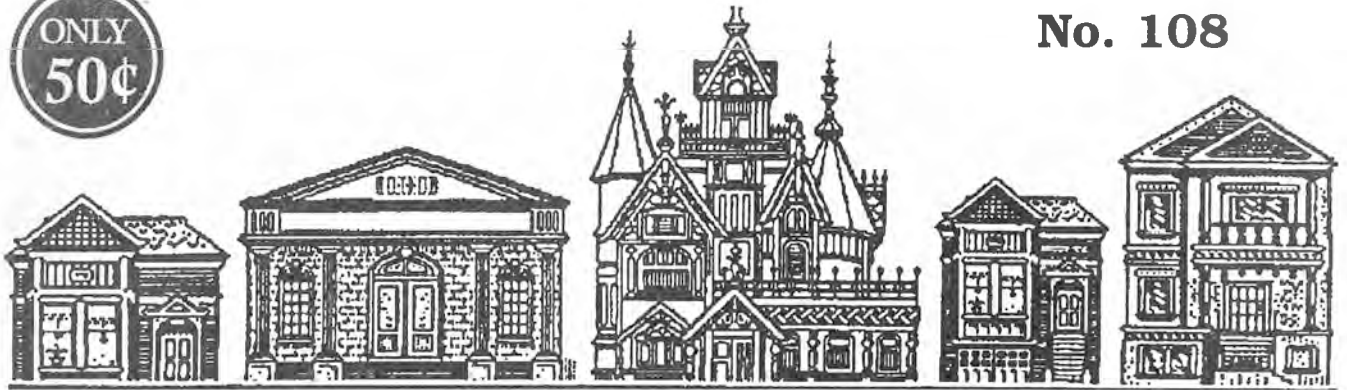


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Blackjack Pershing and the Buffalo Soldiers



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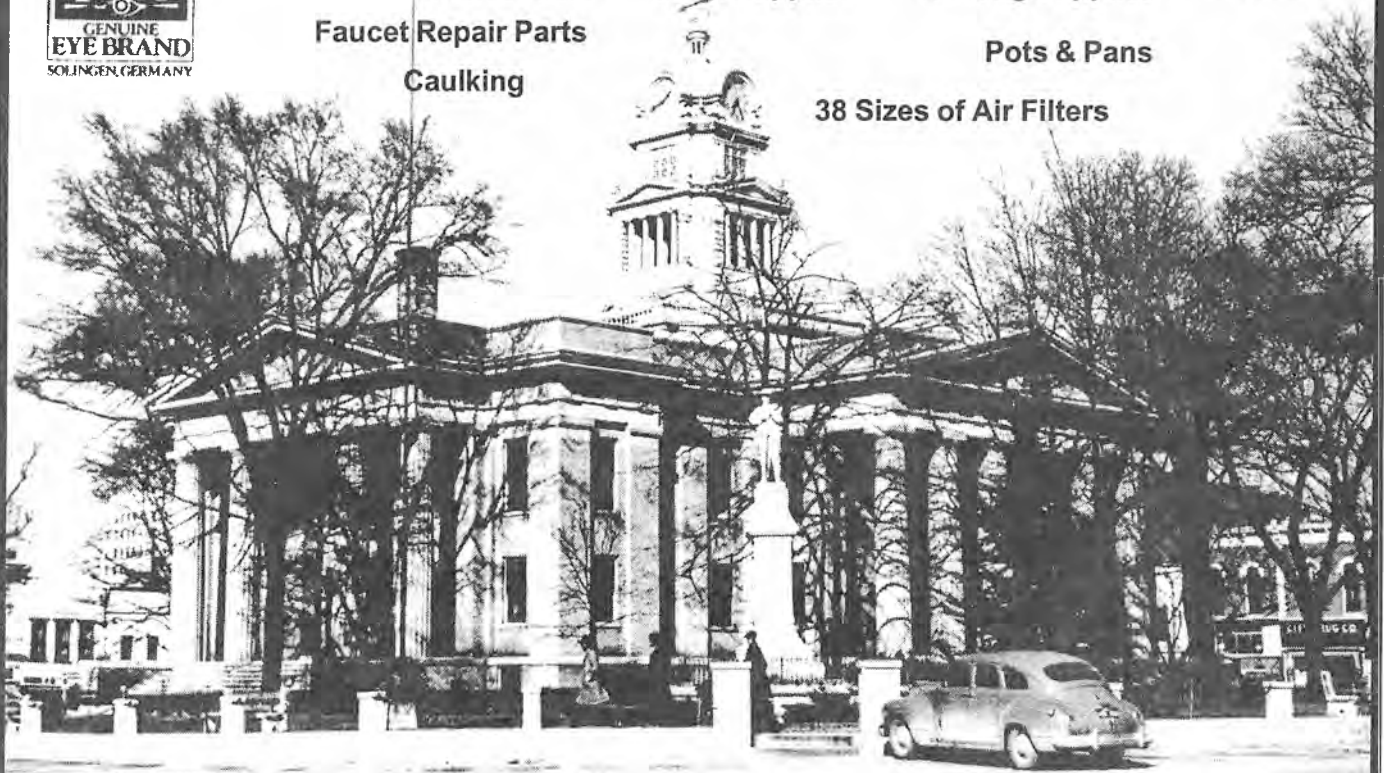
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Blackjack Pershing and the Buffalo soldiers

In the late summer of 1898 Huntsville had literally become a vast military encampment with over twenty thousand soldiers camped around town. The Spanish American War was over and Huntsville had been chosen as the winter camp for the returning soldiers.

Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders had become national heroes for their gallant charge up San Juan Hill. Roosevelt was the first military hero since the Civil War and newspapers everywhere lauded his military exploits. There was already talk of running him for President in the next election.

Adding to his popularity was the fact that General Joe Wheeler had proposed Roosevelt for the Medal of Honor for his heroic exploits in Cuba.

In Washington, D.C., however, a controversy was brewing. There were whispers in the corridors of the Senate that Roosevelt was not the leader he claimed to be, that he had not led the charge up San Juan Hill. Even worse, there were rumors that the actual heroes were a bunch of black soldiers.

The Tenth Cavalry, known as

the Buffalo soldiers, were an all-Black unit that had already carved a distinguished military history before being sent to Cuba. They had spent over thirty years on the Western frontier where the Indians had given them the name "Buffalo soldiers" because the dreadlocks many of the men wore reminded the Indians of the hair on buffalos. During this time, the men of the Tenth Cavalry were awarded eight Medals of Honor for bravery.

In the fall of 1898 they had returned from Cuba and were in winter quarters at Camp Forse, once located where Five Points is today. The camp had originally been named Camp Wheeler but Joe Wheeler, perhaps out of modesty, quickly changed the name when he arrived in Huntsville to take up command.

Trouble could have been expected when the authorities placed 1200 professional Black soldiers in the midst of thousands of ill-trained white volunteers. For most of the volunteers, their only dealings with Blacks had been that of servants. Adding insult to injury was the fact that when the Tenth Cavalry left Cuba they had been stripped of their supplies and issued cast off uniforms and Civil War era arms. Some of the men were virtually barefoot and dressed in garments that bore little resemblance to a uniform. By



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the time they arrived in Huntsville they looked more like an assortment of tramps rather than a military unit with a proud history.

To most people, it was obvious that once the fighting was over, the government had little use for the Black troops.

Their officers, who were all white, were of little help. The Spanish-American War had been a media event and almost every regiment had reporters assigned to them. The officers, most of whom knew they would be getting out of the Army in a few months, spent their time trying to get their name in the papers and attending the many social events held in Huntsville for the soldiers. The last thing they wanted was for their names to be associated with a group of Black soldiers, which back in 1898 could spell the end to a career. Most of them preferred to let the soldiers fend for themselves.

The Buffalo soldiers, deprived of the normal supply chain, followed an Army tradition that has existed since the beginning of the military ... they began to "scrounge." Soldiers returning from drill would find their tents stripped of belongings. New repeating rifles disappeared and in many cases were replaced by rusty Civil War muskets. Even a soldier returning from town, drunk from an evening's carousing, might find himself waylaid on

a dark street if his boots happened to be the right size. In one case, the First Florida Volunteers returned to camp one day and found almost their entire bivouac area picked clean. Their tents, along with the mess hall and blacksmith shop had simply disappeared. Even the wooden sidewalks had vanished.

Events began to come to a head when the 69th New York Infantry let it be known that their band would be holding a concert to entertain the town's citizens. On the day of the concert the band discovered their instruments had mysteriously vanished.

Across town, several miles away, the Buffalo soldiers were holding their own concert, with newly acquired instruments, much to the delight of Huntsville's Black citizens.

According to a persistent legend, many of the "extra" instruments eventually ended up at A&M College which was trying to start its own band.

Tempers reached a fevered pitch while officers reluctantly tried to control the situation. Armed guards were placed around the camp to prevent the Buffalo soldiers from entering. The Tenth Cavalry, in turn, stationed their own guards around their camp site, refusing entry to any white soldiers searching for their belongings.

Many of the Buffalo soldiers

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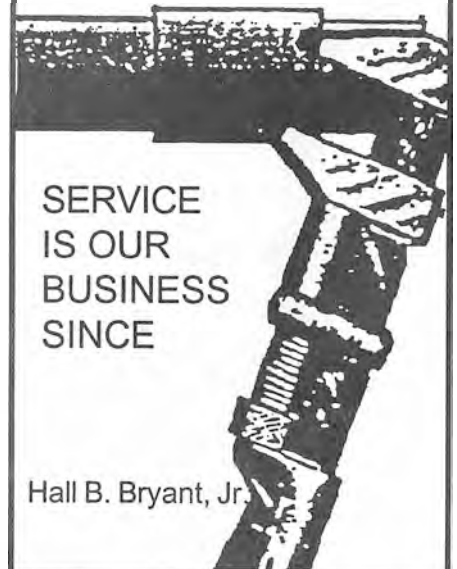
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had begun to openly taunt the other soldiers, some of whom had never been to Cuba, by calling them "paper soldiers." They also flaunted their dislike for Teddy Roosevelt, whom they claimed was a fraud. For the white soldiers, who considered Roosevelt a hero, this was blasphemy.

The town was sitting on a powder keg waiting to explode.

In Washington, D.C., Roosevelt was still lobbying for the Medal of Honor. His request had been turned down originally for "not meeting the proper criteria." Angered by the rejection, he wrote the Secretary of War stating, "I am entitled to the Medal of Honor and I want it." To bolster his claim he submitted letters from other officers who had been in Cuba at the time.

Sensing a political nightmare in refusing the medal to a popular hero, the Secretary of War created a special board to deal with the matter. To determine the eligibility for the Medal of Honor the board had to follow paragraph 177 of the army regulations, which stated that "in order to receive the medal, service must have been performed in action ... to clearly

distinguish the man for gallantry ... above his comrades."

