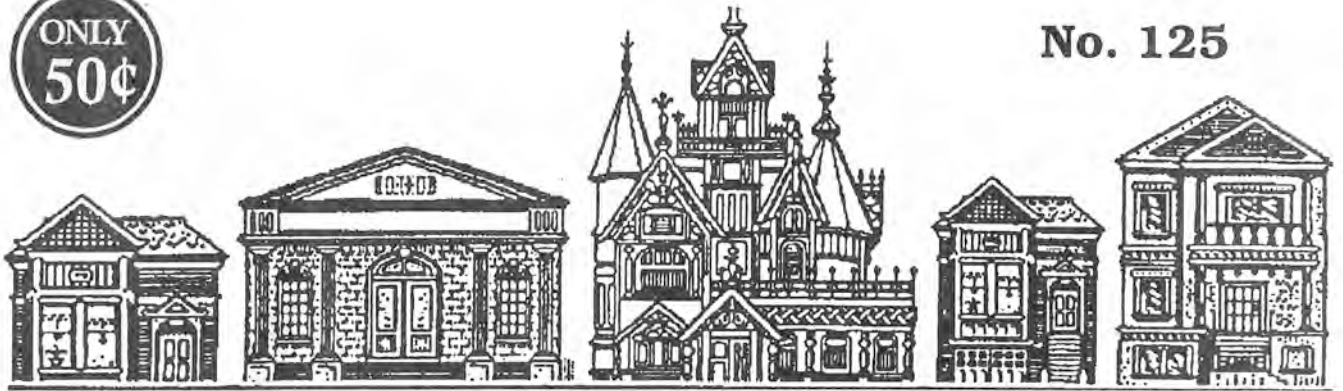


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HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



The Terrorist

It has often been said that one man's terrorist is another man's hero. Such was the case with Clement Claiborne Clay, of Huntsville, Alabama.

He was suspected of biological warfare. He paid people to burn New York City and he attempted to overthrow the U.S. government. Many people say he was even involved in the assassination of the President of the United States.

Also in this issue: Where Is The Telephone Company?

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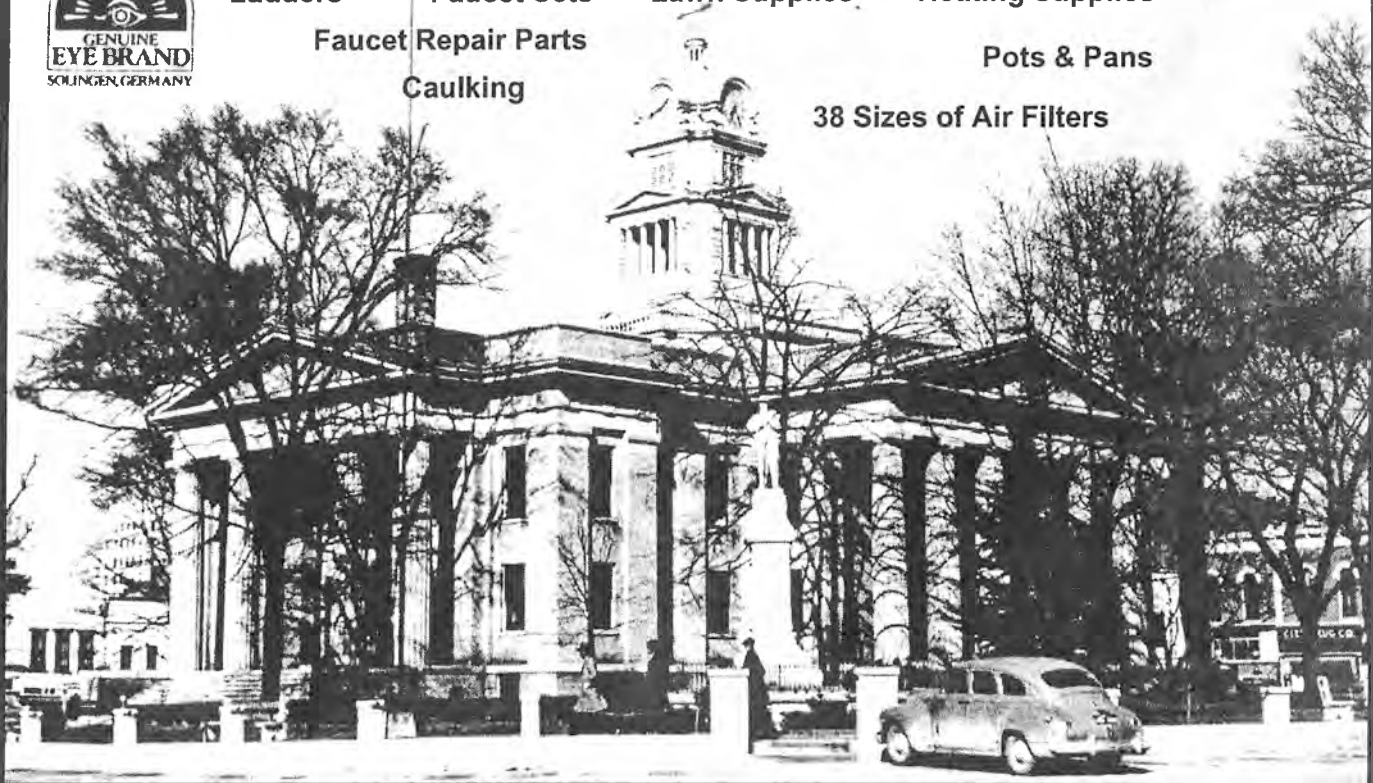
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The Terrorist

by Steve Meigs

A Huntsville man was arrested for complicity in the murder of Abraham Lincoln. He was detained behind 10 foot thick walls in a military fortress. The government refused to let him have a lawyer or visitors. Around the clock lights and guards made it hard to sleep. Powerful men - said to include General Ulysses S. Grant and Edwin Stanton, lobbied to have him executed. Prosecutors argued he was the money man behind the assassination. They considered him a major terrorist. He paid people to burn down New York City in 1865, they said. They suspected his other plans included germ warfare, sending ships loaded with infected blankets into city harbors. He had to be guilty, they said - wasn't he in Canada with a million dollars in cash, with orders to start a "second front"? And who else was in Canada during that time? John Wilkes Booth! After Booth was captured and killed in a burning barn in Maryland, they searched the assassin's pockets and found a bill of exchange from a bank in Montreal!

It was looking bleak for the

man from Huntsville, Clement C. Clay, Jr.

The Clay family dominated the politics, business and social life of Madison County for generations. The first Clay law office opened in Huntsville in 1811 and political leadership passed down from father to son like a pair of comfortable boots. Clement Senior had headed the drafting committee of the first Alabama constitutional convention, served as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, U.S. Senator and was the eighth governor, owned three plantations with 70 slaves. Clement Clay Junior earned his degree from the University of Alabama and began practicing law in Huntsville. He would eventually become a judge and U.S. Senator, but first he made a decision that helped his career and probably saved his life: He married Virginia Tunstall.

Virginia Tunstall, born in 1825, was pretty with brown hair and hazel eyes, high spirited, articulate, prone to giggles. She was the center of attention wherever she went. She was socially graceful, having attended the best institute for women in Tuscaloosa, where Clement met her. She perfected her studies in music and literature at a finishing school in Nashville. She grew up around politics. Her uncle became chief justice of the Supreme Court of Alabama and



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later its governor. Some ladies were envious of her popularity, dismissing her as frivolous and giddy. Beneath the frivolity, Virginia was smart and knew what she wanted. She met the young legislator Clement Claiborne Clay, Jr., in Tuscaloosa and she decided she would marry him if he asked.

But Clement didn't ask.

Meanwhile, someone else did. Virginia met Colonel Alexander K. McClung. McClung was a poet, outgoing, reckless, a hero of the Mexican War. He was the opposite of secure, staid Clement Comer Clay. McClung was impulsive, attractive, a bit mad. "He would mount his horse 'Rob Roy', wild and untamable as himself, and dash to the cemetery where he would throw himself down on a convenient grave and stare like a madman into the sky," she later recalled.

"I loved him madly while with him," Virginia remembered, "but feared him when away from him." When McClung threatened to drive his buggy off a cliff if she didn't agree to marry him, she realized he wasn't a smart choice for a husband.

Returning to Huntsville, she again saw Clement Comer Clay, Jr. This time, he asked Virginia to marry him and she accepted.

From the young legislator's point of view, it was a strategic marriage. Virginia was adept in the social whirl of the times and

a brilliant conversationalist.

Her husband quickly rose through the political ranks, was elected judge, then campaigned and won a seat in the United States Senate.

They stayed in the nation's capital seven years. By the time they left they had met everybody worth knowing. Their home was a gathering place of politicians, personalities and the powerful. In her memoirs written forty years later, Virginia would recall anecdotes of presidents Pierce, Buchanan, Lincoln, Jefferson Davis and other confederate leaders; even the songstress Jenny Lind.

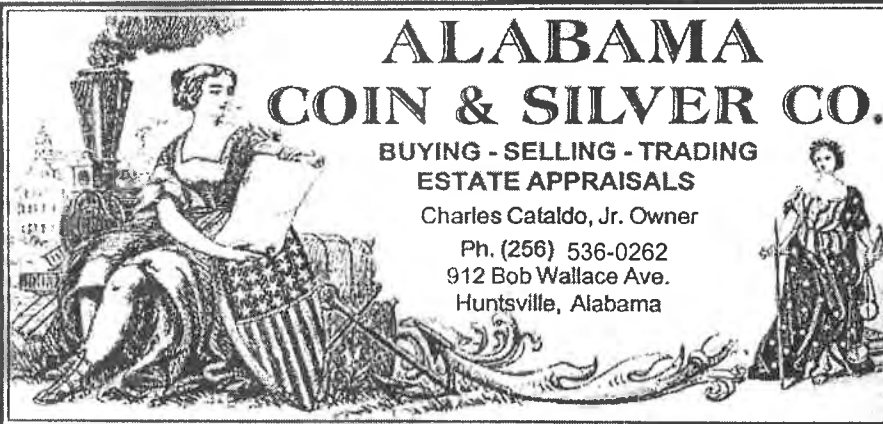
On January 21, 1861 Southern senators walked out of the senate. The trouble had begun. The Confederacy was being formed. Clement and Virginia returned to Alabama where they moved into a cottage on Monte Sano they nicknamed "Cosy Cot".

Jefferson Davis, putting together his staff, offered Clay the post of Secretary of War. Clay turned it down, although he agreed to work with his friend Davis behind the scenes as an advisor. Clay helped the government financially, not by giving money, but by allowing his picture to stare out from their new one dollar bills. The people might be nervous about the future of the Confederacy, but they were confident about Clement Comer Clay.

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Huntsville was occupied by federal forces not long after and the elder Clay's home was used as quarters for union troops. His father was one of 12 prominent citizens arrested and held at the courthouse, a ploy to force a halt to guerrilla warfare playing havoc with the railroads near Madison, Alabama.

Clay was advising Jefferson Davis on foreign policy at the time, a member of the Davis entourage. As the Confederacy grew desperate, in 1863, escaped Confederate prisoners of war returned to the south, claiming that there were northerners opposed to the war. A man from Missouri claimed that a half million men in the North were prepared to challenge the Lincoln administration, by force if necessary. It was grasping at straws, but Davis had to get any help he could.

