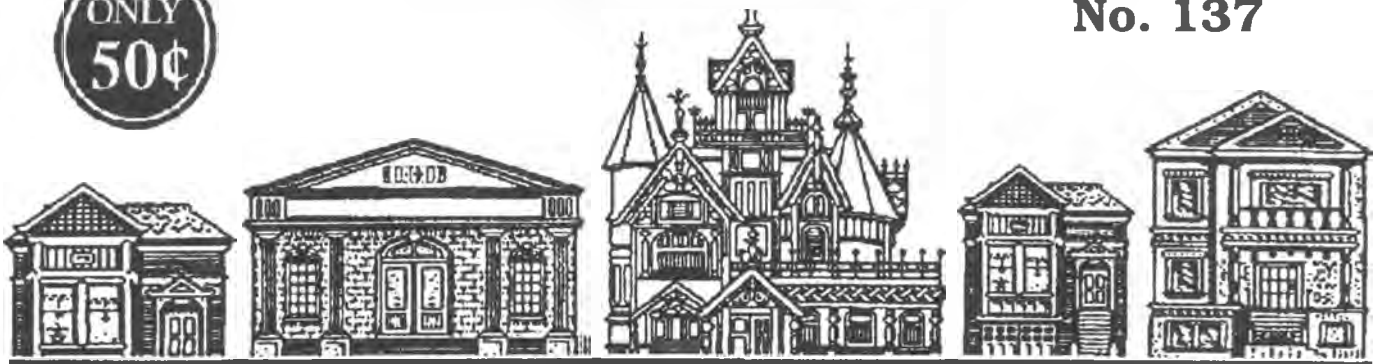


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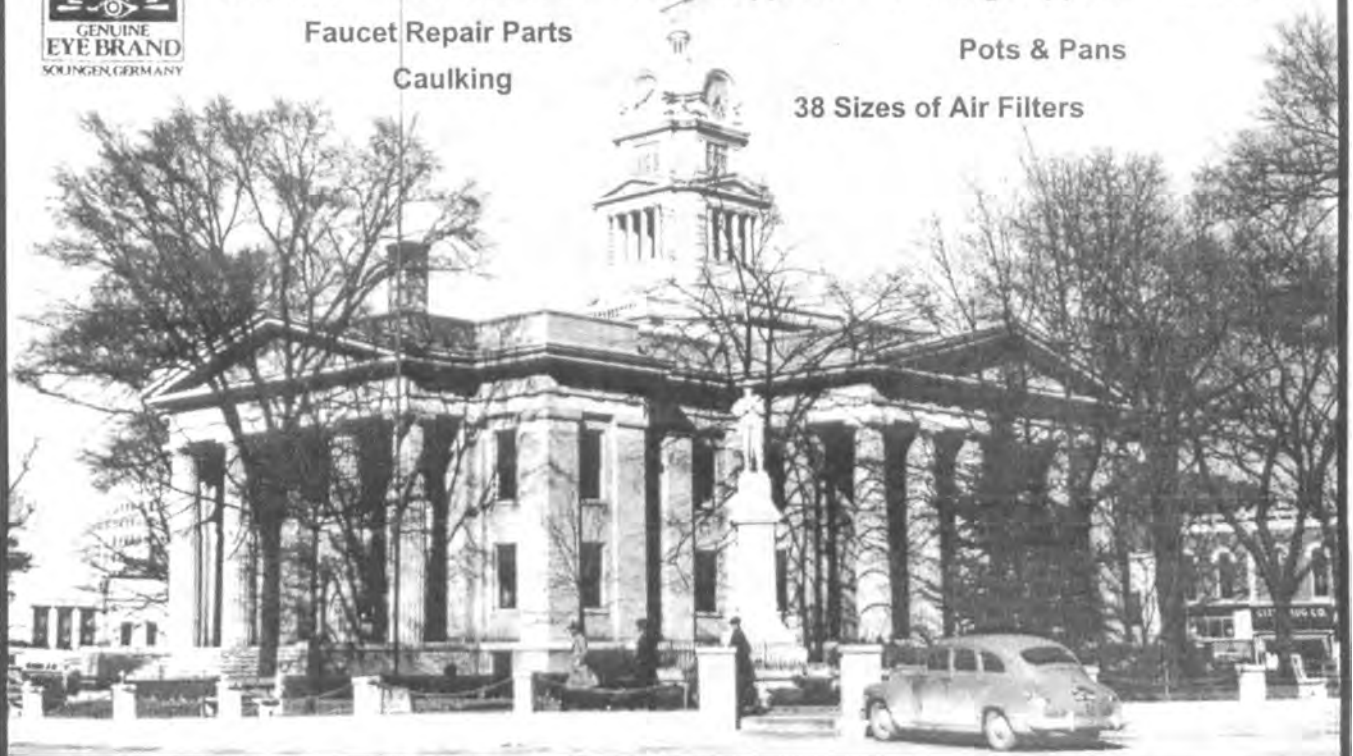


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The Crusade

by Jon Jackson

They say pictures don't lie. Lewis Hine, the crusading social photographer of the early 20th century, built his career on this assumption. Around the nation and in Huntsville he took pictures of children working in the fields, mines, and factories of a nation caught in the gears of industrialization. These children look at you from the depths of time as if to say, 'I was here, remember me.' In black and white, in tattered clothes, in a childhood cut short by work in the Huntsville cotton mills, they lived lives now forgotten. At the dawn of the twentieth century Lewis Hine waged his crusade to take children out of the workplace and give them a childhood. In the end, he failed. But it was a glorious failure.

Lewis Hine was born in 1874 to Douglas Hull and Sara Hayes Hine of Oshkosh Wisconsin. He grew up in the relative privilege of a white middle class upbringing. His parents owned a small restaurant in downtown Oshkosh and Lewis attended school, graduating in 1892.

In 1892, Lewis' father died and the family fell upon hard times. Lewis took a job in a local upholstery factory for four dollars a week. The 13-hour days and six-day weeks gave him a taste of how the other half lived. He later said, "For seven years I lived behind the scenes in the life of the worker, gaining an understanding that increased through the years." After the upholstery factory closed he took a variety of jobs around the Oshkosh area. He also began studying sculpture and drawing at this time, taking correspondence courses and attending the normal school (a school set up to train future school teachers) in Oshkosh.

The ideas of art, especially those of the composition and arrangement of his subjects, would have a great effect on his photography. Hine used a five-by-seven box camera with a bulb-operated shutter and a magnesium flash. Unlike modern photographers with faster, lighter cameras, which can be used to capture a subject in motion, Hine had to set up his camera and pose his subjects. Photographers compose so as to have a specific effect on a viewer. At the time the rules of photographic composition said a subject should look away from the camera to give the illusion of being caught unawares. In contrast Hine had his subject look directly into the



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camera. This gave the viewer intimacy with and sympathy for the subject.

