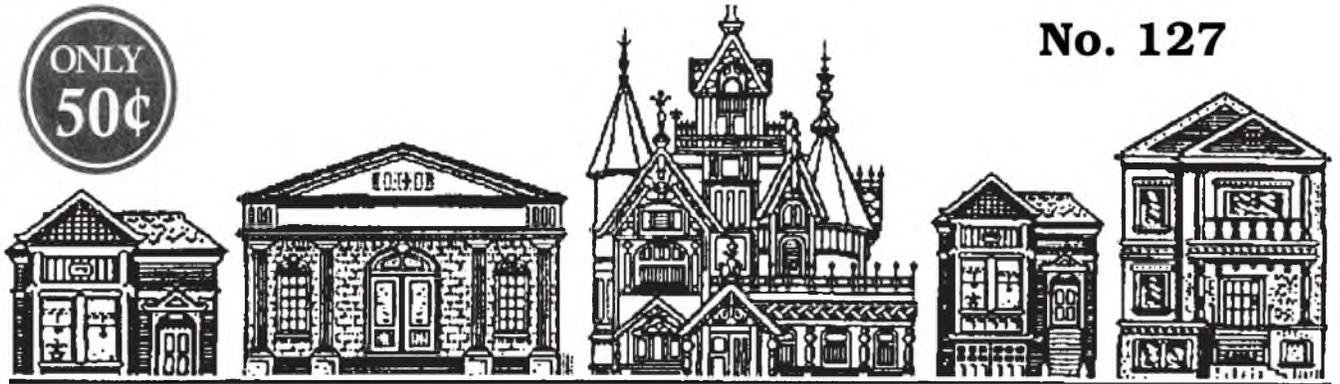


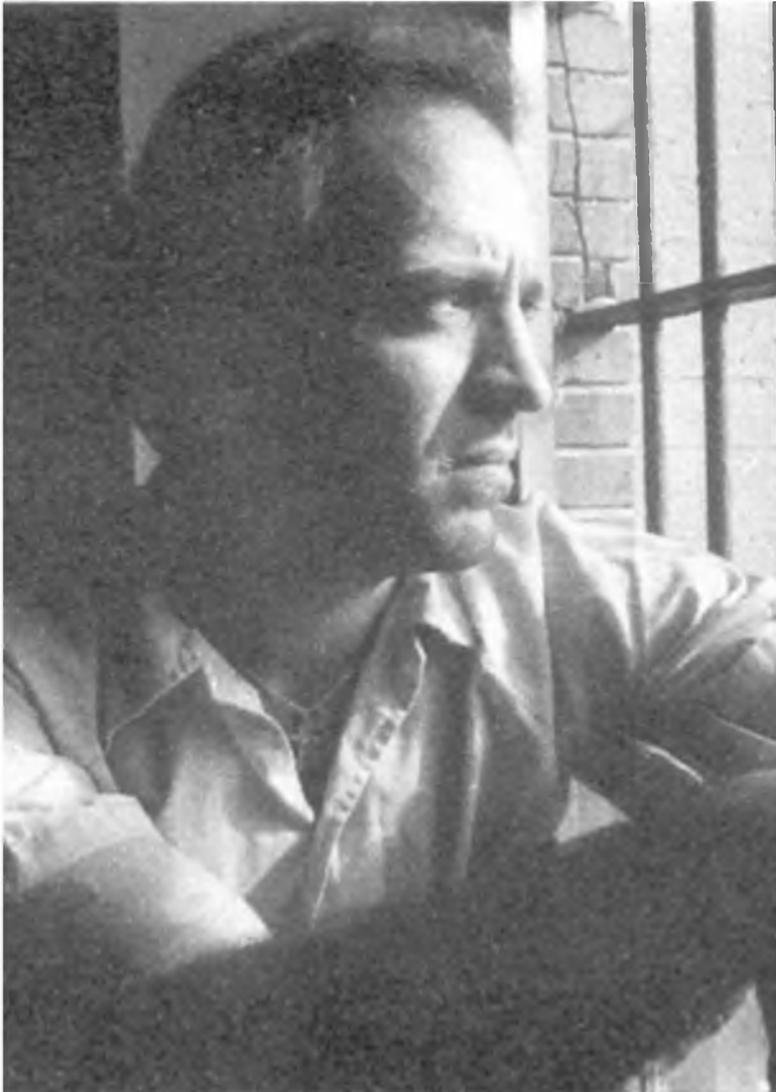
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# Old Huntsville

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## If Things Had Been Different...

I watched as she stumbled across the parking lot and onto the side of the highway where she stuck her thumb out. A minute later a car stopped and she was gone.

With nothing else to do I got the bottle of Chivas Regal and a couple of joints and settled down in a chair outside the room to wait. That was the first time I had ever really seen a sunset. It was fiery red,

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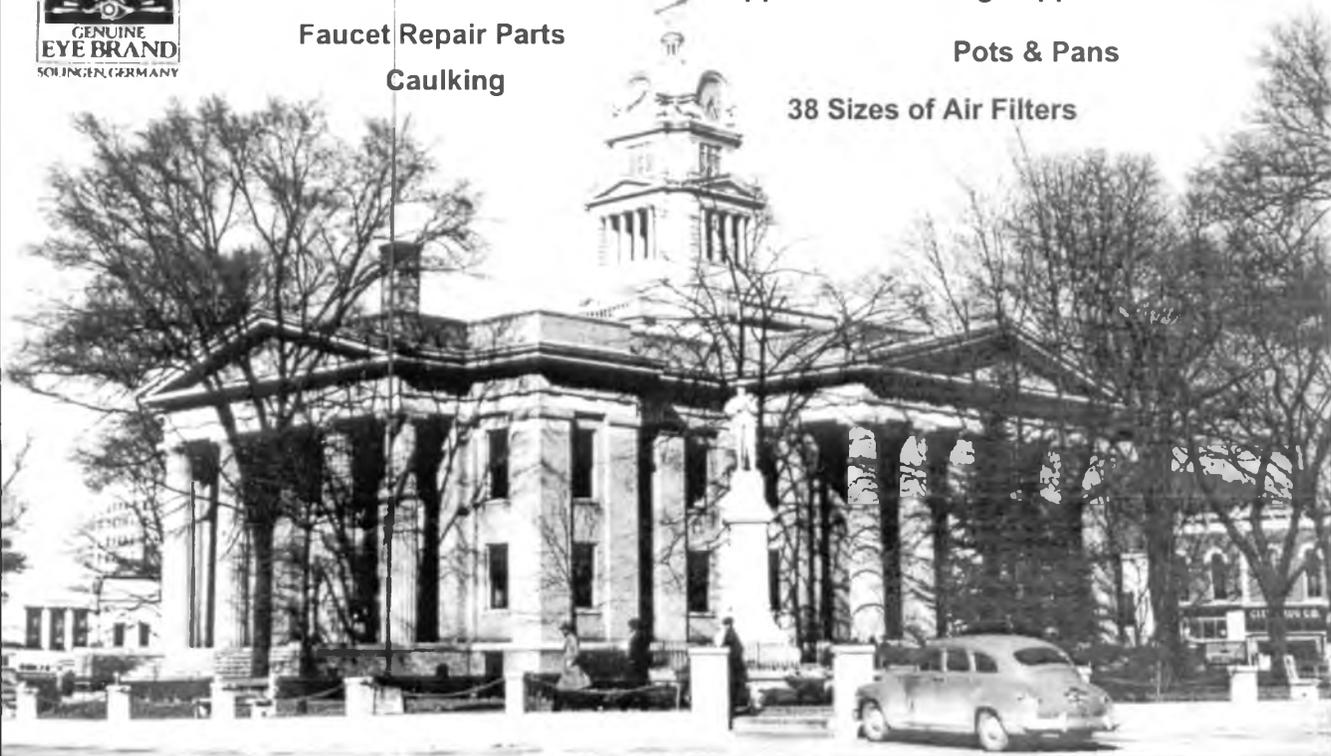


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# If Things Had Been Different

by **Jimmy X.**

In prison most conversations begin the same way ... "If things had just been different..."

Maybe that's the best way to start my story because if things had been different I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you.

I should have finished college. No one in the family had much of an education and Mom and Dad were hoping that I would eventually become an attorney or maybe even a doctor. When I enrolled in Auburn my father was the proudest person you ever saw. He had never been interested in sports before but now everything he owned sported "Auburn Tigers" bumper stickers or decals. "That's my son's school," he would proudly inform everyone.

The best laid plans can go awry however, and in this case it came in the form of Debbie, my long time girl friend. Debbie and I had been going together since we were both in Junior High. Everyone, including us, assumed we would get married someday.

I was home for the summer, working on a landscaping crew cutting grass, and looking for-

ward to my last year of college. Debbie and I had been seeing each other almost every night and had one of the best summers anyone could imagine, but when I picked Debbie up that night I could tell something was wrong. Before I even had a chance to pull away from her parents' home she burst into tears. It took a few minutes before she could tell me what was wrong - she thought she was pregnant. We were both devastated and spent the whole evening trying to convince one another that it was not the end of the world.

The next morning I picked her up and we drove to Tupelo, Mississippi and got married. Her best friend, Judy, went with us and afterwards we went to see where Elvis was born. Our honeymoon dinner was a pizza in Florence where we stopped to get gas. After buying the pizza and gas we had a total of \$7.34 cents left ... but we didn't care ... we were young and in love.

Our parents took the news surprisingly well. Debbie's father rented us a small house on Stevens Ave. and offered to pay the rent until I graduated and got a job. Dad cashed in some saving bonds he had been holding for years and gave us the money.

A week later, when Debbie had her first doctor's appointment, she learned it was a false pregnancy. Although we pretended sadness, we were all



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thrilled, including our parents. We were having the best time of our lives. Every night was a party, with loud music and friends dropping by with beer and pot. Almost every night someone, who had too much to drink, would spend the night on the living room floor.

Debbie and I, like every other kid in Huntsville, had smoked marijuana occasionally and didn't really see anything wrong with it except for the fact it was expensive. I was still working for a landscaping company and taking home \$129 a week so it didn't leave much for luxuries like pot.

A friend of mine, Dwayne, who worked as a short order cook at the Huddle House, put me on my first real connection. Dwayne had been buying quarter-pounds from a man who worked at a garage on Meridian Street. He was paying something like \$125 for it and would then break it down into ounces and resell it. He would easily double his money and have all the free smokes he wanted.

At the time I don't think we ever really thought about making money. It was all about partying. I would buy a quarter every couple of weeks and sell to my friends. There was always more friends than pot so there was no trouble getting rid of it. Whatever profit there was, we spent on more partying.

Mom and Dad had thought the whole time that I would be going back to college but I kept

putting them off, saying I wanted to take a year off before finishing my education. At first they went along with me but as time passed I could see the sadness in their eyes as they realized it wasn't going to happen. When Dad bought a new car the next year, he didn't replace the "Auburn Tiger" stickers that he was once so proud of.

For my 23rd birthday my parents gave us a vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida. They had made us reservations in an exclusive hotel and gave us \$500 for gas money and incidentals. Dad was really hoping we would use the time to think about our future. Right before we left he told me he had been thinking about cashing in some more saving bonds if I decided to go back to school.

Those days in St. Petersburg were the best days of our lives. We spent every free minute on the beach and I marveled as Debbie's skin turned to a golden brown color that matched her hair. We were young, and almost innocent.

The day before we were to leave, we were in a fast food restaurant when Jerry, an old college classmate, walked in. He quickly joined us at the table and we spent the next several hours catching up. When the subject finally turned to him, he replied in a nonchalant manner, "I'm into weed." As we talked more we realized he was not dealing in nickel bags or ounces ... he

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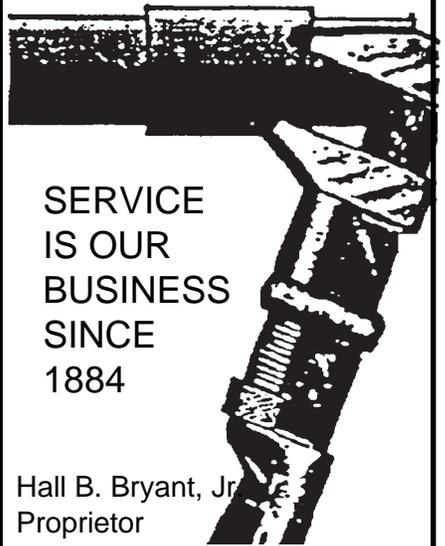


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was talking about hundreds of pounds.