Jefferson Davis decided to

encourage those southern sympathizers in the north.

In February 1864 his Confederate Congress voted five million dollars for clandestine enterprises. The operation would be run from Canada. The Confederate president appointed Clement C. Clay, Jr., and Colonel Jacob Thompson of Mississippi to oversee the operation. Both the men were well known to important northerners. Thompson had served in Buchanan's cabinet. Clay, of course, had been in the Senate.

As the men prepared to leave from Richmond, an event happened that enraged the southerners. A Federal colonel in the middle of a daring cavalry raid was killed in Richmond late in 1864. Papers found on the body of this colonel declared the goals of his raid to be burning the city and killing Jefferson Davis and all his cabinet. Were the orders genuine? Historians differ on the matter, but no matter. At the time, southerners believed them true.

It was all very hush-hush. Nothing in writing, all instructions verbal. The two men ran the blockade from Wilmington, from there to Bermuda, then to Canada. They were carrying a million dollars in cash, with authority for four million more.

For a year and a half, Clay and Thompson ran a dirty tricks campaign from Canada for the Confederacy. Meanwhile, Clay

was pretending to head up a peace delegation, making overtures to Lincoln - who must have suspected something for the president refused to meet with Clay. Some of the major goals of this clandestine activity were funding an antiwar effort and disrupting the Democratic Convention to be held in Chicago, liberating captured soldiers from prison camps on Lake Erie. Money was given to men to burn New York City down.

Not much worked. The plot

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to burn down New York City was managed by Clay's partner, Colonel Thompson, from Canada. He sent twelve men into the city from Canada. Each was given ten bottles of "Greek Fire", an incendiary device made from phosphorous. At eight o'clock at night the men started setting fire to hotels and theatres on Broadway, the Barnum museum, and barges. All the fires were quickly put out. John Wilkes Booth was in town at the time, performing at the Winter Garden Theater, which wasn't targeted. All the Confederates escaped except one, Robert Cobb Kennedy, who was drunk when he set the fire to the Barnum Theater, which wasn't supposed to be burned. Kennedy was captured and later hanged.

John Wilkes Booth was also in Canada in the fall of 1864, before Clay left to return to the South. Some reports claim Booth met with Confederate agents in Montreal, and the agents gave him \$1500 to pay for the scheme. Booth later deposited the \$1500 in his bank in Washington.

After the assassination of Lincoln, a reward for \$25,000 was posted for information leading to the arrest of Clement Comer Clay. A reward of \$100,000 was posted for Jefferson Davis.

Davis was captured. Clay turned himself in. Under heavy guard, on a slow steamer chugging up the Savannah River, they headed to prison. It was a sad boat ride. Also aboard were General Joe Wheeler, captured trying to escape, and Vice-President of the Confederacy, Andrew Stephens. They were heckled along the way by union soldiers. General Wheeler spent his time devising risky escape plots for Jefferson Davis, who refused them all.

The man from Huntsville and the ex-president of the Confed-

eracy, suspected of paying an assassin to murder Abraham Lincoln, were taken to Fortress Monroe, overlooking the James River as it enters the Chesapeake Bay. In separate cells, with heavily barred windows, a sentry inside and two more outside each door, they awaited their fate. Davis was manacled hand and foot for a few days.

And the prisoners kept waiting... and waiting. Months went by. There were rumors of a military tribunal.

There are many reasons why Clement Clay and Jefferson Davis were never tried for the assassination of Lincoln. Conclusive evidence of their guilt didn't show up in the trials of the Surratts. Also, there were jurisdictional difficulties, the federal government didn't feel they would get a conviction in a Virginia court. People were tired of it all; they wanted to put the war behind them. And there were famous people lobbying for their release, Horace Greeley and

Cornelius Vanderbilt.

"I have always felt that I was the humble instrument in the hand of God to keep those two men from being hanged like dogs," Virginia Clay commented years later.

For almost a year Virginia la-

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bored to save her husband. Well known in Washington, she used all her charm to convince every person of influence to let her husband go home. And Andrew Johnson, the president of the United States, was number one on her list of people to persuade. She was in the president's office numerous times and recalls the meetings in her memoirs, "Belle of the Fifties", years later. The dramatic conclusion went this way:

"The President returned again and again to my companion and me, but ten o'clock arrived and still the papers had not been given me. I was growing more and more impatient, but the President became somewhat

jocular. He invited Mrs. Boulogny and me to make ourselves comfortable, his words being accompanied by an evasive smile. My soul rose up in resentment at this!"

"You seem to be inclined to treat this matter lightly, Mr. President," I said hotly. "I am indignant! I want the paper!" Alas! my protest did not win me a direct compliance. The hands of a nearby clock already pointed to eleven when,

the President having seated himself at a desk or writing-table that stood at hand, I rose and stepped to his side.

"Mr. President," I said, "are you going to give me that paper? I will not go until you do!" My words were hurled at him angrily. He looked up at me curiously, and the half-cynical smile on his face changed. It was as if, notwithstanding the ardor with which I had urged my demand throughout the evening, he now for the first time realized I was not to be put off.

"Give me the paper, Mr. Johnson!" I urged. "I am resolved to have it!"

My imperative demand at last proved effectual. The President turned without further demur and wrote a brief note, which, upon calling an attendant, he sent out immediately.

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In a few moments the messenger returned, bearing a paper which read as follows:

"WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C., "April 17, 1866.

"ORDERED:

"That Clement C. Clay, Jr., is hereby released from confinement and permitted to return to and remain in the State of Alabama, and to visit such other places in the United States as his personal business may render absolutely necessary, upon the following conditions, viz.: That he takes the oath of allegiance to the United States, and gives his parole of honour, to conduct himself as a loyal citizen of the same, and to report himself in person at any time and place to answer any charges that may hereafter be preferred against him by the United States.

"By order of the President, "E. D. TOWNSEND, "Ass't Adgt. General."

So Clement Comer Clay went home.

Take a short walk from the Episcopalian Church of the Nativity, down Eustis Street. You'll see the Clay Home. It's on the

left, a stately residence, a porch with columns, graceful trees. Like many things about the Clay family, it isn't necessarily what it appears. The sign should really say, "the Williams home", after whom Williams Street was named. After the Williams sold the home, it was briefly a girl's school. But then freed prisoner Clement Comer Clay came along and bought the place at a sheriff's auction for \$500 in 1869. At the time, people talked about how generous Clement was, because he gave the home to his brother. But in 1869, Clement wasn't being generous. He was, as always, being smart. It takes a shrewd man with inside information to buy a home like that for \$500. And generous? No. Creditors were after Clay's money and he knew he couldn't hold the title

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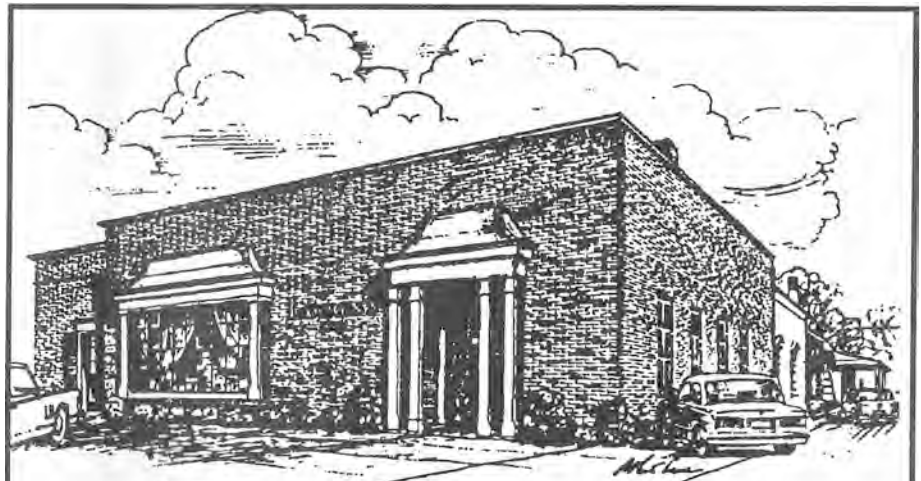
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Clement Comer Clay was a behind-the-scenes deal maker his whole life. Even Clay's last will and testament suggests secrets and murky deals, as he bequeaths money not in his estate at the moment but which may arrive soon, and which did, as Virginia got to keep Wildwood, their plantation in Gurley.

Clement Comer Clay Jr. was buried on January 5, 1882. Services were held in the Church of the Nativity. It was dark and drizzling that day. As the services began, the choir sang, "Just as I am, Without One Plea."

A hundred years of the Clay family came to a symbolic end a few years later when Virginia, still active in her 80s, pulled the cord that unveiled the Confederate soldier who for years would gaze over the Madison County Courthouse square.

From The 1906 City Council

The city council held an interesting meeting last night and passed several ordinances that are of interest to the general public.

Mayor Smith stated that on the advice of John Wesley, a paving expert, the entire cost of the paving will be passed on to the property owners. The paving ordinance was changed effective immediately.

An ordinance was also passed providing for the grading of the extension of Locust Street,

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Permission was granted the owners of the little frame build-

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ing on Washington Street occupied by the Davis Tin Shop for roofing the building with tin.

The members of the Fire Department will be allowed vacation for the summer.

The Hospital Association stated that an annex is being erected to the city hospital and permission was asked for the right to remove this new structure when the lease of the association runs out. This was granted.

Permission was denied for Zack Fendley to run hogs on city property.

WANTED Dead or Alive

Under the heading "Strayed or Stolen," Mrs. S. Hundley, of Birmingham, Alabama, advertises her husband, Andrew Jackson Hundley, in the *Enterprise*. She said he left her about two months ago, in company with one Manda Wyrick, who she believes, "conjured or bewildered him," by giving him a cup of coffee to drink, upon the top of which he saw a "blue glass swimming."

They were accompanied by her son Bob, who "left a wife and three children." The deserted matron says, "I want A.J. arrested and handcuffed, if necessary, and brought back to me dead or alive, as he owes a good

many debts that he must pay, and he owes me a support in my old age." He is supposed to have gone to Tennessee or out West. He is a long, lean, lanky fellow, about six feet high, broad shoulders, thin beard, light hair and complexion, blue eyes, and about 45 years of age.

She offers to pay anybody a fair price who will return him to her, "dead or alive," and requests all papers in the United States to copy the advertisement one time and forward their bills to her. We give her this one gratis—in fact, we feel like paying her for the enjoyment in reading this. from 1873 newspaper

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WWII Trivia

1. The first German serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937); the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland, 1940); the highest ranking American killed was Lt.Gen.Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps.

2. The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded, and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.)

3. At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika." All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions, your chance of being killed was 71%.

5. German Me264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City.

6. German submarine U120

was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.

7. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army, until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army, until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army, until they were captured by the US Army. They were sent to a POW camp in Arizona where two of them enlisted in the United States Army

8. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska. 21 troops were killed in the fire fight. It would have been worse, if there had been any Japanese on the island.

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A Trip To Town

by **Rodney Miller**

The year was 1931, our country was in a severe depression. Lots of people were struggling to make a living. I was in the second grade at Big Cove School, and had never been to town. Part of my classmates had been to town and the things they told the rest of us made us want desperately to go to town. We were living on the land that is now the Hampton Cove Housing Development and the Robert Trent Jones Golf Course. My Dad was farming the land and producing cotton.

