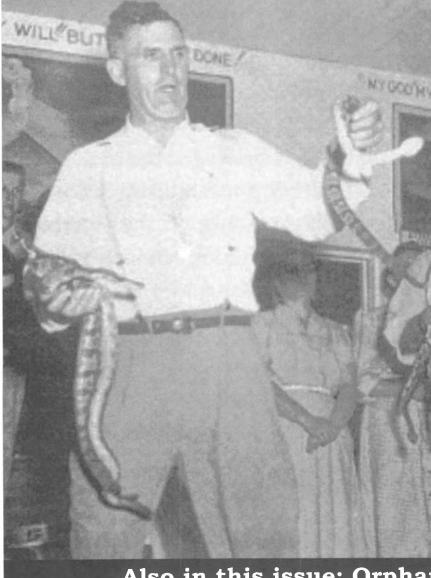


Old Auntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



In God's Name

Without missing a beat in his praise for the Holy Ghost, he raised his arms revealing a four-foot long timberback rattlesnake coiled around his right arm, its head darting back and forth as if trying to find the source of its anger. A strange dance began as the man moved the snake from arm to arm, placing it around his neck and draping it over his shoulder.

Also in this issue: Orphan of Hate

Reid Hardware

Serving Huntsville Since 1962

2402 Mem. Pkwy. NW, Huntsville, Ala.



RADIO & FLYER

Free Peanuts!

Wagons - All Sizes

Stanley Tools

Home of Pocket Knives, Red Wagons & Cast Iron Skillets

Smoke Alarms Pipes Paint brushes Canning Supplies

Electrical Needs

Wood Stove Accessories Tricycles & Sleds

Huge Selection Of Pocket Knives

Large Selection of Cast Iron Skillets



Screening Sprinklers Wheelbarrows

Weatherproofing

Mops & Brooms Paint Mail Boxes Trash Cans

Rope Hoses Kerosene Lamps Handtrucks

Landscaping Materials Plumbing Supplies Nails, Nuts and Bolts

Screw Drivers and Hammers Kitchen Gadgets

W.R.CASE & SONS CUTLERY CO.

Air Conditioner Covers Fall Garden Supplies Pipe Insulation Fertilizer German Knives

Thresholds

Garden Rakes

Wood Stains



Ladders

Faucet Sets

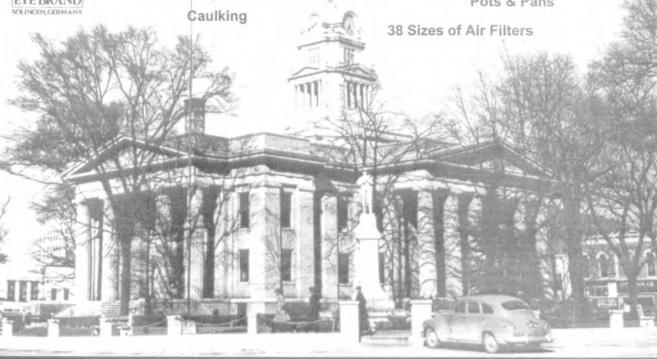
Drills & Bits Grass Seed

Lawn Supplies Heating Supplies

Pots & Pans

Paint





ld Timer's S



Old Huntsville, Inc. 716 East Clinton Ave.

Huntsville, Ala. 35801

(256) 534-0502 Fax 489-3712

EMail - oldhuntsville@knology.net

Internet Home Page

www.Oldhuntsville.com

Sales & Marketing - Cathey Carney

Gen. Manager - Ron Eyestone

Good Will Ambassador

Aunt Eunice

Copy Boy - Tom Carney

Advertising - (256) 534-3355

All material contained within is ©2003

and may not be reproduced or copied in

any form without written permission of

In God's Name

The first thing that most people noticed when they pulled into the crushed gravel parking lot of the church was the variety of car tags. One car was from Georgia, another from Tennessee and two from Madison county. The car from Georgia boasted a bumper sticker that read "My Child is an Honor Student."

The building had not originally been built as a church. A faded metal RC Cola sign near the door gave the impression it had been a country store years earlier. Nearby, a 1974 Chrevolet, minus its motor and left front fender, was perched precariously on concrete blocks. Kudzu vines, the scourge of the rural south, had almost completely covered a large mound of unidentifiable trash near the back fence row.

Inside the building one had the eerie feeling of being transported into a time warp where different cultures had collided and created a new one, where neither the past nor the present was reality. The women, all of whom wore their hair in tightly wrapped buns and were dressed in long dresses extending almost

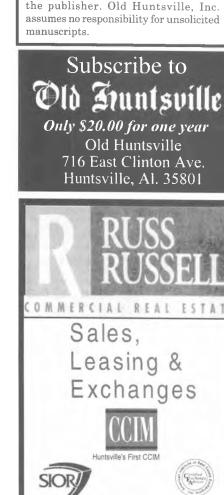
to their ankles. sat in a small version of "I'll Fly Away." The advertisement for John Deere tractors.

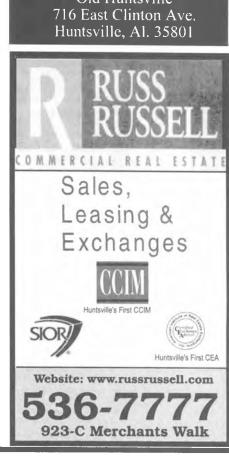
The men, all dressed in longsleeve shirts despite the heat, stood in a tight bunch off to the side of the pulpit, some of them tapping a foot to the music and occasionally raising their arms as if beseeching an unknown power to acknowledge their presence. Even before the last chords of the guitar had faded away one man, the preacher, stepped forward and began his testimony.

He told of a life caught up in sin, wracked by drugs and alcohol, that finally led him to jail where he met his Lord. He told of how he wasn't long for this earthly world and how he was going to a better place. He said sinners who did not repent would burn in an everlasting hell. The congregation was standing now, swaying back and forth as the preacher continued his message in a singsong cadence. Everv few seconds he would be interrupted by someone shouting an "Amen," or "Praise Jesus." One woman constantly repeated the refrain "Sweet Jesus."

A woman moved into the

group clapping their hands in time with music coming from an electric guitar in front of the pulpit. One woman was furiously shaking a tambourine in an effort to keep up with an electronic guitar player's belt buckle was an









middle of the aisle. Her body was stiff, yet shaking all over; her eyes glazed as if in a hypnotic trance. She seemed to be talking yet the sounds coming from her lips were unidentifiable, an unknown tongue that others in the congregation found familiar. Another woman, the "Sweet Jesus woman," joined her in the aisle and a few moments later also began shaking and twitching and speaking in the unknown tongue.

The preacher was really sweating now. He had moved near the pulpit and every few seconds, as if to emphasize his message, would slap it loudly before hopping across the room on one foot while waving his arms wildly in the air. The guitar player tried to keep up, trying to hit a chord every time the preacher slapped the pulpit, but finally gave up and contented himself by attempting to adjust the various knobs on his amplifier.

Another man, dressed in blue polyester slacks and a cowboy shirt with a buffalo head above the left pocket, joined the preacher and began shouting his testimony as he stomped loudly from one side of the building to the other while holding a bible in the air. An envelope bearing a State Farm Insurance return address stuck out of his back pocket. The building reverber-

ated with Amens, Sweet Jesus's and stories of sin. All the other people, except for two small girls sitting in the back playing with a video game, added to the frenzy. Some were clapping, some were shouting and some were doing both.

The man who had joined the preacher near the pulpit suddenly reached down into a wooden box that had been placed there earlier. Without missing a beat in his praise for the Holy Ghost he raised his arms revealing a four foot long timber-back rattlesnake coiled around his right arm, its head darting back and forth as if trying to find the source of its anger. A strange dance began as the man moved the snake from arm to arm, placing it around his neck and draping it over his shoulder, all the while keeping a running commentary on his faith in his religion. Another man took the snake from him and the same strange ritual was performed again as the congregation urged them on with more cries of Amen. The Sweet Jesus woman joined the men, passing the serpent back and forth and letting its body slither across her chest and around her shoulders. The next snake, another diamond back rattler, was taken from the box and passed from







aFive Star *** ** rating

Healthgrades, a healthcare quality ratings organization, has awarded Huntsville Hospital a five star rating and named us

1 in Alabama for:

Vascular Surgery
Orthopedics
Joint Replacement



HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL

hand to hand, often with one person handling both snakes at the same time.

The guitar player had left his amplifier and stood near the side of the room watching. Nearby a women was rolling on the floor as she talked in the unknown tongue.

Almost as suddenly as it had begun, it was over. The snakes were back in their box. The woman who had been shaking uncontrollably minutes before was now complaining about the food in a restaurant where she and her husband had eaten earlier that day. The men were talking about the war. "God's Will will be done," noted the preacher in a somber tone. The other men nodded their heads in an understanding way. Someone, a newcomer, asked him if he had ever been bitten by a snake. "Everyone's faith," he said, "will be tested someday."

He later admitted to having



been bitten nineteen times.

There is no written history of the "Snake Handlers" in Madison County but by most accounts the first local "handling" took place near Maysville, around 1917, when George Went Hensley, a traveling evangelist, held a brush arbor revival. Local youths who had heard of the new religion caught three large and vicious rattlesnakes, placed them in a box and carried them to the service. Undoubtedly they thought Hensley's snakes were "fixed" in some way and wanted him to try his faith on the real thing.

Hensley was reported to have ignored the youth's taunts at first. Halfway through the service, however, Hensley who was already holding a snake he had brought with him, reached down and took up the other ones, holding them high in the air, caressing them and at times even seeming to talk to them. People in the congregation, who had never witnessed anything like it, were deeply divided in their beliefs. Was it a miracle? - Was it the Devil's work? - or was there another explanation?

George Went Hensley was a bootlegger and moonshiner turned preacher who, in 1909, was sitting on the side of a mountain in Grasshopper Valley, Tennessee meditating about a passage from the bible. The passage was Mark XVI: 17-8.

"And these signs will accompany those who believe; by using my name they will cast out

demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and

Queen Size

Orthopedic Mattress still in plastic with full warranty for 150.00

can deliver

256-509-7512

YOU GET BETTER SERVICE BECAUSE...WE DON'T WORK ALONE!



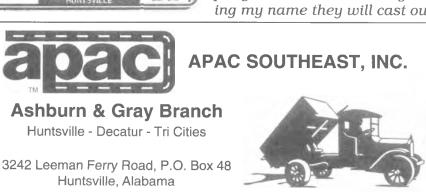
BILL WARD & DORIS SISK REAL ESTATE TEAM

BILL WARD & DORIS SISK REAL ESTATE TEAM

OFFICE: (256)534-1886 TOLL FREE: (800)675-6580

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: http://www.DorisSiskTeam.com

7663 Hwy. 72 West Suite E Madison, Al 35758



Heavy Construction - Road Building - Heavy Equipment



they will recover."

According to one story, Hensley then saw a rattlesnake lying on a nearby rock and picked it up. When he was not bitten, this served as a sign to him that he was annointed by God. At his next church service he preached about the bible passage, explaining it was God's will and the true believers would not be bitten. Toward the end of the sermon he opened a wooden box and pulled out a large snake, holding it in the air and letting it curl around his arms while daring the congregation to come forward and take the snake as a sign of their own faith. "Nonbelievers," he warned, "would burn in an eternal Hell!"

Members of the congregation joined him at the front of the church, and when they were not bitten, a new religious movement was born.

Hensley traveled throughout the Southeast with his message, winning many converts among the hill people who desperately wanted to believe they were the chosen ones. His personal life, however, continued to be a problem. At one point he returned from a preaching tour and caught his wife having an affair with a neighbor. Infuriated, Hensley attacked the man with a knife and was sentenced to a term on the road gang. He returned to making whiskey but after several years trying to eke

Cloud Nine
In-Home AMTA Massages
Gift Certificates

Terese Stevens, L.M.T.
AL License #992
256.337.6989

out a living decided to repent and become an evangelist again. Strangely, although he was a leader of a religion that believed a divorced person could never enter Heaven, he had married and divorced four times. He died in 1955 after being bitten by a Diamondback rattlesnake during a church service. In the preceding forty-six years Hensley had been bitten over four hundred times.

As the movement began spreading its beliefs began to change. At first it was believed that if a person was "annointed" he would not be bitten. After many people began suffering snake bites it was decided the bite was merely a test of faith. that their belief would make them immune to the poison. Then when people began dropping dead, it was taken as a sign that God was calling the "true believers home to a better place." This actually served as an impetus for more people to handle snakes.

Other members of the group began the practice of drinking poison as a test of their faith. In many of the churches the preacher would dissolve powdered strychnine into a jug of



"One of the advantages bowling has over golf is that you seldom lose a bowling ball."

Don Carter, pro-bowler



Featuring Fresh Cut Meats and Produce at Everyday Low Prices. We also Have Weekly Specials. 300 Jefferson Street Downtown Huntsville 539-0749



"Open To The Public"
No membership fees required

Open Monday - Friday 7:30 - 5:00 Saturday 8AM - 12 Noon

Proud to be serving Huntsville for 124 years

water and invite the believers to join them in a poisonous communion. Producers of the television show, Dateline, tested the poison used in a service in Jackson County and found it was diluted to a point where it was not harmful. Another test, however, at another church, showed the members drinking one hundred per cent pure strychnine, potent enough to kill anyone.

Many of the members also believed in handling fire; a practice which is believed to have began on Sand Mountain in the 1920s. A preacher at a revival, perhaps sensing that the congregation was getting tired of the same old snake handling, thrust his hand into a pot bellied coal stove and grabbed a handful of red hot coals, declaring that his faith in God would protect him. When the members saw that his hands were not burned, they too went forward for a handful of hot coals, proving, at least to themselves, that they were the chosen ones. As coal stoves became obsolete the practice has largely died out, although members still occasionally use kerosine heaters or candles; holding their hands, or bare arms, over the open flames for long periods of time.

In Madison County the sect saw it's hevday between 1920

and 1950. A church was started near Gurley and drew a fair strychnine poisoning, Alabama and Georgia followed by passing their own laws.

In 1951 Ruth Craig, of New Hope, took up serpents during a service that was being held at her home with the warning, "I'm going to handle this snake and anyone who doesn't believe had better leave." She was bitten four times and died shortly afterwards. A few years later a sawmill worker, Jim Thomas, died during services in Fort Payne. When Lloyd Hill, of Birmingham, was killed by a twenty-four pound rattlesnake at his church. over a thousand people filed by his open casket to pay respects.

