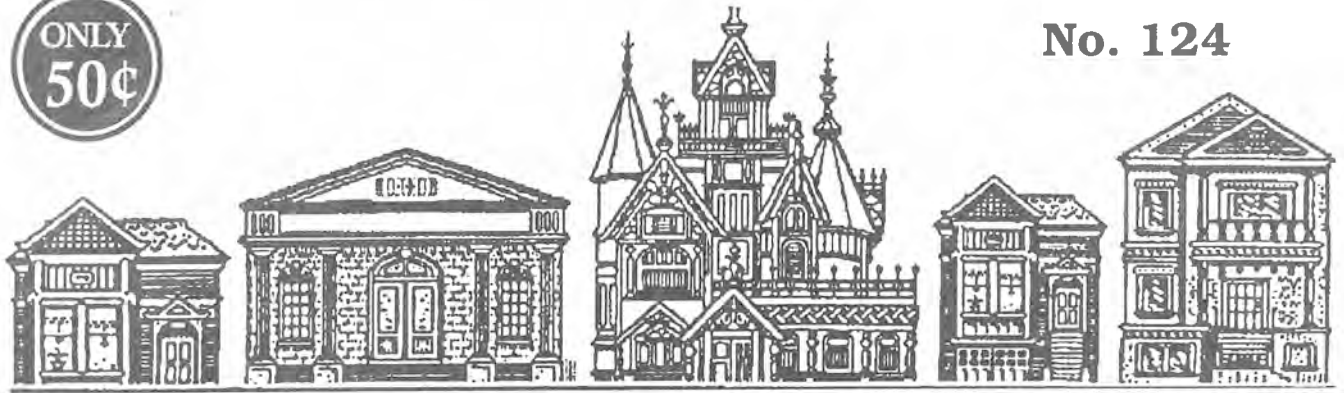


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The Perfect Plan

"We're going to rob both places in the same night. We'll take J.C. Penney's first and Lorch's Jewelry store next. I think we can do both in a couple of hours and walk away with maybe \$60 or \$70 thousand."

It was the summer of 1966 when a trio of thieves came up with the perfect plan for the perfect crime.

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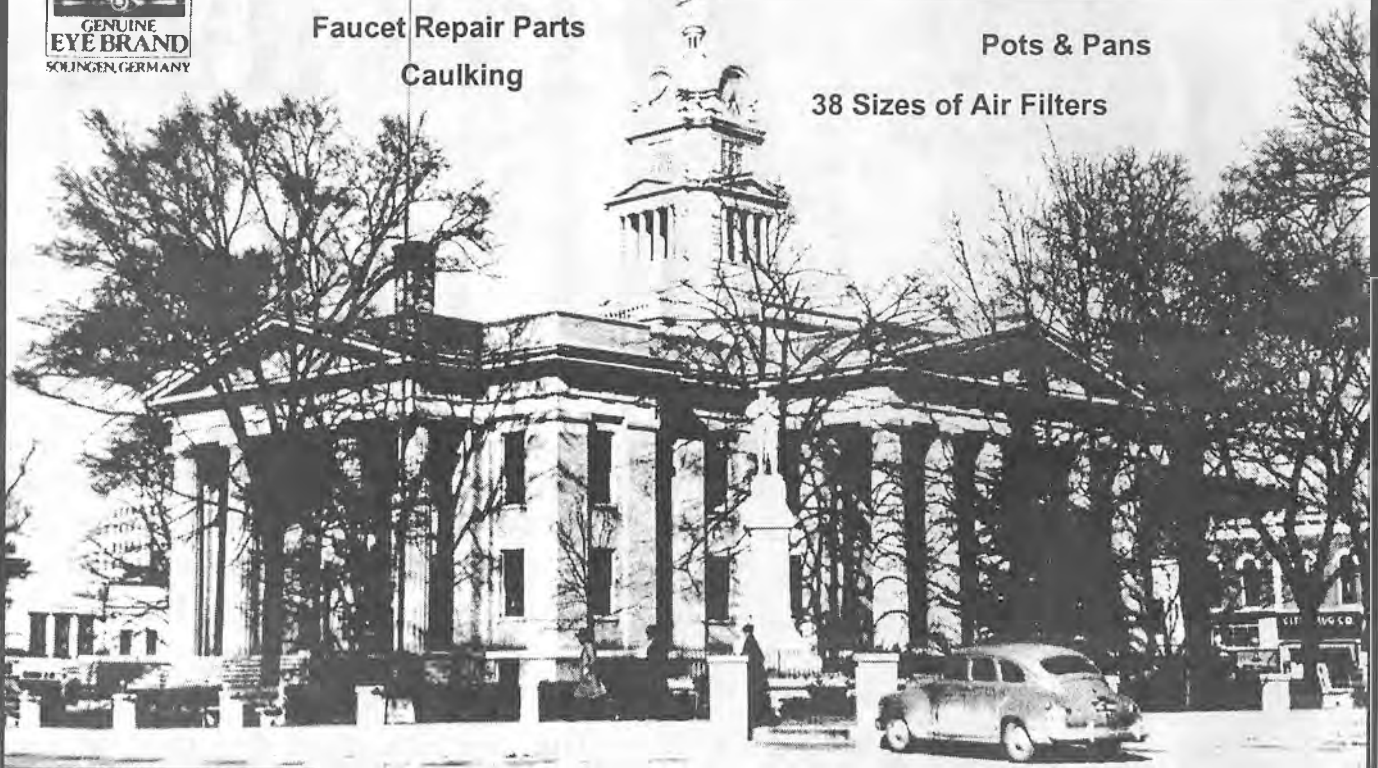


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The Perfect Plan

"We're going to rob both places in the same night. We'll take J.C. Penney's first and Lorch's Jewelry store next. I think we can do both in a couple of hours and walk away with maybe \$60 or \$70 thousand."

Cotton Renfro listened incredulously as the older dark-haired man described his plan to burglarize the stores. Renfro had been discharged from the Army several months earlier, in the spring of 1966, and had moved to Huntsville in hopes of finding a job. Almost immediately he had met Lucy Buckner, a tall, striking brunette who was several years older than him. After a brief but furious courtship they moved into a rooming house together on Walker Avenue. Renfro had broached the subject of marriage several times but was rebuffed by Lucy with the comment, "Wait until you get a real job and make some real money."

Renfro's job was a bitter subject. Despite weeks of fruitless searching he had been forced to

take a job with a janitorial service, cleaning offices at night. After paying rent, and buying food and gas, there was little left for entertainment or luxuries that Lucy craved.

One of the few friends they had was D.J. Boyer, an older man who had drifted to Huntsville at about the same time they had arrived. He also lived at the rooming house and had helped Renfro get a job with the janitorial service where he too worked.

Despite the age difference, the young couple and Boyer quickly became fast friends. Oftentimes when the two men got off from work at two in the morning, the trio would sit up until dawn drinking beer and telling stories.

One night Boyer mentioned having spent time in the penitentiary. Lucy was fascinated, wanting to hear all about it and exactly what he had done. Reluctant at first, Boyer described how he had been caught "cracking a safe." A night watchman had seen him and set off the alarm. When he ran out, the police were waiting for him.

The beer seemed to lubricate Boyer's memory, and with little coaxing, he talked about other jobs in which he had stolen thousands of dollars. One job, he recalled, netted him almost \$20 thousand. He had gone to Mexico and lived the high life until the money ran out and he was forced



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to go "back to work." He got caught on the next job when an accomplice attracted the police's attention by acting suspiciously.

Lucy was fascinated, asking dozens of questions and wanting to know every detail. The obvious question was why Boyer was working as a janitor and when was he going to do another "job."

Boyer explained there was lot more to it than just cracking a safe. "You need people to work with you can trust and you need to pick the right place and have a plan for anything that might go wrong."

Over the next several weeks Lucy continued questioning Boyer. It was obvious to both men that she was enthralled by the idea of sudden wealth. Finally, late one night when the three were having a beer, she proposed what had been in the back of everyone's mind. "Let's do it! Let's make one big score and kiss this hick town good bye."

Renfro had played with the idea, but he also understood what would happen if they were caught. He began making excuses, and when Lucy kept badgering him, he finally said no - refusing to have any part of it.

Several more weeks passed and Renfro began to believe that Lucy had forgotten about the idea. One evening when it was time to go to work, he went to Boyer's room to see if he wanted a ride. Boyer begged off, saying

he was not feeling well and was going to take the night off. Renfro thought nothing of it and went on to work.

That night when Renfro returned home, Lucy and Boyer were waiting for him. One look at Lucy's face told the story. They had been out casing places to rob. When Renfro started to protest, Lucy cut him off saying, "Just listen to the plan first."

Boyer had been watching two places, J.C. Penney's and Lorch's Jewelry Store, for months. Penney's, he explained, had an armored truck hired to pick the money up every day except for Saturdays and Sundays. That meant that the receipts for Friday night, Saturday and Sunday stayed in the store safe until the following Monday, when all three days receipts would be picked up. His idea was to rob the place about ten o'clock on a Sunday night and then, if everything went well, go downtown and do Lorch's the same night. He explained, that with the new courthouse construction going on, most downtown businesses were hurting. Lorch's, however, had increased their stock drastically and were running sales every week. They were doing a record business.

He guessed the police would never expect to be hit with two crimes like that on the same night. If they waited before robbing Lorch's, however, the heat from the law might make it im-

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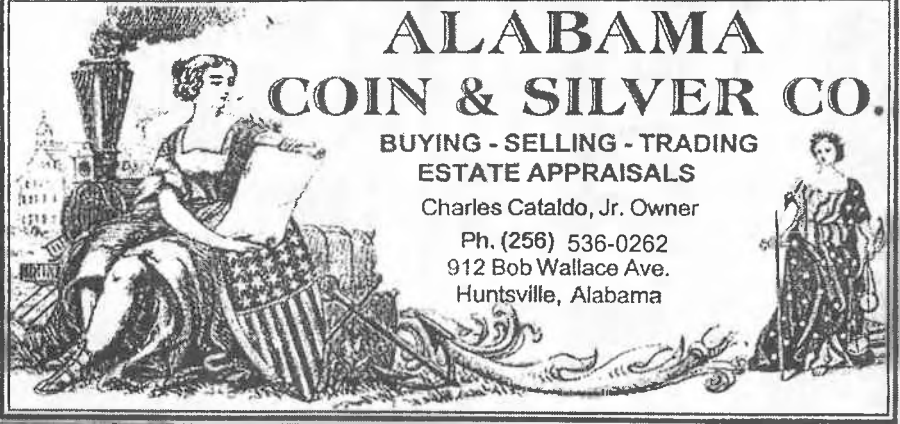
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As Renfro tried to make excuses, pointing out things that could go wrong. Boyer and Lucy seemed to have an answer for everything; it was apparent they had been planning the double theft for some time. Finally, having run out of excuses, Renfro just said no, he was not interested.

Lucy had assumed he would say that. Looking at Renfro sternly she told him that she was in whether he was part of it or not, and he had better make up his mind. Letting his heart override his reason, Renfro reluctantly agreed to join the duo in what they hoped would be Huntsville's next unsolved crime wave.

Popping another beer, Boyer began to explain the plan in detail. Robbing the places would not be that hard; getting away with it would be the challenge.

The police would be everywhere questioning people and looking for clues. They would be looking for several men, probably from out of town. They would also be questioning people about strangers and cars that might have looked odd or out of place.

Laying several sheets of paper on the table, Boyer picked up the stub of a pencil and began to describe what he had in mind. By the time the sun began peeking over Monte Sano the next morning, the plans had been laid, with all three very knowledgeable about each of their jobs.

