Pour mixture into pie crust. Beat whites of eggs til thick and put on top with a knife make swirly tips - put in oven just long enough for whites to brown on top.

Fresh Coconut Cake
Filling

2 c. sugar

1 large can evaporated milk

1 stick butter

1 t. vanilla

1 c. grated fresh coconut

Combine all ingredients except coconut and cook til mixture begins to thicken. Cool about 5 minutes.

Mix in coconut, spread on cake layers.

Boarding House Trifle

1 box instant vanilla pudding (large)

1 t. sherry extract or sherry to taste

1 1-lb. sponge cake

2/3 c. whipped cream

1 small jar cherries (maraschino)

Make pudding as directed on box. Let stand while breaking cake into crumbs. Add sherry to pudding and pour over crumbs. Barely stir whipped cream through the mixture and garnish with cut-up cherries.

Candied Fruit Squares

1 can Eagle Brand milk

1 lb coconut

2 lbs. chopped dates

1 c. pecans, chopped

1/2 lb. candied pineapple

1/2 lb. candied cherries

Mix all ingredients well, pour into a baking dish and bake at 300 degrees for an hour.

Blackberry Pie

3 c. blackberries

1 c. sugar

3 T. flour (all-purpose)

1 stick butter

Mix sugar and flour, add butter and mashed berries with juice. Pour in pie shell and cover with top crust which has been gashed to allow for steam to escape. Bake at 425 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes. Serve hot with cold whipped cream.



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News From An Early New Market Newspaper

by Wylon Smithey

(Editor's Note: In the late 1800s, New Market was a bustling town second only to Huntsville in size in Madison County. Mrs. S.H. Hambrick, whose family had connections with early New Market, in 1968 found a bundle of 17 issues of The New Market Enterprise from 1888 and 1889 in the attic of her home near Manchester, Tenn. Following is the first of a series of articles based on the contents of those eight-page weekly tabloid newspapers.)

**Volume 1, No. 1,
June 23, 1888**

On Page 1, Editor W.R. Murrell, who also was the publisher, ran this notice to the public: "Today we launch The Enterprise upon the sea of journalism, feeling assured that the venture will meet with favor from those in whose interests it is undertaken. The need of a newspaper at New Market - the second largest town in the wealthy and populous county

of Madison - is conceded, and we propose to make The Enterprise such a paper as will meet the wants of the community."

These news items appeared on Page 1.

"Last Sunday a colored preacher, while returning from church on Flint River, was killed by lightning. The person with him was uninjured."

"Mr. H.B. Norris, who lives a mile and a half south of town, brought in Friday morning a cotton bloom - the first in this section "

"Mr. John Williamson, residing near Sharp's Spring on the mountain, a few days since became insane - a case of hereditary insanity."

"The acreage of wheat is not large, but a good yield has been harvested."

"We have been handed another cotton bloom from the farm of Mr. Merida Miller, two miles south of New Market. It was a red one."

"Richard Strong and Henry Nance, two colored men, had a cutting affair Thursday on Mountain Fork. Cause: Jealousy."

J.W. Cochran's store advertised baking soda for 5 cents a box, a towel of pure linen for 10 cents and jelly glass for 5 cents.

The editor extolled the citizens of New Market to take pride in their town in Local Briefs.

"A coming event - mud. Fix up

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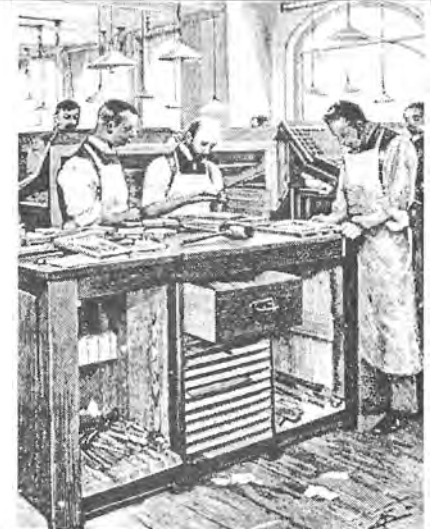


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the sidewalks before winter - now."

"We call attention to parties living in the southern part of the village to the condition of the plank walk just beyond Mr. Pike's blacksmith shop. The boards should be securely fastened down to prevent being washed out of place by hard rains. Who will volunteer to repair this walk?"

"If the fences were white-washed it would add much to the appearance of the town."

In 1888, New Market had two real estate brokers, a drug store, three dry-goods stores, four general stores, four churches, undertaking establishment, general furniture and wagon repair shop, livery stable, post office, saddle and harness shop, hotel, printing office, wood working shops, blacksmith-shop, and two shoe shops. In the way of educational institutions there were New Market High School and New Market Male and Female College.