With all the resulting publicity the religion went underground, confining it's presence

number of members until its minister picked up the wrong snake during a meeting and was killed. Other churches were started near Woodville and New Market and although they initially drew large crowds they too died out, mostly as a result of local prejudice. When Lewis Ford died from snake handling in 1945, in Grasshopper Valley, it led to the official banning of snake handling in Tennessee. In the next few years, after a spate of deaths by snakebite and

Shaver's Top 10 Books of Local & **Regional Interest**

- **1.** Why is it Named That? Stories behind 250 place names in Huntsville & Madison County by Dex Nilsson \$13.95
- 2. Scenic North Alabama - A travel guide to canyons, caverns, bridges (natural & covered) and waterfalls - by Robert Schuffert \$27.95
- **3.** Murder in the Heart of Dixie, Capital murder cases in Madison County, by Fred Simpson \$29.95
- **4**. Laughing with the Bear - Humorous tales of a coaching legend, by Madison writer Richard Sikes \$14.95
- **5.** Dear Sister. Civil War letters to a sister in Alabama. by Frank Chappell \$12
- **6.** Huntsville Then And Now: A Walk Through Downtown. Over 700 old & new photos by Fred B. Simpson, \$29.95.
- **7.** Poor Orphan Trash, the little book with a powerful message, by Mildred Holmes \$15
- 8. Old Huntsville Photo Albums on CD Rom. Vols I. II and III. Priceless black/white photos of Old Huntsville \$15.95 each.
- 9. Mr. Anderson's Monument, stories of Meridian Street, Lincoln Mill & Lincoln Village by Tillman Hill
- 10. Cemeteries of Madison County, Vols I and II, \$25 each.

Mail orders add \$2.50 per/book Alabama residents add 8% tax Shaver's Bookstore

> (256) 536-1604 shavers@mindspring.com

2362 Whitesburg Dr. Whitesburg at Bob Wallace Huntsville, Ala. 35801



mostly to small rural churches in the mountains of Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama where the authorities would turn a blind eye. Occasionally, as late as the 1980s, one could hear advertisements on the radio on Sand Mountain inviting people to a revival and telling them to "bring their boxes." Locally, members met in private homes or garages, often with dire consequences. One member, who lived on 9th Avenue, got in his car to go to work one morning and discovered a large and very angry copperhead snake coiled on the floor. On the steering wheel was a note: "If you want to handle snakes ... handle this one."

With its members scattered far and wide, and with few churches to attend, the movement took on a nomadic nature. Members would drive hundreds of miles to attend services and handle snakes in some hidden cove in the mountains, and then drive back home the same night. Oddly, the geographical distance between them served to draw the members into an even tighter knit group where the men would greet one another with a kiss on the lips and everyone was known



SPRY FUNERAL AND CREMATORY HOMES INC.

Family owned and operated since 1919

(256) 536-6654

We now have the first phase of

Valley View Cemetery open with 100 acres reserved for future development.

(256) 534-8361

as Brother and Sister.

Snake handling in North Alabama began a resurgence in the early 1990s when Glenn Summerford rented a converted service station near Scottsboro and started his own church, "The Church with Signs Following." Summerford, a small time hood who had been convicted of grand larceny and burglary, proved to be a highly charismatic and flamboyant leader who drank poison, handled snakes and red hot coals and often, if the spirit moved him, would stick his fingers into live electrical sockets.

Hundreds of people flocked to the church three times a week to listen to Brother Glenn and other traveling snake-handling evangelists. John Wayne Brown, who had began handling serpents at the age of seventeen, and his wife Melinda, were regular



Mexican Pine Furniture and Iron

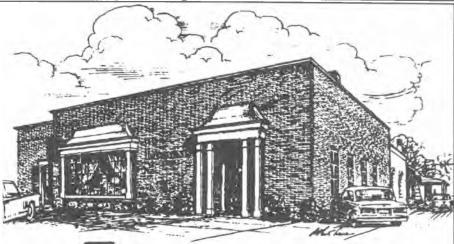
Live Entertainment Wed. Fri, & Saturdays

Open for Lunch & Dinner

Open Tues. - Sat. for fine dining and your enjoyment.

Visit our new Patio - one of the most popular places in town!

619 Meridian Street (256) 539-8001 Huntsville, Alabama



LAWREN*S

809 MADISON STREET HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

BRIDAL REGISTRY

China, Crystal, Silver, Pewter, Table Linen, Cookware.

Decorative Accessories, Invitations and Announcements, Lenox China & Crystal, Fine Linens & Cottons For Bed & Bath. attendees. Dewey Chafin, who had been bitten over one hundred times, brought snakes from Tennessee and took his turn at the pulpit. When his sister Columbia suffered a fatal bite, Chafin had the snake stuffed and kept it as an eerie souvenir.

Unfortunately, while the church itself was moving forward, Glenn Summerford's life was beginning a downward spiral of backsliding fueled by prodigious amounts of vodka and orange juice. When his wife began to suspect he was having an affair with another women in the church she had good reason to fear him; he had already broken her mother's jaw in a fit of anger during a family dinner.

It was later alleged that he had promised to marry his mistress on a certain date, which was probably the reason he decided his wife had to go. He attempted to accomplish this by grabbing her by the hair and forcing her to stick her hand in one of the cages holding his seventeen snakes. When she survived the first bite he repeated the same procedure the next day. That evening after Summerford had passed out in an alcoholic stupor his wife made her escape.

Pearson's
Flooring

Sanding & Refinishing
Fire and Water Restoration



2021 Clinton Av. West

A few days later the errant preacher was arrested and charged with attempted murder.

Summerford was convicted and sentenced to ninety-nine years in the penitentiary. Several weeks later Clyde Crossfield was bitten at the church and had to be flown by helicopter to Chattanooga. He survived the bite but many of the members believed he would not have been bitten at all if Summerford had been there to pray over the snake.

With Summerford in prison, attendance at the "Church with Signs Following" began to die out. John Wayne Brown died in a nearby church while handling a four-foot timber rattlesnake. His wife had died three years earlier after being bitten. Dewey Chafin, who had stuffed the snake that killed his sister, also

Open Delta

An eclectic band performing Blues - Rock - Folk



Now accepting bookings for selected engagements. For information call 256-694-7445



SANDERS 1215 Jordan Lane 837-6072 handled the wrong serpent and met his maker.

Today it is estimated that there are approximately 1500 people in this country who practice snake handling as part of their religion. Many of them live only a short drive from Huntsville

Woman Dies From **Chewing Gum**

from 1902 newspaper

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

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

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

When the young woman became engaged several months ago her fiance asked her to give up the habit. He told her it made him nervous to watch her jaws moving constantly and Miss Goodwin made a determined effort to give up the habit. She was unable to do so and several days ago was taken to the hospital suffering from lockjaw. Food and medicine were given her by means of a hypodermic syringe but she grew steadily worse. Her parents could not bear to see their daughter in agony but her fiance remained to the last at her bedside.

City Police Doing Good Job

From 1893 newspaper

Members of our City Police have shown commendable vigilance and energy in making two arrests yesterday. They arrested Frank Feltz, charged with breaking into the house of Julia Lee, and stealing \$2.50. They also arrested a man calling himself by several aliases, among them Washington Wiggins and George Tait, who was offering a mule for sale at a very low price. When

Happy marriages begin when we marry the ones we love, and they blossom when we love the ones we marry.

Ron Eyestone

Call for FREE

DELIVERY

questioned, he gave conflicting accounts as to his possession and ownership of the mule and was properly arrested, to await further information. If anyone here or hereabout has lost a mule, he had better examine the one Washington or George offered for sale.

> "It's too bad that things are so tough nowadays. I see where a few married women are having to work just to make ends meet."

> > Comment heard in 1957



Located In Historic Five Points

American - European - Primitive Asian Furniture - Unusual Gifts & Collectibles -

Unique Decorator Items

New Items Arriving Weekly!

Mon - Fri 11-6 Sat 10-5 Sunday 1-5 Located next to Domino's

609 Ward Ave. Huntsville, Al. 256-536-4334



Mon - Sat 10 - 5, Sun 1- 5

Booths now Available - call for details



Antiques, Fine Furniture. Books, Artwork and a large selection of Collectibles. 9000 sq. ft.

Visit www.RenaissanceTheatre.net



(Same or fewer toppings)
With Purchase of 18" Pizza

DELIVERY . CARRY-OUT . DINE IN

BUFFET HOURS

Monday - Friday 11:00am - 2:00pm Mon., Tues., Wed. 5:00pm - 9:00pm

881-5987 536-3389 9034 Parkway SW 3612 Governors Drive Haysland Square Across from Post Office 539-3467 2514 Memorial Pkwy NW

Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!

Yellow Fever Threatens Huntsville

City Under Quarantine - Bawdy Houses Closed

from 1879 newspaper

There is great excitement in Huntsville and all over the country (judging from telegraphic reports) about the yellow fever, and most of the principal cities and towns and many small towns and villages in the southwestern states and as far north as Louisville and Cincinnati have quarantined against Memphis.

A lewd woman from Memphis reached Huntsville last night, went to a bawdy house in Pin Hook, took sick, and the case is pronounced yellow fever. Our city officials have fenced in the bawdy house and forbid all communication.

On Saturday morning last the excitement was so great in Huntsville that a large meeting of citizens was held in the courthouse to consider the question of quarantine. Mayor Davis was

Writers

lished 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

called to the Chair and Frank Coleman appointed Secretary. After a few minutes retirement, Gen. Walker, for the Committee, reported resolutions in favor of instantaneous quarantine, with a quarantine station three miles west from town, on the M.C. R.R. Calling on County Judge Richardson to convene the Commissioners' Court to establish quarantine at the county line, and on the Governor of Alabama to proclaim a quarantine on the Eastern Mississippi line.

The committee were unanimous, except Ex-Mayor Murphy, who opposed instantaneous quarantine. J.W. Clay and Milton Humes opposed action of the meeting, without first consulting the local Board of Health—Drs. Dement, Baldridge and Bassett; and Capt. Humes' motion to adjourn till 5 p.m., to hear from the Board, prevailed. At 5 p.m., the courtroom was densely crowded. Gen. Walker read Committee's resolutions, and he and Col. Rhett advocated them.

The Board, sustained by Capt. Humes, opposed quarantine until the disease at Memphis should be declared epidemic, and due notice given to enable citizens of Memphis, who might desire to leave that city, to do so; and, then, the Board recom-

Stanlieo's

Sub Villa



Phone in your order and it will be ready at our Call-In window.

(usually 15 minutes)

Over 31 different Subs to choose from!

Two convenient locations to serve you. 607 Jordan Lane 837-7220 602 Governors Drive 536-6585

Open 7 Days Weekly

Monday-Friday Saturday Sunday 9:00am-10:00pm 10:00am-10:00pm 11:00am-9:00pm

Lumpkin Stained Glass

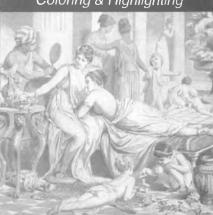
Custom Designs Repairs & Supplies Free Estimates



116 Oakwood Ave. 539-0532



Specializing in Cuts, Coloring & Highlighting



1701 University Dr. (corner Church and Pratt) (256) 534-5002

HOMEOWNERS

LOAN AMOUNT

MONTHLY PYMT.

\$100,000.00

\$408.24

\$200,000.00

\$816.48

\$300,000,00

\$1224.72

Rates effective 07/27/03 based on 1 year ARM & subject to change.

• Purchase

Refinancing

Debt Consolidation

Construction

LAWHORN ASSOCIATES MORIGAGE COMPANY INC 539-0555

1-888-736-5319 AmSouth Center

200 Clinton Ave, Suite 509
www.lawhornmortgagecompany.com

mended rigid quarantine to be established, amounting to absoute non-intercourse with the yellow fever region.

Capt. Humes moved the adoption of the Board's views as a substitute for the committee's resolutions. A vote was taken by tellers, and the substitute adopted by about 5 to 1. Saturday night, the Mayor and Aldermen met and resolved to exclude all freight, except ice, sent from Memphis, fixing the penalty for violation of this resolution at \$50 for each package landed here.

On Monday night, a telegram from Supt. Grant, M.C. R.R. at Memphis, stating that 35 new cases for the day were reported, was read, and the Board passed a resolution by advice of the Board of Health of Huntsville, that a quarantine be established against all persons, freight and baggage of every description from Memphis; that R.R. trains from Memphis be stopped at a station one mile east and one mile west of Huntsville, and that the health officer shall board and rigidly inspect every train, and allow no person from Memphis or any other infected town to get off here; that no train shall run less than six miles an hour though Huntsville or stop within the city limits; that the M. C. R.R. authorities shall be immediately notified of this resolution; that one health officer and one policeman be appointed to enforce this quarantine; and that any violator of these regulations shall be

fined and punished to the full extent of the law.

Dr. H.W. Bassett, was appointed Inspecting Health Officer, and W.J. Franks special policeman. From Saturday to Tuesday, one or two hundred, perhaps, of persons from Memphis came to Huntsville. On Tuesday, a number were required to pass on, and some of them, we understand, returned on the western bound train and stopped here.

Absolute non-intercourse is, probably, impossible by any municipal regulations, but

should now be enforced as far as possible. Our Board of Health pronouces Huntsville in a better sanitary condition than ever before. We believe it and shall hope and believe that the yellow scourge will not prevail here as it has in so many other areas.

"Please excuse Ray for being absent yesterday. He had a cold and could not breed well."

(Actual parent's excuse sent to a local school.)

Free Attorney Consultation for Bankruptcy

9

MITCHELL HOWIE & RUSSELL

533-2400



No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

MILLER & MILLER

General Contractors
Celebrating Our 42nd Year

Proud To Be American

EL PALACIO OF MEXICAN FOOD



"Sizzling Fajitas Are Our Specialty"
VOTED HUNTVILLE'S BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

All You Care To Eat" Every Wednesday 5PM - 9PM
Special Lunch Buffet Mon - Fri 11AM to 2PM
Lunch Specials Saturday & Sunday
Open 7 Days & Week

Open 7 Days A Week
COMPLETE TAKE OUT MENU

BANQUET FACILITIES



EST. 1966

256-539-6075 · 256-534-9161

2008 MEMORIAL PKWY SW

News From The Year 1904

- Thos. Whitely, the Louisville & Nashville brakeman who was hurt last Sunday by falling from a moving freight train near Decatur, was out again yesterday. His experience lately has been quite varied.

He is a youth about 20 years old, and has been employed for some time by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company. About six weeks ago, as the train on which he was riding crossed the river, he was knocked from the side of the caboose as he was climbing up the ladder. He fell into the water and swam to shore, where he fell insensible. The train stopped and took him to Huntsville, where he remained lingering between life and death

for three weeks.

