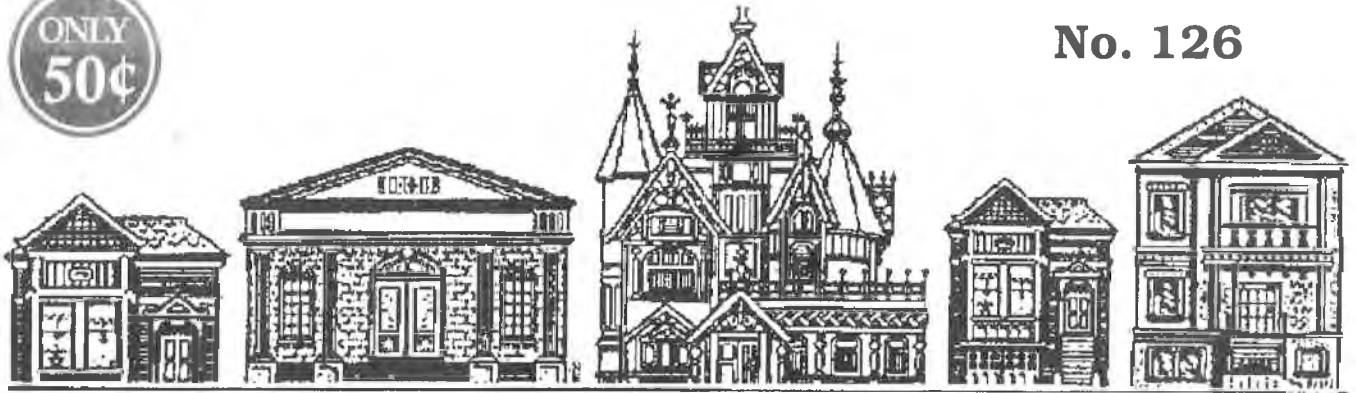


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Old Timer's Sale

The Story of Dred Scott

His name was Sam. No middle name. No last name. Just plain Sam. For any traveler passing by the cotton fields on the outskirts of Huntsville, there was nothing to distinguish him from countless other slaves.

Simply another faceless slave, bent over in the hot sun picking cotton. A human chattel worth about five hundred dollars on the open market.

But if the traveler had paused in his saddle long enough to take a good look at this particular slave, he would have seen the face of a man destined to become one of the most controversial people in our nation's history.

Although historians can not agree on Sam's exact year of birth, most agree that it was probably around 1795. He was born in Southampton County, Virginia, on a plantation near Edom, owned by a planter named Peter Blow.

Peter Blow actually owned two plantations, one near town, and the other, a large spread of 860 acres, about twenty miles away, near a community called Sweet Gum.

As was common in the days of slavery, Sam was raised on the same plantation where his mas-

ter lived. This was not an act of kindness; it was pure economics. Young slaves grew up to become adult slaves, and adult slaves were worth a lot of money. Infant mortality among slave children was high, so Blow, like most other planters of that day, kept the infants near the "big house" so he could constantly monitor their health.

At the age of eight or nine, Sam was sent to Blow's other plantation. This farm was a typical cotton plantation, which meant that everyone had to work in the fields. Although children of that age were too young for much physical labor, they were nonetheless valuable at many chores.

Southampton County had been the site of several small slave uprisings, and Sam undoubtedly heard stories of them as he labored in the fields. Many of his fellow workers were from Africa and it was their stories of a long-lost freedom that inspired many of the young blacks. Ironically, on a nearby plantation just seven miles from where Sam labored, another slave also grew up listening to the same stories. This slave, named Nat Turner, would also end up in the history books.

Peter Blow's father had been moderately successful as a cotton grower and plantation owner. Unfortunately, by the time Peter inherited the land, the already-



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poor soil had been depleted by years of continuous cotton growing. In 1814, 1815, and 1816, young Peter had to borrow money to keep the plantations going. Not only was the soil practically useless by now, the price of Virginia cotton had plummeted to an all-time low.

To compound his problems, Peter had acquired a habit of excessive drinking. Normally a well-spoken, quiet man, he became abusive when drinking. Unable to see his own faults as a poor businessman, he blamed his financial reversals on those around him, including his slaves.

By early 1818, Blow's creditors were demanding payment. He reasoned that the best thing to do was to go somewhere and start over again. He had been hearing reports of new land down in a territory called Alabama. This land was supposed to be reasonably cheap and fertile for growing cotton.

With a decision made, Blow began to sell off his Virginia holdings. Along with the land, he sold many of his slaves. Most of the money went to pay off creditors. He had no feelings for Sam the slave and therefore made arrangements to sell him also.

When Sam's mother, Hannah, heard of the impending sale she implored Blow not to go through with it. Hannah was Blow's house servant and had been given to him by his father. Blow reversed his resolution to

sell Sam, most likely because he realized he would need field hands when he got to Alabama.

Books of Huntsville's early history are full of descriptions of new settlers migrating to Madison County. In one instance, probably typical of the Blows, a writer tells of a family moving from Virginia with "the husband walking in front of an ox-pulled cart heavily laden with all sorts of household goods. Following the cart came the slaves, herding all types of fowl, milk cows, goats and other farmyard beasts."

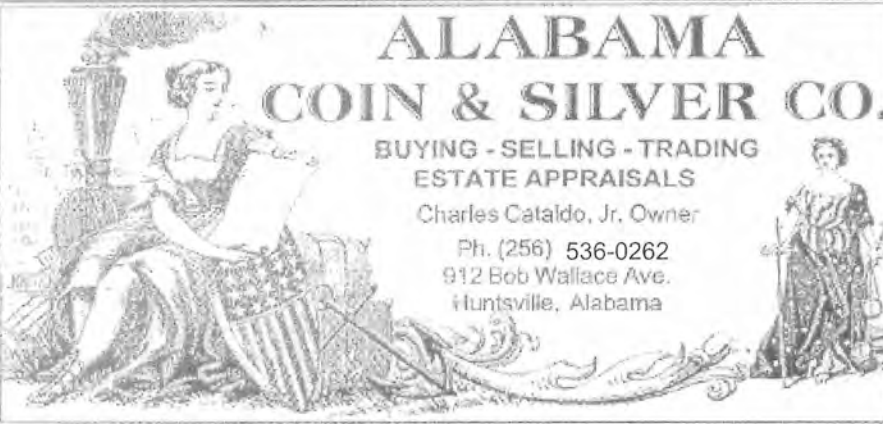
On Oct. 5, 1819, Peter Blow purchased a quarter section of land from the United States Land Office for his new plantation in Alabama. Immediately, to be ready for the next planting season, he started Sam and the other slaves to clearing the land and erecting crude shelters against the oncoming winter.

Ironically, this quarter-section of land is now the home of Oakwood College, one of the most prestigious black colleges in the United States. When Oakwood College was founded, some of the students were housed in old log cabins that were originally slave quarters. Tradition has it that these cabins were some of the earliest buildings built on the grounds. If so, it is quite likely that some of the college students were housed in buildings that Sam helped build.

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Though now in a new land, Peter Blow's fortunes and disposition had not improved. He had not calculated how much time and money it would take to start a new plantation. His disposition was probably not helped any by Sam.

The slightly built slave had become "careless in dress, had a swaggering walk and a tendency to gamble," none of which endeared a black slave to a white master.

Whether it was the alcohol that Blow was consuming in prodigious amounts or Sam's troublesome behavior that caused Blow to begin to whip him, no one knows. Taylor Blow, Peter's son, in an interview with the St. Louis Dispatch, stated that one of his earliest memories was of being forced to watch while his father whipped Sam.

During this time, Sam met and began courting a young

woman who was a slave on a nearby plantation. They were soon married. Whether they were legally married or merely "jumped over the broomstick" is not known. All records and memories of this marriage are lost in the mist of time. Nothing indicates what her name was or whether their union produced children.

Most slave families were close and there is no reason to believe that Sam's was any different. When one of his younger brothers died, Sam, for some unexplained reason, perhaps affection, began using his name. Now, instead of Sam, he insisted on being called Dred.

By 1821, Peter Blow finally realized he was not cut out for the life of a cotton grower. A few miles west of Huntsville, in Florence, fortunes were being made. The new town had attracted investors such as Andrew Jackson, James Madison, John Brahan, and LeRoy Pope. The more Blow heard about the new settlement, the more he became determined to move there.

Short of cash, as usual, Blow borrowed \$2,000 from John Jones of Huntsville until he could sell his property. As security, he put up his land and slaves. Fortunately for Blow, a buyer by the name of James Camp soon came along and purchased the land for \$5,000, enabling him to repay the loan.

While Blow was preparing to

move, Sam, now known as Dred, was caught in a moral dilemma that had faced his people since the beginning of slavery: Obey the law of the land, move with his master, and leave his wife, or...? There was no other choice. Some historians have claimed that Dred tried to run away during his sojourn in Huntsville, but no proof was ever offered.

In the end, Dred moved to Florence with his master, Peter Blow, while his wife remained in Huntsville. They would never see

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one another again.

At first, prosperity smiled on Blow. He gave up the idea of being a cotton planter and opened a hotel bearing his name in Florence. The Peter Blow Inn was evidently a leased building, since there is no record of purchase.

In his 1876 memoirs, Judge William Basil Wood identified the inn as one of Florence's early hotels and wrote that Dred served in this establishment as the hosteler, or keeper of the horses, for the guests.

Taylor Blow, Peter's son, held a deep affection for the slave now known as Dred. Though much of this affection probably stemmed from the natural relationship that occurs when two people grow up together, one must wonder how much of it was caused by a mutual disliking of the elder Blow's drinking and abusive nature.

For the first time, it appeared that Peter Blow was going to be a success. His inn had become a popular gathering place for travelers and by 1827 he had grown prosperous enough to buy two town lots in downtown Florence. The first was purchased Feb. 28, 1827 from the trustees of the Cypress Land Co. Less than a month later, he bought the adjoining lot from Patrick Andrews. Today, a parking garage and a church occupy the lots.

Florence, like other boom towns, began to temporarily decline after its first spurt of prosperity. By 1829 Blow had decided to again seek his fortunes elsewhere. This time his sights were set on St. Louis, Mo., the great gateway to the west.

At 53, he no longer had the grandiose visions he had as a young man. Now he was satisfied to become the proprietor of a men's boarding house. He owned five slaves, including Dred, and employed them in his

new business.

Within two years Blow had run up large debts and was forced to close the hotel. Though the town was full of single men looking for a place to sleep, he just was not a business person. Suddenly, on June 23, 1832, Peter Blow took sick and died.

When his creditors heard of his death, they all demanded payment from the estate. The slave named Dred, being probably the most valuable property that Blow had owned, was seized and sold to satisfy the creditors' claims.