With so much confusion about the claims, it was decided to send a Board of officers to Huntsville to take written statements and investigate the allegations.

Accompanying the board was John J. Pershing, a 37 year old, red-headed Regular Army major. Pershing was not a popular officer. He was considered a strict disciplinarian and because of his long association with the Tenth Cavalry, was known as "Nigger Jack." He had previously served with the unit in the Southwest and in Cuba where he had earned the reputation of a fearless leader. When the controversy about Roosevelt and the Medal of Honor erupted, Pershing was ordered to Huntsville, partly to restore order to the Buffalo soldiers and partly to help in the investigation. Tremendous pressure was put on him to corroborate Roosevelt's story.

When Pershing arrived in Huntsville, he found a city on the brink of a catastrophe. Order in many regiments had completely broken down and many people feared racial violence would follow. Most of the soldiers were

waiting to be discharged and literally ignored military discipline.

The bright spot, however, was the regiment of Buffalo soldiers, most of whom were career soldiers. When their officers proved ineffectual, the units' First Sergeants had taken control and were continuing their military duties as usual.

Pershing immediately ordered that the Tenth Cavalry be moved from their location near Five Points to another site near present day University Drive. As soon as the new camp was settled, he began to order regular inspections, something that had not been done since they returned from Cuba. Anything not issued by the army was confiscated and disposed of. Any small infraction would find the culprits pulling extra guard duty. When the men needed supplies and they were not forthcoming, Pershing personally led his men on an expedition to the Quartermaster where they "liberated" what they needed.

The men knew Pershing was serious about discipline. Many of them remembered an incident several years earlier when Pershing had slapped a trooper off his horse for refusing to obey an order.

Although Pershing ruled with an iron fist, his soldiers seemed to thrive on the harsh discipline. Most of the men had served with Pershing for years and although they knew he was harsh and demanding, they also knew he was fair. His troopers often boasted that "Nigger Jack is the meanest S.O.B. in the Army and he's ours."

Huntsville was not exactly intrigued by the officer who spent so much time with Black soldiers. He was shunned by many of his fellow officers as well as the town's citizens. Although most people called him "Nigger Jack," (behind

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his back) the term evidently proved too harsh for the delicate sensibilities of Huntsville's ladies who began referring to him as "Blackie" or "Blackjack." Oddly, instead of being insulted, Pershing considered the name a point of pride and even introduced himself as Blackjack Pershing.

While Pershing was getting his troops moved and settled, the Military Board began meeting to investigate Roosevelt's request for the Medal of Honor. First on the agenda were the letters from Generals Wood, Wheeler and Shafter who had all recommended him for the award. Although all the Generals spoke in glowing terms of Roosevelt's bravery, a careful reading revealed that none of them had personal knowledge. They had all been miles away when the assault on San Juan Hill occurred.

Other statements provided on Roosevelt's behalf were of little help because they provided conflicting and vague accounts of his bravery.

1st Lt. Robert Howe of the Sixth Cavalry recalled that the "Colonel's life was placed in extreme jeopardy, owing to the conspicuous position he took in leading the line, and being the first to reach the crest of that hill." Gen. Samuel S. Sumner, as though he felt an obligation to support Roosevelt's Medal of Honor case, simply says that "Col. Roosevelt by his example and fearlessness inspired his men at both Kettle Hill and the ridge known as San Juan, he led his command in person."

Adding to the confusion, and quickly discovered, was the fact that the "Battle of San Juan Hill" had never occurred! The assault had actually taken place on Kettle Hill and when it was secured, another advance was ordered

against San Juan Hill, located several hundred yards away. Despite the facts, Roosevelt continued to insist he had charged San Juan Hill and had been the first to reach the crest.

Pressure was building for Pershing to corroborate Roosevelt's story. This placed him in a moral dilemma. If he supported Roosevelt, and the Regular Army, he would be taking credit away from his Buffalo soldiers. On the other hand, if he supported his troops, his career in the military would be virtually ended. A Regular Army officer who sided with Black troops could never expect a promotion.

Of particular interest to the Military Board was deciding who actually arrived on the hill first. According to Roosevelt's account, he and his Rough Riders had charged well in advance of any other troops and had secured the area before anyone arrived. Capt. C. J. Stevens of the Ninth Cavalry stated that "Col. Roosevelt was among the very first to reach the crest of the hill."

General Sumner, whose testimony had great merit, provided no comments on whether Roosevelt was the first or among the first on the hill.

As the Military Board began to take dispositions, another story began to emerge. Numerous eyewitnesses placed Private William

Bunn, of the Tenth Cavalry, as being first on the hill. When the attack had begun to falter, he had seized the regiment's flag, yelling "Rally 'round the flag," as he led the charge for the last few yards. Roosevelt and the Rough Riders were lagging far behind him.

Painful, and politically incorrect as it was, the Board began to get a clear picture of what had really happened. According to an overwhelming number of witnesses, and depositions, the Rough Riders had begun an assault on Kettle Hill when they were pinned down by a withering fire. The Buffalo soldiers rushed to

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their aid, and in the heat of the moment continued on up the hill. Within minutes, after the Buffalo soldiers reached the crest, the hill was covered by soldiers from many different units, all claiming to have been the first.

When Roosevelt arrived at the scene he immediately ordered another attack on the real San Juan Hill several hundred yards away. By the time the Rough Riders arrived at that objective, most of the enemy soldiers had fled and the trenches were virtually deserted.

Much of the confusion about the whole episode can be traced back to William Randolph Hearst who was a personal friend of Roosevelt. Hearst owned the largest chain of newspapers in the United States and he had seized on the Spanish American War to further his friend's political career.

When the discrepancy between Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill was pointed out to Hearst, he was reported to have replied, "It makes no difference, they will believe what I print."

Blackjack Pershing delayed as long as he could before writing his statement. He knew it would spell an end to his career and had already begun exploring other options. An insurance company, owned by a group of Black busi-

nessmen, had approached him about being their representative in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia.

Quite possibly, he was influenced by his infatuation with a young 18 year old Huntsville lass. The lady, known to history only by the name of "Millie," evidently came from a well respected, and probably wealthy, local family. By the few accounts of her she was extremely vivacious and flirtatious.

When Pershing met her, although twenty years her senior, he was immediately captivated. He had never been involved in a romance before and was probably extremely naive in thinking that a flirtatious smile was equivalent to a deeper meaning.

For Millie's part, there is no evidence that she shared Pershing's feelings. She, like many other young girls throughout the ages, probably simply enjoyed flaunting tradition. In her case, it meant being seen with Blackjack Pershing, the leader of Black troops. When she accompanied Pershing as he reviewed the troops, it created a minor scandal among his fellow officers.

In the end, Millie's father put an end to dreams of a romance when he showed up at Pershing's

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boarding house and ordered the Major to stay away from his daughter.

Rejected in love, Pershing took the course of many other young men in the same situation. He decided to stay in the military, regardless of the future.

The final report of the Military Board served to put an end to Roosevelt's dreams of the Medal of Honor. Instead, the board recommended three members of the Buffalo soldiers for the medal.

Although the men were awarded the medals, the whole affair was quietly hushed up and the public never knew of the Board's decision.

Regardless of the Board's decision, the Hearst newspaper chain continued to push Roosevelt as a national hero, eventually helping him to get elected as President. Even today, most people still believe the legend that he single-handedly led the charge up San Juan Hill.

Blackjack Pershing remained on active duty. In 1903 he met Helen Warren, the daughter of a Senator from Wyoming. Despite a twenty year difference in age, he professed his love for her after knowing her for only a week. Shortly afterwards they were married.

Although Roosevelt's bid for the Medal of Honor was blocked partly by Pershing, he never held it against him. In 1903 he raised Pershing to the rank of Brigadier General, promoting him over hundreds of more senior officers. Critics later claimed the promotion was a "payoff" for Pershing not going public during the Presidential election.

The Buffalo soldiers marched proudly out of Huntsville in the early spring of 1899, knowing that their claims of heroism in Cuba had been vindicated. In

1916 they once again served under Pershing when they put down the border insurrection led by Pancho Villa. Two years later, when war was declared on Germany, Pershing was selected to command the American Force in Europe. Once again, the Buffalo soldiers answered the call of their old commander and served with distinction throughout the war.

The horse cavalry soldiers were disbanded in 1944, and so ended the long and proud tradition of the Buffalo soldiers.

General Pershing became one of our country's greatest military leaders and was awarded the rank of General of the Army. For the rest of his life he would be known as Blackjack; a name given to him in derision, but a name he wore with pride.



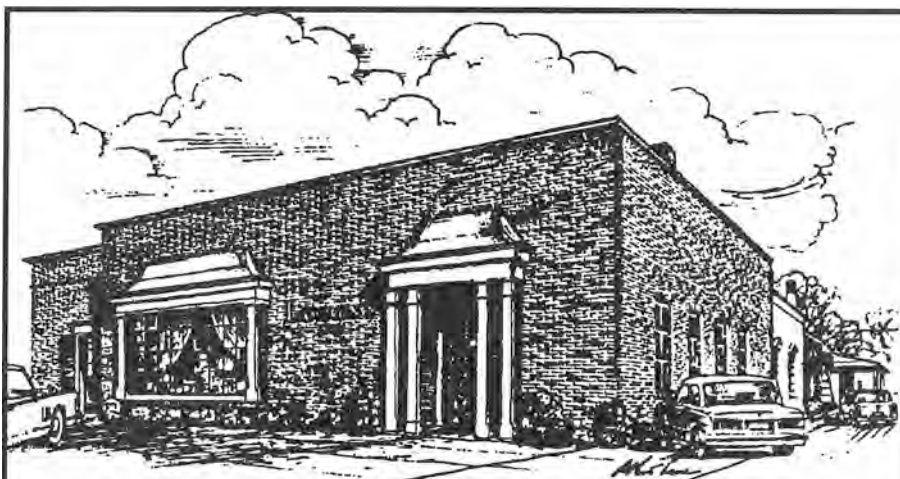
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Gabby Street Returns to Huntsville

by Jim Sandoval

Flags flew and the band played as "Gabby" Street brought his National League champion St. Louis Cardinals into Huntsville for an exhibition game. On the 8th of April 1931, the Cardinal's Southern Railway train pulled into Huntsville at 7:30 A.M. Among the crowd there to meet native Huntsvillian Street and his team were Gabby's former teammates with the local Milligan Sluggers baseball team Dr. Robert Murphy and Carlock Rand. The Merrimack band, under the leadership of John Hay, serenaded the visiting ballplayers.