He was then taken to the Nashville infirmary and had just recovered and gone to work when he fell from the car at Cunningham, bruised and cut his head and sprained his knee. He is now walking with a hickory and will be ready for another accident in a few days.

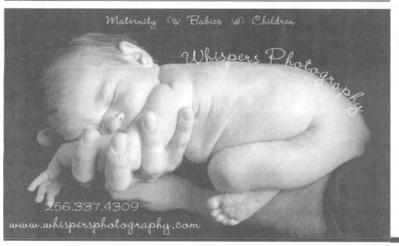
- Mrs. C.E. Jordan died very suddenly while in the care of her dentist. Death was attributed to heart failure. Eleven teeth had been extracted by Dr. W.S. Meyers. As a result of the unfortunate death, Mrs. W.C. Miller of Huntsville, a sister of Mrs. Jordan who was with her at the time, and Mrs. John Glenn, her mother, became hysterical when they learned the news, and were compelled to be placed under the care of their physicians.

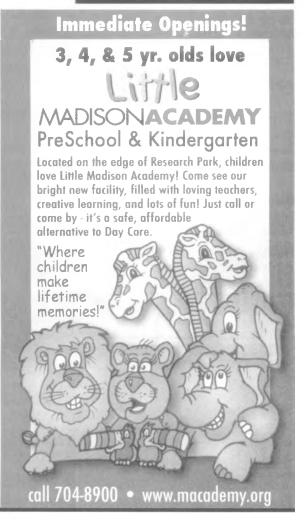
- A negro by the name of Sharpe appeared in the

recorder's court and complained that while driving his mule along East Holmes street last night his mule ran into a pile of brick, the presence of which was not disclosed by any sign of warning. His mule broke his leg but was not shot.











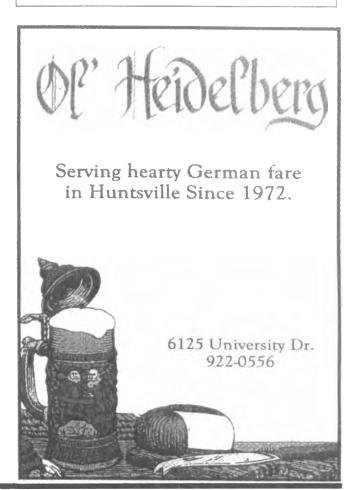




Northern and Southern Italian Foods At Reasonable Prices.

Sunken Garden room seats up to 45 for Private parties - call now to reserve

> 964 Airport Road 885-0505



Huntsville Coffee Talk by Aunt Eunice

With pearls of wisdom contributed by the Liar's Table

Well, the holidays are over and it's time to slow down for a while. This past month has been busy and I have have had so many friends stop by here at **Big Spring Care** to visit me.

Greg Anderson stopped by. He's the new pastor at Twickenham Church of Christ and what a wonderful young man he is! He has only been in Huntsville for 6 months - he came here with his family from Nashville. His wife **Dalene** and twin boys are happy to make Huntsville their new home.

Billy Bell says to say hello to everyone. He's delighted that his mother is doing so much better. He's going soon to Gulf Shores for an awards ceremony.

Isn't Huntsville a beautiful city? Look at how clean it is is, how little traffic we have and what great people we have living here. People who live in Huntsville are truly blessed.

Jane Smith came to visit and brought me a beautiful little Christmas tree with lights. It sure did cheer me up.

Robert Madison came to see me with his nephew Wesley Madison, who's here for a week and is soon going back to Iraq. I'm so proud of our military and guardsmen who are working over there. Wesley was sure a handsome, and sweet, young man.

We ran into our councilman **Glenn Watson** the other day at Little Farm Grill having breakfast. He looked great but said he was getting over a bad coldand sounds like half the people we know nowadays. Get well Glenn!

I hope all of you are staying warm and cozy this winter. I don't mind the sunny cold days - it's the drizzly gray days that I don't like.

Chuck and Annelie Owens are getting ready to head off for Tampa on their annual 2-month trek to the warmer climes. They sure do look forward to that every year.

I want to send a big hello out to **Jean Reid**, wife of **Joe**. She hasn't been feeling well lately and I sure do love that lady.

Our good friend **Jim Vaughn** continues to recuperate after a bad accident the early part of the year. We're thinking about you, Jim.

Liz Waggett visited her parents, Anne and John Casey, in Satellite Beach, Florida for the Thanksgiving holidays. Joe, Liz's husband, got to ride his motorcycle here in Huntsville while Liz was gone. Joe has been on jury duty really enjoyed it.

Barney Gamble, a member of the Golden K Kiwanis, was in the hospital recently. We sure hope you're feeling better, Barney!

We were so sorry to hear about the deaths of **Ben Johnson** and **Jim Latham** this past month. They had both written for Old Huntsville and will be missed. Ben was only 53.

We were sure glad to hear that the **Hudson's** and their company, **Cityscapes**, will be developing 3 restaurants in the old Zesto's location in 5 Points. If **Paul Thornton** (of Pauli's and

Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the boy shown below, wins a free year's subscription to "Old Huntsville" magazine. Call (256) 534-3355.

Hint: This handsome boy grew up on the Creek out in the country.





Adams Alley • Clift's Cove • Heritage Plantation Heritage Provence • Heritage Station • King's Ridge Walker's Hill • Mt. Carmel by the River • The Bridges



www.enfingerdevelopment.com 256-533-1155



ENFINGER

DEVELOPMENT

Communities that encourage Balanced Living

Washington Square) is taking care of it, we know it'll be a great addition to that area.

We were so very sorry to hear about **Lisa Johnson**, who died very unexpectedly. There were so many people at her memorial service that it was hard even to get in. We know her family and friends are devastated and I send my love out to you.

Loretta (our Mayor) has been by to see me several times. Regardless of how busy she is, she always makes time to make sure folks are feeling OK.

Our good friends **Barb** and **Ron Eyestone** just came back after spending their holidays with their parents in Florida. Even though the weather was better, they sure missed Huntsville!

Joe Whisenant is still having fun cooking - I'm looking forward to our 2nd annual cookout we'll have next year!

A huge congratulations to some newlyweds we saw the other day - Rosa and Andy Karabinos were married September 13 and sure look like a couple of lovebirds!

Saranel Davis is sure proud of her son **"Rip" Detamore**, who is serving as a General in Iraq.

Everyone was so sorry to hear about the death of **John Kinzer**. He has many relatives and friends in Huntsville who remember him and will miss him so much. He will never be forgotten here in Huntsville.

Congratulations to Sam Keith as well as Buck and Janet Watson on the birth of their grandchild. Marshall Keith Plane was born on November 13. The proud parents, who currently live in New York, are LeAnna and Brian Plane. We hear that they came for a visit over Christmas.

Rebecca McKinney and her husband **John**, both attorneys, are expecting a baby in spring. It is their first and we know they are excited!

Mary Grimes is just about fully recovered from her foot surgery. She's the wife of Vic Grimes who is the Club Historian for the Golden K Kiwanis.

Jimmy Tolen sends a big hello to all his friends. He says he thinks he has a couple of them here in Huntsville!

We sure hope that **John Gurley** is feeling better. He has had a hard time of it lately.

Lawanda Allison really had a great time visiting all the beautiful homes on the Twickenham Home Tour. She said it was cold and windy, but worth it. There's nothing prettier than all those candles lining the streets in Old Town and Twickenham on that one night.

We heard that **Louie Tippett** and his wife **Jane** had a real nice Christmas party. They are always so sweet and it is a pleasure to know them.

That's all for now, but remember I sure do love all of you and please come see me!

Are you a futures trader?

For quotes, research, and trading discipline call:

Benny Little Branch Manager www.agedwards.com

400 Meridian Street Suite 201 Huntsville, AL 35801 (256) 534-2180 Toll Free: (877) 428-2180

AGE dwards
INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887

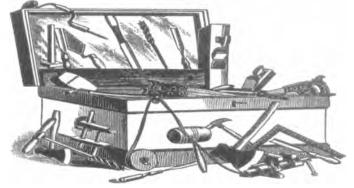
Member SIPC • 2001 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

Member of the New York Stock Exchange and all principal commodity exchanges. More than 690 offices nationwide.



Reid Hardware

Home of Pocket Knives, Red Wagons & Cast Iron Skillets



Come by and let us assist you for all your Hardware & Plumbing needs

Serving Huntsville Since 1962 536-2616 2402 Mem. Pkwy. NW, Huntsville, Ala.



Southern Vam Pie

1 1/2 lb. yams baked til soft 1 c. sugar or syrup 1/4 lb. butter Nutmeg

Peel cooked yams. Beat all ingredients til well blended and pour into 8" pie shell. Bake at 350 til crust and filling are lightly browned. Serve with whipped cream and sprinkle with crushed peanuts.

Easy Hot Dish

Into a casserole, crumble 1 pound lean ground beef. Add 5 medium potatoes, sliced; 2 medium-size onions, chopped; 1 cup green beans, seasoning as you go. Pour 1 pint tomato juice over, cover and bake 2 hours.

Fresh Corn Cakes

6 large ears of corn cut from cob

Add 1/2 c. flour

1 egg, 1 T. oil, salt and pepper to taste

Mix well and bake on hot griddle. Serve for breakfast or hearty lunch.

Leather Britches

On a heavy thread and needle string green beans. Hang in a warm place to dry. Can be placed on a screen to dry. When completely dry store in a dry place for winter.

To cook, place amount desired in boiling water - add good piece of jowl of bacon, salt to taste and cook til tender.

Apple slices can be dried this way and eaten all winter as snacks for the family.

Bread Soup

2 c. water

2 T. olive oil or bacon grease

2 cloves garlic minced

Salt to taste

1 mint sprig

2 eggs

4 slices white bread

Bring water, oil and salt to boil. Poach the eggs in the boiling water. In serving bowl place bread and mint. Pour boiling water and eggs over the bread, cover and let stand a few minutes to soak.

Cockeyed Cake

1 1/2 c. plain flour

1 c. sugar

1 t. soda

1/2 t. salt

3 T. cocoa

3 t. oil

1 t. vinegar

FIVE POINTS RESTAURANT

"Under New Ownership - Scott & Cheryl Huber"
Good Fresh Food In A Fresh New Atmosphere

Breakfast Specials

Two Fresh eggs, any style, Bologna, Bacon or Sausage, Grits or Gravy, Biscuit & Jelly \$2.99 Country Ham Breakfast \$5.89

816 Wellman Ave. 534-7752 Located in Historic Five Points

ONE BLOCK OFF ANDREW JACKSON

Plate Lunches

Served From 11:00am - 2:00pm Your Choice Of One Meat and Vegetables \$4.99



1 t. vanilla

1 c. cold water

Combine dry ingredients with a wire whisk. Make 3 wells and pour oil, vinegar and vanilla separately into each well. Pour cold water over all and mix well with wire whisk. Bake in 9 inch pan 30 minutes at 350.

Applesauce Cookies

1 1/2 c. brown sugar 1 c. applesauce 2 egg whites, frothy 1/4 c. cream 3 3/4 c. flour 1 t. baking powder 1/2 t. soda 1/2 t. salt

Cream sugar and applesauce. Add egg whites and beat well, add cream and beat again. Whisk dry ingredients together in bowl. Stir well into creamed mixture. Chill for an hour then roll into walnut size balls, flatten with hand and bake 10 minutes at 375. Frost with Browned Butter Frosting, follows:

Browned Butter Frosting

2 T. butter

2 c. powdered sugar

1/4 c. skim milk

Brown butter in small frypan. Stir in powdered sugar with enough milk to allow easy spreading. Spread over cookies while still warm.

Chewies

1 egg

1/2 t. vanilla

3/4 c. brown sugar

1/2 c. flour 1/8 t. soda

Whisk egg lightly, add vanilla and brown sugar and whisk to blend. Stir in flour and soda with spatula. Spread in 8" oiled pan and bake at 350 for 20-25 minutes til golden. Cut while still warm and loosen from pan after 15 minutes.

Sausage Hash

1 onion, halved lengthwise, then sliced crosswise

4 oz. sausage

1 lb. red potatoes, uncooked, unpeeled, sliced thin

Layer in a buttered pan in order given. Cook, covered, on medium-high, turning to brown evenly, about 20 minutes.

Surprise Shredded Wheat

6 c. shredded wheat biscuits (large size)

1 c. hot skim milk

Pour heated milk in shallow bowl. Dip each biscuit into milk, turning once with spatula to allow milk to saturate it. Lift carefully with spatula, draining excess milk, and brown in oiled pan til golden on each side. Serve with maple syrup. This will be a huge hit with your family!

Commercial

Business Cards, Letterheads, Envelopes, Flyers, Labels Doorhangers, Brochures, NCR Forms, Snapsets Presentation Folders

Computer Forms & Checks

CUSTOM & SOFTWARE COMPATIBLE: Continuous & Laser Forms, Checks & Labels

Social & Business

Invitations & Announcements, Napkins, Ribbons Engraving & Foil Stamping, Matchbooks Graduation & Name Cards

Ad Specialties

Pens, Pencils, Mugs, Caps, Lanyards, Key Tags Magnets, Rubber Stamps, Political Signs, Buttons

- Too Many Items to List -

Baked Mashed Potatoes

Using 2 cups of leftover mashed potatoes, add 2 T. butter, 2 eggs and 1 cup milk, salt and pepper. Mix well, bake in a casserole in a hot oven til brown.



Registered Representative for NYLIFE Securities Inc.

200 Clinton Avenue, Suite 600 Huntsville, AL 35801 256 533-9770

New York Life Insurance Company

2309 Starmount Circle Huntsville, AL 35801 Bus. 256 551-2700 Cell 256 990-5450 Fax 256 536-3291 bgbryanjr@ft.newyorklife.com www.gannbryan.nylagents.com



Printing Services

3308 Seventh Avenue, S.W. Huntsville, Alabama 35805

534-4452

fax: 256-534-4456 email: linprint@mindspring.com web: www.linprint.cceasy.com

VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

The End of the War

by Bushwhacker Johnston

A true and authentic account of the end of the war in Huntsville and Madison County as described by one of the leading participants.

Lee has surrendered, Joseph Johnston has surrendered, and as far as we know, all have surrendered. Hence it looks very much like we have been beaten and all is lost. "Now, boys, hear me for the last time. Had I no one depending on me for a living and no one to care for but myself, and just one man to walk by my side and press Southern soil, just as long as we had strength to stand upon our feet we would fight those blue-coats hilt to hilt. But your unworthy commander has a family depending upon him for support. Therefore, for their sake we are going to surrender, and you who wish to go with us shall have the best terms possible to be made."