Debbie brought the subject up first. "Do you think we could get a good deal on some?" We had already spent most of our money and had just enough left to get back to Huntsville, but were hoping we might get a bag to smoke on the way back.

Jerry laughed, and after finding out where we were staying, said that he would see us later on that night. Three hours later we were sitting in our room staring at 25 kilos of high grade marijuana. That was the smallest amount he dealt in, he explained, and we could pay in a couple of weeks. It was more than we had ever seen.

On the way home Debbie and I agreed that this was to be a one-time deal. We would get rid of the pot, pay back part of what we owed our parents and put a little in the cookie jar for later on. We both promised one another this would be the last time.

It took about three hours to get rid of the load. When we got home we called a couple of friends and they called some more. Debbie was supposed to be handling the money but she was so spaced out on pot and pills she had no idea what was happening. In the end she just took the money, without counting it, and threw it in a cardboard box. After deducting what we owed Jerry and what we sold on credit we made about eleven thousand dollars. Not bad for a college drop out in the 1970s.

Three days later we were back in St. Pete, paying Jerry off and picking up another 25 keys. We got rid of this load almost as fast as the first one. It seemed as if everyone in Huntsville wanted pot. Business was so easy that we went to the Cotton Club one night just to have a good time and within an hour had made a deal to sell 50 keys.

It was getting hard to explain our new found wealth to our parents. At first I told Dad we had won some money at a race track in Florida. Then I started telling him I was betting on football games. It all came to a head one day when Debbie's mother was at our house. Debbie was in the kitchen doing something when her mother decided to straighten up the living room. When she opened the closet door to hang up a sweater she almost tripped over five keys of pot. It was probably the first time in her life she had ever seen any marijuana but it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what it was.

That same evening we had what Dad called a family conference with Debbie's parents and mine. Debbie's father blamed the whole thing on me saying I led her into it. Mom wanted to pray about it. Dad didn't say hardly anything until they started to leave, then told me that if he ever again had any reason to believe I was dealing dope then he would call the police himself.

I didn't reply to Dad but I knew he would never turn me in. He loved me too much.

Going back and forth to St. Pete so often was starting to get old. Debbie and I both were staying high most of the time; she was starting to get heavy into coke. Most of the time we didn't

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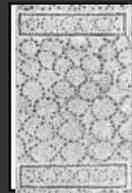
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even know what day of the week it was. On top of this, we had a new customer in Birmingham who wanted all we could supply.

At about this time we had to move from our house on Stevens. Debbie and I had just crashed one night when there was a loud knocking on the door. When she answered it two guys with guns pushed their way into the house. After tying us up with electrical cord they robbed us of about seventy-five thousand dollars.

After that we stayed in hotels and motels most of the time in what ever city we happened to be in. We had answering services in a half dozen cities and all our business was by phone. The way it worked was that everyone, depending on what they did, had the number of an answering service where they could call us and leave a message. If you were buying you had a number, if you were selling you had another number, etc. No one but me had all the numbers so no one knew all the business. You might say we had the first virtual business.

Life was getting crazy by then. One time I received a credit card application in the mail. As a joke I filled it out and mailed it back. Under occupation I wrote, "I sell dope." Weeks later I received a notice that I had been approved.

One of Debbie's cousins, Donald, in Atlanta, started working with us. He had a couple guys driving for him and within a

month or so we were doing 500 keys a month. Before long we had customers in Nashville, Birmingham, Atlanta and Chattanooga. We had been used to doing maybe 25 or 50 keys a load but now with the demand we needed larger shipments. One load, of 2,800 keys, we picked up in New Orleans and shipped back to Birmingham in a horse trailer.

Money was rolling in faster than we could even count it. It was a cash business - you paid cash and you received cash. Sometimes Debbie and I would have as much as seven hundred thousand dollars packed in suitcases. Packing for a trip meant throwing bundles of cash into another suitcase along with your toothbrush. Anything else room service could provide. In three years time we probably did about 9 million dollars worth of pot. That sounds like a lot of money but we knew guys in Florida who never counted money - even hundred dollar bills - they weighed the bundles on scales. Counting took too much time.

By this time we had moved

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to Tampa. The law knew what I was up to. They couldn't pin anything on me but they made it plain that they would, sooner or later. In addition, some of our customers were getting busted and started trying to make deals. All this stuff you see in the movies about guys not talking is just like Disneyland - it's a fantasy. Everybody and anybody would sell out their grandmother rather than do twenty years.

A lot of dealers stayed out of jail, or got shorter time, just by trading information. No one would admit it, but everyone I knew, myself included, had the business card of some detective in his billfold in case he ever had to make a deal.

I knew we had to do something. Debbie was getting in bad shape and I knew she needed to be checked into a rehab clinic but we were almost broke. We had made millions but it was all out on the streets tied up in deals or shipments

My main supplier, Jerry in St. Pete, had gotten busted by this time and almost all the other

suppliers were dry. After days of working the phone I agreed to "promise" a load, worth almost two-million dollars, out of Galveston, Texas. To promise a load meant you agreed to pay for it in a certain time, normally two or three days or maybe a week. To be late on the payment could mean serious health problems.

The guy selling, Manuelo, was a bad actor. Someone once told me that he had shot his own brother-in-law when he came up short on a deal. I never had dealt with him before and was leery of the whole thing but Donald assured me he could take care of it.

A couple of days before the deal Donald flew out to Galveston to get everything ready. He rented a small warehouse on the edge of town surrounded by freeways on two sides and a large house trailer sales and service center on the other side. He next visited the trailer company where he purchased a used double-wide. The owner was happy to take cash and eagerly agreed to Donald's request that it be moved closer to the warehouse. Donald also contracted with him to have the trailer picked up in a few days and moved to Jackson, Miss.

The night of the deal, the pot was unloaded at the warehouse.

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Donald had hired a couple of loaders and late that night they started moving the marijuana to the nearby house trailers where, after carefully undoing the plastic covering its side, they stacked it inside among the furniture. A couple of hours later two drivers, with escorts, hooked up the double-wide and began the long drive to Jackson.

Donald had figured that two large trucks, pulling two halves of a double wide house trailer with escorts, flags, and flashing lights would be the last place anyone would look for marijuana. His plan was to get to Jackson first and hire two more drivers to take it on to Atlanta.

In the meantime, I was back in Atlanta trying to collect money to pay for the shipment. In three days Manuero would send guys to collect his money. We were staying in a hotel out near the airport and for the next several days it was almost like old home week as people stopped by to drop off money.

After packing the money in suitcases, I decided to take Debbie across the street for a good breakfast. She hardly ever ate anymore and was bone thin.

As we started going down the hall I noticed a guy dressed like a waiter, pushing a room service cart and talking into a microphone.

I knew right away something was wrong. The night before I had tried to get room service and the front desk told me they did not provide it - they didn't even have a restaurant. Debbie and I ducked into the open door of a janitor's room. Another door led outside to the employees parking lot. Running, half dragging Debbie behind me, we ran down the street until I saw a cab that I flagged down. The cab driver thought he had picked up a couple of crazies until I pulled out a couple hundred dollar bills and told him to drive. A couple of hours later we were in a motel north of Marietta.

We had no change of clothes

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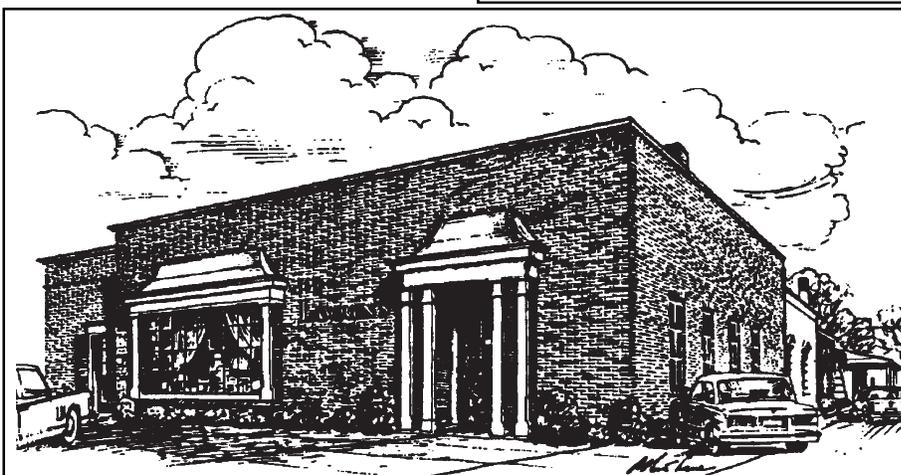
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or anything else. The only thing we had was Debbie's make-up case which she used as a pocketbook. It had a couple ounces of pot in it, some pills, an almost full bottle of Chivas Regal and a couple hundred dollars. We were dead broke and stuck in the middle of Hicksville, USA.

I called our answering service in Birmingham and learned that Donald had been trying to reach me. When I called him, he was frantic. The load had been ripped off somewhere. It had never arrived in Jackson. After I told him what had happened in Atlanta we both figured that someone had tipped the law off. Even more serious was Manuelo who would be expecting his two million dollars.

Donald was still holding 30 or 40 thousand dollars in expense money and he promised to have a driver bring me part of it. We estimated it would take the driver 5, maybe 6 hours and in the meantime I would sit tight.

I next started calling my answering services. It was all bad news. People were being busted everywhere. The ones not busted were running. Manuelo had somehow gotten every one of the answering service phone num-

bers and had left threatening messages with each one of them.

I called Dad but that was a mistake too. He told me there had been all kinds of people there looking for me. Some of them were police officers but the others looked Mexican. I wanted to tell Dad I loved him but I didn't. I just hung up without even saying good-bye.

I was antsy and decided to call Donald back to see if he had heard any more news. When he answered the phone, the shock in his voice told me everything - he had not expected me to make any more phone calls. He had given us up. The only question was - who to?

When I hung up I told Debbie what had happened. She was in a drugged stupor and just stared at me for a minute or two until

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the reality finally set in. Then, pulling on her jacket, she said, "I'm outta here."

I watched as she stumbled across the parking lot and onto the side of the highway where she stuck her thumb out. A minute later a car stopped and she was gone. The next time I heard from her was about six years later when she filed for divorce.

In a strange way I was relieved it was all over. With nothing else to do I got the bottle of Chivas Regal and two joints and settled down in a chair outside the room to wait. That was the first time I had ever really seen a sunset. It was fiery red,

The cops pulled up just as I was finishing the last of the Chivas Regal. By that time I didn't care.

At the trial every one of my friends testified against me. I don't really blame them. I would have turned against them too if I could have made a deal.

That was over twenty years ago. My lawyer keeps telling me not to give up. He says that with good time, and a whole lot of luck, I might be out in another twenty.

Funny thing, I can't remember what Chivas Regal tastes like anymore.

**Ed. note:** Jimmy was found guilty on twenty-three separate counts, including armed assault and conspiracy to commit murder. His last name is not used out of respect for his family who still lives in Huntsville.

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## The Bon Air Restaurant

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One day, Dr. Wernher von Braun and two other German scientists who worked for NASA were having lunch there when a couple sat down at the next table. They were obviously Yankee tourists, with their Bermuda shorts, cameras slung around their necks, and two handfuls of guidebooks.

The Yankee lady, upon hearing von Braun speak, leaned over as far as she could.

After intently eavesdropping for a few minutes, she turned to her husband and said, "I just love these Southern accents."

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# Strange & Weird News from Across the Country

- A family in New Jersey was rudely awakened one night by the sounds of a 50-pound ice chunk crashing through their roof, leaving a gaping hole more than a foot in diameter - and landing in and through the pantry. After a thorough investigation the Federal Aviation Administration identified the flying object as an ice bomb, formed completely by waste matter from a plane. It seems there had been a leak in the toilet pipes of an over-flying plane.