The next day Lucy was dispatched to rent a "safe house," on 6th Avenue, under a fictitious name. She told the landlord that her husband was in the Army and due back from Europe in 6 months, which explained why she lived by herself without having to work. Next she went to Winn Dixie, where she stocked up on several weeks of food and supplies.

That same evening Renfro went to work, and after sprinkling whiskey liberally over his clothes, pretended to be drunk and picked an argument with his supervisor. The supervisor, after smelling the whiskey, fired Renfro on the spot, telling him to pick up his check the following morning. Boyer had explained that if Renfro left his job without getting his last check, the police would be suspicions. He had also guessed that by getting

fired, Renfro would not have to wait for it. This turned out to be true.

The next day Renfro told the landlady at the rooming house that he and Lucy were moving back to Memphis where her family still lived. After packing their belongings into the car, Lucy dropped Renfro off at the park and went on to the "safe house" they had rented. That evening,

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after darkness had settled in, Renfro slipped into the back door.

The following week Boyer quit his job as well, asking that his check be mailed to Birmingham in care of general delivery. That night he, too, moved into the safe house. From all outward appearances, both Renfro and Boyer had simply disappeared from Huntsville. They were betting the police would never look for someone who was not in Huntsville at the time of the burglaries.

The next three weeks were full of boredom, with both men confined to the house except for brief forays late at night to check out traffic patterns around Penney's and Lorch's. The only amusement was provided by the landlord, who was very obviously attracted to his new tenant. A knock on the door would send both men scurrying to hide in the bedroom, leaving Lucy to fight off the landlord's amorous advances.

Besides dealing with the landlord, Lucy had other tasks just as important. She purchased a blonde wig at a thrift shop and had two bowling shirts made, emblazoned with the logo "Decatur Bowling League." After scouring the "For Sale" ads in the newspaper she purchased another car from an individual using another fictitious name and dressed in the blonde wig.

Finally, after weeks of preparation and waiting, the day arrived. That afternoon, adorned in the blonde wig and carrying two suitcases, Lucy rented a room at the Russel Erskine hotel. The hotel was located only a few blocks from Lorch's Jewelry store and part of Boyer's plan was to get off the street and in a safe place as soon as possible after the heist. He figured a young woman's room in Huntsville's finest hotel was

about as safe a place as you could get.

Next, they parked one of the cars in front of the Pin Palace bowling alley, a short distance from J.C. Penney's, where they planned to switch cars just in case someone spotted them.

That evening, just minutes before closing time, Lucy entered the store and went directly to the sporting goods department. Renfro and Boyer followed a short distance behind her.

The store was already practically empty of customers, with all the lights being turned off, and the salesclerks rushing to get finished up so they could go home. When Lucy asked a clerk in the sporting goods department about a shotgun for her husband's birthday, his frustration at having to deal with a last-minute customer was very obvious.

"Please," she begged, "it won't take just a minute and I don't know which one to buy." As if to emphasize her helplessness, she

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dropped her purse on the floor, exposing ample cleavage in her attempt to retrieve it.

The clerk, trained to believe a customer is always right, reluctantly escorted her to the gun cabinets.

As soon as the clerk's attention was diverted, Renfro and Boyer dropped to their knees and scampered into a tent that had been set up as part of a camping display. After closing the flaps, they silently waited for the store to finish closing. A few minutes later they heard Lucy's voice thanking the sales clerk and promising to come back the next day. Minutes later the store grew quiet and the lights dimmed completely.

Exactly an hour and a half later the men emerged from the tent, and after satisfying them-

selves that they were alone in the store, sprang into action. Renfro grabbed two shopping carts and rushed to the kitchen department where he helped himself to two pairs of rubber gloves before continuing to the bedding section where he loaded the carts up with as many goose down comforters as they would hold. Passing by the sporting goods department, he picked out two bowling ball bags.

He then joined Boyer in the tool department where they, after pulling on the gloves, began helping themselves to extension cords, drills, drill bits, crowbars and flashlights. Both men burst out laughing when they noticed a display that read "J.C. Penney's has Every Tool for Every Job!"

Minutes later the men were in the office where the safe was located. While Boyer assembled the drill, Renfro began covering the safe in layers of comforters to deaden the sound, leaving only a small tent-like cavity underneath for Boyer to work in.

Seconds seemed like hours and minutes seemed like days as Boyer patiently worked on the safe. At one point they had to stop while Renfro went after fresh drill bits. Then the flashlight began flickering off, causing another delay until they could get another one.

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Suddenly the safe was open, revealing tall stacks of currency along with piles of checks, all stacked in neat rows. Ignoring the checks, the men hurriedly crammed the currency into the bowling ball bags. Just as they were finishing, they heard noises coming from the ceiling. Turning the flashlights off, they cautiously made their way to where the sounds were coming from.

Seconds later, they saw a ceiling tile lifted and disappear into the darkness. Almost immediately a head appeared out of the ceiling with a voice telling someone to "bring the rope."

Someone else was trying to rob the same store!

Ignoring the would-be robbers, Renfro and Boyer rushed to the main door. They had placed an electric drill there earlier and it only took a minute to drill through the lock and open the door. Aiming the flashlight at the bowling alley, they flashed it for a brief second. Minutes later Lucy pulled up in the car.

While the men changed into the bowling shirts, Lucy drove to the nearby bowling alley where they ditched the car on the far edge of the parking lot. Boyer

knew that the first few minutes were the most critical. If there was a silent alarm, or if someone had spotted the car, the police would be there in mere minutes. He also knew there was a bowling convention going on that night and by dressing as bowlers no one would pay any attention to them.

Five minutes passed, then ten, then fifteen. At the end of twenty minutes they got into the other car they had parked there earlier, and with Lucy driving, headed downtown to the courthouse square where Lorch's was located.

As they passed the narrow alley next to the Martin Theater on Washington Street, Lucy slowed the car to a crawl while the men jumped out. It took only seconds to jimmy the back door

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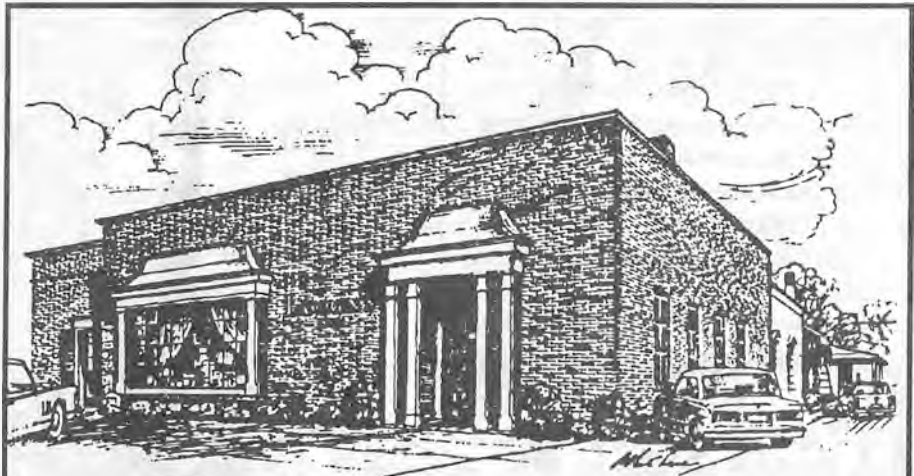
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and make their way to the front showroom where the safe was. As Boyer began examining the safe, Renfro began scooping up rings, watches, necklaces and anything else that was in the showcases.

Suddenly both men froze. An alarm was sounding somewhere! Grabbing the bowling bag containing the jewelry the men rushed out the same way they had entered. The original plan had been for Lucy to wait down the street, about where G.W. Jones Co. is located, and when she saw the signal, pick the men up.

Boyer flashed the light once and after not seeing any headlights, the men crossed the street on the courthouse side and began walking toward where Lucy was.

Just as they got to the plywood barricades that had been erected during the courthouse construction, Lucy pulled up. Unfortunately, at the same time a patrol car, with its lights off, began inching down the street toward them.

Thinking fast, Renfro grabbed the bowling ball bags, stuffed with cash and jewelry,

and tossed them over the barricade on the courthouse side. With no loot, the police would have no reason to bother them.

Almost comically, the police car slowly continued toward them before finally turning its headlights on. The officer, after giving the "bowlers" a once over, tipped his hat and sped off.

A quick conference decided it was too dangerous and might attract attention to try to retrieve the bags in the darkness, so they decided to go ahead with the original plan and return in the morning at first light. Lucy drove the short distance to the Russel Erskine and checked into the room she had reserved. About twenty minutes later the men slipped into her room.

All three were ecstatic about having pulled off the perfect

crime. Lucy called room service and cajoled a bellboy into fetching a bottle of Chivas Regal to celebrate with. Each one had his and her private dreams that were

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about to be realized. Lucy wanted to live in New York and Boyer was already dreaming of a life in Mexico again.

For Renfro, it was a bitter-sweet moment. He had only agreed to be a part of the plan in the hopes of keeping Lucy, but he was beginning to realize she would never belong to just one man.

Early the next morning at the first break of dawn the bleary-eyed and hung-over burglars left the hotel to go retrieve their loot. As soon as they turned the corner onto Jefferson Street, they came to an abrupt stop.

The whole courthouse square was a furious beehive of activity. The wooden barricades had been torn down, revealing deep holes in the ground, with concrete trucks lined up down the block waiting in turn to pour their loads of concrete into the courthouse footings.

The bowling bags, containing approximately \$40,000 in cash and jewels, were now buried under tons of fresh concrete on the northwest side of the square.

All three of the hapless burglars left Huntsville shortly afterwards. Boyer was arrested in Kentucky in the 1970s for auto theft and spent more time in the penitentiary. While there he told several other prisoners of his failed burglary in Huntsville. They in turn told a news reporter. After a brief spate of publicity the story was again forgotten. He is supposed to have died

in Tucson, Arizona sometime in the 1990s.

Lucy and Renfro left Huntsville and moved to Birmingham where he found a job with a construction crew. He arrived home from work one day and discovered Lucy had moved out, taking all her belongings. She was never heard from again.

Cotton Renfro lives somewhere in Florida where he recently retired after thirty-two years in the swimming pool business. He claims not to think about the botched burglary job very often although he does admit to a certain distaste for the new Huntsville courthouse.

There's always alot to be thankful for if you just take the time. For example, I am just thinking of how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt.
- Sam Keith

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- William Gaswell, from Portsmouth, New Hampshire constructed a home from 2,138 champagne bottles.

- D. W. Grigsby, an Iowa dairyman, has trained his two cats to sleep on the backs of cows on cold winter nights.

- Ezra Wilson, a silversmith from Indiana, is still operating an automobile he built in 1910. Wilson is unmarried, and has never allowed a woman to ride in his auto.

- Five years ago, the mother of Vivian Daly of Chicago lost a diamond out of her engagement ring. Recently Vivian complained of a severe earache and upon looking, a local doctor found the \$500 stone imbedded in her right ear.

- H. R. Amling, general manager of a wholesale florist concern in San Francisco, has installed an electric toy train on a 130-foot track to carry messages, orders and invoices between his departments.

- Frank Vanderbilt, a Michigan hotel owner, so admired the

beer drinking ability of his pet bear that upon her death he erected a monument to her memory, depicting her in her characteristic drinking pose.

- Harry Kleine, a Kentucky confectioner, has built a "tree of a thousand wishes" out of 1,000 wishbones he saved from wild and tame fowl on which his family has dined for the past 35 years.

- The four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Saunders of Oklahoma are named Okla, Homa, Terri and Tory.

- Mrs. Brooks of Phoenix, Arizona has trained her Boston terrier, Toodles, to gather the eggs each morning from the hen houses.

- Mrs. Selma Hughes, from Aragon, Georgia, built a six room house single-handedly in only 8 months. A widow with 2 young daughters, she rose at 4:30 a.m., cooked breakfast for her father and brothers, then worked on her house until 2:00 p.m., when she reported to a nearby mill to work until 10:00 p.m.