Charles Evard "Gabby" Street was born in Huntsville on the 30th of September 1882. He began playing professional baseball in Tennessee and Kentucky in 1900. He played parts of 8 seasons as a catcher in the major leagues, including his final game later in 1931. Street served in World War

I and afterwards was nicknamed in baseball "Old Sarge." He managed for many years in the minor leagues and returned to the major leagues as a coach in 1929 with the Cardinals. In 1930 he was signed as manager and led the Cardinals to the World Series where they were defeated by the Philadelphia Athletics.

The Cardinals were taken from the Huntsville depot to the Russel Erskine Hotel. There they were quartered for the day and ate breakfast. Afterwards, some of the Cardinals played a round of golf at the Huntsville Golf and Country club while others went on sight seeing trips. Street visited with relatives and friends, including his brother John Street and sister Mrs. Nona Hutchinson.

The ball game, which had been first arranged at the World Series of 1930, was scheduled to begin at 3:00 at Martin Park. Newspaper accounts of the game stated that over 2,000 fans poured into the ball park, attending the game from as far away as Gadsden and Tennessee. Before the game began Street was presented with a wristwatch and a basket of flowers by admiring fans.

The ball game was to feature a town team of local Huntsville ballplayers. They wore the uniforms of the Dallas Mill and appeared to be a handpicked all-star team. To even out the odds the Cardinals "loaned" two players to Huntsville, catcher Mike Gonzales and Pitcher "Dizzy" Dean. Hunts-

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ville starters in the game were Fitch, Blount, Williams, Gentry, Adcock, "Fatty" Fisher, and Watson. The Cardinals countered with pitcher Jesse Haines, creating a match up of two future Hall of Fame pitchers! In the third inning the Cardinals loaned more players to Huntsville, with locals Blount and Fisher continuing in the lineup the rest of the game. Cardinals Ernie Orsatti and Gus Mancuso homered to lead the major leaguers to a 144 victory.

The Cardinals left after the game for Memphis, there to play another exhibition game on their way back to St. Louis to begin the regular season. The 1931 season was an eventful one for the Cardinals. Winning 101 regular season games, the Cardinals went on to defeat the Philadelphia Athletics in a re-match of the previous year's World Series to reign as World Champions. Street managed the Cardinals until the middle of the 1933 season when he was fired by the ball club. He came back to manage the American League St. Louis Browns in 1938. Later he served as a broadcaster for the Cardinals for many years. In 1951, Street died in Joplin, Missouri, where he had lived for many years after man-

aging a minor league team there. He is still Huntsville's only World Series champion manager.

A Faithful Servant

from 1893 newspaper

The freaks of nature are rarely more painfully illustrated than in the situation of one of President Andrew Jackson's old and faithful servants.

Bo Giles remembers Jackson as a good master. He was nine years of age when he accompanied the president to Washington. During that time Giles was quartered in the basement of the White House. Among his chores was that of building a fire every morning in the living quarters and caring for the chickens and sheep.

When Jackson died, Giles was sold to the Murphy family in Fayetteville who owned him until after the war, when he located to Madison County. He labored as a barber for years and is now destitute depending upon public charity for his board and keep. He has two children but has not heard of them since the war.

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Placing Children First

Remembering Pearl Harbor

By Robert L. Sanders

In the summer of 1941 a public announcement was made that would forever change Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama. The U.S. Army had purchased 40,000 acres of some of the best farmland in North Alabama, located southwest of Huntsville. The Army began construction of Redstone Arsenal in July 1941. In less than six months, the United States would be at war.

December 7, 1941 in Huntsville, Alabama was a rather mild, balmy, overcast day for late fall. The Cavaliers, a sandlot-football team, was playing a team from the Dallas Mill Village in the school yard in back of East Clinton School. I don't remember the score, but my team, the Cavaliers, won, and I made several tackles playing end.

After the game, in the middle of the afternoon, members of the

Cavalier team walked the half block down Calhoun Street to the intersection of East Holmes Street to the Old Molly McGee home, which at that time served as the Rectory for Father Raffery, the Pastor of St. Mary's Church of the Visitation. Father Raffery came out onto the large circular porch of this old Victorian home and congratulated the team on its win. He said something terrible had happened. "The Japanese have attacked the U.S. Navy base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii."

As I made the long two mile walk home, west on Holmes Street to the Old Times building, one block south to Clinton Street, then west past Dunnavant's Department store, the Twickenham and Russell Erskine Hotel I noticed the streets of downtown Huntsville seemed almost deserted. When I arrived home, I found my grandfather listening to a crackling radio broadcast from Honolulu, and my mother sitting on the sofa crying.

None of us knew at that time that the son of one of our neighbors, Luther Isom, had died aboard the USS Arizona which was at the bottom of Pearl Harbor. Four years later while stationed at Headquarters, Fleet Marine Force, Pearl Harbor, I would observe daily the buoy marking the spot off Ford Island where the USS Arizona lay.

In late 1945 there was still plenty of evidence at Pearl Harbor of the Japanese attack some four years earlier. The Marine barracks, adjacent to the Headquarters building, had holes in the sides from machine gun bullets during the attack. The Administrative Building and hangars at Hickam Field just south of Pearl Harbor were also all "shot up". In the middle of Pearl Harbor is Ford Island where most of the ships

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were located when the Japanese attacked, part of one of the sunken battleships was still visible at low tide. The location of the sunken USS Arizona, on which most of the casualties occurred and on which most of the bodies are still entombed, was marked by a buoy flying a small U.S. flag.

During the 1960's a floating bridge was built across the spot where the USS Arizona lays which is now a big tourist attraction.

The body of Luther Isom, Huntsville's first World War 11 casualty was returned home, is November 1947 and buried in the military section of Maple Hill cemetery.

Accidental Death

from 1854 newspaper

Mr. Henry Gilder, an old gentleman some 66 or 67 years of age - well known in this and some adjoining counties as a school teacher - came to his death on Thursday, the 3rd, under unfortunate circumstances.

He had gone to bed at the house of Col. T.R. Williams, near town, and before day, becoming alarmed in his sleep, jumped up in a state of mental confusion and ran out of his room, entered the portico which was on the second story of the house, and in his fright, sprang over the banistering, and fell to the ground with such force as to cause his death.

Lest other guests suffer the same fate, Mr. Williams has securely fastened the door leading from his portico to the banistering and wishes to assure his friends they can enjoy a restful repass at his home.

Huntsville Female Academy Now Accepting Students

from 1854 newspaper

The Huntsville Female Academy is now accepting students of good character. The scholastic year is divided into two sessions of five months each. During Christmas holidays there will be a vacation of two weeks and the long vacation will be from the first week in July to the first month of September.

The following rates per session of five months will apply.

Primary Department	\$15
Junior Class	\$20
Piano Forte	\$25
Guitar	\$25
Senior Class	\$20
French	\$10
Latin	\$10
Ornamental branches	\$10
Organ	\$30
Vocal music	\$5

Use of piano for daily practice can be assured for \$5.

The Huntsville Female Academy, having been recently entirely reorganized, and a large new building erected in addition to the old one, has now ample room for the comfortable accommodations of more than two hundred pupils. The grounds are finely shaded and graded for the recreation of

the students. We feel as if we provide an adequate preparation in all courses a young lady will be desirous of.

All parents may be assured that careful supervision is applied at all times.

Board can be procured in good facilities at \$12 and \$12.50.

A politician is a person who thinks twice before saying nothing.

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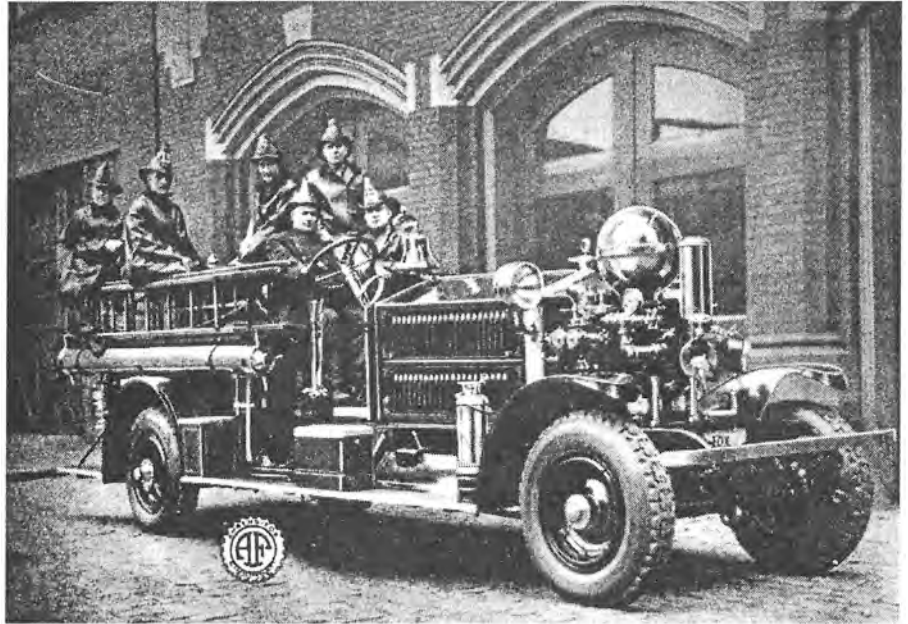
The Fox Pumper

by Cathey Carney

You would never believe that a group of big, burly firemen would have a soft spot for an old fire truck, but that's exactly the case at Station 1 at Big Spring Park near downtown Huntsville. The 1927 vintage Ahrens-Fox pumper has been lovingly restored and maintained by fireman through the years, most recently by a fire fighter named Jay Gates.

The Fire truck came to Huntsville in March of 1927, when the fire chief at the time, Chief Milan, ordered the truck from Cincinnati. When it arrived in June there was a short article in the local newspaper about the acquisition. The entire City Council, led by Frank Mastin, had approved the purchase. The other members were W. A. Stanley, R. A. Parson, C. O. Rolfe and S. L. Terry. Approval also had to come from the Fire Commission Board and those members unanimously approved, including the Chairman F. H. Ford, and members H. C. Blake, W. H. Collier and J. Edgar Mitchell.

This truck was actually the 3rd motorized fire vehicle for the city, but before then fires were put out with horse-drawn pumps. When



Huntsville first made the decision to go motorized rather than continue with horsepower, the council and Fire Commission board performed a cost study to see if any money could be saved by replacing the horses. As horses required daily care and feeding, and had to be replaced every 2 years, it was determined that the city could realize an annual savings of \$300 by going with the trucks.

The cost of the Fox pumper was a staggering \$12,500 but a comparable new truck today costs approximately \$268,000. The Fox was able to pump 750 gallons a minute, and could send water over 5 stories. It weighed nearly 13,000 pounds with a steel body, holds 30 gallons of gas, and 60 gallons of water.

Many years ago the pumper's power came into question, so the firemen set up a demonstration

at the Terry Hutchens building - one of the largest buildings in town at the time. It not only pumped water up to the fifth story, it went beyond!