A large majority of those present agreed to surrender with us, while the rest refused the proposition. At once, we sent a dispatch to the Federal commander in Huntsville, which ran as follows:

"General Granger,

Dear Sir: We have concluded to surrender our command, provided you will give us a living chance. But we wish it distinctly understood that after we surrender, we are not to be marched through the streets of Huntsville, to be tantalized like so many monkeys, or court martialed, shot, or hung like so many dogs; or in other words, if we are forced to sell out, we intend to sell out at the very highest price. We repeat it, give us a living chance and we will surrender all the men we can get to come in."

General Granger replied, in substance, as follows:

"Major Johnston, Dear Sir: I will grant you, with pleasure, the same terms that were granted to General Lee and General Johnston.

Respectfully, Granger."

At the same time he proceeded to state the terms so plainly that they could not be misunderstood. reader will understand that there had been so many threats against our command that we had no notion of surrendering until the terms were laid down in black and white.

After a few more dispatches had passed between the

two parties, the terms of surrender were agreed upon, and General Granger appointed a man to receive the surrender, while we









appointed a man to make it. Rather in "grand army" style, the reader will perceive. Colonel William Given was appointed by General Granger to receive the surrender. In the meantime, we had requested the general to allow none of his men to come south of the Memphis & Charleston railroad until after we had met him, giving as a reason that it would tend to scatter our men and render it difficult to get them together to surrender. We shall have more to say about Colonel Given as we proceed, for there were things that occurred while we were with him that much astonished us. Wherever we touched the colonel, he proved to be all over a man: and we would add that he was the first blue-coat that had given us this evidence since the war began. We were to meet Colonel Given at Trough Spring on the side of the mountain, about half way between the base and the summit. And at the appointed time away we went to become prisoners of war.

We arrived at the appointed place first, which was on the public road leading from Huntsville to Vienna (New Hope). We did not have to wait long until we heard the bluecoats coming. There was quite a crowd of them, and they had two brass bands. And to finish the thing up, well,

they had brought along a ten gallon demijohn, which they said was full of old apple brandy. In the crowd were Dr. Patton, Squire Tabor, and old Ben Jolly, all staunch friends of Johnston and his boys, and they were present to make as fair weather for the bushwhackers as possible.

As they approached, the Federals were making the welkin ring with music. As soon as we heard them coming, we had a white rag hung high in the air. Then we beheld a Union flag with a white flag waving close by its side, advancing to meet us. Colonel Given and our appointed officer met first, after which this notorious bushwhacker advanced and was introduced to

the colonel. As soon as the formal salutations were ended, the bushwhacker remarked. "Colonel, permit me to say that vou are the first Federal, officer private, whom I have met since the war began who treated me as if I had been anything above a fourfooted animal."

The colonel replied, "I am sorry to hear that, major."

"I know that is plain language, colonel," we rejoined, "but it is nevertheless the unvarnished truth."

In a few minutes Colonel Homer, who had fallen in behind us with his regiment, came marching up. As soon as the major laid eyes on him, he turned to Colonel Given, saying, "If we had met that man ten minutes before we met you, there would have been a fight, for we never intended to surrender to that fellow." And we found before we got through with him, that Given was not burdened with respect toward Homer.

Soon they began to drink their apple water, and some of

CUSTOM EXTERIORS

Specializing In Vinyl Siding

- * Garages * Vinyl Windows
- * Patio Cover * Scree
- * Decks
- * Screen Rooms
- * Licensed & Insured

Call 256-216-1802

Life Insurance-Annuities Long Term Care Insurance

Protect Your Retirement Assets With Long Term Care Insurance.

(Includes Home Health Care)

J. TILLMAN WILLIAMS, CLU

3313 Memorial Parkway

#123

Phone

Huntsville, AL. 35801

(256) 882 761

RENAISSANCE THEATRE at Lincoln Center

2 Comedies! Greet the New Year with lots of laughter and say good-bye to your winter woes!

Upstairs on the Renaissance Stage: The Reunion of the White Trash Beauticians in: "Dark Roots" by Tommy Howell January 15, 16, 17, 23, 24 @ 8 pm, Sunday Jan. 18 @ 2:30 pm

Downstairs at the Alpha Stage: "The Eight: Reindeer Monologues" by Jeff Goode

January 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 @8 pm, Jan. 25 @ 5 pm

1216 Meridian St. - Call 536-3117 to reserve your tickets.

Tickets available at Shavers Book Store & Lincoln Center Antiques

Check upcoming events at www.renaissancetheatre.net

Billiard Street Cafe

Billiards - Live Entertainment -Fine Food & Spirits



2703 University Drive - 534-6000

them became rather lively. Among other things, they urged the major to drink also: and they kept pressing him so that he became uneasy, lest they should try to pour it down him. At length he said, "Gentleman, if I were in the habit of drinking at all I would drink with you today, but you must excuse me for I do not drink with man, woman, nor child." Just at that moment, Dr. Debow said, "I am authorized to do Major Johnston's drinking." Which gave the major elbow room to slip out.

Thus things went on for some time, and the Federals, if no one else, seemed to enjoy themselves hugely. The agreement was that we were to be paroled on the ground and set at liberty. But presently it began to rain, and there was little chance to write paroles in the rain. Colonel Given then proposed that we march into town, where we could find shelter. But we objected. He continued to urge and we to object. At this crisis up stepped old Uncle Ben Jolly, and with his strong commanding voice called

out, "Major, move into town with your men. It is true we cannot treat you as well as we would like to. But I've got plenty of meat and bread, and two large rooms covered with carpets where your men can he crossed and piled. Besides, I've got the best Rebel gal in all America."

Then Colonel Given began to urge again, and under the pressure of both we yielded. When the latter was appointed to receive our surrender, he asked our courier some pointed questions. First: "Are not Johnston's "men poor men?" "They are." Second: `Will they not need their horses in order to make a crop?"

"They will."

"Well, you tell the major to dismount his command and come into town on foot, for if I do not see their horses I will not have to report them." This sounded strange coming from a Federal soldier. When Ben Jolly had finished, Colonel Given pitched in the second time. He was standing in the midst of his officers, when he called out, "Major, it is true your men laid down

their arms, but let them shoulder them again and march right into town, and if I had my way, I would allow your men to keep their arms to kill Borne of those rascals who might give them trouble."

We leave the reader to draw his own conclusions, while we pass on. The time we are writing

First Baptist Church

Sunday

9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Worship (Broadcast live on WHNT Channel 19) 5:00 Discipleship Training 6:30 Worship

Wednesday

5:00 Fellowship Supper 5:45 Prayer Meeting

428-9400 - www.fbchsv.org "Your Place For Life"

600 Governors Drive just East of Mem. Pkwy

You haven't seen 'affordable' Assisted Living until you've seen Hearthstone!

superior senior care! It's what we do best! Your monthly rent includes bathing, dressing and grooming assistance, three nutritious meals daily, activities, housekeeping, transportation, and much more! At Hearthstone, even small pets are welcome! Call us today.





Call us today 256-882-2727

about was the middle of May, 1865, and what we have just mentioned occurred in the afternoon. As it continued to rain, we were finally compelled to go into the pity. And as we entered the city, there were two roads, one entering the upper and the other the lower part of town. The arsenal where they intended to deposit our arms was in the lower part. Colonel Homer, who was in advance, hook the right hand road, while Colonel Given took the left hand, leading to the arsenal. We had not advanced far into the town, when Homer sent a courier across a number of streets, ordering Given to take the right hand road. We were by the colonel's side when he received the order and saw his eve flash as he answered. "You tell Colonel Homer that I am in command here, and he will do well to attend to his own business."

In a few minutes we halted near the arsenal, when a number of citizens and soldiers gathered about us. And while our arms were being stored away, we could hear the soldiers and citizens making various remarks, when one of them exclaimed: "Well, those fellows did more execution than any set of men I ever heard of, to use such pokestalks for guns."

If we had been so minded, we could have made the secret plain to him. The fact was when we found out we had to surrender, we hid our best guns in caves for safe keeping. And we are of the opinion that there were no better arms of the kind in all the United States than those we hid away. On the other hand we doubt whether a sorrier set of guns could have been gathered

The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.

Mahatma Gandhi

up in all Dixie than those we surrendered.

Night came on very soon after our arms were stored away, and the next thing that concerned us most was a place of lodging. But the enemy put no special guard over us, but allowed us to stay with our old friends, while the citizens vied with each other in trying to make us comfortable.

The next morning when everything was in a bustle up and down the streets, our boys were gathering at the point at which they were to be paroled. When we reached Colonel Given's headquarters, he gave us a firm grip of the hand, as a pleasant smile spread over his face. He began business at once, and while writing the paroles, in stepped one of his aides and said, "Colonel, there is a U.S. horse out here."

Raising his head, the colonel replied, "You may go away from here, sir. There may be a U.S. horse out there, but I do not see him."



bad man once or twice in her

life to be thankful for a good

one."

CD up for Renewal?

Call today to d

Call today to discuss your options.

John K. Walters - Accredited Asset Management Specialist 400 Meridian Street, Huntsville, Alabama 256-534-2180 john.walters@agedwards.com

Member SIPC • 2003 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.

A.G.Edwards

Licensed - Insured
References - Free Estimates

539-1848

Additions / Remodeling
Specialists

Perhaps an explanation would not be out of place here. When the United States government bought or captured a horse, it was branded with U.S. and ever afterwards it claimed to be Uncle Sam's property.

Colonel Given continued his writing, but it was not long before the same fellow came back and said, "Colonel, there are three or four U.S. horses out here." We saw at once the colonel was stirred, for he used such strong language in reply that we shall not repeat it. Among other things he said, "If I were to go out there perhaps I would find half a dozen U.S. horses, but I do not see them. Sir, you go away from here, and stay when you are gone." The fact was there were more than half a dozen horses there, but the terms of surrender were that our officers were to retain their horses as well as their side arms. After so long time our command was paroled

and released as citizens of the United States.

When the men of our command arrived at their respective homes, taking their horses with them, we settled down to make a living, and to accept the situation as best we could. And although the Reconstruction period that followed proved something harassing, we tried to be loyal to our oath and make good citizens of the restored union. It is true that as a consequence of war, bitter feelings were stirred up in the minds and hearts of the opposing parties. But we were willing to forgive and to ask forgiveness; and after more than thirty-five years have passed by, we have not seen fit to change our mind.

"Marriage changes passion.
All of a sudden, you're in bed
with a relative."

Janie Rutherford

West Station Antiques

In Historic Downtown Madison

Books - Paper Items
Postcards - Linens - Quilts
Pottery - China - Glassware
Sterling Silver - Jewelry
Furniture

Visit us at our website: www.gibsonbooks.com

256-772-0373 112 Main Street Madison, Al. 35758

Directions: 565 to Exit 8 - Exit North to Main Street

New Hours: Tues - Sat 10 - 5 Closed Sun & Mon



Jig Springs Spécialty Care Center

"A Place You Can Feel Good About"

We maximize your Medicare benefits!

We specialize in rehabilitation, Skilled nursing Physical Therapy Occupational Therapy & Speech Therapy

We have all the care you need!

Big Springs Specialty Care Center

Located 2 blocks from Huntsville Hospital - 2 blocks from Huntsville Library - behind 1st Baptist Church

(256) 539-5111



The Depression Days

by Ruby Crabbe

Times were hard back in the depression days of 1929. People were called "well-to-do" if they could have two bowls of Hoover Gravy for Sunday breakfast instead of one bowl. The kids called gravy "cob sop;" their parents called it "growing mash." Tasted pretty good if you had a nice slab of steak or lean to go with it.

A lot of the drippings from fatback were used in making lye soap-that is, if you didn't use it all in making gravy. That soap was used in washing clothes, cleaning, and washing all 2,000 parts of your body. The big iron wash pot the lye soap was made in also was used in making the finest hominy this side of the Mason-Dixon line.

Our mama, Josie Allen, had the prettiest, cleanest floors in Dallas Village. Or, at least, we kids thought she did. On floor scrubbing day, she would send us to the ball park where Rison School had ball games. A big ditch ran alongside of the ball field and in that ditch we would get a big sack of sand, carry it home, sprinkle it on the floor, and lightly scrub with clear wa-

ter. A lot of people wondered how Mama had such clean floors. And, I remember a lot of people bragging on Mama's silverware. Her little secret of having sparkling clean silverware was also unique. She would take the silverware, find a nice clean spot in our yard, and everyone of us would take one piece of silverware at a time and stick it down in the ground and rub it up and down, up and down. Then Mama would take all the silverware back into the house, wash it with

scalding water, rinse it real good and then dry it, piece by piece, with a dish towel. That silverware, after all those many years ago, is still as bright and shiny as the first day it was bought.

Oh, yes, the Hoover Days during the depression were hard on everyone, but that didn't dampen the spirit of us kids hatching up jokes to pull on people. Bill Jaco lived next door to us on Rison Avenue, and he could always come up with a good joke on someone or a good laugh for ev-

Serving

Huntsville

Since 1975

Your Permanent Lifetime Solution!

Metal Roofing

Standing Seam - Hidden Fasteners

- * Residential & Commercial
- * Seamless Gutters
- * Vinyl Siding
- * Patio Cover
- * Florida Rooms
- * Screen Enclosures
- * Window Replacement
- * All Work Covered By Warranty
- * Free Estimates

118 Spacegate Drive - Huntsville, Al 35806 Phone 859-4440 - Fax 859-4441 website: www.naapinc.com

A North Alabama
LUMINUM
PRODUCTS

Star Market and Pharmacy

Your Friendly Neighborhood Pharmacy & Grocery Store

Located In Historic Five Points 702 Pratt Ave. 534-4509



eryone. I remember the day he made the finest "street car" dummy you've ever seen. That's the first dummy and the last dummy I've ever seen that looked so alive. On Stevens Avenue and 5th Street (renamed Andrew Jackson Way), a bench was placed next to a big tree so the street car would-be riders would have a place to sit while waiting for the street car.

When Bill caught that bench empty he placed his dummy right on the bench. There that look-alive dummy sat—legs crossed, work shoes on, hat pulled down over his eyes as if taking a nap, or resting his stomach from eating so much Hoover gravy. He looked more like a man resting from a hard day's work. I declare, he looked more alive than a lot of people who had occupied that bench. Bill was hiding behind that tree when the dummy's first victim ascended next to him. A little old lady, bless her heart — I never did find out who she was, but she spoke to that dummy, "Nice day, isn't it, sir." Not getting a response, she leaned over toward the dummy to speak again, but her movement shook the bench and off the

dummy went right on top of her feet. With a whoop and a holler, she came off that bench, and down the street she went like a whirlwind that knew no direction. She was yelling, "dead man, dead man," and gaining speed with every word.

