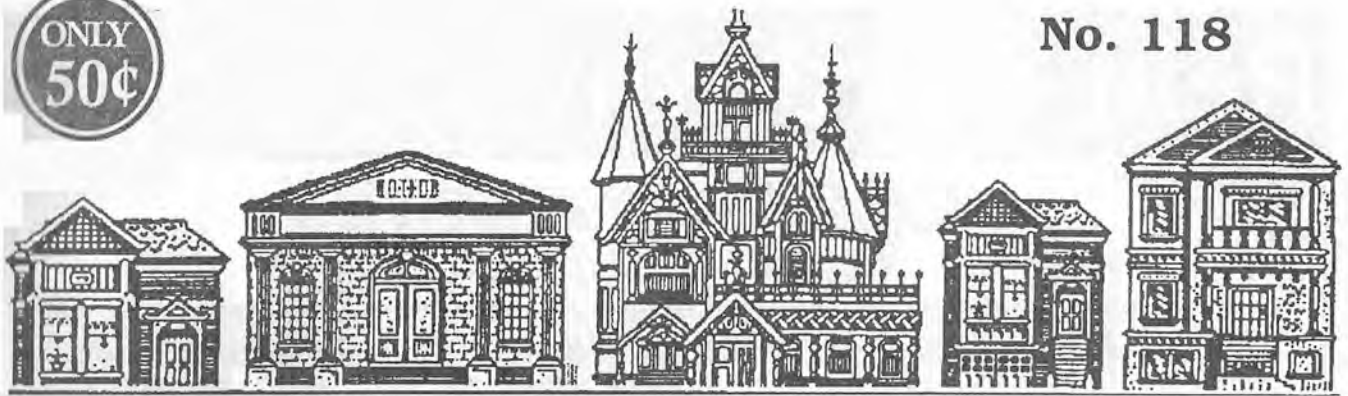


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## An Eternal Love

The year was 1942 and the world was in the midst of a terrible war. Families were torn apart, and husbands and fathers sent to far-away places to become cannon fodder in the name of democracy.

When Lucille held her husband's hand early that morning and told him that she would wait on him forever, she never dreamed how long forever might be.

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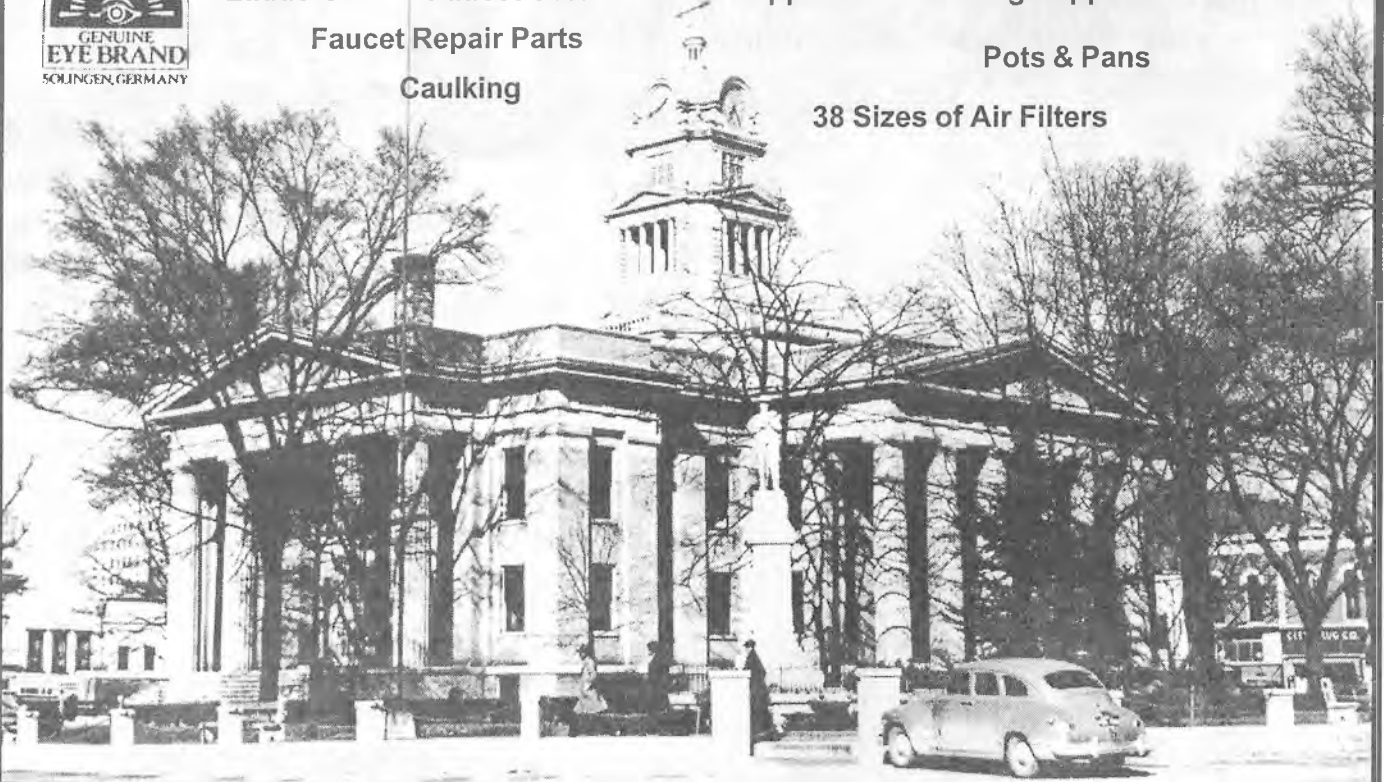
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# An Eternal Love

Lucille Ensley leaned tiredly on her hoe in the cotton field and watched the mailman come to a stop in front of the mailbox. Lucille and her husband, Kenneth, rarely received any mail so whenever the mailman stopped it was a cause of great anticipation.

In this case, as Lucille looked at the official looking envelope, she felt a sense of gloom descend upon her. Although Kenneth and she had talked about it almost every day, it had done nothing to lessen the impact of actually receiving the news.

Though a war was raging in Europe and almost every able bodied male in the community of New Hope had received his draft notice, Lucille had still hoped that her husband would not be called.

Silently, she placed the envelope in her apron and walked back to their home. It was a typical share-cropper's house; two rooms, heated by a wood burning stove and an outhouse in the back. Regardless of their surroundings, Lucille and Kenneth still considered themselves lucky.

1943 was promising to be a bumper year for cotton and even

after giving the landowner his share and paying the bills, hopefully, there would be enough left over for the down payment on their own land.

Lucille stoked the fire in the stove as she thought about what to fix for dinner. Kenneth would still be in the fields for another couple of hours and she wanted to prepare something special for him.

When they married she had thought her husband was the kindest and best man in the world. Now, a year later, she was even more in love with him. Several times she had wondered what life would be like if he were gone, but the thought was so devastating that she immediately put it out of her mind. Life without her husband would be unbearable, so she refused to think about it.

That evening, after they had completed dinner, and she was clearing the table, Lucille took the envelope out of her apron and placed it on the table in front of him. The look on Kenneth's face after he hastily read the notice confirmed her darkest fears.

He was being called up and had to report for induction in ten days.

That night, lying in her husband's strong arms, would be the most memorable of their brief marriage. They spoke of their dreams and of their love, and of



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how soon the war would be over. Two young people, madly in love, dreaming of the future but with a fear of the unknown lurking in the back of their minds.

Kenneth had always been a hard worker but the next ten days saw him working harder than ever. Up hours before daylight, he would already be in the fields when the first glimmer of a new day began to peek across the hills. And every evening, after working in the fields all day, would find him chopping wood for the upcoming winter by the light of a kerosene lantern.

Often, late at night, Lucille would carry a fruit jar of tea out to the woodpile where he was working and implore him to quit for the day.

Laughing, Kenneth would take her in his arms and tell her that he wanted to be sure that his wife would be warm that winter.

On the morning Kenneth was scheduled to appear for induction, they got up even earlier than usual. After breakfast they began the trek to town. Not owning an automobile and declining to ask neighbors for a ride, they chose instead to walk.

They had already talked about his departure and both had agreed it would be easier if she did not accompany him all the way. Two blocks from the bus station, they paused and after setting his bag down, Kenneth took

his wife in his arms one last time to tell her how much he loved her. Then abruptly, while choking back tears, he grabbed his bag and was gone.

During the long walk back home Lucille's mind was a frenzy of plans and ideas. She would finish the cotton crop and save every penny she could so they could buy their own farm when he came home. She would write every day and send pictures and clippings from the newspaper. Everything would be all right. She just knew it.

After returning home, Lucille spent the day working in the fields hoeing cotton. As she thought about the cruel war that had separated her from her husband, she attacked her work with a vengeance. The young cotton plants became Nazis and her hoe became the instrument of their destruction.

Unfortunately, the hard work was only a temporary relief. When she returned to the house late that evening she was instantly surrounded by silence. The kind of silence that only one who lives alone can understand.

And Lucille did what millions of other wives did that summer of 1943, she sat down on the edge of the bed and cried.

Although she worked from daylight to dark, seven days a week, it was impossible for her to keep up with the growing cotton



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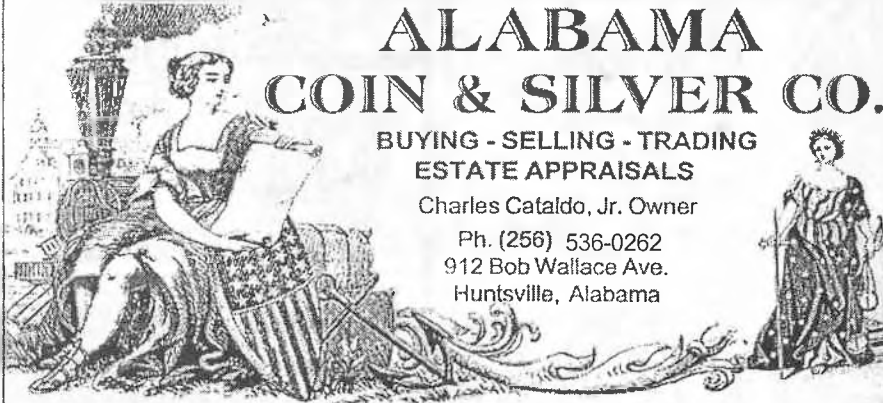
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by herself. Where there had once been neat orderly rows, more weeds began appearing weekly. The harder she tried, the farther behind she got. It quickly became apparent that she would be unable to finish the crop.

Late one evening, as Lucille trudged tiredly home, she saw the landlord sitting on the porch waiting for her. Apologetic and with hat in hand, he told her that he was going to have to take over the crop. He had too much money invested he said, to take a chance on losing it,

"Of course," he said, "if you can get someone to help you, maybe we can do something. If not, I can pay you a little for your trouble."

Lucille knew there was no hope in hiring any farm help. Even Redstone Arsenal, where they were paying top wages, could not find all the hands it needed.

Reluctantly, she began to make arrangements to move. During the war, with gas rationing and overcrowded conditions, even a simple task like moving became a major chore. Finally after days of trying, she found a neighbor who was willing to move her to town with his horse and wagon in exchange for some farm implements she no longer needed.

Lucille went to work at the cotton mill and after several months of living with a relative, was fortu-

nate enough to be assigned a house in the mill village. The previous occupant had been fired for allowing Arsenal workers to board with him, a practice the mills discouraged for fear of losing workers to the to higher paying jobs on the arsenal.

Lucille's life soon settled into a regular routine. Up at 5 o'clock every morning, work all day, and back home by 6 that evening. Run to the mailbox to look for a letter from Kenneth, and then write another letter describing her day.

Although a slow reader, she forced herself to read the newspaper every day to keep track of the war news. On her kitchen wall she had taped a map of Europe and every week or so she would laboriously trace the advances of the Allied army. Every foot the Allies advanced meant the sooner Kenneth would be coming home.

Finally after almost two years, Lucille received the letter she had been waiting for. The war had been over for months and the army was beginning to discharge its soldiers. Kenneth wrote to say that he would be arriving home by bus in a couple of weeks and he missed her terribly.

A friend later said that she had never seen Lucille look so happy and radiant as she did when she received the letter from her husband.

Two days before his scheduled

arrival Kenneth called a friend to say he was in Fort Benning, Georgia, being discharged and would be home in a few days. "Tell Lucille," he said as he hung up,

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"that I love her."

On the appointed day Lucille was at the bus station. Busload after busload of soldiers arrived to be welcomed home by their families, but Kenneth was not among them. Late that night after being assured that no more buses were scheduled to arrive that evening, Lucille finally returned home, only to return at first light the next morning.

Again, buses arrived and buses left all day long but Kenneth was not on any of them. The same routine was followed for almost a week until she was threatened with losing her job if she did not return to work.

Kenneth and Lucille had been given a lamp by a relative when they first married and now she placed it in the window so he would be able to find the house if he arrived home at night. Every night she would rush home after work to wash, do her hair and change clothes and then spend the evening sitting on the edge of a chair next to the lamp, waiting patiently for her husband who never showed up.

Her neighbors began to grow concerned and finally talked her into writing the War Department. Several months passed until she received a reply. Kenneth had been discharged at Fort Benning and given a travel voucher to Huntsville. The department was sorry but it had no further information.

Neighbors began to speculate on the fate of Lucille's husband. "Surely," they reasoned, "something must have happened to him. And it's not normal for a woman to keep waiting for so long and acting like nothing is the matter."

Finally a delegation of neighbors approached her. "Lucille," they said, "we've known you for a long time and we just want to

help. It's time you realized that maybe your husband is not coming home."

For what seemed like an eternity, Lucille stared silently at them, as if she was looking through them. When she finally spoke it was with a deliberate calmness. "My husband said he would come home and I believe him. Now if you will excuse me ...."

Weeks turned into months, and months into years and every night the lamp was turned on, a silent beacon to a long ago memory.

Periodically, over the years, friends or neighbors would take an interest in the fate of Lucille's husband and try to discover what had happened to him. Letters were written to various organizations and inquiries were made of police departments and hospitals. The answer was always the same. "I'm sorry but we have no information."