- Josh Evans, a candidate for district judge in Indiana, found out how the voters really felt about him - when they elected a dead man in his place. Evans,

74, had petitioned to remove his popular opponent, Frank Ogden, as a candidate for judge because Ogden was suffering from cancer. But the election board declined to do so as there were no laws that deemed a candidate unworthy just because of ill health. Shortly afterwards Ogden died, but remained on the ballot. Even though the electorate was aware of the fact that he had died, they deemed him more desirable than the (living) Josh Evans, and defeated Evans by more than 8,000 votes by voting for the dead man.

- For the cat who has everything, a graduate student at Oklahoma State University has developed the ultimate answer - the Kitty Video. It features a full 30 minutes of chirping birds. According to the college newspaper, the student got the idea for making a video tape while she was watching a documentary on birds, and noticed that her cat, Kitty, was paying strict attention. "He started meowing and clawing at the screen. He even looked behind the television to see where the birds were." Good news for cat owners who bought the tape - a sequel is on the way.

## Writers

Send us your stories to be published in Old Huntsville. Stories must be about Huntsville and have factual basis. Please do not send original manuscripts. Send your stories to:

Old Huntsville - 716 East Clinton, Huntsville, Al. 35801

**Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.**

**Jerry Williams**

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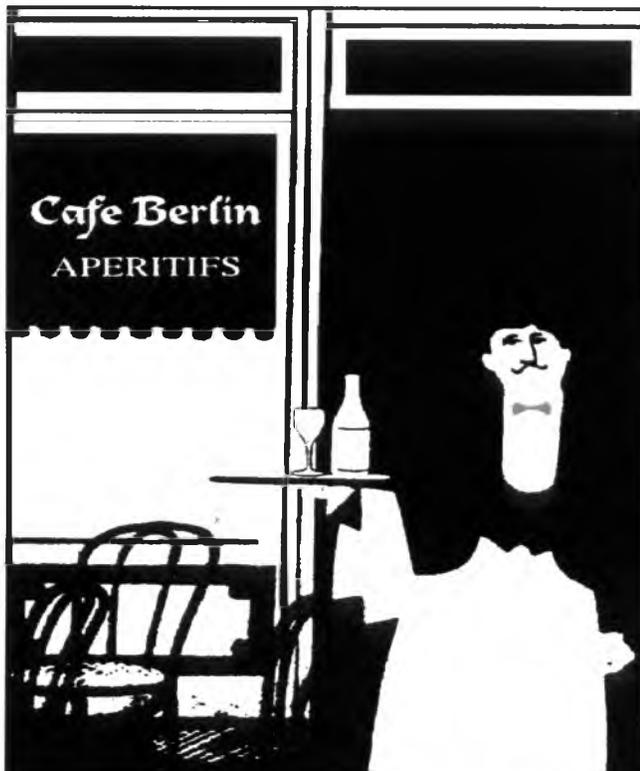
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# News From Gurley In 1891

- Our little city is quiet as usual, moving on "in the even tenor of its way."

- Last week the weather was extremely warm, but it has suddenly changed and forced us to put on our overcoats and kindled the fire to keep us warm.

- Gurley is still enlarging her borders. The new bucket factory of Vorenburg & Bros. is about completed. The workmen are putting up the machinery, and expect to commence the manufacture of Cedar Buckets in a very short time.

- It would seem to an ordinary thinker that there is great room in the country for cedar bucket factories, there are only about 4 in the United States.

- Mr. Vorenburg is in Boston now in the interest of his business.

- The new Baptist church will soon be completed, which will be quite an addition to our town. The work of the new building seems to be first class.

- Mr. Picken's new residence will soon be completed and will be very convenient and handsome.

- Fred Roden was snakebit but is doing well.

- Dr. McLain of Maysville has the frame work of a new residence up on a very commanding position near the Baptist church. We will be very proud to have so genial and elegant a gentleman to live among us.

- The pencil factory is making an additional building. This factory employs 100 hands and pays promptly every two weeks.

- There is about \$200 worth of cedar brought to Gurley daily and the cash paid for it.

## Things You Should Know

- Red cars sell the fastest and have the highest resale value. When it comes to houses, however, yellow is the preferred color.

- Houses that sell in the month of June bring the highest prices.

- The average bra size sold in 1995 was a 36C. Ten years ago it was a 34B. Almost 85% of women wear the wrong bra size.

- Two out of five people can't resist peeking into the medicine cabinet when they use the bathroom at a friend's house. Single people are much more likely to nose around than those who are married.

- Half of all coffee users drink it black. Surprisingly, almost a third of Americans say they never touch the stuff.

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# Huntsville Coffee Talk

by Aunt Eunice



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

Another month has gone by and now we are in September already! When I was growing up I always had to pick cotton on my birthday, but this year I plan to be in the mountains with my family - **Joe and Wanda, Doris and Wayne, Linda and Larry** are all going to celebrate my big 84 in Gatlinburg.

The Picture of the Month was a lot of fun. Finally **Richard Gibson** called and guessed that it was **Ramona** - my own wonderful waitress at Eunice's. Wasn't she a cute little girl? Richard, come in and get your country ham.

One of the greatest things this past week happened on Sunday night - my grandson and his sweet wife **Jo Anna** brought into the world a sweet 10 lb., 6 oz. baby boy and now I have 2 sweet great grand children. **Duane** and **Beth** have **BreeAnna** who is 2 1/2 years old and so adorable. I can hardly wait to meet **Cole James**. I know he is so sweet. They live in Tampa, Florida.

A really dear couple who just

moved next door to me are newlyweds **Jamie Smith** and **Garrett Miller**. I'm so proud they're living next door!

This is the sad part of this little column - I've lost several good friends since last writing to you. **Mrs. Marylin Moring** was a wonderful woman from a great family. **Bobby Dobbs** was such a good person. **Mrs. Easterling** (Bill's mother and a friend from my childhood days) passed away recently. **Joe Eaton** - someone I've known all my life. **Mark Congo's** mother - who was such a great community lady. To all of the families of these dear ones - our sympathy is with you and they will all be missed so much. I love you all and our prayers are with you.

My wonderful neighbors who moved away recently are back in Huntsville! **Andy** and **Gena Rutherford** used to live next door to me and moved away, then recently accepted a job working with youths at the new Nazarene Church here in Huntsville. So glad to have you back! Their

little daughters used to be so tiny but they're big girls now!

My buddy **Loyd Tomlinson**, past manager of the Outback here in Huntsville, is now in St. Petersburg, Fla. I talked to him by phone recently and he said they are doing great and to say hi to all his friends and he misses Huntsville. However Tim is doing a great job as the new manager at Outback and he and his sweet wife and little daughter are the best! See you real soon.

Congratulations to **Linda Hamlin** (Linda's Printing) on being voted the Small Business of the Year! We're so proud of you!

I remember when **Cheryl Tribble** from Atlanta brought her mother here from California last year - it was the first time in Huntsville for **Barbara Fortner** and she just fell in love with our Southern ways and great food. I know you're both coming back this fall and you'd better come in to see me for some more great country breakfasts!

**David King** and our friend from NASA and **Jan Davis** brought friends to breakfast one

## Photo of The Month

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

Hint: These brothers are very busy around town!



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day recently. David it was great to meet you and a great big Congratulations to Jan on that new job! Jan is a wonderful lady and I love you so much!

I had a lovely couple eat with me who forgot their money. They came back later to pay and brought with them a beautiful vase of cut flowers. Thanks to **Mr. David** and **Mrs. Marilyn Thomas** - that was so sweet! We sure have some wonderful people in this world.

Don't forget that the annual Trade Day on the Square is taking place this year on September 6! It is always so much fun and there are all kinds of unusual things to see and buy there. And the food is awesome!

**Wade Roger**, our little 6 year old - he sure loves school so far and lost his first tooth this week! Of course the fairy came and left him a quarter under the pillow. I'm proud of you Wade!

Congratulations to my friend and great businessman **David Canestrari** who is one of the best customers we have!

I sure hope that **Larry Smith** and his sweet wife **Gloria** are having a great time on vacation in New Jersey. Come home soon!

Congratulations to **Stef** and **John Troup** on the birth of their 2nd child - a beautiful boy they named **Evan Shelby Troup**. They live in Murfreesboro but we're trying to get them to relocate here to Huntsville soon!

I had so many good friends drop in to see me this past month. **Ron** and **Gerry Barnes** brought their friends **Virgil** and **Claudia Moeder** from Wichita, Kansas. **Catherine** and **Gil Hutchison** came by to see me. **Phil** and **Edna Mullins** were looking good and brought the Harris', Edna's sister and husband.

Congratulations to **Mark** and **Henri McDaniel** on that first

grandchild. Aren't they the best, **Great Grandma Joanne?**

**Lori Johnson** brought several guests to breakfast on her return from Johnson Space Center in Texas. I'm so proud of you Lori! I love you.

My friend **Robert Warburton** whom we call the "Wood Wizard" has been making up some of those cute English tradition guys and gals. His wife **Sandra** is a great friend of mine.

Happy Birthday to **Ralph Allred** who is now 68 and setting the example for others to follow. Also a happy birthday to **Dewey Taylor!**

**Amanda Bell** came by to see me on her way to college at Sanford. Best of luck to you!

It was good to see **Bob Burton** and **Glenn Laird**. What a great job Bob does for our community. My friend **Claudia Heaton** and her husband **Tom** came by on their way to Bristol, Tn. for a class reunion. You should see their beautiful grandchildren!

*Aunt Eunice*

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# Union Hill's Favorite Sweets

## Crusty Coconut Pie

- 1/4 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 c. canned milk
- 1 t. vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 1 c. coconut

Cream the butter and sugar, add the eggs and blend well. Add the milk, coconut and vanilla, pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

## Andrew Jackson Ginger Snaps

- 1 egg, slightly beaten
- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 t. soda
- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. homemade syrup
- 1 t. ginger

Mix egg, butter and syrup. Add soda, ginger and enough flour for a stiff dough. Drop on cookie sheet and bake in moderate oven about 12-15 minutes (Moderate oven is 325-350 degrees.)

## Million Dollar Fudge

- 4 1/2 c. white sugar
- 1 lrg. can evaporated milk
- 2 sticks butter
- 18 oz. chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 t. vanilla
- 2 c. broken nuts

Bring the sugar and milk to a boil and boil constantly, while stirring, for 10 minutes. Have butter and chocolate chips in another large pan. Add boiling sugar mixture to the chips and butter and beat quickly. Keep beating.

Pour into an 8x12 pan and let cool.

## Carrot Cake

- 1 3/4 c. sugar
- 1 1/4 c. cooking oil
- 4 unbeaten eggs
- 2 t. baking powder
- 2-3 t. cinnamon
- 3 c. very finely grated carrots
- 2 c. plain flour
- 2 t. soda
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans or walnuts

Cream sugar and oil, add eggs and cream til soft. Sift together the dry ingredients and add to the egg mixture, mixing well. Fold in the grated carrots and nuts. Bake at 325 degrees until done - about 35 minutes - and a straw comes out of the cake cleanly.

Fill and frost with the next page frosting that is made from confectioner's sugar, butter, drained pineapple, cream cheese, and vanilla.



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## Carrot Cake Frosting

1 pkg. confectioner's sugar  
 1/2 stick butter  
 1 small can crushed pineapple, drained

8 oz. cream cheese  
 2 t. vanilla

Allow butter and cheese to get to room temps, cream together with the sugar and add the drained pineapple.

Make sure all crumbs are brushed off the cake before frosting.

## Sweet Potato Surprise Cake

1 1/2 c. cooking oil  
 2 c. sugar  
 4 eggs, separated  
 4 T. hot water  
 2 1/2 c. sifted cake flour  
 3 t. baking powder  
 1 t. vanilla

1/4 t. salt  
 1 t. ground cinnamon  
 1 t. ground nutmeg  
 1 1/2 c. grated raw sweet potatoes

1 c. chopped nuts

Combine cooking oil and sugar and beat til smooth. Add hot water, then dry ingredients that you have sifted together. Stir in the potatoes, nuts and vanilla and beat well. Beat egg whites til stiff and fold into mixture. Bake in three greased 8-inch

layer cake pans at 350 degrees, for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool and frost.