Minutes later, an ambulance drove up, followed by the biggest crowd of people you've ever seen. People were coming up the street, down the street, across the street, and a few seemed to appear out of nowhere. After a lot of questioning, searching and hunting, the ambulance left and the crowd slowly disappeared. A lot of people, after all those years, are still wondering about the

"dead man's" disappearance. What I've wondered about after all these many years is where in the world did the little old lady go.



New Orleans 463 miles away. Po Boys, just around the corner We are known for great food, great Tues. - Sat 11-9 Closed Sunday and Mon-

Whiskey For Sale

from 1817 newspaper

The subscriber has about one thousand gallons of good whiskey which he offers for sale on reasonable terms, either for cash or on liberal credit.

Also, two or three likely slaves - girls, women, & men, all of which he will sell on accommodating terms by applying to him living in Giles County, Tenn., 3 miles south of Pulaski.

- E.J. Baily

STOP

Stop... Overpaying Your Taxes!
Stop... Paying Hidden Fees on IRAs!

FREE MONTHLY WORKSHOPS

Join us for refreshments and learn how to make the tax system work for you!

NO OBLIGATION to purchase anything at these free seminars!

You've worked a lifetime for your savings... it could only take a few months to wipe it out (especially in today's uncertain and stressful world of finance). Join us to learn Simple and Easy Tax Reduction Strategies.

Topics Covered:

How to Reduce your Taxes and Raise your Income
How to bypass Probate without expensive Trusts
Secrets your Financial Advisor doesn't want you to know
And many more money saving tips!

Call for Details and reservations to our Free Monthly Workshops hosted by:

Alan Blackmon 900 Bob Wallace Ave #124 Huntsville AL 35801 (256) 533-6108

Securities offered through: Horwitz & Associates, Inc. Member: NASD SIPC MSRB Clearing through: Advanced Clearing

Old News

1917 - Helen Keller, the famous deaf, dumb and blind daughter of Capt. A.H. Keller of Tuscumbia, is expected in our city on this afternoon's train to visit her relatives, Capt. and Mrs. George P. Turner. The ladies of our city have arranged to give this wonderful child a reception at the Opera House on tomorrow, Thursday evening.

A program has been arranged of a musical and literary character for the occasion and the small sums of 25 cents and 15 cents admission will be charged. The proceeds are to be used for the Helen Keller fund for educating children afflicted like herself. She is now educating a little boy and the interest on her fund will educate, we hope, many more. Assistance from the South would be a tribute to Helen in appreciation of her efforts.

1817 - The subscriber has

for sale seven likely Virginia born slaves - consisting of men, women and girls. Apply at Mr. D. Rather's Tavern. Also, an elegant Dearborn wagon and harness with a gig top. Clifton Steele, Huntsville, Ala.

1826 - Ran away from the subscriber within seventeen miles north of Huntsville on the Meridian road on the 4th July, a negro girl named Sally, speaks English and the French language, twenty years of age, 5 feet 4 or 5 inches high, of a yellow complexion, full face and a pleasing countenance, had on when she went away a white cotton frock.

She has all her clothes with her, and it is likely she may alter her dress in yellow calico. She wears a handkerchief on her head and has a scar on one of her arms, some marks of the small pox.

The property formerly belonged to Mr. Loyd, who brought her from Pensacola, to which he

expects she will aim to get back again. Whoever brings home the said negro or secures her so that I can get her again shall receive the above reward.



Over 3000 sq. ft of affordable antiques, furniture, unique garden and gift items - Open Wed - Sat



day of it - eat & shop in one location

Ø

Make

4083 Eva Road, Eva, Al. 256-796-1862

Cahoots

Located across from Annalees.

Light Fare in a Victorian atmosphere - Open for breakfast and lunch. Wed-Sat 8am - 2pm

Take 65 South, take Falkville exit, turn left and travel 8 miles

Worth The Trip!

"North Alabama's Most Trusted Name In Digital Hearing Technology"

Call TODAY to Schedule Your No Obligation FREE Hearing Exam!

AFFORDABLE

Better Hearing

HEARING AIDS

(256) 534-EARS

2109-C Bob Wallace Avenue Huntsville, AL 35805 (256) 534-3277 (Across The Street From Jerry Damson Honda) All Digitals All Hearing Aids All Sizes



Limited Time Offer on All Hearing Aids!

HEARING INSTRUMENTS MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR ALL HEARING LOSSES, INDIVIDUALS MUST HAVE THEIR HEARING TESTED TO DETERMINE NEED AND SUITABILITY.

Monte Sano Railroad

Near the intersection of Toll-gate Road and Bankhead Park-way in northeast Huntsville are several entrances into the western slope of Monte Sano mountain. Take any one of these trails and you will find yourself going back into another time, a time of long ago, a time when Huntsville was much simpler and life was not the complicated reality that it is today.

Yet, people then, as today, had dreams and ambitions. The dream that once existed on these now quiet trails on the western slope of Monte Sano Mountain took the form of a railway ... the Monte Sano Railway.

The year was 1888 and with the ever growing popularity of the grand hotel on top of the mountain it became clear that better transportation up the mountain was needed.

The Huntsville Belt Line and Monte Sano Railway Co. employed engineer Arthur Owen Wilson to construct the railroad to the hotel. The line started from the union depot and ran south along Jefferson Street. At Clinton, it turned east towards the mountain and eventually down into Fagin's Hollow, where it began a circuitous route, gaining altitude all the time. Winding and circling to the rim of the mountain, the route rose so steeply that the grade seemed impossible for an engine to ascend: The remainder of the way lay directly across the top of the plateau to the back yard of the hotel. Half an hour was required for the entire journey when the line was finished.

In the construction of the Monte Sano Railway, more than 300 persons were employed on a regular basis. The weekly payroll was approximately \$10,000.

Mr. Wilson, himself, designed the three coaches that comprised the train and the St. Charles Car Co. manufactured them. The engine was of standard gauge, although smaller than those used on the

trunk line. The compact size of the engine was the reason the line was called the "dummy line," as the undersized locomotive resembled a trolley car. Of course. some Huntsville wags called it the dummy line because, "only a dummy would ride that steep perilous route to or from the mountain!"

Sure enough, not long after the railway opened, there occurred an incident that seriously damaged the popularity of the railway. Returning from the hotel, the train's s a n d - p i p e s clogged as the en-

gineer tried to check the speed of the locomotive down a steep incline. The train went out of control and left the tracks. Happily, no one was injured, but people then became somewhat nervous about taking this precarious path to and from the mountain.

Luckily, this accident had no





lasting effect on consumer confidence and the Monte Sano Railway was successful in bringing visitors to the mountain and business at the hotel continued to flourish.

Unfortunately by 1895 the hotel was suffering financial problems and the railroad had to be shut down. Tracks were torn up and sold as scrap to pay off debts.

Now, with the passage of time, the old railroad bed and stone foundations of the trestles are all that remain. They say that as late as the 1950s there were still railroad ties stacked up near the area known as the "button hole." But they're gone now.

So, take a walk on the old railroad bed trail. Knowing what was once there makes the trek all the more worthwhile.

News From 1907

- In the recorder's court this morning Peter Stevens, arrested for disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and costs.
- John Williams, an old man who was arrested a few days ago for drunkenness, was ordered released and directed to leave Huntsville at once. Williams is quite an old man being 72 years of age and Mayor Smith took pity on him.
- By reason of an open switch on the Southern railway freight train No. 306 - J. Edward, engineer and switch train No 431 with Conductor Miller in charge. collided on the side track on Meridian Street late vesterday afternoon, wrecking and derailing two cars of the regular train, demolishing the pilots of both engines, smashing the front of a car and the trucks of the end of the switch train. No one was hurt.

Help Wanted - 1942

The Tennessee Valley Authority has openings for both MALE and FEMALE Chemical Plant Operator Trainees in the department of Chemical Engineering, Wilson Dam, Alabama.

Positions are classified at a beginning rate of \$1,140 per annum for those without experience. Qualified persons with previous experience in chemical plant operation or related work will be placed in positions classified at \$1,170, \$1,309, \$1,320 and \$1,440 per annum, depending upon previous experience.

All applicants for the examination must be citizens of the United States, must have completed the eighth grade, and must be physically capable of performing the work of the positions. Female applicants must have reached their 18th birthday and not have reached their 40th birthday as of

the examination date.

Male applicants must have reached their 18th birthday and not have reached their 50th birthday as of the examination date. Deferment from military service will not be requested for males selected for these positions.

Persons interested should ad-

dress a postal card (not a letter) postmarked not later than midnight, June 19, 1942 to Personnel Office. Tennessee Valley **Authority Wilson** Dam, Alabama. You will be notified if selected.



A Full Size Pillow Top **Mattress Set**

All New In Plastic with Warranty - \$110.00

can deliver 256-509-7512

Cunningham's

Wicker & Rattan Furniture

Winter Sale now in Progress

Large selection of quality furnishings



710 Andrew Jackson Way (256) 536-3071



Specializing in: Carpet, Drapery & Upholstery, Oriental Rugs, Mini-Blinds, Removal of Unwanted Odors

Murder In New Hope

from 1907 newspaper

Houston Clark, a prominent young man of New Hope, is on trial in the law and equity court for the killing of Charles Drake, a young man of the same neighborhood. The charge against him is murder in the first degree.

A jury of twelve men was selected this morning. The hearing of evidence for the prosecution was begun shortly after noon. The state claims. that Charles Drake was beaten to death by Houston Clark at the home of P. Overton, a short distance from New Hope and has introduced evidence to show that the instrument of death was a plank of wood which is presented as evidence. There are three dents and blood stains on the plank and

these are said to correspond with the wounds on Drake's head. Dr. H.R. Johnson testified that he was called to examine the dead man and found that his skull had been fractured in three places and his neck disjointed, any one of the wounds being serious enough to cause death.

The trial promises to develop some sensational features and because few of the facts in the case have been allowed to reach the public, there is considerable general interest in the case. The state is represented by Solicitor James H. Pride assisted by Milton Lanier Taylor, and for Drake, R. Smith appears for the defense.

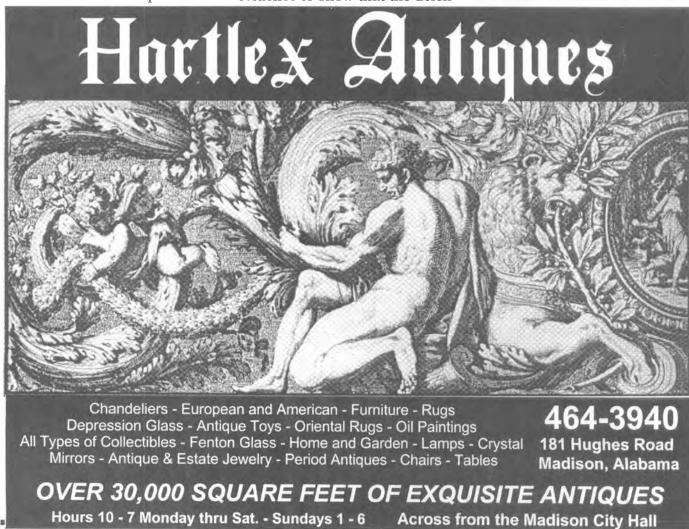
The defense will introduce evidence to show that the defen-

dant found Drake in the act of pulling a young woman through the window of the Overton home. The plea of the defense is that the act was justified by the circumstances. Miss Overton will be an important witness in the case.

Both families involved in the tragedy have large connections and immediately after the killing Clark, accompanied by his uncle, walked to town and surrendered to Sheriff Mitchell. Clark states that he walked in order to avoid trouble, as threats had been made against his life.

Did you know that when you buy "Old Huntsville" for \$.50, all proceeds go to the Golden K Kiwanis for their charitable projects?

Thank you!



Mind Reader Visits Huntsville

Huntsville, 1896 - A most astonishing and inexplicable exhibition of mind reading was given last Sunday. The operator was Prof. E. Laska, who has been in Huntsville for several weeks and appeared before select parties at a number of private residences.

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 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

"There are not enough Indians in the world to defeat the Seventh Cavalry."

George Armstrong Custer

BRAND NAME

King Size Pillow Top mattress set in plastic with warranty

Under \$300
Can Deliver
256-509-7512

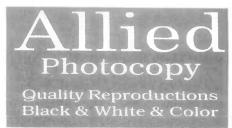
was placed. After fumbling over his body for a few moments he raised the hat and drew forth the timepiece. Not more than two minutes elapsed from the moment he entered the room until the watch was found. There was not the slightest opportunity for collusion.

The next feat was more complex. Laska 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 re-admitted, 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.

Its 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.

Everybody present 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. The results are apparently inexplicable, except on the theory of intercommunication of mind and mind.





1821 University Drive 539-2973

If marriage were outlawed, only outlaws would have inlaws.

Betty Pierson

A General Hardware Store For 25 years

Lily Flagg SUPPLY

A Complete Hardware Store Serving Your Household and Business Needs

SMALL ENGINE REPAIR

Located in the community that the famous Jersey cow, Miss Lily, made famous over 100 years ago!

If you're not sure, ask for Johnny Brewer!

8501 Whitesburg Drive - 883-0781

They Roasted Van Buren

George Steele was not only one of the most successful contractors and architects in Huntsville, he was also an avid follower of politics.

In 1840, he backed Martin Van Buren for the presidential race and in anticipation of him winning, made plans for a large gala celebration. A huge ox named Van Buren, in honor of the candidate, was purchased to be cooked at the celebration.

Unfortunately for Steele, Martin Van Buren lost the election and ox Van Buren was delegated to the pasture, to fatten up until the next election. Ox Van Buren fulfilled his appointed task so well that he grew to gigantic proportions and a special pen had to be built for him.

Four years later James Polk was elected as president and Steele, with no great remorse, decided it was once again time for ox Van Buren to become the center of attraction.

There is no psychiatrist in the world as effective as a puppy licking your face.

Ben Williams

Literally thousands of people, poor and rich alike, were invited to the feast. A large pyramid cake, almost four foot high was ordered from Nashville to grace the center table.

According to an account of the times, ox Van Buren was stuffed with turkeys, apples and assorted breads before being smoked for twenty-four hours. In addition there were lambs, barbecued pigs, broiled hams with accompaniments of jellies, sauces and breads.

A large stock of liquid refreshment served to insure that the new president would be toasted adequately— and often. After stuffing themselves with Van Buren, the guests were then entertained by a handpicked string band of fiddlers until the early hours of the morning.

Though there have been many political celebrations since, Huntsville has never seen another one like the day they roasted Van Buren.