Two or three times a week he was going to town on a wagon being pulled by a team of mules. That was the way he got his cot-

ton to market.

I had been pleading with him all week to let me go the coming Saturday. He explained to me it was a day of work for him and wasn't any fun at all. I was persistent in my pleading and Dad finally gave in and said I could go on Saturday. I went to bed Friday night with a happy feeling knowing I was finally going to town. My mother called me to get up Saturday morning and I realized I was up a little early. I was so excited I gulped down my scrambled eggs and biscuits and milk. Mother said, "Here, put on your sweater and go on, Daddy will be waiting on you."

I opened the door and the first doubt of a good time crept through my mind, it was completely dark outside. I started for the barn and almost changed my mind. I could hear chains tinkling and other

unfamiliar sounds. The autumn air was cool and crisp, and when Dad helped me up on the bales of cotton, they were still warm from the sun the day before. My Dad picked up the reins and spoke to the mules, and as they started the 10 miles to town, my first question was how did the mules see how to stay in the road? The answer I got was mules could see in the dark. I sure hoped they could because I sure could not.

The first neighbor's house was about one mile away and as we passed Dad pointed out that they hadn't gotten up because there was no light in the window.

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We reached Highway 431 just as it began to get daylight. Highway 431 was not paved in 1931 and as we proceeded the iron wheels on the wagon made popping sounds as they crushed gravel beneath the weight of the cotton. The road across Monte Sano Mountain was paved. We reached the foot of the mountain about sunup and as the wagon rolled on the paved roadway the wheels became silent and the wagon ride was much smoother.

I remember only one motor vehicle passing us all the way in. There were very few cars in 1931.

The city limits began at what is now Governors Drive, Madison Street, and Whitesburg Drive intersections.

My third question—what is that big building? The answer, that is Huntsville Hospital. The fourth question—what is a hospital? The answer, it is where real sick people go to get well.

I remember thinking there must be a lot of people in town because the houses were side by side all the way up Madison Street.

We arrived at the west side of the Courthouse and there were lots of wagons and mules and horses hitched to the large chains that ran all the way around the Courthouse. People were milling around everywhere. I could not get one thing looked at until there was something new to look at.

The cotton buyers would come by and cut a sample out of the cotton bales and make an offer on the cotton. My Dad kept telling them he wanted 5 cents a pound for his cotton, and they wouldn't give him that much. I knew nothing about markets or trading, therefore I thought the buyers were being mean to my Dad because they would not give him what he wanted.

Later on he sold the cotton

and we had to drive the wagon out to the Planters Warehouse on Clinton Street, West.

The cotton was unloaded and we started the long trip home. Dad stopped at a little store and got us some bologna and crackers and a banana.

At that time you could drive through the Big Spring Branch below the bridge on Gallatin Street. Dad drove in the branch and let the mules get a drink of water. At this time, I remembered the mules didn't have any food at lunch time. Dad explained to me that he fed them well before we left home and he would give them some extra when we got home. I felt a lot better about that.

The trip home seemed to take forever. I had been to town and now I wanted to be at home. 01' Sport was a small white dog with brown spots and I hadn't seen him all day. I missed my sisters and brother. I wondered what my mother had cooked to eat and

what she had done when I wasn't there to bring in the stove wood.

Sure enough it got dark while we were still on the road. In October it gets cool after the sun goes down. I was cold and hungry, and was beginning to understand what my Dad meant by it being a day of work. When we arrived at the barn, I went at once to the house. My Mother was glad to see me.

I ate my supper and went to bed. The bed was warm and cozy and as I drifted off to sleep, I had some doubts about the truthfulness of my classmates. I had been to town and it was great but I did not see all the exciting things they had talked about.

My Dad would probably go to town again next week, but I decided not to ask to go. For right at that time, I was afraid he would say yes.



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Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice



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

Huntsville has got to be the greatest place on earth to live. I guess most of you heard about our cookout which was our **Customer Appreciation Day**. How did this come about, you're asking? Ex-Sheriff **Joe Whisenant** and I were talking one day, and he mentioned that he and some other politicians wanted to do something for me because I'd been nice to all of them. We came up with a cook-out idea so Joe talked with **Blake Dorning**, our current Sheriff and **Mark Russell**, City Councilman, and **Jerry Craig**, County Commissioner.

Joe began checking around to see what it would take to make this happen. People from the community heard about it and began calling to offer tents, smokers and cookers, tables and chairs and food including the chicken, BBQ, fish, slaw, corn, potato salad, desserts, lemonade, soft drinks and water.

I couldn't believe the number of people who were calling to offer their help! Then radio and

TV pitched in their help as well. Then people from the community started to call who wanted to be servers! I can't tell you how good that made me feel, and I just want to send out a great big **THANK YOU** to all who volunteered your efforts and time and products to make this such a big success - it exceeded our expectations and the weather even cooperated.

We fed around 750 people that day and sent out about 90 plates for people who just couldn't get there. It went on from mid-morning to early afternoon and you should have seen all the big smiles on people's faces! Our **Mayor Loretta** was even there, and so many other people. Several have asked if we might be doing a 2nd Annual Customer Appreciation Day - you never know! Thank you all and I love you so much.

I hope all of you are having a great summer so far. The Picture of the Month for last month was **Dessa Brown** - a sweet lady who works at the **Regions Bank**

in 5 Points. **Shirley Largen** guessed it first - we had several calls and every one of them guessed correctly - but Shirley was first! Come get your hot country breakfast as your prize!

We have a new Minister at **Twickenham Church of Christ**, his name is **Greg Anderson** and he seems like a fine young man. He has a lovely wife and twin sons who are 10 years old. A friend drove him here for breakfast and I made him an official Huntsvillian and he was awarded the **Official Aunt Eunice's Liar's License**. So now he'll be OK!

Our sympathy goes to the family of **Clarence Kell** - we lost him to cancer. **Ida Mae**, we love you and miss him so much.

Next year will be a great political year. It will be the President's election year, and for Huntsville and Madison county we'll be electing Mayor, District Attorney, Chairman of the Commission, all the Commissioners

Photo of The Month

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

Hint: Nice young man who's been in the news alot lately.



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and maybe some of the Judges. There'll be lots more but just stay tuned and I'll fill you in.

Ruth Grayson Dean brought **Jay Grayson Sims** (both are New Hope folks) to breakfast. She says she loves introducing her friends to my breakfasts because many of them have never had a real country breakfast, like folks used to have in the old days.

Our friend **Nancy Christopher** has been working in the restaurant business for years here in Huntsville and has recently made a big change – she's now working at **Parisians** in fine jewelry so be sure and go by to see her!

My long-time friends **Loyd** and **Marcie Tomlinson** (he most recently was **Outback** Proprietor) are leaving Huntsville and I'm going to miss them so much. You can't find a sweeter and more gentle couple, and are such good family people. They are going back to Florida where Loyd will join his Daddy in business there. They've done such a great job here and made a lot of friends. We are all going to miss you so much. Best of luck to you in sunny Florida – be sure and come back to visit me!

Mr. Hans and **Mrs. Christa Fichtner** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary this month. Their daughters are **Monica Bell** and **Sigrid Scott** and are so proud of their parents. Happy Anniversary to you!

My sister, **Elizabeth Lyon** and her husband **Andrew Lyon** celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on May 14 – Congratulations to you!

Congratulations to **Ralph** and **Freddie Adams** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14. They now live in Elberta, Alabama. Also I received a call from my good New Hope friends – Mr. and Mrs. **D. M. McPeters** – who recently cel-

ebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 18

Mr. and Mrs. **W. L. Halsey** came in for breakfast and brought his lovely sister **Laura Wood** from Birmingham – we had such a good time and it was great to see you.

I hope all of you folks are tuning in to **John Malone** on the Radio – hearing him in the morning just gets your day off to a good start - he and his family are such wonderful people.

I was so sad about our dear friend **Dr. Phil Christian** who passed away this week. Our sympathy goes out to his wonderful family whom he loved so much.

My friend from Massachusetts just walked in – **Trifilo Ray**. He came in with **Dr. J. D. Jones**. It was so good to see them.

Joe and **Jane Whisenant** have sons **Tim** and **Mike** who are both getting married this month. Tim's lovely bride is **Karen Ashworth** and Mike's bride is **Lori Jones**. Best luck to you all. I know you will have a wonderful life together.

That's all for this month but remember I love all of you!

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Charleston Favorites

Red Cabbage

1 med. head red cabbage, cut fine

1 large apple, peeled and sliced

3/4 c. vinegar

1/2 c. water

1 T. sugar

Salt and pepper

Cook all ingredients together in a covered pan until cabbage is tender, about 30 minutes. Serve.

Savory Spinach

4 10-oz. packages frozen chopped spinach

1 4-oz. can sliced mushrooms

1 1/2 c. sour cream

1 pkg. dry blue cheese salad dressing mix

Cook spinach and drain thor-

oughly. Drain mushrooms and reserve 2 tablespoons liquid. Mix sour cream, salad dressing mix, mushrooms and liquid. Add cooked spinach, pour into 1 1/2 quart greased casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes and set.

Swiss Fondue

Crusty French bread

2 T. cornstarch

3 T. Kirsch

1 clove garlic, crushed

3 c. Gruyere cheese, finely grated

2 c. dry white wine

Dash nutmeg

30 minutes before serving, cut bread into small cubes and place in basket. Stir Kirsch and cornstarch til smooth, set aside. Pour in the wine, heat just below boiling. Add pepper and nutmeg. Gradually add small amounts of cheese, while stirring

constantly with a fork. Add cornstarch mixture, stir til smooth and bubbly. Place over alcohol burner, warm enough to keep it bubbling slightly. Dip bread into the mixture and enjoy!

Pork Chops Beulah

Brown pork chops in skillet. Pour over them 1 can cream of celery soup and 1 can white wine (sauterne). Simmer for an hour and serve.

Hawaiian Meatloaf

2 lbs. ground beef

1/3 t. salt

2/3 t. dry mustard

1 1/2 c. soft bread crumbs

2/3 c. crushed pineapple, slightly drained

2 eggs, slightly beaten

Mix all ingredients, form into loaf and put in greased baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.



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Split angel food cake in 2 layers. On bottom layer drip enough sherry to give a good flavor. Spread the layer with cold, very stiff custard that has been sweetened and flavored with sherry. Top with 2nd layer and do the same, ice the cake with whipped cream, cover with coconut and dot with cherries. Refrigerate before serving.

Chocolate Sticks

4 squares Bakers unsweetened chocolate, melted

1 can sweetened condensed milk

2 c. vanilla wafers, crushed (large box)

1 c. pecans, chopped

Mix well and spread in shallow pan that has been buttered. Spread mixture 1/2-inch thick. Refrigerate overnight, cut into strips next day and roll in powdered sugar.

Charles Town Butter Taffy

2 c. brown sugar

3/4 c. butter

1 c. water

Melt butter in saucepan. Add sugar and water, bring to boil and continue to boil, without stirring, til mixture becomes a little brittle when tried in cold water. (290 degrees on a candy thermometer). Pour onto buttered pan, cool slightly and mark into squares.

Hawaiian Lady

1 1/2 oz. white rum

1 1/2 oz. pineapple juice

3/4 oz. lemon juice

1 t. powdered sugar

1 t. coconut snow

Add this with enough crushed ice to chill in blender. Serve in large champagne glasses.