There also were five physicians and surgeons - Dr. C.E. Blanton, Dr. E.D. Lipscomb, Dr. D. Lipscomb, Dr. J.C. Blanton and Dr. J.A.R. Jones,

Also, six trains passed through New Market every day. Four of them were passenger trains and two were mail-freight trains.

The following news was found in a Personals column:

"Mr. L. Lawhon, of Hamilton, Kansas, will soon make his home among the good people of New Market, having contracted for a farm of Mr. J.W. Cochran. We welcome him and as many of our Western brethren as are willing to cast their lots with us."

"Mr. The. Hereford, it is said, sometimes jokes, but he has a right to mean business when he brags on his twin boys."

"Little Bessie Jones, though

only five years old, plays on the piano ever so well and sings sweetly. The mumps will prevent her singing any more before she returns home."

"Mr. P.H. Payne, of Hayes' Store, was in town Wednesday, on the lookout for some ravenous curs that have been thinning the country of sheep."

The following article by W.F. Damaby was published under the headline:

MINERAL RESOURCES, Our Undeveloped Wealth:

"Two varieties of iron ore have been found on Hester's Creek. From the mouth of the creek for 10 miles up, it is interspersed with iron ore, and indications of coal exist.

"The indications are good for a fine iron field, and should it be developed, the facilities for handling would be good. A railroad could be constructed at moderate cost, with a downgrade to the depot at this place.

"Iron ore has been found on Mountain Fork Creek, but its probable extent has not been ascertained, nor the kind or quality.

"C" Shell

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The creek is lined with the foothill of the Cumberland Mountains, which strengthens the probability of good fields.

"The Cumberland Mountains are within about one mile of New Market, and several good veins of coal have been found, some six feet thick. Parts of the mountain are a solid mass of iron ore. I have followed a vein for over a half a mile along the sides, and think from the outcropping that it is under six feet thick, and probably much thicker. The route to it from this place is very good. A branch five or six miles to the base of the mountains, with an incline of three to five hundred yards, thence a track along the bench of the mountain for one mile would tap the coal and iron entries.

"The two or three varieties of ore on either side would make this a good point for the erection of a blast furnace. We have plenty of water, limestone, sandstone

and fire rock. The mountain has a large quantity of ash, white oak, beech, etc., suitable for the manufacture of agricultural implements."

I don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of my glass.

For Sale Or Trade

from 1901 newspaper

One genuine New York automatic milking machine. Only used one week until herd ran away. Will trade for anything. Contact at newspaper office.

1907 News

- 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.

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A Presidential Feast

from 1901 newspaper

George Steele had an unusual history, one that reflected credit on his name for ambition, energy and thrift. He became a famous contractor, architect and builder. Though his original stated idea was to build a "Fancy Farm" at the foot of Monte Sano, he instead constructed a fine mansion of three stories, set among a grove of towering oak trees that afforded an expansive view of the mountain.

It was here, at Oak Place, that Steele loved to host grand and glorious feasts. Definitely the most memorable affair ever held at Oak Place came about as a result of a United States presidential election. During the 1840 race, Steele picked out a splendid ox to roast in honor of Steele's favorite to win, Martin Van Buren. Steele even named the ox after Van Buren and invited many friends to join in the celebration. Unfortunately, Van Buren was defeated.

Not to be daunted, Steele kept the ox on a fattening diet and four years later Van Buren had grown into such luscious physical proportions that he was slaugh-

tered for a great feast given at Oak Place in March, 1845 to honor the triumphant election of the new President of the United States, James K. Polk.

Four thousand citizens from Madison and adjoining counties and states with pleasure accepted the generous and courteous invitations, and feasted on the Van Buren ox, stall fed and roasted whole.

All kinds of vehicles, from the lowly ox cart to the elegant carriages drawn by dashing teams were brought into requisition to bring the poor, the rich, the high and the low, all welcomed alike.

Long tables were arranged under the majestic oaks. On the center table, was a magnificent cake pyramid, four feet high, surmounted by a figure of President-elect Polk. This pretty conceit in confections, Capt. Steele had ordered from Nashville, sending his own team to insure its safe deliv-

ery.

The barbecuing was the work of Mr. Smoot, an artist in that line, and Van Buren went through the barbecuing process for twenty-four hours. With his handsome home, highly polished - he presented a very luscious spectacle, stuffed with turkeys. There were pigs and lambs barbecued, hams boiled and their accompaniments in jellies, sauces and bread without stint; ice cream and cake, and immense cut-glass bowls.

Every man present received a hickory cane cut from Monte Sano, and the most prominent citizens were presented with canes highly polished by the well known slave, Charles Peck, and adorned with silver ferules and heads of gold or silver, engraved with the name of receiver and date.