He was purchased for five hundred dollars by Dr. John Emerson, who was about to enter the military. Over the next decade, Dred traveled with Emerson, as his body servant, to numerous outposts throughout the west. At one such post, some soldiers, after observing Dred's small build (he was only 4 feet 11 inches) began to jokingly compare him with General Winfield Scott, a veritable giant of a man

who stood well over six feet. The nickname stuck and Sam, the slave who had changed his name to Dred while living in Huntsville, became known in our history books as Dred Scott.

In 1846, Dred Scott filed a petition in the Missouri court at

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St. Louis. In his suit, Dred maintained that as he had lived in states and territories where slavery was illegal, he was therefore no longer a slave. The case would drag on in court for almost ten years.

The decision handed down by the Supreme Court, called the Dred Scott Decision, ruled against the ex-slave and helped put the country on the collision course that led to the Civil War.

Dred Scott died on May 4, 1858, in St. Louis. On the preceding day, in a town 120 miles away, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas resumed their arguments of the Dred Scott Decision in the fourth of their historic debates. Lincoln's argu-

ments in this debate were a major factor in his winning the presidency of the United States.

Dallas Village Up In Arms Over New Cow Law

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

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

Some of the people of the village have set about to make up a purse with which to employ a lawyer and take the question into court.

1907 Huntsville newspaper

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Captain Gurley Has Revenge

The year was 1914 and the Civil War had been a memory for almost a half-century. A new and more terrible war had just started in Europe and by its conclusion millions would be dead and many more millions would be left in desolation with no hope.

In Alabama, Capt. Frank Gurley, the stout hearted Confederate veteran, was in the twilight of his days. A hero and defender of Huntsville and North Alabama, Gurley had tried to live a peaceful existence since those long ago days when he had pledged his honor and life to the Confederate States of America.

As Captain of the 4th Alabama Cavalry, he kept in touch with the remaining men who had fought beside him against the northern aggressors. Gurley felt it his duty to represent these men and do for them all he could in matters pertinent to them.

In the fall of 1914 it was brought to his attention that one

D.B.F. Whitaker was on the pension rolls of the State of Alabama Pension Bureau for the relief of Confederate soldiers and sailors. Whitaker was listed on the pension rolls as a private in Company D of the 49th Alabama Regiment. Certainly a commonplace occurrence for a surviving veteran of the Confederacy.

The only problem with Whitaker's name on the pension rolls was the fact that he was also on the pension rolls of the United States of America as having served as a Yankee soldier!

In his application for pension relief from the State of Alabama, Whitaker stated that he was an enlisted private from March 10, 1864 until July 3, 1865. Capt. Gurley knew from his men that Whitaker had only served in the Confederate Army a short time

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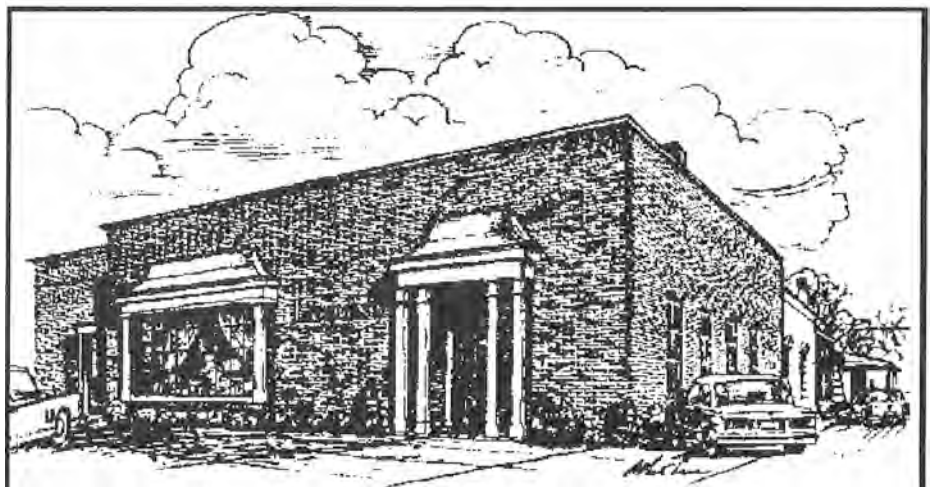
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and then had deserted to join the Union Army, and now, nearly fifty years later, Whitaker was drawing a pension from both sides of the conflict!

This was an affront to every brave soul that had fought and sacrificed everything for the Rebel cause.

Gurley would not stand by and let such an injustice continue. The wounds of the Civil War were deep and the people of North Alabama had suffered enough without having to endure the indignity of giving a turncoat a pension.

On October 31, 1914, Frank Gurley wrote to the Pension Bureau in Montgomery revealing all he knew about the Rebel traitor. Three days later Whitaker was sent notice that he had been charged as ineligible for a pension because he was a deserter from the Confederacy and was drawing a Union pension. Whitaker was given twenty days to respond and defend himself. If he failed to respond to the charges, it would be taken as an admission of guilt and loss of pension.

D.B.F. Whitaker never responded to these charges, was

dropped from the rolls and never heard from again.

In some small way Capt. Frank Gurley, C.S.A. had come again to the defense of Huntsville and North Alabama. He had restored to his native land its honor and dignity and driven out the Yankee invader from his



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News From the Year 1905

- Walter Bradford, a weaver employed in the Huntsville Merrimack Mills, was probably fatally injured yesterday afternoon by allowing the elevator to descend on his head. The young man was looking down the elevator shaft and did not see the car descend from above. The floor of the car caught his head on the gate and his scalp was almost torn off. The accident was a horrible one and Bradford is not expected to live.

- The extraordinary conduct of a man who tried to kill his sister by inches by forcing her to swallow pins and needles is reported to have resulted in the arrest of the brother. The brother had systematically mixed pins and needles in her food and had forced her to swallow them. The story was at first discredited, but a doctor who was called declared that the girl was virtually a living pin cushion. He extracted 72 pins and needles from her body and it is believed that she will fully recover. She doesn't sew.

- Admitting that he shot his son but stoutly maintaining that he was forced to do so "to teach him a lesson" for speaking disrespectfully to his mother, W A. Laurus a grocer at Poplar and Dunlap streets, told the police that it was the only method to be used when boys forget themselves so far as to act dis-

respectful to the women at home. The police made no arrest. Young Laurus ran away from home after the shooting.

- Mrs. Helen Mays, a widow who resides near New Market, was killed by a bolt of lightning this morning while chopping cotton near her home. The lightning first struck the hoe she was using and slivered the handle to fragments. She leaves several small children, who were depending on her for their support.

**A local 6th grader's answer on a history quiz:
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Huntsville Man Lynched

Five Thousand People Viewed Grisly Incident But No Witnesses Could Be Found Later

From 1909 Newspaper

Huntsville, Ala., July 23, 1909

Elijah Clark, the man who yesterday assaulted Susan Priest, a thirteen year old girl, was taken from the jail in this city this evening and lynched near the spot where his crime was committed. His body was riddled with bullets.

Sheriff Fulgham defended his prisoner to the last, but a dense smoke from a combination of tar, feathers and oil, fired by the crazed mob, was too much for him, and he was dragged from the jail and placed under a physician's care. William Vining, an employe of the street railway company, who attempted to rush through the crowd and up the jail steps to assist the sheriff was shot and dangerously wounded. A crowd of one hundred and fifty men, principally employes of the big cotton mills at Dallas, a suburb of this city, searched the woods all night for Clark who was identified at the time he assaulted Miss Priest by her little sister.

No success attended their efforts, and early this morning Sheriff Fulgham started out with a posse, and before nine o'clock

had captured Clark on Beaverdam Creek, and by one o'clock the news of the prisoner's capture was heralded to all parts of the city. A mob, composed of mill operatives and men of all callings, was soon formed and marched to the jail, where they stood for a time, apparently waiting for a leader. Sheriff Fulgham, quickly seeing that he had a desperate crowd to combat, wired Governor Johnson the facts in the case. The governor responded to the effect that he had ordered the militia at Birmingham, Montgomery and Decatur to proceed with all haste to the scene. The sheriff then telephoned Judge S. M. Stewart, and asked for an immediate trial of the man, and the judge replied soon after that he had arranged

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for a special session of court at three o'clock before Judge H. C. Speake. The mob by this time had assumed alarming proportions, and the sheriff, thinking to quiet the storm, appeared at a window and announced that a special trial had been arranged for the prisoner, and that he would be brought before the court at three o'clock in the afternoon. This was greeted with jeers by the crowd of citizens and the cry "Revenge!" went up.

The outer door to the jail, a wooden barrier, was soon battered down, and the mob gained entrance to the first floor. Here they encountered the sheriff's wife, who pleaded with them to refrain from violence, and let the law take its course. Sheriff Fulgham, however, on hearing the door being forced, retired with his prisoner to the third floor, where he locked himself in with Clark.

A large amount of tar, feathers and oil was secured and piled

upon the cement floor of the jail, and a match applied

A suffocating smoke arose, and spread quickly throughout the jail. The sheriff again retreated to the corner farthest from the fire, taking his prisoner with him.

More tar and feathers were brought in and ignited. Fulgham was finally dragged from the jail in a semiconscious condition, and taken to the city hall, and doctors summoned.

The sheriff's departure was the signal for the mob to proceed to their work, and they quickly took complete possession of the stronghold. Fully an hour was consumed in breaking the lock to the cell in which the culprit was confined, but as soon as this was accomplished, two men secured Clark and quickly appeared with him on the front steps of the jail. A plow line was placed around his neck, and guarded by twenty heavy-armed men in fours, he was

dragged out of the jail yard. The mob was followed by fully 1,500 people. The doomed man was taken before his victim and positively identified. The identification complete, the wretch collapsed, and had to be taken up and borne on the shoulders of his captors. The rope around Clark's neck was thrown over the limb of an immense tree by Miss Priest's brother. The victim was thrown across the back of a horse and the animal was led out from under him. The body was riddled with bullets.

Just as the work was finished the Decatur militia arrived at Huntsville.

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Woman Dies From Chewing Gum

from 1907 newspaper

Miss Elizabeth Goodwin, 21 years old of Birmingham, died today in Huntsville from lockjaw, a victim of her own habit of chewing gum almost incessantly.

For ten years she has been addicted to the chewing gum habit, and her jaws have worked incessantly, finally becoming cramped and then they clamped shut to open no more.

Her parents remonstrated with her but their scoldings were fruitless. In the corners of the house, under the tables and chairs, behind the bedposts they found bars where the girl had pasted them to use them again when she had no more money to buy fresh gum.

When the young woman became engaged several months ago her fiance asked her to give up the habit. He told her it made him nervous to watch her jaws moving constantly and Miss Goodwin made a determined effort to give up the habit.

She was unable to do so and several days ago was taken to the hospital suffering from lockjaw. Food and medicine were given her by means of a hypodermic syringe but she grew steadily worse.

Her parents could not bear to see their daughter in agony but her fiance remained to the last at her bedside.