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Watercress Capital of the World

Almost lost and forgotten in our city's history is the fact that Huntsville at one time claimed the crown as "The Watercress Capital of the World." According to legend, an English officer started the custom of having watercress served in salads since in Great Britain green stuffs were hard to come by in the winter months. Watercress is the oldest green vegetable known to man.

In the early 1900s watercress cultivation began in Huntsville. This was one of the few places in the country where a supply of fresh spring water and limestone, combined with moderate winter temperatures, enabled cultivation. Growers would ship over one 1 million bunches of watercress to points all across the country.

"Cressie," as old-timers used to call it, was grown in ponds similar to the way rice is grown in China. The water level would be kept at about six inches during the growing season. When freeze threatened, the level of water would be raised, the constant degree temperature of the water protecting the plants from damage.

Colder winters and the expense of shipping were cited as the two primary reasons the business declined here in Huntsville. With the advent of air freight the railroads discontinued most of their express freight trains. Watercress became too expensive to ship by air and too perishable to ship by regular freight train, thus ending another era of "Old Huntsville's" history.

Try the following recipe:

Potage Gesseniere

- 1 lb. Potatoes, 1 T. salt
- 1 1/2 pints milk
- One bunch of Watercress
- 1 oz. butter

Peel the potatoes, wash them and boil them in salt water until tender. Drain, crush them with a potato masher, and when free from all lumps add milk. While

the potatoes are cooling, wash and pick the watercress and chop roughly. Add to the soup and cook for five or six minutes. Take off the fire and add the butter. Serve from a hot tureen.

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News from 1911

- Pick Roden, the king of moonshiners of Marshall county, was yesterday sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and fined \$700.

- For sale - my residence on Walker street, or will exchange for farm property. Price reasonable. Apply to Robt. L. Adair, care of Henderson National bank.

- Lost - Pair of kid gloves at the Elks building during dance Tuesday evening. Finder phone 418 or return to Miss Donnie Dillard.

- For rent - two cozy little bedrooms at reasonable prices. Gentlemen preferred. Mrs. James Lines, 207 East Holmes St.

- For sale - a secondhand 2-horse wagon in good running order; also 2 sets double harness. Apply to Mrs. S. E. Sibley East Randolph St., opposite Butler's school.

- For rent - 7 room modern cottage on Walker Street - apply to J. N. Mazza

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- For rent - two upstairs rooms or one large room downstairs. Suitable for light house-keeping within a short distance of the square. Apply to 314 Randolph St.

- The Queens Daughters of St. Mary's Catholic Church will have their regular market at De Stefano's store Saturday. The menu will consist of Lady Baltimore, Grand Duke, Caramel and Pineapple cakes. Also available will be snow balls, mince meat pies, salt rising bread, light bread, beaten biscuit and home made Italian spaghetti. They would be pleased to have you call.

- For Sale - the brick residence now occupied by Mrs. George White on Adams Ave. Anyone interested are at liberty to call and examine the place.

Apply to Mrs. Chas. P. Lane
Phone 152-3

- Mr. Knott reported a dog afflicted with rabies, and foaming at the mouth, was spotted near New Market yesterday.



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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice



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

Hello - it's good to be greeting my friends again. I hope everyone is feeling good and having a great beginning of summer. Happy to report that I'm doing well and feeling so much better after my sick spell. Thanks again for all the love that came my way while I was off from work.

Thanks to all of you who called about the picture of the month. It makes it so much fun to hear from all of you. **Janice Stringer** from Five Points Beauty Salon called with the correct answer - the Photo of the Month was **Mary Cantrell** from Mary's Antiques on Pratt Avenue.

I have had many friends stop by to see me since I was sick. Yesterday my dear friend **Louie Tippett** and his lovely wife **Jane** came by. They own "United Fire and Water Restoration" and are such a hard-working couple - I love you!

Congratulations to our long-time friend **Mr. Cecil Ashburn**, a man who has done so much for our community. He was just

recently inducted into the **Alabama Road Builders Association Hall of Fame** at a very formal evening event at the Montgomery Country Club. He wanted me to tell you that he accepted the honor for all the employees of **Ashburn and Gray**, past and present - there wouldn't be any recognition without them. Thanks, Mr. Ashburn, for being my friend.

Little **Mr. Wade Rogers** just had his 6th birthday. I hope it was a great party and Happy Birthday, Wade!

Jan Davis brought her friend from Japan **Chiaki Makai** to breakfast. Chiaki has flown on the Space Shuttle two times in 1994 and 1998. She also worked as a crew communicator on Jan's first Mission Spacelab. Jan also brought several of her staff members to breakfast this week. I'm glad to report that Jan's mother is doing much better after a stay in the hospital. **Dolly**, we're so glad to see you out again.

Our sympathy goes to

Jimmy East and all the East family in the death of his brother, **Joe East**. Also, our sympathy goes to **Jim Shockley** in the death of his sister. I love you all.

Congratulations to long time friends **James** and **Roseanne (Carter) Troup** who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Stephen Balling and **Carole Magnuson** stopped by for breakfast and left a note saying the food was "simply wonderful." Thanks and I hope you'll be back soon again.

Congratulations to **Donna**, my granddaughter, who was my birthday girl of the month. Happy Birthday Donna - you're growing OLDER and prettier every day!

Velma at the **Huntsville Senior Center** on Drake wants me to remind you that they could really use some volunteer help in the Senior Center Gift Shop. That way they could stay open

Photo of The Month

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

Hint: You see her all the time at one of our banking establishments in town!



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One of my dear friends who comes to see me all the time is **Robert Madison**. He is such a sweet guy and handsome too!

I must say a great big hello to my friend **J. C. Hayes** of Jackson County Road in Section, Alabama. Also my friends **Bill** and **Lucy Mae Pope** of Fackler, Alabama that's out near Crow Mountain. You've heard me talk a lot about the fine fruit from Crow Mountain.

Thanks to my friends **Jim Kirby** and **Geneva Kirby** from Stevenson who came to see me and brought me those great country goodies.

I noticed in the paper that political talks are beginning already for next year. Our Huntsville **Mayor Loretta** says she is definitely running. I noticed that **Glenn Watson** is also running again for his Council seat. Guess there will be several others to announce soon - can't wait!

Someone told us that **Mary Jane Caylor** has definitely made up her mind to run against Loretta. If that's true, it should be an interesting mayoral race.

I hope all you come to my **Customer Appreciation Day** on June 10 starting at 10:30 a.m. and going til 1:30. It'll be held here at Eunice's, 1006 Andrew Jackson Way and we'll have Barbeque Chicken, Fried Fish, Roasted Corn and Homemade Lemonade! A real country feast because I appreciate you all so much! I sure hope to see you all.

More about the wedding of the summer - my little friend **Jade Watson** is getting married on May 31st at the beautiful Wedding Chapel on the mountain. The very lucky groom is **Bobby Sentell**. Much luck to both of

you!

The two beautiful daughters of **Steve** and **Bonnie Hettinger** (**Hillary** and **Juliet**) are both getting married this summer! They are such sweet girls and I can't believe so many years have passed since I first saw them as little girls! I know Steve and Bonnie are so proud.

Some of our friends have asked me when **Claudia Huton** of Austin, Texas was here last. It was so good to see her walk in the door this week with her Mom **Leona Jackson**. Always comes to see me the first day that she's home. I love you!

I'm so glad the **Concerts in the Park** are starting up again. There's always so many wonderful people there, and boy, do the politicians work the crowds!

Congratulations to **Chuck** and **Annelie Owens** on their upcoming June celebration of their 55th anniversary! Boy, that's a long time to put up with someone!

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer, and be sure and come by to see me. Remember, I love all of you.

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1925 Huntsville Favorites

These recipes are taken from the Missionary Society Holmes Street M.E. Church, Huntsville, Al. Thank you to Mr. Newman Ward for sending us his mother's 1925 cookbook and these wonderful recipes herein.

Mom Ward's Best Apple Pie

- 5 good cooking apples
- 2 T. butter in pieces
- 2/3 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 t. nutmeg
- Pastry
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. regular flour
- 1/2 c. butter

Slice your apples and pour into a buttered baking dish with no bottom crust. Sprinkle over this 2/3 cup brown sugar and dot

well with 2 tablespoons of butter. Sprinkle with nutmeg and add 4 tablespoons of water.

Mix 1/2 cup brown sugar, 1 cup flour and 1/2 cup butter, cut in with pastry blender is best. Sprinkle this mixture over the top of the apples, bake in moderate oven (350) until apples are tender and top is browned.
Bess Ward

Date Pudding

- 1 c. chopped dates
- 1 c. chopped English walnuts
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 T. flour
- 1 t. baking powder
- 3 eggs beaten separately, fold whites in last

Mix all ingredients as listed, bake in moderate oven 20 minutes. Cut in squares and serve with whipped cream.

Mrs. W. E. Voelker

Tapioca Pineapple Pudding

1 cup of tapioca soaked over night in plenty of cold water. Drain 1/2 can sliced pineapple and juice, 1/2 cup water, juice of 2 lemons, 1 1/2 cups of sugar. Cook slowly until nearly clear. Remove from stove, let cool, then stir in the whites of three eggs well beaten. Serve with good cream.

Mrs. T. E. Banks

Salmon Croquettes

One can of salmon mashed fine. Salt and pepper to taste, two eggs and half as much bread crumbs as salmon. Make into rolls, dip in beaten eggs, roll in cracker crumbs and fry.

India Lowman

Scalloped Eggplants

- 2 medium eggplants
- 2 c. cracker crumbs

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½ c. milk
1 T. butter
½ c. ground cooked ham
1 egg
½ t. sugar
Salt and pepper to taste

Boil eggplants until tender. Peel, cut in small cubes. Add salt, pepper, sugar, butter and ham. Put layer of eggplant in buttered baking dish, then layer of cracker crumbs. Repeat until all is used. Beat egg, add milk and pour over eggplants. Bake in moderate oven 30 minutes and serve while warm.

Mrs. Emmitt A. Barnes

Oatmeal Bread

1 c. milk
1 t. salt
1 c. rolled oats
2 ½ c. flour
1 to 3 yeast cakes

Scald liquid, add salt and pour over oats. Cool half hour, add yeast mixed with ¼ cup lukewarm water and flour & bake. Mrs. T. E. Banks

A Bride's Pie Crust (One that never fails)

1 c. shortening
½ c. boiling water

Cream until cold. Let stand half an hour. Add three cups of flour and pinch of baking powder and salt. Roll thin and fill pans.

Mrs. W. D. Grafton

Nut Cake

1 lb. sugar
½ lb. butter
6 eggs
1 t. ground nutmeg
1 lb. flour
1 ½ lb. seeded raisins
1 quart pecan meats, chopped
1 wine glass of wine
Mix thoroughly and bake in loaf.

Daisy Baxter

Banana Frappe

Three large bananas, 2 cups sugar, 1 pt. water, juice of 2 oranges, 1 lemon, 1 pineapple. Cook bananas, sugar and water until it is a thin syrup. Strain and cool. Add fruit juice and freeze.

Birdie Lucille Shelby

English Walnut Candy

2 c. brown sugar
1 T. butter
1 c. English walnuts
1 c. milk

Boil sugar and milk until a little dropped in cold water forms a soft ball. Add butter, remove from fire and beat until it begins to thicken, add nuts and pour into buttered pan, cut in squares.

Lucille Blair

Maple Mousse

One cup maple syrup, one

pint full cream. Whip both until stiff. Mix well and pack in salt and ice until frozen. Serve with whipped cream.