Matthew Weaver Steele, the young son of the host, gave the address of welcome and Clement Claiborne Clay, the young lawyer and future statesman was the orator of the day.

After the speech-making,



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feasting and handshaking, a string band of the best picked banjoists, guitarists and fiddlers, from the plantation slaves, in happiest mood, played the Reels, Jigs and other dances, and in the grand old rooms, aristocrats and Democrats cut the pigeon wing, sang Auld Lang Syne and danced the Old Virginia Reel in gayest mood.

Now, many years late, with the memory of that fabulous festival growing dim, Huntsville has still to see another gathering as lavish as the one that George Steele put on at his splendid home Oak Place.

Burying Old Grievances

from 1902 newspaper

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

After receiving the amount, the paymaster remarked, "You were in the army during the war?"

"Yes," said he.

"What command were you in?"

"In General Fitzhugh Lee's command," said he.

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

"Yes," replied the Alabamian. "I helped to kill them and I thought I had a right to help bury them".



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Grandma's Household Tips

- Don't crowd food in your refrigerator, this cuts the circulation of air around them. If you put onions, fish or cantaloupe in your refrigerator, put a piece of charcoal in the box also. This will keep the flavors from mixing.

- Juice left over from canned fruits is excellent, thickened and served over plain cake or cottage pudding.

- Try chilled milk in pie crusts instead of water. They will brown much better. After rolling top pastry or strips, brush with milk using a pastry brush. The rich brown will show up in the very spots touched by the milk-moistened brush.

- If you want your meringue to keep its shape, add the sugar gradually, one tablespoon at a time, and beat extremely well after each addition. After all the sugar is added, meringue should be beaten until is very thick and glossy and the peaks stand up well when the beater is withdrawn.

- When your celery goes limp, just submerge it in ice water along with a thin slice of irish potato and it will perk right up.

- To give freshly popped corn a different flavor, add a spoonful of peanut butter to the butter just before pouring it over the corn.

- Is your soup pale and colorless? Add a small beet to the soup while it is cooking, remove when done and the soup will have a clear golden color like old fashioned chicken soup without the taste of beet.

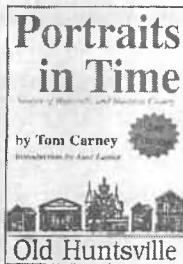
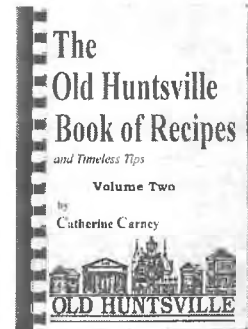
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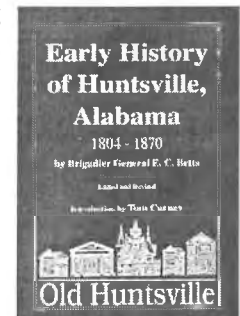


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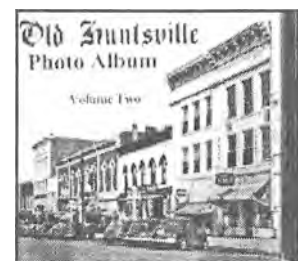
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The Huntsville Park Picture Show

by Jerry Wilbanks

One thing that stands out in my memory of growing up in the Mill Village of Huntsville Park in the fifties was the neighborhood movie house. This is a thing that many people have forgotten about and some others are totally unaware of. The auditorium of Joe Bradley School was transformed three times a week into a neighborhood movie theater. There were feature presentations on Tuesday and Friday nights and twice on Saturday morning and night. For these showings, a full sized movie screen was lowered into place on the auditorium stage and Hollywood films and selected short subjects were shown for the entertainment of young and old alike.

This was family enjoyment at its best. Family groups and dating couples from all over the Village would converge on the make-shift theater at any time the doors were open. It seemed to me that the auditorium was full or nearly so every time I was there to see a movie.

For the most part, there was children and family entertainment, with the emphasis on main-

line Hollywood fare. This included everything from the original Western thrillers (Gene Autry, Roy Rogers, Hopalong Cassidy, the Durango Kid, and some lesser known cowboys) to great war movies with stars like John Wayne; there was also Bowery Boys, Abbot and Costello and other comedies, musicals and all the classic monster movies like Frankenstein, Dracula, Wolfman and the Mummy.

One horror film that my friends and I particularly enjoyed featured a grotesque, stalking character called the "Creeper." He had the strength and agility of an ape and the sinister deformity of the famous Hunchback of Notre Dame. Needless to say, this character fueled many a bad dream and nightmare among the youngsters throughout the Village. When my older sisters were more than usually upset with me (I must have been around eight years old) or I had misbehaved in a particularly reprehensible fashion, it was not in the least out of the ordinary for one of them to call me "Creeper." I think that epithet was a little harsh, though some in my close circle of friends and family at that time would surely disagree.