Advice to all women: The best way to get your man to do something is to tell him he's too old to do it.

Searching For Family

I am seeking information on the wherabouts of my mother and sister, Fannie and Stella. They were owned by the Thomas plantation and may have taken that name. Fannie is dark skinned, about 50 years old and has a large scar on forehead. Stella is light skinned, about 25 or 30 years old and trained as a seamstress.

from 1867 newspaper

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Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!

Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice



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

Hello to you all. Can you believe that school is already back in session? What a short summer it's been. I hope all is going well with you. It's been a great summer – my sister **Naomi** from Florida just left, going back home. It was an exciting vacation. We went all around at night eating at different places in town. My daughter **Doris** and **Wayne** moved into their new home. My brother **John** came to see me and we all went to see Doris' new home, and it is really beautiful. I'm very excited too because I'm expecting a new great grandchild any day now. My other great grandchild is almost 2 ½ now. She is smart and so beautiful.

Our Picture of the Month was our one and only **City Councilman Mark Russell**. Several of you called to guess but finally **Pat Colson** won the country ham breakfast. Pat, come by soon. It was fun to get so many calls from people guessing, but not able to guess right.

We had a lot of sadness in our restaurant family. **Charleece**

Gipson's father had to leave us in death. Charleece we love you as well as **Richard** and **Terry** and **Todd** and all the children. Our love and sympathy are with you.

Steve Crigger from my church family lost his mother to cancer. Our sympathy to all of you. **John Glenn** lost his brother in death recently in Mississippi. We love you, John and we're so sorry.

An old friend from my childhood days, **Eva Bell Stewart**, came to see me after all these years and it was quite a shocker. Also with her was her friend **Francis Howren**. It was so good to see you.

My TV friend **J. P. Dice** lost his daddy to death. JP, we love you lots and our sympathy goes out to you and your family.

Happy 60th anniversary to **Elbert** and **Rachel Kent** – congratulations! Happy 50th anniversary to **Earl Thompson** and his lovely wife. I wish you both many more.

Miss Peggy Long brought her Mom and Dad to breakfast

celebrating their 64th wedding anniversary. I thought **Nell** said that **James** didn't eat much anymore but you should have seen him tearing into that country ham. Love you all.

Remember my friend (retired) police woman **Melynda Dugdale**? She taught Senior Crime Prevention and came to see me. She brought some guests who were **James, Lisa** and **Greg Thompson** from Orlando. I was so glad to see you.

Mr. Jim Oaks – why did you quit writing your running column? We will miss you so much. But that will mean that you and your wife will come to breakfast more often!

I had lots of dear people drop by to see us lately, which I enjoy so much. **Bea** and **Billy Harding** came in from Tennessee and really enjoyed their breakfast. **Bob** and **Pat Quigley** from Albertville came on a Saturday and we had lots of fun.

Photo of The Month

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

Hint: You might find this young lady serving up food somewhere.





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Billy and Gladys Vaughn dropped by for breakfast recently.

My good friend **Greg Wilson** and his lovely bride were married in Gatlinburg, Tenn. this month. Congratulations and best wishes to Greg and **Brenda**.

Hello to **Bryce and Dolly Davis** who haven't been feeling real well lately. But **Jan** will take good care of them. We love you all lots.

I hope our friend **David Smith** is feeling much better after surgery. **Jane** we love you and David so much so please take good care of him.

You all know by now that my pal **Loyd Tomlinson** has left the Outback Restaurant and has moved to St. Petersburg, Fl. to join his daddy in business there. **Marcy, Loyd** and the children – we miss you so much and wish you the best of luck. We have a great guy at the Outback now named **Tim** and we wish him the best with his new position and he sure has a sweet family!

I know many of you remember my longtime friend **Martha Bellendier**, daughter of **Faye and Tony Deloach**. She now lives in Scottsdale, Arizona and is recovering from brain surgery. She's doing great but I want you all to remember her in your prayers. She was such a lovely girl who was also a cheerleader for Alabama during the Bear Bryant days. She was so beautiful. I still love you lots.

Wade Rogers, our little 6 year old pal, started school at Walnut Grove school. I can't wait to see those bright eyes – he gets so excited about school.

Janie Cowen I hope you'll be out and about after back surgery. You sure can't keep a good woman down!

I'm happy to report to you that **Mrs. Jean Reid** has been calling me to let me know that she is doing really well. I love

you so much and that is the best news. Also, I haven't heard from **Mr. Hans or Mrs. Christa Fichtner** since their daughter **Monica Bell** and **Judge Billy Bell** have been out of town, so I hope they'll have good news to report when they get back.

Mrs. Katy Tondou of Arcadia, Michigan and **Mrs. Phyllis Brown** of Elkton, Tennessee celebrated their birthdays with a breakfast at Eunice's restaurant on July 3, 2003. Joining them were **Bill and Doris Hunter** of Huntsville and **Don Brown** of Elkton, Tennessee.

Our congratulations to **Bud Cramer** and all the people involved in the **National Children's Advocacy Center** here in Huntsville. It is great and we would like **John Walsch** to come by and see it – I think he'd be impressed.

I hear that **Cecil Ashburn** has been feeling rough lately. Get well Cecil, come see me and I'll feed you breakfast!

Well, that's about all for now but just remember I love all of you.

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Mom's Playgroup Favorites

Devilicious Cheese Ball

9 oz. Underwood Deviled ham (2 small cans)
 8 oz. Softened cream cheese
 1 pkg. Dry ranch dressing mix
 ½ c. diced tomato
 ½ c. diced green pepper
 2 c. shredded cheddar cheese

½ c. roasted sunflower seeds
 Combine all ingredients except sunflower seeds. Refrigerate til firm enough to roll into a ball. Roll in seeds and back in fridge til ready to serve.

Watergate Salad

1 large box pistachio instant pudding
 1 20-oz. can crushed pineapples

½ c. miniature marshmallows
 ½ c. grape nuts
 1 8-oz. lite Cool Whip
 Mix all ingredients, put in fridge for at least 2 hours. Easy and delicious!

Lentil Soup in the Crock Pot

1 bag lentils
 1 envelope dry vegetable soup mix
 2 cans (15 oz.) stewed tomatoes
 1 c. chopped onion
 1 t. chopped garlic
 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
 Fill your crock pot about ½ full with water, then add the other ingredients. Cook on low for 8-10 hours. If using high heat, cook for 4-6 hours.

Asian Chicken in a Crock Pot

12 chicken thighs, skinless
 4 T. peanut butter
 4 T. soy sauce
 4 T rice wine vinegar
 1/2 c. teriyaki sauce
 Sliced sweet bell pepper (red, yellow & orange)
 Add all ingredients to your crock pot in order given. Cook on low for aprox. 5 hours. If you like you can add onions, celery, peanuts, frozen stir fry veges during the last hour of cook time. Serve with rice, egg rolls and steamed broccoli.

Spicy Mexican Chicken Breasts

1 pkg. Taco seasoning
 4 large chicken breasts
 1 c. salsa
 ¼ c. sour cream
 Put the taco seasoning and



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chicken in a plastic bag and coat chicken well. Place in a sprayed nonstick casserole dish, bake 30 minutes at 375 degrees. Top with salsa about 5 minutes before eating, then top with sour cream. Serve with tortilla chips.

Grilled Bacon Wrapped Chicken

- 4 chicken breasts
- 2 slices bacon per breast
- ½ c. teriyaki sauce
- ¼ c. dry white wine
- 2 T. chopped garlic

Combine the teriyaki sauce, wine and garlic in glass pie dish, add the chicken and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate 3 hours, turning chicken a few times.

Preheat your grill. Wrap each chicken breast with 2 strips bacon, covering it completely and securing ends with a toothpick. Grill til chicken is firm to the touch and just cooked through. Bacon should be crisp, so be sure to turn occasionally for about 15 minutes total. Transfer chicken to platter and enjoy!

Snickers Salad

6 Granny Smith apples, unpeeled and cut into bite-sized pieces

1 bag fun-size Snickers bars, sliced

Mix together:

1 box instant vanilla pudding

1 c. milk

1 small Cool Whip

Mix the apples and candy together. Mix the pudding, milk and Cool Whip. Add the pudding mixture to the apple mix, refrigerate and you'll love this!

Easy Éclair Cake

2 small pkg. Instant vanilla pudding

1 box graham crackers

1 8-oz. Cool Whip

1 can chocolate frosting

Mix pudding according to package directions, fold in the Cool Whip. Layer graham crackers and pudding mixture in a cake pan, ending with the graham crackers on top. Frost with chocolate frosting and refrigerate overnight prior to serving.

World's Finest Fudge

1 can milk chocolate frosting

1 12-oz. bag milk chocolate chips

Melt the 2 ingredients together and mix til smooth. Place in parchment paper or waxed paper lined pan (8x8 works well). Variations – add nuts and marshmallows to make Rocky Road fudge, or just add walnuts.

Angel Food Cake with Pineapple

1 box angel food cake mix

1 large can pineapples,

crushed

Mix the pineapple and cake mix together. Pour into a 13x9 Pyrex dish and bake at 350 til set.



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Holmes Avenue

Monument To A Governor

by Jack Harwell

When the city of Huntsville was originally laid out in 1810, it consisted entirely of what we know as the downtown area. It was five blocks long and four blocks wide, and took in an area of 60 acres. Although the city has changed considerably since then, the names the city founders selected for the streets are the same ones we have today. The street names they selected were intended to honor men who had played a part in the founding of the nation, as well as those who were regional heroes.

One of the latter left his name to the street that, in 1810, formed the northern boundary of the town. Holmes Avenue was named for David Holmes, who was governor of the Mississippi Territory from 1809 to 1819. This territory included nearly all of what are now the states of Mississippi and Alabama including the area where Huntsville is located. Holmes, like Washington and Jefferson, who also have streets named for them here, was a figure who was well known to the city's earliest residents.

David Holmes was born in 1769. Details of his early life are sketchy; even the location of his birthplace is uncertain. His father, Joseph Holmes, was a native of Ireland who emigrated to Pennsylvania and served in the American Revolution as a commissary; his mother was a native of Berkeley County, Virginia, now West Virginia. After the war, the elder Holmes moved his family to Winchester, Virginia and became a merchant. In addition to David, Joseph Holmes had at least two other sons. Hugh, the oldest, served for many years as a judge in Virginia, Hunter, who was younger than David, served in the War of 1812 as a major and was

killed at Fort Mackinac.

After completing his primary education, Holmes worked for a while in his father's store. He studied law, and was admitted to the bar. His first practice was in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania but he later returned to Virginia. In 1796, at age 27, he was elected to Congress and served six terms. When James Madison was elected president in 1808, Holmes was his choice for governor of the Mississippi Territory. The territory had been organized in 1796, and was comprised of the area between the Thirty-First and Thirty-Fifth Parallels, (the

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borders of Spanish Florida and Tennessee, respectively), and stretching from the Chattahoochee River westward to the Mississippi, for which it was named.