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Whenever someone would relay the latest inquiry to Lucille, she would scornfully reply that they were wasting their time with such foolishness.

"My husband," she would always reply, "is on his way home."

In 1956, some of the mill homes were torn down and Lucille moved to a small cottage at the foot of Chapman Mountain. Immediately, before her belongings were even unpacked, the lamp was once again placed in front of the living room window where it continued its lonely vigil.

When she lived in the mill village most people had been familiar with her story and had been sympathetic. Many of the residents, probably having seen enough suffering of their own, went out of their way to be nice to her, always asking if she had any word from her husband."

"No," she would reply. "He's on his way home and probably hasn't had time to call."

Now, living in a new location, she soon became known as "the crazy woman." The neighbors knew nothing about her except that she lived in a fantasy world, turning the light on every night for the memories of a love she could not let go.

She rarely ventured out of her

house, and when she did, she was often greeted by taunts from the neighborhood children. At Halloween her yard would be rolled with toilet paper and rotten eggs would be thrown at her front door. Every few years some neighborhood woman would visit for a few minutes, more to satisfy her curiosity than anything else.

Ignoring her neighbors, Lucille continued to live in her dream world, turning the lamp on every night and waiting for a knock that never came.

More time passed and the friends who had sympathized with her began to die off. Every year there were fewer people who knew the story behind the lamp in the window. By this time, Lucille had become a virtual recluse and though able to take care of herself, her family still decided it was a good idea for someone to check on her every day.

In 1992, almost a half century after Kenneth had left for the service, Lucille's nephew stopped by one evening to see how she was doing. After knocking several times and not getting an answer, he used his key to enter the house.

After searching the rest of the house first, he discovered Lucille crouched in a corner of the bedroom, with a sheet wrapped

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2. **Historic Huntsville; a City of New Beginnings.** Updated edition by Elise Hopkins Stephens, \$32.95.

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6. **Lily Flagg - The story of Huntsville's prize-winning Jersey cow,** by Doris Benefield Gilbreath, \$10.95.

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around her, sobbing. Looking up and seeing her nephew, she began to cry again.

"He's not coming home is he? Kenneth's not coming home."

It was all the nephew could do to not cry himself. Sitting on the floor he wrapped his arms around his aunt and tenderly assured her that everything was all right.

"Don't worry Aunt Lucy, he's on his way home. He'll be home any time now."

Carefully he tucked the frail old woman into her bed. As she drifted off to sleep, a gentle smile played on her lips, the smile of a woman who still believed that love was everlasting.

Sometime that night, in the wee hours of the morning, Lucille died. Her body was found on the living room sofa, fully dressed and with her hair done up neatly. It was apparent from the calm and serene look on her face that she was finally reunited with the love she had waited so many years for.

As the hearse pulled out of the driveway Lucille's nephew, Kenny, went back in the house and got the lamp. That night he placed it

on a table in front of his living room window and turned it on.

A silent and heartbreaking symbol of an eternal love.

The mystery of what happened to Kenneth was never been solved. Though it was later established that he definitely boarded the bus in Columbus, Ga., for the trip to Huntsville, he was never seen again.

*This story was originally run in Old Huntsville in 1992 under the name "A Lamp In The Window." Due to numerous requests we are reprinting an updated version of what we think is one of Huntsville's greatest love stories.*



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# Huntsville News From 1910

- Miss Lena Vann, a popular young lady of New Hope, committed suicide by swallowing some poisonous drug yesterday. News of the affair reached our city by a telephone message from Mr. G.M. Haden who phoned Probate Judge W. T. Lawler. Mr. Haden asked that the coroner be instructed to hold an inquest but was told that this was not necessary. Miss Vann was at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Mary Vann, who had retired for the evening, when she heard a strange noise in the girl's room that sounded curious and upon investigation found that the young lady was in an unconscious state and apparently was dying.

Medical aid was summoned and everything was done that was possible to save her but to no avail. The young lady was popular and her character was considered most estimable. The cause

of her death is not known to any of her relatives or friends, who are all in shock after the news.

- Helen Evans, a white woman who keeps a quiet place in the city, was placed under arrest yesterday afternoon by policeman Pamplin on a charge of operating a blind tiger. Several bottles of beer were found in the cooler and the woman protested that she kept them there for her own medicinal use. She made bond in the sum of fifty dollars and appeared in the police court for trial this morning. Dr. Lacy Mastin, city physician, testified that he had prescribed for the woman and directed her to drink beer. The case was dismissed.

- Mayor Smith has given the police department instructions to arrest all parties caught in the act



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of riding bicycles on the sidewalks. Two arrests for this offense have been made and the mayor has assessed the fines of a dollar each against the defendants.

- Spitting on the sidewalks is also a practice that must be stopped and a fine awaits all parties who thoughtlessly commit this offense again in the future.

- A responsible business man of Huntsville has said that for \$200 he will find the main stream of the big spring on the Little Mountain and provide water enough to supply the city. The gentleman wants the money for his trouble and it will not have to be paid him if he fails to find the stream. The matter will probably be taken up at the next city council meeting and there may be something doing in regards to this.

- That puddle in front of the Post Office cafe is still there. It has been there ever since the square was paved. A load of luka gravel would save the skirts of many of the ladies and prevent some hard words from being spoken by the gentlemen who must pass there after heavy rains. People walk through the court

house yard to keep from passing the unsightly place and this will finally hurt the business on that side of the square, for when the number of passersby is cut down, the rents go down also.

- That deer in the court yard is going to cripple someone yet and who is going to pay the damage? Is the county responsible? Put the buck in a fenced-in corner of the yard or else have him removed entirely from the court yard. What's the purpose of keeping a vicious animal in the way of travel?

- The policemen on day duty presented an imposing sight when they began their rounds on horseback. From now on every section of the city will be covered during the day by the mounted men. This has been the law for years but it has been neglected and many of the policemen found it more comfortable to walk than to ride horseback.

We are sorry to announce that Mr. Albert Brown has been quite unwell, owing to his recent death, and is taking a short holiday to recuperate.  
- Parish Magazine

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# Military Memories

by Art Pranger

Three men and I were in a convoy on our way to the bivouac area by way of one of the sandy roads in Texas. All the Jeeps were towing trailers with mortar and ammunition carts. Our Jeep was the last vehicle in the convoy — and, as always -the last vehicle was trying to keep up with the rest of the convoy.

Keeping up, especially in the sand, meant going about 45 miles per hour (mph). When we reached this speed, the trailer started to fishtail, causing the Jeep to do the same.

I was sitting in the back seat and immediately realized what was going to happen: the Jeep and the trailer were about to overturn. I was catapulted upward with the Jeep and vaulted outward to the side.

The Jeep landed on the other side of the road, turned completely sideways, forward and motion stopped. The ammo cart had turned over, but was still at-

tached. The windshield was lying next to it, steering column bent but on its wheels, shuddering and still running. The other three men apparently stayed with the Jeep. There they lay, oddly arranged in a circle with the jeep and the ammo cart. One had a broken arm, another had a dislocated shoulder and the third had a raw back where the Jeep scraped going over him. All were in a semi-conscious state, saying senseless things.

When I realized that everyone else was incoherent, I ran up the road to catch the rest of the convoy. I told the commanding officer what had happened, and he

called the radio Jeep. I directed the driver back to where we turned over ... and he proceeded to drive us back at 50 mph! After all I had been through, the thing that bothered me most at the time was going back in that damn Jeep driving five mph faster than the speed of the Jeep in the previous mishap!

When we got to the scene, the driver radioed for an ambulance which took the three guys to the hospital. They all made it alright, and afterwards there was an investigation. The Jeep was totaled, at a price of \$600. That price would have more zeros added on today.

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# Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus

The following letter, and its timeless reply, was printed on the Editorial page of the New York Sun in 1897

Dear Editor,

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus, Papa says, "if you see it in 'The Sun,' it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?  
Virginia O'Hanion

Dear Virginia,

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little.

In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus. It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no

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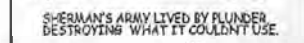

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romance to make tolerable this existence, We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight, The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove?

Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the

One reason computers are able to do more work than people is they never have to stop and answer the phone.

strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart.

Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

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- Comment made in 1957

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# Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice

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



Hello to all of you! How about those elections? Do you like the results? Did you win a few and lose a few? Each and every one of them were outstanding people. So I wish all of them good luck as they go forward. The elected ones will do a good job for us. And now we have a new governor.

The Picture of the Month this past time was **Lynda Hall**, our Tax Collector. **Carey Terry** guessed that it was Lynda. We had so many guesses for November! People love this section. Congratulations Carey – she'll get her Country Ham breakfast for her correct guess! She came in Saturday.

The election was really anticipated by many folks, and it's hard to believe it's over. I always tell you I won a few and lost a few, and I'm so glad the Governor's race is over. Congratulations to all the winners and better luck next time to the ones NOT elected. Coffee-pouring has really slowed down around here – I need some

more elections to get the coffee going again!

We have several deaths this month. I lost a sister-in-law, **Vida Jenkins**. My sympathy goes to our family, especially to her daughter and son-in-law. **Loretta** and **Tom** and the wonderful grandchildren. Vida had recently gone to Virginia to live close to her family.

My sympathy goes to the family of **James Bell**, a long-time family friend, and he used to be one of our County Commissioners. A wonderful friend. We were saddened over the passing of our good friend **Ludie Richard** – he and **Mrs. Christine** have done so much for Huntsville, and the Humane Society. Mrs. Christine we love you so much.

My friend **Mrs. Catherine Wilson** lost a brother – sympathy goes to Mrs. Catherine and we love you. And **John Cockerham**, we were so saddened to hear about the death of your son. We love you, John – remember that.

My dear friend **Bedford Tudem** is very ill, we are praying for you.

This bunch of gal pals came by on their way to Sewanee to see the beautiful fall foliage. They were **Beverly Reishart, Frances Davis, Mary Parks, Maeselle Doyle, Frankie Stith** and **Joanne Miller**. I know they had a great time.

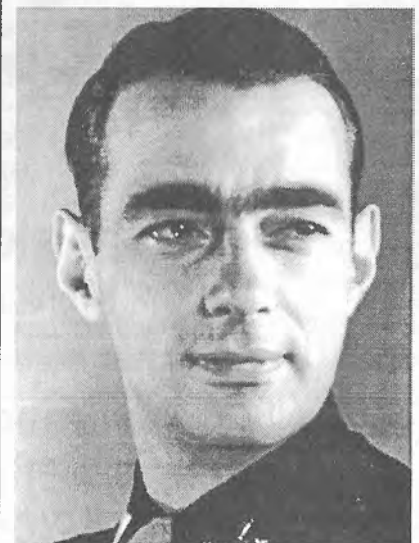
I think **Billy Bell, Blake Dorning** and **Fran Hamilton** are about 3 of the happiest people I've ever seen. They say for me to tell all of you out there a great big THANK YOU – the voting turnout was very good also. They all worked very hard and the win was well-deserved.

My friend **Cecil Ashburn** hasn't been feeling all that well lately, but he's doing better now and we need to see you come down the mountain for breakfast with

## Photo of The Month

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

Hint: Well known for a big heart. Also has a good looking daughter and wife.



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Sandra Steele, President



us!

Speaking of Monte Sano, has anyone else heard that the old **Monte Sano Hotel** may be rebuilt? Somewhere near where the Tavern will be renovated. I can't get the official word on it but wouldn't that be wonderful? Can't you imagine sitting inside the hotel restaurant, looking over Big Cove or Huntsville at sunset, and having a great meal? Let me know if anyone else has heard this rumor.

By the way, in case you haven't seen it, Propst Drugs has a postcard with the old Hotel on it, in addition to about 9 other old-time black/white views of Huntsville in the early days. Unusual postcards are always great to find and send to friends.

I'd like to say a big Hello to our friend **Ray Pearman**. He's having a hard time and we miss the family so much.

Boy, the "Old Huntsville" magazine is getting bigger and better every month. Be sure and check out the new Menu page. Also, the Golden K Kiwanis page. I never realized what \$.50 could do!

Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> was **Government Day** and I fed the Youth Leadership Class of 51 young folks. It was a wonderful event - **Bud Cramer** and **Jeff Enfinger** spoke to the class and they were the nicest group of young folks I think I have ever seen. They listened really carefully, then asked some of the best questions.

**Mark Russell** is getting out early - looks like he's working heard already. I see where he's been going to several schools and attending lots of other meetings - best of luck to you Mark!

Speaking of lots of energy, it looks like our mayor is keeping really busy. We love you **Loretta**, and everybody wonders where

you get your energy. We want to take whatever you're taking! We appreciate the hard work you're doing.

We appreciate our neighbor **Floyd Hardin** so much. He is busy all the time doing something for the community. We sure do love you, Floyd.

Happy Birthday to my daughter **Doris** and her husband **Wayne**. You're not getting any younger! But keep on having birthdays! I love you very much.

I love all the Christmas decorations all over town and the Parkway. When we have visitors to Huntsville, the one thing we keep hearing over and over is how clean the city looks. You have to visit other places to really appreciate our neatness and lack of traffic!

I just want to wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving and Christmas! It always seems that Christmas comes so soon after Thanksgiving - we need an extra month I think! Enjoy your friends and family - relationships are what really count in life. Remember, I love you all.

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## Christmas Family Treasures

### Spiced Nuts

1 egg white  
 1 T. water  
 3 c. macadamia nuts, pecans,  
 almonds or walnuts, your choice  
 or a mixture  
 1/4 c. sugar  
 1/2 t. salt  
 1 t. ground cinnamon  
 1/4 t. ground cloves  
 1/4 t. ground nutmeg

Beat egg whites and water til foamy, stir in the nuts, coating well. Combine sugar and remaining ingredients, sprinkle over the nuts, stir til evenly coated. Spread the coated nuts on a lightly buttered jellyroll pan or cookie sheet, bake at 300 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes.