Mrs. Ben Johnson

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Burgess and Mirah Marcum Miller

by Austin Miller

Burgess Miller joined the Confederate army at Maysville, Alabama in 1861. His brother Larkin also went to the war and did not return. The family never knew what happened to him.

I don't know all the battles Burgess was in but I do know that he was wounded in the summer of 1863 at the battle of Champion Hill just outside Jackson, Mississippi. It is a miracle that he did not die due to sanitary conditions and the quality of medical care customary in the civil war. Soldiers often died of infection from the slightest wound. His wound was severe enough to cripple him the rest of his life. He was taken in a wagon to Vicksburg, a distance of about 40 miles, a trip I have made by car many times. He got there in time for the battle of Vicksburg and lived through the siege and fall of the city. This was one of the darkest times in the history of the South. The loss at Vicksburg gave the Yankees control of the Mississippi River, a crippling blow because it divided the confederacy and cut off a major supply route. This, coupled with the devastating loss

at Gettysburg the day before, dealt a deathblow to the Confederates. Lee's Army was able to escape from Pennsylvania back to Virginia in fact but the Army at Vicksburg was devastated. When Vicksburg fell the Yankees took 30,000 Confederate prisoners. One of those was Burgess Miller. As a condition of the surrender most of the 30,000 signed an affidavit that they would not take up arms against the U.S. Government. This was no disgrace especially in the case of Burgess. He was wounded and likely physically unable to serve. In any event, his regiment, the 35th Alabama, had slipped away after Burgess was wounded. He was released as a prisoner of war and had to walk from Vicksburg to Ryland, a dis-

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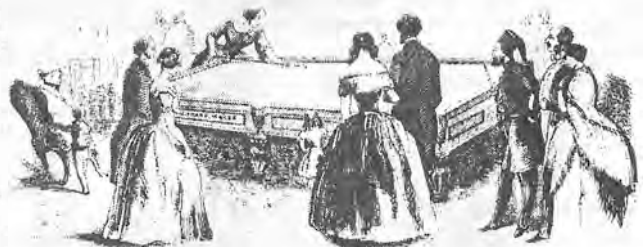
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tance of about 400 miles. When he got to North Alabama, an obstacle was the Tennessee River. He found an old log, used it as a float and swam across the river. Assuming he could walk 10 miles a day with a bad leg the trip would have taken him over a month. It is likely that he got home sometime in September 1863.

The conditions at Vicksburg were some of the worst experienced by soldiers and citizens of any war in history. The infrastructure of the city and countryside was laid to waste. People were starving and both soldiers and civilians were down to eating dog, cats and even rats. We can speculate that Burgess knew great hunger. He also knew the terror of combat and suffered the pain of a serious wound; no purple hearts or medals for valor were given to Confederate Soldiers. In my growing up years people would talk about which of my uncles had the hardest time in war. Some would say uncle Gib because of his

wounds; others would say Uncle Louis because he was in combat so long and others Uncle Paul because of his experiences as a prisoner of war in Korea. There is no doubt that if Burgess had been their contemporary his name would have been added to the discussion. A big difference was that when his grandsons came home, they came home to peace and plenty. Burgess came home to poverty and a home occupied and ruled by a hated enemy.

Burgess lived to a ripe old age and had a number of children. One was named Mose Louis Miller, after his father. Another was Curtis Miller (Uncle Curt), I remember him well and he is the only person I ever knew who was born during the Civil War. Mose married Anna Eunice McKay in about 1906, they had eight children. All but one lived to adulthood. Their firstborn Lucy died as a baby and is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery. The rest were boys, their names were Robert Edgar, Joseph Houston, James

Curtis, Mose Louis, Jr., Paul Berns, Frank Jordan and Malcolm Wayne.

Mirah Marcrum Miller was the wife of Burgess Miller and my Great Grandmother. When Burgess was away at war a Yankee troop raided her house in Big Cove. They rode their horses

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through her garden, trampled her flower beds and ransacked the house searching for food and valuables. They took all her food and meat she had hidden in ashes in the smoke house. They rode off with her food in sacks and the meat on the end of their bayonets. As they galloped away she yelled at them, "I hope the bushwhackers get you before you get out of this valley!" Bushwhackers were not part of the Confederate army, they were an organized guerrilla force that hid out and ambushed Yankees. They had the support of the population but were not officially sanctioned by the Confederate or considered Soldiers by the Union Army and if captured by the Yankees they were usually shot or hung. A hot bed for bushwhackers was in Killingsworth Cove. One reason they were so active around Huntsville is because North Alabama was occupied early in the war.

Mirah's wish came true. Before the Yankees got out of the range of the sound of rifle fire, the bushwhackers did indeed kill them all. She was about 25 at the time. In my kitchen is a green marble-top, three-drawer chest that was in her house when the Yankee's came calling.

When Burgess came home in 1863, he returned to an enemy occupation followed by years of reconstruction. It is a historical fact that people in the South suffered during reconstruction from depravation and starvation as

much as any people in history. It is an irony that in succeeding wars the U.S. treated the occupied lands of foreign enemies much better than it did its own people in the South. It is also true that it took the South almost a hundred years to recover from the Civil War primarily because of punitive policies of the U.S. government.

Burgess and Mirah were devout Presbyterians. They did no work or play on Sunday. All meals were cooked on Saturday. There was no swimming or other recreation of any kind. About all they would do is go to church, feed the livestock and milk the cows. This was passed down to my Grandfather because he did not allow Daddy and my uncles to play ball, fish, hunt or work on Sunday.

Mirah was known by all of Ryland as Granny Miller. She walked the roads and roamed the community in her later years. Everybody in Ryland helped look after her. When my granddaddy discovered she wasn't home, he

would set out afoot looking for her. He would find her eating breakfast with a neighbor, sitting on a front porch rocking or making herself at home in someone's living room. My granddaddy told of coming to the Thomas house located just south of the railroad track on Dug Hill Road. Mr. Will Thomas and his wife were sitting on the front porch and saw him looking for her. They said, "Mose come on in, we got Granny. She is in bed." Sure enough she was lying on top of their nice clean bed on top of a beautiful bedspread with muddy shoes on. They wouldn't let him

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fuss at her and made him promise he wouldn't say anything to her about it later.

She was such a character that people used to use her name to scare their children to make them behave. It is said that she would walk the roads and poke at the wheels of cars with her walking sticks as they passed by. This of course would be a real danger today but in those days the roads were gravel or dirt and the cars were T-Models that didn't go much faster than a mule drawn wagon.

Mama talks about playing with her cousin Sis Harbin Turner around the bales of cotton they used to keep in front of Carl Mooring's house. The house is still standing and I remember when they kept the cotton there. All the people who worked on Carl Morring's farm had to bring their cotton from the gin and dump it in front of his house until it was sold. Each fall there were hundreds of bales staged

there and Mama still talks about Granny peeping at them from behind the bales watching them play.

Burgess and Mirah lived out their last days in the house with my grandparents. Burgess died in 1917, Mirah died in 1926. They are buried in Ryland Cemetery. Burgess's grave has one of the few Confederate Veteran markers still left in the cemetery.



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Early History Of Huntsville

"Reconstruction"

by Brig. Gen. E. C. Betts and published in 1909

After the close of the war, and military discipline was relaxed, conditions became unspeakably depraved. Huntsville and her citizens suffered "depredation, robbery, murder, arson and rapine" at the hands of marauding hordes of "tories," "scalawags" and federal and Confederate "deserters." The county was overrun with this scum of humanity, the flotsam and jetsam of ignominy itself. For a great while the local traffic in whiskey was enormous. The streets were crowded with the drunken and debauched, and lawlessness stalked abroad unbridled. These conditions were accentuated by the presence, in large numbers, of ladies of easy virtue; who by their indecent demeanor in all places, and especially public thoroughfares, lent an air of degradation to the entire community.

There can be little doubt that lawlessness had reached dangerous proportions, when we learn that the Provisional Governor Parsons, a "loyal" Union man, deemed it necessary to invest the mayor of Huntsville with special and extraordinary powers to suppress violence. These deplorable conditions were not confined to the town alone but existed throughout the county.

Former citizens of the county,

who had become "tories" during the war and through fear had left the country, now returned to vent their hate and avenge their own self-imposed dishonor, upon the defenseless, who had lain down the weapons of war and taken up those of peace. Their lust for

blood and insatiable desire for revenge knew no bounds and recognized no ties. Confederate veterans now pursuing the arts of peace, were deliberately shot and killed while seated with the remnants of their families around their firesides, and while at work in the fields .

These general conditions and special influences cooperated to make the seven years of reconstruction infinitely and inestimably more harsh, cruel and inhuman than the four years of

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bloody war itself. In addition thereto there was another specific factor more potent than all these and wider in scope which threatened the very existence of civilization at the South; the Reconstruction Acts, passed by Congress, aided by Constitutional Amendment.

The administration of these acts was largely entrusted to the illiterate and unknowing "carpetbagger," who was aided in his persecutions by that most unprincipled of all men, the "scalawag," a coward by nature and a thug and grafter by preferment. These latter poisoned the already hostile mind of the "carpetbagger." The author is wanting in ability to define either the genus "carpetbagger," or "scalawag."

We have already learned that the bureau at Huntsville had projected "Union or Loyal Leagues," for political purposes. As these leagues became stronger, after the ballot was given the negro, many negroes were elected to office through its influence. The higher and more important offices were preempted by the "carpetbaggers" and held at the hands of the "Black Man's Party."

These leagues having become strong in membership and powerful in politics, under the protection of the Union troops garrisoned here, became very disorderly and obnoxious. The conduct of the members was offensive to the last degree.

The league meetings were held at night. Going to and from the meetings the members would march through the streets, armed, in military formation, and execute drills about the court house. The meeting over, many of them would loiter about the streets, acting boisterously; using abusive and obscene language, discharging firearms and making threats of violence; taking particular care to make themselves most offensive to those they especially disliked. In

short, the "carpetbaggers" contrived every conceivable means of intimidating the Southern whites into submission.

More or less encouragement was given these disreputable bodies and their policies, by the waning opposition of a certain element of the whites; who were beginning to organize

themselves into "loyal" bands, proclaiming the North; renouncing and denouncing the Confederacy and all it had stood and fought for. Nicholas Davis presided at one of these "unconditional union mass-meetings," held at Moulton, in Lawrence county. This meeting was very thinly attended and represented

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no considerable portion of the sentiment of North Alabama, though eleven counties sent delegates. A little later such a meeting was held at Huntsville, with no better attendance.

Prior to the election of 1868, the Ku-Klux, were not active, locally. Though from time to time individual corrections were administered by small bands of Ku-Klux.

With the result of the election of 1868, came a realization of the enormity of the danger to the white man and his social institutions, and the extent of his dilemma. After this election Huntsville and surrounding country had well organized Klans of Ku-Klux.

The Ghouls, or privates of the Klans in Madison county, when in active service, in addition to the regulation disguise and mask, wore red flannel trousers with white stripes down the sides, and around the waist a brace of revolvers.

Prior to the election of 1868, few deeds of violence were committed by the Klan; for, up to that time, the superstitious and the

timid and credulous "carpetbaggers" were easily subdued and held in check by mere threats of violence or warnings from the Klan. But, later when the detestable and more knowing "scalawag" began to get in his work, the warnings from the Klan were less effective.

The credulity of the freedman was not only taken advantage of by the Southern whites, but by the Northern whites, as well. His ostensible new friend capitalized his friendship to the detriment and financial loss of the negro. The fraudulent schemes devised by sharpers from the North to separate the negro from his money, were novel, numerous and varied. The most pretentious and lucrative of all these frauds was the sale of four painted sticks. The negro was told by the faker from the North that the land upon which these sticks were set up, where so ever it might be, became his, ipso facto. A document purporting to be a deed accompanied each set of sticks.