In 1900 Hine enrolled in the University of Chicago though he only stayed there a year. In 1901 he followed his friend and mentor Frank A. Manny to New York when Manny was appointed superintendent of the Ethical Cultural School in New York. Hine took a position teaching at the school. There he began developing his love for photography. At first he took pictures of the school clubs but, on a school field trip to Ellis Island, he saw the immigrants. At the beginning of the twentieth century immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe, flooded the shores of America. Often seen as dirty, uneducated vermin who brought with them huge social problems America did not need, many in America looked down on them. Hine saw something in them most, including his students, did not. Using his camera he returned again and again to capture portraits of a people teeming to America's shores to breathe the air of freedom. Going up to people who often did not speak English he communicated his desire to take their picture. In the crowded conditions of Ellis Island he would set up his tripod and camera. Without a common language he would communicate

the pose he wanted them to hold. Using hand ignited magnesium flash powder he would take the portrait of the immigrant and, in the ensuing smoke and confusion, disappear into the crowd. Again and again in these pictures one sees what would later become a major theme of Hine's work: The inherent dignity of his subjects. Again and again the nameless people who look out from their portraits are shown not as sub-humans coming to America to commit crimes and live off the dole, but as people whose only crime is wanting freedom and opportunity. Their crime is hope.

In 1907, with a growing family to support, Hine began working for the National Child Labor Committee. Over the next ten years he logged hundreds of thousands of miles crisscrossing the nation, photographing children working in the industries of America. Much of his work was done in Huntsville where he captured the images of the young children working in the mills. At Dallas, Lowe, Merrimack, and Lincoln he saw children going in and out of the mills. Many of them were underage, some as young as seven, their parents having lied on the affidavits they were required to sign attesting to the age of the child. Often the family needed the money and,

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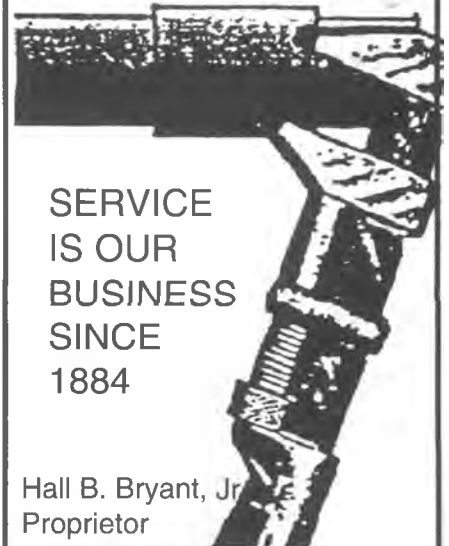


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not having any education themselves, they did not want their children "wasting" their time going to school.

In the Huntsville cotton mills children were often hired as 'doffers', 'spinners', and 'sweepers'. Doffers went around the mill replacing the whirling bobbins as they filled with thread. Spinners kept an eye on the bobbins and when a thread broke they tied the ends together. Sweepers kept the floors clean so the other workers could do their jobs more efficiently. The mill owners valued the small workers whose deft fingers meant they could do the work quickly and thus maximize the money the mill owners spent. And, because they were children, the owners did not have to pay them as much as an adult.

At the time machinery often lacked even basic safety features. Moving parts were often exposed and it was easy to get a limb caught and mangled. Once, while Hine was at a factory he reported, "A twelve year old doffer boy fell into a spinning machine and the unprotected gearing tore out two of his fingers. 'We don't have any accidents in this mill,' the overseer told me. 'Once in a while a finger is mashed or a foot, but it don't amount to anything.'"

At first Hine managed to gain access to the mills themselves, taking pictures of children so small they had to stand on the spinning machines to do their work. He would tell the supervisors he wanted to photograph the

mills themselves. Fumbling around with the camera and equipment he would deliberately waste time until the supervisor would grow bored and wander off. Hine then set about on his real task of photographing the children. Later the pictures would end up in newspapers and in displays the National Child Labor Committee set up around the country to raise awareness of child labor. When the mill owners caught on they barred him from the mills and instructed the supervisors to run him off when they caught him around. Hine then began hanging around outside the mills, taking pictures of the children coming and going to work.

The cotton mills began to put pressure on Hine, hoping to run him out of town. Other Huntsville businesses, beholden to the cotton mills, refused to sell anything to him. He was refused admittance to businesses and had to order his film from out of town. At one point he was forced to sleep in his car when a local hotel refused to rent him a room.

But taking pictures was only half the battle. It still remained to convince the nation that these invisible children who made the conveniences that they brought were people. Hine had to give his vision to others. On breaks from his schedule of shooting at the factories he would go around the nation lecturing about what he saw in the factories, mines, and streets of the nation where chil-

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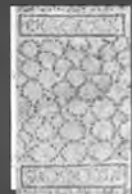
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dren labored. He told of the brutal 13-hour days of backbreaking labor to groups of affluent, middle class whites. He told how children, too young to protest, were enslaved by corporate greed. In one instance he came to Huntsville on his lecture tour, he had to change the captions on some of the pictures to avoid being run out of town.

The wealthy cotton mill owners began a campaign to discredit Hine and his photographs. Powerful lobbyists in Washington labeled him a Communist and assertions were made that his photographs were staged. One lobbyist went so far as to say that the children portrayed in the pictures were actually dwarfs.

Despite the criticism leveled at him Hine refused to defend himself, choosing instead to let the photographs speak for themselves. President Wilson, after viewing the photographs, was said to have been "shocked to his inner core." The stark black and white photos of young children enslaved to corporate greed created a national controversy and people began pressing for reform.

In 1916 and again in 1918 Congress passed child labor reform laws but the Supreme Court struck them down. In 1924 Congress attempted to pass a Constitutional Amendment that would authorize a national child labor law. At each of the hearings Hine's photographs of children working in the Huntsville cotton mills were exhibited.

Groups opposed to any increase in federal law in areas relating to children lobbied against the amendment and within ten years the measure died. Only during the Great Depression of the 1930's did child labor finally begin dying. But not because of activism or laws: In this period of high unemployment men competed even for the lowest paying jobs formerly held by children. At the same time labor unions began to agitate for change. But the most powerful reason for change was the growing need by industry for more skilled workers. School became, not an option, but a necessity to get a job. It was not until 1938, when President Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, that severe restrictions were placed on child

labor. Amended in 1949 the law finally put teeth in the regulation of child labor. Yet even today, in dark out-of-the-way corners, child labor continues.

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voted to reduce his salary from \$275 to \$200 a month, Hine and the National Child Labor Committee parted ways. In 1918 Hine went to Europe with the Red Cross to photograph the aftermath of World War I. There he saw the ultimate horror of the industrial age: The aftermath of a war that had ground a generation of men into hamburger.

When he returned to America he felt ready to take on new challenges. "I thought I had done my share of negative documentation," he later recalled, "Now I wanted to do something positive." During the 1920's he worked on a series of portraits he called his 'Work Portraits.' With titles such as 'Freight Brakeman', 'The Engineer', 'Mechanic', and 'The Printer' his work of this period showed the

dignity and satisfaction people could get from labor. "Cities do not build themselves," he said, "machines cannot make machines, unless back of them all are the brains and toil of men."

In 1930 he became the official photographer during the construction of the Empire State Building. The high point of his career, this body of work showed more than any other Hine's love for the workers of America. Whereas before he had shown the dark and shameful underbelly of industry, he now showed the glories that the American worker could accomplish. Lugging his heavy equipment hundreds of feet into the air, he documented workers as they thrust a tower of steel, stone, and glass a quarter of a mile into the sky.