## Fresh Apple Cake

1 1/4 c. cooking oil  
 2 c. sugar  
 3 eggs  
 1 t. vanilla  
 1 t. cinnamon  
 2 1/2 c. self-rising flour  
 3 c. chopped apples  
 1 c. chopped nuts

Mix all the ingredients together and add the chopped apples. Add a cup of chopped pecans or walnuts and bake at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes in a large pan, 12x12 inches.

## Date Nut Cake

1 c. butter (2 sticks)  
 2 c. sugar  
 4 eggs  
 1 1/2 c. buttermilk  
 1 t. soda  
 2 T. grated orange rind  
 1 pkg. dates, cut and pitted  
 1 c. broken pecans  
 4 c. flour

Cream butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, dissolve soda in milk. Add sifted flour to butter mixture alternating with buttermilk. Beat til smooth. Add orange rind, dates and nuts which have not been floured. Bake in tube pan for 1 1/2 hours at 325 degrees. cool

in pan. While still hot spread on the sauce that is made from 2 cups sugar, 1 cup orange juice and 2 tablespoons orange rind. Stir til dissolved but don't heat the sauce.



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# Amazing Mind Reader Demonstrates Transference of Thought

from 1896 newspaper

Huntsville, 1896—A most astonishing and inexplicable exhibition of mind reading was given at the editorial rooms last Sunday evening in the presence of a few newspaper men and other invited guests. The operator was Prof. E. Laska, a professional parlor entertainer, who has been in Huntsville for several weeks and appeared before select parties at a number of private residences.

Good parlor entertainers are much in demand for social functions in the North, but the vocation is as yet something of a novelty in this part of the country. Prof. Laska's programme is not confined entirely to mind reading, but is a divertissement, including sleight of hand and palmistry and phrenological readings by his partner Mrs. Ames. Altogether they furnish a unique and most interesting entertainment.

Prof. Laska was kind enough to volunteer to repeat his best

feats in the presence of our editorial Glass' staff, and hence the gathering Sunday evening.

The professor is a slender, nervous man, with coal black hair and a restless black eye. He is a Russian by birth but speaks good English. His age might be 30. The seance began with an exhibition of prestidigitation which was chiefly remarkable for its extreme finish and the entire absence of apparatus. Standing within arms reach of the little circle of spectators, the performer succeeded in mystifying everybody present. It was sleight of hand, pure and simple, without any of the accessories usually indispensable to parlor magic and was interesting because of the astonishing dexterity displayed.

Then followed the real event of the evening—the mind reading. The first experiment was the finding of a hidden article. One of the company led Prof. Laska into an adjoining room and there securely blindfolded him. Meantime another member of the party unhooked his

watch and by common consent hid it in the hat of a gentleman present. The hat was placed on the head of its owner and Laska brought in. Taking the fingertips of the one who had hidden the watch, he walked without hesitation to the gentleman under whose hat it was placed. After fumbling over his body for a few moments he raised the hat and drew forth the timepiece. Not more than two minutes elapsed from the moment he entered the room until the watch was found. There was not the slightest opportunity for collusion.

The next feat was more complex. Laska was taken from the room and during his absence one handkerchief was tied around the arm of a gentleman

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in the circle and another to the back of a chair. Both were then untied and hidden under a tablecloth. This procedure was not prearranged, but decided upon after Laska left the room, when led in as before, he took the hand of the gentleman who had manipulated the handkerchiefs and found them both after less than a minute's indecision. Then without stopping for an instant he tied them exactly as they had been originally. Laska then announced that he would stick a pin in a dot made with a lead pencil anywhere in the room. The dot was made on the margin of a pen and ink drawing on the wall. Laska, when readmitted, went straight to the drawing, but stuck the pin some little distance, say 8 inches, from the dot itself. While not entirely successful this was, nevertheless, a remarkable experiment, bearing in mind the infinite number of places where the dot could have been made.

His last feat was the finding of a small mark made in a book. At the unspoken and wholly mental command of the person who made the mark he turned

the pages backward and forward until the place was found. This was the experiment performed by the late Washington Irving Bishop at the Lamb's Club in New York, when he dropped dead at its conclusion.

Everybody present at the office admitted that they had undoubtedly witnessed an exhibition of genuine psychic phenomena. No loophole had been left for prearrangement or confederates, and to make assurance doubly sure, none of the guests were invited until after the Professor's arrival. No one of the party had ever met him before, and the spectators were all well and intimately known to one another. Laska's work is superior to that of Bishop, Brown or Cumberson, the world's three most famous mind readers, in his lack of hesitation and the promptitude with which he becomes in rapport with his subjects. The results are apparently inexplicable, except on the theory of intercommunication of body and mind.

Professor Laska will be giving demonstrations of his ability to the general public for a small admittance.

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*from 1907 newspaper*

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# A Baseball Legend

Baseball history in Huntsville, like much of our history, is full of irony and untold stories. Perhaps one of the best tales of baseball is one of a young man who grew up over in Georgia and made his way to Huntsville in pursuit of a career.

The young man was born near Royston, Georgia in 1886. At a young age he discovered the sport of baseball and immediately it became the passion in his life. This was in the days when every city, town and mill village had their own teams and professional players were almost unheard of.

At the age of nineteen the young man left home to pursue his new career. Walking and hitching rides on wagons he made his way across the Southland, looking for the "Big Time," or so he thought. According to one report of the day, there were so many baseball teams that the scores were no longer

listed in the newspaper.

Upon arriving in Huntsville the young man sought out every sandlot team in town trying out for a position but was repeatedly turned down. One team offered him a position as an unpaid player, but he had to furnish his own uniform and glove. The young man had a glove but did not have the money to buy the uniform.

The manager of a local team, a mill village team, listened to the young man and then burst out laughing. "Son, you better go on back home and get a real job. If you think you can make a living playing baseball, why, you're crazier than you look!"

Disappointed, the young player left Huntsville after only a few days and eventually ended up in Detroit where he landed a job with a local baseball team.

This team went on to become one of the best known teams in baseball history and the young man, Ty Cobb, became a legend in his own time.

# News From Madison

Ben Jennings split his foot open while cutting firewood. A negro under the employ of Henry Fletcher was bitten by a six foot rattlesnake while picking cotton in the lower field. Aunt Bessie Myers died after a short illness attributed to the consumption of spirits. She was ninety-six. The body of an unidentified person was found, hanging from a tree, by George Willis while he was hunting ginseng. It is supposed he was either murdered or took his own life.

Nothing else is happening.  
*from 1898 newspaper*

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## Old Huntsville Trivia

**1804** - Isaac and Joseph Criner settle near what today is known as New Market. They are the first settlers in Madison County.

**1807** - Religion comes to Madison County when Methodist Robert Bell holds the first camp meeting in Alabama at Indian Springs.

**1809** - John Carter, newly appointed justice of the peace, has his hands full trying to find people to serve in public office. No one is interested.

**1809** - In preparation for land sales, Thomas Freeman is hired to survey land in Madison County. Upon completion of the survey he had become one of the largest landowners in the county.

**1811** - Huntsville citizens are in an uproar about the dead ani-

mals being discarded into Indian Creek. They manage to get an ordinance passed, making it the first water pollution bill in Alabama.

**1812** - Records show 916 families living in Madison County, along with 1,744 slaves.

**1813** - General Andrew Jackson builds a stockade camp in Huntsville to house Indian prisoners. Some of the prisoners were sent from as far away as Florida.

**1817** - While the rest of the state is still fighting Indians and wearing buckskins, Huntsville has become a cultural art center, with a private art gallery and stauary valued at \$75,000.

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# War on the Tennessee River

by Col. Don Steenburn

While many stories have been written about the Civil War and the Tennessee Valley, few have ever touched on the naval campaigns that took place on the Tennessee River. One ship, the C.S.S Dunbar, while prowling the river both above and below Huntsville, would become a symbol of hope for the Confederacy.

The grim horseman of war visited North Alabama in the summer of 1861 and the broad Tennessee River would soon be swept clean of the beautiful paddle wheel steamboats that still hold so fond a place in our folklore. Ugly smoke-belching gunboats would take their place, becoming objects of fear instead of admiration. The South had little to oppose the Union might on the inland waterways. Never the less, one ship that tried valiantly was the C.S.S. Dunbar, an unlikely warship but one that proved almost indestructible

The Dunbar was actually Northern built, having been launched at Pittsburgh in 1859 for the upper Ohio River trade. The attractive side-wheel steamer measured 164 feet by 27 feet and displaced 213 tons. An extremely maneuverable vessel,

the Dunbar could be turned within her own length. In 1860, the Dunbar had been purchased by a group of businessmen in Paducah, Kentucky. This brought the future gunship to the South.

With the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South, the South was in an extremely vulnerable position. While the pre-war North had been forced to build railroads for commerce, the South had been able to rely heavily on the fine rivers which served the region.

Now, however, those same rivers provided excellent invasion routes deep into the heartland of Dixie. The Confederacy did what it could to defend itself.

On December 24, 1861, the Confederate congress appropriated half a million dollars to purchase eight steamboats for alteration to gunboats. In charge of the task was Confederate Isaac N. Brown, a man who would prove a thorn in the side of the Union throughout the four long years of war.

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Lieutenant Brown went to Nashville, the riverside capital, where he inspected a number of steamboats for selection. He brought three at Nashville; one of them was the Dunbar. Since Union troops had already crossed into Kentucky and would soon seize the mouths of the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, Brown had to work fast. Thus the Dunbar and her sister ships went to war little changed from their peacetime appearance. The Dunbar was still painted a cheerful white and none of her passenger cabins appear to have been removed. Brown did finally manage to add two 12-pounder rifled cannons to the Dunbar, technically making her a gunboat. However this light armament would not allow the Dunbar to challenge the powerful Union warships. In fact the Dunbar's best defense would always be her speed.

The Union fleet wasted no time in raiding up the Tennessee. The Lexington, Conestoga, and Tyler promptly headed upstream, destroying Confederate army supplies and even civilian riverboats whenever they found them. The Dunbar "flew like a deer before a pack of hounds, giving warning to all boats and points above and below Huntsville along the river to Florence," reported the Huntsville Democrat. Nevertheless, the Union gunboats managed to capture the unfinished gunboat Eastport, one of the Dunbar's sister ships, at Savannah, Tennessee. Then the invaders pushed on as far as Florence, Alabama, where Muscle Shoals and the Memphis & Charleston Railroad bridge brought them to a halt. As Confederate officials quickly realized, the Shoals were as good as a fleet of warships when it came to defending the upper Tennessee River. The Union gunboats simply drew too much water to go any further.

Florence, the first Alabama city to be taken by the North, was panic stricken when the Yankee fleet came in view at 2:30 p.m. on February 8, 1862. The Federal ships found three riverboats busily unloading Confederate army supplies at the city's wharf. Though the southern captains quickly set fire to their ships, the invaders nevertheless managed to salvage a large amount of food and lumber. A worried delegation of Flo-

rence citizens approached the Union sailors with a plea that they spare the town or at least allow time for the women and children to be evacuated. The Federal commander hastily assured the citizens that his men meant them no harm and even offered his own "noble protection."

One day earlier, Confederate general Albert Sidney Johnston had sent orders to cut a single span of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad bridge at Florence to allow the southern riverboats to escape further upstream. However, the stockholders delayed until it was too late. "This selfish action cost us the loss of seven steamers, and one gunboat nearly finished," commented the Huntsville Democrat's correspondent, "and I am afraid, the damage cannot be repaired in this campaign. Fifty bridges like the bridge at Florence should have been destroyed to prevent the loss of the boats, as the Southern Confederacy could well af-

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ford the loss of the former and not the loss of the latter. General Johnston understood it so; yet private interest weighed in the scale against his orders and the good of the South and prevented it."

One of the main goals of the Union navy had been capturing or destroying the swift sailing C.S.S. Dunbar. However, the elusive warship was nowhere to be found. Even though a man by the name of Hyde, a tailor by trade of Florence, turned traitor and told the Yankees what he knew of the Dunbar in return for a quantity of the captured bacon, the federal fleet simply could not find the southern ship. The northern gunboats searched along both shores of the Tennessee and sent their launches prowling up the smaller streams as well.