After the spring of 1868, the newspapers frequently carried

Klan warnings and threats. Printed warnings were posted in prominent places. These public documents dealt with conditions and obnoxious persons, generally. Individuals, who by their conduct and associations had become undesirable and were

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deemed a menace to the peace and welfare of the community, received notices and warnings in person, and some times by posting on their premises in conspicuous places. These offenders were given a limited and fixed time to depart. Failing to take heed, they were captured and severely thrashed and ordered, and in some instances, made to leave. Be it said, however, it was not often necessary to administer a thrashing; for as a general thing the first notice received by an individual, signed "Ku-Klux-Klan" was obeyed without undue loss of time and without argument. These warnings were frequently ludicrously misspelled and always written in a disguised hand.

The Klan at Huntsville, deeming I. D. Sibley an undesirable citizen, sent the following warning, written mostly in "plain English," to him, which explains itself:

"Mr. Sibley, you had better leave here. You are a thief and you know it. If you do not leave in ten days we will cut your throat. We ain't after the negroes; but we intend for you damn carpetbagger men to go back to your homes. You are stealing everything you can find. We mean what we say. Mind your eye."

The activities of the KuKlux became more strenuous and purposeful as the oppression of

the "carpetbag" regime grew. During this time, additional troops were sent to Huntsville to suppress the Ku-Klux, but to no avail. Later, martial law was declared over Madison county. Even this did not seriously impede the work of the Klan as a social regulator. It had inaugurated an "Invisible Empire," which had grown in strength until its decrees were far more potent and its power more

dreaded than that of the visible commonwealth which it either dominated or terrorized. It is said, too, no doubt with truth, that many of the federal soldiers, stationed here, looked leniently upon the activities of the Klan, so evidently inaugurated in sheer self-defense and decency, by an oppressed and downtrodden people.

The most famous parade and "riot" of the Ku-Klux-Klan oc-

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curred at Huntsville just before the presidential election of 1868. A body of Ku-Klux 1,500 strong rode into the city and paraded the streets. Both men and horses were disguised with masks and sheets. All of their evolutions were executed with the greatest precision, skill and silence. The freedmen were in a frenzy of fear. One of them fired a shot; immediately a riot was on. The negroes fired randomly and the unmasked whites indiscriminately. The unmasked whites returned the fire. The Ku-Klux fired not a shot, but formed a line and looked on silently. Several negroes were wounded. Judge Thurlow, a "scalawag" of Limestone county, was accidentally shot and killed by a stray bullet. The whites who participated received only slight wounds. The military authorities arrested some of the Ghouls, who were released later. This was known throughout the North as one of the greatest "outrages" committed by the Ku-Klux.

This is only one of many similar "riots" enacted in the South,

and accredited to the Ku-Klux-Klan, as "outrages."

By the year 1870, the mission of the Klan had been accomplished in a large measure. So nearly readjusted and normal had conditions become, that the need of its protection practically had ceased.

The war over, the Confederate soldier returned home to find his labor system, the primary leverage of rehabilitation, not demoralized but utterly destroyed. Impoverished to the last degree, broken in health, with head bowed in unutterable dejection, he looked out upon the vast sea of his desolation. For a moment he stood dazed; reeled, recovered himself, girded up his loins, put on the armor of peace, and double-quickened into action, with that indomitable determination that had made of him such a formidable foe.

A splendid new empire was built with marvelous rapidity out of the hot ashes of the old, as a harmonious part of the common whole our reunited and beloved nation. Happy and at peace with itself and the world, this new South has become strong and trusted in the councils of the nation.

Nothing contained in this volume must be taken as indicating the author's approval of sla-

very. Far from it. He has spoken of things as he found them, where he found them and when he found them. The South was not the original importer of the slave, but became a slave section naturally and logically.

"The North thinks Reconstruction was the salvation of the South and is the cause of its present progressiveness, but, in destroying all that was old, Reconstruction probably removed some abuses; but the credit can not rightfully be claimed until it can be shown that those results were impossible under the regime destroyed."




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Among history's "firsts" is the unusual fact that Huntsville had the first bathtub. This splendid invention was the brainchild of Thomas Martin of Fairfax, Virginia.

He had learned, in 1808, of a new land opening up south of Tennessee, a territory that was said to be abundant with game and fertile land upon which crops of all varieties could flourish.

Martin, his wife, Sarah, and her parents left Virginia and soon settled near the big spring in the North Alabama territory that John Hunt had founded in 1804.

Huntsville, as it would soon be named, was a thriving community of 2,500 people.

Martin built a grand home for his family on the northwest side of Monte Sano and engaged in dairy farming. It was reported that he earned the considerable sum of \$2,000 a year in this business. An enterprising young man, he decided to pipe water

to his property.

Huntsville had become the first city in the United States to start a water works system and Martin copied the technique of hollowing out red cedar logs to carry the water.

Running the pipe from the Cold Spring to his milk house, he carved a limestone tub, placing it in the milk house, probably because it was against the law to bathe in the house. This was most likely due to the fact that open fires had to be used to heat the water for the bath.

The tub was five feet long, 19 inches wide and 12 inches deep, with a hole carved in one end for drainage. It remained on Monte Sano for close to 50 years, then it was moved to a daughter's house on Holmes Avenue where it lay neglected until it was uncovered during excavation for the downtown post office.

For many years it sat unnoticed in front of the Post Office Cafe, where it finally became lost forever, leaving only the footnote that it was, as reported by a New York newspaper in 1916, "the first bathtub with running water in the United States!"



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An Elephant on Clinton Ave.

On December 15, 1968, North Alabama was riveted by the news of a possible major archeological find in Huntsville. William Thomas Young, a resident of 507 East Clinton Avenue, was working on replacing a floor in his home, and upon finding a pile of loose bricks underneath, decided to remove them. What he discovered next would earn his home a spot in Huntsville trivia for all time to come.

A skeleton, the biggest that anyone had ever seen, was uncovered.

Immediately, speculation began about the bones. As the word spread, gawkers began lining up on the street trying to get a view. Old history books, with pictures of dinosaurs, were hastily retrieved from dusty attics and neighbors began talking of the huge creatures that once stalked this region.

Unfortunately, the puzzle was quickly solved and Huntsville missed the opportunity of becoming the site for an archeological dig. A local historian remembered hearing tales of an elephant being buried somewhere on Clinton Avenue and by putting two and two together, solved the mystery.

It seems as if a circus had come to town in the fall of 1893 and erected its tents about a half-mile outside of town in a location now known as Five Points. As the circus was packing up and

getting ready to leave town, one of its elephants died. Circuses and traveling carnivals were notorious for leaving sick and dead animals behind, so when Sheriff Jere Murphee heard of the dead elephant, he quickly informed the circus that they could not leave town until the carcass was buried.

Mr. Bradshaw, the manager of the circus, then hired a local man by the name of Gentry to bury the carcass for the sum of ten dollars. Although some people may think that ten dollars was a large sum of money, it was also a large elephant. Mr. Gentry hitched his team of mules to the carcass, the circus left town, and everyone was happy.

In retrospect, it seems as if

Mr. Gentry might have been a bit on the lazy side, for instead of digging a hole to bury the carcass, he took the easy way out. In the 500 block of East Clinton, there had at one time been an old brickworks, and adjacent to the works was a large hole from where the clay for the bricks had been dug. It was here that Gentry dumped the carcass, and finished filling in the hole with old bricks and rubble.

And it was here, years later, that homes were built, with Mr. Young eventually buying the one with the secret.

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News From The Year 1921

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Mussolini Becomes Duce Of Italy

Rome - Benito Mussolini has declared the Fascist Party the Nationalist Fascist Party and named himself its "Duce" or leader. This Italian-based movement began in 1919 as a reaction to postwar revolutionary movements. It was, and still is, fiercely anti-Communist.

Mussolini rejected his socialist ties-he had been editor of the Milan Socialist Party newspaper *Avanti* prior to the war-to organize the *Fasci di Combattimento* with Italian industrialists, landowners and army officers shortly after the war. The party name is derived from the ancient Roman symbol of power, the *Fasces*.

The party has become known in political circles as an expression of "radicalism of the right," a movement which glorifies the state and subordinates individuals to state authority. Strict law

and order and preservation of a rigid class structure are also party principles. According to observers in Italy, the goals of the party include battling Socialists, Communists, Catholics and Liberals, ideologically and militarily if necessary.

The party certainly identifies with the military as its black-shirted members use the ancient Roman warrior salute and adhere to stern army-like discipline.

Beer Goes the way of Whiskey - OUT

Not only can you no longer abuse it, but doctors can no longer use it. Such is the impact of the Willis-Campbell Act, signed today by President Harding.

Better known as the anti-beer bill, the measure forbids doctors

from prescribing beer for medicinal purposes.

Actually, it is an official attempt to siphon off the market alleged medical cures being bought and sold as substitutes for alcoholic beverages, as very few doctors are guilty of prescribing liquor for people who don't absolutely need it.

The legislation also states that Prohibition officers may not search private dwellings without a warrant, but in other places they may act upon a reasonable suspicion.

Meanwhile, the National Brewer's Asso. has declared that it will test the constitutionality of the new act.

A court case is expected soon.



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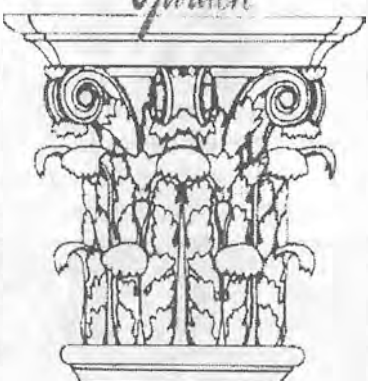
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Police call a halt to Rising Skirts

The chief of police in Sunbury, PA. has issued an edict requiring women to wear skirts at least four inches below the knee. The chief was driven to this decision following a dozen complaints from town residents. They expressed dismay over the sight of two women traversing the streets who had the lace on their skirts too distant from their ankles. The chief had sent some policemen in search of the offenders, but they returned empty-handed.

Harding installed as 29th President

Promising no foreign entanglements, Warren G. Harding of Ohio was sworn in today as the nation's 29th President. The simple ceremony, held on the east front of the Capitol, came on a bright sunny day. Accompanying the new president to the Capitol was his Democratic predecessor, Woodrow Wilson. Hours later, in a surprise move, the new Republican president ordered that the White House gates be opened to the public for the first time since the United States entered the war in Europe nearly

four years ago. In his campaign, Harding had promised a return to "normalcy."

America's Unknown Soldier Comes Home

Washington - America's own hero, the unknown soldier, lies in state in the vast rotunda of the nation's Capitol, three years after the end of the war with vast crowds of silent mourners lining up to pay respects.

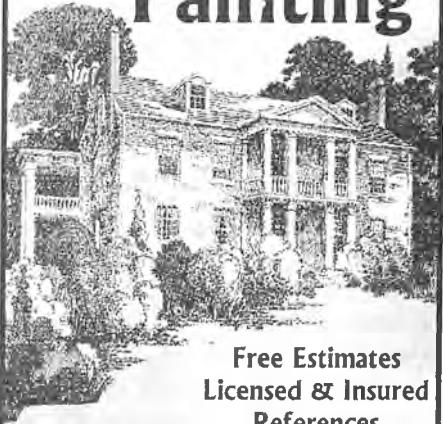
For days now, they have come, the old and the young, the Negroes and the whites, even those who are badly crippled, to pay homage to the man, or perhaps he was little more than a boy, who died in France. The simple black coffin bearing his remains rests on the spot where only the nation's assassinated presidents, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, have slept in death.

As a cannon boomed down river, the body arrived at the Washington Navy Yard earlier this week aboard the great, gray cruiser Olympia and was taken to the Capitol.

Since then, hundreds of thousands of Americans and foreign diplomats have filed by the flag-draped coffin.