Fruit Dip

1 c. sour cream

1 t. grated orange or lemon rind

1/4 c. sugar

1 T. rum or brandy

Mix first 3 ingredients, add rum or brandy. Use as dip for strawberries, grapes, cherries or any fruit. This is really good as an appetizer.

Deep South Cake Topping

1 c. sugar

1/2 t. soda

1/2 t. vanilla extract

1 c. buttermilk

1/2 c. butter

Mix sugar and soda in sauce-

pan. Add vanilla, buttermilk and butter. Cook 5 minutes to almost soft ball stage. Pour over cake or serve warm over cake slices.



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Get Out of My Garden

by **Noel D. Tallon**

It was the fall of 1964. Ray was from Sylacauga. I was from all over the US. Both of our families came to Huntsville to help put men on the moon.

We met after work at my house. Ray worked at the A & P on the corner of Jordan Lane and Bob Wallace. I worked at the new Kroger store in the South end of Haysland Square. We were dressed in the customary outfits of grocery store baggers, that is, blue jeans and white shirts. He had a maroon clip on bowtie and I had bright blue. After work we wore them dangling from our unbuttoned collars. That was the cool thing to do. It said that you had a job and worked hard (i.e. it impressed the girls, at least we thought so). We were both 16 and loved life.

I had a '55 Chevy in pretty rough shape. But what do you expect for \$150. Ray had a well preserved '54 Ford.

It was late on Friday night since both the stores closed at 9:00 and we usually had to stay and clean up. There were a number of places that teenagers could go for a thrill on a Friday or Sat-

urday night in Huntsville in the mid sixties. Some of these places you wouldn't care if your Mom and Dad knew about and some you would rather they didn't.

One might head to the old airport, which at the time wasn't the old airport. It was THE airport. The airport had runways running North and South and East and West. As I recall, planes usually came in going North to South over the new fancy Strobe lights at the corner of Drake and Parkway. And they left going East to West.

If you knew your way around the back roads, you could find the dirt road running just past the West end of the East/West runway and park in the center. From there you could get out and watch the planes coming straight at you and just get off the ground soon enough to clear the trees on the other side of the road. Or at least it seemed they were that low.

Another place to go,

might be the newly finished limited access Rideout Road. I believe that before the tar dried on the road, there were two white lines painted across the North bound lanes that just happened to be exactly a quarter mile apart. But as I said, the old '55 was not in good shape. You know, I never remember seeing a policeman on that road. I guess they thought that if the kids were going to be there it was as good as any with two lanes headed in the same direction and very little traffic at the time.

We might have gone to a high school ballgame but it was probably too late in the evening. Back

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in those days a football game would fill Milton-Frank stadium to overflowing. And I remember many a basketball game in gyms at Butler, Lee, or Huntsville with standing room only. If they had had the three point lines back in those days, no telling how many points Randy Hollingsworth and crew would have scored. Most games had scoring in the low 100's anyway. I remember one game in which Butler beat Lee in double overtime. What a game.

Ray and I didn't have steady dates at the time or we might have headed to the Whitesburg Drive In and then up to Monte Sano to look at the city lights or whatever teenagers looked at up there.

Ray had come to my house in Holiday Homes and we elected to head to the "loop" in his car. Now the loop was where most kids in the '60s spent Friday nights. In Huntsville, the loop could be either two or three pronged. The parkway at the time was four laned but not lim-

ited access. The loop always included Jerry's and Hardee's. Jerry's was a drive in that was between Bob Wallace and the Huntsville Times. Hardee's was in front of what is now Office Depot, but was then Miracle City (a Walmart like department store).

Jerry's had inside seating and curb service. Hardee's had neither and was in an octagonal shaped building made mostly of glass. Jerry's was the most popular but Hardee's was cheaper.

At times you might extend the loop to include Shoney's just south of Drake and the Parkway. If you were on a regular date with a girl, you would probably go to Hardee's for a 15 cent hamburger. If it was a special date, you might head to Jerry's or Shoney's and get a 50 cent burger and a piece of the famous strawberry pie or head down to Krispy Kreme for a donut. If it was a really, really special date, like the senior prom with the girl that I later married, you might borrow Dad's new '65 Chevy and spring

for Mr. Steak.

Most of the time the loop between Jerry's and Hardee's was solid with cars. The police patrolled Jerry's to control the traffic entering and exiting the parkway.

This particular night we had hoped to meet up with some of

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our classmates, meaning girls, but, that was not to be, we ran into Jon and Lanny.

Jon and Lanny were fellow classmates at Butler High School. Not the new Butler, the old one across from the Dairy Dip on Governors Drive. What is now Stone Middle School. We were one of the last classes to graduate from there in 1966.

When we ran into Jon and Lanny, they were all excited about Sally. For all of you foreigners (or Yankees as the case may be), Sally is a ghost.

Legend has it that a beautiful sixteen year old girl (beautiful being the operative word here) died from a childhood malady while visiting her family in Huntsville. She died some time in the 1800's and was buried in a family cemetery that was just Northeast of what is now the intersection of Drake and Whitesburg.

A couple of boys at Jerry's had gotten Jon and Lanny interested in going up to see Sally.

They wanted us to go but Ray and I didn't want any part of it. Not that we were afraid of ghosts or didn't want to see a beautiful sixteen year old girl, but we had heard that the people living where Sally was buried were calling the police when teenagers came up there. I don't remember how Jon and Lanny got to Jerry's but do know that they needed transportation, so we did agree to take them and wait in the car.

One of the other boys led us and we parked in a Church parking lot just East of Sally's property. Jon, Lanny, and the other boy went down through the woods. They were only gone about 5 to 10 minutes when here they came back.

Now neither Jon nor Lanny were athletes but they could probably have made the track team that day. They jumped in

the back seat and hollered, "Let's get out of here." Ray took off as they requested, but we asked them what the problem was.

The conversation went something like this. "We saw her." "You saw who?" "Her, Sally". "Yeah, right." "No, we really saw her."

We asked what she looked like. Out of breath, they said she was really pretty, with long blond hair, and dressed in a beautiful white dress. I asked if she said anything to which they said, "Oh yeah". I asked, "Well what did she say?" They replied, "Get out of my garden." I said, "Get out of my garden? That seems like a strange thing to say." We may have discussed going back with them but never did.

We took them to Jon's house and left them. We could hardly keep a straight face. Ray had to stop the car about a half block down the road, we were laughing so hard.

You see, just after Jon and Lanny entered the woods another car pulled into the parking lot.

The headlights were off so Ray and I were afraid that it might be the police. We slid down in the seat so that we couldn't be seen. But the car proceeded to the other end of the parking lot. The other boy that had been at Jerry's got out of the car with a white sheet in his hand and ran down into the woods. Jon and Lanny came out shortly thereafter running like the dickens.

I am sure the boys that planned this trick had a real hoot.

You know, I don't remember if Ray and I ever told Jon and Lanny what really happened. I wonder if they are telling their grandkids about seeing the really pretty 16 year-old ghost in the beautiful white dress.

If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.

- Mary Jane Miller

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What is a Grandmother?

(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year olds)

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other peoples' kids.

A grandfather is a man grandmother. Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them.

They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the store and have lots of quarters for us.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

They show us and talk to us about the color of the flowers and also don't step on "cracks." They don't say, "Hurry up."

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to tie your

shoes.

They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out.

Grandmothers don't have to be smart. They have to answer questions like "why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?"

When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television, because they are the only grown ups who like to spend time with us.

Grandmother has lots of grandmother friends only some of them don't have grandchildren.

It is pretty hard to tell what really brings happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed.

- Kin Hubbard

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- Kathy Roberts of Austin, Texas, was awarded \$780,000 by a jury of her peers after breaking her ankle tripping over a toddler who was running inside a furniture store. The owners of the store were understandably surprised at the verdict, considering the misbehaving little toddler was Ms. Roberts' son.

- A 19-year-old Carl Henshaw of Los Angeles won \$74,000 and medical expenses when his neighbor ran over his hand with a Honda Accord. Mr. Henshaw apparently didn't notice there was someone at the wheel of the car when he was trying to steal his neighbor's hubcaps.

- Terry Glover of Bristol, Pennsylvania, was leaving a house he had just finished robbing by way of the garage. He was not able to get the garage door to go up since the automatic door opener was malfunctioning. He couldn't reenter the house because the door connecting the house and garage locked when he pulled it shut. The family was on vacation, and Mr. Glover found himself locked in the garage for eight days. He subsisted on a case of Pepsi he found, and a large bag of dry dog food. He sued the homeowner's insurance claiming the situation caused him undue mental anguish. The

jury agreed to the tune of \$500,000.

- Jerry Williams of Little Rock, Arkansas, was awarded \$14,500 and medical expenses after being bitten on the buttocks by his next door neighbor's beagle. The beagle was on a chain in its owner's fenced yard. The award was less than sought because the jury felt the dog might have been just a little provoked at the time by Mr. Williams who was shooting it repeatedly with a pellet gun.

- A Philadelphia restaurant was ordered to pay Carol Redding of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, \$113,500 after she slipped on a soft drink and broke her coccyx (tailbone). The beverage was on the floor because Ms. Redding had thrown it at her boyfriend 30 seconds earlier during an argument.

- Tom Fendley of Claymont, Delaware, successfully sued the owner of a night club in a neighboring city when he fell from the bathroom window to the floor

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and knocked out his two front teeth. This occurred while Mr. Fendley was trying to sneak through the window in the men's room to avoid paying the \$3.50 cover charge. He was awarded \$12,000 and dental expenses.

- Mr. Harry Unster, of Oklahoma City, purchased a brand new 32-foot Winnebago motor home. On his first trip home, having driven onto the freeway, he set the cruise control at 70 mph and calmly left the drivers seat to go into the back and make himself a cup of coffee. Not surprisingly, the RV left the freeway, crashed and overturned. Mr. Unster sued Winnebago for not advising him in the owner's manual that he couldn't actually do this. The jury awarded him \$1,750,000 plus a new motor home. The company actually changed their manuals on the basis of this suit, just in case there were any other complete morons buying their recreation vehicles.

Heard On The Street In 1901

- Notice of Water Tax - Water taxes for quarter ending January 31st, 1901 are now due. Those who have failed to pay will please call at the City Clerk's office and pay same. J. D. Ragland, City Clerk

- Take a bath at the McGee Hotel Barber Shop. You don't have to wait now. We have installed another tub and can accommodate you.

- Lost - three grocery baskets and a hitching weight, lost from my wagon in a runaway Saturday evening. Return for reward to T. A. Thornton.

- What Huntsville needs now is an efficient bouncer, a great big

man with the power to stop people from circulating false reports and canards about the city. He should have unlimited power to throw out every man who knocks the town, or says anything else except something good. There is no doubt but every good citizen would be glad to have that position here.

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Veteran Tells Jeff Davis To Go To Hell

From an early newspaper (believed to be 1917)

William T. Bennett, 86, a veteran of Gurley, never will forget the time he told Jefferson Davis. to go to hell.

That was in 1867. And the Confederate leader had just been released from the prison at Fortress Monroe, Virginia, under the influence of Mrs. Virginia Clay, wife of Clement Claiborne Clay, held as a prisoner with Davis.

Bennett was hauling logs at a lumber camp, located at Gurley, by the Yankees, after the war. He had received his parole only a few months before and was trying to accumulate enough money to start his planting.