The president's decision became effective on March 4, 1809 and Holmes began the long overland journey south to his new post. Holmes arrived at Natchez, the territorial capital, on June 30, 1809. Many in the territory were anxious at his arrival. His predecessor, Robert Williams, was a politically ambitious man who had made many enemies with his high-handed ways during his three years in office. By contrast, David Holmes was known to his friends as easygoing and charming, firm but moderate. He was a tactful man who could be forceful when necessary.

Holme's strong will would serve him well, for the western territories in those days were both untamed and vulnerable. What would later become the states of Alabama and Missis-

issippi was mostly a wilderness. Cities were few and far between, and travel between them was difficult. Huntsville was the only town of any size in the northern half of the territory.

One of David Holme's responsibilities as governor was the establishment of local governments, and since Madison County had been recently established, one of his first tasks in office was the appointment of men to local office there. But Huntsville was 350 miles from Natchez, and it was not until late in the year that it had a functioning government. Among Holme's first appointments, was LeRoy Pope, as a justice of the peace.

The two most pressing issues during Holmes's term as territorial governor were the occupation of western Florida and the Indian situation. President James Madison had annexed western Florida in 1810. This included all the land south of the Mississippi Territory to the Gulf Coast, from the Perdido to the Mississippi River.

Early attempts at occupying

this area were unsuccessful; many of the Spanish occupiers refused to recognize the validity of the annexation. The matter was finally settled when the Secretary of War ordered General James Wilkinson to occupy Mobile, which he did on April 15, 1813.

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One of the first American civilians to arrive in Mobile was David Holmes, to set up a new government. Six years later, Spain would cede all of Florida to the United States. One of Holmes' greatest fears as governor was an Indian uprising. The Creeks still occupied much of what is now Alabama, and the Red Stick band of the Upper Creeks, led by Chief William Weatherford, were determined not to live under white rule.

The whites were just as determined not to share their land with the Creeks, and confrontation was inevitable.

On July 2, 1813 a company of volunteer militia attacked a party of Creeks at Burnt Corn Creek, killing many of them. Five weeks later, on August 30, the Creeks attacked Fort Mims, on the Alabama River, and wiped out the entire garrison, as well as the settlers who had taken refuge there. If the frontier was unsafe for settlers, it was no less so for the Indians.

In response to the Fort Mims massacre, Governor Holmes organized the Mississippi Dragoons, a military force consisting of 200 mounted soldiers, and accompanied them to Fort Stoddard, ten miles down-river from Fort Mims, in October 1813.

By then the days of the Red Sticks were numbered. Several months later, in March of 1814, they were thoroughly defeated at Horseshoe Bend.

When the state constitutional convention met at Natchez, in 1814, David Holmes was elected its president. It was a symbol of respect to the man who, many felt, had seen Mississippi through the worst trials on the road to statehood. When Mississippi was admitted as the 20th state on December 10, 1817, Holmes' constituents honored him again by electing him as

their first governor.

Holmes served one two-year term as governor, then was elected to the Senate in 1820. He left the Senate in 1825 to run for governor again, and was elected by a large majority. But his health was beginning to fail, and he served as governor for only six months before resigning on the advice of his physicians.

The following year he returned to Winchester, Virginia, where he died on August 20, 1832. Those who knew him could not praise him enough. It was said that he was the most successful governor Mississippi had ever had. One historian described him this way: "He had no enemies."

On February 19, 1833, the Mississippi Legislature formally created Holmes County, named in honor of the governor. It lies in the central part of the state, on the highway from Jackson to Memphis.

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Memories

by Dr. James D. Jones

I remember when I was about 10, I used to carry supper to my Dad who worked at the Irvin Mills in Huntsville, where John Blue is located now.

Living close by, I would get a packed supper from my mother and walk the many blocks to the mill. I especially liked going on Friday nights, because every Friday was payday and my Dad got \$13 a week. He would always give me a nickel - which was big money to a boy in those days.

I would go to the store as soon as I could to get me a Moon Pie. They were just a nickel and they were as big as a dinner plate back then. They've gotten smaller over the years, like everything else.

I remembered when I worked at J.C. Brown's store in Huntsville. At that time it was the largest grocery store. The A&P was around back then too, but it was a bit smaller.

Anyway, the ladies used to come in to the store to place their orders. There was no such thing as calling in your orders back in those days. There were also very few automobiles so J.C. Brown did a thriving business. The orders would be placed on large metal trays, and grouped together according to which section of the city they were going to.

Finally the trucks would pick them up and deliver all the groceries to the people who had placed orders. Maybe we could suggest to some of the local stores that we do that again?

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Rison School Memories

by Ruby Crabbe

Watching the snow cover Huntsville this past winter brought back the memories I have of the snowball battles I had at Rison School. One snowfall, one snowball and one particular day I'll never forget.

If Mr. Fain could be here I'm sure he would say he never forgot that day either. The day started out just like any other snowy day. Nothing unusual about a knock down, dragout snowball fight between the girls and boys at Rison School. But this one particular day proved otherwise. Both girls and boys had their schemes all worked out - throw the snowball, then run back inside the school building. Thinking I was going to out-smart those boys I stood just outside the building but in the shelter of a big tree. No one noticed how busy I was behind that big tree! I was rolling up the biggest snowball you've ever seen. I rolled that snowball, patted it, and rolled it again. Ice water was running out of it and I guess you could call it an ICEBALL instead of a snowball. I said to myself, "the next boy who stepped out of

the school building would feel the impact of that hard ice ball!"

Wasn't long before I saw a foot, then a leg, then I threw that iceball with all the strength I had in my throwing arm. Too late I saw Mr. Fain as he stepped directly in front of my speeding iceball. He hit the ground so hard that the little satchel he was carrying flew open and the papers inside were snatched up by the wind and scattered here, yonder and everywhere! I stood rooted to the ground in horror! I didn't

know if I should run, go see about him, or just stand there like a frozen dummy.

Every time Mr. Fain would try to get up his feet would slip on that hard frozen ground and down he would go again. When he finally did manage to stand he looked around and all he saw was one lonely figure standing there - me. All my buddies had suddenly disappeared into thin air. I felt like a soldier who had been abandoned in war by his buddies. When Mr. Fain got

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through yelling at me he told me to go home and write 250 sentences: "I must not throw snowballs."

Being very clever, I had my friends help me write those sentences. Next morning found me in his office, and with all those 250 sentences. He checked them out and then said, "Go home and write me 500 sentences, I must not throw snowballs." Next day he checked those 500 sentences out, sat there for the longest time before he spoke. Somehow I had a gut feeling he knew I had only written 250 sentences and the carbon paper I had used for the other 250 sentences. I could swear he had a twinkle in his eye when he said, "Go home and write me 1000 of those same sentences." I knew right then there was no way I could outsmart Mr. Fain.

It took me a long time to write those sentences, but I'll guarantee one thing - I wrote every one of them myself.

I just knew by the time I got all of them ready it would be time for another good snowfall. The snowball I hit Mr. Fain with was the last snowball I ever threw while attending Rison School. Mr. Fain never forgot that particular day because years and years later, when my children were going to school at Rison, and when the ground was white with snow, he told them all about "almost getting killed with a snowball."

Whiskey and Slaves For Sale

from 1817 Huntsville paper

The subscriber has about one thousand gallons of good whiskey which he offers for sale on reasonable terms, either for cash or on liberal credit. Also, two or three likely slaves - girls, women, & c, all of which will be sold on accommodating terms.

All In The Family

Searching for my son, Horace Humphrey, and my stepdaughter, Liza, who were in Huntsville this July past. They were last seen posing as man and wife and is believed they may have gotten married. Anyone having knowledge may contact the sheriff or reply to George Humphrey in care of this paper.

from 1907 newspaper

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The Mill Village Scout Troop

by Jerry Wilbanks

Most of the kids belonging to Troop One, Boy Scouts of America, were from Huntsville Park or very nearby. We met once a week in the rooms above the stores opposite Joe Bradley School. This line of store fronts had a second story which contained meeting rooms, dressing rooms and a full sized gymnasium where the school hosted basketball and other sports.

Here we held our weekly troop meeting at which we planned outings, conducted award ceremonies, organized charitable works and projects and discussed whatever scouting business was at hand. Then we broke up into patrol meetings and worked on the requirements for promotion, merit badges and other scouting trophies and awards. In addition to two scoutmasters provided from the ranks of Huntsville Manufacturing Company supervisors, some parents would be involved in the

business of each troop and patrol meeting. For example, one of the boys' father very graciously gave of his time and knowledge to come down each week and teach us Morse code. Thanks again to Mr. B. and the many others who volunteered to make our scouting experience enjoyable and informational.

We made the most of all outdoor activities associated with scouting, especially swimming, fishing, hiking and camping. Some joker once said that scouting to him was long periods of work and study punctuated by camping trips. This was what we looked forward to the most! Without a doubt, the high point of each scouting year was the week spent at Camp Westmoreland in Florence, Alabama. It cost twenty-five dollars and the rigorous activities and outdoor ambiance were absolutely priceless.

A central receiving area consisted of a small parade ground in front of a mess hall. This was

the nerve center for the dissemination of information, serving of meals, assembly, meetings, reveille and retreat ceremonies (complete with color guard) and any other function that might be called for. Close by the mess hall was a craft shop where the

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camper could spend his money on craft kits, snacks, cold drinks and various other supplies required by campers. Here also were located outbuildings and tents housing first aid, maintenance and administration facilities and living accommodations for the cadre or permanent staff.

Radiating out from this central nerve center were trails leading to campsites where each troop took possession of a small village of two man wall-to-wall mountain tents mounted on wooden platforms. Two army cots and two footlockers inside completed the accommodations. The camper supplied his own bug spray and mosquito netting.

I spent a week at Camp Westmoreland twice. The first summer our campsite was the much sought after "Lookout," strategically located in a cleared area on a bluff overlooking the creek. The trail to Lookout was, of necessity, uphill and dotted with manmade terrain features such as wooden bridges, log steps and protective rails along the pathway. The great thing about these features was that they were cunningly engineered and fastened together with grooves and notches lashed with thick rope and intricate knot work. It was, after all, a boy scout camp. The trail out to Lookout was long and twisting and took the walker up into the woods and

down by the creekside where you could drop a line and snag a panfish as often as not.

Lookout was number two on our list of favorite campsites. Number one was what we called the Adirondack cabins. Open-faced shedlike structures with a vaulted roof, they were laid out like an army barracks with stacked bunks. They were constructed in a semi-circle just a hundred yards or so from the bluff overlooking the amphitheater and river branch. It was here at this rustic arena that our awards ceremonies were held and that certain secret functions of the mysterious O/A were carried out in high and serious style. The O/A, or Order of the Arrow, was a kind of veiled and mystic organization within the scouts, which inducted

as members only the most qualified boys and styled itself as an Indian tribe with powerful and arcane mandates and projects. Of course we all wanted in!