Among the wreaths are one sent by King George of England, bearing the words: "An unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live."

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Huntsville Sidewalk News from 1885

- New Colored Church - The colored Cumberland Church laid the corner stone of their new church building on church Street Saturday evening, with interesting and appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Evening Star Lodge No. 6 A. F. & A. M.

- Judge Thomas C. Barclay is rapidly improving on the airy and healthful altitudes of Monte Sano.

- We are glad to see Mr. C. H. Halsey, the popular proprietor of the Huntsville Hotel, out again, after several days of illness during the past week.

- Catch the thief - Stolen last Thursday night from Thomas Gore near Huntland, Franklin county, Tenn. a black horse mule. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for the return of said mule and ten dollars for the apprehension of the thief. The lucky man can address the Mercury or Thomas Gore, Huntland, Tenn.

- Dr. J. J. Dement has added another to the list of his building enterprises which have contributed so much to local property, by contracting for the erection at an early date of a handsome brick store, 86 x 100 feet, on the present site of Wright's Boarding House, between the Dement Block and the store of J. R. Kiess. The store has already been engaged and will be filled by parties from abroad, with a stock of machinery and agricultural implements.

- Matilda Cox, a colored woman, was arrested Thursday on a warrant from Judge Richardson for larceny. It is charged that she received clothes to wash, and sold instead of returning them.

- A party of young ladies and gentlemen left the city yesterday morning in vehicles for the Mountain. Among them were Misses Shelby White, Corinne Goodman, Mary Newman, Nona Winter and Lula Goodman; Messrs. R. J. Lowe, J. I. Darwin, A. F. Murray, Dr. Allen Green and Prof. C. C. Thatch. They spent a most enjoyable time up on the Mountain.

- The new residence of Mrs. Van Valkenburg, which is in rapid process of erection on Franklin Street, is unique in the beauty of its architectural design, and promises, when completed, to be one of the handsomest in the city.

- If any one thinks that Huntsville is not assuming the airs of a metropolitan city, let them look into our market any morning between 4 and 5 o'clock, when he sees the bulk of business transacted in meat, vegetables and he will alter his opinion somewhat.

- Quite a number of country folks were in town yesterday. The pleased expression on each face suggested bountiful crops this fall.



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The Span Of A Century

by Annetta Martinson

In 1890 in the aftermath of the Civil War, the Yankees returned to Madison County, not with bullets and bayonets, but with dollars. They built cotton mills, the first was Dallas Mill incorporated February 26, 1891. That same year my father, Claude E. Barnes, was born in Smithville, Tennessee.

The red brick building stood 5 stories high and floor space estimated at 300,000 sq. ft. employing 500 people. By 1900, the capacity had already doubled, using about 20,000 bales of cotton annually.

By 1916, there were 120 houses. Eventually the village consisted of 380 houses, with the

Rison School being built in 1921.

The Barnes family moved to Huntsville in 1900 and lived on the Harrison Farm on Blue Springs Road. My grandfather, Larkin Hartwell Barnes, worked for Harrison Brothers Hardware that is still operating on the square.

Later my grandfather was recruited to bring families from Tennessee to come work at Dallas Mill. My grandfather was paid for each person that was able to work. The larger the family the more money he received. Some people started working as early as 12 years old. After working at this for a while, my grandfather bought some land on Halsey Avenue and built a two story house. He raised a huge garden, had cows, pigs, and chickens. My grandparents lived there until November of 1941 when grandfather died and grandmother, Harriett Luna Barnes, died in

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January of 1942. My cousin's son, Larry Pridmore, lives in the house now, but he has changed it so it does not look the same. How many memories are connected to that house!

In 1914, my parents had built a house on Stevens Avenue. There was one house between the house on Stevens and the house on Halsey. A family named McKenzie lived there. Before the due date for my arrival, my grandfather drove a horse and buggy to Stevens Avenue and said "Mama says you will have your baby at our house as all our daughters do". My mother, Myrtle Fears Barnes, had wanted to stay at home. But this was a command. So I was born at the house on Halsey.

In 1918, at the end of World War I, my father worked as a barber. He had a shop on the Fifth Street which is now Andrew Jackson Way. As a youth he had hurt his leg in an accident and was forced to use crutches until he was 20 or 21.

The doctor wanted to take his leg off but my grandfather said "the Lord gave me one son and he may take him, but he will have both legs". My grandfather began to use old remedies and slowly my father's leg healed.

During the flu epidemic during the first war entire households were sick with many dying. Some groups got together and prepared huge cauldrons of soup for the stricken families

who could not take care of themselves.

Then men with cars would visit the homes where there was sickness, knock on the doors and leave the soup. Everyone was afraid of getting the flu. My mother said Daddy would come home, after work and delivering soup, saying he was coming down with the flu. He would eat something and drink hot tea or coffee with honey or something. He would get up next morning feeling better and do the same routine over again.

Many people in Huntsville died from the flu epidemic. The families then would burn the mattress and bed linens. It was a scary time.

March 1918, my sister was born and a little later my father bought a small store at the corner of Fifth Street and Halsey Avenue. It had living quarters connected to it facing Fifth Street. It was a fun time for us because Grandpa and Grandma lived at the end of the block.

As I said before, grandfather raised hogs. Every November 14th, he killed hogs. It might be warm, but he looked to old signs and as soon as the meat, sausage and hams were ready to store, there would be a freeze and he said he never lost any meat. The day of the "hog killing" big pots of boiling water were used and many local people would come to help. My grandfather made sure the helper and neighbor got



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their share and the rest was put in a smoke house.

In his house he had a pump to a well that supplied their water. We had outhouses as toilets. At one time none of the mill houses had water or sewers. I don't know when lines were run but private homes did not get water or sewers for a long time.

There was a black man with some kind of tank on a wagon pulled by a mule who went down the alleys and took the buckets from the outhouses and emptied into that tank. His wagon was known as the "Ice Cream Wagon". Maybe that's why I don't like ice cream.

Sometime in the early 30's a man from Lincoln Mill Village was driving a car along Fifth Street in front of Mullins Cafe. The man had a little too much to drink and hit the "Ice Cream Wagon", spilling contents every where and killing the mules. It took days to clean up the stinking mess.

In 1922, we moved from near the store to McCullough Avenue. Our new home had indoor plumbing with septic tanks. We felt very well off.

Churches, YMCA's and Schools were the center of entertainment. The YMCA had basketball courts, bowling alleys and billiard tables. A section was set aside for the ladies groups and community clubs. They had demonstrations of crafts, sewing and cooking. There were bible classes, music groups, and basketball for the boys and girls.

Each Saturday the YMCA had movies. Admission was 10¢. They had serials and regular shows. We could not wait on the next Saturday for another installment.

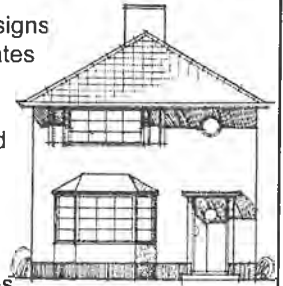
I remember when I was about six years old a lady lived near us, at the last block near the Mill, whose husband was director of the YMCA. They were not regu-

lar customers of my father's but one day she called my father's store and asked if he could send her a loaf of bread. It was before days of sliced bread. When Daddy asked me if I could walk down and deliver it I was happy to do so. My weakness was and is yeast bread and after a few steps I began to smell that bread. I was tempted, but walked on. Before I got to the end of the first block, I had pulled the wrapper just a tiny bit, pulled a bit of bread, and ate it. It was so good. Then I pulled another piece.

I don't know how much I ate, but I left it with the lady and went back to the store. Before I got back to the store, the lady had

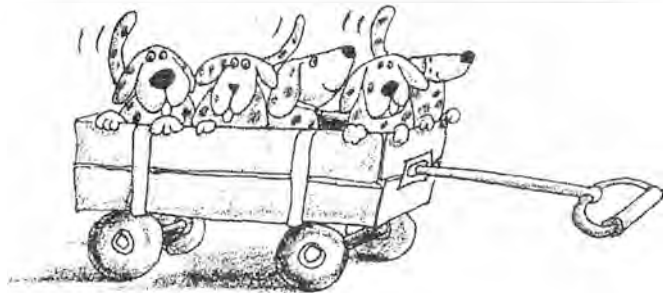
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called and said "rats had been into that bread". I never was asked to take bread any where else. Some of her children are still around and we have had a good laugh about it.

The village had a kindergarten, Miss Lillian Wheelis was principal. There was a building with the first floor for classes and play and the second floor for fraternal Hall meetings. There was a clinic and homes for the nurses. Several of the nurses, I remember, were from Canada.

The work day was long. The mill's whistle sounded early and people had to be at work at 5:45 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. for a total of 12 1/2 hours. Most of the workers went home for lunch. The take home pay was \$14.00 per week.

The mill owned the houses and rent was one dollar for each room. Most houses had one or two bedrooms with an outhouse out back next to the alley. Toilet paper sheets were delivered to the outhouses. One side was for coal and the other side was the toilet. There was a hydrant at each block.

In 1910 police protection was extended to the village. Dallas Village had a constable and a justice of peace. The court was held at a barber shop. Reminds you of Mayberry.

The mill strike, in mid July 1934, was a dangerous time. Brother against brother, neighbor against neighbor. Some people moved off to other places to get away from the trouble. When a compromise was reached in 1934, the Union took over and conditions in the mills were better. But rents were higher, utility bills had to be paid and repairs had to be made. Before, all repairs, painting and garbage pick-up was taken care of by the mill.

In the 1920 and 30's the postman for the village was Mr. Will Darwin, he lived on Holmes Avenue and drove a buggy pulled by a horse. He delivered the mail twice a day, morning and afternoon Mr. Will knew all the families and all the children.

When doctors made house calls they would often leave prescriptions. The family would give

the prescription to the postman who would take it to the drug store down town and bring it back on his next round.

All births were at homes. Neighbors and family looked after each other. I remember a lady in labor across from my grandparents giving birth. I think I was about 10 years old. She screamed so loud and for so long I was scared to death. Her mother made lye soap from bacon grease saved by other people. That soap was really strong, but it got clothes clean.

In 1950, the government had started transferring German rocket scientists to Redstone Arsenal. A few companies started opening offices in Huntsville to take advantage of government contracts that were being awarded for research and development. While this created new jobs, the majority went to people



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YOUR HOSTS: THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS

who had been transferred here.

A few natives were lucky enough to secure "good paying" jobs on the Arsenal.

Huntsville continued its slow growth up until the late fifties, when the Soviet Union launched the first satellite into space. World attention was focused on Huntsville, as the rest of the world held their breath to see what we would do. The sleepy cotton town would never be the same.

On the night of January 31, 1959, a Jupiter 6 Rocket was launched at Cape Canaveral carrying an 18 pound satellite. The people of Huntsville and Madison County anxiously stood by their radios as word was relayed from Mission Control. Finally late at night, the word was received. "The satellite is up". Instant bedlam broke out down town. Folks from all over rushed into town around the courthouse. Car horns blowing and fire crackers set off.

The news went over seas and the next day the London News carried a picture of Mayor Spec Searcy setting off fireworks.

The Huntsville Times staff was called back and the publisher J.M. Langhorne ordered an "Extra". Everyone filled in and helped out. Barely two hours after the news, the first "extra" rolled off the presses.

Within days, Huntsville became the focal point for the US Space Program. High tech business began pouring into town. Men, who had made a living picking cotton the year before, suddenly found themselves helping build rocket components. Subdivisions sprung up like weeds. Every available building was filling up. For good or bad the explosion was on its way.