The Dunbar seemed to have vanished from the earth! In reality, the skipper of the Dunbar had simply been too slick for the smug Yankee commander. Captain Gus Fowler, a riverboat man of many years experience, had run the Dunbar up Cypress

Creek, just about thirty miles below Huntsville. Fowler had then scuttled the Dunbar. The southern ship sat on the creek bottom, only her superstructure showing above the water. The Union warships retreated without finding their prey.

The Union ships made several more attempts to locate the Dunbar. Lieutenant Commander LeRoy Fitch led the Union fleet up the Tennessee River in mid-February. He spotted some Confederate cavalry along the river, but he found no sign of the Dunbar.

Another expedition in late March had no better luck. Finally, on April 21, 1862, two weeks after the battle of Shiloh and after the Union army had captured both Huntsville and Decatur, Lieutenant William Gwin of the U.S.S. Tyler located the Dunbar. Her white upper decks were spotted gleaming through the leafy river vegetation. Since Gwin had no way to raise the sunken steamer, he set fire to her. The Dunbar burned to the waterline.

Although the Yankees be-

lieved they had seen the last of the Dunbar, they were quite mistaken. In the fall of 1862, Confederate General Braxton Bragg marched into Kentucky, forcing a hasty Union retreat from North Alabama. Desperate for river transportation to support

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Bragg's campaign, the Confederates turned for help to a cavalry officer: Colonel (later general) Philip Dale Roddey. A native of Moulton, Alabama, Roddey himself was a long-time riverboat captain. Earlier that year, Roddey had burned his own steamer rather than let the Yankees have her. Then he had led his friends and neighbors, many of them also steamboat men, to join the Confederate army. Somehow, Roddey managed to refloat the Dunbar and pump her out. By January of 1863, Roddey's mechanics were at work repairing the water damage to the engines.

Though Colonel Roddey soon had the Dunbar back in operation, the proud steamer was a sorry sight indeed. Her superstructure was almost completely burned away and her smoke stacks leaned at a worrying angle.

Nevertheless, the steamboat men turned horse soldiers managed to rebuild the twin paddlewheels and erected a sort of "open air" pilothouse with ropes attached to the rudders. The engines and firebox were exposed to the elements. The battered ship must have been a strange sight; yet it did run. Moreover, the Dunbar was still faster than almost anything on the Tennessee River. Like the mythical Phoenix, the Dunbar had arisen from her own ashes.

Roddey's men had repaired the Dunbar with no time to spare. In late February 1863, the Union fleet returned to the river. The enemy gunboats came as far as Florence, no doubt seeking the resurrected Rebel steamer. Just days before, Roddey had managed to negotiate the tricky Muscle Shoals passage. Union lieutenant Fitch claimed the Dunbar had been able to cross the Shoals because she drew only 23 inches of water. This

hardly agrees with the five foot draft the Dunbar required before the war. However, the loss of her superstructure might account for part of this. Also, Roddey had been helped by a fortunate rise in the river water. That plus some hard hauling on ropes, was sufficient to move the Dunbar safely out of reach of her would be destroyers.

The Dunbar was soon back in the service of the South. Her presence was invaluable at this time because the Union army had destroyed the strategic railroad bridges across the Tennessee River before retreating. In March, 1863, reports reached the Union army that the Dunbar was busy transporting Confederate cavalry across the river at Decatur, to pursue Gen. Grenville M. Dodge's Union raiders. Later that year, the Dunbar would

prove her worth during the fighting for Chattanooga. The born-again steamer rushed back and forth between Chattanooga and the rail-head at Bridgeport, Alabama, bringing both men and material at top speed. In fact, the Dunbar was kept so busy that there was no time to replace her superstructure. The topless

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steamer must have looked something like a high speed flatboat as she puffed her way along the river.

In August 1863, Chattanooga fell to the Union army, and the Dunbar was at long last captured. The plucky southern ship was found "lying tied to the wharf apparently useless," her engines having been disabled by a chance shot during a Union artillery barrage.

A northern report described the Dunbar as "a side-wheel boat without upper works." Upper works or not, the Dunbar's role in the war was far from over. Only this time, she would be serving the cause of the North.

By October, 1863 the Dunbar's machinery had been repaired, and the swift ship was winning the praises of her new owners. "The Dunbar is a powerful ship," wrote a Union officer on November 1, "able to ascend the suck without warping. She can carry 350 tons of freight." The suck was a strong whirlpool below Chattanooga that was the terror of most riverboats. However, the Dunbar was able to make the journey between Bridgeport and Chattanooga in just 24 hours.

Later that month, the Dunbar would be employed catching Confederate torpedo rafts sent downstream to destroy the Union pontoon bridges across the Tennessee River. Then on November 23, the Dunbar would be used to ferry the Union army across the river to attack the Confederates on Lookout Mountain. "The rebel steamer Dunbar," said a Union report "repaired at the right moment, rendered effective aid in crossing, ferrying over some 6,000 men."

While the men from the North might have praised the Dunbar, it appears that they did not quite know how to use her. In January 1864, the Union sailors ran

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While the men from the North might have praised the Dunbar, it appears that they did not quite know how to use her. In January 1864, the Union sailors ran the Dunbar aground. Her draught, a Union officer explained, was "too great for the up-river navigation" - a problem the Confederates had never complained of. Perhaps the Northern sailors overloaded the Dunbar in their haste to bring supplies to their army.

Or they may have replaced

the superstructure, thus increasing her draught. Whatever the reason, a report on February 12, 1864, noted that the Dunbar had been wrecked. Evidently convinced that the Dunbar was unusable, the northern men stripped the ship of her machinery and placed it in another hull.

The new U.S.S. Dunbar might have carried the same engines, but it was not really the same ship. Built in the shipyard at Bridgeport, the new hull measured 175 feet by 27 feet and was also a twin paddle side-wheeler. Eleven feet longer than the old Dunbar, the new vessel would necessarily have taken longer to turn. However, the new Dunbar ably performed her job of hauling supplies for the Union army now threatening Atlanta. She would serve the Union army until the war finally came to an end.

Golf balls are just like eggs. They're white. They're sold by the dozen. And a week later, you have to buy more.

With the return of peace, the North had no further need for ships such as the Dunbar, and the steamer was auctioned off to the highest bidder. Reportedly, the Dunbar spent the rest of her days as a floating sawmill. It was a sad fate for an old warrior that had meant so much to both sides during this most tragic of America's wars.

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# News From The Year 1924

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Adolf Hitler Sentenced to Five Years in Prison

**Munich, Germany** - Adolf Hitler, the leader of the ultra right NAZI party, was sentenced to five years in Lansburg prison for his role in leading an attempted armed revolt against the Bavarian government last year.

More than sixty journalists from around the world covered the trial, which at times took on bitter overtones, as Hitler dominated the court room and, by his arguments, placed the government itself on trial.

The judges were clearly sympathetic to his cause as they allowed him to frequently interrupt witnesses and cross examine at will.

In his arguments Hitler proclaimed it was the right of every German to resist the present German government who, he said, were traitors to every brave soldier who had fought in the war. In one of his most impassioned appeals he claimed, "Germany was not defeated on the

battlefield - Germany was defeated by the traitors, Jews and Communists who still run this country's government." At the end of his speech he was given a noisy ovation by the spectators in the room who had waited days for a chance to hear the fiery orator speak.

The five-year sentence is expected to put an end to the fledgling Nazi party.

#### Huntsville to Add 12th Grade to Schools

After heated arguments on both sides it was decided last night that Huntsville schools would implement a 12th grade into its present educational system.

Lem Archer led the argument against the proposal, saying that an additional year of schooling was foolish and would deprive parents of much needed labor. "You can't learn nothing in 12 years that you can't learn in 11," he said.

#### Loafers To Enjoy Reading in Courthouse Restrooms

The Ladies Aid Group of the Central Presbyterian Church have started placing magazines in the restrooms of the Madison County Courthouse.

According to Mrs. Mary Smith, the Restroom Matron, the organization had become aware that many public figures are spending more time in the restrooms than their offices, and by placing reading material at their disposal, it is hoped that the otherwise wasted time might prove to be productive.

The magazines will be changed each month.

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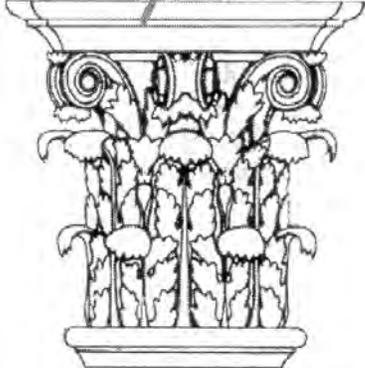
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# 3,300 year-old Coffin of King Tut Opened

Today, as hundreds of on-lookers watched in amazement, the sarcophagus of the boy-king, King Tut, was opened after being closed for 3,300 years.

Howard Carter, the Egyptologist who led the scientific project, was himself overcome with awe as the lid, carved of heavy granite, was carefully removed by native workers.

As lights were aimed inside the casket, Carter gently rolled back an ancient linen shroud revealing a heavily engraved gold figure holding a scepter against its breast.

The remains of a wilted wreath of olive leaves encircled its forehead and a golden gilded serpent covered the temples. Lustrous crystal, chiseled by ancient craftsmen, formed the eyes of the golden figure.

## Lily Flagg Gets Electric

Residents of the Lily Flagg community gathered today to marvel at the miracle of electricity as workers ran the last wires connecting it to Huntsville. It is estimated that in 50 years at least half the people in Alabama will be supplied with electricity.

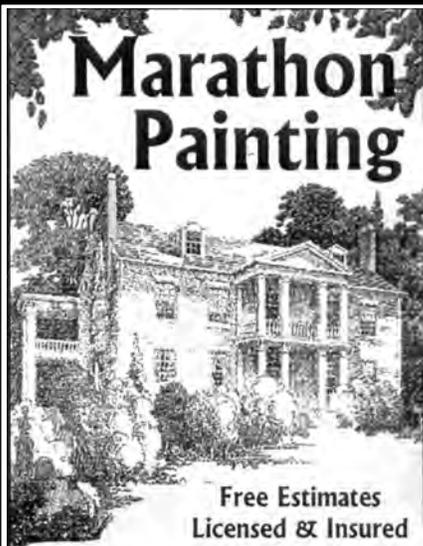
Already, however, a controversy is brewing as religious leaders openly condemn the defiling of the ancient King's grave. A crowd of several hundred people, spurred on by the leader of a nearby Mosque, gathered outside the tomb demanding that the foreign scientists leave immediately.

Plans to view the actual mummy have been postponed until the leaders of the expedition can work out the details with local leaders.

## J. Edgar Hoover to head the F.B.I.

Washington, D.C. - It was announced today that J. Edgar Hoover will be appointed head of the newly formed Federal Bureau of Investigation. Hoover is relatively unknown and, for this reason, the administration chose him over much more qualified candidates.

Hoover is not known to have any political or social ambitions and is the type who can remain content in the obscure position as the head of the F.B.I.



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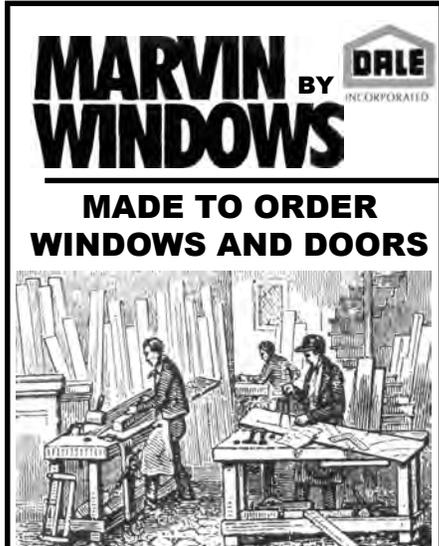
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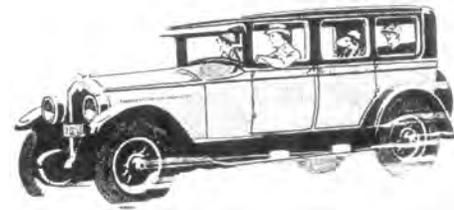
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# History of Madison County Part Three

Written by Judge Taylor in the year 1890

Until 1804, a few Indian traders had passports from the Indian chiefs through the Creek and Cherokee Nations and some of these men had probably been at the Big Spring. It was a well known point to the Indians who told wonderful tales of the great creek gushing from the limestone cliffs that John Hunt came here for the express purpose of finding this spring and locating near it.