As he sat there in his little cabin late one night, he heard a train stop down at the water tank nearby, then known as Gurley's tank, receiving its name from Captain Frank Gurley, of General Forrest's Corps, and composing, with the logging camp, about all

there was in the way of a settlement. A few minutes later a faint knock on the door sounded above the sleet storm which had been in progress for several hours.

"Who's there?" Bennett called.

"Jeff Davis." came back the reply.

The absurdity of such an answer, out there in that darkness among the mountains, coming possibly from some tramp, filled Bennett with rage, and he yelled violently "Jeff Davis, the devil, get the hell away from here."

Then recalls Bennett, came back the answer of a gentleman, worded with so much meaning that he rushed to admit the intruder,

"Open the door, my friend, this is Jeff Davis."

The Confederate leader was dressed in an overcoat, but he

was sick and tired, and his face was in agony. The picture he made is clear to the veteran.

Mr. Barnett remembers readily enough their conversation of so many years ago.

"He told me that he must see Mrs. Clay at once. I explained to

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him that her home was more than two miles away and that I had no vehicle in which to take him there but that I had a bed in which he could stay until morning."

"He wouldn't think of that, He said he had to see her that night. So I asked him if he could ride a mule."

"I can ride anything to see Mrs. Clay, he told me."

Bennett recalls that there was a cold ride to the Clay home through the sleety darkness that night, but that President Davis rode the mule so rapidly that he had to keep his own at a half trot to stay in the lead,

"I'll never forget the rejoicing that went on when the Clay's saw Davis. I thought they would eat that man up."

Mr. Bennett's last impression of Jefferson Davis was that he wanted to pay him for his trouble.

"But no money passed hands," the old gray-haired veteran chuckles at the thought. "I had insulted him enough for one night."

Man Still Looking For Wife

George Mitchell came into the office yesterday and reported the disappearance of his wife.

A week ago Mitchell returned from work late in the evening and found his house closed, and upon inquiry found that his five month old child had been taken to a neighbor's house with the request to take care of the child for an hour, when the mother would come for it.

Mitchell waited for his wife's return, but she never came back, and upon investigation it was found that Mitchell's half brother, George Edmonds, had eloped with Mrs. Mitchell.

Mitchell took his babe in his arms and walked through country roads to his friends, three miles from town where he left it, swearing that he would search the earth over until he found the wretch who has brought this sorrow to his home, and if the law set his brother free after he had found him and turned him over to its custody, he would shoot him down in the courtroom then and there. Runners have the fleeing couple in Chattanooga.

from 1890 newspaper

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The Man Who Lived In A Log

from 1927 newspaper

Mr. Frank Coe, inventor of the Coe's tractor wheel, is at present using a hollow log on the side of Monte Sano mountain as living quarters pending completion of the first of a series of cabins for which he has plans.

The log is located several hundred feet from the new Monte Sano road which will be formally opened tomorrow on the old stage coach road which runs off the east side of the mountain.

Although the log was originally hollow, Mr. Coe has improved upon it until it is more comfortable than a Pullman berth. With the use of fire he has enlarged his quarters, improvised a small screen door and a wooden door over the two and a half foot entrance. Near the en-

trance he has two small holes on each side which enables him to look out in both directions.

By closing the screen door he is protected from insects while at the same time a lantern hung at the entrance furnishes sufficient light for reading or writing which he has a great deal of.

A.E. Sampson, an architect, is Mr. Coe's only companion. He is cooperating with Mr. Coe in an architectural way and expects to open an office in Huntsville soon.

The first of a series of cabins which will be known as "Coe's Roost," is under construction a short distance from the log. When completed Mr. Coe says "the latch string will always be open to right thinking people."

As Mr. Coe traveled east 36 years ago, he has decided to face all the cabins in that direction.

Plans are also underway for two other cabins on opposite

sides of the ravine, and a short distance from Coe's Roost to which Earnest Thompson Seaton and Albert Payson Terburne, the noted writers, and who are friends of Mr. Coe, will be invited to occupy.

Mr. Coe is noted as the inventor of the tractor wheel bearing his name. More than a year ago he left his home in New York for Miami, Florida. His wife and two children were called from this earth a short time before. After engaging in the building game in Miami for one year he arrived in Huntsville, on April 10.

Mr. Coe states he will spend the remainder of his days on this spot on Monte Sano.

Ed. note: Shortly after this story appeared in the newspaper, the weather turned cold and Mr. Coe, with no explanation, disappeared from Huntsville forever.



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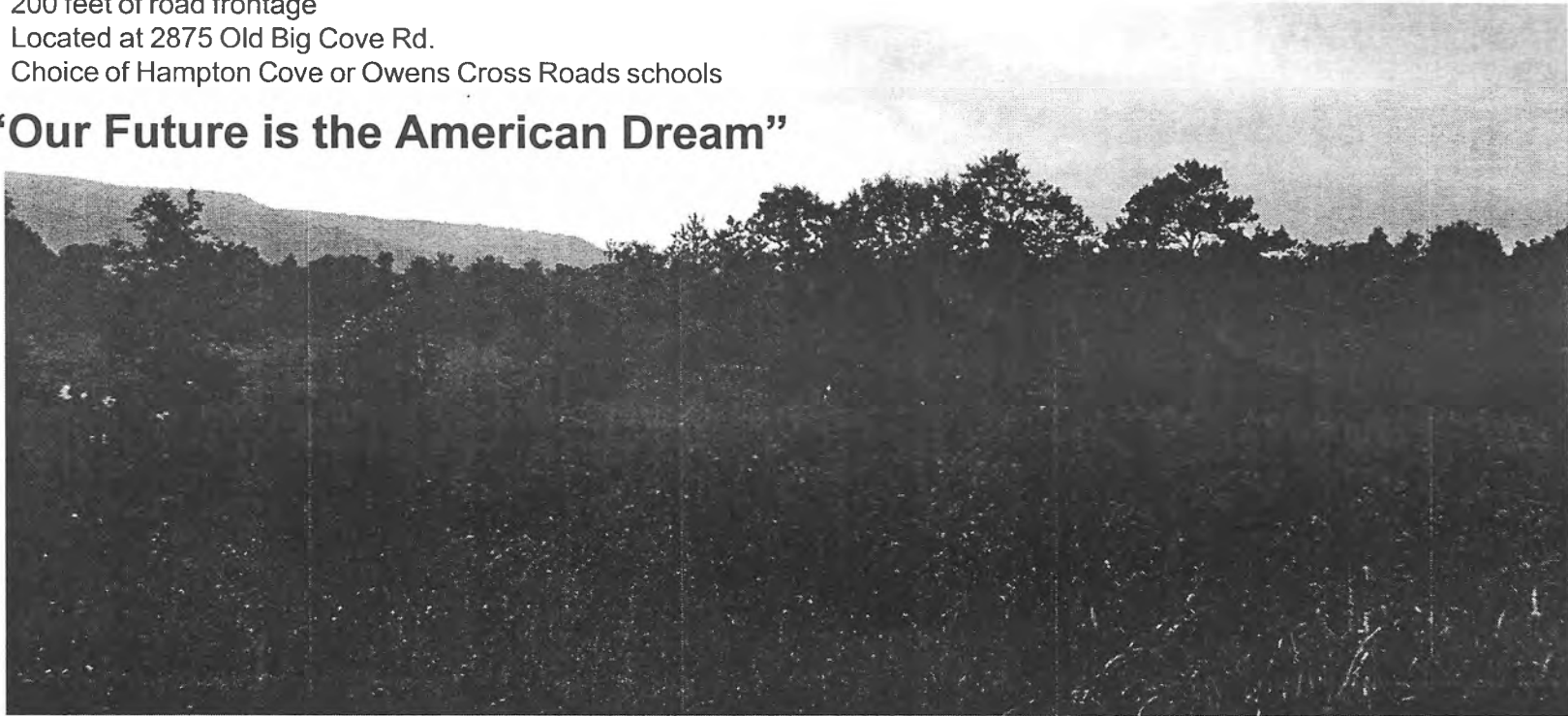
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News From The Year 1956

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Martin Luther King Found Guilty

Montgomery - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been found guilty of orchestrating the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycotts, but he vows to continue the protest by using "passive resistance and the weapon of love." King's conviction follows a hectic month of developments in race relations in the South.

On March 1, the board of trustees at the University of Alabama "permanently expelled" Autherine Lucy, the Negro co-ed who by federal court order was granted admission to the school. The trustees, in defiance of the court, ousted Miss Lucy on the grounds that she made "outrageous, false and baseless accusations" against college officials. The trustees charged educational discipline would be jeopardized if Miss Lucy was allowed to accost them verbally with impunity.

On March 5, the Supreme Court ruled that its 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision, which outlawed segregation in public schools, extends to tax-supported colleges. The civil rights decision came after the University of North Carolina refused to admit three Negroes on the basis of their race.

Ike Elected To Second Term

Washington - President Eisenhower won a second term in the White House today in a landslide victory over Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson. The 66-year-old hero of the Normandy invasion is the first Republican in this century to win two successive presidential elections. He won 41 states to seven carried

by former Illinois Governor Stevenson and he polled 25 million votes to the 18.3 million cast for his opponent. The Eisenhower landslide-the largest since Franklin D. Roosevelt swamped Republican Alfred M. Landon in 1936-swept Richard M. Nixon into another term as Vice President.

Elvis Presley Banned In Home State

Jackson, Miss. - Prominent church leaders have petitioned radio stations to stop playing songs by Elvis Presley. The petitions have already garnered 8,000 signatures protesting against what they call "the devil's music."



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Patterson Wins Title

New York - Floyd Patterson, at the tender age of 21, has become the youngest man ever to hold the world heavyweight boxing title. Patterson knocked Archie Moore down twice before the referee stepped in to halt the bout in Chicago Stadium. The time was two minutes, 27 seconds of the fifth round. Patterson put Moore away with a textbook left hook. Moore stirred at the count of 6 and got to his feet at 9, but he had nothing left. Patterson pelted him with a furious barrage and it was all over. The two were fighting for the right to succeed Rocky Marciano as world heavyweight champion. Last April, Marciano retired undefeated.

Yankees Win World Series with No-Hit Game

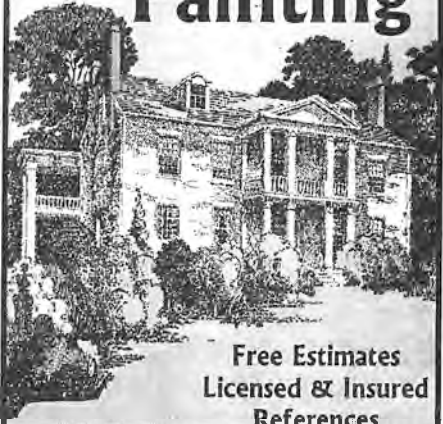
New York - Breathless, spine-tingling baseball history was made two days ago as Don Larsen threw the World Series' only no-hit game. In fact, the New York Yankee was perfect, conquering every Brooklyn Dodger hitter he faced. Asked after the 2-0 victory if he had made any special preparations the night before, the big right-hander said, "Why, no. I did just like I always do. Had a few beers and went to bed around midnight." The Yankees captured their 17th World Series today with a 9-0 win over their crosstown rivals.