The remainder of the 1930's was not kind to Hine. With the coming of Roosevelt's administration and the New Deal legislation the nation needed photographers to document the Depression and what Roosevelt was doing about it. Most of the new generation of editors felt Hine was past his prime and too tempermental. He could not get on with the influential Farm Services Administration. He did manage to get a job photographing the work of the Tennessee Valley Administration but quit

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not long after he started because of artistic differences. By the middle of the 30's he was broke and had to sell his house. In 1940 Lewis Hine died, destitute and discouraged.

If you are tempted to think of Hine's life as wasted, do not. His art, though it did not accomplish what he intended, did what true art always does: It showed the beauty of creation in spite of the ugliness of the world. A machine cannot see a person. In many ways a person cannot see another person.

How many times have you encountered an invisible person? It may be a waiter who brings your food at a restaurant. You're talking with friends, the waiter brings your food, you say thanks or perhaps nothing, the waiter leaves, and disappears from your perception. Who really thinks, "Did he have a good day?" "What are his prospects for a bright future?" And a hundred other questions about his life. Do we ever think about the person who made our car or built our house, not to mention the person who grew our food or made our clothes?

These people are the invisible people that make our lives possible.

The genius of Lewis Hine wasn't in the composition of his pictures or in his decision to use the camera. The genius of Lewis Hine was his ability to see the invisible person and show that person to us, very clearly.

His pictures helped change a nation but in Huntsville, home of the cotton mills he photographed, he had been conveniently forgotten...until now.

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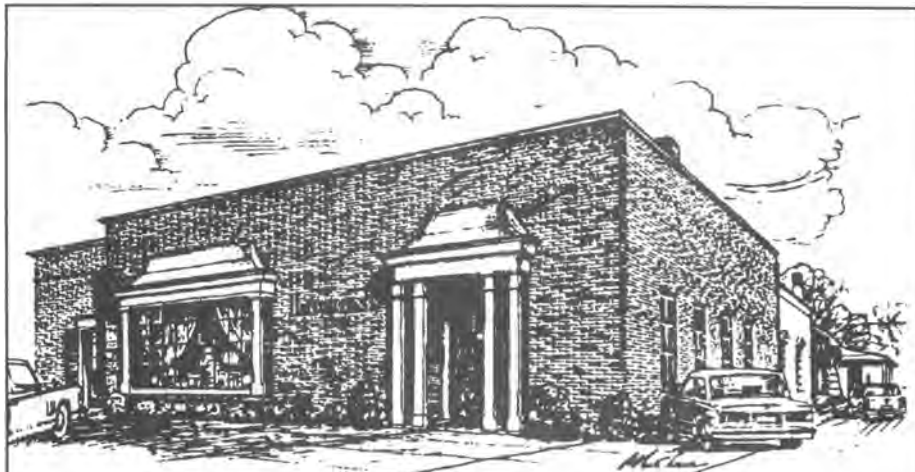
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in Huntsville before.

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Back From The Dead

from 1907 Huntsville newspaper

Harvey Longtree, a farmer of this county, and his wife Mollie Longtree were arrested yesterday and brought to Huntsville, the former on a charge of living in adultery and the latter on a charge of bigamy.

Warrants for the arrest of the couple were sworn out by John Hines who claims to be the first and present husband of the woman. Hines claims that the woman had a suit for divorce pending in the chancery court and that although a decree of divorce has never been rendered, his wife married Longtree and has since lived with him.

Harvey Longtree is seventy-three and his wife is sixty-five. Between them they have a total of eleven children with the oldest being fifty-four.

The confusion is supposed to have begun when Hines traveled to Texas in search of a new homestead. When he did not return after several years his wife filed for divorce but was advised there was no need of it as Hines was most likely dead. She is reported to have erected a tombstone in his memory at a local cemetery.

Longtree then paid court to the supposed widow and a short time later they were married.

The defendants were arrested by Deputy Constable Ferguson. They were arraigned before Justice Vaught who fixed their bonds at \$250 in the case of Longtree and \$1,000 in the woman's case.

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The name is probably Choctaw in its origins. The name is made up of the two words "Alba" and "Amo."

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Aunt Virgie's Beauty Shop

by Rob Zimmerman

During one of my many summer visits to Huntsville, Uncle Jack and I had gone to Aunt Virgie's beauty shop, Virgie & Virginia's (they did all of Huntsville's blue hair) at the corner of Madison Street & Lowe Avenue (then a dead end), to clean up so Aunt Virgie could come home early. While Uncle Jack and I were inside doing our chores, someone stole his golf clubs from the trunk of Smokey (a Volkswagon in which the trunk was in the front). Uncle Jack decided we should ride around downtown Huntsville to see if we might spot someone with his clubs.

When we got to the old Dunning Building, there a man was on the sidewalk with Uncle Jack's clubs (every golfer knows his own clubs by sight). At the same time, a Huntsville police patrol car pulled up behind us. Uncle Jack and I got out and Uncle Jack explained the situation to the officer. We walked up to the person along side the officer.

The officer asked this rather seedy looking fellow "Been playing golf long?". The man replied, "yeah, for some time now". The officer asked him what his handicap was and the man replied, "Oh, my left leg hurts a little sometimes!"

Uncle Jack got his clubs back right there on the spot and the officer let the man go, telling him not to come near the beauty shop ever again. Uncle Jack must have had some political pull back then. He was friends with the Mayor, the Sheriff and was on Dr. Von Braun's staff at NASA. He even got a small roadway named for me, Robin Lane, just

off the corner of Drake Avenue and Whitesburg Drive. It was common for new roadways to be named after family members of affluent Huntsville people even before then. Some examples are White Street, Monroe Street, Russell Street, Lowry and Beirne Avenues and so on and on. Robin Lane started out in 35801 but is now in 35802. Huntsville, like other towns and cities, at one time had no zip codes. Then one, then two and so on. Now there are countless zip codes with the plus zip four extensions that take you right down to the very house you live in.

My Grandmother used to tell me when she and PaPa lived on Sivley Road. It was way out in the county then. Now it crosses Drake Avenue just below Whitesburg. And, Redstone Arsenal, where my Grandfather



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Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!

was a civilian guard, was a thirty minute ride from the house. My Grandfather had made a career change from being the operator of Falls Mill in Salem, Tn. when they moved to Huntsville. She also told me in my youth how no one would drive out to "The Mall" (Now known as "The Fountain") to shop because it was just too far out.

Don't you know that if she was alive now, she would really be flipping out! She saw everything from horse and buggies to men landing on the moon.

Now, I can't tell you about Uncle Jack and not tell you about Aunt Virgie. During one of my summer trips to Huntsville, I wanted her to streak my hair (that was the new In thing). After getting Mother's permission, Aunt Virgie set me down in her chair at the shop, put a rubber skull cap on, pulled hair through it with some sort of hooky type instrument, bleached it and put me under the drier.

As I had alluded to earlier, Aunt Virgie was a very good-

hearted person. She (for years) had let this man who was a deaf/mute come into the shop a time or two a week. He would walk around showing people a little card that read "Please help me with your spare change, I'm a deaf/mute". The little old blue hairs would dig into their purses and fork over the coins and sometimes even dollars. As the man worked his way around the shop he finally got to me. He flashed his card at me. When I stood up to get him money out of my pocket, he took one look at my hair, jumped back and said "Holy Moses!".

Needless to say, Aunt Virgie never let him back in the shop again.