Having feasted on a steady diet of these horror movies, my imagination was constantly primed for extreme fear and apprehension, which might erupt on the slightest pretext! Older family members took full advantage of this

situation, claiming to hear and see these film monsters on our late night walks home from the picture show. It was a ruse guaranteed to produce in me a rictus of fear, paralyzing to the point of immobility, or a panicky terror which required immediate and mindless flight!

Coming out of the theater after the show was over, the first thing you might see, parked against the curb across from the school (in front of the old Huntsville Park Boarding House) was the tamale Cart. This was a wooden structure mounted on four wheels, which was rigged out with some sort of a steam table which kept the delicious tamales hot on even the coolest evenings. For fifty cents you could purchase half a dozen of the finest and have them hand wrapped in newspa-

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per for the walk home.

The thriving tamale business was run by a Mill Village family and as far as I know, every member of this family was involved, one way or another, in the enterprise. You could knock on the back door of their home and purchase tamales at any time up until 10:00 PM. In addition, the wheeled cart would appear around the Village at strategic locations and times ... such as the letting out of movies and school athletic events, and also by the main gate of Huntsville Manufacturing Company during shift changes.

Anyone who lived in Huntsville Park during the fifties will doubtless remember the delectable tamales and the family who produced them. This delicacy became an institution for my family and friends.

With hot tamales wrapped in

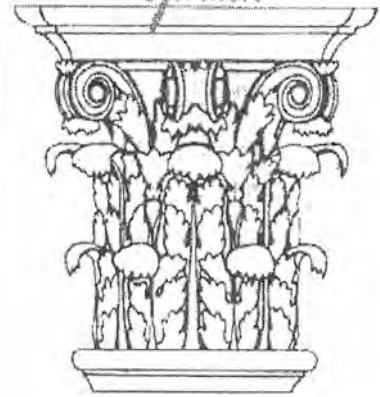
the daily news, we would walk the two blocks home in great apprehension and fear, trying to steer clear of dark menacing hedges and other shadowy places of concealment for monsters and stalkers

"That movie gave me the willies." One of us might venture. "Wish we'd seen it during the day." Another might add, "Shhhhh! I hear footsteps behind us!"

This was the signal for general panic and the race was on for the safety of home!

I will mention here that Huntsville Park was generally a safe neighborhood in the fifties. While residents did not go so far as to leave doors unlocked at night, there was relatively little to fear in the way of serious crime ... this in a Village which boasted two street gangs (the "Rock Boys" and the "Hoods") and all the usual adolescent mischief makers com-

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mon to most neighborhoods.

Why was this so? It could be that everyone was so bound together through work, school, church and community fellowship that random acts of crime and violence were greatly discouraged.

Of course, as I see it, the picture show had to be a chief contributing factor to this state of affairs. Everyone came to see the movies! It was a unique community bonding experience and served to keep everyone entertained in a friendly

social setting, It kept us honest and it kept us relating to one another in good faith.

The folks who lived in the Huntsville Park Mill Village during the fifties were, for the most part, honest and hard working. There was the occasional shiftless individual, or troublemaker, or weekend tippler, but the appearance of police cars in the neighborhood was more rare than one might expect. When a police car or motorcycle was spotted it usually meant that a fender-bender was being investigated or that an escort was required for a funeral.

When the Huntsville Park Movie House doors were closed to the public for the last time, we all felt a great loss. It was one of the stand out landmarks of my childhood. Someone once said, about reflecting on the past, that we find the present tense but the past perfect!

My Mill Village past may not have been perfect, but the Picture Show most certainly adds to the illusion.

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Huntsville Boys Go To War

A Description of Life In An Army Camp At Fort Morgan, Florida.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in an 1861 issue of The Huntsville Democrat. It was written by a local man who had joined the Madison Rifles, a company of local volunteers.

Fort Morgan,
March 30, 1861

The Madison Rifles arrived here at 2 o'clock, on Thursday, aboard the regular Mobile and Fort Morgan packet, Crescent. The privilege of feeding us was transferred to two white barber-looking men and a very handsome yellow girl. They had a table set out on the lower deck, covered with ginger cakes - price, three for a quarter; biscuit and ham - one biscuit and a slice of ham, ten cents; cup of coffee, fifteen cents; small oranges, ten cents a piece; together with many other eatables at proportionate prices.