### Cornets

2 egg whites  
 1/2 c. sugar  
 1/3 c. sifted flour

3 T. butter, melted and cooled

Preheat your oven to 400 degrees. Beat the egg whites til stiff, sprinkle the sugar over them and fold over gently. Fold in the flour and the butter in the same way. Butter and flour a baking sheet, then heat it up in your pre-heated oven. Drop the batter onto the hot pan by tablespoons and spread it thinly. Bake for about 3 minutes, and the wafers are gently golden - don't burn! Quickly take the wafers from the sheet with a spatula, and while still warm, roll them into cones. If they cool too quickly and become brittle, return them to the oven briefly. Place cones on a cooling rack.

### Potato Kugel

2 lbs. (6 medium) potatoes  
 2 eggs  
 1/2 t. baking powder  
 4 T. chicken fat  
 Salt and pepper to taste  
 Grate potatoes on a me-

dium size grater into a bowl of cold water. Wash the potatoes thoroughly until snowy white, drain in a fine mesh strainer. Squeeze out the remaining water. Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Combine your potatoes with all remaining ingredients and mix thoroughly. Put the mixture in a muffin tin (with a capacity of 8 - 2 1/2 inch muffins) greased with shortening. Bake til golden brown for about 45 minutes - make sure a toothpick stuck in a muffin comes out clean.

### Savory Chicken Nuggets

3/4 c. butter, melted  
 1/4 c. spicy brown mustard  
 4 boneless, skinless chicken  
 breasts - cut into bite-sized pieces  
 1 c. saltine crackers crumbs  
 1/4 c. spicy brown mustard  
 2 T. dry sherry  
 1 T. soy sauce  
 1/2 t. garlic powder

Combine the 1/4 cup of butter with 1/4 cup of the mustard. Dip the chicken pieces into this mixture and dredge in the cracker crumbs. Place the chicken in a 13 x 9 inch pan - drizzle with 1/4 cup of the butter. Bake at 375 degrees for 20-25 minutes and golden brown. Remove from oven, drain on paper towels. Combine the remaining 1/4 cup butter and 1/4 cup mustard with remaining ingredients, mix well. Serve with the hot chicken pieces.

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## Nutty Christmas Creams

½ c. butter, softened  
 1 - 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk  
 1 T. vanilla extract  
 2 16-oz. packages powdered sugar, sifted  
 4 c. chopped pecans  
 1 lb. (about 2 cups) mixed candied fruit

Combine the butter, milk and vanilla in a large mixing bowl, beat at medium speed with an electric mixer til blended. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating well after each addition. Stir in the pecans and candied fruit. Spoon into a buttered 13 x 9 inch baking pan. Cover and chill overnight, cut into squares. Store in refrigerator.

## After-Dinner Spiced Coffee

¼ c. white creme de cacao  
 ¼ c. amaretto  
 ¼ c. light rum  
 ¼ c. whipping cream  
 1 ½ t. powdered sugar  
 3 c. strong hot coffee, sweetened to taste

Ground Cinnamon

Combine first three ingredients, set aside. Beat whipping cream til foamy, add sugar and beat til soft peaks form. Pour 3 tablespoons of the liqueur mixture

into each of 4 mugs. Add ¾ cup coffee to each mug. Top with whipped cream and sprinkle with cinnamon.

## German Bread Pudding

8 oz. pumpernickel bread  
 1 - 1 ½ c. rum  
 3 c. heavy cream  
 1 c. sugar  
 1 t. vanilla extract  
 8 oz. semisweet chocolate, grated  
 ½ c. strawberry jam

Spread bread slices on a baking sheet and dry in a 325-degree oven - bread should be very dry. Pour rum over the dried bread slices and, with a fork, break your bread into small pieces. Whip the cream, adding the sugar and vanilla gradually til stiff. In a deep serving dish, spread a layer of whipped cream, then grated chocolate. Top with a layer of the bread mixture and dot with strawberry jam. Continue the layers til all ingredients are used. Refrigerate overnight or at least 8 hours before serving.

Serve with a dollop of whipped cream.

A woman is like a teabag - you don't know how strong she is until you put her in hot water.

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# The Legend of the Christmas Tree

There is a legend that comes down to us from the early days of Christianity in England. One of those helping to spread Christianity among the Druids was a monk named Wilford.

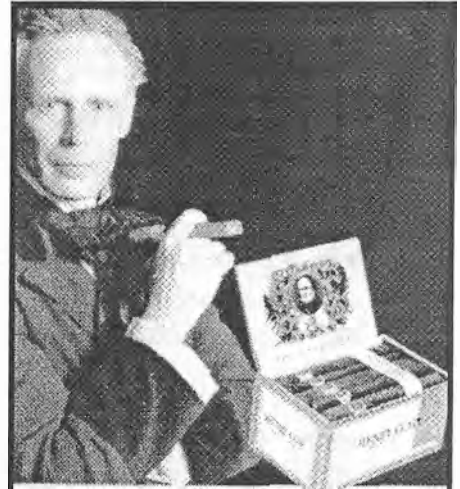
One day, surrounded by a group of his converts, he struck down a huge oak tree, which, in the Druid religion, was an object of worship. As it fell to earth, the oak tree split into four pieces and from its center sprung up a fir tree. Wilford turned to the Druids and said, "This little tree shall be your Holy Tree tonight. It is wood of peace, for your houses are built of fir. It's the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. See how it points toward the heavens? Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it, not in the wilderness, but in your

homes. There it will be surrounded with loving gifts and rites of kindness."

The modern Christmas tree as we know it dates back to 16th century Germany. The decorations used at that time consisted of various colors of paper roses, apples, wafers, gilt and sugar. In Protestant countries, Luther is credited as having been the first to place lighted candles on a tree in order to simulate the sight he had seen while traveling home one winter's night as the moonlight shimmered on the snow-covered trees. In many German homes today, real candles are still used on the Christmas trees.

The tree was first introduced into England in 1841 by German Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria.

The record of the first tree in the U.S.A., still undisputed, was that of German immigrants in Pennsylvania who first put up one on December 20, 1821.



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# Welcome Back! Mollie Teal's 'in the Alley'

Legend has it that one of Huntsville's most famous and colorful Madams – Miss Mollie Teal – once requested as a stipulation to the City of Huntsville, that if they decided to make a hospital of her house, which she was to donate to the city, a sign would be hung over the front door reading 'WELCOME BACK'. And while no one knows for sure if this sign was ever displayed as requested, such a sign is proudly displayed in the beautiful downtown district where the all new Mollie Teal's 'in the Alley' is located.

Mollie Teal's 'in the Alley' is now open and has instantaneously become recognized as Huntsville 'best kept secret' not to mention its regular clientele promoting its unique metropolitan 'Alley' appearance and distinguished cozy interior as the quintessential pub.

While Mollie Teal's 'in the Alley' has long been known as a traditional 'Meet & Greet' venue, that much has not changed. However, with upgrades come new props and Mollie Teal's certainly has that covered. Included in the new venue are such things as a 24 foot ceiling, antique hand rail surrounding their second story balcony, the city's largest Import Draft selection, the city's largest showcase of publicly displayed 'OLD HUNTSVILLE' photographs, nightly promotions such as 'BOSS Bartending' and best of all... a flair for unique entertainment such as 'Mollie's Ivory Cats' Dueling Piano show – *Two Guys, Two Pianos, TWO THE EXTREME!*



**Once you could only see this type of entertainment in Las Vegas, Memphis, Chicago, Miami, and New York, but now Miss Mollie has reached deep into her pocketbook and brought them downtown for your viewing pleasure. Show Times: Every Thursday and Friday at 9pm.**

Mollie Teal's will also be hosting live entertainment at 116 Washington Street (downtown) on Fridays and Saturdays through the Fall and Winter. The 116 Washington venue will soon be bringing to Huntsville national comedy acts as well as regional and national bands.

Mollie Teal's 'in the Alley' is located in the alleyway directly behind the Jazz Factory. Just look for the 2-story 'RED' building (simply a coincidence) at the end of the deep green awning and you will have found the best kept secret in the city! For more information, please contact us at 256-512-5858.

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# Early History Of Huntsville

## "The Constitutional Convention"

by Brig. Gen. E. C. Betts

During these years the population of the entire territory had grown apace, and in 1819 there were within the limits of the Alabama Territory sufficient numbers to warrant the admission of Alabama into the Union. Accordingly the formalities attending the genesis of a new State being attended to, Congress, on March 2, 1819, passed an act authorizing the people of the Alabama Territory to hold a convention at Huntsville for the purpose of drafting a State Constitution. Pursuant to this act, an election was held throughout the Territory of Alabama, on the first Monday and Tuesday in May of that year, for the purpose of choosing delegates to this Convention, to be held on the first Monday in July following. Representation in this assembly was apportioned by the act, according to population—Madison having eight delegates, twice as many as the next highest county, Monroe, which had four; there were forty-four in all from the twenty-two counties then forming the State.

Agreeable to what had been done, the Convention assembled at Huntsville on the first Monday

in July, with John W. Walker, of Madison, presiding. Madison's other delegates were Clement Comer Clay, J. L. Townes, Henry Chambers, Lemuel Mead, Henry Minor, Gabriel Moore, and J. M. Taylor. Judging from the record of success, in public life, achieved by Madison's representatives in this historic assembly, she must have occupied an enviable and exalted position of leadership in the councils of that body. Upon the floor of that house she was undeniably the peer of all comers, with such men as Chambers and Clay accredited to her.

The meetings were held in an assembly hall, now long since removed, which occupied the northwest corner at the intersection of Franklin and Gates streets; the spot being now marked by a handsome bronze tablet erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. Later, after its admission to the Union, the first session of the Legislature of the State of Alabama was held in that same building.

The business of the Convention having been transacted in due course, Alabama was admitted into the sisterhood of states. On

the second day of August, 1819, a proclamation, accepting on behalf of the people of Alabama, the obligation of statehood, was promulgated by J. W. Walker, as president of the Convention.

Alabama being now a State, public attention turned to the se-

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lection of officers to administer the three separate branches of government. This was becomingly done with all due haste.

The executive office was first occupied by William Bibb, who had defeated Marmaduke Williams, by one thousand majority. The total vote polled for both candidates for governor being fifteen thousand. Governor Bibb was inaugurated at Huntsville, on November 9th, 1819. Huntsville was then the temporary capital of the State. Later, the seat of government was removed to Cahaba, on account of its more central geographic position. Madison county was represented in the first State Legislature by Sam Walker Gabriel Moore, E. Moody, James G. Birney, G. Lampkin, Sam Chapman, J. L. Townes, F Weeden, and I. Wilborn. Under the first State Constitution, cities and towns were entitled to separate representation in the general assembly.

While the Legislature was in session at Huntsville, a bill was passed, incorporating Triana, on the 13th day of November 1819. Later, on December 20th of that year, this act was amended by providing for the election of a president of the board of trustees, the governing body consisting of five members. Shortly after the incorporation of Triana, the trustees proceeded to lay off the town into streets, blocks, and lots. At this time, the plan to render the Tennessee river navigable for large steamers was considered by Huntsvillians to be an assured

success; thus making possible the realization of their most cherished dream, that, Triana should become the largest shipping point and cotton center in the entire State. This confidence in the future of Triana, as a commercial center was likewise shared by many investors of wealth and influence from all parts of the State. The profits accruing to the corporation from the sale of town lots, most of which were purchased by inhabitants of Huntsville and environs, aggregated \$90,000.00. With speed, commensurate with the magnitude of the task, the trustees set about making ready for the reign of prosperity of Triana was certain to enjoy in the immediate future, as they believed. Public buildings were erected, and large sums were expended in other municipal improvements. But, alas for Triana. The march of progress had no consideration for, and gave no heed to the plans and aspirations of her people. With the coming of railroads, a new factor in the world of commercial activities arose, revolutionizing the age-old methods of transportation. Triana was subjected to the inexorable fate of ultimate extinction.

With the designation of Huntsville, by Congress, as a meeting place for the Constitutional Convention, came recognition of its leadership in all matters pertaining to the commercial, governmental and political life of the Ala-

bama Territory. Tribute to this supremacy was paid by no less a personage than the nation's chief executive, President Monroe, who visited the town in company with two cabinet officers on Tuesday, June 1st, 1819. Flurry and excitement greeted the presidential party as it rode into the town on horseback, unannounced. Later, Clement Comer Clay at the head of a delegation of distinguished citizens called upon the president at his inn, and extended formal welcome to the town. The next day, Col. Tobey Jones entertained the presidential party with an elaborate banquet, at which were present one hundred of Huntsville's most prominent citizens. This memorable dinner was

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served in the assembly hall of the old frame building which stood till about twelve years ago, upon the southwest corner at the intersection of Franklin and Gates streets. It was in this same building that William Bibb was inaugurated as first governor of the State of Alabama, on November 9, 1819.

So great were the commercial activities of the community during this period, that money became very scarce, and promissory notes secured by droves of slaves, were to a great extent substituted therefor as a medium of exchange. This situation seems to have been acute and so fundamental, that "quo warranto" proceedings were instituted against the Planters' and Merchants' Bank, at Huntsville. Later, the directors of the bank, having given pledges by bond for the ultimate security of its business, the Legislature, by act of December 24th, 1822, suspended the quo warranto proceedings pending the resumption of specie payment by the bank not later than the 10th day of November, 1823. It was further provided that the charter of the bank should become void, if all payments were not made in specie on and after January 21st, 1824. 11

The author, after a diligent search of the records of those times, has been unable to find mention of the dissolution of the bank, as contemplated by that act of the Legislature. Hence the inference is indulged that the pres-

sure of the times was relieved, and that this condition of the bank's affairs was adjusted in due course.

Madison county now had within its confines three incorporated towns. In addition to Huntsville and Triana, Hazel Green had been granted a charter by the Legislature on the 15th day of June, 1821, providing a government by a board of trustees. The first election of trustees was held on the first Saturday in August of that same year, at which all white male citizens over the age of twenty-one years residing within the limits of the town were permitted to vote. The town limits were as follows: "Beginning at a marked line on the Meridian road, near Robert Irwin's store and running north one-half mile so as to include all the space contained in one-fourth of a mile east and west of said road."

The growth and development of Huntsville was unmistakably well rounded and proportioned. Every phase of municipal life had received its due consideration. Proper provision was made to stabilize and render permanent all those institutions contributing to the safety and well being of the inhabitants. It would appear, however, that in doing so the Legislature was called upon to work over time.