In Hollywood, a marriage is a success if it outlasts milk.
Rita Rudner

Madison County Census of 1820

3,144 white males over 21 years of age.
3,218 white males under 21 years of age.
1,606 white females over 21 years of age.
3,134 white females under 21 years of age.
9,255 slaves
54 free persons of color.

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Visiting Wrong Room Lands Couple in Jail

from 1907 Huntsville paper

A domestic incident of more than usual seriousness was disclosed in the police court this morning when Tom Pirtle and his wife, and W. H. Cape, all from the country, were arraigned before Mayor ProTerm Young on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct. The story told in court was to the effect that the trio of defendants were boarding at a house on Washington Street and that Pirtle appeared in his wife's room last night in an intoxicated condition. His wife claims that she was afraid of him and that she sought protection by going into the room of Cape, their mutual friend. Anyhow, her husband claims she was in the friend's room when he recovered consciousness, so he seized a pistol and chased the couple out into the street in their slumbering robes. In this condition the police found them and arrested the whole bunch. Cape and the woman were fined ten dollars each while Pirtle was fined five dollars. The fines were all paid by Cape.

After their release from custody, Pirtle is said to have threatened the life of Cape and the latter had him arrested on peace

proceedings. Pirtle was unable to make a peace bond and was sent to jail. Cape believes the scheme was made up by Pirtle and his wife for the purpose of robbing him and he says he intends to make it very hot for the couple.

Did you know that babies are born without kneecaps? They don't appear until the child reaches between 2 and 6 years of age.

Some days it just doesn't pay ...

In Atlanta, Georgia a passing motorist pulled an injured man from a wrecked car and carefully laid him down in the grass along the side of the road. The injured man is now suing the good samaritan, saying he got a bad case of poison ivy and has been unable to work.

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Heard On The Street

by Cathey Carney



Congratulations to **Lori Walters** for guessing the Picture of the Month - that was one of the sweetest baby pictures we've run in a while and it was **Benny Little**, of A. G. Edwards & Sons.

Carolyn Tidmore, of Sanders Cleaners, sure is proud of her two children - her son **Matt** is 27 and her daughter **Marci** is 32. Marci's two are **Kyle** and **Alysa**. **Carolyn**, you sure don't look old enough to be a grandma!

Huntsville High held their 30th reunion of the class of '74 recently, and many attended. One we recognized was **Sheila Brooks**, who was looking good!

After a tough battle with cancer, **Mary Gene Reid**, wife of **Joe Reid** of Reid's Hardware, died in June. Joe and Gene used to have breakfast with **Aunt Eunice** every week, and Gene always had a big smile for everyone.

We see more and more signs for the mayor's campaign popping up. Those red and white signs of **Parker Griffith** are hard to miss - it looks like he is getting more and more supporters as time goes on.

Loretta's been low-keyed so far, but watch out - she can run

a powerful campaign once she gets going!

We've also started seeing signs for **Jackie Reed** and **Mary Jane Caylor**. It'll be an exciting election for sure.

After nearly 8 years at Propst in the Post Office, **Donna Lacy** is retiring. No matter how many people were in line, Donna was always calm, cool and organized. She said she's just going to stay at home for a while and catch up on those things she's neglected.

We saw our buddy, **Jeff Enfinger**, recently. He's real excited about his new development out toward Hampton Cove. Jeff is such a nice guy!

We were so sorry to learn about the death of **Sarah Binford Moorman Shaver** who died the end of May. She was a wonderful lady who was loved by so many people in this area. She had two sons, **John Shaver** of Shaver's books, and **Charles E. Shaver, Jr.**

Samuel William Watson McKinney is a mighty big name for a little baby boy who was born

to **Rebekah** and **John McKinney** on May 18. This is the first baby for the couple and **Sam Keith** is probably the proudest grandparent around, along with **Buck** and **Janet Watson**, and **Jerry** and **Esta McKinney**. Congratulations!

Boy, the city council race is really starting to heat up! Everywhere we go we run across a candidate out shaking hands. As hard as **Glenn Watson** is working, his hand must be just about worn out!

Our good wishes go out to **Jim Winning**. He recently had a stroke but we understand he is doing much better. Jim is a member of the Golden K Kiwanis. We're thinking of you!

Many of you probably remember **Rita Drake** who lived in Huntsville for years. She recently moved to Birmingham and just this past weekend married **Dr. Milton Jessig. Dub** and **Edna Pierce** of Orange Beach, Fl. attended the gala event and Dub gave the bride away.

Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the youngster shown below wins a year's subscription to "Old Huntsville" magazine.

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Hint: This little boy is now a successful businessman who is trying to change careers,



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We recently had dinner with **Jim** and **Mildred Holmes**. Mildred wrote the book, "Poor Orphan Trash," that everyone has been talking about. They are such a nice couple.

Congratulations to **Jim** and **Stella Musick** who just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. We just love writing about these lovebirds!

50 years in the insurance business sounds long to most of us, but it's just work as usual for **Tillman Williams**. He's been married to his sweetheart **Helen** for 59 years.

We heard our dear friend **Cecil Ashburn** was seen recently at 801 Franklin where **Louie Tippett** and **Leroy Cunningham** sang happy birthday to him. **Marie Hewitt** was hosting the event as well and Cecil said it was a great birthday. Bunch of party animals!

Also there that same night was **Joyce Russell** of New York Life, hosting some out-of-town managers of NYL.

At the **Beta Sigma Phi** convention here recently we met one of the attendees and his wife. **Jerry Shoemaker**, a retired photographer for a large news syndicate, covered the inauguration and funeral of **Franklin D. Roosevelt**. He and his wife **Karla** live in Gulf Shores, Al.

Friends tell us that **Lynn Berry** is switching jobs. Our bet is that it will be something political.

A big hello to **Dean**, the bartender at Fatso's Bar and Grill. That lady has the best laugh and a huge smile for everyone!

We met **Sam Dodsworth**, the new partner of Coppertop Bar and Grill (used to be Zesto's). She and **Brenda Rigsby** are the beauty and brains behind the new establishment.

Happy birthday to **Mitch Howie** who recently had a big birthday blowout at his "Flint River Farm." What a beautiful old

country home!

It was good to see **Margaret Ann Duffey** and **Harold Sanders** out at Furniture Factory recently. Margaret's daughter **LeAnn Lancaster** works there and says Hi to all her friends and customers!

We hear from **Steve Wright**, of Huntsville Utilities, that his son may be tying the knot soon! **Max Wright** is staying mum right now but we'll know shortly. Steve was telling us that his G-G-G-grandparents hid their 17-year old son in a whiskey barrel to help him escape the Conscription. Interesting info.

A special hello to our California buddy **Barbara Fortner** who has recently moved to live with her daughter in California. Her Southern daughter is Cheryl Tribble, of Hewlett-Packard, who is looking forward to their annual trek to Huntsville.

Bob Hayden told us an interesting fact - that **Satchel Paige** used to play here at Optimist Park years ago.

I hope all of you have a wonderful month and just remember what a beautiful city we live in!

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Old South Family Recipes

Ann Cooper's Pecan Pie

- 1 stick butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. white corn syrup
- 1 c. pecans
- Pie crust (2-9" or 1 10")

Melt stick of butter and brown it in a saucepan. Pour into bowl and mix in sugar and corn syrup. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add the pecans and mix well. Pour into prepared pie crust(s) and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Makes two 9" pies or one 10" deep dish pie. Easy!!