The first appearance of Fort Morgan, upon nearing it, is that of a boundless waste of white sand, dotted here and there with Shrub Pine and a degenerate Palmetto. I shall reserve a description and partial history of this fortress for another letter, as my duties have so far prevented me

from procuring information sufficient to risk assertion in relation to it. All that I can now say is, that there are about twelve hundred men here - all of whom are volunteers from the State of Alabama. There are about two hundred and fifty more troops expected here every day, who will complete the First Regiment of Alabama Volunteers. Col. Hardee, formerly U.S. Army, and author of Hardee's Tactics, is in command here. He is a fine looking man, with a strictly military bearing. He seems to be about fifty years of age; hair slightly gray, and as he appears upon review, every afternoon, he looks every inch the soldier. I am unable to find out what other officers of the Confederate service are here, as frequently find myself in a wilderness of red sashes and epaulettes.

The Rifles are encamped upon the sand in the rear of the fort. We occupy seventeen tents, besides the officers' marquee. Each tent is occupied by six men, called a "mess," each mess is furnished with a large camp kettle, a camp frying pan, and each man with a tin plate, tin cup, one knife and fork - bone handle, an iron spoon, and a tin canteen to carry water

in. The canteen is fixed with a strap, so as to be carried about the person, and they see constant service too, as the hot sun overhead, and the heated sand under foot, are well calculated to engender a pretty constant thirst,

A part of the time since we have been here, one man in each mess has acted as cook and dish washer, whilst the rest of the mess bring wood and water; our meals are now all cooked by four or five detailed every day for that purpose; and as the tents are called by numbers, the men come forward and get their half-cup of coffee, half cup of peas, and vinegar, if we choose it; by the by, our mess



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bought a cabbage head today, and we must draw a pint tonight.

As yet, we wear the clothes we left Huntsville in; our uniforms are promised very soon. We have been furnished each with two mixed jean outer shirts, two flannel undershirts; one grey and one white, two pair of drawers, and two pair of socks.

There are no fruit or vegetables grown here, on account of the sand. Oysters can be bought here for \$1.50 a barrel, in the shell, and our camp now presents quite an interesting scene, as I sit looking at a party of the Madison Rifles, assembled around a large fire, with bags of oysters around

them, some stewing them in their tin cups, some roasting them in the fire, and others eating them out of the shell.

This is Sabbath morning and soon after the cannon fire this morning I discovered many of the men reading their Bibles, some, collected in squads, whilst one read aloud to the rest. Some have gone fishing, whilst the air is laden with the shouts of some 200 men in the Gulf, sea bathing.

This is the greatest luxury of camp life, and partaken of by all but a very few, who are scared off by the fear of sharks, and the sight of porpoises, which appear in droves all along the coast.

Some are off gathering shells, of which there are countless numbers of beautiful colors and kinds; many are off in the shade of pine trees, talking of home and their sweethearts.

Many amusing little scenes come off in our camp life, which have much pith and point in them to us, and would not be devoid of mirth to you at home, were I at liberty to call the names of the parties.

The only reason I would take up exercising is so I could hear heavy breathing again.

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Before the Eighteenth Amendment was added to our Constitution, all alcohol (legal) was shipped into Hollywood by railway express. Until the spirits could be claimed by the customer, they were stored in the depot.

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Someone, name unknown, in 1896, tried to drain the whiskey from the barrels by crawling beneath the depot and drilling a hole upwards through the floor and into the whiskey barrels.

Something went wrong. The whiskey went everywhere but where intended.

The would be liquor thief struck a match to find the problem. Barrels of prime drinking whiskey went up in a flash and Hollywood needed a new depot minutes later.

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The singer and his entire band were killed in an airplane crash shortly after taking off from Guntersville on New Years Eve, Dec. 31, 1985, enroute to Dallas, Texas for a New Years Eve Concert.

The hotel has a full memorial wall in the lobby with a portrait and a collage of photographs entitled The Last Two Days. Room 106, the room he stayed in, has been re-decorated with Nelson pictures and Memorabilia.

There will be music, look-alike contests and many other events.

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Huntsville's Ladies Of The Night

by Judy Wills

The theme of the wicked lady with the heart of gold runs through our literature from the Biblical Rahab, the Harlot, an ancestor of Jesus, to that friend of Rhett Butlers, Belle Watley, in *Gone With The Wind*.

Huntsville has its own version, but it was fact, not fiction.

Huntsville Hospital owes its existence to the generosity of the town's most colorful madam, Mollie Teal. She bequeathed her house, the most popular bordello in town, first to a friend, and then upon the friend's death to the City of Huntsville. It became the City Infirmary and operated until 1926 as a hospital. It was one of the most modern hospitals in North Alabama, even having its own School of Nursing. It remained in operation until Huntsville Hospital opened.

Mollie became quite well off financially as a result of her "business." She bought the house at the corner of St. Clair and Gallatin for a mere \$300 and a few years later was able to mortgage it for \$1,900, a debt she soon repaid. It was an extravagant, well run house where a shot of whiskey could be had for 25 cents and the favors of an attentive lass would cost you \$5 for the night.