In 1973 some may remember a terrible flood in Huntsville, with many stores and buildings totally flooded. When the Huntsville Utilities basement flooded, they called for the Fox pumper to help them out, and the strong pump was able to suck out all of the water, along with mud and rocks.

In the 1930's the pumper was cared for by Chief Tolen, who considered it his truck. He cared for it and made sure it stayed in excellent running condition for

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many, many years. Later it's care fell to Capt. Falkenberry, at Station 7 in South Huntsville, where it saw much action during the 60's til early 1990.

After that it's use was limited, and remained basically unused until Jay Gates took an interest in it. Jay arrived at Station 1 as a young fire fighter in September of 1995, and immediately noticed the old truck parked in the truck room downstairs. He asked around, and was told that the radiator had a hole in it, battery was dead, no gas - it had basically been in one place for several years and had not been cranked at all. A couple of the tires were flat. On a hunch, Jay fixed the radiator and put some water in it, added about 5 gallons of gas, charged up the battery, and held his breath as he attempted to start it. Unbelievably, it started right away.

Jay said that when it first started it wasn't exactly a smooth, purring sound - he said it made so much racket with popping, snorting and backfires that a few firemen thought someone had gotten into the fire house with a shotgun. When it came time to test out the pumper, Capt. Falkenberry came back to the station to show them how it worked. Jay says that these motors are well made and very forgiving and reliable, and everything that comes in contact with water is brass.

One of the items the pumper needed for the restoration was a magneto. This part was built by Bosch, a German company, and when the part couldn't be found in the U.S., Capt. Falkenberry called Germany to try to locate one. When days had gone by without the factory returning his call, Falkenberry called again, demanding to know when they were

going to ship the part. A very angry German answered the phone and coolly informed Captain Falkenberry that there were no parts left, since the U.S. had bombed the factory in 1945. A German NASA engineer was found who was able to rebuild the part in the early 80's.

The truck still had it's original ladders and hand tools, one of the lanterns, fire extinguishers, strainers and original axes. The motor had to be hand-oiled because this pumper came into being before the days of the self-oilers. The motor oil can sits by the side of the motor and every 15 or 20 minutes has to be oiled. The oil gauge has a float that indicates the oil level.

A well known person in Huntsville paid for much of the restoration. The person, who prefers to remain unnamed, remembers once years ago when he was a small child he was given a ride in

it. He never forgot it, so when news came to him that the truck was running again, he offered to replace the worn running boards, all the wood, upholstered seat and tail board.

Nowadays the Fox Pumper is cared for like a fine old antique. It is driven about once a week, and gets lots of attention as it is driven with the hood open, and the inner working of the motor can be easily seen. It is featured in several parades a year - including this year's upcoming Veteran's Day parade on November 11.

Some day when you are driving by Fire Station 1 and see the old Fox pumper sitting out in front, stop and take a look. It's a part of our history.

My memory is so bad I
hide my own Easter
eggs.

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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



Hello! Again where has this year gone? Can you believe that Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner?

I'm sure that all of us have been shocked and grieved over the recent events of our nation. The loss, vulnerability and uncertainty are difficult for all of us to comprehend. My prayer is for all who have been affected by this tragedy. Let's all keep praying for our nation, our leaders, and let's don't forget the little children.

Tommy Ragland guessed the Picture of the Month. It was our dear friend **Louie Tippett**. Tommy and his beautiful wife, **Clarise**, visit with me regularly and really enjoy the ham breakfast.

Since last writing I've been down to Orlando, Florida. My grandson **Stan** and **Jo Anna** were married September 29th. It was a beautiful wedding and everyone was so happy. We had a great time and I love you kids!

We've had several deaths this

month. My dear friend **Bob Gareri's** (our fire chief) dad died. Our sympathy goes to Bob and family. Also, to **Mr. Gene Quigby** and children on the death of **Mrs. Lois**.

Congratulations to **Michelle McMullen** who plans to run for City Council district 4. Great lady.

October 11th was a fun day for **Greg Hall** and family. They celebrated Griffin's birthday here with all the family, Grandma, cakes and balloons.

Our mayor, **Loretta Spencer**, has to be the busiest person I have ever known. Every time I see her she is either coming or going to some event but she always has time for her friends. Her smile is worth a million dollars!

Kathy Isabell brought her dear friend **Jo Anne Schmeidei** to breakfast to celebrate her birthday. They had a great time. I love having these first timers eat with me. Kathy brought **Regina Case** from Birmingham to breakfast, her first visit here.

My friends Mr. and Mrs. **James F. Dark** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and love you. Also, **Doyle and Ruby Hyatt** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are a lovely couple that have been here in Huntsville in business as long as I have, I guess.

Several have asked me about **Christy Rhoades**. She is living in Nashville and is doing well. She's a fund-raiser for the Governor. You know she wants to get away from politics. Love you Christy.

Glen Watson is doing a great job as city council president. Keep it up!

Margaret Tucker and her daughter, **Sandy**, came and had breakfast with me recently. It was so good to see them. I told her to let **J.B.**, her husband, know that I thought he was doing an excellent job as mayor of Hurricane Creek!

My friend **Joe Akin** brings his

Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the picture of this young girl, shown below, wins a free breakfast at Eunice's Country Kitchen.

Hint: Worked for C.P.A.s, Alabama Representative and Senator, Insurance sales and now runs business with her husband.



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pretty daughters to breakfast almost every Sunday. **Shelby** and **Anna Akin** are also so smart.

Have you taken time to stop, look and see how lovely our Tennessee Valley is? One of the most beautiful roads in Huntsville is the **Cecil Ashburn Drive** (formerly Four Mile Post Extension.) The view of our valley is unbelievable.

Where's **Jackie Reed** been lately? When she's been quite for this long I start to worry.

Well, they're getting out early, wanting to get elected next year. **Mr. Charles Bishop** and his crew were here along with several others already.

I'm so glad that **Bud Cramer**, our congressman, is safe. He was one of the first I thought of when I saw all the horrible things happening in D.C.

So good to see **Lyn** and **Andy Lowery** this month. Love you.

Charlotte and **Mike Winsett** and **Pat Davis** from Hazel Green were here this week and enjoyed their breakfast.

Isn't it great to see all the flags and the patriotic feelings? It makes us all proud to be Americans.

I heard that **Ron** and **Barb Eyestone** were singing Karaoki. Is it too early for them to start thinking of a tour bus?

Dr. Charles (Chuck) Newton and his lovely wife **Ann** recently moved to Huntsville and came to visit us. Ann's parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Ray** and **Lucy Trifilo** from Massachusetts stopped by with them and we enjoyed their company. Dr. Newton's neighbors, **Dr. and Mrs. Donald Jones** are the ones that introduced us all and I'm so happy to have some new ham eaters. They're great people. Welcome to Huntsville.

Thanks to **Southern Living Magazine** and **Annette Thompson** for the beautiful story they did

about me in the November issue. **Annette**, you did a great job.

It was so good to see my very dear friend, **Mr. Cecil Ashburn**. Cecil had a little surgery and he looks good.

My sympathy to **Mrs. Dot Ramsey** on the death of her brother. Love you Dot.

So good to see my pal **Floyd Hardin** looking better and he's excited about the Five Points project that's making us look better.

We had the day care children (4 years old) for Halloween treats. They came from **Hazel Green Methodist Church** day care. They were accompanied by teachers **Miss Linda** and **Cheryl**. I had two very special children in the group, **Wade Rogers** and **J. C. Askin**. The teachers are doing a great job and the children were so well behaved. We really enjoyed them.

Let's continue to pray for our nation and our leaders.

That's all for now. Have a great month. Come to see me, and remember that I love all of you.

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Giving Thanks

Turkey and Stuffing by Owens

- 1 13-lb. Turkey
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- Garlic powder
- 1 c. margarine, melted
- 1 1/2 c. each chopped onion and celery
- 2 T. poultry seasoning
- 15 slices of bread, day old
- Chicken broth

Thaw and thoroughly wash your turkey inside and out. Pat dry, rub with oil. The night before, cook the liver, heart, etc. of the turkey in boiling water for 2 hours. (You'll find it inside the turkey in a paper package). Keep adding water to the pot. Day of event, preheat your oven to 325 degrees. Sprinkle your turkey with garlic powder. Lay 4 slices of raw bacon over the bird. Prepare your stuffing as follows:

Saute the onion and celery in the butter for about 8 minutes. Add the poultry seasoning and

mix well. Put bread pieces in a large bowl, pour the butter/onion/celery mixture over the bread and mix well. Use left-over broth from the night before to moisten if necessary.

Stuff the inside of the bird with the stuffing, or if you prefer, put the stuffing in an oven-proof casserole and cover with foil. Cook your turkey in a covered roasting pan following directions on the turkey. Remove cover last hour of cooking. By now everyone is starving and your home smells great!

We cook for about 4 hours usually, for a 13 pound turkey. Remove from oven, let sit for 10 minutes or so, slice and enjoy!

Rosemary Garlic Potatoes

- 4 lbs. Small new potatoes, sliced
- 1/4 c. fresh rosemary, chopped
- 3 t. minced garlic
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 2 T. lemon juice

- Salt to taste
- 1/2 t. freshly ground black pepper

Heat oil in your skillet and saute the garlic, rosemary and lemon juice for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and put your potatoes in a greased baking dish. Pour the oil mixture over the potatoes, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes and the potatoes are tender.

Corn Meal Stuffing

- 3 c. chicken broth
- 2/3 c. corn meal
- 2 1/2 c. bread crumbs
- 1 egg, beaten
- 2/3 c. chopped celery
- 2 small onions, chopped
- 2 t. sage
- salt and pepper
- 1 t. garlic powder

Heat the broth til boiling. Add the corn meal while stirring. Cook for 10 minutes, then add the bread crumbs, egg, celery and onions. Add the seasonings and let sit for about 5 minutes.

Mom's Special Creamed Onions

- 8 medium onions
- 3 T. butter
- 2 T. flour
- 1 c. milk
- 1/2 t. nutmeg

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½ t. black pepper

Salt to taste

Place onions in a saucepan, cover with water and heat to boiling. Reduce heat and simmer for about 40 minutes, pour off water and set it aside. In another saucepan melt the butter, add flour and mix well. Add the milk and spices. Pour over the onions and mix well. If you need additional liquid, use the leftover onion juice. (The juice is great in the turkey gravy, as well.)

Barb's Famous Spicy Green Bean Casserole

2 cans green beans, drained
1 can water chestnuts, sliced
and drained

1 can sliced mushrooms,
drained

1 can cream of mushroom
soup

1 t. garlic powder

1 medium onion, chopped

Salt and pepper to taste

1/8 t. cayenne pepper

Velveeta Cheese slices

Durkee fried onions, small can

Mix all ingredients and pour into casserole. Put sliced cheese on top and toss into oven at 350 degrees to bake for 25 minutes. Remove, top with Durkee fried onions, back in oven for 5 minutes to toast. You cannot stop eating this.