Subscribe To

The Standsville

716 East Clinton Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama, 35801

\$20.00 per year

Pine Crest Estate

A HOME FOR ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA

State licensed for magnetic door and gate locks
Positive security for persons who wander
Licensed nurse administers all medication
Registered nurse overnight
Home style environment - 16 beds

582 Shields - Huntsville, Alabama 35811 - 256-851-9161

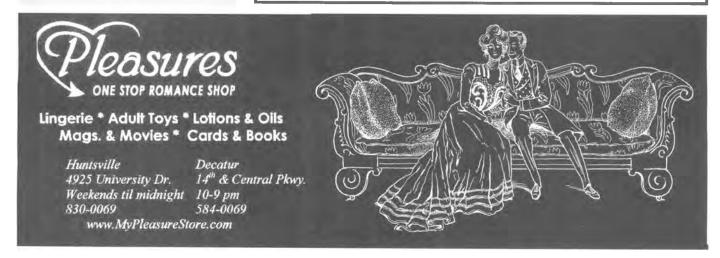
Exquisite Woodcrafters

Interior/Exterior Molding • Staircases
Custom Interior Design • Mantels

(256) 232-6068

JIMMY LEWIS, Jr. Owner





Sale! Sale! Sale! Sale! Sale! Sale! Sale! Sale!

Special Sales!

Crisp Uncirculated 1864 \$20.00 bills from the Confederate States of America \$49.95 each while supply lasts

2004 American Silver Eagle Dollar - Brilliant & Uncirculated \$8.75 each

Circulated Silver Dollars 1878 - 1904 \$11.95 each

Close-out prices on Selected Jewelry Sapphires - Tanzanite - Emerald - Diamonds

Always interested in buying nice collections of old coins and arrowheads

ALABAMA COIN & SILVER CO.

Ph. (256) 536-0262
912 Bob Wallace Ave. Huntsville, Alabama

Rare Coins - Silver - Rare Paper Currency - Gold

News From The Year 1911

News From Huntsville and Around The World

New Auto Company Formed By Louis Chevrolet

Detroit - The automotive team of William Durant and Louis Chevrolet have announced the incorporation of the Chevrolet Motor Company of Michigan. According to a public statement issued by the firm, they intend to establish a factory in Detroit for the manufacture of a new, high-priced car.

The chief distinctive feature of their new motorcar will be an engine perfected during the last winter by Chevrolet, assisted financially by Durant. In 1900, at age 22, Swissborn Chevrolet left Europe for America. He has worked as an automobile mechanic and is known for his daring antics as a racing driver. Six years ago, he won New York's Morris Park race with a speed record of 68 mph at the wheel of a Fiat. Last year, he completed a new, six-cylinder touring car.

Tennessee River Three Miles Wide

Huntsville – Hundreds of people are daily viewing the big river at Ditto Landing. The Tennessee river here now is more than 3 miles wide. The water was stationary but heavy rains were reported to have fallen above here. The present flood will delay farming in the river bottoms for more than a month and will cause great losses to

the farmers by fences and small outbuildings washing away.

Along the river several large barns have been washed away and a few dwelling houses have also disappeared.

A mule belonging to Henry Ingram was lost when it became trapped by the rising waters near Hobbs Island.



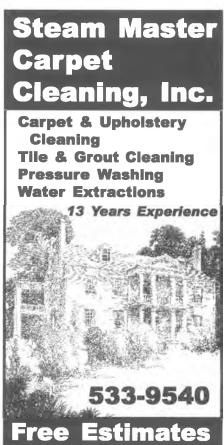
STOREWIDE SALE - 50% OFF ALL ITEMS

Mona Lisa Stolen

Paris - French police say it must be the work of a madman: Someone slipped into the Louvre, apparently during the night, and stole the "Mona Lisa," which may very well be the most famous painting in the entire world.

Curators at the Louvre are at a loss for words. Visitors to the museum are stopping to stare at the empty space on the wall in the Great Gallery, where the "Mona Lisa" has hung for more than a century.

French investigators say that the theft cannot be the work of professional thieves, because the painting is too well-known to be



sold. They suspect the "Mona Lisa" was stolen by a person who had lost all of his mental faculties.

The "Mona Lisa" has been a part of French art collections for 400 years, and it is considered a national treasure.

Booker Washington in Hospital

Tuskegee – Booker T. Washington was beaten up last night by Albert Ulrich, a janitor at an apartment building who accused him of acting suspiciously around the building. He was unable to appear in court this morning on account of his injuries.

Ulrich was released on a \$1500 bail for his appearance on Washington's charge of felonious assault. Ulrich declares he attacked the negro on a complaint of his wife and that Washington tried to hit him.

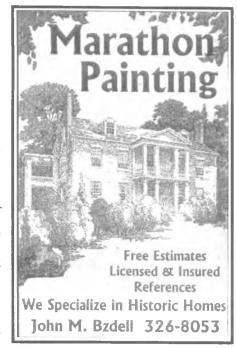
Washington declares he went to the apartment house to look for Auditor Smith of the Tuskegee Institute and that not knowing the latter's suite number, was looking for the name on the directory board when the janitor attacked him with a club. Washington is in a hospital where sixteen stitches were taken in his scalp.

First Woman Receives Pilot's License

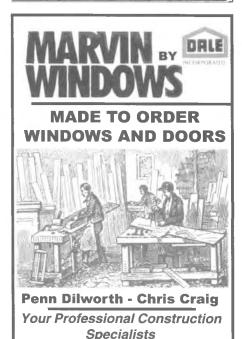
New York - The first pilot's license ever issued to a woman by the Aero Club of America, and the second ever earned anywhere by a woman, has gone to Miss Harriet Quimby. Mme. Dutrie of France is the only other woman to hold such a license. Miss Quimby, a student at the Moisant Aviation School on Long Island, nearly matched the world record set by experienced fliers in her trial for the license; she landed her plane within seven feet, nine inches of a target. The official record is five feet, four inches. Miss Quimby had failed the same test a night earlier.

Col. Rison Buys New Packard Car

Huntsville - Col. A. L. Rison today received a handsome 7 passenger Packard car, which he will have out in a few days. The car has a dark green body with gray running gear and is a beauty, being perhaps the costliest and prettiest car in the city. He is planning a road trip to Birmingham soon.







256-539-7704

2802 Memorial Parkway S.W.

Huntsville, Alabama 35801



Another First For Huntsville

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

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

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

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

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

If Barbie were a real life-size person, her measurements would be 39-23-33. She would stand seven feet, two inches tall.

All New Queen Size

Pillow Top Mattress set in plastic with warranty

Can Deliver - \$180.00 256-509-7512 to his property.

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

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

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

For many years it sat unnoticed in front of the Post Office Cafe, where it finally became lost forever, leaving only the footnote that it was, as reported by a New

York newspaper in 1916, "the first bathtub with running water in the United States!"

R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

RGN

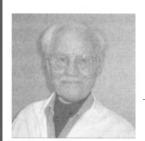
GENERAL CONTRACTORS

General Contractors
Residential & Commercial
Specializing In
Fire Damage Repairs

"A Contractor You Can Trust"

533-9016

If You Are Tired of living with back pain



Get your life back with effective non-surgical DTS Therapy for Degenerative Disc Disease, bulging disc, low back pain, radiating leg pain, Sciatica

To see if you qualify call 256-534-6792 Sponsored by the Alabama Chiropractic Back Pain Clinic

Alabama Chiropractic Back Pain Clinic

4835 Sparkman Dr. Huntsville, Al 35810

Dr. Robert Richards

No representataion is made that the quality of services to be performed is greater than the quality of chiropractic services performed by others

Sims Driving School

Over 32 years experience. Certified by State Board of Education Insurance reduction approved

Senior Refresher Courses Available

The Perfect Gift For Grandchildren!

Owned & Operated by Clifford Sims

Mon. thru Sat. 9-5

256-722-5566



Website: members.aol.com/drivingwithsims

DO YOU NEED & VACATION?

Join a fun and exciting group of adults (age 50+) who love to travel.

Call 880-4131 for more information



2004 TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Complete itineraries available.

Springtime in New Orleans April 15 - 18

Thunder Over Louisville April 16 - 18

Reflections of Italy* May 17 - 26

Western Round Up June 9 - 21

Alaskan Cruise* July 14 - 25

Canada's Atlantic Coast* August 11 - 20

Cavalcade of Comedy August 11 - 15

American Queen Cruise September 6 - 13

Fall Foliage Cruise* October 10 -21

Senior Friends Convention - San Diego* Nov. 5 - 9

Kentucky Christmas Treat November 30 - December 1

Lone Star Texas Adventure December 11 - 16

*Indicates air travel from Huntsville. Motorcoach travel on all other trips.



Senior Friends
Crestwood Medical Center
www.crestwoodmedcenter.com



Kistory of Madison County

The following memoirs were written in the late 1800s by Mai Taylor, whose family was among the first to settle in Huntsville.

I was born in Oglethorpe County, Georgia in the year 1841, two miles from Lexington. My father was a native of Virginia and a soldier of the War of Independence. He entered the army in his sixteenth year and was first under fire at the Battle of Monmouth. This battle was fought on one of the hottest days on record and my father said that after the battle many of the British were found dead on the field without a wound. He came to South Carolina in Light Horse Harry Lee's command and participated in the many battles and skirmishes ending in the occupation, and at the close of the war had risen to the rank of lieutenant of a cavalry company. He was in the disastrous charge at Quinby bridge where owing to

misdirection of orders, the advance was not supported and out of twenty only five made good their retreat, all the others being killed or captured. As the survivors fought their way back across the bridge a sturdy Briton endeavoring to bar their passage was cut down by a saber stroke across the face. Twenty years afterward he and my father met at a horse race in Lexington, Ga. and renewed their acquaintance under more favorable auspices.

Coming southward at the close of the Revolution, my father settled at Lexington, Ga., then near the Chickasaw frontier, and as there was continual ill feeling between the Cherokees and the whites, a scouting company was organized which my father commanded for over ten years. The Georgians had suffered severely from Indian hostilities and for many years, though this tribe had ostensibly peaceful relations towards the Federal government, there was still constant friction

between them and the white pioneers, the Indians stealing and occasionally massacring and the whites retaliating with terrible severity. Occasionally horses would be stolen, a house burned and its occupants murdered or taken captive. Then would follow a sudden raid into the Indian country, captives frequently being rescued and Indians indiscriminately slaughtered.

My first recollections are of a double log house near a pine forest, a large cleared field adjoining, cultivated by negro slaves. In summer a table of pine slabs was set in the yard between the dwelling house and the cabins. Around this near sunset were

Loving Companion Pet Memorial Park

"You'll never forget your beloved friend." Full Services Offered:

Burial Cremation Monuments Caskets



7648 Wall Triana Hwy.
72 West to Wall Triana, right for
4.2 miles
Call for more information:
859-6784 * 539-7212

* Cell 603-0682

Don't go through all this trouble...



...we'll help sell your house right where it is! Mark Fortson - (256) 679-1772 Cell (256) 489-4010 Office

John Fortson 468-0276 - David Metcalf 468-9752 - Asha Gulati 457-4357 Cher Andrews 426-2295 - Sabrina Walls 656-0538 - Kennedy Brown 289-1306



erican Heartland 512 Wynn Dr. Real Estate Huntsville, Al. 35805



Popi's Breads and Bagels

Fresh Bagels, Muffins, Croissants, Danish, Cinnamon Rolls and Bread

Breakfast & Lunch

Served Daily
Across from Grissom High

7900 Bailey Cove Blvd. Tel. 256-883-7377 Fax 256-882-7977

gathered my six older brothers and my older sister. My mother with her kind loving face sat at the head of the table with my three year old sister at her knee and my baby brother in her arms. My father who then was approaching middle age was frequently absent or was detained by business until we small children had retired to rest. The Indians by this time had been gradually forced back towards the mountains and we were no longer on the frontier. Yet there were scores of old soldiers of the Revolution and veterans of the Indian Wars and on the long winter evenings they gathered around each other's hearths and fought their battles over again. Many were the marvelous tales of peril and hardship and adventure that we listened to with greedy ears and glowing faces.

Our country was a veritable land of plenty, the woods were full of game and the rivers of fish, and cattle, sheep and swine fairly swarmed in the woods. We very seldom had wheaten bread but we had Indian corn in greatest abundance from which food of endless variety was prepared. I don't think any cotton was raised but we had linsey and jeans and every family had its flax wheel and a little patch of flax. We also had plenty of buckskin, the never failing resource of the backwoodsman.

But this country was growing too thickly settled for the typical pioneer and my father belonged to this class, so in the year 1806, with his wife and nine children and about a dozen negroes, he loaded up his wagons and pack horses and set his face westward. My father and his two oldest sons rode in front followed by our two wagons with their negro drivers, then came my mother and the two younger chil-

dren on pack horses, followed by negro women and children, some on foot and some on horseback, while two of my brothers sixteen and eighteen years of agewith a trusty negro servant brought up the rear.

It seemed to me that we were

Enjoy Federal Tax-Free Income.

Municipal bonds mean federal and often state-tax-free investment earnings.* Call today for a free copy of *The Complete Guide to Tax-Free Municipal Bonds*.

*Some bonds may be subject to the alternative minimum tax.

Benny Little, Branch Manager 400 Meridian Street, Suite 201, Huntsville, Al 35801 Phone 256-534-2180 Toll Free 877-428-2180 benny.little@agedwards.com

Member SIPC • 2003 A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc

A.G. Edwards
INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887





- * Research Park Office Center
- * University Square Business Center
- * 8215 Madison Blvd.

Visit us at www.intersouth-properties.com

SAFE and SOUND

Security & Audio Systems

Fire Alarms Intercoms Central Vacuums Closed Circuit TV

State License #064

(256) 337-4379

Residential & Commercial



CHAPMAN, AHEARN & CRUNKLETON, LLC

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Bill Chapman (256) 536-8809

traveling for a month or months. We traveled about fifteen miles per day over roads not well opened and frequently had to cut timber out of the roads, fill up excavations and camping by the side of swollen streams to await patiently for them to subside. We occasionally passed through or near Indian villages and my father being well up in the Cherokee tongue was hospitably welcomed and entertained.

We saw no more white people until we came to what is now Murfreesboro on Stone's River where we found a few white settlers and a grist mill in course of erection. We had left Georgia about the first of March and it was now near the first of April. My father had for many years desired to go to the great bend of the Tennessee, so tarrying on Stone's River just long enough to lay in a month's supply bread and salt he turned southward and traveled steadily for about a week. One fine evening we came to the Elk River. The stream was



clear and the adjoining land fertile and near at hand was a bold clear stream pouring its swift waters into the main stream. We skirted along this stream for near two miles northward when we came to a low limestone ridge. Here we rested for the night, our tents were erected near the spring and when I arose the next morning a little after sunrise, the negroes were dressing a fine venison my father had shot and a

large rattlesnake was suspended from the limb of a spreading beech tree near the camp. The day was devoted to the exploration of the country and every one pronounced it a goodly land and on the third morning, the sound of the maul and ax and the crash of felling timber awoke the echoes.