Part of the public's confidence in Mollie's probably was the fact that her girls had regular health inspections.

Miss Bessie Russell, for whom the branch library is named, was the widow of the physician who was charged with health inspections at Mollie's place.

Mrs. Russell remembered her mother talking about Mollie, saying "she was the most attractive person you ever saw." She always carried a parasol and when she took her afternoon ride in her long black carriage with the two black horses, she was considered, by most people, to be an extremely glamorous lady.

Mollie was an acute business woman who knew the value of

publicity. One year, during the 4th of July parade, she dressed her ladies in their finest garb and joined the parade, to the delight of many onlookers. She was not on the official parade schedule, but as an observer later commented, "She did add interest."

Mollie's ghost was said by many to have haunted the hospital for years after her death. There was a screen door that had a habit of slamming and hooking itself shut. The long time employees joked that it was Mollie checking on the customers.

Another legend concerns her grave in Maple Hill Cemetery. Every since her death, almost a century ago, fresh flowers have been periodically placed on her grave. No one knows by whom.

While Mollie Teal is the most colorful and the best known of Huntsville's "Fancy Ladies," she was certainly not the only one. Minnie Maples' establishment, though smaller than Mollie's, was equally well known around the turn of the century. She and her employees advertised their wares by dressing up and promenading on the city's sidewalks. Heavily made up, wearing big flowery hats and exquisite clothing, they attracted much attention on their daily excursions.

May Wells, June Martin, Jewel Earl, and "Gashouse Carrie" were other prominent Huntsville madams, but in the 1920s and 30s the best known was Hazel Battle. Her house was located near the present day site of Meadow Gold Dairy, and though illegal, had the reputation of being a well regulated house. The only disturbances were an occasional police raid when some of the girls would be jailed long enough to get their health checkups.

Many of Huntsville's outstanding citizens were regular



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patrons of the houses, as evidenced by an incident that happened in the late 1800s. One of the bordellos caught fire and the fire department quickly showed up and extinguished the blaze, which proved to be minor. Needless to say, the girls were so impressed by the brave, courageous firemen that they invited them to stay for a while and "relax."

And needless to say, when word spread among the volunteer fire department of the madam's offer, other firemen, even from out in the county, begin showing up, "to make sure the fire is out."

Unfortunately, the Huntsville Police Department chose this exact time to stage one of their raids. The firemen were promptly arrested and thrown in the calaboose. Furious, the volunteer firemen resigned, leaving Huntsville without fire protection until the matter was straightened out.

Some of the prostitutes married well. Miss Bessie Russell remembered that her husband was astonished at the number of young men who married women

right out of the houses. Though "polite society" never mentions the fact, there are still several elderly matriarchs in Huntsville today who got their start in a much more colorful place than the Huntsville Country Club.

Local History

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

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

"Thomas," the class quickly answered.

Second student: "Nixon."

"Richard Milhouse," one student yelled.

Third student: "Ford."

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



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The Railroad to Hobbs Island

by Bob Baudendistel

At eight o'clock one evening in April, 1892, Milton Humes, Chairman of the Board of Trade, called a town meeting with Huntsville area citizens to discuss the transportation problems that plagued many of the communities south of the city towards the Tennessee River.

The proposition before the panel at this public hearing was centered on convincing the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis (NC&StL) Railroad Company to extend its Elora-Huntsville rail line. This extension of the railroad would be built running south of Huntsville to reach the Tennessee River at or near the head of Hobbs Island, a distance of approximately 14 miles.

Many prospectors believed that this "Southern Outlet" was needed in order for the Huntsville economy to continue to thrive. The committee voted unanimously to submit the proposition, and as a result, subscriptions totaling more than \$6950 were im-

mediately declared.

It was on Monday, May 21, 1892 when the first survey for the rail line to Hobbs Island took place. Mr. Hunter McDonald, who was the active superintendent of the Western and Atlantic Division of the NC&STL Railroad, began laying out the preliminary lines for the new road. Mr. McDonald employed Thompson Jones, Leslie Donegan, Norman Figures, and several other locals to assist him with the effort.

Following the preliminary survey efforts, a later meeting was held on Friday, June 25 when additional subscriptions were noted. One subscription was for the sum of \$500 from The City of Huntsville.

Soon after, on July 1, 1892, two carloads of scrapers and other grading tools were brought to Huntsville by train along the existing NC&STL Elora-Huntsville Railroad. Meanwhile, more grading tools were said to have arrived by boat at Whitesburg.

Once all of the required fee-simple deeds to the property were secured and entered into the probate records at the county courthouse, the construction of the rail line was permitted. Some of the names of the individuals or families who bargained, sold, and conveyed the property required for this extension of the railroad to Hobbs Island include *Humes, Teal, Ewing, Garth, Harris, Moore, Beime, Matthews,*

Brown, White, Proctor, Farley, Burrow, Campbell, Logan, Taylor, and Hobbs.