Peanut Butter Bites

2 c. brown sugar

½ c. milk

3 T. chunky peanut butter

1 egg white

Boil the sugar with the milk til it spins a thread (when you drop a bit into cold water). Stir constantly. Add the peanut butter and beat the egg white to a stiff froth, then add it to the boiling mixture. Make sure you stir the whole time. Continue to beat til thick and stiff. Drop by teaspoons onto waxed paper.

Sweet Granola Pie

1 can apple pie filling

1 c. Branola with raisins

1 c. brown sugar

1 t. cinnamon

1 c. chopped pecans

½ stick butter, melted

1 pie crust shell, thawed

In a large bowl, mix the first 6 ingredients. Pour into your thawed pie crust, cover with foil and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 15 minutes.

Grandma's Lace Cookies

2 sticks butter, softened (not margarine)

3 c. brown sugar, packed

1 egg

1/4 t. salt

1 t. almond extract (or vanilla

if you prefer)

4 c. quick rolled oats (regular oats work OK)

½ c. toasted pecans, chopped fine

Use your mixer to blend the butter and sugar. Add the egg, extract, and salt and blend in the oats. Put a light coating of oil on a cookie sheet. Make small balls on the sheet (I like to use a melon baller), two inches apart, and bake at 325 degrees for 8 minutes. These cookies will spread, hence the name. Don't overcook. Let cool completely on cookie sheet (I use aluminum foil to cover the sheet, then just remove the foil with cookies to let cool, reuse the cookie sheet and re-foil). These can be stored a long time in an airtight container or Ziploc bags, but don't expect them to last a long time.

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The Huntsville Waterworks

In 1823, the first waterworks system was built, using pipe formed by hollowing out cedar logs, shaping a point on one end and driving the point into the opening of the next log. Water was pumped from the headwaters of the Big Spring to a reservoir of plank, which had a capacity of 1,000 cubic feet, and was attached to the end of the Court-house.

Hunter Peel was given a contract by the city commissioners to erect a hydraulic wheel that would carry the water to a reservoir of sufficient elevation to support the city. Pipes were required to be buried deeply enough to prevent freezing and not interfere with opening of streets.

Under the terms of the franchise granted April 14, 1823, by LeRoy Pope, water was to be conveyed in strong hydrants, iron bound at their junction, into a waterproof reservoir built of "good thick plank" on the Square. The franchise could be cancelled if the reservoir, for a period of three months, was not kept full of water. It also gave Peel the right to build a dam, and erect a house for machinery. The contract could also be voided if water failed to reach the Pope home on the hill

for any period of one year in sufficient amount to supply the household and stables. There were frequent complaints about the scarcity of water provided by this system with the small reservoir. Neighbors' use of yard hydrants belonging to those supplied by the water system seems to have brought greater demand on the system than had been anticipated.

Peel's franchise was received in April, 1823, and in July he entered into a 10 year contract with James Barclay, a machinist to build and operate the waterworks. But dissatisfaction with Peel's operations soon cost him the franchise which fell into the hands of J. Cox. He completed the system, then later sold the franchise to Thomas A. Ronalds, a New York man, for \$2,700., with the transaction also including a brick residence in the city.

Ronalds was authorized, on Dec. 4, 1825, "to erect a reservoir on the Public Square in Huntsville, in such Situation as not to interfere with the ground about to be enclosed for the courthouse - upon the express condition that the present reservoir be immediately removed."

The new reservoir was a two story building (brick), with the reservoir occupying the first floor and the meeting chamber for the city commissioners filling the second. The new system also used wooden pipes, fashioned from

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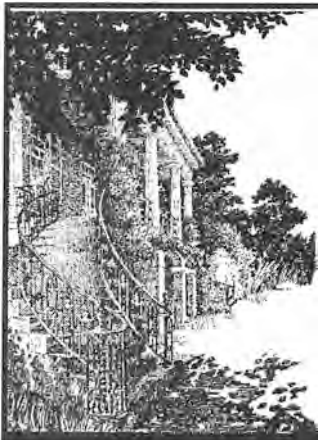
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cedar logs about eight feet long, These pipes were bored out through the center, One end was tapered and the other end was hollowed out in a fashion so that the pipes could be driven into one another, Unlike the earlier system, iron bands were used to hold the pipes together at the joints.

These pipes are supposed to have been made at a shop operated by a Mr. Neely on Greene Street. The logs were held in place by clamps and a larger auger was used to hollow them through the center. Power for the auger was supplied by a horse, hitched to a long pole, the horse at the end of the pole moving in a circle.

This shop also made cedar pumps used by families who had wells instead of hydrants. The new system included a water turbine and a nine inch pump to force the water up to the new reservoir on the Square,

The old cedar pipes of these early systems are still frequently found in local excavation work. They have been found when basements of homes were dug and occasionally in the streets, where they are usually below the level of the present pipe system.

A few years ago on Franklin Street, near the Square, a cedar pipe was found connected to a portion of the old system and holding water under pressure. The old pipes are usually found in a state of good preservation. Some are on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.

Giving up smoking is like visiting a Nudist Camp - you don't know what to do with your hands.

A Disgraceful Item

from 1856 newspaper

We hear from the papers in New York a disgraceful item about our military.

According to Congressman Smothers, who is intimately familiar with the situation, nor one fourth of the present rank and file of the United States Army are Americans, while about three fourths are German and Irish with many unable to speak the Queen's English. Among the recent enlistments in that city are two soldiers who served seven years in the French Army at Rome, and another two years in the Russian Army. The American service is generally preferred to any other by those who have carried the muskets in Europe and here. It is with great irony that we depend on soldiers born and bred abroad to do the fighting for the United States.

Should we ever have a war to wage we will be at great loss to determine the loyalty of those bearing the arms.

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A History Of The Plummer House

by Gary M. Griner

On June 25, 1900, a New England carpenter named George A. Plummer purchased for \$500 the first three lots on the northeast corner of Clinton Avenue and (then) Second Avenue from the Northwest Land Association. He began to construct a two-story house for his family. At the time the street address was 803 Clinton Avenue. Three years earlier there had been railroad tracks running down the center of Clinton connecting the Monte Sano Hotel with the Southern Depot, but the hotel had faded and the tracks pulled up and sold in 1897. Now this was quiet corner outside the Huntsville city limits.

Plummer and his wife, Helen, had arrived in Madison County sometime between 1892 and 1897 by way of St. Paul, Minnesota, where they were married in 1889. By the time they moved into their newly completed Clinton Avenue home the family included a daughter, three sons, and Helen's mother, Eva Adams. Sadly, an infant son, Richard, died within weeks, as had an infant daughter the previous year. Infant mortality in the "good old days" is a fact we now overlook. Three more sons were later born to the Plummers so that, in all six children were raised in the eight room house between 1900 and 1915.

Although he listed his occupation in the 1900 census as "house carpenter", Plummer was more than that. In 1902 he purchased the former H&L Planing Mill on Church Street and in 1905 opened a new lumber yard across the street from the mill (about where the Depot Museum is lo-

cated today). The planing mill furnished doors, windows and custom trim to many homes built in that era. At the same time, Plummer's crews were constructing homes and other buildings. It is known that Plummer built a "Natatorium" at Big Spring Park, a "meeting house" for the West Huntsville Church of Christ and, in the five-points area, a house which still exists on the northwest corner of Clinton Avenue and England Street.

In 1915 Plummer sold his Clinton Avenue home for \$2000 and bought a 171 - acre farm on Dug Hill Road (near today's Choval subdivisions). The family lived there only three years before leaving the Huntsville area.

The Plummers were gone, but their Clinton Avenue house remained. In the next 85 years the house had nine different owners and four address changes. The neighborhood also changed considerably as automobiles re-

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placed horse-drawn carriages. Sometime after 1927, the northern terminus of California Street was changed to connect with Andrew Jackson Way. This route past the Plummer house became the major traffic corridor it still is today.

Plummer sold his house to Edward B. and Eva Mooring, proprietors of the Mooring & Glover Grocery on Meridian Street. After just a year and a half they sold the house for \$3000 to William P. Hampton and his wife, Montie. Hampton was a U.S. Deputy Marshal at the time. In 1920, the house was sold again, now for \$5500. The new owners were Samuel O. and Mary Holmes. S.O. Holmes was the president of the Holmes Furniture and Vehicle Co. which operated for many years on Jefferson Street. In 1922 the Holmes moved to McClung where they resided more than twenty years. The McClung house now displays a "Weakley-Holmes (1904)" historical marker.

In 1922 the Plummer house was purchased by Charles F. Striplin. Striplin, and later his widow, Icie, would live there until 1949, the longest stay by any of the ten owners of the house. There were three girls and two boys in the family. Charles Striplin was a Madison County Demonstration Agent and later managed the County Farm Bureau.

Sometime after 1921, but prior to 1928, the houses were

renumbered and the original 803 Clinton Avenue became 724. Also during this period, a fourth frame house was built in this block of Clinton Avenue for Maurice and Nell Chambers. Nell, would ultimately be the last remaining resident of this block.

The next owners of the Plummer house also stayed a long time. Emmett H. Rogers, his wife Virginia, and four children lived there twenty-five years, from 1949 to 1974. The Rogers owned the Maple Ridge Hatchery in New Market. Subsequent to Emmett's death in a 1962 auto accident, Virginia married Roy E. Hallenbeck. With the joining of the two families seven children lived in the old house. (An interesting note to history is that the Roger's daughter, Christine Ann, married John Horton, grandson of Alabama State Judge James E. Horton, who presided at the second trial of the world famous Scottsboro Boys case.

The Rogers/Hallenbeck families were the first owners to make significant structural changes to

the house. First, they had the front porch enclosed to make another room. Likewise, in 1953, the side porch, which had always provided the second entry to the house, was enclosed to make the kitchen larger. A kitchen window was converted to a rear door. When the combined families expanded to seven children in 1964, a fifth bedroom was added by attaching a simple 10 by 18-foot shed-roofed addition to the rear east side of the house. All of these changes were made with little consideration to the Victorian architecture of the original structure.