Soon the walls of a cabin began to rise, the ridge pole and end pieces were put on boards

Home Buddies

Reasons For Using Home Buddies

- * We celebrate 18 years of caring, compassionate, loving concern for your quality of life, independence and empowerment.
- * You will experience less concern and worry about your loved one because we require an extensive background check with application and references.
- * Your Home Buddy will listen and respond quickly to your medical, personal and household needs.
- * You will benefit from years of experience, wisdom, and our impeccable reputation.
 - * Your costs are lower because our overhead is lower.
- * Your "buddy" is licensed and bonded and will take her "orders" from you.
- * We file long term care insurance, have very little turnover in caregivers, and provide substitutes in emergencies.
- * The best and most capable, dependable, and trust worthy girls want to be "buddies." They make more money. You receive greater value and less stress.
- * We'll see to it that your Buddy is a good feel and good fit for you. We are "the Caring Connection."
- * We're proud of what we're good at Let us get to know you. For the first choice and best choice, turn to us.

Call Mary Alice Cannon, Owner (256) 882-1299

Permanent Nanny Placement For Children





Voted #1
Bowling Center In Huntsville

WEL == == ==

★ Youth & Seniors Programs

256-539-2785

2404 LEEMAN FERRY ROAD SW

riven from the heart of white oak covered it, puncheons hewed out from small logs split in the middle floored it. A chimney was built of split sticks and the family moved in. The negroes at first slept under the trees, the weather being warm and pleasant. Night time was hideous with the wailing of whippoorwills, hooting of owls and screams of wildcats and howling of wolves. In the morning, day was heralded by the sound of the mocking bird and thrush, the cawing of crows and the gobbling of wild turkeys in the tall treetops. All nature was animated and the forest and streams seemed densely populated with beast and birds fish and fowl, everything except man. Our family was isolated and for months we had no visitors. This region did not seen to have been intruded upon even by the savage. The Indians had no traces of settlement in the neighborhood.

We had dropped into the midst of an immense hunting ground with no one to molest or make afraid.

The woods furnished an endless variety of meats and when winter came we started a sugar camp in the hills where the sugar maples stood thickest and made a considerable quantity of sugar and molasses. We had to drag salt from Nashville. At the close of the year a road was blazed out all the way and as there was no other wide blazed road, no frontiersman could mistake the way.

When the next spring opened many newcomers found their way to this beautiful and fertile region where we had located and quite a settlement sprang up. This was an agreeable experience after the solitude of the preceding year

But in a year or two old hunters began to tell of a country still further south down towards the great Tennessee River. They re-



WOODY ANDERSON



HOME OF THE NEXT F-150 www.woodyandersonford.com

2500 Jordan Lane
Huntsville, Al
256-539-9441
MORE FOR LESS... PERIOD!!!!!

Hours

Showroom Mon-Fri 8-8 Sat. 8-7

Service & Parts Mon-Fri 7-6

Sat. 7-3

Rental Mon-Fri 7-6

Sat. 7-12

ported this country to be of unexampled fertility, watered by many streams flowing south, clear and sparking as the Elk itself, and one of these adventurous hunters reported that they followed the streams southward until they all merged into one strong and rapid little river that they called the Flint, and when they came to the junction of the two larger streams they found a well defined path leading from it through thickets and canebrakes towards the mountains that could be seen in the distance.

Soon there was considerable talk about this region and in the spring of the year 1810 my father sold his improvement on the Elk River and came southward on the newly cut road until he struck the Flint River at old Brownsboro, where there was a considerable colony of old friends who had preceded him and who at that time formed the extreme southern settlement in the county east of the mountains. At this time a considerable little village was forming at Hunt's big spring, known as the town of Twickenham, and my father settled on a high hill north of Brownsboro. A horse path leading from Brownsboro to Huntsville had been made on the south boundary of the section lines from Flint River to Huntsville mountain. From there to Huntsville a road was blazed out nearly on the line of the present Belle Fonte road, but many years passed before a wagon road was opened.

All the people living on Flint who drove wagons to town went

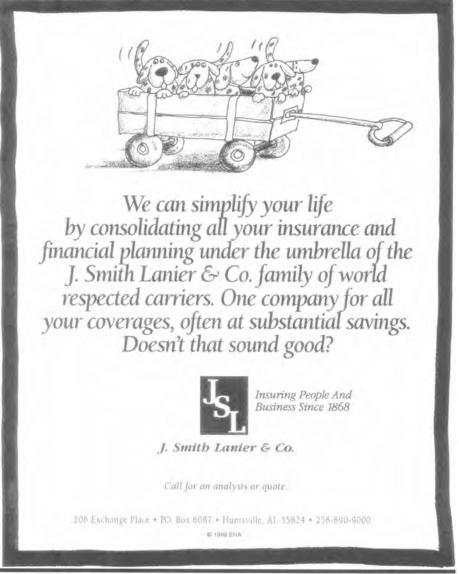


Senior Citizens Discount
Bathtub & Tile reglazing
Fiberglass & Acrylic Repairs
Antique Tub Restoration & Sales

up the river to the old Winchester Road crossing near the factory, then known as Woods Mill. On the west side of the river they skirted round the mountain through the open woods through the Mastin Farm and round by the Green Bottom Inn just opened by John Connally, a famous sportsman and a prominent man in his day.







News From The Year 1911

- About 11 o'clock this morning the delivery wagon horse belonging to E. L. Green, an East Side Square groceryman, became frightened and ran away, dashing north on Washington street and turning east at the intersection with Clinton at Ezell's corner. Miss Ellen Weaver and Miss Georgia May Harris were in the act of crossing at this point and came near being run over and perhaps killed. They escaped with a fall and slight bruises, being assisted to their home on East Clinton street by Officers Whitener and Pamplin.

- M. C. Cox, aged 80 years, was arrested here yesterday and charged with operating a blind tiger. The old man has been running a country store and recently a complaint was made that he was selling liquor. Two deputy sheriffs called upon him yesterday and ordered beer. The beverage was set out to them and after tasting it they placed him under arrest and made a search of the place. Thirty-two bottles of beer were confiscated.

Cox worked as a brick mason for years before he engaged in the grocery business.

- At 6:50 p.m. last evening Deputy sheriff Christo Robinson created a deal of excitement by firing several shots at a fleeing negro prisoner down East Holmes Street. The shooting occurred at the corner of Washington and Holmes. The negro was under arrest and broke away. The negro had been placed under arrest for loitering near a dice game near the depot. Deputy

Robinson knows the negro and believes he will have him in custody by early morning or sometime today.

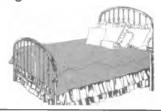
> "Please excuse Joanna for being absent yesterday. She was in bed with gramps."

Local parent's excuse for teacher after a day's absence.



Open 7 Days A week 12 months - Same as cash! 30030 Highway 72 West • Madison, AL 35756

Call (256) 232-8877





L. Thomas Ryan, Jr. Attorney At Law

2319 Market Place, Suite B Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Telephone (256) 533-1103

Fax (256) 533-9711

ESTATE PLANNING, LIVING TRUSTS, WILLS, PROBATE

"No Representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

EVERY MONDAY IS FAMILY NIGHT!

new North Parkway store (Hwy. 72 east & N. Pkwy.) 852-9882



Kids Eat Free

Every Monday night Kids Eat Free!

One child, 10 and under, eats free from our new kid's menu with each paid adult entree.

Offer good for Dine-in only.

3319 MEMORIAL PKWY., SW 881-4851 Dine in or carry out 6 our lamous breakfast

8412 WHITESBURG DR. SOUTH 882-0841 Dine in or drive thru & our famous breakfast

Gibson's

YOUR HOSTS: THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS

Orphan of Hate

In 1931 an obituary appeared in the Huntsville newspaper telling of the death of Jim Britt. At first glance there appeared to be nothing unusual about the death of the 72 year old man. He had been sick for four weeks and the account stated he had died from "infirmities of old age."

Toward the end of the obituary, however, it stated that James S. Britt had been a resident of the county poor house for 66 years. It was believed, the article said, to be a national record for the longest time anyone had ever spent in a poor house.

If anyone reading the paper that day had felt a twinge of sympathy, or perhaps curiosity, about the old man who had spent his whole life as a ward of the county, they quickly changed their mind when they learned he was the son of the infamous Kinch Britt.

"Good riddance," they probably thought, "and may God have mercy on his soul!"

It was going to take longer than 66 years for Huntsville to forget its bloody past.

When Jim Britt was born in 1859, he was named after his grandfather, James Britt, a resident of Jackson County. His father Kinchen, nicknamed Kinch but sometimes referred to behind his back as "Kitchen," had moved to Huntsville sometime prior to 1850 and married Susan Williams in 1858. The newlyweds settled on a small piece of land located a short distance west of the Huntsville Depot, where Kinch began earning a living as

a farmer. According to available records the family was of modest means with the farm valued at just \$500 and personal property worth \$200.

If the couple had any hopes of seeing their son have a normal childhood, their dreams were quickly dashed as rumblings of war swept across the Southland.

On August 26, 1861, Kinch mounted his horse and rode to nearby New Market where he enlisted in the Confederate army under the command of Captain David C. Kelly. Whatever doubts Kinch's wife had about him joining the army were probably cast aside by the fact that Kelly was the highly respected pastor of the First Methodist Church in Huntsville. She may also have thought Kelly would be a good influence on Kinch,

who was already developing an overly close acquaintance with the whiskey bottle.

With her husband off serving in the army, Susan Britt's life undoubtedly changed drastically. Owning no slaves to work the fields and having no money to hire hands, making a cotton crop was out of the question. Like countless thousands of other









7500 Memorial Parkway South #122 Huntsville, Alabama 35802-2297 Business 256/883-6600 Fax 256/883-6650 stevecappaert @ knology.net

Alpha Estate Sales & Appraisals

Antique Estate & Clean Out Auction! Jan. 11, 2004 at 1:30 pm Preview/registration Jan 10 at 11am-6pm and 2 hrs. prior to auction on Jan. 11.

One of Huntsville's oldest <u>personal property liquidation services</u> for Antiques, Fine Art, Furnishings and Collectibles.



Leap Year Toy & Doll Auction! February 29, 2004

Bob Baker, H.S.C.A., Owner Gary Lee Knight, Sales Manager

Visit our website for upcoming sales www.alphaestatesales.com

1214 Meridian Street (256) 536-3117

women across the South her sustenance depended on a small garden and maybe a few chickens, with her only cash coming from the produce she could barter in town. Early expectations of a quick and easy war soon vanished and 1861 dragged on into 1862.

Adding to many families' worries was the fact that Huntsville had been captured by Union troops on April 11, 1862. Susan, like most of the other wives in Huntsville, became exiles in their own city. They were forbidden to have any communication with their husbands who were serving the Confederacy. Women could not travel out of town without a special pass and often what meager food and supplies they had were seized by the hated Union army. When they swallowed their pride and approached the Yankees requesting to buy food, they would be told they'd first have to swear allegiance to the Federal government. Few women were willing to betray their husbands in so callous a manner.

What little information Susan

received about her husband came from whispered messages from soldiers who sneaked into Huntsville to visit their families and from letters smuggled across the Union lines. Though Jim was only three years old at the time it is easy to imagine him sitting in his mother's lap as she read letters from Kinch describing his exploits in the Confederate Army. His company had joined Nathan Bedford Forrest's battalion and had seen action in campaigns throughout Tennessee and Kentucky.

When the Union army was forced to evacuate Huntsville in late August 1862, General Forrest marched in with his troops to give them a short furlough. Kinch returned as part of the liberating army. When he rushed to his home however, he discovered that his wife had died not long before. True to the South to the last, she had half-starved and finally died of disease rather than take the hated Yankee loyalty oath. Kinch was

crushed and now had a son to take care of. But how could he, a soldier, provide the care young Jim needed? He found the an-







Certified Angus
Fresh Seafood
Extensive Wine List
Banquet Facilities Available
Reservations Please

Open Tuesday - Saturday Bar: 4pm - 11pm Kitchen: 5pm - 10pm



Coffee
Sandwiches
Dinner to Go
Bicycle Delivery
(within 4 blocks)
Open 7am - 6pm
Monday - Friday

109 Washington Street **704-5555**



Come for the food ... Stay for the fun!

Live Music Nightly!

Open 11am - 2am Monday - Sunday

"3 Different Restaurants - One Great Location"

swer soon enough.

Kinch already knew 20 yearold Louisa Bradley, daughter of a semi-literate blacksmith. After a whirlwind courtship and flattered at the attention she received, Louisa agreed to be Kinch Britt's wife. After all, his enlistment was almost over and she would be the wife of a dashing Confederate veteran. To her dismay, Kinch promptly re-enlisted in the 4th Alabama Cavalry for the duration of the war.

Louisa, still young and attractive, quickly tired of playing stepmother and war bride. All around her young women were going to parties and dancing until the wee hours of the morn ing. Unfortunately, as a married woman, she was expected to stay at home and wait patiently for her husband's return, whenever that might be. Married life was definitely not what she had expected it to be.

If Louisa was unhappy in her role, her husband was not faring much better. His regiment had been transferred to Gen. Joe Wheeler's cavalry brigade and was seeing almost constant combat. In the summer of 1863, Kinch was captured by the Federal troops who paroled him and allowed him to return to Huntsville until he could be exchanged. Where he had once been a loyal Confederate, now he began to have doubts as to his allegiance. During almost two years of war he had seen countless men fall in battle, often leaving their families destitute and starving with nothing but a few hollow words of praise to show for their loss. By this time the war had lost its glamor and become a bitter, deadly struggle. People, both North and South, were starting to say the same thing: "It's a poor man's fight, but a rich man's war."

Kinch Britt had hardly returned home when Union cavalry

raids began targeting Huntsville. The Confederate army seemed unable to stop them. In September 1863, the Yankees came to stay. Rather than return to the Confederate army, Britt decided to throw in with what he decided would be the winning, and more profitable, side.

He went to the Union headquarters and offered to work for them as a civilian spy. They offered him \$3 a day as pay and at \$90 a month, this was probably more than he had ever earned in his life. (As a Confederate private he had received only \$13 a month, when he was paid at all.) Kinch quickly accepted the job and went to work.

Before long, Kinch Britt had earned the gratitude of the Yankees and the hatred of his neighbors. His knowledge of Madison County was better than any map they could have purchased. Britt knew every Confederate in Huntsville by sight and could often be seen on the downtown streets, accompanied by a detachment of Yankee soldiers, pointing out the people he knew were loyal to the Southern cause.