On August 6, 1961 at exactly 1:20 p.m. a radio station disc jockey, in Birmingham, interrupted his programming to broadcast news of an earthquake. The amount of damages was not known yet, but there were reports of windows rattling and dishes being knocked off the shelves all across North Alabama. Within minutes other sta-

tions took up the news and civil defense sirens began blaring across North Alabama.

A newspaper reporter was on his way to Birmingham when he heard the news. He stopped at the next phone and called the

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radio station that first broadcast the news. The announcer repeated the information. Playing a hunch the reporter called Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. "Yes", said the space flight official, "There was a test firing of the Saturn rocket today."

The deafening noise and vibrations were so great it tore some of the moldings at my house away from ceilings.

We have come a long way, covered wagons, air travel, man on moon. Where do we go from here?

The one time your windshield wiper will work properly is when it's holding a parking ticket.

Mayor Gives Orders: No More Cows To Run Loose In Huntsville

from 1909 newspaper

Since Mayor Smith gave instructions for the strict enforcement of the ordinance there have been about fifteen or more cows belonging to residents of Dallas taken up. Several of the owners have been placed under arrest when they appeared to pay the fine for impounding and they have been fined in the city court.

The residents of the village allow their cows to graze on the common and they claim that the animals ought not to be taken up because of this.

1870 Recipe For Homemade Vinegar

Take a quantity of Irish potatoes, wash them until they are thoroughly clean, put them in a large vessel and boil them until done. Now drain off carefully the water you cooked them in, then strain if necessary to remove every particle of potato.

Put this water in your favorite jug or keg, and place it near the stove or some place that it will be kept warm. Add one pound of sugar to about two and a half pounds of water, some hop yeast, or a small portion of whiskey.

Prepare it this way, and letting it stand for about three or four weeks, you will have most excellent vinegar. Indeed, it is the only vinegar that will preserve cucumbers cut fresh from the vines, without the aid of salt.

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Civil War Love Letters

The following letters were submitted by Charles Gordon Yeager.

Hdqrs. Burtwells Cav. Regt.
Tuscumbia, Ala.
Nov. 20th 1864

Miss Josephine Allen
Dear Friend

Pardon me for presuming to write you without your consent. Since I first met you, at your aunts about 18 months ago, I have formed an attachment for you which death alone can obliterate. Yes, Miss Josie, I love you ardently, devotedly, and if your heart and hand are not already anothers, you can make me the happiest of mortals by bestowing them on me. Miss Josie, if you have any regard for the feelings of a lover, one who would bare his bosom to every danger, undergo every hardship aye; forsake every one and everything for your happiness, I beseech you that you look not coldly upon my suit. Miss Josephine I have spoken plainly and hope to receive a candid answer, for by your reply I shall know whether I am to hope or despair.

Hoping soon to receive a favorable reply, I remain

Your True Friend and Admirer,

Jas. E. Wilson
Act. Adjt. Burtwells Cav. Regt.
Roddeys Command

Newburgh, Ala.
Dec. 29th 1864
Adj. Wilson.

Your letter of the 20th Nov. has been received and its con-

tents carefully noted. Allow me to say you have taken me by surprise since you say that eighteen months have elapsed since you formed an attachment for me which time can never efface.

You have made a declaration of love in a very beautiful style, it can but be admired. You say you love me and that you would be happy if you could know that your love was reciprocated. In reply permit me to say that it is still my prerogative to bestow my hand and heart on whom I will. Adj. Wilson you have spoken plainly. I wish to speak candidly but not conclusively. I will consider your proposition.

Respectfully,
Josephine E. Allen

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Home Advice From 1885

- When there is no funnel to fill a bottle, use half an egg shell with a hole in one end; place on bottle and use as funnel.

- To whiten your clothes, add to a boiler of cold water 2 table-spoons of turpentine, 2 of kerosene and a bar of laundry soap shaved. Put in clothes, let come to a boil. Rinse well and clothes will be very white.

- When setting your table, the dishes and silver should be placed in such a manner that no part of the table seems overcrowded.

- There are three heats needed for the everyday cooking - quick, medium and slow. The first heat, if registered, would be 550 degrees F.; the second 350 to 400 degrees; the slow, 250 to 275 degrees. The greater part of the cooking is done with the medium heat.

- A brush that is better than one you can buy is made of flannel, folded several times and fitted into a clothes pin. Trim, al-

lowing 1/2 inch on all sides.

- After washing lettuce, tie in napkin or cheesecloth and place on ice. It will drip and crisp.

- To remove mildew from clothing, soak in buttermilk and spread out in the sun.

- To clean finger tips and nails, dig them into a grape fruit hull left from the table. Lemon hull will answer the same purpose.

- To clean stained fingers, make a paste of oatmeal and water, place under nails, after five minutes wash out.

- Powdered borax dampened and pressed under the finger nails, allowed to remain for a short time will bleach nails

- To clean a felt hat, use 4 cups of corn meal, 1 cup salt, 1 cup flour. Mix all together, rub on hat, let stand over night, brush off next day.



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From The Kindness Of His Heart

by Melba M. Hunt

My story begins in 1935 during the depression and seven years before my birth. Coy William Michael, my dad, worked at the Margaret Yarn Mill in the shipping department. The mill shut down for a while and with no income and a new baby, William Howard Michael, the family finally ran out of food.

In desperation, Coy went to the A & P grocery store (a chain store that was not supposed to extend credit) and told Mr. James "Tokey" Walker of his dilemma and asked if he could get a few groceries for his wife and new baby. Mr. Walker told him to get a buggy and fill it up.

Two weeks later the Mill reopened and when Coy got his first paycheck, he went back to pay for the groceries he had charged at the A & P store. Mr. Walker accepted only half of the money and told him to use the rest of it for whatever the mother and new baby would need.

As this story was related to me by my mother, she also said Mr. Walker took the money out of his pocket to pay for those groceries in advance.

When Mom read Mr. Walker's obituary she asked me to write this story about a kind friend for whom we will forever be grateful.

Testing The Law

from 1885 newspaper

Nine of Mr. J. R. Stegall's fine lot of hogs were impounded this week under the vagrant hog law. Mr. Stegall states that on Saturday night his hogs were closely put up in his lot, and Sunday morning had escaped through the removal of a plank which had been rooted off by the hogs themselves. He claims that the Ordinance doesn't apply where the owner of the hogs does not intentionally permit them to run at large and has requested the hogs from Justice R. W. Figg for the purpose of testing the question.



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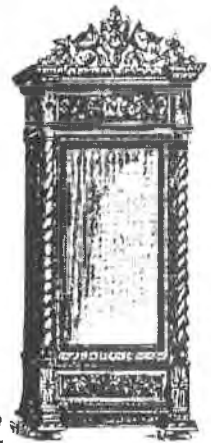
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Tips from Liz

- Emptied fruit, such as oranges or cantaloupes, refilled with vanilla ice cream with raspberries or strawberries make dainty little bowls. Cover with pink whipped cream and garnish with red cherries and serve at your summer afternoon tea.

- When you rub lotion on your face, be sure and get your neck area too as it need moisturizing as much as your face.

- Having trouble sleeping? Often times, just an extra pillow will help.

- Dip asparagus into egg batter roll in fresh bread crumbs or cracker meal and fry to a golden brown in butter. A very select vegetable with a juicy steak.

- Two cups of flour, two teaspoons of baking powder, a pinch of salt, cold water to make a stiff batter. Drop by teaspoonfuls in meat broth for drop dumplings that never fail.

- Give your colicky infant mild ginger tea. It's wonderful

for digestion and gas.

- For fever, eat grapes throughout the day. Also dilute pure grape juice and sip.

- For sinus headaches, sniff a little horseradish juice – the stronger the better. Remember to do it slowly.

- To ease the discomfort of a bad hangover, rub ½ lemon under each armpit. This may ease the feeling somewhat.

- For Asthma, eat 3-6 apricots a day. They help heal lung/bronchial conditions.

- For regularity, drink the juice of one lemon mixed in one cup of warm water, when you wake up every morning. A bit of honey may be added to sweeten. You'll be amazed at the results.

- A lady who had ringing in her ears tried dropping 2 drops of onion juice into her ears 3 times a week and it stopped.

- Garlic is wonderful for your heart - take 2 capsules a day to protect and strengthen the heart and help thin your blood. Also, use garlic in cooking and raw in salads – the cloves get really mild and sweet when baked or roasted.

- For indigestion, scrub an orange and eat some of the peel

5 minutes after a meal. Also, cayenne pepper sprinkled on food or soup will help with indigestion.

- 1 quart of celery juice per day is said to provide a noticeable improvement in shingles.



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Corpse Winks At Undertaker

In Birmingham a local undertaker received a telephone call, telling of the death of an old woman. On entering the door of the room the undertaker's assistant went first, but he remained only a very short time, for the "corpse's" eye winked at him. There was an open door near, and he didn't stop to tell his employer of his astounding discovery, but took advantage of the opportunity for getting out of the room.

But the undertaker made the same discovery himself, and instead of bolting, he made a hasty examination and found the woman indeed alive.

Then he decided that the woman's condition was critical,

believing that she was in the last throes of death, and he decided to sit down and wait.

He waited about two hours and on discovering that the woman was breathing stronger he made another exam and found that her strength was rapidly returning. She was not even dangerously ill. He has since learned that she has been guilty of "dying" a number of times before in order to get sympathy from her family.

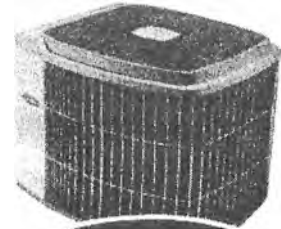
From 1908 newspaper

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

- Steve Cappaert

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Letters From A Yankee Soldier

Huntsville, Alabama January
4th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 21st with your likeness this evening and take this opportunity to answer it. Those gloves mother sent to me have not come yet. I got the letter she sent the same time new year's eve. I am afraid they are lost some where on the road for one of our boys got a pair the night I got the letter and he got a letter that was sent the same day the gloves were sent, but I will not give them up as lost yet awhile for I have had papers some three weeks behind the letters that was sent with them.

There is a great excitement here about enlisting in the veteran service. We have had orders read to us every evening on dress parade about the bounty pay and the furloughs that are to be granted to veterans. There are five or six companies that have nearly all gone into the veteran service. There is but two or three of our Co. going into it. I would not enlist again for three years for all the money I could carry. I think three years of a man's life is enough to give his country. If it is not, at least it is all I can afford to give for it is actually throwing away so much of his life. There is a great many of the boys that are enlisting for the sake of the furlough, but I do not want a furlough of thirty days. Bad enough to enlist for two years longer.

One year longer and I shall get a furlough for life to go where and when I please and will not be obliged to live on hard crack-

ers and stinking beans. I hope, Carrie, you will keep in good spirits till that time comes.

I have no more to write now and it is almost time for letters to be out. Besides that I have got to go on guard tomorrow, so I will bid you good night with the request that you will answer this as soon as possible.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

Huntsville Ala Jan. 20th/64
Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 10th of Jan. night before last, together with four newspapers. I rec'd somebodys likeness and can guess who the original is, not because the likeness looks any like her, but by what you said about it in your letter. I am going to write to Charley and I guess I will send it to him.

I rec'd the stamps you sent

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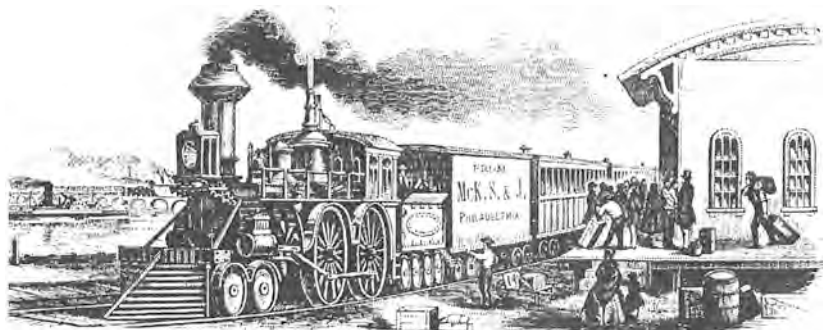
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to me and they came just in time too for I was just out of stamps.