The Adirondack cabins were by far the most scenic and beautiful of all the dozen or so campsites available. The week we were

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there, one of our favorite practical jokes was to take a sleeping camper, cot and all, and carry him down the winding trail and deposit him on the banks of the peaceful river where he could awake in the morning and commune with his own thoughts in this tranquil setting until his shock and confusion wore off naturally. We had other gags and jokes that we liked to play on each other. One was the old "branch in the face" prank that we liked to perpetrate on a trusting victim. Anyone who has ever hiked as much as a hundred yards through trees and brush knows this one. It requires fairly good timing but this you may acquire by trial and error. As you are walking along you take a branch with pretty good elasticity and push it ahead of you as the man behind catches up and positions himself directly behind you. You guessed it! When you let the branch go, you duck under it and it slaps the unsuspecting hiker in the face. The joker can always claim that he didn't know the next man in line was so close behind.

The granddaddy of all scams and humbugs is, of course, the fabled "Snipe Hunt." I'm sure this gag has been played many different ways through the years, but I will describe how we played it when we were scouting back in the fifties. First of all you have to pick out a victim who is trusting and innocent and willing to believe whatever he is told. You get a group of guys together, all of whom are in on the joke, and someone suggests a Snipe hunt. The target will invariably want to know all about it and begin asking questions. You tell him that you would be glad to take him along and show him a Snipe hunt first hand and even offer to let him be the PERSON WHO HOLDS THE BAG. You explain that the bag holder is the pivotal

player in the hunt; the other guys just beat the brush and scare up a Snipe bird, a flightless creature, who can then be driven into a burlap bag which is being held open at ground level to receive it. Everyone plays it straight and the initiate is roped in by the prospect of actually bagging the bird. On the night of the hunt, the victim would be told to hold his sack open and remain perfectly still until the bird could be coaxed out of concealment. The others would fan out, softly calling, "Snipe.. Snipe.. Snipe!" As you may have guessed, the bag man would be left alone in the woods while the others faded away and reassembled at the campsite or anywhere else, as the case might be, and awaited the return of the innocent Snipe hunter. He was mighty sheepish when he did return. Fortunately, we never lost a Snipe hunter!

Of course scouting was not all goofing off and practical jokes. We labored in good faith and earned our medals and badges the hard way. We even volunteered for charitable works and community service. It was one of the more positive aspects of my formative years. However, the gentle hazing and joking that we initiated, and suffered as well, were all a part of that process. I'm sure there are many happy, trusting individuals out there right now who could still be tempted to join a Snipe hunt. Especially if they got to be the one left holding the bag!

Living well is really the best revenge. Being miserable because of a bad relationship just might mean that the other person was right about you.



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News From The Year 1929

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Color TV Invented

June 27. An invention for transmitting color television pictures was shown today by scientists at a laboratory in New York. Viewers said the images, which included the American flag, the Union Jack and a bouquet of roses, were impressively true to life.

The system uses three separate tubes, one for each primary color, with a set of mirrors to create the full-color picture. In the demonstration, the images were transmitted by wire and the picture was only the size of a postage stamp, but its developers say it will not be difficult to make a much bigger screen and transmit pictures through the air. Color could provide a boost to the new industry. At present, three television stations in New York are limited to broadcasting animated silhouette movies.

Al Capone Arrested

May 17. "Scarface" Al Capone, who in his own words has "not had peace of mind in years," is behind prison bars for the first time in his notorious career, with a quiet year to think things over. Such was the sentence handed the Chicago gang leader and bodyguard Frank Cline for carrying concealed weapons. They were arrested in Philadelphia as they left a movie. He is reputed to be a gang leader in Chicago.

Wyatt Earp Dies In His Sleep

Jan 13. For decades, the name Wyatt Earp was legendary across the American frontier. Wherever he went, his reputation as "incorruptible lawman" and "gunfighter without equal" followed him. When he became Marshall of Dodge City in 1876, Earp said, "I was hired to stop the killing," and with his Buntline Special, that's exactly what he did. At age 80, Earp died peacefully in his sleep last night.

First Movie Shown On Airplane

Feb 17. Universal Air Line reports it showed a film during a scheduled flight, possibly the first commercial airline to do so. A screen was lowered behind the pilot's cabin, and a technician monitored the projector. The dozen passengers, traveling from Minneapolis and St. Paul to Chicago, had not anticipated this pleasure. They reclined in comfortable seats while watching the ten-reel motion picture. The title of the film, which might have been a talkie, was not released.



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Gangsters Stage Massacre in Chicago On Valentine's Day

Feb 14. In what has been called a Valentine's Day massacre, seven Chicago gangsters have been slain by a firing squad of rivals, some of the killers wearing police uniforms.

The killings took place in a beer warehouse located just a block from a wealthy residential area. The victims were lined up and mowed down by machine gun fire.

The dead men were said by

police to be the remnants of a mob under the command of George "Bugs" Moran. Among those under investigation is "Scarface" Al Capone.

Angered that some slayers were impersonating officers, Police Commissioner William F. Russell said: "It's a war to the finish. I've never known a challenge like this."

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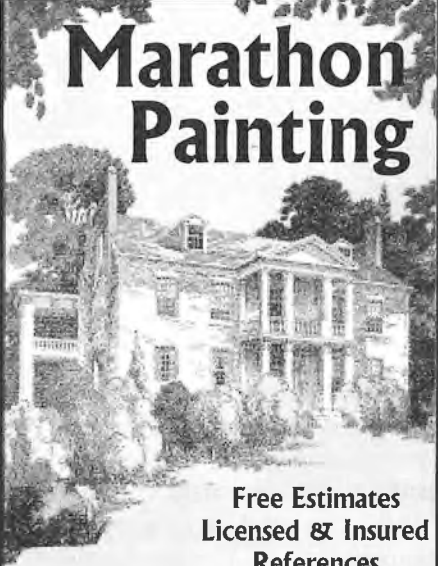
Douglas and James Wall announces the opening of their Miniature golf course located at Moore's Field on Walker Street. Refreshments are available at the ticket stand. Golfers are encouraged to bring their own clubs.

Vatican Becomes Independent State

Feb 11. Six decades of ill feeling and tension between the government of Italy and the Papacy have ended with the signing of the Lateran Treaty. The agreement re-establishes the sovereignty of the Pope.

The treaty was signed in the Lateran Palace by Benito Mussolini and Cardinal Gaspari, the Vatican Secretary of State. Pope Pius XI, who did not attend, did supply the gold pen used for the signing.

Under the pact, Italy recognizes the sovereignty of the Vatican and guarantees it the use of public services. The government also agrees that Roman Catholicism is the state religion. Catholic education will be obligatory in primary and secondary school. Matrimony is viewed as a sacrament, and the state does not have the power to grant divorces. Italy also agrees to pay the Vatican \$87.5 million.



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History of Madison County

Part Two

Written by Judge Taylor in the year 1890

The tools usually found in a well-equipped pioneer camp were axes, a few augers, a drawing knife, saws and sometimes a chisel or two. Broad axes and cross saws were scarce at first and came more into vogue when they aspired to hewed log houses.

The first question in building a house was the help a man could rely upon in his work. If alone with no help but his wife, his logs were merely poles cut near or on the building site and were of a size that he could handle. If there were a few settlers in the neighborhood, he could cut them larger and on an appointed day his neighbors would come to his assistance. The lodge poles were notched with nice judgment, the pen put up, the boards laid on the roof, and the weight poles placed on the top, one to each course of boards and kept separate by pieces of proper length found among the heart pieces of his board tree. If he had his puncheons ready, the floor was laid, if not, he made a temporary one out of boards. The door, and sometimes a window, was cut after the pen was up but if no

cross cut saw was available, he had short logs cut properly which were put in and propped to their places. As the building went up, facings were scalped smooth and pegged to the logs on each side of the door, a shutter was made of boards and swung on wooden hinges, and they moved in.

The chimney place was provided in the same way as the door. If the new citizen had no taste for home improvement, he would build up his chimney to the top of the chimney hole and dispense with the door shutter until a more convenient season, which sometimes never came.

When I was a small boy my father, having broken up merchandising in Talladega, went to the south part of the county to an entry he had made and well do I remember our arrival at our new home. We got there in a little carryall, as it was called, after dark in the early spring. The cabin was on a rocky hill and myself and next oldest brother - I was nine and he nearly eight - took a jug and groped our way to the foot of the hill for water, and when we got back our mother was getting supper in the

open air. After supper we brought boards from a pile fifty or sixty yards away and made a floor in the cabin. Our beds were spread down and we were lulled to sleep by the mournful whip-poorwill and the persevering and exasperating screech owl.

Our garden was grubbed out, fenced and cultivated with a hoe. In summer water became so scarce we boys had to bring it in jugs and buckets nearly half a mile. My father then dug a well sixty feet deep, and when we could do no better my mother, myself and brother drew out the dirt with a windlass. About the middle of autumn, my father's

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shoulder was put out of place and my skull fractured by a fall from a horse. My grandfather sent a wagon and brought us back to Madison, which was then considered the old country. Luckily we had friends and relatives to pull us through, and the backwoodsmen who came here had burned their bridges behind them and came here to stay.

Generally, the door shutter to our new house was made and swung, the stick chimney run up to the house top, the logs of the cabin scalped to a line inside and out, boards were smoothed and nailed inside for coiling, a loft was laid overhead for storage of odds and ends. When nails were not forthcoming, the cracks were closely chinked and then daubed on the outside with clay. By help of a roaring fire in the broad fireplace in the winter, the cabin was made quite comfortable. This was before the Stone Age when capacious and comfortable houses with upper stories and stone chimneys came on. The houses were made out of the fine yellow poplar once so abundant all over the county and the man whose circumstances enabled him to build such a house had one that would last for half a century. They were generally covered with good poplar or chestnut shingles and such a roof would last thirty or forty years.

Laying plank was a laborious business, yet in course of time the men managed to turn out a considerable amount of lumber from their old saw pits. The old fashioned whip saw is now more

of a relic than an ordinary working tool but the first settlers, remote from any saw mills and

with poor roads, resorted to hand sawing to get flooring and planking for other uses. A pit

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five or six feet was dug in order to make it easier to roll up the logs. The saw stocks, as they were termed, were put on a frame and a man on top and one in the pit, with a measured regular stroke sawed through the long summer days getting out two or three hundred feet of lumber daily. Some men followed the business as a trade and could make from one and a half to two dollars a day at the work. A large amount of the lumber used in building up Huntsville was sawn in this way and many an old settler who lived to own land and Negroes got his start by pulling the whip saw.