By act of December 10, 1822, Preston Yeatman and forty-eight others, members of the "Huntsville Fire Engine Company," were

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# A Fortunate Romance

Taken from Huntsville Democrat, 1896

Steve Ryan has been long regarded as a typical bachelor, viveur and man-about-town so when the notice of his upcoming nuptials were announced there was nothing short of a thunder clap to most of his friends. His reputation as an incorrigible practical joker had something to do with this prevalent skepticism, and the announcement was generally received with a vague smile and the certainty that there was "a catch about it somewhere."

The bride of the occasion, nee Miss Edith Askam, is a comely, though quite unfortunate brunette

who has already at her young age outlived two husbands. She is the daughter of Henry F. Askam, a well-known specialist who has been located for the last three or four years at No. 208 Washington.

Askam came to Huntsville from Cleveland and is reputed to have built up a large and lucrative practice. He makes a specialty of therapeutics. Some time ago, Dr. Askam purchased a pretty piece of property out on Washington Street near Love (propitious name) and it was there he made the acquaintance of Ryan.

A short introduction, a shorter romance, and Askam is once again a father-in-law. There were a number of handsome wedding presents sent in quietly by friends and not displayed, and this paper is informed on very good authority that a check for \$25,000 was among the gifts.

Young Ryan is said to be well

satisfied at the present state of affairs.

## How to Cure Your Egg-sucking Dog

from 1840 paper

Take from 4 to 6 grains of tartar emetic, according to the age and strength of your dog. Break the end of the egg, put in the tartar and mix it. If your dog is disposed to suck eggs, he will readily eat it. Confine him from cold water.

The next day repeat the dose, and continue to do so until he refuses the egg which will probably be on the third or fourth day. After this I have never known them to ever again be guilty of this offense. Instead of being the destroyer of our good wives' poultry, the same dog becomes their faithful protector.

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# News From New Market

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

by Waylon Smithey

Volume 1, No. 13, September 15, 1888

Mr. W.F. Laxson states that lightning struck in his popcorn patch and popped every grain of it.

Two letters-to-the-editor were published.

- "In your issue of August 25, I found a communication from an old bachelor who wants a wife. Now, I present myself as a candidate. I am 45 years of age - a little younger than the old bachelor, of medium height, blue eyes and red hair, good form, do not wear ei-

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ther a bustle or corset, can sing and play on piano or organ, good cook, ironer and washer, am a maiden lady and belong to the Baptist church. Would like to exchange photographs. Inquire of THE ENTERPRISE for Jerusha.

- "The American of Nashville publishes several articles on the yellow wood, or chittim, and appears to believe that it only grows near Nashville. Now, we of New Market are satisfied from actual contact that the chittim grows in the forests near this village, in great abundance, and in the mountains adjacent among the rocks it attains a large size, and many are used for fence posts. We sent to Commissioner Kolb a slab for exhibition. Its growth is similar to the Tupelo gum, having a very large trunk some eighteen or twenty inches from the ground

and twelve or thirteen inches in diameter, from which it becomes smaller, about five or six inches in diameter. It is a very heavy wood, of close texture, and, like

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bird's eye maple, yellow in color, and a beautiful grain, susceptible of a high polish. It would afford a fine veneering. During and before the war it was used as a dye, similar to 'fustic.' With some mordants it dyed crimson. I am now preparing a slab to send to the American as a sample of the forests of Madison County, Ala., not allowing Nashville to claim all the honor of its discovery. G.D.N."

"The first bale of cotton ever shipped from Huntsville over the Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad went through New Market on its way to Cincinnati."

"The bale was raised by a colored man a few miles from Huntsville. It weighed 485 pounds and was purchased by Messrs. J. Weil & Bro., at 8-3/4 cents a pound."

These Personals ran on Page 7:

"Mrs. George Sharp brought 500 pounds of sun-dried peaches to town Wednesday. She has dried 1,000 pounds this season, all hand-cut and sun-dried."

"If you want a knobby suit of clothes, and something that will fit you, go to J.B. Andrews, at the depot, and let him take your measure. Satisfaction guaranteed in every instance."

**"Reason to smile: Every 7 minutes of every day, someone in an aerobics class pulls a hamstring."**

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"A Mr. Burk, of Purdy, Tenn., a handless man, spent last Sunday here. He was not directly asking aid to assist him in acquiring an education, but those that knew his condition contributed."

"Gus Lochridge, of Winchester, Tenn., was here Monday,

looking as happy as a big sunflower."

"Mr. Francis Wells carried two barrels of honey to Huntsville this week. If we are not the best people in the world, we can sweeten our neighboring city."

The editor wrote this piece on Page 1:

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"Most of us poor mortals, bound in the routine of daily toil, are often tempted to complain that we can't get anywhere to see anything. Let us enjoy our surroundings. An hour before sunset some pleasant evening, take a pedestrian excursion to some neighboring hill-top, and the undiscovered country, the extension of the horizon, will afford an inspiring view, especially at this season of the year. Really, one-third of the people of New Market, if they could be prevailed upon to clamber to the top of some of our surrounding hills some pretty evening, would see more novel and attractive sights than a trip to Huntsville would afford."

Following is the next installment of the History of New Market column:

"Thomas Miller served in the House of Representatives in 1823 and 1824, and in the Senate in 1825, 1826 and 1827. Nature seemed to have marked him as a favorite. He was tall and well proportioned, with a head and face which the ablest artists would pronounce a master-piece. His mental powers were equal to his physical. He was not a lawyer, yet he was always ready in thought and language, exhibiting a vigor of mind and a degree of culture that did him great credit. He was a life-long Democrat. He died when about 70 years of age, leaving a bright record behind him. He was one of the best neighbors. If a near

resident became sick he invariably attended to his wants, and if needed sent his horses, hands and plows and hoes and worked out the crop in a day. His wife, Mrs. Anna Miller, was a famous housewife and was a good physician in ordinary cases. She always carried a thumb-lancet and used it frequently, as was the custom in early days (alas, too much neglected now. She bled the writer on one occasion, to this great relief, taken sick at her gate and falling off his horse.

"Next in service was George T. Jones, who was a member of the House in 1833, 1835 and 1841, of whom Garrett, in his 'Reminiscences of Alabama,' says: 'He was a man far in advance of the largest number of his fellow members, and with a firmness that could not be shaken. If not a Roman, he was a descendant of one.'

Parham N. Booker was a member of the House in 1836 and 1837. He was an educated and intelligent planter, frequently shared in debate, and took an active part in the business of legislation. He long enjoyed the society and companionship in the higher walks of life. He removed to Perry County, Ala.,

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John Bzdell

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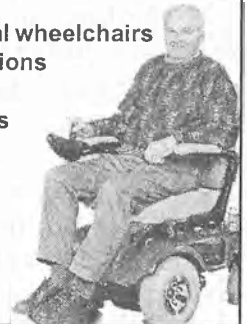
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# An Angel In Heaven

by Malcolm Miller

My Mother and Father had seven sons, Robert, Joe, James C., Louis, Paul, Frank, and last of all me, Malcolm Wayne. If you can imagine a family of seven boys, so busy all the time. My Mother had her hands more than full, however, and no doubt she was always praying for a little girl.

When I was around eight years old Robert married Boots, a vivacious young lady, and they had a little girl. She was the first girl in our family for a long time. They lived very close to where we lived so I visited often and fell in love with the little one just as everyone in the family fell in love with her.

When I came home from

school one day my Mother told me that I needed to visit little Barbara June if I were to see her one more time alive. I did not understand that. Until this time I had no experience with life and death or with heaven. They told me she would be going to heaven.

Because of where we lived at the time, way back on the river off a dirt road when it was rainy weather the road to our house was impassible by automobiles. It was during one of these rainy, muddy times that Barbara June became very ill.

The only Doctor in the neighborhood was Dr. Frank Jordan and it was hard to get him out even in fair weather, but they told him that they would have the two horse wagon waiting for him at the end of the road.

By the time he finally got there, Barbara June had died. I remember some one went to town and brought back a tiny baby casket

and they placed it in my Aunt Lucy Currier's car and they took Barbara June to the Shiloh Cemetery for her final resting place.

Years later vandals stole her small head stone and my nephew, Berns Miller, found it in a field. He told Robert about it and Robert took a wheelbarrow and hauled the stone back to the Shiloh Cemetery and placed it where I hope it will remain till the end of time.

I know that if this happened today Barbara June would still be alive. We were living in an era where many people died because they could not get proper medical care. I will always remember Barbara June. She was the first tiny baby in my life, and also the first angel that I knew who is now in heaven.



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Romaine Hearts with Lemon Caesar Dressing & Garlic Croutons - \$4

Spinach Salad with Warm Apple Smoked Bacon Vinaigrette - \$5

Soup of the Day - \$5

### Starters

#### Crawfish Cakes

Sautéed & Served with a Spicy Remoulade - \$9

#### Beef Tar-tar

Sweet & Spicy with Arugula Greens & Red Onion Relish - \$11

#### Cheese Plate

Assorted Cheeses with Fresh Fruit and Water Crackers - \$9

#### Big Bowl of Mussels

Steamed with Garlic, Tomatoes, White Wine & Fresh Basil - \$10

#### Classic Baked Escargot

In Garlic, White Wine & Butter - \$8

#### Shiitake Mushrooms

#### & Savory Crepe

Sautéed with Goat Cheese & Served with Roasted Red Pepper Coulis - \$8

#### Fresh Mozzarella & Roasted Cherry Tomato Sauce -

Hand Breaded, Pan Fried - \$8

#### Blackened Sashimi Tuna

Served with Jicama Slaw, Pickled Ginger, Wasabi & Soy - \$12

#### Shrimp & Cheddar Grits

Sautéed with Chorizo Sausage in a Spicy Shrimp Gravy - \$10

### Entrees

#### Atlantic Salmon with Toasted Cumin Seed

Pan Seared with Saffron-lemon Sauce, Herb Basmati Rice & Sweet Green Peas - \$21

#### Angus Beef Tenderloin Filet

Wood-Fired & Served with Blue Cheese Butter, Asparagus & Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes - \$26

#### Bouillabaisse

Fresh Fish & Shellfish in a Fennel & Tomato Shrimp Broth with New Potatoes & Chorizo Sausage - \$22

#### Grilled Yellow Fin Tuna

Over Linguini Pasta tossed with Spinach & Sun-dried Tomato Puttanesca - \$26

#### Wild Game Mixed Grill

Wood-Fired Venison Leg, Australian Lamb Chop, & Wild-Boar Sausage with Cranberry Demi Glace. Served with Butternut Squash Risotto & Broccoli - \$28

#### Penne Pasta with Angus Beef Tips

Wood-fired with Sautéed Mushrooms & Red Onions in a Red Wine Demi with Sour Cream - \$23

#### Grilled Pork Chop

Wood-fired with Brandied Apple Chutney, Herb Wild Rice and Green Beans - \$21

#### Angus Ribeye Steak

Wood-fired with Hunter Sauce, Rosemary New Potatoes & Brussels Sprouts with Bacon - \$24

#### Maple-Leaf Duck Breast & Honey-Orange Glaze

Pan Roasted & Served with Curried Fingerling Potatoes & Snow Peas - \$25

#### Garlic-Clove Chicken Breast

Free-Range Chicken with Roasted Garlic Sauce, Scallop Potatoes and Buttered Zucchini Planks - \$21

#### Mahi-Mahi in a Potato Crust

Sautéed with Lemon Butter Sauce, Rosemary New Potatoes, Haricot Vert & Julienne Carrots - \$24

#### Jumbo Shrimp & Sea Scallops

Sautéed in Butter, Served with Tasso Ham & Peas, Orecchiette Pasta in a Basil Cream Sauce - \$30

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# Huntsville's Pioneer Newswomen

by Stefanie Troup

In 1885, John Withers Clay was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage and forced to leave his publishing duties at the Huntsville newspaper he purchased in 1856, the *Democrat*. In his absence, his two daughters, Virginia and Susie Clay, took over the responsibility of publishing the paper.

At the time it was very unusual for women to work in the journalism field, and the work was hard. The sisters were responsible for gathering materials, writing all the articles and editorials, and setting the type before they could print the paper. Then there were the daily office chores to be done. The sisters had to split and carry the firewood uptown to make the office fire, clean the office, and carry water from the public hydrant on the square.

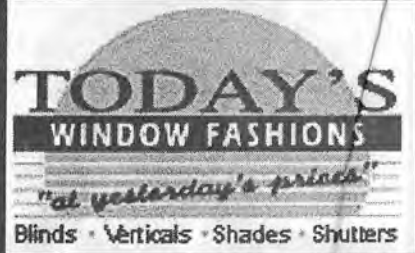
As single women, they did not have the standing in the community that married women did. The paper allowed them a voice to speak out about a variety of issues that other women in their position would not have had the opportunity to do.

The Clay sisters saw the newspaper as the moral conscience for Huntsville. They felt that they were in a unique position to be able to comment on and write what was on other people's minds in the community. Years earlier John Clay had chosen the motto for the newspaper, "The people must be heard, and their rights vindicated." His daughters carried on this theme when they took over publishing duties.

The sisters had strong opin-

ions and had the courage to voice them through their editorials. Some common issues that attracted their moral indignation were the practice of cock fighting

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and the lack of a public library in Huntsville. They wrote, "We have heard nothing in regard to the proper officers of the law arresting cockfighters and bringing them to justice. Do they lack moral courage to enforce the laws of our state, or are they guilty themselves?" and, "Huntsville needs a public library. Let someone start the ball rolling." The women also admonished city fathers who were trying to abolish music education from the city schools. They argued that is where children learned to sing patriotic songs of their country.

If the city leaders were neglectful in their duties, the publishers of the *Democrat* were quick to point it out. Comments such as "We have heard nothing recently about a bridge being built across the creek on Clinton Street," and, "The condition of the cemetery is a disgrace, not a path decent for a lady to walk on, it's so filled with weeds," were common.