A major brewing company has already approached the Yankees, asking for thier endorsement of "The No Hit Beer,"

Grace Kelly Weds Prince of Monaco

Monaco, the miniature monarchy, was the scene of a royal wedding today. Prince Rainier II wed actress Grace Kelly in a Roman Catholic ceremony. Over 1200 guests attended, including dignitaries from 25 nations. The groom wore a uniform of his own design, a black suit with gold cuffs. The bride wore ivory taffeta and a 125 year-old lace veil. The gown will be sent to the Museum of Art in Philadelphia, the bride's hometown. The Princess starred in a few Hitchcock films. One was "To Catch a Thief," made in Monaco last year. There she met the prince, somehow overlooking Cary Grant.

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History of Madison County

Part One

Written by Judge Taylor in the year 1890

When Georgia ceded the Mississippi Territory to the United States in 1802, Madison County was the property of the Cherokees and Chickasaws. The boundary between these tribes was, by consent of these tribes, established and surveyed about the year 1805 from the mouth of Duck River on an agreed line southward to a point on the Tennessee River as surveyed about three miles below the foot of Chickasaw (now Hobbs Island). The Cherokees were east and the Chickasaws west of the boundary.

In the year 1807, the Chickasaws relinquished all the territory to the United States west of a line from the head of Chickasaw Island northwardly with the Cumberland Range to include the head waters of the Elk river. All of the territory between the said last line and the old Cherokee boundary, south of the State of Tennessee, formed the original county of Madison.

It was of a triangular shape, fronting on the Tennessee River on the South about three miles, and with the Tennessee Line on the north about thirty included what is the northeast corner of

Limestone County from Pettusville eastwardly to the present county line and coming to a point just north of D.C. Davis' place. From Davis' line this line ran 36 degrees, thirty minutes east and crossed Indian Creek north of Dr. Slaughter's and passed through Matthew's, Donegan's, Fennell's, Matkins', Horton's and Lacy's plantations to Tennessee River.

The eastern boundary of the old county went from the river at SW corner of Dr. Logan's place on the Tennessee River on a direct line North 38:30E to the top of Keel's Mountain, south of Guilford Bennett's crossing Flint River north of W. O. Carpenter's place. From Keel's Mountain, the line turns more to the North and from Maysville to New Market is very crooked, making many angles and deflections and passes about one mile east of both Maysville and New Market, and after it crosses Mountain Fork it runs at an angle of about N. 1:2E until it further intersects the Tennessee line on the North boundary of Sec. 3, T.1, R.2E.

The county thus laid out contained about 322,000 acres, or a little over 5 hundred square

miles. In the year 1817 the Chickasaws relinquished, with other lands, the southern portion of this county and in 1818 the present boundary of Limestone and Madison was established. The eastern portion, or New Madison, was coded by the Cherokees about the same time and in 1819 Jackson County was established, including all east of the Indian line to where it crosses at W. O. Carpenter's. The Flint River was made the county line to its mouth.

In 1821, Decatur County was established between Madison and Jackson but it was abolished, I think, in the year 1824

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and the present line established between Madison and Jackson, being defined to be the dividing ridge between the waters of Flint and Paint Rock. It is very irregular in its course and I have never seen it properly drawn on any map. It was officially described by the county surveyors, John P. Jones of Madison and Walker McCutcheon of Jackson, in the year 1848 and there is scarcely any citizen in either county that knows anything about it today.

About 1805, Isaac Criner settled near New Market, and with his brother, Joseph Criner, is said to have built the first cabin erected in the county, though Samuel Davis and Stephen McBroom in the same neighborhood, and John Hunt at the Huntsville Spring, and old John McLeerin, an old trader west of Hazel Green came here at the same date.

The early settlers were so scattered and saw so little of each other that it is difficult to ascertain who came first. Old man Isaac Criner, who died some four or five years ago at the age of ninety-three or four, said that he and his brother had put up his brother's cabin when John Hunt stayed all night with him on his way to Huntsville Spring and his brother's wife baked bread for him and David Bean to bring with them; that this was in the fall of 1804 and that Bean helped John Hunt put up a cabin and then Bean came back and settled on Bean's Creek near Salem, Tenn. and Hunt went to Tennessee after his family and returned

with them in the spring of 1805.

If there were any other settlers in the county in the spring

of 1805 except these, Mr. Criner had not heard of them. This is the substance of the statement



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that Mr. Criner made to me and has often made to others, and as he was a man of remarkable memory and undoubted veracity, I am disposed to give his statement credit.

I do not think there is any doubt of John Hunt's being the pioneer in the settlement of Huntsville, yet I think it quite probable that there were several settlers who came here about this same time.

Several of the old pioneers claimed to have come across the line into the county in the year 1805, but taking Mr. Criner and Mr. Hunt as the original pioneers, there was this difference in their career; Mr. Criner came here before he attained his majority, settled in a remote corner of the county, stayed at home and worked hard and when he died he left a large body of the lands where he settled to his children.

John Hunt came here in the full meridian of life with very little of this world's goods and the lands at the public sale brought prices beyond his reach and became the property of richer men, and all that he received of the vast domain on which he was first to settle was a half acre town lot in the city that bears his name and a name that will be remembered as long as the city of Huntsville marks the place where he built his cabin and commenced to battle with the wilderness.

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- Two days ago the "Stick-ringing" man took possession of the corner of Randolph St. and the square, and he has done a thriving business. Yesterday the "Electric Shock Battery" man installed himself on the other corner and his machine attracted a

large crowd all day long.

- Yesterday while Mack Keenar, colored, was cleaning out a hog pen at the Fair Grounds, the vicious occupant of the pen made a savage attack upon him, terribly lacerating his thigh. Dr. S. H. Lowry was as hand, and he attended to the wounded man. We understand the wound is quite serious, although at last accounts the wounded person is resting comfortably.

- Judge Richardson has received warrants for amounts appropriated to disabled Confederate soldiers by the last legislature, and by calling at the Probate Judge's office, they will be paid.



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It Was More Than Just a Bottled Drink

By Tommy Towery

Today there is a popular saying going around that you only need two things to get by in life - Duck Tape and WD-40. The reason given is that if something moves and it is not supposed to, then you put Duck Tape on it. Alternately, if it doesn't move and it is supposed to, then you use WD-40 on it. While that may be true in modern times, in the 1950's and into the 1960's you needed one more thing to conquer the challenges the world presented. You needed a Coca-Cola bottle. Although there were many types of soft drinks sold in the South, any carbonated cola product was usually called

a Coke. In this article, I refer to Coke bottles but much of it applies to others, no matter what brand of cola product inside it.

The Coke bottle was one of the essential tools around the house during that period. While it was first designed to get that favorite drink from a soda fountain into our homes with ease, it was used for a plethora of things once that task was accomplished. I recently came upon this revelation while I was working on an article about the places that we used to go to visit for elementary school class trips. As a student at East Clinton School, I remember going to the Madison County Health Department and a bakery where bread was

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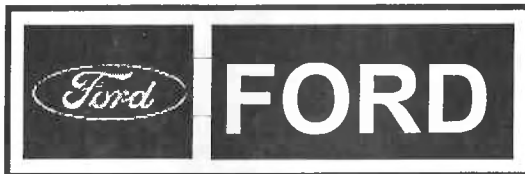
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made. I also remember that there were two prime, and favorite, places on West Clinton Street - Meadow Gold Dairy and the Coca Cola Bottling Plant.

I vividly remember going to the bottling plant and watching how the bottles were herded down an assembly line conveyor belt to be filled and capped. It was the process that happened before the liquid was poured into them that captured my attention. I remember that the empty bottles were run in front of a panel of white lights and that there was an inspector dressed in white sitting in an inspection station who had the duty of staring at each bottle as it rapidly rolled past to see that it was in fact clean and ready to be filled properly. We all remember the stories of the things that were found in the bottles before we went from the refillable ones to the throwaways. While I am positive that many of those tales were Urban Legends, at least everyone knew someone who had a friend or relative who had found something in their bottle beside soda water.

If you were to follow the life of one of those refillable Coke bottles from the time it left the bottling plant to the point where it was placed on the conveyor belt once more to be filled, I am sure that you would have a story to tell. Now I was born in 1946 so I can only start my memories

there, but it still gives me enough time to fill this article. The first Coke machines I remember took a nickel. You could slide them down a little canal in a top opening box, or you could put in your nickel and turn a handle and the bottle would drop out the slot at the bottom of a tall standing one. One more type that I remember during that time was a machine that had a glass door on the left and you could pull the Coke out by grabbing the top of the capped bottle. Of course we had to open them ourselves back then with the built-in opener on the dispenser since the twist top was about as far in the future as the disposable bottle. I also remember when the price went up from five cents to six cents, and how I had to put a nickel and a penny in the machine at the Grand News Stand to get a Coke. Later of course prices continued to rise.

The cap on top of the Coke bottle back then was steel, and there was a cork liner to it. Some of you might remember that you could carefully prize the cork liner out of the bottom of the cap and then you could put the cap on your shirt or blouse and press the cork back in and make yourself a Coke pin to wear. Coke caps also became checkers, washers, decorations on hats, and hobby items. We learned how to recycle back then, long before it was in style.



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How to drink the Coke was the next decision to be made. While chug-a-lugging was popular for the kids, it gave most people headaches. That didn't seem to bother the kids, but adults were different. They liked to put things in the bottle to augment the taste. BC powders and salted peanuts were favorites. My younger friends loved to put M&M candies in theirs. There was also an Urban Legend that an aspirin tablet in a Coke made a love potion, but none of my friends could attest to that magical power.

Once the bottle was empty its value was found. Many of those bottles saw a lot of use before they were returned to once again be filled with Coke. They were used by young and old and male and females alike. It is amazing to me and a tribute to the professionalism of the Coca Cola Bottling Plants across this great nation of ours that half the population of the country was not eliminated by the reuse of contaminated bottles. While most of us took it for granted, I am sure that the bottling companies took the sterilization of used bottles very, very seriously.

I open my memories with one of the nicer things a Coke bottle became - a matchmaker. I am sure that the first non-drinking use for a Coke bottle for many females was as a tool for a game. How many of you readers got your first kiss as the result of a game of spin-the-bottle? I must admit that I did, and am proud to claim that. In little parties throughout the neighborhood small groups of preteens and teenagers sat in circles and tried to develop the skill needed to make a wobbly rotating bottle stop in a particular place while avoiding the creep sitting next to the target. Ah, youth!

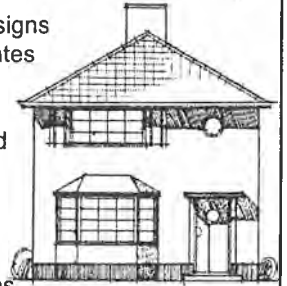
While the females used bottles to get boyfriends, males

of the same age group used them for income. Many a young lad's first earned money came from collecting Coke bottles and returning them to a store for their deposit. Over the years the deposit value changed and grew from one cent to three cents to a nickel. But it was honest money (most of the time) and it kept the countryside clean. I did think it was a little dishonest when my brother's crowd used to steal the bottles from behind the stores and then resell them to the same store. I remember digging bottles out of the red Alabama clay dirt and having to wash them enough to even see what kind they were. This is one reason why I was

STRUCTURE

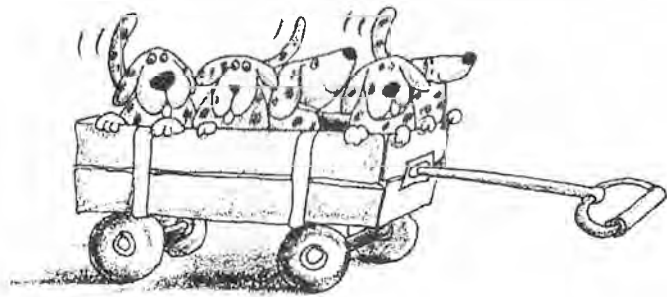
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amazed to see that the bottling company could get them clean and sterile enough to reuse, but they did.