As the houses grew more pretentious and the logs heavier, house raising assemblies grew in size and the knack of carrying up a corner became one of the fine arts. It required the judgment necessary to alter the notches for a good fit and at the same time keep the walls plumb so that when the walls were up there would be uniformity in the cracks between and a wall straight and regular with the corners neatly trimmed. The corner men had to be accomplished in the use of the axe and a good judge of form and symmetry.

Some of these old poplar log houses are still standing but generally they have been weather boarded and disguised and disguised by side rooms and galleries until they are hardly recognizable. Some of the finest of

those old-time building are between Gurleystown and Grayson's Spring where some four or five such building were erected about fifty years ago and are still standing.

The art of chimney building also attained considerable degree of perfection, the body of logs and the store of square sticks riveted out of heart oak and the hole well covered with a coat of good clay, made a very good chimney and many of them were well proportioned and symmetrical in appearance. They would not last a great while unless protected from the rain

which shed away the outer clay covering and admitted the air on all sides, thus creating the draft. The standard chimneys to the hewed log house were the rock chimneys, which were well-constructed and lasted for generations. But the first settlers had no hewed log houses or stone chimneys, those were the work of a later generation. The first houses were the log cabins with scalped logs and tall wooden chimney stacks.

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I read science fiction. I get
to the end and I think,
"Well, that's not going to
happen."**

Cheryl Tribble



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Tips From Liz

Sometimes new products work just as well as the old, tried-and-true remedies. Look at some of the uses for your Bounce anti-static sheet:

- It will chase ants away when you lay a sheet near them.

- It takes the odor out of books and photo albums that don't get opened too often.

- Repels mosquitoes. Tie a sheet of Bounce through a belt loop outdoors during mosquito season. Or just rub a sheet on your arms/legs before you go out.

- Eliminates static electricity from your television screen. Since Bounce is designed to help eliminate static cling, wipe your television screen with a used

sheet of Bounce to keep dust from resettling.

- Dissolves soap scum from shower doors. Clean with a sheet of Bounce.

- Freshens the air in your home. Place an individual sheet of Bounce in a drawer or hang in the closet.

- Prevents thread from tangling. Run a threaded needle through sheet of Bounce before beginning to sew.

- Prevents musty suitcases. Place an individual sheet of Bounce inside empty luggage before storing.

- Freshens the air in your car. Place a sheet of Bounce under the front seat.

- Cleans baked-on foods from a cooking pan. Put a sheet in a pan, fill with water, let sit overnight, and sponge clean. The anti-static agent apparently weakens the bond between the food and the pan.

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Their Lives Paid The Awful Penalty

Women Meet Grim Reaper at End of Ropes

from 1897 newspaper

Swinging from ropes tied to a rail, supported by two trees, on the roadside a short distance from Jeff last Wednesday morning, were the two cold and wet bodies of Mollie Smith and Mendy Franks. The awful sight was seen by a passing mail carrier who gave the alarm and had the neighbors cut the ropes.

The hanging bodies gave indication that a dastardly crime had at last been solved.

In April of this year, Joshua O. Kelly, an esteemed citizen of Jeff, was taken ill and died in a horrible manner as a result of poisoning. The following day, as a party of eleven mourners were maintaining a vigil around the coffin, they too were seized by violent convulsions after drinking coffee served by a servant.

Several days later, it began to appear that there was a plot to murder the whole family. After breakfast that morning, the family and household servants became violently ill and showed every symptom of being poisoned.

The persons affected were fourteen in number.

From the first, suspicion was attached to the two women, Mollie Smith and Mendy Frank who were employed in the Kelly household. A close watch was placed over them. Mollie Smith, the older of the two women, had been a servant in the household for some time and it was immediately noticed that she alone escaped being poisoned when all others were affected.

At the time J.O. Kelly died, Mollie claimed to be sick also, but the physician decided she was shamming. Yet she found an opportunity the next day to poison the coffee of the sad mourners gathered around the departed's coffin.

The Smith woman was placed under a close surveillance and further efforts on her part to poison the rest of the family were unsuccessful. However, she

From a letter to a local pastor: "Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher."

Alex, age 10



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persuaded the younger woman, Mendy Frank, who was employed as a household girl, to do the evil work for her.

Tuesday night, Mollie Smith was captured while making her way to Tennessee. She wore a pair of men's boots and was taking herself away from the neighborhood for good and all. The men who captured her took her back to the home of her partner in crime, Mendy Frank, and confronted them with their crimes.

It seemed as if a crowd of men had been waiting for the first move to be made. It is said that men of all ages to the number over twenty crept out of every fence corner. Mollie Smith was morose and refused to talk. Mendy made a full confession telling all the details of the crime and implicating another person. She said she had been persuaded to do the deed.

Mollie Smith, she said, poisoned the family the first two times, and after being placed under close watch, was unable to do anything more.

Mollie then persuaded Mendy to place rat poison in flour from which biscuits were made for break fast. Mendy said the poisoning had been carefully planned. She threw the poison in the flour while carrying it from the back room to the kitchen.

Having heard the confession, the lynchers proceeded in their gruesome work. A large rail was placed in the forks of two trees, giving the rail a vertical position. Ropes were then tied around the women's necks, the end thrown over the rail and willing hands jerked the bodies into the air. In this position the bodies were left in the cold wind and rain.

The members of the mob who did the lynching are unknown. The stories of the scenes at the hanging have been leaked out and are public property.

Jennie Burwell, a woman liv-

ing on the Kelly place, has declared that she knew that Mollie Smith and Mendy Frank had tried to poison the family but did not care to tell on them. She was given three days to get out of the country and left shortly afterwards on a west-bound train.

The residents of the community, both white and colored, are satisfied that the right parties were executed and that justice has been done.

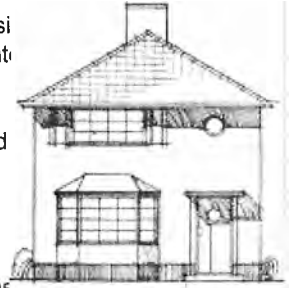
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Yogi Berra

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A Yankee Soldier Writes Home

Bellefonte, Ala. Aug., 23, 1863

Dear Parents

"Away down in Alabama," you exclaim as your eye catches the heading of the letter. Yes, we are away down in Alabama and right glad of, at last, finding a resting place, after a long and weary march of six days from Tullahoma.

On Sunday afternoon the 16th our quiet meditation was suddenly interrupted by an order to be in readiness to march in two hours. Long before that time had expired everything was in readiness and at 4 p.m. we started on our way rejoicing in the direction of Winchester.

The men were never in better spirits since we left Camp Butler or Green River; they acted like so many school boys just let loose from school. Every little occurrence that could be construed into something funny, provoked a roar of applause and laughter, like that you would hear at a political meeting when

the speaker relates a funny anecdote.

One unlucky fellow whose eyes were evidently not gazing upon the way he should go stumbled and fell as we marched out of camp. This was ridiculous in the extreme and of course had to be announced in the usual noisy manner.

We marched that evening eight miles before encamping. Early next morning we moved out again and reached Winchester about noon. It is a beautiful village, laid out with great taste, and pleasantly located in a fertile and productive country. It forms a striking contrast with the old fashioned, dilapidated towns we have been accustomed to see in Kentucky and Tennessee. There was but one objection to the country, the scarcity of water. In the march of 30 miles south of Tullahoma we did not

see a single spring.

During the afternoon of the 18th, we reached Larkin Creek in this state. Here, our route for ten miles lay along the course of the stream. The road crossed and recrossed, and in many places followed the bed of the stream for a couple of rods. There were no bridges of any kind and the men on foot had to follow the road, wading through the water which was in many places almost waist deep.

The nightfall found us, still with six miles of water to navigate. We were in a deep valley shut in on all sides by frowning mountains, and as the moon did not shine, we would pick our way up out of one ford, and scarcely before we had set our feet on dry land, splash, splash, we would go plunging again into the water, there to be stopped in the middle of the stream by the sudden halt



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of the team in front standing there until some wagon was lifted out of the rut. We would again stumble on to plunge in more mud holes, or wade through more water.

It was about midnight when we encamped, when almost every man weary as he was, threw himself on the ground in his wet clothing to steal a little slumber.

On the morning of the fifth we again moved off and reached the foot of the principal mountain about noon. There the road ascends the side of the mountain almost perpendicularly. Yet up this place we were to drag all our wagons. From 10 to 12 mules were hitched to each wagon, and as many men to push behind — knapsacks, blankets and shelter tents were all carried by the men and yet it required twenty-four hours hard labor to draw the teams of this brigade to the top. Our brigade was the first to ascend, and as soon as we reached the summit which was at noon on the 20th, we moved another eight miles further and encamped, being still on top of the mountain. It is there 10 miles

wide and comparatively level.

Yesterday morning headquarters was moved to the courthouse and the Adjutant Office located in the room formerly occupied by the Clerk of Court. We found all of the records of the County (Jackson) scattered over the floor.

The documents were dated as far back as 1820. About fifty large books we reserved while the remaining books and papers were collected in one great heap and burned. There were not less than 3 bushels of marriage licenses and bonds signed by the Jeremiah's, and his X mark, and Elizabeth's, her X Mark. Not one out of ten could sign their own name.

This building is an excellent one for this country, it is built of brick, and 2 stories high. It is surrounded by a fine cluster of locust and altogether is a very pleasant place for persons who have within the last two years spent as little time within a house as I have. It is less than a mile to

the bank of the Tennessee River from this place.

There are plenty of Rebels just across the river and plainly seen by some of our men who went to the river to bathe.

Lynnar S. Widney
Sgt., 4th Illinois, Union Army



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A Curious Incident

A Madison pedestrian reports a curious incident of the effect of warm weather upon the asphalt pavement.

A sparrow flew down to catch a grasshopper. The grasshopper didn't move, for the good reason that its feet were stuck fast, and before the sparrow was through eating the morsel it was in a like condition. Its mate flew down to rescue its better half. It, too, upon resting its feet in the tar, was stuck fast.

If sparrows were like men, all the feathered tribe in that tree would have flown away without hearing the piteous cries of their kindred. But one by one they flew down to the rescue and one by one their tiny feet stuck in the tar until by 8:10 p.m. the reporter counted seventeen sparrows stuck feet first in the tar.

From 1918 newspaper

Newspaper Clippings from 1890

- The city of Guntersville has a ladies' society called the "Sisters of Silence." It has two members, and they are deaf and dumb.

- The local editor of the Florence paper fell asleep while crossing the river in a ferry boat the other day, and when he awoke he owed the company \$13.70, at .10 a trip.

- A very wealthy farmer of Decatur has this Notice pasted up in his field:

"If any man's or woman's cows or oxens gits in these here otes, his or her tail will be cut off as the case may be."

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from 1827 paper

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An Interview With Frank James While Lodged in the Huntsville Jail

From 1884 Huntsville newspaper

The latest accession to the list of our local sojourners is the last of what is known to the history as the James Band - no less a personage than Frank James himself. He was brought here last Thursday from Missouri by two United States Deputy Marshals and turned over to Marshal Hinds.