I see by the papers that you are having some pretty cold weather up in Wisconsin. The coldest day we had here was new years day. I was on guard that day and I thought should freeze. Every one thought the mercury was 10 or 15 degrees below zero, but instead of that, it was 17 degrees above. What ever it was, it about seem to me I never suffered more with the cold up north. I suppose the reason is that our blood is in a different state here in this warm climate than it is up north. And another reason why we felt the cold so much was the sudden change. The day before new years the mercury was up to 70, which I suppose is warmer than you have seen in some time.

Yesterday morning we got up and found the ground covered with snow to the depth of half an inch, which is the deepest snow we have had this winter and that all disappeared before night. The weather has not been

very cold for the past few days, but the weather is so changeable that you can make no calculations on it. One day it will be froze up tight as a drum and the next to warm to wear a coat. I have tried to draw an overcoat but have not succeeded yet, and if I dont get it pretty soon I will not get any at all for if I cant send the coat home, I shall have to throw it away if we have any marching to do. I wish you could take a walk through the town and see some of the gardens and walks in front of some of the dwellings in this place. You never read a description of any such

things that can beat these gardens here. I dont know the names of the trees and shrubbery. They are enclosed with a handsome iron fence, inside is a hedge as high as the fence. It is trimmed so that it looks like a green wall about two feet thick. The houses are not as good as they are up north. There is quite a number of citizens here, more than I have seen in any other town in the south. There are ex slaves here without number and they have a dance about every night. The other night I was on guard and we went to a dance to get some boys that were there.

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The black cusses had been dancing some time and got pretty well warmed up. The room smelt worse than our house did in Jackson when I shot that skunk. I guess I have wrote enough for this time, so I will quit. Write of-ten as you can.

Robert Richards

Huntsville Ala Jan. 27th 1864
Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 15th last night. I came off of guard this morning and will not have to drill till this afternoon and I improve the few leisure hours by writing to you and Charley if I have time. And if I dont I must take time, as you say, for I have neither writ-ten to him or heard from him since we have been here. I am glad that mother is going to get her state money for there is no show for our getting paid very soon. The Veterans are getting discouraged about getting home. I can see by the way they talk that they are sorry they enlisted and I dont blame them, for I should regret of it if I had been such a fool.

You want to know what I think about your going to live at Congers. I will tell you I dont want you to do any such thing. You and mother need not trouble about my reenlisting. I am as anxious to get out as any one can be and I intend to go out west and get me a farm when I do get out and then I think I can enjoy my-self first rate and you and mother could too.

The rebs are hovering around us here. Our cavalry scouts have had a few skirmishes with them. The rebel Gen. Readdy took a town called Athens the other day.

Yesterday our cavalry went out there captured 400 rebs and drove the rest across the river, so I guess now they will let us alone a little while. The rebs are deserting and coming in here every day. They take the oath of allegiance and go north. The most of them live in Tennessee and Kentucky and some in this state.

We are having fine weather here. It is almost as warm here now as it is up north in the summer. We do not have any fire in our room and it is to warm to be comfortable then.

We have had to live on short rations since we have been here, but they have got the bridge fin-ished at Brownsboro and the railroad cars are expected in here today, so I expect after this we shall get the mail regular be-sides getting full rations, which is a matter of great importance to soldiers. I have finally come to the conclusion that the gloves mother sent to me are lost, for have certainly had time to get

here if they were coming.

I got the two newspapers night before last, that mother sent me.

I have no more to write now, so good bye. Write as soon as you can and let me know how you are getting along.

Robert Richards

Co. E 18th Regt. Wis. Vol.

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Lily Flagg

The Cow Who Became A Debutante

In 1889 William E. Matthews established the dairy that we know today as Meadow Gold Dairies. At that time it was called Monte Sano Dairy and it supplied milk and dairy products for all of Huntsville. The dairy utilized a herd of registered Jersey cows, some of which were imported directly from the Jersey Islands. The dairy was located on Gladstone Place, just two and a half miles from the Courthouse in downtown Huntsville and was within easy access of its patrons.

The dairy was situated at the foot of a fifteen-foot cliff, with a spring on top of the cliff. The spring house was built of limestone with water flowing from under a ledge into a fine white sandy hollow and was piped directly into the cooling vats in the back room of the dairy. These vats were on the north and west sides of the room and were deep enough to submerge a five-gallon milk can.

The cows were milked in the barn across the lane at the hours of four o'clock in the morning and three o'clock in the afternoon. The floor of the barn was cement and each cow had its own stall. Carriers then took the milk immediately to the front room of the dairy where it was strained, canned and submerged in the vats to cool. It was then bottled and capped and delivered to customers, twice daily.

Cleanliness was strictly enforced. The cows were washed before and after each milking. It was said that the cows were much cleaner than most of the people who attended them.

On June 2, 1891, Samuel H.

Moore brought a government expert, Mr. Goodall of Kansas, to Huntsville to test his cow, Lily Flagg, one of Monte Sano Dairy's Jerseys. She was to be tested for the amount of butterfat in her milk. An unofficial private test had shown that in seven days Lily Flagg had produced nearly twenty-four ounces of butter, which was unheard of in those days.

In less than a year, Lily Flagg had exceeded the record of the world's best butterfat producer. Lily Flagg had produced 1,029 pounds of butterfat in 11 months.

Because of this achievement, Lily Flagg became the talk of the town. In June of 1892, she was formally introduced to Huntsville society. Like a debutante, she was meticulously groomed and dressed in her finest attire with her horns decorated with flags, irises and ribbons. One hundred and twenty-five people registered for the event and were served a cold glass of her milk and allowed to meet with her.

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to \$10,000 which made her equal in value to many a farm in the south in those days.

Mr. Matthew's wife devised a plan of hosting a party for the beloved cow in order to benefit the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Matthews was at the time one of the best cooks in Madison County. The Huntsville Democrat announced that those who wanted rare butter, delicious sweet cream or milk, butter milk, cottage cheese, ice cream of any flavor, sherbet, boiled custard, Delmonico Pudding, blanc mange, or Charlotte rousse should call at the Lily Flagg supper where they would have the opportunity to buy any of these products which were made exclusively from her milk.

The event was a great success and the dining room was packed. Everyone was amazed that one small cow could supply the dairy needs of almost an entire town.

At this same time, the famous Samuel Moore, the colorful owner of Lily Flagg, lived in Huntsville in a magnificent home on Adams Street. The house, now known as the Watkins-Moore home, was built in the 1850's by James L. Watkins. At the time of its building, Huntsville was renowned for having some of the most beautiful homes in the south. Watkins was not to be outdone. He was surrounded by stately dwellings and he wanted his home to outshine them all.

As the building of his home began, craftsmen were called in from other states to create plaster of Paris molding. All the woodwork inside the dwelling was made of walnut, and frescoping was put together painstakingly in sections. Slaves were put to work making hand-pressed brick for its walls. There was no other structure like the tower anywhere near Huntsville. On clear days, one could see as far

as the Tennessee River from the lookout in the tower.

When Moore acquired the home in 1890 he continued to improve its interior. He was the proud owner of such rare items as bathtubs, lighting fixtures and marble mantles from Italy. As a renowned bachelor and member of the state legislature, he loved parties and people. Prominent visitors never missed a tour of his home, and several celebrities of the day were married there.

When Lily Flagg took top honors at the state fair in Chicago as the world's greatest butterfat producer, Moore was as proud as if a daughter had won a world beauty contest. He decided to celebrate her accomplishments with a grand party on the grounds of his home. Fifteen hundred people were invited to what was expected to be the social event of the decade.

Moore spared no expense in the preparations. He had the

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home painted a bright yellow for the occasion. A platform measuring 50 feet square was erected in the garden as a dancing pavilion. It was lit by one of the first electric lighting systems in the southeast. The dance floor was polished to such a high sheen that the dancers had a hard time staying on their feet.

All of Huntsville's society was in attendance. Flowers were in abundance throughout the grounds, beautiful tables were laden with exquisite foods and pastries, and the champagne flowed freely. An Italian orchestra played late into the night and the guests, decked out in their best formal attire, packed the dance floor.

The guest of honor, Lily Flagg, stood in a parlor on a silver platform under a flowerdecked mantle. Visitors from as far away as Washington wound a long line to the platform where the little Jersey stood, almost completely hidden by roses.

The party lasted until the wee hours of the morning and was one of the merriest nights in Huntsville's history.

Shortly after this event, Huntsville society hosted a banquet and dance for Lily Flagg at the elegant Monte Sano Hotel on Monte Sano Mountain. There were place cards of the little cow and speeches and toasts made to her. Stegall's wagonette offered discounted rates to the citizens of Huntsville so that as many as

possible could come up the mountain to join in the celebration.

When the World's Fair opened, Lily Flagg was shipped with another Jersey to Chicago. Sam Moore would not allow her to be milked for 24 hours, which supposedly ruined one side of her udder. Even so, the Hood Dairy, one of the countries larg-

est dairies, paid \$10,000 for Lily Flagg.

Monte Sano Dairy changed hands in 1894 and eventually became Meadow Gold Dairy. The standard of the old regime was maintained, however, and has continued to serve Huntsville throughout the years.



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Soldier home on Leave to get fitted for third leg

Private John Kellogg of Madison County received a telegram last week informing him that he had been wounded, degree undetermined, while serving with the Army in France last month.

When he contacted the authorities to tell them he was home on leave and was perfectly intact, he was ordered to report to the military hospital in Augusta, Georgia to be fitted for an artificial leg.

If the authorities have their way, Mr. Kellogg will be the only man in Alabama with three legs.

From 1918 newspaper

Revenuers Bust Whiskey Still On Keel Mountain

from 1915 newspaper

Revenue Officer Bennett found a wildcat still on Keel's mountain last week and caught two persons, a man named Atchley and a woman, Mrs. Pearl Conley, at work making the sparkling dew. Conley, husband of the woman, made his escape. The officer brought the prisoners to Scottsboro and placed them in jail.

The place where the still was found was an ideal spot near a large basin surrounded by huge frowning cliffs, a narrow passage way leading directly under a large bluff quite a distance and emerging into a room thirty feet in circumference. The operator of the still then made an excavation in the wall and placed the still in this receptacle where it remained unmolested for some time until in an evil hour the dreaded Revenuer arrived.

News From 1911

- For Sale - the brick residence now occupied by Mrs. George White on Adams Ave. Anyone interested are at liberty to call and examine the place. Apply to Mrs. Chas. P. Lane Phone 152-3

- Mr. Knott had to pull a Huntsville-bound auto out of the Mill Creek at Fisk Friday morning. Water too deep.

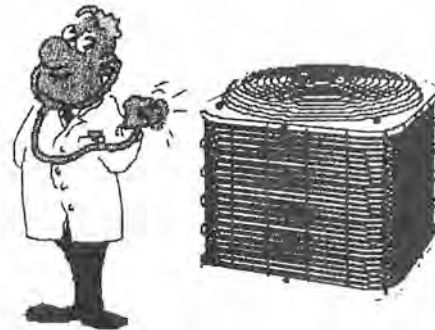
- The marriage of Chas. Sutton Lowe of Hazle Green and Miss Jennie Elizabeth Love of New Market, will occur tomorrow evening at the home of the bride-elect. The young couple are quite popular and the news of the approaching marriage will be read with a great deal of interest by their friends.

- Monte Sano Lodge No. 1 meets every Thursday night in the White Building. S. J. Darwin, D.D., and H. C. Pollard

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