By November 1892, most of the line was graded and the tracklayers had reached a point nearly six miles south of the city. Once completed, this would put yet another extension on the map for the Huntsville Branch operation of the NC&STL Railroad. Prior to this event, The Tennessee and Coosa (T&C) Railroad Company was attempting to build a railroad through Marshall and Etowah Counties.

It was back in 1845 when Gen. Andrew Jackson first initiated the construction of this railroad to provide a vital artery across Sand Mountain between the two namesake rivers. The construction of this railroad was very slow, and never actually completed until 1893 when the NC&STL bought the property and assets.

This left a remaining 20 mile watery gap between Hobbs Island and Gunters Landing. To over-

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come the rugged mountains and river valley, NC&STL built an incline at each landing, and transferred the railroad cars up and down the river atop wooden barges. The barges were pushed using two flat-bottomed paddle-wheel steamers *Huntsville* and *Guntersville*. Passengers would get to board these steamers during the journey along the river. This obscure marine operation was maintained by the railroad before, during, and after the construction of Guntersville Dam that was completed in 1939.

The Huntsville Branch line of the NC&STL now operated more than 100 miles of track from a point-of-beginning in Decherd, Tennessee. The line terminated at a switchyard in Gadsden. This allowed Huntsville business and industry to reach markets spreading across southern parts of the state. The railroad timetable included daily passenger and freight runs.

Early steam locomotives included the classic American 4-4-O's. Later, 2-8-0 Husky Consolidations, 2-10-0 Russian Decapods, and 4-6-0 Baldwin Ten-Wheelers were the norm. The earliest freight cars, passenger cars, and cabooses were of the wooden variety. These were gradually replaced with the more modern equipment featuring all-steel construction. By the mid 1950's, diesel locomotives replaced the aging steam fleet. The steamboats and wooden river barges used for the river ferry transfer operation were replaced with the diesel tug-boat *Guntersville*, and two new all-steel river barges.

While in route to Hobbs Island from downtown Huntsville, several stations and flag stops were located along the line. These included Lily Flagg, Matthew's Place, Farley, Burrows, Taylorsville, and

finally Hobbs Island. The Huntsville & Madison County Railroad Authority currently operates a train along 90% of this very same rail line that is visible while driving over much of South Memorial Parkway.

Perhaps the busiest time ever for the Huntsville Branch operation of the NC&STL came as a result of the Huntsville Arsenal. Safe and reliable transportation with the U.S. Army warfare and munitions center at the arsenal was vital to the successful U.S. involvement in World War II. Two of the three rail spurs leading on to the Huntsville Arsenal were built directly from this southern extension of the NC&STL. One spur was built close to where Vermont Road is found running today west of Memorial Parkway near the Martin Road interchange. A second spur was built leading onto the arsenal from a siding down at Farley near the current location of Green Cove Road. This switch point at Farley would later become known as the Rocket Siding.

As the space and missile programs landed their operations on the newly formed Redstone Arsenal, the need for rail service declined somewhat over the years. It was during the late 1950's when

L&N had taken over the full ownership, management, and operation of the entire NC&STL rail system, including the Huntsville Branch.

In 1957, L&N ceased the river ferry transfer operation between Hobbs Island and Guntersville since the company already had

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access into Gadsden through its other rail lines that came from Birmingham and Anniston. Today, there is still some visible evidence of where the river ferry incline was operated along the banks of the Tennessee River near Hobbs Island. This point is upstream approximately 1/2 mile from the head of the island past the Baker Sand and Gravel Company. The launch point at Gunter's Landing is still evident today as well. It is hidden in a tree line that is behind the Harbor House Restaurant and Marina off of Highway 431 just south of the river bridge.

Declining business and mounting expenses with many of the original NC&STL branch lines such as the Huntsville Branch forced CSX Transportation to discontinue the service from many of them back in the 1980's. This prompted the newly formed Huntsville & Madison County Railroad Authority to purchase

the rail line leading from downtown Huntsville to Norton as many of the industries along the route required rail service.

The next time you are driving through parts of south Huntsville, chances are, you may witness the passing of a little blue EMD locomotive pulling a string of freight cars. Only now, you'll know more about how the rail service was first brought to the area, how important it was, and continues to be.

Old Fashioned Onion Soup

Peel and quarter 4 to 5 large onions. Melt 4 tablespoons butter in large pot. Put onions slices in, with coarsely grated pepper to taste. Cook til brown, add 2 tablespoons flour and stir til blended. Cook three minutes, then add 2 cans beef broth, 2 cans consommé and 1 can water. Add bay leaf, simmer for 30-40 minutes.