As the years went on, the women expanded the paper to include more worldly news. The front page contained articles related to world, national and state politics. The inside pages were reserved for local news and any subject that caught the interest of Virginia and Susie. The sisters often contributed personal recipes and poems as well. Other competing papers at the time might have sold more copies and been more up to date, but the *Democrat* contained any and all local news important to the community.

On the inside pages, the births, weddings and deaths in Huntsville were announced under a heading called "In The Garden of Life." These pages also included updates about the Clay family's happenings. The sisters might have included news about visitors

they had entertained at their home, trips they had taken, and personal family anecdotes. The ladies decided what other social items in the community were worth reporting and included those as well.

One memorable series of stories published in the *Democrat* was called "Old Mahogany Table Tales." These were family stories related in a very chatty, homey manner, as if a family was sitting around a table re-counting their passed down family stories. These tales came not only from the Clay family but other prominent Huntsville families of the day as well.

The sisters' opinions evolved with the times, as did the paper's content. For instance Virginia and Susie were at one time strongly opposed to women gaining the right to vote. However, they changed their opinion on that matter influenced by their aunt, Virginia Clay-Clopton and socialite Elielee Humes. Through the power of the newspaper the Clay sisters were able to add their voices to the growing number of those speaking out to support

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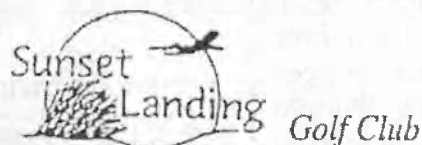
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## WANTED

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women's suffrage. They also had the courage to print about their admiration for a progressive local author, Norah Davis, whose books offended many old-time Huntsvillians.

Virginia Clay died in 1911 at the age of 49 after a prolonged illness. In her obituary in the *Democrat* it was said that she possessed "vitality, energy, indomitable will to do, devotion to family and friends, always faced the sunshine and left the shadows behind" and that her "mental and physical labors were those of a man." After her sister's death, Susie continued to publish the newspaper alone until 1919 when it was sold.

By the end of their careers, the sisters had gained confidence and prominence and had affiliated themselves with the Alabama Press Association and the National Editorial Association. Through their hard work and example, they paved the way for other women to follow them into the journalism profession.

## A Doctor With Good Rates

The first doctor to ever advertise his services in Huntsville was Dr. William Turner, who moved here from Knoxville, Tennessee.

In 1825 his rates, as advertised, were:

Riding, per mile - 25 cents each way plus one dollar per visit

- Bloodletting - 50 cents
- Pull Tooth - 50 cents
- Cancer - 10 to 20 dollars
- Consumption - 100 dollars
- Syphilis - 20 dollars
- Rheumatism - 50 dollars

His ad also contained the guarantee: "No cure, No pay."

## Old Huntsville Trivia

**1808**

First whiskey distillery opens in Huntsville, located next to the Big Spring, and its products are sold by the barrel.

**1809**

Land containing the Big Spring is sold to Leroy Pope for \$23.50 per acre.

**1820**

The first tin can is sold in Huntsville. L.B. Williams reports throngs of people in his store to see the novelty of "Food in a tin can."

**1835**

The courthouse is sold at auction for \$419.00. Jesse Scott was the auctioneer and James Fant, a surveyor, was paid \$5 to find the exact center of the square.

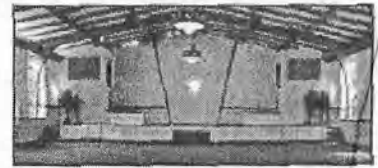
**1867**

Huntsville is under Yankee occupation. Military headquarters are set up at the Calhoun House, and the Calhoun property on the East side of the square was used as a stable for Union horses.

**1873**

Much joy in Huntsville's police department. City officials agreed to furnish uniforms for Huntsville's Policemen.

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# A Village of Presidents

In the early 1800's, the Tennessee Valley was beginning to see the establishment of villages and towns, complete with merchants and tradesmen to cater to the needs of the populace. Limestone County, Alabama was no exception. In November of 1818 two towns were incorporated in Limestone County. One of these towns was Athens, the present county seat. The other, incorporated three days before Athens, was the village of Mooresville.

Mooresville was home to an excellent tailor by the name of Sloss. Mr. Sloss was extremely adept at cutting the "Prince Albert" style frock suit for gentlemen. One day in the early 1830's, a young tailor's apprentice named Andrew called at the shop for Mr. Sloss. Andrew had come with the purpose of learning the art of cutting this stylish garment. He was a good student and even managed to sell some of the suits he made in the village. In a few weeks he had mastered the desired skill and was gone. This incident would not be worth mention except for some notoriety this young man received before arriving in

Mooresville, and some he would receive later in his life.

Andrew, originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, ran away from his home for fear of being arrested after throwing rocks at a neighbor's house. He fled through South Carolina, and in 1826, came to Greenville, Tennessee, a town he would call home for the remainder of his life. In Greenville he worked in a tailor shop, eventually opening a shop of his own. Shortly thereafter, he sought Mr. Sloss in Mooresville.

A few days after Andrew left North Carolina, the following article against harboring or employing said apprentices, on pain of being prosecuted was published by James J Selby.

## TEN DOLLAR REWARD

"Ran away from the subscriber, on the night of the 15th instant, 2 apprentice boys, legally bound named William and Andrew Johnson. The former is of a dark complexion, black hair, eyes and habits. They are much of a height, about 5 feet, 4 or 5 inches. The latter is very fleshy, freckled faced, light hair and fair complexion. They went with two other apprentices,

addressed by Messers Wm. and Charles Fowler. When they went away, they were well clad in blue pants, light colored homespun coats, and new hats, the maker's name in the crown of the hats is Theodore Clark. I will pay the above reward (\$10) to any person who will give the above reward to Andrew Johnson alone. All persons are cautioned against harboring or employing said apprentices,

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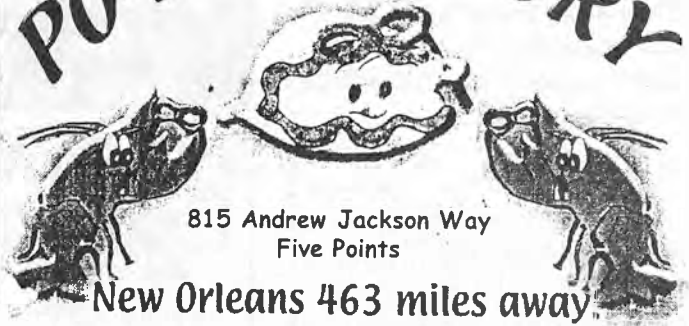
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on pain of being prosecuted. James J. Selby”

Perhaps Mr. Selby would have upped the ante had he known that one of those rock-throwing black-habited escapees for whom he was advertising was to become the seventeenth President of the United States.

For a village the size of Mooresville to be able to boast a future President as a resident, even for a short period of time, is a source of pride. But Andrew Johnson's leave-taking did not mark the end of this extraordinary burg's flirtation with future presidents.

Approximately thirty years after Andrew Johnson received the tutelage of Mr. Sloss, Abraham Lincoln was President, Andrew Johnson, Vice-President, and the nation was embroiled in civil war. Following the fall of Nashville, North Alabama was occupied by Union forces. In the summer of 1863, the 42nd Ohio Volunteers were camped at Bibb's Spring, a short distance behind the Bibb residence at Mooresville. One of the officers of the regiment was James A. Garfield.

Garfield, a native of frontier Ohio, was reared by his mother and older brother after the death of his father. Though young James had to work to help the family, his mother and brother provided for him a good education. He attended Geauga Seminary in Ohio, and worked his way through Williams College, graduating with honors. After graduation, Garfield returned to his home in Hiram, Ohio where he obtained a post as a school teacher. In addition to his duties as teacher, he sometimes preached at the local church and made political speeches. When war came, he received commision in the U.S.

Army and served his country with distinction.

Some of the villagers of Mooresville learned of Garfield's presence and invited him to preach at the Christian Church. General Garfield, in writing to his wife, mentioned the invitation. "There is a church in the village of Mooresville near by and they have sent up inviting me to speak to them on Sunday. If I am not too unwell I have a notion to speak to them." Apparently the General was not "too unwell" because he delivered several sermons in the Mooresville Church.

General Garfield left Mooresville with his unit to fight at Chicamauga. Following the

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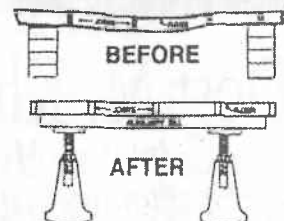
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battle, the General resigned his commission to enter Congress. In 1880, Mr. Garfield was elected the twentieth President of the United States.

The building in which Mr. Garfield delivered his sermons is now owned by the town of Mooresville.

## Times Were Different Back Then

In 1826 the citizens of Huntsville were shocked to wake up early one fall morning with the news that there had just been a mass escape from the city jail.

Six prisoners, some of whom were listed as being "very dangerous to the peace of the community", had broken out of the jail the night previous.

Within days, after a hearty pursuit by John P. Neal, Sheriff of Madison County, the prisoners were captured and lodged once again in the jail.

Huntsville's citizens, outraged at the bold escape, demanded the District Attorney, James G. Birney, appoint a committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the escape, to prevent a future event from happening and causing a threat to our good city.

Among other things, they recommended that "doors be placed on the jail, the upper floor be enclosed and some type of covering be placed over all the windows."

## Licorice Toothpaste

Want to make your own toothpaste? Take one teaspoon of dried Irish Moss, a cup of water, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon baking soda. Bring the moss to a slow boil and simmer for 15 minutes. Strain the gel through silk cloth into a small container. Mix the salt and soda in, add a few drops of Chlorophyll and 2 drops of oil of licorice. Blend well, and use only a small amount when you brush.

A sign of menopause - you have to write post-it notes with your kids' names on them.

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# News From The Year 1935

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Rogers and Post die in Alaska air crash

**Aug 16.** America was shocked to learn today that its most popular humorist, Will Rogers, and famed aviator Wiley Post, have died in a plane crash. Rogers and Post were touring Alaska, just starting a ten minute hop from an Eskimo village to Point Barrow, when their plane engine died. The craft plummeted into a frozen riverbank, killing both men instantly. An Eskimo ran three hours to Barrow to bring the news.

Earlier in the day, fog had forced Rogers and Post to lay low in a town outside Anchorage. Some construction workers there spotted them and struck up a con-

versation. One of the workers gave Rogers a fresh batch of cookies. "They're good," said Rogers, reboarding the plane, "but I'll toss them out if we can't get off the ground."

### Social Security Law Signed

**Aug 14.** President Roosevelt signed into law the Social Security Act today, fulfilling a 1932 campaign promise. In that year, the Democrats pledged: "We advocate unemployment and old-age insurance under state laws." Now, America joins many other

industrial nations in providing comprehensive care for its elderly, handicapped and unemployed. Payroll taxes will fund the legislation which has taken over 14 months to enact; conservatives have fought the bill since FDR proposed it last June. One congressman believes the bill will "threaten the integrity of our institutions." But the majority of congressmen feel it will relieve the burden of many Americans.

**"I know I'm getting much better at golf because I have been hitting fewer spectators."**

Gerald Ford

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## Kingfish says FDR policy is mishmash

**July 25.** In another verbal assault on President Roosevelt, Senator Huey Long of Louisiana announced he would desert the Democratic Party in 1936 if FDR refused to drop his New Deal program.

"I won't hesitate to bolt the Roosevelt New Deal convention," the Kingfish said yesterday, "unless he stops deliberately perverting the course he promised the people to follow."

Long called the President a

"faker" without a "sincere bone in his body." He continued to advocate his "Share the Wealth Plan" as be mixed drinks for members of the press behind the bar of the Hotel New Yorker. (The senator assumed bartending responsibilities, claiming no one in the city knew how to mix a gin fizz.)

Predicting revolution if conditions did not change, Long characterized the New Deal as "a combination of Stalinism and Hitlerism with a dash of Italian Fascism." The Louisiana dictator repudiated notions that his own program reeked of fascism.



## U.S. warns Soviets, Stay out of America

**Aug 25.** The State Department issued a "most emphatic protest" to the Soviet government to cease its interference in "the internal affairs of the United States." A note presented by Ambassador William C. Bullitt to the U.S.S.R. stated that the U.S. "anticipates the most serious consequences" if the infiltration of Communist groups into American organizations is not halted.

Earlier this month, the Communist International announced it intended to infiltrate American labor unions. This prompted leaders of the A. F. L. to plan strategies to fight Communist tactics of "boring from within." It is expected the A.F.L. will deal with Communist propagandists' attempts to influence union decisions at its annual convention in October.

Such interference hinders "the maintenance of friendly relations" between the two nations, according to the text of today's warning. The Soviets have yet to respond, but some say they will refuse to discuss the matter.

## Gates Auto Repair Co., Inc.

Dehaan Gates  
Owner / Manager

In 1939 Huntsville was recovering from the Great Depression. Money was hard to come by and people depended on Gates Auto Repair for honest and dependable service. Over a half century later - they still do.

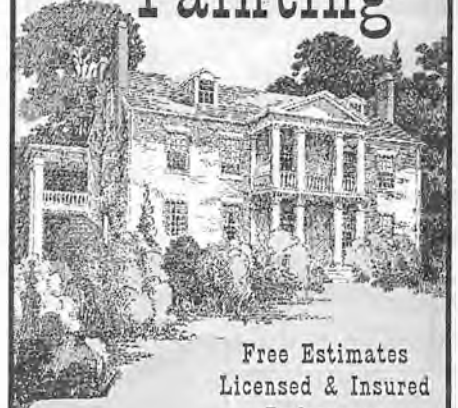


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# Weird News

From Around The Country

- In the city of New York an illegal Pakistani citizen was arrested for attempting to pass counterfeit money. The bills were emblazoned with the logo "There's a sucker born every day."

- In a 1905 divorce case, Judge J. Stover refused to grant a divorce on the grounds that the wife routinely went through her husband's pockets and cleaned him out. The learned judge, long a married man himself, said "Far be it for me to condemn the ancient right of wives to go through their husbands' pockets. A wife has the right to do so."

- In 1906 Germany, militarism was building up. In this "if it moves, salute it" atmosphere, a small, elderly, unshaven man appeared in the town of Copenick.