In a more domestic setting, the Coke bottle became a sprinkler for doing laundry. Long before I ever saw a steam iron I remember that my grandmother had a cork bottomed sprinkler head stuck into a Coke bottle that she sat on the ironing board when she ironed the clothes. She'd sprinkle the clothes with water, and I'd listen to the hiss made as the hot iron hit the damp clothes. They were also used by females as vases for rooting plants, and I remember vividly the almost stained-glass look of our kitchen window filled with bottles full of green leafy things.

But to really appreciate the value and flexibility of the Coke bottle, you had to put one in the hands of a male. They became ashtray, spittoons, and paintbrush cleansers. I swear that I never saw any of my brother Don's friends work on a car that they did not have at least one Coke bottle full of gasoline sitting on the ground beside them somewhere. Not only was used oil drained into them but many a male's bladder was as well. Chemicals of every sort, from lye to rat poison, found their way

into the durable bottles. They were hand weapons and missiles alike. And although they did have a deposit value, many a Coke bottle met its destiny at the opposite end of a 22 caliber single-shot rifle.

Coke bottles in particular became gambling devices in my crowd. Chug-a-lug contests were favorite activities but the words "Go You For Distance" was a challenge not to be accepted lightly. How many of us remember that on the bottom of a Coke bottle were the names of various cities. It was that property of the bottle that made it a gambling device. When a wager challenge was accepted, each person would hold their Coke bottle up and read the name aloud. The one who had the bottle from the farthest distance would win. Most of us would never know there was a Thibodaux, Louisi-

ana if we had not first seen it on the bottom of a Coke bottle. The Coke bottle also made its way into the Madison County Fair as a gaming device, when wooden cases of the empty bottle were sat on a table and small wooden rings were tossed to try to ring the neck of one of them. Many a dime was lost on that endeavor.

But the Coke bottles themselves were survivors. They seemed to be made of indestructible glass, with only the lip being susceptible to chipping. After all the dirt and contaminants and trials and tribulations they went through, they somehow seemed to make their way back to the bottling plants in one piece and roll down the conveyor belts to be filled one more time. Alas, they finally fell prey to progress or the throw away society that engulfed America. The tops that had to be opened with a "church



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key" became twist off; the glass bottles gave way to steel and then aluminum pop-top cans; and those gave way to two and three liter bottles or plastic half-liter bottles or any of a dozen or so other ways used to sell Coke. Even those have become recyclable items that may someday be written about.

Of all the uses of the old glass one that I miss the most, I think Spin-The-Bottle tops my list.

Need Information

I'm seeking information, based on a photograph I have, about a photographer in Huntsville, D. W. Buchanan. I have a photo of my great-grandmother and her husband and first child, which would be circa 1894. I'm wondering if anyone might have any ideas how I might find out something about the photographer.

If any of you out there has information, please email Valerie at Valerie.Wood@ssa.gov.

A Few Facts About Lincoln Village

by Jim Harris

In 1918 William Lincoln Barrell of Lowell, Maryland purchased Abington Mill and transformed it into a large textile center named Lincoln Mill village. Mr. Philip Peeler served as general manager from 1934 to 1957. The mill stopped operation in 1957. It later became known as the HIC building which served as manufacturing and office space for many aerospace contractors. It burned in 1980.

An addition to the mill, which was constructed from concrete, still stands behind the shopping center on the south side of Oakwood Avenue between Meridian Street on the west and the railroad tracks on the east.

The school was built in 1929

and became the central core of the community until 1956 when the village was annexed into the city of Huntsville. Edward W. Anderson served as principal for 27 years.

The old part of the village which consist of Front Street, Lawrence Street and Davidson

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Street was built in the early to mid twenties.

Part of the above information was copied from the historical marker that stands in front of the school.

Now for some unusual facts about the village:

All village houses had electric lights, one in each room, running (cold) water in the kitchen and a toilet with a commode that flushed. That's all the toilet had. It was a toilet, not a bathroom.

The water came from a well on mill property and, as I recall, located under the mill.

Plumbing services were free. Villagers didn't have to buy toilet tissue, (It was just paper in those simpler times) it was delivered free of charge, twice a week, thrown into the yard or on the porch.

Rent was cheap. Two figures I heard are 75 cents per room per month and \$1.35 per month.

The intersection of Meridian Street and the railroad tracks was called Miller's Crossing. The Past Time Cafe, which featured dancing in the back, was located there.

The Home Coming Queen was selected according to how many votes she sold. That's right. Girls running for the honor solicited votes from everyone who had a penny. The girl who had the most money at the end of the contest won. I met the 1947/48 queen recently. Her name is Elizabeth (Tiny) Daniels

Davis.

Pinhook Creek once caught fire. A gas line broke and leaked into the creek which someone ignited. Some kids thought the world was coming to an end because the water was burning.

And then there is the most unusual fact that I ever heard of which was common to the times actually, not just the village, and it demonstrates to what extent one would go to help a neighbor: My older brother was sickly as an infant. My mother was a small woman and didn't have enough milk to nurse him. Two neighbors also had nursing babies and they nursed my brother because mama couldn't. When was the last time you saw that kind of caring?

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and a leaky tire.
- Ken Owens



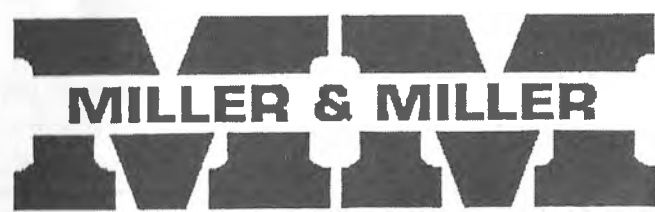
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How It Came About

by Niles Howard

- In the 1500's most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor.

Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

- Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children- last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

- Houses had thatched roofs- thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the dogs, cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof.

Thus the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house, that posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could really mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when it got wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they kept adding more thresh until when you opened the door it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entranceway. This became known as a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get

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cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence, the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot, nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man "could bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning and death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock them out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid

out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a "wake."

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, some were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive. So they tied a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell" or was considered a "dead ringer."

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Redstone Park

by **Stella Musick**

Redstone Park - What can I say other than to tell you what my memories are about this community. Redstone Park was located right behind Farley School on the corner of what is now South Memorial Parkway and Redstone Road.

I remember all the houses in rows and in today's time would remind you of a Mobile Home park. There were rows and rows, all white, built just alike and the walls so thin that you knew your neighbors much better than you really wanted to at times. The houses were all so much alike that the only differences would be the number of bedrooms that you needed.

Air conditioning came from the big trees and opened windows. Our heat came from kerosene barrels that sat on the back porches and were filled as the truck serviced the whole neighborhood.

My two sisters, two brothers and I didn't realize we were poor. All the neighbors were in the same situation and we all felt like we had it all. We played marbles outdoors under the trees, tried to get "doodle bugs" to come out of their holes by spitting on broom straws and sticking the

straws down in the hole. We made dolls out of coat hangers, played hide-and-seek and tag. The ice truck made its rounds throughout the park and here would go all the kids, taking off, chasing the truck down the gravelled roads. My brother tried to jump on the back end of the truck, probably to impress a girl in the neighborhood and broke his arm. Our chasing the ice truck came to an abrupt end.

A field close by served as a ball park and we spent many hours playing softball while we could see our mothers sharing wringer washers and hanging clothes on the lines to dry. They placed all pants on pant stretchers in order to cut down on the wrinkles making ironing a little easier.

The Community Center served many capacities for the neighborhood. Each year a

health nurse would come to give vaccinations and shots needed for school. All the moms drug



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kids down, lining up in a row, some not caring and some scared to death. Me, I was scared to death. I hated shots and would get so nervous that at one time the line reached the child in front of us, I broke away and ran, with Mom and the nurse chasing after me. Of course, no sense in running, shots came anyway along with the punishment for running.

Each year right before school started, everyone gathered at the community center with all their last year's school books to swap, buy or borrow for the upcoming year. If you lost out on the bargains, you had to go downtown to purchase new books for the year. Nothing was issued free for your education.

The Community also housed Push Lawnmowers where you went to check one out, mow your lawn and take it back. No gas or power tools needed. Amazing, we have to have them this day and time.

Right behind the community center a big ditch ran through-out the neighborhood. It was full of crawdads. All the kids tried to be the number I Crawdad Catcher. We waded, moved rocks

and scooped up so many that it made you wonder how they had time to multiply. Some of us were scared that a daring boy was going to chase us halfway across the playground with one in his hand vowing that he was going to place it on us like he'd like to have placed a big kiss.

The Rolling Store serviced the neighborhood with meats, vegetables and staples. It would come through the streets blowing its horn to let everyone know that grocery day was here. If you ran out of something you needed during the week, you just borrowed it from a neighbor; or if a neighbor needed something, you were there for them.

Momma would get us up serving us gravy, grits and fried potatoes and biscuits for breakfast before sending us off to

school. We all walked together rain or shine. The school had no lunch room, so at lunch time, we'd go home along with 2 or 3 we might have invited to come eat with us. Mom would have hot homemade soup made or maybe grilled cheese sandwiches and she always had a "one egg" cake with either chocolate sauce, butterscotch sauce or whatever she could think to put on top of this hot cake. It became all our friends favorites and we'd be offered a book marker, an apple or anything that they thought would give them an invite to come to our house for lunch. School was about a half mile away from Redstone Park and one day mother was summoned to the school to pick up our baby sister who was pushing her doll buggy down the hall yelling for

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our older sister.

All five of us had the same first grade teacher, Miss Lillie Latham. She made an impression on each of us. She taught school with her knowledge, heart and soul. She taught Sunday School class and was such a community asset that she now has the Latham Memorial Methodist Church named in her honor. Our principal, Mr. L.J. Morris, was as dedicated to the school and the children as Miss Lillie was. He now has Morris Elementary named in his honor for his caring service to the education of children.

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Optometrist's window:
"If you don't see what
you're looking for, you've
come to the right place."**

Old Time Superstitions

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- Ivy growing on your home will protect you from witchcraft and evil.
- If your nose itches you will soon be kissed by a fool.
- It is bad luck to close a pocket knife unless you are the one who opened it.
- If you dream of a fish, someone you know has just gotten pregnant.
- If your lover gives you the gift of a knife, it means the relationship will soon end.
- To dream of a lizard means you have a secret enemy.

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I Just Want People To Know

Before the terrible era of the civil war, Hurricane Creek was a small close knit community where everyone helped their neighbors. This peaceful tranquillity was destroyed forever when Union troops moved into the valley.

Family fought against family, friends became enemies and neighbors laid in ambush with their guns ready.

Shadrick Golden was one of these men. He chose the side of the north while his friends and neighbors fought for the Southland. The bitter feelings would last for generations.