Having had all his state cases in Missouri disposed of finally, Frank James was immediately taken in hand by government officials and brought here to answer a charge of conspiracy to rob Postmaster Smith at Muscle Shoals. As soon as it was noised about that the distinguished outlaw was in the city, quite a throng of curious bodies went to the Calhoun building where they got a glance of him.

"There he sits with a thin, cornsilk moustache, and smoking a cigar," said a bystander to the scribe. The scribe at once proceeded to make mental notes of the supposed bandit, and had succeeded in making a good mental photograph, when the said subject arose and quietly walked out of the house and across the street to one of the neighboring saloons. It was one of the Missouri deputy marshals!

Next we turned to the true, and veritable Frank James, a man five feet ten and one quarter inches high, seeming taller than what he is (for he only weighs about 130 pounds) with dark hair, a clear, firm, earnest eye and quite quick and almost nervous in his movements.

He looked travel worn and when seen several days later, in his cell at the jail, there was a marked difference for the better in his appearance. He is rather pale, but by no means a cadaver standing in stockings ready to jump off into the great elsewhere in a jiffy. His extreme pallor is suggestive of a want of sunshine. Since October of 1882, he has not enjoyed the bounding, buoyant life of a dashing freebooter, but has sickened over with the damp of prison walls. His life has undergone a change!

A glance reveals the fact that his chest is his weak physical point, but he is not yet on the perilous edge of the grave. He informed our scribe that his

natural weight was not over 140 pounds. He has a dry, comfortable cell at the jail and thinks he is stronger than he has been for some months past.

He thinks he would like Huntsville, whose beauties of scenery and charming air were already familiar to him. He had been to Huntsville several times before, but had not tarried here for more than a day or two at a time. He had likewise traveled through on the Memphis and Charleston road several times and had admired the mountain fastnesses of Jackson county. Concerning his case, of course, we did not expect him to say much. He said that he had employed Gen. L.E Walker as his



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local attorney and expected that Governor Charles P Johnson, of Missouri, would be on hand to attend his trial. His habit was to get the very best counsel to be had, and then leave everything to them.

Yes, he always slept well; slept as easy as an infant, went to bed about nine o'clock every night and did not get up until half past ten next morning. He found that sleep had all the health giving powers so often ascribed to a thousand and one nostrums.

His circumstances had been indeed a hard school.

He would not try to make bond, he reckoned, as it was but a short time till the April term of the Federal court and his friends had already been exceedingly kind to him. He could make it easily if he chose to. He did not wish to tax his friends any more than he found actually necessary. He hoped the local press would at least, not go out of its way to pound him, and prejudice his approaching trial. Every man is entitled to an unprejudiced trial. With quite a merry twinkle he said that he thought the entire press owed him a large bounty, for he had furnished them food for gossip and reflection for twenty years, and they had often

taken the privilege of placing him a thousand miles distant from where he really was.

When the scribe bade him "good morning," he extended a cordial invitation to the scribe to call again as he had always been a good friend to the "quill-drivers" and had never interfered with one of them. The scribe has a vague suspicion that there was another twinkle in his eyes this time, as he said he had never "troubled" any newspaper man.

Alas! What great mistakes even the greatest among us sometimes fall into!

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The Escape Of A Confederate Colonel

(Taken from the Morning Mercury, 1906)

When Huntsville was occupied by Federal troops during the Civil War many Confederate soldiers were trapped behind enemy lines with no way to escape.

It is an incident involving the escape of a Confederate officer dear to the people of Huntsville, whose family lived on Randolph Street, that I desire to chronicle in this brief.

The opening scene was in the Female Seminary. The older class of young belles that had still retained an organization in that institution was under the care of the Principal, in a spare room in the seminary building. Something like dismay was legible on the faces of these nearly grown young ladies, as the noise of rapid fire commotion on the streets. For noise and fear gave certain knowledge that a raid was on. The sound of recitation (the only sound permissible in the old time discipline) was quiet for a while, and each one labored intently. Then the calm voice of the teacher called to attention, and stated that, from the noise and firing on the streets it was evident that a force of Federal

soldiers were encircling the town. There was but little danger to them as a school, the greatest safety would be in their remaining as they were, together as a group. The place of greatest danger, to them, would be upon the streets. Therefore, all must remain quiet and unified and do what they were assigned in the way of study. The fears of the principal were allayed for her pupils would remain in their places. The recitation again proceeded until a young lady held up her hand, from habit, to get the attention of her teacher. In her excitement, she raised it very high and waved it to indicate haste. "What is it, Irene?" the teacher quickly asked. "I have just seen a Confederate soldier rush up the street and enter your gate. He is running behind the house. I believe the Yankees must

be after him."

The possibility of a grey-coated soldier hiding near her



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house unsettled her greatly. Could he be a local soldier on leave or maybe from an out-of-state regiment sent to spy on the Federals in the area? Either way, she could not let him fall into the hands of the enemy. "I would be very grateful," she said, "if everyone would remain in their seats, perfectly quiet, until I return, which will be as soon as possible."

She moved quickly, and taking a side entrance, fortunately as will be seen, was soon in the rear of her dwelling and was greeted whisperingly, from a vine-clad lattice by an old Confederate Colonel.

"The hounds are on my track, he said. "I have just escaped them by running home through Mrs. Bradford's yard, and will certainly be seen if I go further up the street or over the hill. Can you hide me for a while? It will be my only chance to escape."

"I think so. We can but try," she answered. "Pass in this door. I will lock you in." Taking a key from her pocket she unlocked the door. "Do not make any noise. My servant, an old woman, is in the kitchen. She has not seen you yet. It is best that she

should not. So, take precautions until I return."

He stepped quickly within. The teacher locked the door, put the key into her pocket and went back to the school unobserved by any except the pupils.

But trouble was gathering in the neighborhood of the old female seminary. Knowledge of the fact that the colonel was in town had reached the Federal commanding officer. He sent a large squad to apprehend him at his house. It was too late. His horse and saddle were there, but the man was gone. But accurate information was at hand. Here was one of the difficulties the Confederates labored under at this time. The servants of the large houses talked much among themselves and knew of every

event as it transpired. They were not all faithful, for there were some in every locality that delighted in talking to Federal of-

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ficers. Puffed up with their importance, they would tell all, and often more than they knew. In this case their information was correct.

The looked-for colonel had been seen to pass into the Bradford grounds - was seen in among the evergreen shrubbery and then out through the Malden Avenue gate. Others had seen him go up the avenue and vanish near the seminary. Diligent inquiry was made of every servant in the neighborhood. Only one had seen the Confederate officer go by the front of the house in which he had found refuge. A number of blue-coated soldiers had gathered in the yard and about the house. The officer was certain as to what to do. He immediately knocked upon the door and the old servant answered the knock.

She had seen nothing all day. He couldn't have come around the house or she would have seen him. He could not get into the house. She could not open the house for it was locked and she did not have the key. The mistress keeps the key in her pocket while she teaches. Truth was so plainly stamped upon her manner and utterances as to impress the soldier that it was useless to press the search any further at this point. So, calling his followers, he hurried on further.

The colonel had been able, through the shutters of an upper window, to see the gathering of his enemies. He braced himself to meet them as best he could but was much relieved when he saw them passing away. He was also much relieved when, after waiting awhile, he heard the key turning in the lock to admit

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the mistress of the house. She entered with repressed excitement and talked rapidly as would one whose mind was made up.

"Colonel, I have watched with fear and trembling. Your safety has turned upon a hair. One danger is past but another will surely come. Your enemies will not be easily satisfied. They will come again therefore, you must subject yourself to the inconvenience of being hidden away by me.

With great confidence in her ability, the colonel submitted to her guidance, and was led through the dining room, in a part of the house not covering the cellar, into a pantry where a barrel or two, nearly empty, stood near the wall. Moving these aside he was shown a crack in the floor, and being given an old screw-driver he was bid to pry up a part of the floor in the form of a trap. In doing this, there was revealed to him a space about four feet in height between the floorboards and the ground. This space was dimly lighted from the ventilation holes in the brick wall.

"Now, you must be very humble and make yourself as small as necessary. After awhile, as soon as I can get something cooked, I will send my little boy around to that ventilating hole with something to eat.

It was an exciting afternoon to all concerned. Soldiers were passing frequently in their search. Servants with a curiosity to satisfy were loitering around. The utmost prudence must be observed. Plans must be adopted for the final escape of the Confederate officer which could not be until far into the night.

An invitation was sent to two young ladies to come and take tea with the teacher. They were laughing and conversing freely, when a loud knock at the outer door hushed their voices. The door being opened, a tall officer

wearing a Federal Captain's uniform walked up to the mistress and politely said, "Madam, I have a disagreeable duty to perform. The commanding officer has evidence that a Confederate officer, who is escaping, was last seen near your house."

Taking a tallow candle from the table, she accompanied him as he examined each room. After he had apparently completed his search and asked to visit the cellar to her house, she freely led the way to it and showed it to him, very empty. After this the search was over. The ordeal was past for the present. On taking his leave, the officer paid his respects to the young ladies, and cordially expressed to the mistress his satisfaction that the Confederate had not been found within her house.

From his manner and sincerity expressed, these ladies realized one fact that many Southern women afterwards learned—that there were gentlemen among the officers of the Federal army, although at this time they

were looked upon as the hateful Yankee.

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The Old Maid

by Helen Miller

On rainy days when we couldn't go outside we played old maid. I loved to play as long as I wasn't left holding the tattered old card with the sour looking face wearing glasses. Mama often played with us and was constantly reassuring me that winding up a "spinster lady" wasn't all that bad.

She said the term "old maid" was degrading for an unmarried lady and reminded me that I should take a second look at "Miss Lisa" who lived across the street. Mama put Miss Lisa up

on a pedestal as an example of someone who really used her head. She declared... THERE was an honorable woman who was independent, could come and go as she pleased and didn't have to comply with anyone's wishes but her own.

In my opinion, she never looked exalted at all - she seemed just like any other little old lady who had a closet full of purple dresses and loved cats.

Once she called me over and offered me one of her new kittens. I let her know in no uncertain terms that she could keep them; I wasn't going to waste my time petting anything that didn't wag its tail when I kissed it.

To know how country folks are doing, look at their barns, not their houses.

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The Murder Of Hugh Craft

Everyone knew it was coming. The trouble had been brewing for years.

Frank Riddick, since his election as sheriff in 1927, had sworn to break the backs of the liquor rings that had been allowed to operate openly in Madison County.

Though the outfits operated openly, Riddick found that proving cases against them was almost impossible. Every time he made an arrest, evidence would disappear or witnesses would refuse to talk. Many times, he suspected, his own deputies warned the bootleggers of impending raids.