A few white families, without permission or hindrance from either tribe, quietly squatted here and by the year 1807 when the cession was made by the Indians, several families were located around the spring, among whom were Stephen Neal, the first sheriff, and Joseph Acklen, who was John Hunt's son-in-law and the Morgans, who were also related

to John Hunt.

It is unfortunate that the citizens of this town have not been able to retain the identity of Hunt's first cabin. We only know that it was built on the bluff near the spring, some maintaining it was on the hill near the old McKay school house and others that it was on the bluff somewhere near Bank Row, which last supposition is improbable from the topography of that point when in a state of nature. Pioneers in building on localities like this never selected a point where they would have to go two or three hundred yards around a bluff to reach the water, but usually built nearer the level of the spring and along Henry Street seems to be the most likely places for a settlement.

By the year 1809 a settlement

of several hundred was located near the big spring running back to Pope's Ridge and down the Whitesburg Pike to the Township line. There were no buildings on what is now the public square which was a rough rocky knoll sloping on every side and with a large pond from the Powers corner to the jail.

Leroy Pope had already purchased these lands from the government and it appears that he laid out the town as shown in the plat sometime in 1810. It contained seventy-two lots, exclusive of the public square, the spring and the bluff west of the square, the whole town containing about sixty acres.

Pope sold the south half to the (town) commissioners but it appears that he donated the other half of the square and the jail lot as there is no record of any deed to them.

In deeding this land Pope stipulated that convenient ways should be kept open to the spring and no one allowed to damage it by obstructing its waters. The commissioners sold these lots rapidly and gave certificates of purchase to the buyers, but for some reason they, nor Pope, never gave a deed to the purchasers of these lots until about the year 1815.

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In the year 1811 the Land Office was transferred here and added to the importance and prosperity of the city. John Read was Register in the Land Office at the time of the transfer and came here about that time and went into the mercantile business in which he remained and prospered for nearly half a century.

On the south side of the square where Rand's and Sullivan's houses now stand John Brown and A. Jemison built brick storehouses which were the first on that side of the square. The old Bell Tavern, first owned by Clayton Talbot, twice burned and rebuilt, occupied the site of the Holding Block, east of the square, and at the time was the most pretentious building in the city.

The Struve Corner was first bought by one James Brock who built a house on it. The first Market house was near the old Bell Tavern and was moved to its present location about the year 1838. The first recorded sale of town lots was lot No. 57, sold under attachment at sheriff's sale and bought by C.C. Clay and Stephen Ewing for thirty-seven dollars. It is the lot which the Chapman building at the corner of Gates and Henry now occupies.

West Holmes Street was known to the older settlers as the Western Road and on this street was the old school house a short distance below the intersection of Gallatin with Holmes. On the north side of Holmes was the

original Methodist church for which John Price donated a lot.

From the junction of the Athens and Pulaski Roads a considerable village sprung up running north and east which was separated from Huntsville by the fields of Jas. Clemens and Thomas and William Brandon, the latter reaching up Jefferson Street with their Negro quarter at Johnston's and Easley's corners. This suburb to the city was on land purchased by Henry Bill and was called Mechanicsville. James Barclay erected a mill near where Henderson Brandon's now stands and up the creek near

Church Street James Clemens had a still house.

On the hill west of Henry Street south of the spring was the old McKay place where Mrs. McKay educated a large number of the ladies of Huntsville, keeping a school for twenty-five years.

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The Badlums put up the first mill near the site of the old Adam Hall mill and they also had a baking establishment opposite the corner of Williams and Madison Streets opposite the Hollingsworth corner. Dr. David Moore also had a horse mill at the north side of his gin lot on Meridian Pike south of the Kennedy house nearly opposite the intersection of Walker Street and Meridian Pike.

In the year 1823 the trustees of Huntsville gave a permit to Hunter Peele to erect waterworks for use of the city, this contract stipulated that Hunter Peele in one year from date should put up a hydraulic wheel that would carry the water to a reservoir with sufficient elevation to supply the city with water, the reservoir to have a capacity of one thousand cubic feet, the pipes to be buried to a sufficient depth to keep them from freezing and also prevent obstruction in building, and specifying that Hunter Peele was to have control of water rates and was entitled to the proceeds of the water tax.

Leroy Pope gave him the privilege of erecting a dam across the spring and building a house not over 20 by 30 feet at the dam to cover his machinery. At the commencement of the work Hunter Peele formed a partnership with James Barclay who was a practiced machinist and together they built the reservoir and constructed the waterworks

and with the exception of steam power they are but little changed from their first construction.

If we could go back to 1809 and see the valley as our ancestors saw it the view would be quite a contrast to its present appearance. A mountain ridge thickly covered with cedar wound in sinuous course to Pope's Hill, then there was a depression until near the bluff over the spring there was a round rocky knoll. Out south and west was a vast expanse of low marshy swamp around the knoll from the Whitesburg Pike around the Meridianville Road interspersed with large ponds where the wa-

ter stood and stagnated until late summer and gave a damp unwholesome appearance to the valley. On every side was a vast intermingled forest broken here and there by clumps of dead timber marking the clearings made by the settlers. In the distance could be seen here and there the brown log cabins of the town scattered on the opening made in the forest.

While this view was most unpromising, yet our ancestors with their usual foresight saw the germ of the future city and time, patience and perseverance gave their hopes fruition.

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- **Pineapple Fritters** - Have batter as for waffles, sweetened, dip pineapple in and fry, sprinkle with sugar while hot (orange and apple the same way.)

- **Apple a La merique** - Take red apples, scoop out meat; add to meat very light brown sugar, little lemon, stick cinnamon and nutmeg. Cook til done, when cool add chopped pecans. Stuff apples and make meringue, put spoonful on top of each apple. Run into stove and brown.

- **Hot Chocolate Sauce** - Melt one-fourth cake unsweetened chocolate in one-half cup water, then add two-thirds cup sugar, boil and serve hot. Pour over vanilla cream.

- **Welsh Rarebit** - one pound of cheese, two tablespoons butter, two tablespoons flour, one cup milk, salt and pepper to taste.

- **Cheese Balls** - one cup grated cheese, whites of two eggs, tablespoon Worcester sauce, salt and pepper to taste. Make into small balls and roll in bread crumbs, fry in hot lard til a pretty brown.

- **Fried Eggplant** - slice eggplant with silver knife, parboil in slightly salted water, drain, mash, season with salt and pepper, add one egg, also flour enough to drop like cakes. Drop in small cakes and fry in hot lard,

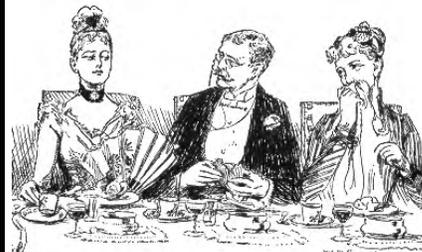
- **Corn relish** - twelve ears corn, one head cabbage, one cup sugar, four red mango peppers, two tablespoons each of salt and ground mustard, one quart vinegar. Boil forty minutes. Cut corn from cob and scrape, chop cabbage fine also peppers, mix all and cook.

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# Huntsville Civil War Memories

By **Rowena Webster**  
written in 1906

After having been in Huntsville a few days, the Federals came like a cyclone into the City, while I and my youngest niece (Miss Rosa Turner) were staying with friends (Mr. and Mrs. Matthews). Miss Turner was placed in school. I never received such a shock as when a servant girl at daylight proclaimed, "Miss Rowe, the turnpike is black with the Yankees - I can hear them, a mile off."

While I never was the least afraid of them, I was startled beyond measure. I looked out of the window and discovered that they had come to stay. Men, women and children were panic stricken, although none ever showed the least fear of them. Every woman in the City was aiding Confederate soldiers to escape, even disguising some of them in female attire. Soon they had all escaped. One of the first who was captured was a brother of General John T. Morgan. I said to the officer who held him captive, "I hope you will be kind to him." He replied, "I will."

Soon Gen'l M., of Astronomy

fame, Federal Commander, had possession of the City. A greater tyrant never lived in revolutionary times. An Ohio Regiment was encamped on Popes Hill, near us. They would pass every day to water their horses at the famous Big Spring of Huntsville. One of them chanced to see Miss Sallie Matthews and Miss Rosa Turner, playing with grace hoops wrapped with red, white and blue. The soldiers were quite amused until they saw a tiny Confederate Flag attached to my arm. Altho it was simply hanging on my arm, one ordinary soldier without any authority rushed in the yard saying, "Miss, I want that flag." I replied, "You haven't the bravery to capture one on a battle field, but ask for a baby flag from a woman?" He replied, "If you don't give me that flag, I will put a case of smallpox in this house and one in the house opposite." I said, "Bring your smallpox case, I am not afraid of you, nor your smallpox," and I immediately tore up the flag, placing it in my pocket, and threw the hoop into a reservoir at the foot of the hill, saying, "If you are a good diver, you can get that hoop." In the meantime the Captain came up with his Company and saw me destroy the flag and put it into my pocket, saying, "You shall not have this flag."

He informed the Officer, and the next day Mr. Matthews, his daughter Sallie, Rosa Turner and

I were arrested. Mr. Sam Matthews ordered his carriage, saying we had to go into Camp by order of Gen'l M. I rebelled and said I would not go if they brought a regiment for me. Seeing that Mr. Matthews was in earnest, I was compelled to yield and remarked to him, "I am very indignant and vexed but if I have to go, I will try to be a lady, even among my enemies." On arriving at Camp several officers offered



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to assist us out of the carriage and escort us to the tent, but we all refused to accept their offer.

Under the trees, in Gen'l Lowe's grove, the tents were arranged and the General's son received us with far more politeness than his father, saying the General would receive us in a few minutes. Not in the least excited, I waited my summons. Soon we sallied to the tent "green backs" placed before him. The young school girls were a great deal frightened and kept on their veils. Mr. Matthews, being a stammering man, was very slow in his introductions, first introducing the girls. I awaited my presentation and my wrath began to stir at the thought of being held to account for such a trifle.

I sneered, looked to the right and to the left, and was a long time taking my seat, trying to keep as calm as possible. When Gen'l M. began his questions, asking Miss Matthews if she had not insulted his soldiers, she replied, "I did not; one of them asked me for the little flag and I gave it to him." Then I said, "It was not larger than my hand." He said, "I don't care if it was a mite, it was a flag." Then turning to me, he said, "Don't you know that you are in open rebellion?" I said, "I am a Rebel open and above board." Growling like a lion, he said, "No man, or woman, or child shall say that they are Rebels in my tent." I replied, still more firmly, "I am a Rebel." He then said, "Don't you know that I could send you to Fort La Fayette in five minutes?" I replied, "That is very rapid traveling." I could see a lurking smile pass over his face, and he said, "Are you a lady?" I replied in a most indignant manner,

"Who doubts it?" He then said, "You women, get to your homes."

He was surely no gentleman

but an arrant coward and a tyrant. He seemed particularly bent on insulting the women and children and went into the Army for gain. No worse order was ever given in the days of the French Revolution than that he issued to old Gen'l Turchin (a Dutchman) when he told him to march into the town of Athens, Alabama and to give the soldiers the liberty of the town for two hours. And they surely obeyed the order, in every sort of mischief and crime of which soldiers are guilty, without restraint. The people of Athens will never forget this outrage, as long as any inhabitant is left to tell the story.

At the home of Judge C. they

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completely demolished the place, to punish the family - they pitched their tents as close to the house as they could get them and never removed them until they had orders to leave. All of the vehicles, carriages, buggies and everything of the kind were rolled miles away, unless they destroyed them by chopping them up with axes or hatchets. One of their chief delights was to strew molasses and lard all over the carpets, break up the furniture and smash the mirrors, and to leave nothing that they could possibly destroy. Had not the Rebels, in their shrewdness, bid much of their provisions, they would have perished. This Ohio Regiment did the fighting of that command for they went out 1400 strong and only fifty survived, but this old General never went out with them - he was too busy buying and selling cotton and enriching himself.