"I'm very lucky. If it wasn't for golf I don't know what I'd be doing. If my IQ had been two points lower, I'd have been a plant somewhere."

Lee Trevino

He was wearing a baggy captain's uniform and his hat fell down around his ears. The uniform was enough, though, and he took charge of the local troops and led them to city hall where he placed the mayor under arrest, 'confiscated' the town's funds, and marched away. It took two weeks for police to find the man, a shoemaker in a neighboring town who'd rented his uniform from a costume shop. The resulting uproar made him a celebrity and after a brief term in prison, he finished out his days on the vaudeville and music hall stages as "The Little Captain."

- It turns out that recently-deceased actor Iron Eyes Cody (from the anti-litter TV commercial) was actually an Italian from New York. This isn't the first time in history that someone has impersonated a Native American. In the 1930s, "Grey Owl," an Apache scout, toured Europe and America. He successfully raised money for environment causes, particularly towards saving the beaver from extinction. After his death in 1938, it was revealed that Grey Owl was actually Archie Belaney of Hastings, England.

- In Las Vegas, a man was pulled over for speeding just be-

fore dawn. The clearly upset man told the officer that he was a vampire and had to get back to his coffin before daylight. The officer didn't argue but quickly wrote the ticket and sent the man on his way.



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# Tipsy Cake

- 4 egg yolks
- 4 T. sugar
- ½ t. salt
- 2 c. milk, scalded
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- ½ t. almond extract
- 1 - 8 or 9-inch sponge cake sliced into 2 layers



- 1 c. whiskey or apple brandy
- 1 ½ c. almonds, split and toasted

Blend the egg yolks, sugar and salt in the top of a double-boiler. Add the milk, stirring constantly, and cook over simmering water, until mixture coats a spoon and makes a custard. Chill. Flavor with the vanilla and almond extracts. Place one layer of cake onto a serving dish. Pour over it half the whiskey and let it stand til absorbed. Top with half the custard. Cover with second layer of cake, soak with the remaining whiskey, top with remaining custard. Garnish generously with the toasted almonds.

## Stove-Top Christmas Simmering Potpourri

Into a medium-sized sauce-pan add one cup of orange juice and ½ cup water. Add:

- 5 whole cinnamon sticks
- 1 T. whole cloves
- ½ T. whole allspice
- 1 c. tangerine/orange peel pieces
- ½ c. apple pieces with peel

Bring to slow boil, lower heat and simmer uncovered til the wonderful smells fill your room. Add water as necessary to keep mixture from cooking down and scorching.



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# A Call For Volunteers

Written by A. S. Elliot in 1914

John Steele Dickson, citizen, closed his hardware store in Huntsville, and obeying the first call to arms, enlisted as a Lieutenant with the historic Madison Rifles, and under the command of the gallant Captain John G. Coltart. He left Huntsville, and home, bearing the distinction of being among the first troops to leave Madison County for the front.

The enlistment of one year soon expiring, Lieut. Dickson returned to Huntsville with a Captain's commission to raise a company of volunteers to serve three years - or for the duration. This was his second enlistment.

It was the 22nd of March, 1862, and that portion of the Courthouse Square along the sidewalk and fronting Bank Row presented a scene that stirred the hearts of men, women and children gathered from all parts of the county. Varied were the emotions of each one, according to age and temperament at the time.

As a wee small boy the writer of this saw Capt. Dickson in plain citizen's dress, with a small walking cane, walking back and forth along the street from the National Bank corner to the old Huntsville Hotel, calling for volunteers.

"Volunteers for the war," he cried. "Volunteers for the War!"

And thus the company was made up, men stepping forward and falling into line, marching behind one another until the company was sworn in.

Among so many we knew and loved going forth into battle for their beloved State and Southland

were Spotswood, Patterson, McDavid, Elliot, Hudson Brown, aid Newman. There may be others yet living who can supply the full muster roll.

On the 5th of April, 1862, this company left Huntsville, and so close were the Federal army of invasion upon the scene that six days afterwards Gen. Mitchel's command occupied Huntsville, and blue coats took the place of the gray in our midst for the next five long months.

I now return to the subject of our communication. The Southern historians have followed the marches, the privations and the battles of the 35th Alabama through the war from Corinth, Vicksburg, Jackson, Champion Hills, Franklin to North Carolina and Joe Johnston's surrender. Let us keep fresh the memory of the gallant and self sacrificing Dickson, that noble martyr to the Southern cause, for as a Major,

to which position he had won his way, he fell while bravely leading his men in the desperate battle of Franklin, Tenn. on Nov. 30, 1864.

Like another of Huntsville's noble, the immortal Col. Egbert Jones, he sleeps peacefully with many of his comrades in the beautiful Maple Hill Cemetery

Old is when your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.  
- Betty in Hazel Green

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The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville/Golden K got its start in May 1986. Since that time we have never deviated from our primary mission of service to youth in the Huntsville community. Currently, the club consists of 43 members with an average age of 77 and its motto is "Young Children, Priority One." Since the club's founding, its members have volunteered over 70,000 man-hours in various community programs.

For some years the club has been affiliated with *Old Huntsville Magazine* in distributing the magazine throughout the Huntsville and Madison areas. In return for distributing the magazine the club retains all funds derived from its sale for use in many charitable and youth-assisting programs. These programs have been numerous and varied over the years but all with one goal - to make the community a better place to live in.

Fifty cents does not sound like a lot of money, but your quarters have enabled us to disburse over \$150,000.00 to assist youth programs in Huntsville. We know your quarters have made a difference in many children's lives - and for this we thank you. **We want to especially thank the many, many businesses who have allowed us to place boxes and machines at their locations in order to distribute the magazine.**

Next time you pick up a copy of *Old Huntsville*, stop and think for a minute about where your fifty cents is going. A partial list of monies collected from the distribution of the magazine would include:

- \* Huntsville Boy Scout Troop 102, Troop 400 and Cub Pack 400 - \$15,000.00
- \* Huntsville Boys and Girls Club - \$7,500.00    \* College Scholarships - \$32,000.00
- \* Alabama Science Fair - \$6,000.00    \* Children's Miracle Network - \$6,000.00
- \* Head Start Program - \$2,500.00    \* Huntsville Police Ranger Program - \$1,500.00
- \* World Wide Children's Health Program - \$20,000.00    \* Kids On The Block - \$3,500.00
- \* Reading Is Fundamental Program - \$10,000.00    \* Huntsville Opportunity Center - \$1,500.00
- \* American Red Cross - \$9,000.00    \* Huntsville Library - Children's Section - \$9,000.00
- \* Community Projects (varied) - \$14,000.00

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 Chester Huskins - Bill Ivy - John Martin - Hank Miller - James Winning - Sam Zeman  
 Francis Mooney - George Mooney - Archie Murchie - Tom Neeley - Art Ousley - Chuck Owens  
 Wilbur Patterson - Wendal Payne - Roscoe Roberts - Shelsie Ross - Donald Royston - Bill Russell  
 Bill Sevey - Joe Sloan - Walt Terry - Ben Vizzier

# Memories

by Newman E. Ward

My days have been many, but really seem like a few. Some of these I would like to share with you. I have given thanks many times for being born when and where I was. People were so good, friendly, and helpful. Life proceeded at a slower pace, with less tension, less heart trouble, and more knowing and caring who your neighbors were. There was no crime, and everybody helped everybody.

Well, as the fellow said, "I came into this world with nothing, and I still have most of it left." Me too, but I've had fun along the way every chance I got, I wanted to tell you about some of my memories from a long time ago.

I was born in West Huntsville, and practically lived at the Y.M.C.A. I used to go about half way up the block and yell back toward the house, "I'm going to the Y" and then run like the dickens so I couldn't hear a possible call to come back. The Y was the ultimate playground, with tennis, softball, basketball, bowling alleys, checkers, and movies three nights a week. There were usually always some kids there to play with.

Of course, I had chores to do, and going to the grocery store was one. I like to think of the prices back then, around 1925, when for a nickel you could get a loaf of

bread, a stick of butter, coal oil (kerosene), and they would give you a potato to put in the oil can where the cap was usually missing. The potato is worth a lot more than a nickel now.

A big box of wooden matches was also a nickel, and one day I bought a box of matches, stuck them in my back overalls pocket, was skating home and fell. I haven't ever moved as fast since as I did then getting those matches out of my pocket.

Groceries were usually charged, and paid for weekly. When you paid the bill, the clerk would give you a bag of candy of your choice.

The three local groceries would also deliver your daily order, which you could phone in, or if you preferred you could just go by the store and leave a list. You would only order by the contents of the can, such as a can of corn, butter beans, etc., and the store would choose the brand and would deliver to you free.

J.C. Brown's, and Walker's would use a T-model truck, and Chaney's in Lowe Mill would use a horse and wagon, with Sonny Chaney frequently driving. One more price that was a bargain, you could get 10 cents worth of baloney and crackers, or cheese and crackers, which made a pretty good lunch.

If we mentioned 'lunch' in those days, it was usually in regards to a school lunch of peanut butter sandwiches, or maybe an apple, in a time honored lunch box with pictures of some cowboy or movie star. We ate meals of breakfast, dinner, and supper. Lunch was for the kids' school, or for picnics.

The graduates of West Huntsville 8th. grade, went to Joe Bradley High School for the last three grades, and we usually went home

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"A study in the Washington Post says that women have better verbal skills than men. I just want to say to the authors of that study - Duh!"  
 - Conan O'Brien

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to eat, not being too flush with pocket change.

One of our classmates was Louise Gattis, and her father would drive down to take Louise home, and like magic the car would fill up, and three people hanging on and perched on each running board would luck out for a ride home.

Walking to school in the morning, we would be frequently picked up free by the city bus. Before the buses, the city ran street cars to Merrimack, then out East Holmes to 5th Street, to Oakwood, and back, for 5 cents.

I graduated from Joe Bradley in 1933, and married my classmate Bessie Church in 1934. There were 16 in our graduating class, and I don't know if any others are still alive or not. John Riddle was an Air Force Pilot in WWII, and Louise Gattis was a Colonel in the Army's Nurses Division.

Professor Edward Foyl DuBose, was our High School Principal, and was beloved by all. He wrote me a letter, January 3rd. of this year, his last letter to me, and said "I miss Huntsville, and

all our good friends so much." He was 102 years old, and was being cared for by Ann, his daughter and family in Mobile. He died on October 4th of this year. He was a great man, and always seemed so glad to see you, a big smile always on his face, he was certainly one of my best friends.

Every teacher at Bradley was the best. I think that most folks knew of Mrs. J.B. Clopton, our math teacher, who painted pictures on cobwebs. Mrs. John Sparkman, the Senator's wife, was our English teacher. John O. Broadway was another. All the rest, I have such good memories of them, each one a gem.

Our Civics teacher, Mr. Vines, told us in 1932 that our next war would be with Japan - and I remember that we laughed at him.

I lived in Huntsville from 1916 and moved from there in 1948. I worked as a mailman. I currently live in the city of Bethesda, MD., after living in Miami for 53 years. I have thought many times that I would have been better off if I had stayed in Huntsville where I knew most everybody.

The Postmaster had said that I would get a good promotion, but the magic of Miami, and tropical beauty, and the fact that mailmen rode bicycles there lured me away, but I never felt as much at home any where else as I did in Huntsville, Alabama.

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- Oliver Wendell Holmes

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# The Church With The Beer Sign

One of the stories of Old Huntsville that has almost been forgotten is the one about Faith Presbyterian and Cambron's nightclub.

As Huntsville began to grow in the late 50's, so did the need for more church space. A recently formed congregation of the Presbyterian Church had been meeting in members' homes and anywhere else they could find space to worship. As the membership grew, so did the need for a permanent meeting place.

The answer to their dilemma came one Sunday evening when Charley Motley, a member of the congregation, was driving down Whitesburg Drive. Noticing a nightclub by the name of Cambron's, Charley paused and took a long look at it. Due to the Sunday Blue Laws of that time, nightclubs were not permitted to open on Sunday. "What a waste", Charley thought, "All that space not being used on the one day of the week when we could really use it."

It's hard to shock most nightclub operators, but when Mr. and Mrs. Motley walked in the darkened club and asked permission to use it for a church, Mr. Cambron was flabbergasted. "Ruby, come here", he said to his wife, "you gotta hear this."

As Mr. Motley explained their need, Mr. Cambron shook his head and decided, "Why not? If they're willing to help clean the place up on Sunday mornings, it will help me out too."

Over the next several months,

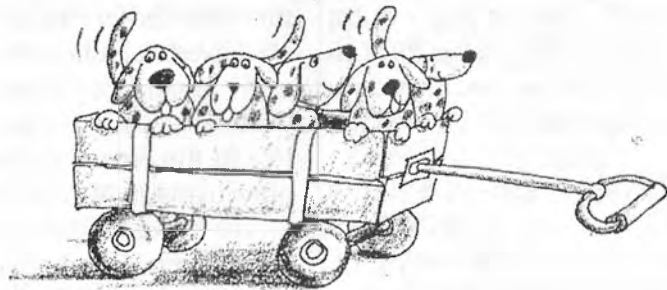
a routine was established by the Faith Presbyterian Church that had to be unique in the annals of church history.

Church members would arrive early on Sunday morning and begin sweeping the floors. One person was assigned to empty ash trays, while others would clean table-tops and carry out trash. One member was even assigned the task of unplugging the juke box and turning off the neon sign that proclaimed Budweiser the "King of Beer."

The membership continued to grow, with Cambron's being the only nightclub in Huntsville with Bibles and textbooks stored in the

back room. One oldtimer tells a story about a man who was in the habit of drinking too much on Saturday nights. After much persuasion, his neighbor finally talked him into going to church one Sunday morning, and as they got out of the car in front of Cambron's, the man paused, as if in reflection. "I've heard that guilty people always return to the scene of the crime," he said, "but isn't this just a little ridiculous?"

When Mr. Cambron offered to sell the property for \$1,000,000, with no money down, the Church quickly accepted the offer, becoming the only Presbyterian Church to ever purchase a nightclub.