Nell's Mother's Fried Green Tomatoes

- 3-4 green tomatoes
- 1/2 c. corn meal
- 1/4 c. flour

- 1/4 c. oil
- salt and pepper

Wash green tomatoes and slice them in about 1/4 inch rounds. Mix corn meal and flour with salt and pepper to taste. Put corn meal in a shallow bowl. Coat each slice of tomato on both sides with mixture and place in skillet containing hot oil. Fry on med-high heat. Cook til coating is medium brown on both sides.

Nell's Mother's Cooked Spinach

- 1 sml. can spinach, chopped
- 3 eggs
- 1 T. bacon drippings
- 1/2 c. water

Place spinach in skillet - don't drain. Add water, bacon drippings and salt/pepper to taste. Cook til spinach is tender. All the water should be cooked

off. Beat eggs and scramble in skillet with spinach until dry.

For a healthier version, substitute olive oil for the bacon drippings.

Also, Poke Sallet, when in season, can be substituted for spinach. Be sure to wash well and NEVER cook poke sallet once the berries have come on the bush - then it's poisonous.

Fried Chicken

- 1 large fryer, cut up
- 1 c. flour
- 1 egg beaten
- Salt and pepper
- Cooking oil

Mix flour with salt and pepper to taste. Coat chicken on both sides with flour. Dredge chicken through beaten egg and coat again on both sides with flour. Cook in hot oil (Mother used lard) on high heat until

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brown on both sides. Reduce cooking temperature to medium-low and place lid on skillet. Cook til done. Mother tested with a fork for doneness.

Nell

Mushroom Pie

- 4 T. butter
- 2 hard boiled eggs
- 1 t. salt
- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 c. cream
- 1/4 t. white pepper
- 1/4 t. garlic powder

Melt butter in saucepan, add mushrooms, cook gently for 10 minutes, then add sliced eggs and cream. Pour into baking dish or casserole, cover top with pie crust and cook for 10 minutes at 375 degrees, until crust is done.

Jenny Johnson

Sweet Potato Pecan Balls

- 1 1/2 c. mashed, cooked sweet potatoes
 - 1/4 c. orange juice
 - 1/2 t. vanilla extract
 - 3 T. sugar
 - 1/2 c. chopped pecans
- Mix potatoes, orange juice, vanilla and sugar. Shape into balls using about 2 tablespoons for each. Roll in pecans and place on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Stefanie Troup

Chocolate Sunday Pie

- 1 env. gelatin (unflavored)
- 1/4 c. cold water
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 c. scalded milk
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 3 egg whites, beaten stiff
- 1 c. heavy cream, whipped
- 1 oz. chocolate slivers
- 1/2 c. pecans, chopped fine
- 2 pie shells, deep-dish, thawed

Soften gelatin in cold water, let it stand. Combine next three ingredients and slowly add the scalded milk. Cook in double boiler til mixture coats back of spoon, sticking to it.

Add softened gelatin and stir til dissolved, cool. Add vanilla, fold in egg whites, whipped cream and pour all into thawed crusts. Sprinkle chopped pecans and slivered chocolate over top of pies, chill thoroughly.

Gale Nichols

Next Day Cookies

- 2 c. brown sugar
 - 1 c. shortening
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 t. vanilla extract
 - 2 1/2 c. plain flour
 - 1 t. salt
 - 1 t. soda
- Cream sugar, shortening, eggs and vanilla together. Sift the dry ingredients together and add

to the creamed mixture. Roll into 4 logs and put in fridge.

Next morning slice thin and bake on greased cookie sheet for 8-10 minutes at 375 degrees.

Kathy Cotney

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Memories of Lincoln

by James Larry Wilburn

The movies were a big part of growing up in Huntsville. On Saturday we would either take the bus into town - or walk - for a movie. Go in the morning and stay until dark. Had a lot of choices - the Lyric, the Grand, or the Elks downtown. If we wanted to go a little further, we went to the Center Theater. For that dime we got to watch a double feature, a serial, a cartoon, and the news. Yeah, before TV you got your news on the radio and if you SAW it, it was the newsreel at the theater. All day long at the theater!!!! Eating popcorn, drinking your Coke and having your Tootsie Roll.

The serials were always fun. What's a serial? It is a short, and continuing film which you see each week. And each week it ends with the hero (or heroine) in great peril. Of course each following week the hero escaped and continued to chase the bad guy. What were some of the serials? Flash Gordon, Westerns (one I remember especially well had a bad guy called "PEGLEG"), Clyde Beatty and many others. The serials and movies were

great. Each kid had his favorite and for the week between Saturdays you became your hero. Depending upon the game, the hero changed. This morning you're Tarzan. This afternoon, Robin Hood, Tonight, THE SHADOW! Or Roy Rogers!

Old westerns became even more fun on TV when you could watch them with Daddy Young. As someone was killed, he would remark, "They're not really dead, they'll be in another movie!" He could watch westerns, make that comment, and still believe Wrestling was for real!! Go figure!

Not only the movies occupied you and gave you a thrill - RADIO was there also. Your imagination was SO very much better than watching it on screen. Your imagination made the bad guys, the creatures, the situation much more threatening. I loved radio. I can still mentally see Red Skelton doing Freddy the Freeloader or the Mean Widdle Kid. You could never explain the thrill of radio to someone who has grown up with TV.

Perhaps not so surprisingly - a lot of the Lincoln kids have done okay. Me, Herbie, and many others. I think Lincoln helped prepare you. The old

saw of "It takes a village to raise a child" was never more true than in Lincoln. I always knew

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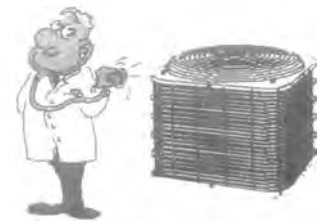
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Be Prepared for Long-term Care

Financially speaking, planning for your future entails a certain degree of foresight. It's hard to sit down right now and accurately predict exactly where you'll be in ten years, twenty years, or even further down the road. And while looking ahead to the joys of travel and relaxation and other benefits that we typically associate with retirement, it's easy to overlook unexpected events that may occur during that time - or even sooner.

When you think about building your nest egg, you probably have goals in mind for what you want to accumulate, and you may even have ideas on how you will spend that money. But long-term care is probably one of the last things that comes to mind. Unfortunately, more than a few of us will likely be affected in one way or another by a serious illness or injury that will require some form of long-term care. The prospect of depleting your hard-earned retirement funds to pay for such care is frightening. However, if you take the time now to plan ahead, you can be financially prepared should you ever find yourself facing this type of situation.

Long-term care refers to the assistance you may need as a result of a disability or a prolonged illness. It usually encompasses a broad range of supportive medical, personal and social services designed to help people who simply can't meet their basic needs to live independently for an extended period of time. This type of assistance can be given either in the home, or at a long-term care facility.

Funding for long-term care can be expensive, depending on the length of time and the specifics of the type of care required. For these reasons, you should be careful to assess a variety of possibilities, and develop a plan that could cover different situations. Here are three basic ways you can fund long-term care.