One day in Huntsville, Alabama, a rumor came that a Confederate General, with 10,000 Indian soldiers, was crossing the river a few miles off, which created a great panic among the Federal troops. Artillery, infantry and every available piece of armor was ordered out. Such clashing and clattering of arms through the streets we had not heard before. This gave the la-

dies a chance to exult and clap their hands for joy, hoping that the Yankees might have to retreat. It was soon found to be a false alarm and the citizens had to quiet down.

Arrests were daily made of quiet unoffending citizens, and never did they have any peace while this branch of the army remained. We often kept the Yankees in hot water, reporting that Forrest, Morgan or some famous General was in the neighborhood, when we had no tidings from them. It was a mere ruse to defend ourselves from insult.

On one occasion Gen'l M. gave an order that the Rebel ladies might attend the burial of a nephew of Gen'l C. Whether it was a kind streak he took or whether it was to ascertain the feeling of the ladies we did not know, but we believed it was

the latter, and altho they were using all of the horses and carriages in the city, every lady in town robbed all of the gardens of flowers and each carried an immense bouquet and walked behind the hearse for a mile and a half to decorate, not only his grave, but all of the Rebel Soldiers' graves in the cemetery. Gen'l M, might have known that it was a good time to show their principles and they never lost an opportunity to exhibit them.

The first Yankee soldiers that I encountered, I was walking with my lovely friend, Mrs. William Mastin, Sr. and I shut my eyes as I passed. She remarked, "Miss Rowe, it is all lost on them for they will think that you are a blind woman."

Some of us went to an old Baptist Church, out of use, and found many soldiers there waiting to be exchanged. They were always a



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jolly, wholesome set and one of them remarked, "People cannot say that we don't stand by our church."

Shortly after the Battle of Shiloh Major C. arrived, limping on crutches. We had told him, when he left, not to come back wounded in the foot and limping on crutches. Miss Fannie Donegan had told him, if he was wounded to come to their house and we would nurse him. The Yankee Surgeon attended him and the surgeon remarked that Huntsville was a lovely place, so full of flowers early in the Spring that it was like a fairyland. Maj. C. said, "Doctor, the flowers are nothing, the society is charming, so refined, so cultured."

A short time after, many of our soldiers returned, wounded from this battle. One Sabbath about a dozen Yankee soldiers came to arrest Major C. We endeavored to conceal his crutches and disguise him, but they rushed into his room saying that by the authority of Gen'l M. they must arrest him. Maj. C. seemed calm, but the ladies, Miss Mary H. (to whom he was engaged at

the time), Mrs. B., her mother, Miss Donegan and I, were very indignant and asked them if it took twelve of their men to arrest one of ours. We thought Maj. C. was getting along very well with his wound but from imprudence he was threatened with lockjaw and his features were rigid and extremities cold. He threw a book at the head of a servant to awaken him and sent him to wake Miss Fannie Donegan and myself. We went to him, kindled a fire, gave him a strong toddy, put a cloth of laudnum on his foot and heated it with our hands. He declared that we had saved his life.

A short time after this, when he joined his command, he was married to Miss Mary H. at Brentwood, Tennessee and returned to his command without his bride.

We had two soldiers concealed on the flat roof of Mr. Donegan's house - Mr. W. and Mr. R - we used to pass their food to them every day until they could

steal a chance to escape from the Yankee soldiers. They finally made their escape and joined their command. One day a woman, in deep mourning and heavily veiled, was seen getting over the cemetery fence to decorate some Yankee graves, when a man's boots were seen and

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some of the Rebel ladies discovered that he was a Rebel spy who brought letters to them through the lines.

Miss Fannie Donegan and I had never seen the burial of an officer so, as one of the noted Yankee officers had died, we concluded to conceal ourselves in the dense shrubbery and watch the procession as it was passing the cemetery. The body was in an ambulance, draped with crape; his war horse was draped also; the officers were riding with reversed arms; many soldiers; a band was playing the dead march with muffled drums. It was a solemn sight to us. The cemetery was just a short distance from Mr. D's residence, near enough to hear the guns and cannons fire quite frequently, for he was Col. of Artillery and was a great loss to them. On their return, after the procession was out of sight, three grave diggers came along; Miss Donegan asked the first one if they had buried an officer. He said, "No, it was one of their men," I said, "That is not so, I know it was one of your officers." He passed on; a second one came by, she asked again if that was not one of their officers. This one said the same thing and denied it. I said, "I will ask the next one." The third one passed; I halted him and said, "What officer was that you have just buried?" He said he was not an officer. I said, "I know better, he was one, for I have noticed you

have buried five or six of your men and did not make any parade over them - did not even fire a gun - now this man had all of the honors and flourishing of trumpets accorded to him, there is no use in denying the fact." He at last acknowledged that it was an important man they had lost.

Another day I was sitting on the front porch with Harvey Donegan and one or two more friends, when a number of Yankee officers passed along, escorting a daughter of Gen'l M. She was also dressed in a blue riding habit with a sword at her side, which seemed coarse to us Southern women. Harvey Donegan remarked in their hearing, "Miss Rowe, there are some beaux for you." I replied, loud enough for them to hear, "I hope never to be reduced to such as that - I keep better company."

Daily degradations were committed as long as the Federal soldiers were in our midst. Many



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say that this is the result of war, but I am sure they must have had many an officer who was merely vested with a little authority who took advantage of it and abused it by all the arbitrary acts they could show. Many had never commanded soldiers before, and showed even their own soldiers the greatest tyranny, but when their regular officers commanded they were born gentlemen.

They were always polite and controlled their men and were willing to have wrongs redressed and grant favors, when not unreasonable. You may say that about one-third of the latter class controlled their army, while two-thirds were turned loose to do what they pleased. Most of the population of Huntsville were Confederates and would have died before they would have denied their principles,

In the beginning, I admit, that we often tantalized the Yankees by walking along the streets and giving our selves the titles of our noted Generals - but take it to yourselves, if you were about to be robbed of all your possessions and accumulation of wealth which was honestly gotten by your parents and your rightful inheritance, would you not have felt the same way, especially when the parents and grandparents of these Yankees had bought and sold slaves?

They were once as much their property as ours!

# Seeking My Mother

I desire to find my mother and father who used to belong to Mr. John Hays. My mother's name was Liz. My father is Job. I was sold by Hays to a farm near Nashville during the war, and have never seen nor heard from them since my return to Huntsville in search of them, where I learned that my mother was sold to a man in Selma, Alabama, by the name of Turner. Write me at 302 Washington Street, Atlanta, Georgia where I now live, or leave notice.

from 1869 newspaper



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# Useful Facts

- A liar is tolerated when he tells us what we wish to believe.
- To be great among fools, you must be a great fool.
- To cure deafness - tell a man you've come to pay his debt.
- One drawback of false teeth is that they cannot be gnashed in case of rage.

From 1872 Newspaper

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# Blackberry Cobbler

1 cup flour, self-rising  
 1 cup sugar  
 1/2 cup milk  
 1 can of blackberries  
 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla  
 1 stick butter or margarine, cut in pieces

Pour blackberries into a pot with about 1/2 cup sugar, heat over medium stove til boiling. Remove from heat and add 1/2 teaspoon vanilla. If necessary to thicken a little, cook with a bit of sugar, but don't make it too thick.

Mix flour, sugar, milk and 1 teaspoon vanilla in bowl til smooth. Spray a 9 x 13 pan with Pam vegetable spray, then pour flour mixture into pan. Smooth out to the edges.

Pour blackberries over flour mixture, dot with small pieces of butter. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

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# The Gurley Jail

by **Margaret Sanford Connally**

Early in the 1900s, Gurley had a jail. It was a little one-room affair located by the rail road tracks. It was used mainly to lock up young men who celebrated too much on weekends.

One young man, Allen Sanford, tired of spending so many Saturday nights there, decided to do something about it. He went to the local saw mill and got a long log chain. That night when the train stopped in Gurley for water Allen hooked one end of the chain to the jail and the other end to the train.

I am told that a Gurley resident used the remains from the jail in a barn he was building, but Gurley hasn't had a jail since.

Allen served in the Rainbow Division during World War One. While he did have a drinking problem he had a big heart, especially when it concerned children. I am told that once during the war he won a large sum of money in a poker game, and had it all changed into small coins to throw to the French children begging in the streets.

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# Memories

by **Nell Rutledge Porter**

I remember April 14, 1945 as if it were yesterday. My husband and I were resting a bit, and two men came up the walk to our home. One was our pastor and the other was our district superintendent. Soon we were entertaining them as best we could. We soon found out their business.

The superintendent said, "I hear that you are leaving the Alabama district," and my husband said that yes, we were. "I have been called to preach, and we've bought some acreage from my grandfather's place up in Tennessee. We hope to start a church up there." The superintendent said, "Well, you will find it tough, with your family, and you have a limited education, and it's not at all easy to begin a new work."

With tears in his eyes my husband said, "Yes, all you say is true. But God has called me and I'm going." The guests prepared to leave, and the superintendent said, "I will never discourage you again, but we will be praying for you."

About supper time, I began having labor pains. My husband ran to the phone, but it was silent. We had forgotten that the service had been cut off in order to honor President Roosevelt,

whose body was being taken from Warm Springs, Georgia to the capital in Washington, DC.

I said, "You'll have to walk, but please hurry." As he stepped out the door, a crowd of people were running up the street. He yelled at them to find out what was the matter, and they told him that the cotton warehouse was burning down. I knew it would take him a long time to get to the doctor's office trying to avoid the crowd and the fire. I began to walk and walked for what seemed like forever.

We lived on Miller Street, down by Dunnivant's Corner. My first cousin, Mildred Hickson, assisted in the birth of our little daughter whom we named Margaret.

It seemed like so many eventful things happened in just one day. I wonder how many folks remember the time in '45, when the cotton warehouse burned down here in Huntsville?

I can't remember the name of that superintendent - but I sure

wish he had been more of an encouragement that day.

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Glenn Brooks

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# Huntsville News From The Year 1873

- We are informed that five or six prisoners broke jail and escaped on Thursday night. They were at large at last accounts.

- Bill Thompson, colored, arrested on Wednesday by Captain Forman, on the charge of stealing a cow from Mr. River, and offering the same for sale at market in Decatur, was taken to jail on Monday last for safe keeping. He made an attempt on Friday night to escape from the guard-house by removing the iron bars from one of the prison windows.

- Telegrams received at Huntsville Saturday, from Houston, Texas, state that Joseph Aquero, charged with the murder of Jack Snow, of this city, last May, has been acquitted.

- A heavy wind and rain storm occurred on Thursday night in New Market. The roof of the gin-house was blown off and the blacksmith shop leveled with the dust. Considerable damage to fencing was done in the neighborhood.

- A little girl, between thirteen and fourteen years of age, the

daughter of Mr. Zach Elliot, of Madison County, brought to this place on Friday last a bale of cotton weighing nearly five hundred pounds, which she made by her own labor, plowing the ground, planting the seed, working it during maturity, picking it, and sold it herself, realizing from its sale nearly one hundred dollars. The cotton was purchased by our fellow citizen A. S. Curtis, who gave the little girl half a cent more to the pound than the market value.

- We know of many boys loafing about the city in idleness, that might assist their poor widowed mothers in making a sup-

port, by following the example of this industrious little girl.

- An ex-Federal soldier was seen near Triana paying court to one of our young lasses. Local lads persuaded him to make a speedy departure to the northern region from whence he had come.

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Gates Auto Repair had worked on more than 245,000 automobiles since 1939.

Sanders Cleaners has cleaned over 9,750,000 shirts since going into business in 1926.

Lewter's Hardware has sold over 1 million pounds of nails since 1928.

H.C. Blake, since 1884, has repaired more than 325,000 leaky faucets.

Terry's Pizza has sold over 2,000,000 pizzas since 1959.

Propst Drug store has sold over 225,000 bottles of aspirin.

Ropers Flowers has sold more than 5 million roses since 1938.