Again in 1959 the city changed the street addresses on Clinton Avenue. Going east from Andrew Jackson, there now was Rogers at 801, Buxton and Ona Plumadore at 803, Nell Chambers at 805, and finally Hoyt and Ann Harris at 807. But it was the new neighbor across the street from these four homes that turned out to be far more significant. In 1958 the empty triangular-shaped property bounded by Clinton, Andrew Jackson, and Wells had



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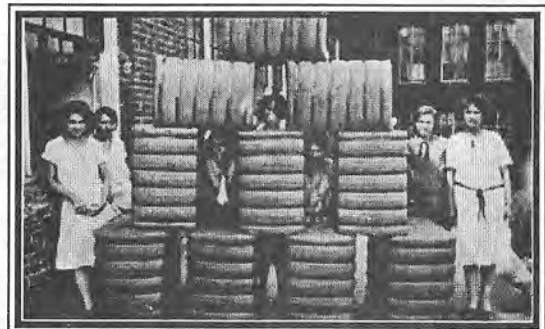
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been purchased by Huntsville First Church of the Nazarene, under the leadership of Rev. M. H. Stocks. The church had been displaced from 505 Clinton (across from the Coca Cola plant) by the building of the Von Braun Civic Center. By 1959 a new church building was in place with the address of 800 Clinton.

In the mid- 1970s, the 800 block of Clinton Avenue was deep into it's mid-life crisis. For twenty years 807 had been rental property. Widow Chambers still lived at 805 but the house at 803 had been vacant since the death of Ona Plumadore in 1966. She left her property to G.H. Wallace, "a

musical friend of several year's standing", but the house was never again occupied. In 1974, after being condemned, it was torn down. To the north, the commercial district of Five Points was coming ever closer, house-by-house. If the neighborhood was to survive it needed to be saved by someone with resources and vision. The Church of the Nazarene had resources, but it's vision was to save souls, not houses. In the next twenty years it acquired all four properties. Fortunately, the houses were sold and moved to other locations.

In 1974 the Plummer house was purchased by Hanson Howard who lived there with his wife, Nellie, and four children until October 1981, when the property was purchased by the church. For two years the house was used primarily for class room and youth activities. Late in 1983, the decision was made to start construction on a new "Family

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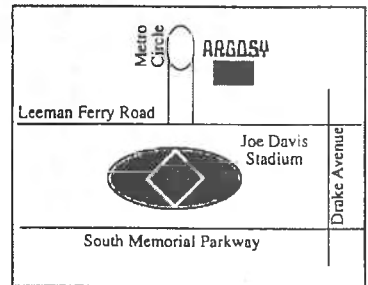


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Life Center" on the site. Just weeks before it would have been demolished, the Plummer house was spotted by a British family who appreciated its Victorian architecture. In December 1983, Anthony and Jennifer Orton bought the house and arranged to move it to a 32-acre site they owned on Dug Hill Road. Oddly, this was only about four miles north of George Plummer's 1915 farm also on Dug Hill Road.

Don Kennedy Movers began preparing the house for its trip. The enclosed front porch was dismantled but the porch roof kept attached to the house. The bedroom, added in the 60's, was also taken off but the enclosed side porch was not disturbed. The house was too tall so the entire second story was removed by simply sawing it off at the second floor. The original roof was dismantled while salvaging the lumber for later reassembly. Also saved were mantles, windows, doors, stairs, floors and interior trim.

The city required that the house be moved without disturbing large trees beside the house. This was accomplished at great difficulty and added cost. However, a few weeks later when construction of the Family Life Center began, the trees were cut down.

At its Dug Hill Road site, the Plummer house was reassembled on a new foundation. During the move, all of the second story plaster was lost and much of the first floor plaster badly cracked. Surprisingly, it was discovered that the random-width poplar sheathing boards had been originally installed horizontally, rather than in the stronger diagonal direction. As a result the walls had little strength and the move resulted in a house so crooked that the front door would not close.

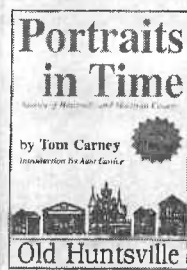
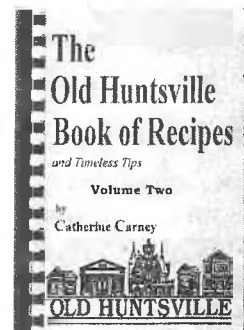
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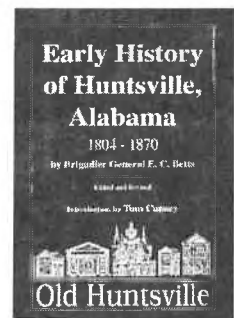


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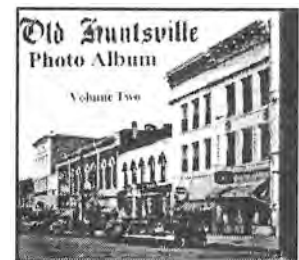
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As fate would have it the Orton's were unable to follow through with their plans to renovate the house, and in 1991, my wife and I became the tenth owners of the Plummer house. At first we had no intentions of saving the house which was totally unlivable. But our attitude slowly changed as we began to clean up the old building and to learn of it's rich history. Now, ten years have passed and we are living in the house, still a work in progress. We have added a three story wing at the same spot that once was the shed-roof bedroom. Otherwise, we have taken pains to restore the original house to its 1900 look.

In the process of restoring this house we have come to appreciate the significance of people like George Plummer to the building of Huntsville. We have requested permission to install one of the newly designed Five Points Historic District signs at our restored home. We think the previous nine owners would approve.

Military News From Huntsville

from 1898 newspapers

Pvt. Henry Hale is in the City jail after being involved in an altercation with two men of this city. He was shot three times.

The contract for transportation home for the Sixty-Ninth New York has been awarded and the equipment will be ready next Saturday. Col. Duffy expects the regiment to leave the Huntsville depot at 10 o'clock that morning. The public is encouraged to be on hand to wish them a hearty farewell.

The office of the Chief Commissary of the old 4th Army Corps has been removed from the headquarters building to the Berstein block on Clinton and Gallatin streets.

Three soldiers of the First Florida Volunteers are presently confined to quarters after being charged by George Rodgers of stealing a sizable number of chickens under the cover of darkness. They are expected to be tried soon and hopefully it will serve as a warning to other soldiers who continue to pillage the neighborhood.

Orders have been issued forbidding the colored soldiers from entering the town limits between the hours of dusk and dawn.

A Snake Catching Dog

from 1819 newspaper

The Harris family near New Market has a most unusual dog. While still a young pup it displayed extraordinary talents at catching snakes. The family rewarded this success by feeding it dainty morsels from the dinner table. This spurred the dog to even greater efforts. Now the Harris's home is overrun with rattlesnakes, moccasins, black snakes and garden snakes. The family has moved out temporarily.

A ray of good cheer can be found in that there are no other snakes in the neighborhood.

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The Man Who Was Too Brave To Die

When the fog lifted, the Union soldiers made their attack. It was December, 1861 and General Ambrose E. Burnside's men were ready to storm Fredericksburg - but the Confederate troops had other plans in mind.

In a surprise attack, the Rebels rained down gunfire until nearly 6,300 Union soldiers lay dead or wounded. As the echoes of musket fire faded the moaning of dying men filled the cold December night.

When dawn broke, the cries of agony were too much for 19 year

old Confederate Sergeant Richard R. Kirkland. He went to his commander and said, "Sir, I would like to take those boys water."

His commander replied, "Son, you're a dang fool!"

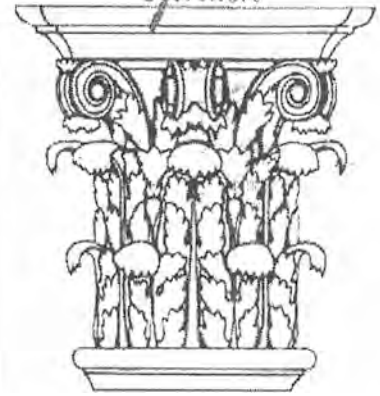
Kirkland jumped over the wall, where he was instantly greeted by a hail of gunfire. As he leaned over a wounded Union soldier and raised the canteen to his lips, the Union commander looked on at the mission of mercy.

In awe, he raised his hand and shouted down the line, "Don't shoot that man! He's too brave to die."

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The Perils of a Pretty Wife

From 1891 Ladies Home Journal

I never see a petted, pampered girl, who is yielded to in every whim by servants and parents, that I do not sigh with pity for the man who will some day be her husband. It is the worshiped daughter, who has been taught that her whims and wishes are supreme in a household, who makes marriage a failure all her life. She has had her way in things great and small; and when she desired dresses, pleasures or journeys she carried the day with tears or sulks, or posing as a martyr.

The parents sacrificed and suffered for her sake, hoping finally to see her well married. They carefully hide her faults and petulance from her suitors who

The woman who tells her age is either too young to have anything to lose or too old to have anything to gain.



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seek her hand, and she is ever ready with smiles and allurements to win the hearts of men, and the average man is as blind to the faults of a pretty girl as a newly hatched bird is blind to the worms upon the trees about him.

He thinks her little pettish ways are mere girlish moods; but when she becomes his wife and reveals her selfish and cruel nature, he is grieved and hurt to think fate has been so unkind to him.

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- To iron ribbons without burning them, heat a spoon and use it to press the ribbon.

- To keep your fireplace chimney clear, once a week burn a mixture of potato peelings and salt in your fireplace. This puts a glaze on the inside surface of your chimney and prevents a buildup of soot.

- To wash black lace, add a tablespoon of ammonia to a left-over cup of strong coffee.

- Fresh cranberries can only be found at this time of year - they can be frozen and you can't find them that way in the store - just take them fresh in the bag and toss unopened into your freezer for use later.

- Your brass can be cleaned by rubbing them with a cut lemon and rinsing in hot water.

- After washing your rag rugs, rinse them in a thin starch water and they will lay flat on the floor without curling up and tripping you.

- A hot strong vinegar can be used to remove paint from windows, if you don't have a scraper.

- If you live in an older home that has those cords over which the windows slide, keep them dusted and rubbed with a well-greased rag to ensure easier operation.

- When oil is spilled onto a rug or furniture, remove the stain with an application of lime water. Lime water will also remove kerosene stains from carpet and furniture.

- Paint kitchen and pantry shelves with two coats of white paint, then add a third coat of white enamel. The surfaces will look really nice, and are easy to clean - no shelf paper will be needed.

- After you black and polish your cooking stove, make sure you give it a good coat of wax polish. It will not require any more blacking again for several weeks, you just need to dust it.

- If you don't have a bottle brush, partially fill it with warm soapy water and some egg shells with pieces of paper towel. Shake well, empty and rinse.

- Don't throw out all those wood ashes from your fireplace. Save a few in a small can to dampen and use to clean your steel knives.



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Victory Gardens during World War II

World War II began September of 1939, and less than four months later food rationing began. Resources of all kinds were being diverted to support the war efforts. Food became more and more scarce in the stores, and soon the government began a campaign to convince people at home that they needed to grow their own produce. The messages were simple, symbolic and very patriotic.

Back in those days people gave up their lives for the country, they funded the war by buying government bonds, they conserved all raw materials, they really recycled, rallied behind their troops and they helped their neighbors. One of the movements that became very popular then was something called Victory Gardens.