Self Insurance - If you have assets that can easily be converted to cash, you can plan for long-term care by setting aside a special fund just for that purpose. Investments such as an IRA or an annuity provide a means for money to accumulate until an illness occurs. The main advantage of insuring yourself this way is that the money will be available for other purposes if you never need it for long-term care. On the other hand, the main setback of setting aside your own funds is the possibility of falling short in your savings, causing you to dip into other funds to pay for long-term care. Also keep in mind, taking large distributions from an IRA could affect your income taxes. If you take it upon yourself to establish the funds, make sure you plan carefully so you will have enough if you need it.

Medicare, Medicaid and Health Insurance - Many people believe they can count on their current health insurance or Medicare or Medicaid to pay for long-term care expenses. Unfortunately, most health insurance policies do not cover the costs associated with long-term care. While Medicare offers medical benefits to eligible seniors, its longterm care benefits are very limited. Medicaid, designed for individuals who do not have the income or assets to pay for long-term care, requires that you first deplete most of your assets (with limited exemptions) before you can qualify. Relying on any of these three options could put you in a bad position if you eventually require long-term care.

Long-Term Care Insurance - While providing tax-free benefits, long-term care insurance offers specific protection against the high costs of extended health care. For a simple monthly premium, you get a policy that pays a fixed dollar amount for care you can receive in a variety of settings, including your own home. This specialized insurance can help you avoid spending your assets, and may even allow you to maintain your lifestyle without suffering from the financial burden of long-term care costs.

However you decide to prepare for your future health care needs, just be aware that you may eventually need the services of long-term care. Planning accordingly can help you avoid a financial disaster down the road.

This article was provided by A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. Member SIPC.

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Benny Little, Accredited Asset Management Specialist, Branch Manager

that if I was hungry, I could go into almost any home there and say, "I'm hungry," and be fed. I could always go to any of the adults with a problem and get help. You had dozens of parents. You knew that if you did something wrong, the news of it would probably beat you home. You really didn't get away with much. Instead of being the "ALL KNOWING," I thought she was, my mother had a network of spies who reported on what we kids were into and the only thing faster than the speed of light is the neighborhood grapevine.

I started school at Lincoln School. It had first grade through 12th grade school. Not only did I go there, but also my Aunt Dora, who was a few years ahead in the same school. My Mother had even gone to Lincoln! I really enjoyed it. I still get a warm feeling every time I drive by the old school. Had teachers like Miss Larkin and Miss Eslinger. Why are all teachers called Miss? I know many of them were married.

Later in my Lincoln school years I would meet Mrs. Keel, a sixth grade teacher. Mrs. Keel was a hard taskmaster. She was feared and respected. You did not cross Mrs. Keel. She wielded a mean paddle and did not hesitate to use it - albeit justly. Thirty years later, standing in a bank line, I felt a sharp knuckle rap

me in the spine and heard the words "Stand up straight". Without turning around, I snapped erect and said "Yes, Mrs. Keel."

One of my favorite memories of school at Lincoln was something we called "Chapel". Almost every day, the entire student body gathered in the auditorium. The usual announcements were made, people were introduced, and kudos were passed around. Then we had a mass sing along. Easter Parade, Little Brown Church in the Dell, Row Your Boat, etc, etc, etc. I'm sure there was a lot of lip-synching going on but we sure enjoyed it. That and the music teacher - Mrs. Graham, I think was her name. She always led the singing and did one fine job of it. I didn't especially like the periodic music classes but I did enjoy Chapel, or Assembly, or what ever we called it.

Lincoln was also where I had my first cigarette. Two buddies and I bought a pack of Kools, climbed upon one of the school buildings and lit up. We told each other how good the cigarettes were while we were turning green. We all got deathly ill, couldn't get enough air, and were falling down dizzy. You would have thought that would have kept us away from cigarettes, but all of us were committed smokers by the time we were 14 or 15. Surprising how stupid you

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can be, isn't it? Thirty years or so later, I managed to quit that habit.

Lincoln school also worked me a little. One beautiful Spring I got to spread cow manure for a week. It beat being in a stuffy classroom on a beautiful spring day! About ten of us sixth grade boys loaded into the back of a teacher's pick up and drove to the local stockyard. We loaded that truck with manure and took it back to the schoolyard. There we unloaded it and spread it. Load after load. I was covered in manure. In my hair, in my clothes, caked around my eyes, nose, and mouth. It was glorious! And it counted as school days! Had some green grass out front that year!

I do have a lot of pleasant memories of Lincoln. Like lying in bed on hot summer nights with the window open for a breeze, listening to soft murmur of the voices of the adults sitting on the front porch relaxing after corralling the kids and getting them to bed. Or perhaps lying in bed with my face next to the

open window listening to the rain and feeling its soft patter upon my face, watching the lightening play across the sky and listening to the roll of thunder before falling to sleep. I still enjoy lying in bed on a summer night with the wind blowing in the window, listening to the rain and watching the lightning.

Every workday we would listen for the two o'clock whistle to blow. Shortly thereafter we would see Mamma Young walking down the street from the Mill. Cotton in her hair and a smile on her face. The town folk may have called her/us "Lint Heads", but to me the sun shining in that lint made it look like a Halo. Some times she would have a large spool of heavy thread. We called it Kite Cord. A spool big enough to put your kite almost out of sight in the sky. Sometimes I close my eyes and see her coming down the sidewalk. She was my Angel.

On one of our moves we moved into a house on O'Shaunessy. The thing I remember about this place is that the

back yard was grown up really bad. Grass, or should I say weeds at least 4 feet high. Dad gave us a Sling Blade and put us to work. We worked our little butts off swinging that blade, getting the grass down low enough to run a push mower through it. I do mean a push mower - the

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kind powered by pushing - not a motor driven mower you push. Well we did get that back yard cut. I still remember it, but not much else.

From my first grade at Lincoln, I attended Rison School (I have since called it Andrew Jackson, I guess because it was on Andy Jackson highway), Attalla Elementary, West Clinton, Huntsville Jr. High, and Butler. All those schools and I didn't manage to graduate. Strangely, I don't remember much about Rison, Attalla or West Clinton. The main thing I remember about West Clinton was intentionally failing a grade to wait for a friend, Benny Lee, who was one grade behind. Really smart move on my part because before school started the next year, Benny moved away! So there I was, a year older than my classmates. And come to think of it, I haven't seen Benny Lee since then. As I understand it, Benny is dead now.

While we were growing up we had a nice diversion. During the summer we would often go out to Aunt Grace's farm. At least I

thought it was her farm. Was a long time before I learned what a Sharecropper was. We did love going out there. Got to sleep upstairs and on a rainy night that was a treat. The rain pattering against that old tin roof could put me in dreamland in no time. I think one reason we enjoyed it so much on the farm is that we really didn't live there. It wasn't a way of life for us. We weren't expected to do everything our cousins were. We could do about as much as we wanted to and no more. We didn't necessarily have to get up before dawn to start in the fields. We could sleep in. I have sometimes wondered if our cousins didn't sometimes resent us. My brother, Buddy, would say "I ain't gonna sleep with Moody 'cause he sleeps nekkid!" Didn't bother me, 'cause I sleep in the raw also.