When you're ready to serve, pour into individual crocks. Take toasted slice of rye bread and place on top of each, cover with grated Monterey Jack cheese. Place in broiler and cook til cheese browns. Delicious!

Heard On The Streets In 1907

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

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

- For Sale - Nice rubber-tired buggy, harness and driving mare, perfectly gentle. For information, address 512, city.

- Lost - A lady's bracelet, lost on the public square, finder return for large reward at the First National Bank. The bracelet has sentimental value to the owner as it was a gift from a departed grandfather.

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Alabama Versus Auburn

From 1893 newspaper

Yesterday, by two O'clock, all Birmingham was on the move. Every private vehicle, stable wagon, and public hack was filled with people on the way to Lakeview Park. The carriages and electric cars were filled with lovers of the manly sport of football.

Men and women who before have jeered at such exhibitions of brawn and muscle were eager to see the contest. Little children just beginning to toddle about were anxious to see the big boys fight.

Every train which arrived at the station brought in football enthusiasts from all parts of the state. There were over a thousand visitors in the city. All came to see the great game.

The crush around the ticket window was simply fearful, as the

crowd was too big to be handled by one man, and tickets had to be sold on the outside. The vast surging throng kept its temper, and the women took being jostled about goodnatureedly.

As soon as the crowd got on the inside, the men who were unaccompanied by ladies made a rush for both sides of the grounds and soon were ranged a dozen deep around the ropes, which were put up around the gridiron.

The east side of the field had been set apart for those in carriages, and soon from one end to the other it was filled with vehicles of all descriptions gaily decorated in blue and orange and in red and white.

Both the grandstands were literally packed with people, making a most artistic picture, as the colors of the schools blended with the many-hued costumes of the women who had turned out in their Sunday best. Hats with multi-colored feathers were the order of the day.

Chief Norton with four officers was there to represent the law and keep the pushing crowd on the outside of the ropes. Although they had the assistance of a number of the members of the Athletic Club, they were powerless to keep the spectators from rushing under the lines and covering the field, so intent were the onlookers to see every point of the game.

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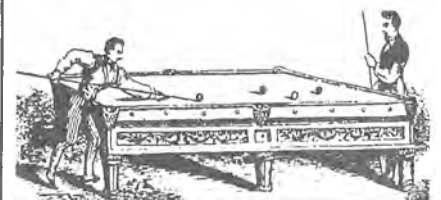
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A little before 3 o'clock, the Tuscaloosa cadets went to the grounds. Their uniforms were white with red stockings and large red "U of A" letters decorated their sweaters. Every man, woman and child who wore the red and white rose and shouted themselves hoarse as the players entered the arena.

Shortly after, the Auburn boys made their appearance in white with blue stockings and a large orange "A" on their blue sweaters. This gave those wearing the blue and orange an opportunity and they yelled until they almost got 'blue' in their faces.

Both teams went to work at once kicking, catching and falling on the elusive pigskin. Their handsome faces, broad shoulders, strong lithe limbs and powerful arms were the admiration of the young and old of each sex. As the boys would pile up on one another, the ladies would get alarmed, fearing that they would have their bones broken, but their gentlemen friends would kindly assure the timid, sympathetic women that the athletic youths could be

dropped from the top of the grandstand to the ground without sustaining any injury.

The game was not only intensely interesting to those who understood the game of football, but also immediately caught the attention of those who were uninitiated into the fine points of the game. The teamwork on both sides was good, yet there were a number of brilliant individual plays. A marked feature of the playing was almost a total lack of punting on each side. The reason the Auburn team never punted was the fact that they found they could make better gains by runs. The interference by both elevens was good. Both teams had fine runners. Auburn snapped the ball quicker than Tuscaloosa, as their coach put them on to his method, which is very swift. Goal kicking on both sides was good, but Tuscaloosa's was the best.

Auburn won the game by a score of 32 to 22.

Professor J. W. Taylor was the referee, and F. L. Simonds the umpire. Both are old Yale football

players, and are now members of the Birmingham Athletic Club's eleven. Their decisions were most satisfactory to Auburn and Tuscaloosa and the crowd never once yelled at the umpire.

Captain Daniels and his victorious team gathered around the drag in which was seated Miss Delma Wilson, who had been elected to present the winner's cup. Miss Sara Regan and Miss Mamie Morrow, her maids of honor, were there with her. Miss Wilson then said: 'Gallant and victorious Captain, in the name of the city of Birmingham, I present you this cup. Drink from it and remember the victory that you have won this day. May you and your team live to see many more victories.' Captain Daniels' responded as follows: 'We feel proud of the honor and assure you it is a great pleasure to receive this cup from the city of Birmingham and through your hands.'

A series of cheers rent the air and then the sun went down, blotting out the day on which the greatest football game was ever played in Alabama.

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