Charles Collins of Huntsville remembers Victory gardens and the patriotic feeling in the U. S. during World War II. He recalled that everyone collected paper, metal, glass and other objects and turned them in for the war effort. He also remembered the rationing of sugar, coffee, tires, rubber,



gasoline and other items but especially remembers how so many people planted gardens everywhere they could, even on roof tops.

Here in the South it wasn't such an unusual idea, because most people had small plots and garden places when the war started. They just continued the process. But in other parts of the country, specifically in cities where land was hard to come by - people became very creative in their search of garden spots. The government in some cases subsidized the people for growing small crops, to encourage more people to do this, to help their friends and neighbors.

They were first called "Gardens for Victory" and there were many government public service bulletins produced and circulated with the goal of encouraging more and more people to grow their own. Some of the posters proclaimed "Groundwork for Victory, Grow More in '44." Another stated "Plant a Victory Garden - Our Food is Fighting."

Some of the companies sending out how-to bulletins were Good Housekeeping, International Harvester, Beech-nut Packing Company, Simon & Shuster (House and Garden magazine), and seed companies. It was assumed the audience had no experience with

a garden and the bulletins were written in just that way. Some topics included soil health, how to plant, when to plant, how to tend a garden and what to plant next to what.

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Emphasis was placed on making gardening a fun family affair or community effort rather than a chore. It was presented more as a pastime and a national duty. The Victory Gardens came in every shape and size, and enabled the U.S. to send more supplies to our troops around the world. Henry Ford was known to say, "No unemployment insurance can be compared to an alliance between man and a plot of land." In the Southeast and other parts of the country, pins and prizes were awarded for the best gardens.

Every type of plant you can imagine was lovingly tended by people who had never dreamed they'd be spending time gardening. Again, in the deep south, this was nothing new but more of a "Business as Usual" attitude. Everyone in the South had a plot somewhere - ranging in size from four square feet to as large as you could imagine. Southerners canned, put up vegetables and fruits, put up potatoes and onions, and used every square inch of a pig, just as a matter of routine. This was not the case in many other parts of the country.

Nearly 20 million Americans answered the call to plant gardens, and they produced 40% of all that was consumed in the U.S. Soups were very popular, as well as any kind of bread and biscuit. No bread was ever wasted - the bread you had left over from breakfast could easily become the dessert that night. Since you couldn't buy artificial fertilizers in those days, many people used the soot and ash from their stoves or chimneys, lawn mowings, lint from the clothes dryer, manure, etc.

Sugar was rationed but many people used water or Golden Syrup or honey to sweeten the fruit. Every scrap of food was

saved and reused in soups or hash, and if that couldn't be done the leftovers were mixed with gruel and fed to the farm animals. Spices were sparingly used but savored, as they were hard to get. In the South fruit trees and pecan and black walnut trees were harvested thoroughly for Christmas confections.

When the war was ended, however, so came the end of the government's call for people to produce their own food. The policy was dropped like a hot potato, in the opinion of many, much too quickly. In the spring of 1946 many people had no gardens, and since the agricultural industry had not come back to full production, there were many shortages. Soon after that the entire agricultural industry began to change, with small farm operations giving way to the large corporate farms. Modern agricultural spelled an end to a simple way of life.

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Of all the success stories to come out of Huntsville, perhaps none is as unusual as that of a young boy born in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

Jasper Newton Daniel was born in 1850, the youngest of ten children. His mother died five months after he was born leaving the father alone to care for the children. Within a few years his father met and married a much younger woman. Despite her good and caring nature the marriage caused a split in the family, especially with Jasper, the youngest one.

As a small child Jasper had already earned the nickname of "little big man." Acquaintances later recalled that it was uncanny, or eerie, how the small child conducted himself as a grown person.

At the age of six years old Jasper decided he no longer wanted

to live with his stepmother. After gathering up the few clothes he owned, he walked the short distance to the home of Felix Waggoner where he asked to be taken in.

Waggoner, after conferring with the boy's father, agreed. An extra hand, regardless of how small, was always welcome. Jasper spent the next year with the family doing ordinary farm chores. During this time he made the acquaintance of Dan Call, a prosperous young businessman.

Call and his wife, Mary, took an immediate liking to the youngster. They had no children of their own so Jasper probably filled a void in their lives. The Call family owned a sizable farm as well as a general store where Jasper began helping out.

The general store was typical of most in a rural community, selling a variety of supplies and providing a place for the neighborhood to gather and swap tales. It's most profitable, and popular, item was the whisky that Call manufactured in a nearby still.

Young Jasper was fascinated by the whisky operation. He spent

every free moment at the still asking questions and helping out. Shortly after the youngster's eighth birthday, Call agreed to teach him the "whisky making business." The young boy was an apt student. He listened carefully to the instructions and as he began to grow confident, began tinkering with his own "recipes." Within a year or two the young lad, although not yet ten years old, was recognized as one of the best "whisky makers" in the community.

When the Civil War began in 1861, it threatened to put a stop to the manufacturing of whisky. Supplies were hard to get, most able bodied men were in service and almost all of the whisky was confiscated for medical uses. Call's still was well hidden in a small cove and Jasper managed to keep it operating throughout the first years of the war.

In 1863 a new threat to the operation appeared, a traveling woman evangelist by the name of Lady Love.

Lady Love was a well known "hell, fire and brimstone" preacher who had carved out a successful career by appealing to the women of the congregations. Needless to say, one of her pet peeves was alcohol.

After a week of preaching, shouting and converting, Mary Call announced to her husband that she no longer wanted the family to be involved in the making of the devil's brew.

The decision did not come as a complete surprise to Call for he too had gotten a bit of religion. The hardest decision was what to do with young Jasper. The boy literally lived and breathed "making whisky."

Gathering up his courage, Call set the boy down and explained the new developments.



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"What are you going to do with the operation?" Jasper asked.

"Probably sell it if I can," replied Call.

After a few minutes of silent contemplation the boy suddenly announced, "I want to buy it."

Call looked at the young boy carefully. Jasper had just turned thirteen but looked more like he was nine or ten.

"If you will give me four months," Jasper pleaded, "I'll be able to pay you."

Reluctantly, Call agreed to the boy's offer but warned him that whisky could no longer be sold at the store. In Call's mind that probably put an end to the business as it would be seemingly impossible for Jasper to raise the money. The whole countryside was occupied by Federal soldiers who placed severe restrictions on the sale of whisky.

Instead of being deterred, Jasper began increasing the production to record proportions. Within a short time the little cove was literally covered with barrels of whiskey waiting to be sold.

Many local farmers were selling their produce and meat to the Federal soldiers and this had given Jasper an idea. After a brief journey to Huntsville his suspicions were confirmed. The town was crawling with thousands of Yankee soldiers with almost no whisky to be had. The little to be had was "rotgut" sold by the yankee sutlers at outrageous prices.

Additionally, all approaches to the city were guarded by the military who searched every wagon entering the town for contraband.

Jasper spent the day in town carefully watching the local police and the military guards. Late that evening he returned home and began his preparations.

First he visited a nearby farm where he rented a large, dilapidated wagon and had it filled with hay. Next, he spoke to another neighbor and purchased a large amount of cured hams.

He then drove the wagon back to the cove where the whisky was hidden. After unloading the meat and the hay, he filled the bottom of the wagon with barrels of whiskey and covered the load with hay, with the meat hidden randomly in the hay.

Although Jasper was thirteen, he actually looked much younger, a fact he decided to capitalize on.

Discarding his normal clothing he dressed in a pair of short pants and a pull-over shirt made for a little boy.

Early the next morning Jasper began the journey to Huntsville. Approaching town on the Winchester road, he was stopped by Federal sentries. One look at the young boy driving the wagon was enough to convince the soldiers that he was harmless. Never the less, they began poking their bayonets in the hay, searching for contraband. Within seconds one of the soldiers had speared a ham.

"What are you hiding the meat for?" the soldiers asked.

Jasper, putting on his "little



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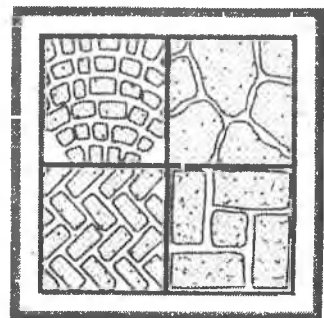
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boy face," replied. "To keep the yankees from stealing it!"

The soldiers were amused at the impudence of the little brat. After securing another ham for their dinner, they motioned the wagon to go on through.

Jasper spent the day in Huntsville selling the rest of the meat at a good profit. Late that afternoon he found a place to park his wagon and crawled in back for a nap. He was going to need his sleep for that night. On his earlier trip to Huntsville, Jasper had learned that the police stopped working at midnight every night unless there was a disturbance.

Once the noise of the town had died down and almost everyone was asleep, Jasper began making his rounds of all the stores. Carefully knocking on the back doors, he explained that "Pa has some whisky he wants to sell if you're interested."

Of course they were all interested and after tasting the whisky they were even more interested. By the time the sun began peeking over the horizon, Jasper had sold the whole load. Although dead tired from the night's work, he made one more stop at a livery stable where he sold the hay, also at a profit.

Jasper traveled to Huntsville with loads of whiskey, hay and meat every two or three weeks until the end of the war. The guards had grown used to the young boy and rarely paid any at-

tention to him, except possibly to secure a contraband ham for their dinners. There was so much demand for his special "recipe" that he had trouble filling the orders, so he built a larger still and hired more hands.

When the Civil War ended, although only sixteen years old, Jasper owned the one of the largest distilleries in Tennessee. Unable to enter into legal transactions because of his age, he petitioned the court in Fayetteville to declare him an adult.

Dispite the success of his business in the years to come, the young lad never forgot the town that had given him his start.

In 1898, when troops from the Spanish American war were stationed in Huntsville, he petitioned the city fathers for a license to open a distillery. When that was turned down, his company opened a bar near the Big Spring known as "The Deepest Spring." It specialized in the same whisky that bore the name he went by and which he had bootlegged to the yankees during the Civil War - A whiskey called Jack Daniels.

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From Early New Market Newspapers

by Waylon Smithey

(Editors 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 second of a series of articles based on the contents of those eight-page weekly tabloid newspapers.)

Volume 1 No. 3, July 7, 1888

This was only the third issue of the newspaper, and already the editor found himself correcting an error. "We published a paragraph in our issue of the 23d ult., stating that Mr. J.C. Williamson, who lives near Sharp's Spring, on the mountain, had become insane. We are pleased to state the report was without foundation, as we have since seen Mr. W. and conversed with him. He is far from being a crazy man. He thinks the report originated from a jocular remark of an employe on his farm, and that unscrupulous and malicious parties gave currency to it and spread the broadcast."