The whiskey and bootlegging business in Madison County was controlled by three families, one in Owens Cross Roads, one in Gurley and the other near Hobbs Island. These families had settled in the county well over a hundred years earlier and each had many children and grandchildren. The families had intermarried so often that it was difficult to find someone who was not related to them in some way. While this was beneficial to the bootleggers, it was a major handicap to any sheriff trying to build a case against them.

Fortunately, Sheriff Riddick had an ally in Deputy Hugh Craft. Though Craft lived in Gurley and was intimately aware of the whiskey operations, he was nonetheless sworn to uphold the law.

In the Spring of 1929, Riddick and Craft established a small, unofficial fund with which to pay informers. Many of the same people who had before refused to betray "blood kin," now began succumbing to the temptation of easy money.


Craft, who was well-known as a man who would keep his word, was the obvious conduit for these funds. Often he would be awakened in the middle of the night by someone softly knocking at his back door. After a

brief whispered conversation, Craft would pass 20 or 30 dollars through the door and the stranger would disappear into the night.

Most of the time, however, the bootleggers would be warned

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and Riddick would arrive to find the evidence and the culprits long gone.

Finally, after months of frustration, Riddick tried new tactics. Without telling them why, he would order his deputies to meet at the jail at a certain time. Then, with the deputies still uninformed of their destinations, he would order them to follow him. Unfortunately, though raids such as these were fairly successful, the deputies managed to lose much of the evidence on the way back to jail and few people were actually prosecuted. Many times the deputies would either return, or sell, the whiskey back to the very bootleggers from whom they had confiscated it.

Sheriff Riddick was furious. He had long known that some of his deputies were involved with the whiskey ring, but, lacking proof, was unable to do anything about it. Calling his deputies together, he informed them that in the future, any deputy even suspected of involvement, would be fired on the spot. As if to emphasize his point, Riddick immediately fired three officers and had them arrested.

The bootleggers, keenly aware of the profits they were losing, decided to fight back.

Riddick began receiving letters in the mail, warning him that his life was in danger. At first, he ignored them, but as they became more frequent he finally agreed to begin carrying a small pistol in his pants pocket. On one occasion, while driving home in the evening, his car was shot at by someone lying in ambush. The assailants were never found. If anything, the only effect the threats had was to make Riddick increase his efforts to break up the whiskey ring.

Next, the bootleggers turned their attention to Craft. By this time the outfits were aware that Craft was the person paying the

informers. At first the threats took the form of subtle warnings, but as they were ignored, took on a more serious nature. Shots were fired into his home at nighttime, shattering the windows. When this also failed, Craft awoke one night to find the back of his house burning, the result of an arsonist.

Craft responded by buying two large watchdogs, which were trained to bark at the approach of strangers.

The bootleggers, frustrated in their attempts to intimidate the law officers, decided it was time for more drastic actions.

During the first week of May, 1929, a meeting of all the major

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bootleggers and moonshiners in Madison County was held at a drugstore in Gurley. It was a foregone conclusion among the men present that Riddick and Craft were to be murdered. The only question was how and by whom.

Not wanting to face both the lawmen at once, the bootleggers decided to kill Craft first.

In a scene worthy of a B-grade movie, a bootlegger from Paint Rock Valley removed a handful of straws from an old broom. After making three of them shorter than the rest, he invited the assembled men to draw straws.

The three men selected for the gruesome task began to carefully make plans. They had received word from a "friendly" deputy that Riddick was going to pick up Craft at his home on the morning of June 12, where they would then drive to Owens Cross Roads to get a witness for a trial scheduled that day. Because of witnesses being so easily intimidated, the two men had decided to personally escort this one.

The road leading across Esslinger Mountain to Owens Cross Roads was a perfect ambush site. Next, the assassins laid plans to make sure Sheriff Riddick would not be accompanying his deputy.

On the afternoon of June 11, a phone call was received at the jail. The caller claimed to have inside information of the whiskey ring and, more importantly, was willing to testify. But first, he wanted to meet with the sheriff in person, at the jail, at 8 o'clock the next morning.

Regretfully, Riddick informed Craft that he could not accompany him in the morning. Both men were elated at the news of a possible witness and thought nothing of changing their plans.

Hugh Craft left his home at about 6:30 on the morning of June 12 for the short drive to

Owens Cross Roads. Although it was still early in the day, it was already hot and muggy. A black man, working in a nearby field, watched lazily as the car climbed the slight incline in his direction. Suddenly he saw three men armed with shotguns appear out of the bushes lining the road. With timed precision, the trio opened fire at the approaching lawman. Seconds later the car carrying the dead body of Deputy Hugh Craft careened sharply to the right, ran off a small bluff and landed upright in a tree:

Just as suddenly as they had appeared, the bushwhackers ran to a white car and fled the scene. The field hand, unnerved by what he had witnessed, also hurried from the scene.

Minutes later, the body was discovered by Marion Besson, who immediately notified the sheriff's office. Riddick, who had been waiting at his office for the "informer," took the call. As soon as he heard his deputy had been murdered, Riddick knew he had been set up.

One native of Huntsville later stated that he had never seen the sheriff as angry as he was when he received the news. Within

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hours Riddick began questioning everyone even suspected of being associated with the whiskey ring. To say he was "gentle" in his interrogations would probably be an understatement. All the speakeasies in town received personal visits from the sheriff. In one case, where a speakeasy had already closed for the night, Riddick kicked the door down and, after destroying all the liquor, told the owner he had 24 hours to come up with the names of the killers.

If there was anything the bootleggers had not considered, it was the publicity that the murder generated. It became front-page news, not only here in Huntsville, but as far away as Chicago. Though Riddick was slated to be executed next, the intense publicity caused the assassins to change their plans.

Within days, practically everybody in the county, including the sheriff, knew about the bootleggers drawing straws to see who would do the killing. Even the names of the assassins became widely known.

Getting someone to testify was a different matter. The black field hand who witnessed the killing was found dead in a neighboring county. Another man, reputed to have firsthand information, left for work one morning and was never seen again. Three other men, one who lived in Gurley and two in Owens Cross Roads, moved out of state

suddenly.

The local Ku Klux Klan got involved by offering a reward for the killers. It was hastily withdrawn when it was pointed out that the main suspects were also members of the Gurley Klavern.

Finally, Sheriff Riddick found someone who would talk, but only on the condition of anonymity. This person had been at the drugstore when the straws were drawn and had heard the men

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discuss the murder minutes after it occurred.

Knowing that he had to have a witness in order to make a case. Riddick used every power of persuasion he could muster to convince the witness to testify. Reportedly, after seeing how angry the sheriff was, the witness probably figured the bootleggers were the lesser of two evils.

Within hours a warrant was sworn out for Ebb Renfro, a middle-aged farmer and resident of Gurley. The other two suspects had disappeared. On June 27, 1929, a grand jury indicted Renfro for first degree murder.

What should have been a speedy trial quickly turned into a nightmare for the sheriff and prosecuting attorneys. Trials were twice scheduled and had to be postponed because of witnesses' reluctance to testify in open court. Making the problem worse were members of the whiskey ring, who showed up at every hearing and silently glared at anybody who looked like a potential witness. Many of the bootleggers who loitered around the courthouse openly brandished weapons.

The situation became so tense that Riddick had to detail four of his deputies to stand guard at the courthouse. Needless to say, all the witnesses developed instant amnesia.

On Dec. 5, 1929, the murder case against Ebb Renfro was dropped. No one ever stood trial for the murder of Hugh Craft.

Although Riddick never took credit for it, many sources claim he was the one responsible for finally breaking the back of the whiskey ring in Madison County.

A large packet of "confidential" files were somehow acquired by members of the whisky ring. These files supposedly contained information that showed many of the bootleggers were informing on their competition in ex-

change for immunity.

In the next three years, nine bootleggers were either maimed or killed—by one another.

Hugh Craft's death was avenged.

"John Milton, a famous writer, wrote Paradise Lost. His wife died and he then wrote Paradise Regained."

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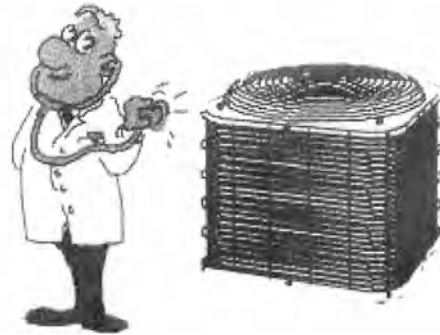
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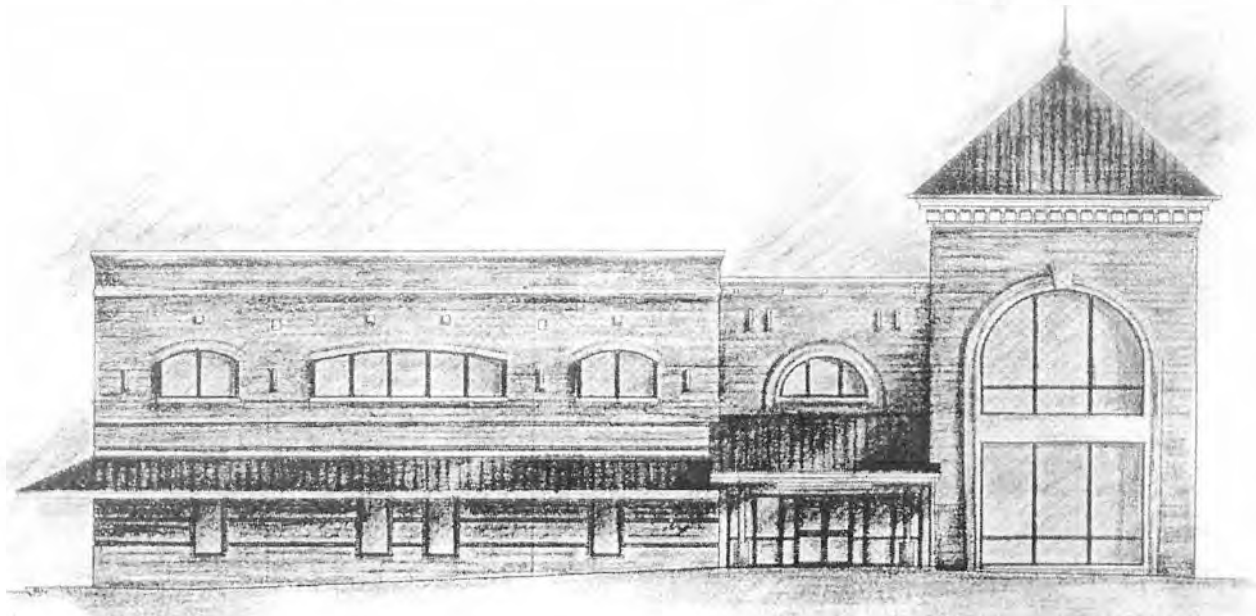
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