Once I was supposed to chop cotton. Being a town-boy, I didn't know a lot about chopping cotton. Uncle Ed told me to chop down those green weeds. Well, I took my hoe and began, chop chop, chop, cut that weed, clear that row! I was really doing a great job! At least

When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot, hang on and swing!

Jean McIntosh

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until I had gone down about half a hundred mile long row and Uncle Ed came up somewhat irked! He asked me what the heck I thought I was doing. I told him "Choppin' cotton." I cleared that half a row perfectly. Behind me there was NOTHING green standing. Apparently I WAS "chopping" Cotton! Yeah, it went down with the weeds.

I didn't know what little cotton looked like. It was green and I was chopping green. Needless to say, I wasn't used for any more chopping. To be perfectly honest, I didn't really mind.

Uncle Otis (actually a cousin, a son of Aunt Grace) once let me try plowing. Turned me loose in the field with Red and Tuck (a pair of ornery mules) and his plow. Told me to keep the furrow straight. Apparently I was letting old Red and Tuck meander a bit, 'cause he yelled at me and took the reins. I didn't get a lot of plowing done! Otis also gave me a horse once. A big roan

called Maude. Was my horse. At least until I was picking cotton at Redstone once and the overseer road up on my Maude. I was really angry. Otis done sold my horse! Took me a long time to forgive him for that.

I remember the meals on the farm also. At dinner (that's lunch to you modern folks) we would sit down to a heavily loaded table. Beans, potatoes, corn, cornbread, meat, and any number of other things. Eat our fill and head back outside. Aunt Grace would spread a sheet over the table and it would sit there until Supper (that's dinner for you modern folks). I remember Momma Young spreading a sheet or oilcloth over the table to keep the flies off the food until the next meal. Either there wasn't as much problem with food poison then or we just didn't hear about it.

We were living in Sparkman Homes when I attended Huntsville Jr. High. The only teachers

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I remember from HJH was the football Coach, Coach Berry, and the Principal - Ol' Chrome dome (Mr. McGowan). Another was a math teacher who enjoyed playing with the girls. He sold encyclopedias. Mom and Dad bought a set from him. I didn't hit a lick that year in math, and I still got an A. I do remember a young lady who sat behind me and wrote on my back. I often wore white shirts - she wrote on them - it felt so goooood that I never told her to stop. I would just nod off! Of course my Mother would get a mite irritated! In another class, a young lady who sat behind me, name long forgotten, tied my hair in braids and knots in the back. Felt good so I didn't say anything there either. Just combed out the knots. I did enjoy the walk home from school. Me, Joann, and Patricia. Would stop at a drugstore on the corner in town and get a double dip Black Walnut ice cream cone.

These were teen years. Difficult! All I thought about was girls. Didn't date much. Didn't ask the girls out because I didn't think they would go out with me. I did go out for football though. Practiced hard, really loved it, but, couldn't get Mom and Dad to buy me any football shoes, so

"I still like to rock, cruise in my Camaro on Saturday nights and play the guitar. If you were a groovy chick, or are now a groovy hen, let's get together and listen to my 8-tracks."
Seen on local Senior singles ad

I quit! I couldn't be the only kid on the team without cleats! I was always the idiot that volunteered to hold the blocking dummy and the blocking pads. I got pounded a lot.

I also worked at the S & S Supermarket. Worked for a Mrs. Savage. Bagged groceries, stocked shelves, and anything else the Savage's told me to do. Even sat behind the two-way mirror behind the meat counter and watched for shoplifters. Worked from 5 to 8 PM on school

nights and 8 till 8 on weekends. Earned three dollars a day. Generally, I owed over half of what I earned to the S & S for what I had bought or eaten during the week.

During this period I hated Mrs. Savage. She was always correcting my speech. Embarrassed me to death! I would say something like " I retch across the counter" and she would say, "No, you reached - retched is like puking." I often thought of slowly strangling the woman. But, she

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did correct my speech. Use a word wrongly or improperly and she corrected me. Later on I learned how much I owed the lady for those corrections, but when I went by to thank her I was a few years too late. She had died. I have often regretted not being able to say "Thank you."

Somewhere in this period I accomplished another one of my one-of-a-kind deeds. I had been out late and came home hungry. No one was awake and I was starved. Found a saucer of hamburger meat in the refrigerator. What luck! Made myself two big juicy hamburgers. Onions, tomatoes, the works. Had a late night feast and went to bed satisfied! The next morning Mother asked me if I had fed the dog, I said "No, Why?" And she said the saucer of dog food is gone! I didn't know it was dog food, and besides, the hamburgers were delicious!

My first year of high school and I was going to Butler High. I was more than a little bored with school, so, late in January 1957 at the ripe old age of 17, I convinced my Mom and Dad to sign the paperwork for me to join the Army. On February 4th, the Army

Recruiter drove me and Edmond Blevins to Nashville to take our tests for the Army. We passed all the tests - written, mental, physical and what ever. I had visions of being a Military Policeman (MP). Can't you just see a 17-year-old pimple-faced dork running around with a gun and enforcing the LAW! Strangely enough, I ended up doing something even more astounding! The Recruiters in Nashville told me that my scores qualified me for the Army Security Agency. I said "Great, What's that?" The Recruiter told me that he didn't know but that it was supposed to be a good deal. I

said, "Sign me up!" He did, and that night I boarded a train for Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. We arrived at the Replacement Depot and were bedded down for the night. Talk about a scared, homesick little boy. That was me.

While doing all this, I have



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always kept a secret place locked away within me. A place to which I return to find some calmness and solace when I feel my world has gone haywire. It is home. Not the home of today, but the home where I grew up. Lincoln! Yes, I know you can never go home. Home only exist within your mind and heart. In your memories. I can go back there and be a child again. Momma Young and Daddy Young are no older than I am today. Mom and Dad are young. Fighting perhaps, but young. Everyone in the village knows everyone else. It is comfortable and safe. There are no drive-by shootings, no serial killers, no scam artists. There, I don't have to make decisions, which affect others.

Every trip back to Huntsville, I used to visit that old home. Sat out front and somewhere deep inside expected to see Momma Young and Daddy Young come through the front door, to suddenly be back there again. A dream that felt warm and good. Now that home is no longer there, so I only visit it in my mind.



Newspaper Clippings from 1893

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

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

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

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

- There should be no trouble enforcing the liquor laws in Scottsboro now that the citizens have elected a former bootlegger as sheriff.

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Huntsville, like much of the rest of the nation in the 1920s, was caught up in the fervor of the Ku Klux Klan resurgence.

Like any other secret organization, the Klan had its rituals, and most important of all, an official handbook.

This handbook, which spelled out all the rituals and signs, was considered to be one of the best kept secrets of the Klan.

In Huntsville, a Klan member was actually forced to pay a large fine and sentenced to six months banishment for allowing his wife to glance at the handbook.

In an effort to keep nonmembers from learning the contents of the secret handbook, Joseph Simmons, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, issued the following "Imperial Decree" from his, "Aulic in the Imperial Palace in the Imperial City of Atlanta:

The Kloran is the book of the Invisible Empire and is therefore a sacred book with our citizens, and its contents must be

rigidly safeguarded. The book or any part of it must not be kept or carried where any person of the 'alien' world may chance to become acquainted with its sacred contents as such.