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# A Penitentiary Romance

A Story of Innocent Incest

From 1873 newspaper

There is now in the state penitentiary, an aged couple who are serving out a term for the crime of incest, they being brother and sister. The story is this:

At the age of twelve years, the male left his father's house to seek his fortune. He, in time, came West, grew to manhood and married, raised a family of children, and in time he died.

His sister grew to womanhood and was married, and with her husband came West, and then to Iowa. Her husband died, and in time she received an offer of marriage from a man who was a widower. She accepted the offer and they were married.

Her husband was wealthy, and after a time one of his sons wished to have the father give him some property, but the father refused to accede to his demands.

The son, one day, while looking over the family record of the stepmother, which had been laid aside and forgotten, discovered that there was a kinship between the families, and further investigation proved that his father and stepmother were very own brother and sister.

To avenge himself for his father's refusal to give him the bulk of his property, he brought suit against them both for incest. They were tried and convicted and sent to the penitentiary for one year.

They are both over sixty years of age, and as innocent of intent to commit crime as the new born babe.

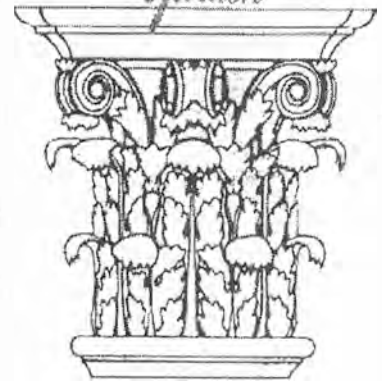
## Huntsville Court News From 1893

**Fuller Discharged-** The often continued case against Wm. A. Fuller, charged with bigamy, was ended yesterday by the discharge of the prisoner. When Fuller was brought into court for trial the prosecuting witnesses failed to appear and could not be found, there was nothing left for the court to do but to discharge the prisoner. Mrs. Fuller, number two, had been in the court room before the case was called, but could not be found when she was wanted.

**For Hog Stealing-** In court yesterday M.D. Hammer was placed under a \$500 bond for grand larceny. He was accused of stealing a hog from a colored man, named Felix Hawkins, and the evidence against him was strong enough to warrant binding him over to await trial.

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# Unrepentant Secessionists

*The following is an actual copy of a pension application filed by a former Union soldier.*

The United States of America, Northern District of Alabama, Madison County, Huntsville, Alabama

On this 17th day of March, 1891, personally comes before me, a Notary Public for said county, Howard English, who having been duly sworn says he is an applicant for relief under the Disability Pensions Act.

Applicant says that he is no longer able to provide for himself through meaningful work due to an injury received on July 21, 1879, and pleads that he be awarded the pension due him for his service in the United States Infantry.

Applicant says that his injury occurred in defense of the reputation and honor of the memories

of his fallen comrades.

Applicant says that on July 21, 1879, he was at the rail depot in Huntsville, Ala., where he was accosted by a group of unrepentant secessionists. After Claimant had listened to numerous vile and slanderous utterings about the Union, and the citizens of the Union, he felt it his duty to defend the flag under which he had served, even at the cost of dire consequence to body and limb.

During the altercation he was seized and physically thrown from the rail platform where upon he received numerous broken bones and cuts.

Since that time applicant has been unable to continue his chosen occupation as a woodworker.

Applicant says that he is without friends in Madison County willing to assume the care for him and he is ill afforded the expense of travel to Indiana from which he comes.

Signed, John Roberts

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## SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2003

|             |                               |                           |
|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| February 3  | 6:30 Mark McDaniel            | Criminal Law              |
|             | 7:40 Charles Brinkley         | Insurance Law             |
| February 10 | 6:30 Phil Price               | DUI Law                   |
|             | 7:40 Bill Burgess             | Divorce Law               |
| February 17 | 6:30 Tommy Siniard            | Car Wreck Law             |
|             | 7:40 Ed Gentle                | Alabama Tax Reform        |
| February 24 | 6:30 Mike Wisner              | Estate Planning and Taxes |
|             | 7:40 Glass & Wallace          | Elder Law                 |
| March 3     | 6:30 Hare Wynn                | Trial Tactics             |
|             | 7:40 Steve Heninger           | Medical Malpractice       |
| March 10    | 6:30 Archie Lamb              | HMO Update                |
|             | 7:40 Robert Prince            | To Be Announced           |
| March 17    | 6:30 Charles Boyd             | Social Security Law       |
|             | 7:40 P. Chesnut/ K. Valls     | Criminal Law by the D.A.  |
| March 24    | 6:30 A. Brinkley & R. Chesnut | Open Forum                |
|             | 7:40 Graduation               |                           |

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 If registering for more than one person, please list additional names and information on an attached sheet or  
 duplicate this form.

# You Can't Get There From Here!

by Gene Primm

In 1955 I worked for Monroe Calculating Machine Co. I was sent to St. Louis to attend service school. I left Huntsville from the old bus station on Clinton Street.

After leaving Huntsville we stopped at what seemed to be every cross roads and country store we came to. It took me eighteen and one half hours to get to St. Louis.

While I attended school I met another employee who was from Nashville. He had come to St. Louis by automobile. I told him about my long trip by bus and suggested that I could pay his gasoline expenses if he would let me ride back to Nashville with him, then I could catch the bus back to Huntsville. This would save me many hours of travel time. He agreed to this and after the school was over we left on our trip to Nashville.

We arrived in Nashville about midnight. I asked him to take me to the bus station there so I could catch the bus to Huntsville. When we got to the bus station I found out that the next bus to Huntsville didn't leave until about 7 am the

next morning. I decided this was too long to wait so I asked my new friend if he would take me to the Huntsville highway so I could hitchhike on in to Huntsville. Hopefully, I thought, I would be in Huntsville long before the bus ever left from Nashville.

The first car that came by stopped and said he was going as far as Murfreesboro. He was a bus driver just getting off from work. I really appreciated him stopping and thought this hitchhiking was going to be really easy, a piece of cake.

After he let me out in Murfreesboro, I stood there for hours without so much as an-

other ride. As it started to get to be daylight I began to get worried. Then finally as the traffic started to pick up some a man stopped

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and asked me where I was headed. When I said Huntsville, he told me to hop in and that he would take me to Tullahoma, Tennessee. I thought for a minute and asked him how far it was from Tullahoma to Huntsville - he said about seventy miles. I asked how far it was from Murfreesboro to Huntsville and he said about the same - seventy miles - but that it was a really beautiful drive.

After having spent the night standing on the side of the road I really was not interested in the country between Murfreesboro and Tullahoma. Despairing of any more hitchhiking I asked him if there was a bus station in Tullahoma, he said there was and we were off for the seventy-mile trip to Tullahoma.

The stranger dropped me off at the bus station a few hours later. Hurriedly, I approached the ticket agent and asked if there was a bus leaving for Huntsville, Alabama, anytime soon. He told me I was in luck that there was a bus just boarding and if I rushed I could catch it. Without even a pause I said, "Give me a ticket"

The agent handed me the ticket and pointed to the bus, I was on my merry way. As I approached the bus I saw on the front that it was going to Nashville. Puzzled, I ran back to the same ticket agent and told him the bus he had directed me to had "Nash-

ville" on the front, not Huntsville.

He informed me that you could not get to Huntsville from Tullahoma without going to Nashville first!

I took the bus back to Nashville and caught the same bus to Huntsville that I would have caught anyway if I had not spent the night hitchhiking through the back roads of Tennessee.

## Grandma's Kitchen Tips

\* Mix three pounds of margarine with one pound of butter and see if anyone can tell that you don't have four pounds of butter.

\* Add a quarter cup of grape juice to a cup of lemonade for a refreshing drink.

\* A teaspoonful of ground mustard dissolved in your dishwater will take away strong odor of fish and garlic and will remove stains from your hands.

\* If you've added too much salt to a stew just throw in a raw Irish potato, it will absorb the excess salt.

\* New taste for brownies - add four crushed peppermint sticks to the recipe.

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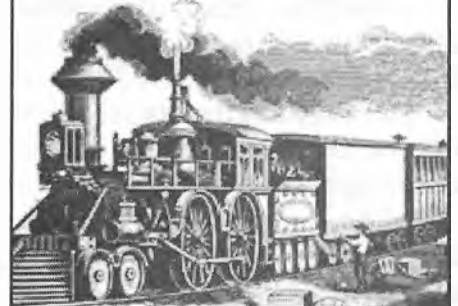
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- New 4-room cottage corner 6th St. and Pratt Ave for rent cheap apply to J. E. Pierce

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- Wanted - good nurse and housekeeper, white or colored. Address in care of the Times.

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from 1896 newspaper

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## Soldiers Killed In Pursuit Of Love

from 1864 newspaper

On March 2, three young men named Benj. Arthur, Leonidas Bouris, and John K. Morris, of Company A, 5th Ohio cavalry, went outside of the Federal pickets near Huntsville, Alabama, to visit several lady acquaintances. During the evening they were pounced upon by a detachment of the enemy, who summarily threw them all into a well, and covered them with about twelve feet of earth.

After two days absence, a force went out in search of them, and found the well partially filled with dirt.

After digging down, they found the bodies of the three young men, and from a neighbor they learned the facts connected with the deaths as above stated.

One hundred and thirty-five dollars was taken from one of the young men. All three men were residents of Clermont County, Ohio.

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# The School That Never Was

by Charles Rice

To 19th century North Alabamians, the city of Huntsville was often viewed as an oasis of culture. Unlike many frontier towns which simply grew up more or less by chance, Huntsville was largely planned and settled by wealthy planters from Georgia and Virginia. Thus the city had its culture virtually imposed upon it almost from the beginning.

By the middle of the 19th century, Huntsville was celebrated for its Methodist Female Academy and Presbyterian Female Seminary, while many young men came to receive their education at the nondenominational Green Academy on East Clinton Street.

However, another little known Huntsville educational institute died stillborn as just one more casualty of the War Between the States. This was the North Alabama College, a cherished project of the local Presbyterian Church.

The idea seems to have started in 1852 among the members of Huntsville's First Presbyterian. Many church members desired a Presbyterian men's school to serve as the equivalent of their highly respected Female Seminary.

The project took some time getting off the ground, however, and it was not until April of 1858 that the North Alabama Presbyterians finally got around to elect-

ing a board of trustees to oversee the college.

Appointed as trustees were three prominent Huntsvillians: Dr. Frederick A. Ross, the distinguished minister of First Presbyterian, Dr. Lawrence B. Slieffey, a medical practitioner, and Isaiah Dill, a noted Huntsville attorney. The terms of service for the men were staggered, with Ross to serve one year, Slieffey two, and Dill three.

On May 14, 1858, the North Alabama College was incorporated under the laws of Alabama. Two months later, the Presbyterian Church negotiated the purchase of 140 acres of land from George Hortori for the sum of \$7,000.

The land was on the south side of Governor's drive a short distance beyond today's Huntsville Hospital East. The present residential area is even now

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sensation from a rocking  
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known as College Hill.

Matthew W. Steele, son of the noted Huntsville architect George Steele, was awarded the contract to construct the impressive edifice. The three-story brick building was to be 125 feet in length and 65 feet in width. It faced northward toward the city of Huntsville.

Work commenced in early 1859 and proceeded steadily. "The North Alabama College is being built upon an eminence one mile from town," said the 1859 City Directory. "It is of the castellated style of architecture. The building is to be three stories high, with two towers. It will contain a lecture room and hall for societies. It is under the direction of the Presbytery of North Alabama, yet in the selection of professors it is allowable to choose them, irrespective of religious creed. It will cost when finished, from thirty to thirty-five thousand dollars."

The spring of 1862 found the North Alabama College almost completed. However, the fledgling school was never to open its doors. On April 11, 1862, a Union Army led by General Ormsby McKnight Mitchel seized Huntsville. Work was immediately halted.

Harper's Weekly, the famous New York illustrated newspaper, carried an engraving of the city one

month after its capture. The North Alabama College is clearly visible in the drawing, looking for all purposes virtually ready for occupation. Later testimony revealed that the exterior of the building was, indeed, finished. The tin roof was in place, and the interior was also largely completed. The material required for the final touches was stored within the building. However, that is as far as it ever got.

The Union Army retreated from Huntsville at the end of August 1862, but war time conditions kept the school from opening. In the summer of 1863, the Union Army returned, this time to stay for almost all of the remainder of the war.

Unfortunately for the Presbyterian Church, the winter of 1863-64 was unusually severe in North Alabama. In early 1864, Union General David H. Stanley,

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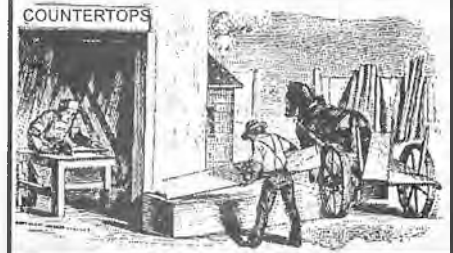
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who then commanded in Huntsville, decided his men simply had to have bricks to build chimneys for their makeshift dwellings. He ordered the Union soldiers to take their bricks from the North Alabama College!

By the time the Yankees had finished vandalizing the beautiful building, almost all of Matthew Steele's fine work had been undone. The North Alabama College was left in ruins. It would never be rebuilt.

Impoverished by the war, the First Presbyterian Church was left to foot the bill for their shattered dream. On August 25, 1866, the church was forced to sell the property and all that was left of the college at public auction to pay off the mortgage of \$3,300.

Many years after the war, the church sought to recover the losses from the Federal Government. General Stanley wrote to the church in December, 1891 to confirm that everything happened just as they said.

On September 12, 1893, Joseph Wheeler introduced a bill into Congress to investigate the church's claim against the government. The wheels of government

turn slowly, however, and nothing much had been done through December 3, 1901, when Congressman William Richardson re-introduced the bill. This time the matter was to the committee on War Claims.

Testimony before Congress confirmed that the money to build the college was raised by contributions of Huntsville citizens, and that the trustees were a nonpartisan group that had nothing to do with wartime politics.

Huntsvillian Augustus Pryor, then 75, testified that he had seen the Union soldiers destroying the college building. Pryor added that after the Union troops left Huntsville, he saw at least a thousand brick chimneys standing at the Union campsite, which was about a quarter of a mile from the school.