The editor reported on page 1 from a nearby community:

"We had the pleasure of visiting Carmichael, four miles west of New Market, where the once famous old watering place, known as Geron Springs, was in antebellum days, Its rustic beauty and

pleasant retreat make it a delightful place, If it was rebuilt and opened to the public it would be a magnificent resort, and be a source of revenue to its owner. If Mr. Carmichael, the present owner, would erect a few cottages or build a hotel, many people would make it their summer resort. It has four varieties of water - white and black sulphur, chalybeate, and pure freestone. The place is located on the bluff of Flint River (a fine fishing stream) from under which the waters gush out ice-cold. It is delightful to walk through the cold, shady dells where the little brooklet ripples over shining pebbles in its little moss-bound banks; where the many springs gurgle from beneath the fern-clad cliffs."

Flint River seemed to be a popular place during the week, and this article also appeared on page 1:

"On Saturday morning a coterie of ladies and gentlemen, behind one of Mr. Fanning's spanking spans, hied themselves away to Flint River on a fishing excursion. On arriving, Mr. J.H. Miler, an experienced angler, pronounced the water in fine condition for the sport and proceeded forthwith to cast his minnow. He succeeded in hooking three fine

trout, but owing to a break of his line and obstructions in the river, failed to land either of them, Messrs. Brit Hawkins and John Fanning met with better success and landed several fine ones. At noon delicious viands and confections were served and heartily enjoyed by all. The afternoon was

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spent in social enjoyment. At 6 o'clock p.m. the party returned much refreshed and delighted with the enjoyment of the occasion."

Local Briefs included:

"Mr. Arthur Nance, from Hurricane Creek, one of our stirring young farmers, was in town a few days ago. He informs us that he threshed 17 bushels of wheat per acre, and says he lost at least three bushels per acre from tangled wheat."

"Mr. W.H. Moore presented the Enterprise office, a few days ago, with a basket of the finest peaches we have yet seen. One of them, of the Early Crawford variety, measured 9-3/4 inches in circumference,"

"Rev. Mr. Andrews, of Maysville, brother of the railroad agent at this place, gave us a pleasant call Tuesday. Mr. Andrews is an old type."

"Mr. W.F. Yarbrough shipped last week a large lot of chickens

for the mastication of Mont Eagle's aristocratic tooth. Our railroad brings us into commercial relations with the most inaccessible and remote points of commerce. Railroads are a commercial blessing."

"Messrs. H.B. Roper, county court clerk; Jacob Martin, cashier National Bank, and E.E. Spillman, contractor, all of Huntsville, paid New Market a friendly visit on the 4th. Mr. Martin informed us that he had not been here before for 33 years, when he passed through on a stagecoach going from Nashville to Huntsville."

"The largest beet we have seen this summer was sent to this office Tuesday, with a lot of other fine vegetables, by Mrs. F.L. Estes. It weighed three pounds and 14 ounces."

J.W. Walker was in town the other day and subscribed for The Enterprise. The wound in his hand, caused by accidental falling on a sharp stub, has entirely healed, but leaves a cicatrix which time and nature can never remove, and his hand in a paralyzed condition."

"Tax Collector Davis was in town the 2nd, looking cool and serene, and conversing in his usual affable manner. He accepts the action of the democratic convention in the spirit of true magnanimity and will devote his time

now to the improvement of his lands and the general welfare of his community."

In a "Hear and There" column:

"An interesting calculation is that which determines that in collecting a pound of honey, 62,000 heads of clover must be deprived of nectar and 3,750,000 visits from the bees be made."

It was noted that Mr. W.W. Drake was in town on Friday and subscribed for the newspaper to be sent to his son in Iowa. "Mr. D. made a new departure in Southern farming some years ago, by abandoning the cultivation of cotton entirely and substituting the production of the cereals and grasses and feeding the product of his farm to cattle. By this method he has brought his farm to the highest degree of fertility and annually increases his bank account. There is room for many more to make this auxiliary to Southern farming."

The first in a series of History of New Market columns appeared in this issue:

"Some where in the year 1815, Geo. Smith built a log house for a residence, where now only the chimney remains (This house was burned down in the early part of this year.) This was the first house built, In 1819 John Miller moved from Richmond, Ky., and entered a large body of land in section 32, township 1, range 2, east. He then

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excavated a race and erected a corn and saw mill. The mill finished, he erected a dwelling on the main road, now re-modeled and the residence of Dr. P.M. Hall. John Randolph was the architect.

"Wm. D. Hayter bought out Geo. Smith and opened a store of general merchandise. John Estill also opened a store after a few weeks, Dr. W.W. Humphries also, and William, Patrick and David Staples, with John P. White, (now residing in Nashville, Tenn.) as clerk.

"Peter S. Baker had a saloon, and as the country was new and still in the forest, it was customary for the country people when they visited Market, as it was called, to take off their shot-pouches with their accompaniments, a large knife and powder-horn and powder-measure, and put them over their rifles in one corner of the store, or stores, as they fancied, and mingle with the crowd, discoursing on politics or local matters.

"The merchants went every fall to Baltimore on horseback, purchased their winter, spring and fall goods, which were freighted by large wagons with six horses from Baltimore to New Market. In their purchase the merchants gave notes for 12 months, with interest on 6 months, and paid up in full when they purchased another stock.

Sugar, coffee, dry goods, hardware, were all hauled in wagons from Baltimore.

"Sugar sold for 12-1/2c per pound, coffee 25 cents, calico for 25c, etc. Whisky made in the neighborhood sold for 25c per gallon, corn 10c per bushel, wheat 25c per bushel and Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes were given away.

"The country was full of game - bear, deer, turkeys were plentiful, and the wood were full of squirrels, opossums and raccoons, besides wolves, wild cats and panthers. The waters teemed with black bass, redeye perch, also called goggle-eye, suckers and turtles, and other edible fish,

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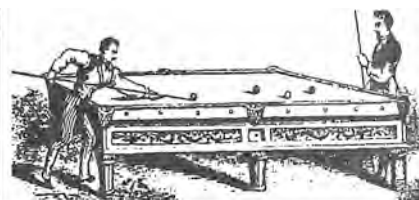
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J. B. Webb and Otis King were two of the best known men in town during the 1960s, but for much different reasons.

Webb was a well known bootlegger who would sell you whisky by the bottle or by the shot, depending on your preference, or what you could afford. He was a rough talking man who had a reputation as a no non sense man. His trademark was a bright pink 1950s Cadillac convertible which everyone in town recognized. When the car was parked in the drive way it meant Webb was open for business.

Otis King, a hell fire and brimstone preacher, was the exact opposite of Webb. He spent his time converting lost souls and doing charity work in the poorer neighborhoods of Huntsville.

Perhaps King recognized a challenge in Webb, but for whatever reason, he made it a goal to

convert the bootlegger. Several times a week he would stop by Webb's place of business and invite him to go to church.

Strangely, the two men liked one another, and as the friendship grew, an uneasy truce developed between them. King no longer tried to convert Webb and Webb donated small amounts of money to King's various charitable undertakings.

One hot summer day King appeared at Webb's business. His clothes were wringing wet with sweat from having walked all the way from his home.

After the two men set down, and Webb pushed a small stack of bills across the table, he asked the preacher why he was walking in such hot weather.

"My car's in the garage and I couldn't get a ride."

"Hell, just borrow my car. You can bring it back when you're done," the bootlegger said.

"No, I don't think so," King replied, "everybody in town knows that car and I have a reputation to keep up."

The bootlegger thought for a long moment before reaching across the table for the stack of bills. "So do I," he said.

When you are right no one remembers. When you are wrong, no one forgets.

Missing

from 1865 newspaper

Johnathan Winters, 15 years of age, light haired and medium built. Last seen in Jackson County in Fall of 1863 when he slipped away to join the Confederate service. He is thought to have been headed toward Tennessee to join Forrest. A liberal reward will be given for any information concerning his whereabouts. I can be reached at the office of the Scottsboro newspaper.

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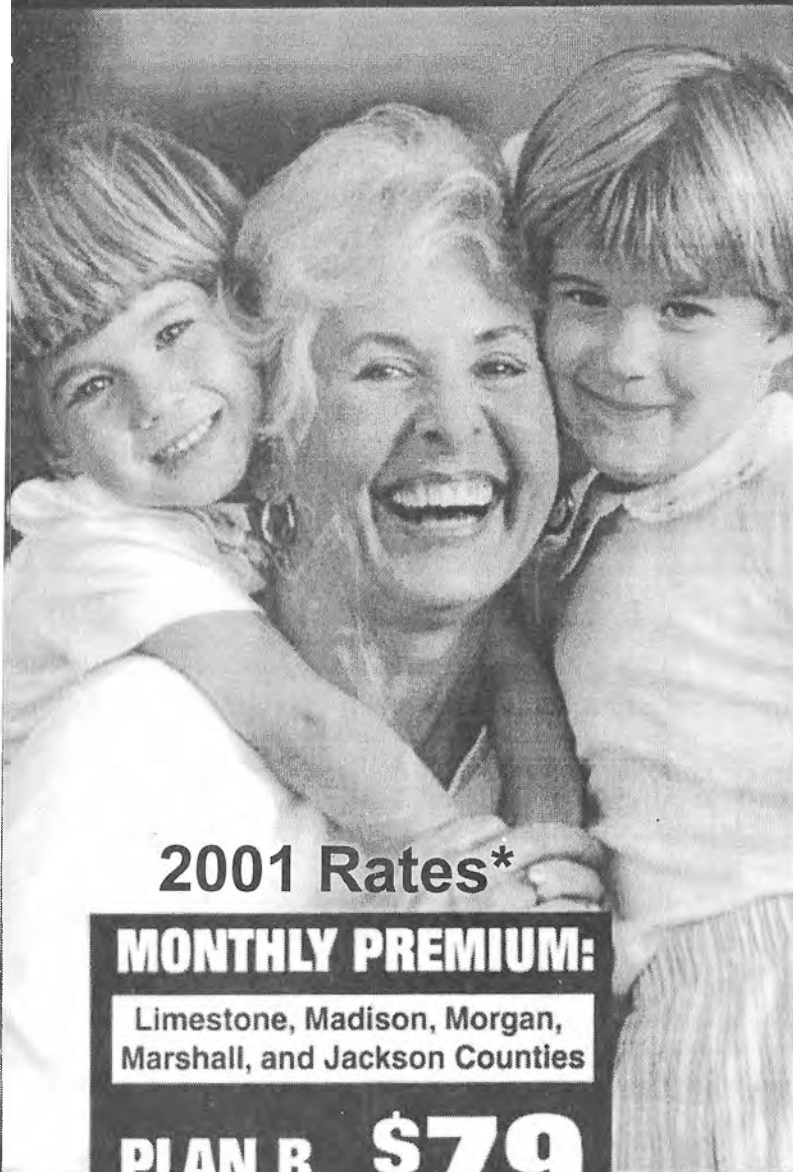
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