Within days, Britt had be-



by David W. Gordon

MAKERS OF FINE CABINETRY AND STAIRCASES

503 EAST ELM STREET Phone:(256)-230-9779 ATHENS, AL. 35611





Grover'

Where Memories Are Made!
Phone (256) 653-8262

Watch for our upcoming Moving Sale!

Many Inspirational Items - Canvas Photo Tote bags - Kinkade Bible Covers - New Furniture arriving Daily - - Clocks -Victorian Furniture - Mirrors - Embossed Leather Items -Brio toys - - Collector Figurines

2918-B Meridian St. (just north of Mastin Lake on right)

come a social outcast in his own town. The more Kinch was shunned by his neighbors, the more bitter he became towards them. Now instead of merely informing on them, Britt began looting their homes, often in broad daylight. Brazenly he would kick the doors in, steal the silver and other valuables and return to the Yankee camp where he would sell the loot.

Even the Yankees had little love for the turncoat Britt. They knew he was only in the war for money. He was not the only one in North Alabama to succumb to such temptation, as a Union colonel named Lewis Merrill noted. "The men who are employed ... as scouts, guides and spies," wrote Merrill, "are, as a rule, thieves and accompany troops who go out simply for chances to plunder."

Whatever Kinch may have been, it was even harder on his young wife and son. Once the wife of a Confederate hero, Louisa was now married to a social pariah. No one would speak to her any longer and even her young stepchild was not allowed to play with his neighbors' children.

Spurned by the citizens of Huntsville, Louisa too became a turncoat. She seemed to take a special delight in appearing on the streets dressed in finery looted from nearby plantation homes. When entertaining her new-found Yankee friends she would proudly point out the crystal glasses and engraved silverware—identifying which homes her husband had stolen them from.

On November 10, 1864, Captain James Madison "Mack" Robinson was daring enough to lead his Confederate scout company to "Forestfield," his father's plantation home on the road between Huntsville and Meridianville. Kinch had his ear close to the group and seemed to know everything that was happening.

Mack Robinson had once been Kinch's lieutenant in the 4th Alabama Cavalry, but Kinch no longer felt any loyalty to his old friends. Instead, he promptly went to the Union provost marshal, Lt. Col. John Horner, and told him that Robinson had come home. Horner had already earned a reputation as, "the meanest Yankee that was ever in North Alabama." He was about to justify it.

The next day Horner set off early for Forestfield, taking Kinch Britt along to

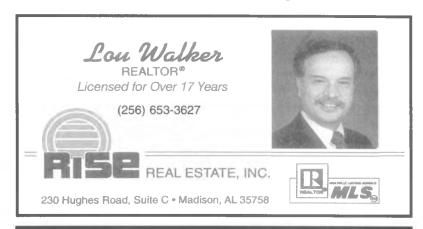
show the way. The clinking and clanking of the cavalry gave Robinson warning and he awakened his handful of men. Colonel Horner deployed his men around the house and ordered Robinson to surrender. But Mack Robinson had been in the war since the very beginning and was not about to give up without a fight. Kinch Britt was cautiously edging along the wall of the house trying to get a shot at Robinson through a window, but Robinson saw him first and shot him dead.

Robinson then stormed out of the door, blasting away with a six-shooter in each hand. Col. Horner had one of his shoulder straps shot off and the Yankees scattered. The Confederates reached their horses and rode away to safety.

Furious, the Union soldiers murdered the caretaker, an innocent civilian who had not taken part in the fight, and returned to Huntsville.

The citizens of Huntsville breathed easier when they heard of Kinch Britt's demise. However, Col. Horner viewed the matter differently. The next day he led a large detachment back to Forestfield and burned the beautiful home to the ground.

When news of the burning of Forestfield reached Huntsvllle its citizens became enraged. Unable to wreak havoc on the now dead Kinch Britt their anger turned toward his young widow, Louisa. She had long before lost what



Madison Interior Consignment

Antiques - Glassware High End Home Furnishings Interior Decor News Items Arriving Daily!

402 Celtic Drive - Madison

774-3493



Rent a booth by Jan. 31 - you get one month free!

Call for more details

little sympathy the town's people might have felt for her and her stepson. Several nights later her home caught fire. Though it was never established whether or not it was an accident, none of the townspeople went to her aid in fighting the fire. The house burned to the ground, severely burning her stepson Jim and destroying the loot her husband had plundered from their neighbors.

Though Louisa was young and possibly naive, she was still smart enough to realize she did not have a bright future in Huntsville. The next morning, after dropping the injured Jim off at the Army hospital, she boarded a train for Nashville, reportedly in the company of a Union soldier who had taken a liking to her.

The army hospital, known as the Huntsville Hospital and located in Fagans Spring, had the dubious distinction of being the only permanent structure the Yankees built while occupying Huntsville. Though equipped to handle medical needs for the thousands of soldiers passing through Huntsville, it had scant facilities for a little boy.

After dressing the youngster's burns the hospital authorities tried to find someone to take him off their hands. This was easier said than done. The few openly Union sympathizers wanted nothing to do with the son of a Confederate turncoat and the Southerners wanted nothing to do with the son of a Union spy.

All indications leads one to believe that Jim stayed at the hospital, perhaps as a ward, until it burned the following year. At that time the county took over some of the property and converted one of the buildings into a poor house. With no one to turn to, Jim Britt, at the age of six, became its first resident and ultimately, its longest.

The county poor house at

that time was literally a dumping ground for the infirm, the homeless and the aged who had no one to take care of them.

Though Jim still bore terrible scars from being burned in the house fire, he was by no means disabled. While most lads his age were playing games, Jim was put to work as an unpaid hand at the poor house. Carrying firewood, fetching pails of water or helping in the kitchen became his everyday routine. If Jim ever thought about schooling or playing with other youngsters his age, those thoughts were quickly put out of his mind by authorities who had no time to waste with "such foolishness."

A glimmer of hope rose in the fall of 1868 when Union Aid societies began identifying war orphans and placing them in foster homes. Finding a home for the son of a Rebel turncoat and a Union spy proved to be a for-

midable task however and Jim was quickly passed by.

In 1872, Jim's stepmother Louisa returned to Huntsville. Any thoughts of her providing a home for Jim were discarded when she married a man almost 40 years her senior. Neither she nor her new husband wanted anything to do with the son of the infamous Kinch Britt.

For Jim, the months turned into years and the years turned into decades and still no one cared about his fate. People came to accept him as a permanent fixture at the poor house— a fixture that also provided free labor.

Left unspoken was the fact that perhaps Jim Britt was expected to pay penance and be punished for the sins of his infamous father.

Occasionally a stranger would inquire about the longtime resident. They would be

Rain Soft. Water Treatment Systems

WHY

should you use premium water solutions for the whole family?

- A Rainsoft whole house water treatment system enhances the quality of life for you and your family-in every room of your home where water is used. The kitchen, where food and beverages are prepared and served. The bathroom, where family members bathe, shower and shampoo. The laundry area, where you care for your clothes. Why install a RainSoft water treatment system in your home? The best reason is that there are so many reasons.
- No matter how good your water is at the source, by the time it gets to your home it may have picked up numerous unwanted minerals, chemical compounds and other pollutants.
- Costs for bottled water add up over time. And since chances are you're using this water only for drinking, the benefits are limited.
- Water that isn't softened and conditioned can leave soap and shampoo residue behind, aggravating dry skin and dry hair problems.
- Minerals and chemical compounds in your water can damage your pipes, restrict water flow and shorten the life of major appliances.
- RainSoft's super-sudsing action means you'll need less soap, shampoo and detergents for everything from bathing and doing dishes and laundry to cleaning.
- Your Rainsoft water treatment system is built to last and carries a limited lifetime warranty, so you can exclude it from your real estate contract and take it to your next home.



For More Information call 256-772-3600

visit our website at www.rainsoft.com

told, if they persisted in their questioning, that Britt suffered from "infirmities of the mind."

No one ever questioned why, if in fact he was mentally disabled, he was never admitted to the state mental institution.

Other people would claim he suffered physical defects that made it impossible for him to care for himself, although the poor house authorities, during a budget crunch in the mid 1890s, did not hesitate to lease his labor to cotton farmers.

As Britt grew older and unable to do the chores of a younger man, he was place in charge of the garden at the poor house. In the evening he would return to the room he shared with three other men- a small box at the foot of the bed holding the few possessions he owned.

Occasionally, after he had become an old man, he would be seen wandering the streets downtown appearing, as one person described it, "as if he was lost in the past." Sometimes he would enter one of the churches and sit quietly for hours until someone would return him to the poor house.

As one old-timer in Huntsville recently explained, "Being in the poor house was all the man knew, or expected. That's the way he was raised."

When Jim Britt died in 1931 the local newspaper eulogized him as "the son of a Union spy." Almost begrudgingly the paper added, "The county has spent almost \$15,000 on Britt's upkeep during the past 66 years."



Eggnog Party in Paint Rock Valley

An early landmark in upper Paint Rock Valley was Cox's Still House, on Clear Creek, where in 1864 some innocent iollification turned sour for a group of Union

About forty of the boys in blue had retired to a secluded spot, meaning to take time out from the brutal War Between the States. The Yankees quickly confiscated all the whisky they could find and proceeded to make some potent eggnog with the milk and eggs they had stolen from local farmers. Unfortunately, the carousing Yankees made so much racket that some of "Bushwhacker" Johnston's Confederates heard them. The Johnny Rebs sent several of their

men to slip around behind the Yankees. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederates set an ambush along the road. Without warning, the Confederates in advance opened fire into the carousing Yankees. Panic stricken, the blue coats dropped their booze and fled straight into the ambush.

When the Yankees sobered up, they were faced with the double humiliation of having a hangover and being taken prisoner.

1905 Classifieds

For sale – a 2nd hand 2 horse wagon in good running condition; also 2 sets double harness. Apply to Mrs. S. E. Sibley, east Randolph Street, opposite Butler's school

Wanted - several good solicitors who can make good on house-to-house canvass work. Apply care of the The Daily Times

Lost - eight large Carneaux pigeons with collar bands on. If found call at the office and get



We offer a wide variety of body products ranging from All Natural to Designer fragrances. "Soaps, Lotions & Candles - made from scratch"

Come in and See our Unique Valentine Gift Packaging

Featuring:

- * Natural InScentives
- * Margaret's Southern Scents
- * Hearth & Heather Soaps

Located in Preston Plaza 528 Jordan Lane Huntsville, Alabama 35805

256-489-3230





Tips From Liz Household Advice, Beauty Tips and Common Sense

I thought you would enjoy reading about family survival tactics used during the Depression years that our readers have sent in over the years.

- * Women made everything out of flour sacks, including skirts and dresses for girls.
- * There was lots of sickness, we used to take 666 which was so bitter, it only took one spoonful to cure you. We also used castor oil, Black Drought or kerosene and sugar.
- * We always used our ground coffee 3 times.
- * Mama stretched out our butter by softening it, then beating it with a can of evaporated milk.
- * Road meat was Depression food. Fowl or wild game killed by cars was quickly retrieved and dressed out for the next meal.
- * A favorite kid's game would be to curl up in an old tire and have someone push you down a hill!
- * Leftover gift wrap and ribbons were always carefully removed, ironed and saved.
- * My Dad would patch the tops and sides of our shoes with tire patches. We used hardened tallow to polish our shoes.
- * Mom always watched the first 3 days of spring to see what the next three months would bring.
- * Everyone had a cabbage patch. Cabbage was used in sauerkraut, as well as a hot vegetable.
- * We used to try to beat the squirrels to all the wild nuts like hickory and hazelnuts.
- * The weed, Queen Anne's Lace, was dipped in flour and fried. It kept the family from going to bed hungry many times.
- * Bread was torn into pieces and added to fried potatoes, to make "Stretch Potatoes."
- * Farmers planted only the potato eyes for the garden, then ate the rest of the

potato.

- * We used cardboard in our shoes and washed our hair in Fels Naptha, we brushed our teeth with salt and soda.
- * Mama wrapped my school sandwiches in the cornflake box liner. I used it day after day.

* To unshrink woolen sweat-

ers Mama would boil then in a solution of 1 part white vinegar to 2 parts water, then stretch to original size and dry.

- * Baths were on Saturday and the cleanest one bathed first, then the rest of the family used the same water in the old wash tub, the dirtiest person last.
- * Everything was patched and darned, and orange crates were used for everything from furniture to storage containers.
- * Weddings were simple and beautiful, with the average cost of everything - dress, veil, bridal and groom's cakes, reception, etc. being around \$50.



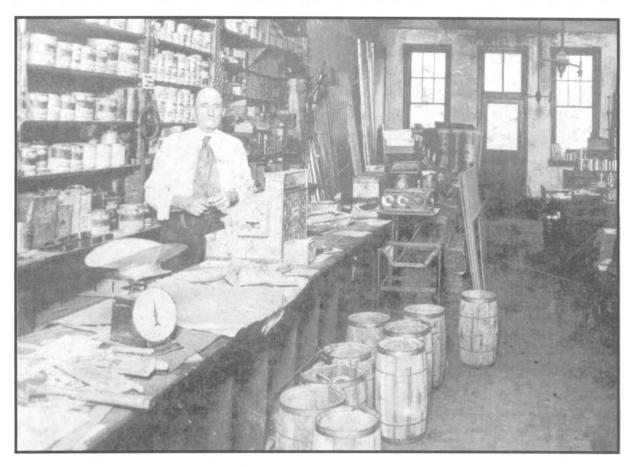
Now accepting applications for residents

Mission Statement: Elkwood Village is a Non-Profit (501 (c) (3) community whose mission is to provide assisted living for adults who are mildly to moderately retarded and who are in need of residential services.

Elkwood Village - 4533 Elkwood Section Rd. - Ardmore, Al 35739 Email: elkwood1@hotmail.com - www.Elkwoodvillage.org

(256) 420-6331

Lewter's Hardware Store



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

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

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

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

Mac Leuter

Mac Leuter

222 Washington St - 539-5777

Lawyers Lelpins Lirgured People.

We Want To Help You

FREE CONSULTATION

Never any money out of your pocket

We Make Home and Hospital Visits.

- · Hurt on the Job · Medical Malpractice · Nursing Home Abuse/Neglect
 - · Insurance Disputes · Defective Products · Car Accidents
 - · Workers' Comp · 18 Wheeler Crashes · Train Accidents

Jeff McKinney

Roy Braswell Cliff

"Results x 3",

McKinney Braswell Hil FREE CALL TO HUNTSVILLE

866.637.4878 (HURT)

501 Madison St. • Suite 200 B • Huntsville, AL 35801 Local Huntsville Number: 256.319.4878 (HURT)

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."