On February 25, 1907, the Federal Court of Claims finally decided in favor of the church to the amount of \$7,600. After legal expenses were deducted, the Church received \$5,320.

It had taken 43 years for the Presbyterian Church to receive what it was owed. Unfortunately, Huntsville never did get its hoped-for men's college.

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# Memories Of A Boy Soldier

Written by Robert Morrow in 1912

In July 1864, I joined as a volunteer of Company L, 5th Regiment, Alabama Cavalry. Perhaps it will be interesting at this time, for it lacks a little of fifty years, to tell something of my equipment. I rode a mule, a large gentle one, a good traveler. My bridle was made of home-tanned cow leather, sewed into the bits with cords made of home-tanned fox or coon hides. The bit was made in a shop nearby and was what was called a curb-bit. The saddle, homemade also, consisted of two pieces of poplar, shaped so it was supposed to fit the mule's back as they lay lengthways on her. These were fastened together in front by a piece of tough oak with rivets made of iron in the shops nearby, the back part was fastened the same way, by tough oak, cut so as to resemble any ordinary saddle.

This saddle had holes mortised, through which to tie on the belongings of a soldier of the C. S.A. When this was covered with a heavy woolen blanket, spun and woven at home by my Mother and

Sister and colored with bark, the soldier, dressed in cloth made by the same loving hands, I was ready to mount and be off to war.

Neither the boy nor his equipment would make a formidable looking soldier or inspire terror, you will say. True! But the mule could travel, and the boy could shoot, and either could very nearly find his own ration. These three formed the chief requisites for a soldier in Forrest's Calvary.

The next morning after I was sworn into the service and became a soldier of the C. S.A., we were ordered to cook one day's ration which consisted of one pound of

corn meal and one pound of beef. This done, we started, Wednesday morning, on a raid across the Tennessee River. When we had traveled 35 miles we stopped in the night, stayed there all day Thursday and until 3 o'clock Friday, then rode back 30 miles and we had eaten by Saturday at 10 a.m. that one pound of beef and meal. I mention the ration not because it was so unusual an episode in a soldier's life, but because as an introduction into the profession it was rather hard on a 17-year-old boy.

It would be useless to try to remember or record the almost



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daily bouts with the enemy on such outpost duty as we were on. Sometimes we were running and fighting, the enemy in front; and sometimes fighting and running, we were in front.

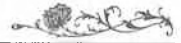
One other battle was on the west fork of Flint. We had followed the enemy of 1,000 or 1,200 men all day; we had 500. When they camped we concealed our horses in the woods, lay there until 4 a.m., then charged into their camp on foot. We lost some men, but could not learn what loss we inflicted as they carried their dead and wounded with them.

I will relate one incident of this battle, which I am glad to say, was the only one of its kind I ever knew of personally. While a cousin of mine, a boy about my age, and I were standing side by side firing

into the camp, he was shot, and his thigh broken. I was directed to take him back out of the camp. When I had gotten out a piece, the enemy rallied, passed around us and cut us off from our own men. As I could get no further, I left him standing, holding himself by an apple tree. When the enemy found him they commenced to shoot him, in spite of his cries for m e r c y , which I heard as I lay hidden nearby.

T h e y kept shooting till he fell with two more wounds, one in his

breast. He then feigned death. They took a sword, jabbed it into his back, cut at his neck and head. He feigning death, they left him. He was afterwards found by some of the enemy, carried to a nearby house and left, as they supposed, to die. To the surprise of all, he got well. He lived for 35 years, carrying to his grave the scars of the gun wounds.



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# Home Tips

by Liz

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

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

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

- To add fizz to that fizzled out soda, just top it off with about a cup of the newly opened soda.

- To get rid of that fireplace soot odor, do the following. After

you've cleaned the ashes out of the fireplace, place a shallow pan of baking soda in the fireplace for at least a couple of hours, or overnight.

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

- Add a dash of cinnamon to your morning coffee - it'll add a great new flavor.

- Should it happen that paper, because of moisture, becomes stuck on some surface or other of your furniture, do not try to scrape it off. Instead, moisten it with a little linseed or sweet oil, and let the paper remain until it is easily removed by rubbing it with a finger.

- Use a cloth dipped in baby oil for a quick shoe shine.

## Making Brandy Peaches

4 lbs. whole medium peaches

About 1 3/4 c. brandy

3 c. sugar

2 c. water

Place peaches in a wire basket or cheesecloth, dip into boiling water for one minute. Plunge peaches in cold water and drain. Remove the skins, pack whole peaches in hot sterilized pint jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space at the top. Add 1/4 cup brandy to each jar.

Combine the sugar and water in a saucepan, bring to boil. Remove from heat and pour hot syrup over peaches, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Cover at once with metal lids, screw bands tight. Process in boiling water for 10 minutes,

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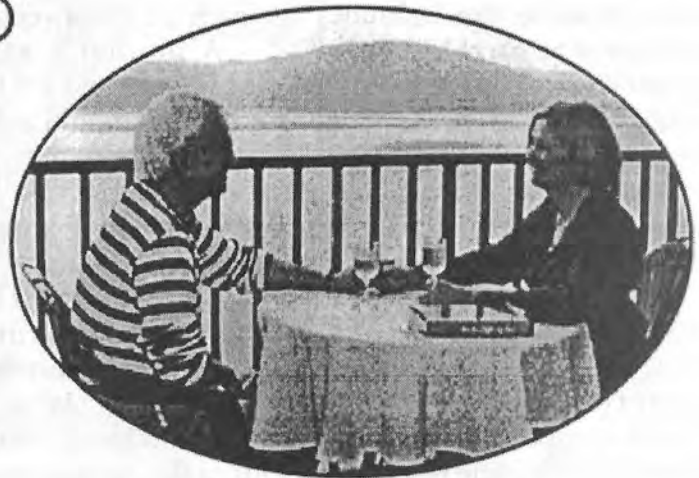


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- Ladies Aid Society - Mrs. Charles Shaver, president - time of meeting Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

- Paris has been shocked. The French capital, the home of almost anything "ultra in fashions," has come a cropper over the new trousers skirt. By some, this feminine contraption of apparel has been designated as the "harem-scarem." Paris blushed when it first heard of the skirt, but today that blush of modesty turned into the flush of anger. A young woman attired in the new made skirt walked along the Avenue L'Opera - the Avenue de L'Opera, mind you - and was actually egged by a mob of disapproving Frenchmen until the police appeared and helped her escape in an automobile.

- C. C. Giles, a prominent citizen of New Market, was in the city last evening and marketed 620 dozen eggs, good ones too, at a price of 12 cents. Mr. Giles is one

of the county's foremost citizens.

- Mrs. Williwn Kresh and little daughter of Birmingham, who have been the guests of Mrs. William Dilworth, on Meridian Street, will return to their home this week.

- Good clothes are made by Metcalfe the Tailor - come see him.

- A mother's safeguard - Foley's Honey and Tar for the children. Is best and safest for all coughs, colds, croup. Whooping cough and bronchitis. No opiates.

- Coca-Cola hearing case is up now in Chattanooga TN. The hearing of testimony for the defense in the government case against "twenty barrels and forty kegs of Coca-Cola" in which the drink is declared to contain Cafeine, a dangerous drug and was made under unsanitary conditions in violation of pure food laws, began this morning. Judge John S. Candler, whose law firm organized the Coca Cola Co., testified the drink contained a sub-

stance known as "merchandise no". Asked what this was made of he said it had alcohol, cocoa nuts and kola leaves. Howard Candler, vice president of the company, testified how the syrup is mixed and denied the factory was unclean or that trash is allowed to fall into it,

**A youngster was explaining what "mixed emotions" are. "It's like watching your school burn down when your new catcher's mitt is in your desk," he said.**

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# The Bitterest Feelings

Headquarters Third Division  
Huntsville, Alabama May 5, 1862.

Hon. E.M. Stanton,  
Secretary of War:



The occupation of Huntsville and this railway line by my troops seems to have produced among rebels the bitterest feeling. Armed citizens fire into the trains, cut the telegraph wires, attack the guards of bridges, cut off and destroy my couriers, while guerrilla bands of cavalry attack whenever there is the slightest chance of success. I have arrested some prominent citizens along the line of the railway and in this city. I hold some prisoners (citizens) against whom the negroes will prove charges of unauthorized war. Am I to convict on the testimony of the blacks? Have I your authority to send notorious rebels to a Northern prison? May I offer the protection of the Government to the negroes who give valuable information? Is it not possible to give me re-enforcements to cross the Osage at Grates Ferry and march against Rome? That entire region is now comparatively unprotected and very much alarmed.

O.M. Mitchel,  
Major-General, Commanding 3rd Division

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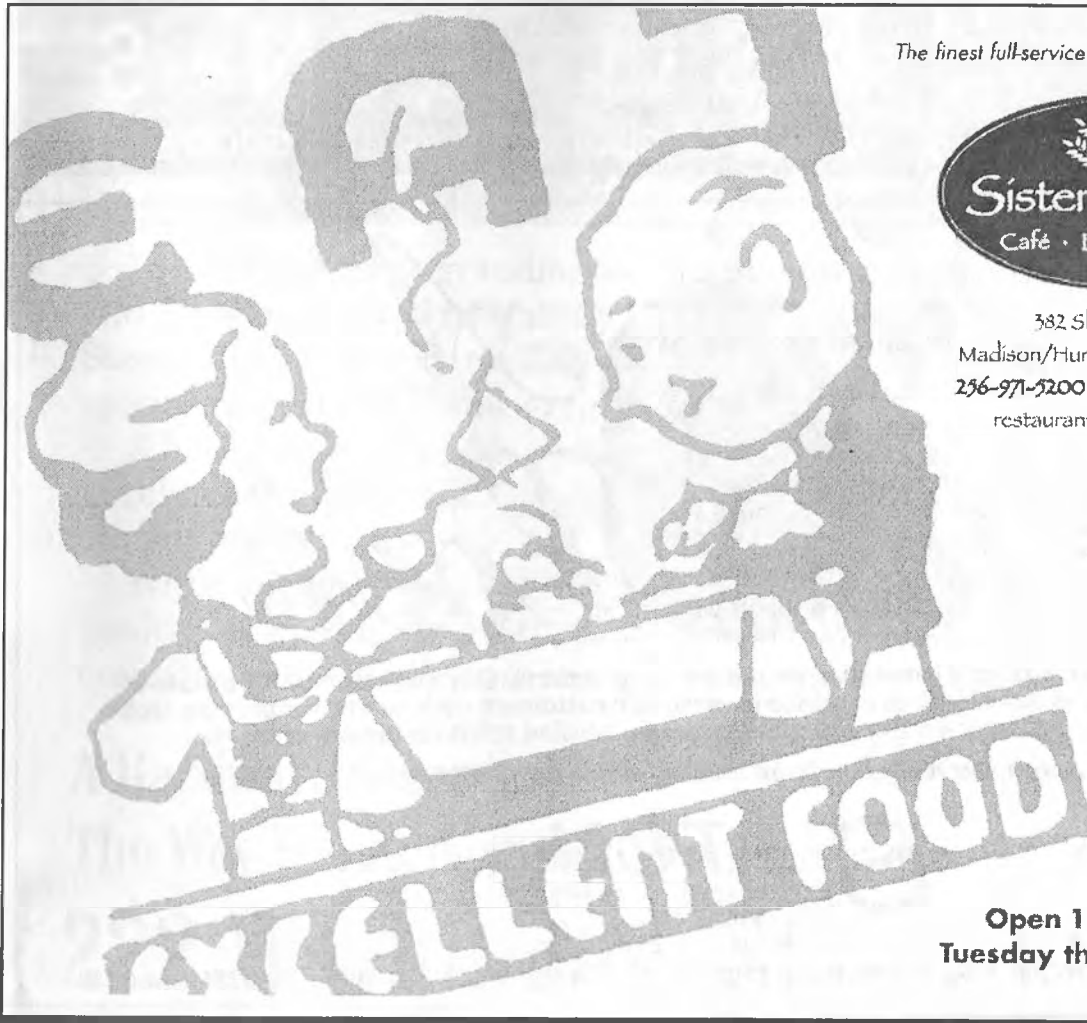
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# A Civil War Letter

Huntsville, Alabama 6 Aug. 1864

Dear Brother-in-law & Sister,  
May these bare lines meet with you in good health. I am so far right hale and hearty. I want to let you know in short, how it looks here and what happens. We have so far been fortunate, having still lost no man through the enemy, although the bushwhackers are fairly thick in the vicinity.

Our regiment lies near the city on a hill where there is a fortress with 8 cannons which can be used over the city and all around the whole region. We have no danger, only if we should be attacked at night, and if that happens the whole city will explode into the air and burn up, which the citizens know well enough and therefore are always afraid it should hap-

pen.

One sees few whites, almost not as many as blacks which are very friendly giving up the hat to the soldiers. We perpetually have 50 to 80 blacks that must hew timber for new fortresses, or do other work. These were slaves in the country about here and must work whether they want or not, there is always a guard by them. I have good hours since I am the company's bugler. I need to do no watch, and no rifle to carry.

I remain Your dear brother-in-law and brother.

My address is John Drexel, Company CO 13th Ind. Cavalry Huntsville, Alabama

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*Aren't you ready to take an even closer look at Slaton Press?*

**SLATON**  
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# Lewter's Hardware Store



In 1928 our great-grandfather, D.A. Lewter, and our grandfather, J.M. Lewter, started the family business in a small store on Washington Street. They believed in offering fair prices, treating each customer with special respect and giving great service.

A hand saw cost \$2.50, a padlock 8 cents and a hammer could be purchased for 85 cents. A lawn mower sold for \$6.50 and a 100 lb. barrel of nails was \$2.25.

While our prices have gone up slightly we still provide the same quality service our fore-fathers insisted on. We are the same family, doing the same business in the same location. Stop by and visit with us.

**A Hardware Store....  
The Way You Remember Them**

*Domie Lewter*  
*Mae Lewter*

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Thanks to *FirstCommunity Senior Select* and Huntsville Hospital, Al Bennett has more than one good ticker.



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