Mrs. Jacks, a native of Hurricane Creek, recalled hearing the story of Shadrick Golden when she was a little girl.

"Shadrick Golden was an informer to the Yankee people. If anybody in the valley would be fortunate enough to obtain some shoe leather to make some shoes, or anything that was hard to get, or if a Confederate soldier came home and he (Shadrick) found out, he told the Yankees.

"The Yankees came and took the sick soldier, or if it was some material thing, they came and raided and got everything they could find. Well, many people wanted Shadrick dead.

"He was murdered but they do not know who killed him. He was found on Tater Knob Mountain. The Yankees had Shadrick buried in the Bragg Cemetery. (The Braggs were loyal Confederates!) I think he was buried there for spite. He also has the largest tombstone at his grave in that cemetery. There is not a

word of truth on his tombstone other than his name and when he was born."

Here is what the tombstone says:

'In memory of Shadrick Golden who was born July 4 1808 in the year of our Lord. On the 13th of January 1865 he was taken off and murdered for maintaining the Union and Constitution of the United States.'

"The federal government put the tombstone up. Shadrick was not taken out and murdered for upholding the Constitution of the United States. He was murdered for being a traitor to his neighbors. They do not know where he died because when they found him the buzzards had picked his eyes out!

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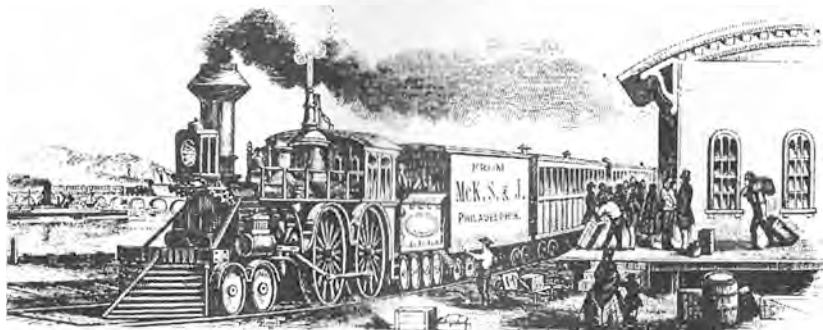
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tions of this area to know that that man was a traitor to his neighbors. The federal government put up a tombstone on his grave and the words on it are not so. I just want the coming generations to know."

Holy Wood Found On Monte Sano

from 1912 newspaper

Local lumbermen have samples of the famous Chittim timber which has been discovered by government experts in Madison County, in the vicinity of Huntsville, and much discussion about the same is being indulged by the lumber people. The timber found is not very extensive, the forest of the same being but sparsely built up. The timber is supposed to be growing only at Jerusalem.

It will be remembered that

interior work of the great temple at Jerusalem, told of in the Bible, was built of Chittim wood. It was not believed that there was any of this timber anywhere. Government experts in looking over the Alabama forests investigated trees which natives were calling Chittim wood and they have pronounced it the real article. The timber, of course, will be preseved, and an effort made to bring about a growth. The samples of the wood on hand here are prized highly.

Here Chittim wood has been known to exist on Monte Sano since Huntsville was laid out in town lots nearly a century ago. Chittim wood was first hauled to

town and sold as fire wood. For the past twenty-five years local mechanics have been working it into walking canes, gavels, police clubs, and many different kinds of furniture.

The Smithsonian Institute sent representatives here during the early nineties to investigate the wood and extent of growth, and now have a block on exhibition in the Institution at Washington.

The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

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Tips from Liz

- Rub an English walnut on furniture scratches.

- For a bad skin blemish, dab some honey on it and cover with a band-aid. This works overnight.

- Use your crockpot in the summer to avoid using your oven and heating up your home.

- To relieve your achy muscles, mix 1 tablespoon horseradish in 1/2 cup of olive oil. Let mixture sit for 30 minutes, apply as a massage oil for instant relief.

- Eliminate puffiness under your eyes - a dab of Preparation H will do it, but avoid your eyes. The ointment acts as a vasoconstrictor, relieving the swelling instantly.

- Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

- Have ants in your home? Rub a chalk line where they usually go and they'll never cross it.

- Rub a sheet of Bounce on your exposed arms and legs when you go out to garden and the mosquito's won't bite you.

- Altoids will clear up your stuffy nose.

- Many large home department and garden stores will sell torn bags of fertilizer, soil, grass seed, etc. at a discount if you ask.

- To keep the tiny screws in your eyeglasses from loosening,

dab them with Maybelline Crystal Clear nail polish to the threads of the screws before tightening them.


- To find a good place for all your plastic kitchen containers, hang a camping hammock from your ceiling and put all your containers in it - out of the cabinets and easy to find.

- To remove a splinter from your skin - put a drop of Elmer's Glue over the splinter and let dry, peel the dried glue and the splinter will go with it.

Life is not about how fast you run, or how high you can climb, but how well you bounce.

- Joyce Russell

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The Hospital

Brothers Billy and Charlie had a dream. They wanted to build a hospital where patients could receive specialized care. That would also serve as a research and teaching center.

Such an idea in the late 1800's was considered absurd, to say the least.

For many patients of that era, checking into a hospital was equivalent to a death warrant. Unsanitary and crowded conditions, combined with medical practices often bordering on quackery was enough to make most people take their chances at home.

Also opposing the idea were many prominent members of the medical community who distrusted the "new-fangled" ideas of the two brothers.

Huntsville was without a true hospital at the time. When several of the community's leaders heard of the idea, they immediately contacted the brothers who were living in Minnesota at the time.

Also in Huntsville's favor was the fact that the United States Surgeon General had recently declared the city as one of the healthiest places in the country. In April, 1896, Charlie was induced to visit Huntsville. He took an immediate liking to the city and after extensive negotiations, purchased a parcel of land.

The land was expensive: \$2,500 in cash and another \$3,000 in bank stock.

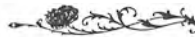
Unfortunately for Huntsville, civic leaders in the brothers' hometown also heard of the their idea. By offering attractive inducements of land and money the brothers were persuaded to

build their hospital there.

The brothers kept their land in Huntsville for several years before finally selling it.

Several years would pass before our city finally got a hospital. It is interesting to note, however, that if the brothers' dreams had worked out here, the hospital, instead of being named Huntsville Hospital, would have been named the Mayo Clinic.

The brothers, Charles and William Mayo, never returned to Huntsville.



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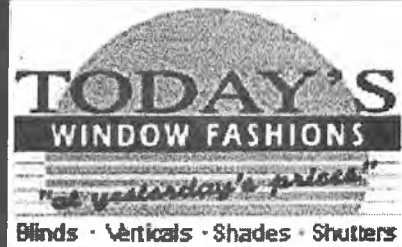
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Where Is The Telephone Company?

by **Bill Wilson**

Ask anyone today where the Telephone Company is and you'll probably get an empty stare or at best the comment, "Gee, that's a good question. I'm not sure. It used to be in that big building over by the Library, across from the Fire Station. But I know it's not there anymore. To tell the truth, I don't know where it is, but they always know where I am."

"Well then, how to you pay your phone bill?"

"I usually mail it in or pay it at the drugstore."

So round to the drugstore I go on my quest for the missing mega-corporation. There I find an attractive young lady stationed in a niche under a PAY YOUR TELEPHONE BILL HERE sign, "Are you the phone company?" I ask.

"No, Sir", she says sweetly shaking her golden tresses, "we're not the phone company. We're the drugstore. We just collect the phone bills and send the money to Atlanta."

"Then where is the phone company?"

She is nonplussed. "I don't really know. No one's ever asked me that before. Why don't you check in the phone book over there", she suggests pointing at a pile of telephone books on a nearby table. Now I'm beginning to have real doubts. If the phone company has somehow absconded, it's hardly likely to have left clues in its own address book.

On inspecting the table I find out that there are not one but two telephone books. Even more disconcerting. The first one has a "Let Your Fingers Do the Walk-

ing" logo on it and is entitled "The Yellow Book". The second has the more convincing Bell logo in a circle and is entitled "The Real Yellow Pages" as if to cast not-so-subtle aspersions on the other book. Hmm. To be on the safe side, I choose "The Real Yellow Pages" as true gospel and flip over to the B's in the business section to find a large column of Ma Bell entries of all sorts, but with the exception of cellular services at different addresses, not a single one has a real address, just a phone number. Then the awful truth finally dawns on me. The Telephone Company is not in the Telephone Book because The Telephone Company is not here anymore.

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In fact, The Telephone Company is not anywhere in particular. It has somehow metastasized in the body politic and its pieces are now scattered out in cyberspace with each piece stationed at the end of a twisted wire pair reachable only by phone. Now I finally know the full truth and it is not a happy one.

All the money is funneled to Atlanta. In each city, local installation and repair crews reachable only by unlisted phone numbers are sequestered in unmarked buildings or caves. They are directed by encrypted messages from Repair Central hidden in yet another unknown location. All around us, as if nothing had changed, the business of the telephone company goes on as before, silently, efficiently and now virtually invisible.

How did all this happen? Not so long ago, a great multi-storied building in each city announced the stately presence of Ma Bell and held all her minions - the clerks, the operators, the repairmen, and all the other sundry workers - in her ample arms. And everyone knew exactly where her shrine was and how to get there from anywhere. If anyone had ever asked, "Where is the Telephone Company?" we knew that person had just flown in from Boise or had just gotten out of The Home.

I can only guess at what happened. Did Ma Bell in her simple print dress have a mid-life crisis

and abandon her hapless charges for a carefree life in the Big City? Were we all that oblivious to her needs in those halcyon days as we mindlessly chewed gum and yakked on the phone for hours on end? Is it our fault? It must be. Why she didn't even leave so much as a forwarding address.



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Local Man Invents Flying Machine

from 1913 Huntsville paper

William L. Quick of this county has invented and perfected a new type of monoplane which, it is believed, will overcome many of the deficiencies that are found in the flying machines now in use. Mr. Quick's machine is patterned after the ordinary hawk and contains wings and a tail. The propelling arrangement is patterned after the insect, consisting of vibratory propellers that make no revolutions but beat the air like the wings of a humming bird or fly. The system of control is designed to become instinctive on the part of the operator since, by simply leaning forward the attachments to the tail of the machine will guide it upward and by leaning backward it will go downward. The rudder is regulated in the same manner.

Mr. Quick has been at work on the model of this machine during the last eight years and it looks like he has solved the problem. The lines of the machine make it impossible for it to fall directly to the ground either head first, backwards or upside down. Mr. Quick claims that should the motor's power be shut off while the machine is in the air, it would drift slowly to the ground. He has made a study

of aeronautic problems during the last several years and knows the deficiencies of every machine that is now used in the United States and abroad and he has constructed his own with a view of avoiding all these. Mr. Quick expects to organize a company for the manufacture of his machine and he would like to have the plant located in Huntsville.

Editor's note: 'The plane is now on public display at the Huntsville Space and Rocket museum



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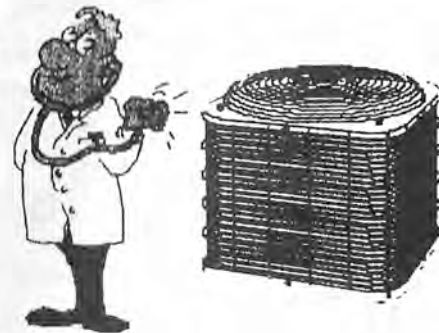
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