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# Huntsville

- My Arrival

by **Placide D. Nicaise**

My journey from South Mississippi to North Alabama in March 1958 was more than a journey through space and time. It was a break with my past and the beginning of a new life in a place I would ever afterward call home. Huntsville is where I have lived out most of my life among family and friends. Like most lives, mine has been one of ups and downs, of happy times, and adversity. In spite of the stressful years, I have always felt that I belonged to this shining city that sits at the foot of the flat-topped mountains. The twinkling city lights have often welcomed me home when I was returning from a long journey. I never felt completely comfortable anywhere else once I settled here. The friendly, optimistic people have provided a cultural climate that suited me. My strong attachment may partly be due to the city and I growing up together. Huntsville was just beginning to change from the old farming and mill based economy when I arrived. We made the transition together into the space age.

I traveled to Huntsville during that memorable springtime

in 1958 on a passenger train. Like so many others during those years of expansion, I was a recent graduate who was drawn here by the fabled Von Braun Rocket Team. I was 23 years old at the time and was looking forward to starting out in a new environment. The countryside and the solid rock formations visible from the train after we got to North Alabama were a surprise and a delight. The flat-topped mountains, the hardwood trees, and the red soil were all so much different from the sandy, lowlands of the Gulf Coast that it aroused my curiosity. I wondered how the mountains were formed and why this area was so different from Mississippi. I knew almost immediately that this was the place I wanted to live for the rest of my life. However, my work was to take me away, and back again, before I was to settle down, and a while longer before I found out the secrets of the mountains.

The L & N railroad did not pass through Huntsville, so I transferred to the Southern Rail-

way in Decatur. I remember seeing the sign beside the railroad as we passed through Greenbriar, and wondered at what a strange name that was for a town. As we pulled into the old

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Huntsville Depot, I noticed a sign that read "Huntsville, Alabama - Watercress Capitol of the World." I wondered why a city with a great rocket development facility would identify itself with watercress. Others must have been wondering about the same question, because it was not long before the old signs came down and the new ones read: "Huntsville Alabama - Space Capitol of the World."

I spent my first few nights in Huntsville, at Kay's Motel, located near the northeast corner of Meridian Street and Fifth Avenue (now Governors Drive). This was near the present site of Huntsville Hospital East and next door to Nolan Roper's old home - a family I was to meet much later in life. From the motel, I walked down Meridian Street to the Town Square and along Franklin and Echols streets, through what is now called the Twickenham district. I was surprised to see all the old, expensive homes, but the square was just like so many other small southern towns, a courthouse surrounded by small stores and cotton markets. Old men sat around on benches while they talked and whittled.

I didn't realize it then but I was seeing the last of a way of life that had existed here for generations. In a few years the cotton markets and even the courthouse would be gone, replaced by a shining black tower that dominated the landscape and proclaimed the transition to the space age. The white marble towers of the city administration buildings would rise on the other side of the Big Spring to form the heart of a new, modern city. In spite of these dramatic changes, the area around the square was gradually dying out as a social and commercial center. Businesses moved out to shopping centers along the new Parkway to accommodate housing devel-

opments that were springing up around the old city.

People were pouring into the city during those years. The city streets were already overcrowded, and new roads were being constructed to move traffic around the outskirts of town. The influx of people from all over the country and the new money coming into the local economy was creating growth and vitality. Native landowners and businessmen were becoming wealthy. You could see and feel the expansion everywhere.

I did not settle down in the midst

of all this activity, but over in the quiet streets of Dallas Mill Village at the corner of Dallas and Humes Avenues. I rented a room from Mamie Holland, a good, cheerful lady that had spent much of her life working in the mills before they closed. The red bricks of Dallas Mill was still visible a couple of blocks away. A pretty Jersey cow grazed on the

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green beside Dallas Avenue where the I-565 overpass now runs. Chickens ran around in a yard across the street. It was a place where people walked around and visited their neighbors. People still hoped that the mill would reopen. They were a bit curious about a young man that would move here to work for the rocket program. They warned me that it wouldn't last.

But the mills were gone for good. Dallas Mill would soon burn to the ground. Lincoln Mill would be converted to office space. Huntsville was in a period of growth like it had never seen before and probably would never see again. It would become the stage for the Army's ballistic missile program, and then NASA's rocket booster program that would take men to the moon. The industrial giants would move here and many startup companies would call this their hometown. But, even after all these years of change, the quiet streets around Five-Points still preserve something of the city before the coming of the space age. They still reflect something of the town that I saw when I first arrived.

## Uncle Ollie's Education

by **Margaret Connally**

My grandmother's younger brother, Oliver "Ollie" Brazelton, insisted he wouldn't go to school, and every time he said "I'm not going" his father, Civil War veteran Jason Brazelton, would say "Yes, son, you have to go get your education." Uncle Ollie finally decided to go. On the first day Ollie was there to get his education, but after a half day he went home in tears because the teacher wouldn't give him his education. He never went back.

Apparently he learned the basics at home, for as a young man he apprenticed to the telegraph operator in Gurley. He later moved to California, and when he retired he was a District Manager for Western Union.

## Chickens Land Man In Jail

A suspect known only as John Doe was arrested last night after being stopped for suspicious behavior. In his automobile was found thirty three chickens and four pigs. He denies any knowledge of how they came to be in his possession. He has also apparently forgotten his name and address although the sherriff assures us the man will remember his current address.

*from 1921 Huntsville newspaper*

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- Check your down pillow by holding the center in the palm of your hand. If the corners droop, it's time to get a new one because the down is shot and insomnia lies ahead.

- Get out and walk! This time of year is still warm but soon will be cool enough to put on those comfortable shoes and explore Old Town and Twickenham.

- You can cut paint odors if they bother you by adding 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract (use the artificial) per quart to the paint.

- Never place bookcases where they get strong sunlight. The glare will fade the bindings and warp the covers.

- Marble scratches are easy to get. To repair them use very fine sandpaper, then polish the area with tin oxide, and finish by buffing with a chamois.

- When considering buying a home, always check to see if the ceiling is solid. Test the plaster in each room by tapping with a broomstick.

- A folk remedy that often works with hay fever victims is chewing on a honeycomb.

- Out of eggs? In many recipes you can substitute half a cup of mayonnaise for each egg.

- When trapped in the house on a rainy day, use the time to pick out items for a future garage sale. You may never have one, but you might find some items that you haven't seen for a long time.

- A damp cloth dipped in baking soda is the best cleaning agent for oven glass doors.

- Dust your little knick-knacks with a small paintbrush.

- To mend a leaky vase, coat the inside with a thick layer of paraffin and allow it to harden.

- Calm down that angry child by just whispering in her ear. She will have to stop crying to hear what you are saying. This works on husbands, too.

- Infuse a wonderful scent in your home by spraying a bit of perfumed oil onto a light bulb.

- If you have houseplants that get little daylight, water them as little as possible and keep cool.

- Chopsticks make excellent support for small houseplants.

- For the best-tasting oatmeal cookies, toast your oatmeal first.

- Virtually every recipe for baked goods comes out much better with unsalted butter.

- Try this on your next apple pie - add 1/2 teaspoon dill seeds.

- Try doubling the vanilla extract in your next recipe - you will probably get more compliments on the dessert from your family.  
- A couple of drops of ammonia will loosen a rusty screw.

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# Jones Valley

by Jack Harwell

The history of Huntsville is reflected in the names of its streets. While the city itself is named for its earliest settler, many people who came here about the same time as John Hunt are remembered on signposts all over town. Some of them, including a Virginia planter named Drake, made their homes in the area we call Jones Valley nearly two centuries ago.

James Drake was born in Botetourt County, Virginia in 1780. On September 18, 1809, he staked claim to a quarter-section (160 acres) in Madison County at the land office in Nashville. He arrived in Huntsville, according to census records, with a wife, a son, and a daughter.

The land he had purchased was located in a narrow valley a few miles southeast of town. Drake was not a pioneer in the Daniel Boone mold; he simply wanted some land on which to start a farm. His brother, William, bought an adjacent parcel at about the same time. Over time, the Drakes increased their landholdings, eventually owning nearly all the land in the valley.

If James Drake was looking for privacy, he chose his land well. The valley that he bought lay from 100 to 800 feet lower than the surrounding mountains, yet the head of the valley was only three miles from Huntsville.

During the 1820s - nobody knows exactly when - James Drake built a house in his valley. It was a two level structure with the bedrooms upstairs and the dining area on the lower level, which was 30 inches below

ground level. Curiously, the house initially had no interior stairway, although one was added later.

James Drake died and was buried in a small family cemetery on his land, in a section known as Drake Cove. His family held onto the valley until 1881, when it was sold to Winston Garth.

Garth was a wealthy landowner in his own right. He was the son of William Willis Garth, a former Congressman who had a fine home on Franklin Street. The younger Garth was quite active in community affairs, and served on the boards of many civic organizations. His home, Piedmont, was located across the mountain from the Drake house, on the east side of Whitesburg Pike. Garth and his Vassar educated wife were well known around Huntsville in the 1890s for their social activities, and

Piedmont was the scene of many a Saturday night gathering a century ago.

Winston Garth was also a man who was used to having his

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way. In her book, *Changing Huntsville 1890-1899*, Elizabeth Humes Chapman described a humorous incident involving two young men who arrived at the Garth home one evening to double-date the Garth daughters. Hoping for some privacy, the would-be suitors arrived in separate carriages. When he saw these arrangements, Garth informed the gentlemen that they could ride in one carriage, and the girls in the other. This was definitely not what the young men had in mind, but they consented—at least until they had left the premises. Once out of Mr. Garth's stern gaze, one of the fellows nudged his companion, telling him that now was their chance to switch carriages with their respective dates. The other young man, who knew Mr. Garth rather better than his friend, told him to do whatever he wanted, but Mr. Garth had told him to ride that carriage, and that was what he was going to do!

In 1940, the Drake-Garth land was sold to Carl T. Jones. Jones was himself a prominent citizen. He was the grandson of G. W. Jones, who founded the local engineering firm which still bears his name. Jones has since passed on, but his descendants live in the valley, now called Jones Valley, to this day.

In nearly 190 years, this land has changed hands only three times, and is still being used for its original intended purpose-

farming. The current owners grow Kentucky fescue and graze cattle there. Nowadays, all of Jones Valley lies within the Huntsville city limits. It is still a beautiful place.

When a road was first put through the valley, it was called Drake-Garth Road, for the land's first owners. The north end of the road connected to the east end of Donegan Lane. Donegan was eventually extended west-

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ward toward Brahan Spring, and became Drake Avenue. Drake-Garth Road then was renamed simply Garth Road

In the mid 1980s, the city decided to build an east-west road across the valley. No one was sure what to call the road, since it connected the end of one existing street (Airport Road) to another (Bailey Cove Road). The street was finally named for the man whose land it traversed - Carl T. Jones.

So it is that all three of the families who have lived in the valley are remembered by the names of the three major thoroughfares there. The house that James Drake built over 160 years ago is still there, and can be seen from Garth Road. The best view, however, is from the scenic overpass on Governors Drive. From there, you can see not only the house, but the entire valley. It isn't difficult to picture the valley as James Drake saw it such a long time ago.

# Population Control

A salesman regularly, over a period of almost 15 years, drove through a small town in lower Alabama. His attention was always drawn to a sign outside of town welcoming visitors and giving the population as 119 citizens.

One day, out of curiosity, he stopped at the town's only store and struck up a conversation with the owner who was also the town constable.

After a bit of small talk the salesman asked a question that had been bothering him for years.

"I noticed the sign outside of town saying you have 119 citizens living here. That sign's been there for years and with births and deaths the numbers have to change. How can you have the same number for 15 years?"

"Well," drawled the store owner, "I suppose the number is right. Every time someone has a baby some man has to leave town so it keeps things even."

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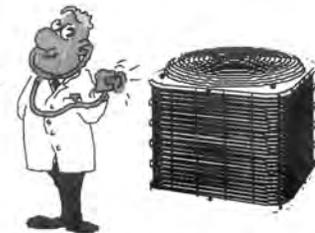
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While our prices have gone up slightly we still provide the same quality service our fore-fathers insisted on. We are the same family, doing the same business in the same location. Stop by and visit with us.

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