Warning: A penalty sufficient will speedily be enforced for disregarding the decree in the profanation of the Kloran. "

Six months later Simmons decided that a book as important as the Kloran should be officially recognized, so he applied to Washington for a copyright.

Like any other proud author, he forwarded one dollar and two copies of the book to the Register of Copyrights.

From that time forth *The Book of the Invisible Empire* was available to anyone who asked for it at the Library of Congress.

Ironically, even today, the book is still considered by the Klan to be a secret that must be maintained at all cost.



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Your recent story "A New Suit" brought back a lot of memories. I left school (in 1938) two months before I was to graduate because my family could not afford to buy me a suit or a class ring.

I was drafted into service and spent most of the war in Dayton, Ohio where I worked on blue-

prints for new aircraft. In 1953 I was offered a job here in Huntsville working on blueprints for rockets.

I had worked here for several years when I received a promotion and had to get a security clearance.

On my personnel records I had written that I had graduated from high school, which was almost true. I had not figured on the FBI and the cold war hysteria. One day Mr. Murphy, my boss, called me into his office and explained we had a problem.

When he explained that a background check revealed I had not graduated, I thought for sure I was about to be fired.

Mr. Murphy finally asked me when I left school and I told him. Then he asked what my father did for a living and if I had ever picked cotton.

After I had answered all the questions, Mr. Murphy broke into a wide grin and said, "Don't worry son. I couldn't afford to graduate neither. But, if you don't tell anyone I won't either."

I got the clearance and the promotion and Mr. Murphy never mentioned it again.

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- Wanted - white woman for house work and place for a boy twelve years old for his board and clothes to work around the house or farm. Apply at 703 Pratt Ave.

- For rent - two furnished rooms heated by furnace. Men preferred. 242 Walker Street. \$1.50 a week.

My mother buried three husbands, and two of them were just napping.

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To His Excellency,
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February 2, 1865

Sir, I have the honor to enclose here within, petitions of James H. Hembree and C.W. Melton, my son-in-laws, praying to his Excellency, Abraham Lincoln, that they be permitted to take the oath of allegiance and return to their homes and families.

Mr. Melton's wife is dead and his daughters, six and three years of age, are dependent upon me for their support.

My husband died in 1854, and I am now in destitute circumstances, having a family of my own to support and care for, and not one male member of my own, or daughter's family to render me assistance.

In the present conditions of the country, it is impossible for females alone to gain a livelihood.

My daughters cultivated a small field of corn the past season, with their own hands, which would have been sufficient to subsist us through the winter, had we been permitted to gather it, but it was all taken by the soldiers, and we are left destitute. Mr. James Hembree's wife is in very poor health, and has no means of support for family and two children, aged eight and four years.

I respectfully submit the en-

closed petition to your kind considerations and action in behalf of the widowed, and their children.

Your Humble Servant,
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Lucy Johnson was the cousin of Andrew Johnson, who later became President of the United States after Lincoln's assassination. There is no record that Johnson ever responded to his cousin's plea.

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- A responsible business man of Huntsville has said that for \$200 he will find the main stream of the big spring on the Little Mountain and provide water enough to supply the city.

The gentleman wants the money for his trouble and it will not have to be paid him if he fails to find the stream.

The matter will probably be taken up at the next city council meeting and there may be something doing in regards to this.

- The policemen on day duty presented an imposing sight when they began their rounds on horse back. From now on every section of the city will be covered during the day by the mounted men.

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Paul Getty

Heard on the Street in 1880

- Last Saturday night some malicious scoundrel killed a horse belonging to Mr. H.W. Helm, the well known blacksmith. The horse, a very fine one, was in the pasture bordering the spring branch, and was killed by being struck just above the eye with a brickbat. We trust the perpetrator may be discovered and appropriately punished.

- Yesterday, in the Big Cove, a man named Stewart Wishard was shot and mortally wounded by a man named R.S. Buford, who was arrested. The trouble arose about a dispute in regard to crops. Wishard was cropping on Buford's place. It is thought Buford was justifiable.

- We understand it is reported through the country that yellow fever is in Huntsville. This is untrue. There has not been a single case of yellow fever in Huntsville up to this time.

- Mr. Timothy Murphy, of this city, received a dispatch last Friday from Canton, Miss., conveying the sad information that his

wife, daughter and granddaughter were all down with yellow fever. Mr. Murphy left on the next train for Canton, and it is reported he has been seized with the dread disease.

- Appeal to Mothers - Clothing partially worn or outgrown, sheets or bedding of any description, remnants of calico or domestic, such as always accumulate in families - any of all these articles are earnestly solicited for the Orphans of the plague-

stricken city of Memphis, and will be thankfully received and immediately forwarded if sent to Mrs. S. R. Cruse, Adams Avenue.

- Miss Kate Erskine will open a School at the residence of Mrs. S. C. Erskine, on Franklin Street, on Monday, the 2nd of September. The patronage of the public is respectfully solicited.

- Wanted - 10,000 pounds dried fruit, for which the highest price will be paid. T. J. Humphrey, Hotel Building.

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- Take cash with you to the grocery store instead of checks or credit card - you'll spend less.

- Have a clothing swap with friends once a season. Everyone brings clothes they no longer wear and make an evening of it - whatever's left goes to charity.

- Host a "plant exchange" where friends bring dug-up perennial plants from their gardens - everyone gets a new plant!

- To save money on magazine subscriptions, exchange magazines you've read with friends. You each get to read the latest and only pay for one.

- If you unwrap your new bars of soap and allow them to sit opened in your linen closet, they will harden and not turn to mush in the soap dish. Also, the linens will smell great!

- For an inexpensive facial exfoliator, sprinkle a little baking soda onto your hand and mix with your normal facial cleanser or soap. The soda will gently scrub off the dead skin.

- Always buy frozen concentrate juice instead of pre-mixed juice in bottles or cans, otherwise you're paying for water you could provide yourself. When mixing it, add an extra cup or so of water - the

juice won't be quite as sweet and you'll have more.

- Buy large packages of meat on sale, and separate them into small portions. Put them into zipper bags with a marinade and freeze. When you thaw- delicious!

- Fill up your car with gas in the morning rather than late in the day, and you'll get about 1 free gallon. The reason is, the gas expands in the tanks at the gas station during the heat of the day, especially in hot months. You get

less for your money later in the day. A free gallon adds up at today's prices!

- Save money on groceries by shopping your pantry and freezer first. Make a meal schedule a week ahead and only buy the items you need.

- Use coupons for groceries. Most stores now will double up to \$.50, and that will add up in a hurry. Just don't buy what you normally wouldn't, just because you have a coupon for it.

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My Heroes and Role Models

by Malcolm Miller

My third eldest brother, James Curtis Miller, Sr., was born as were his two brothers before him, Robert and Joe, on the Robert Spragins farm in the area that is now known as Fagan Hollow in southeast Huntsville.

The family lived there for sometime until the work became more than Papa could handle alone.

After leaving the Spragins farm the family moved several more times. Once to what was known as the Moore Quarter located at the eastern foot of Chapman Mountain where Papa worked with Will Andrews in the logging business.

Finally the family ended up in the Ryland community, renting land for a share of the crops raised or in some cases renting a farm for money. The family was living near the banks of Flint River when James Curtis decided that he had had enough of the cotton patch with the hard work and no money. He tried unsuccessfully to join the Navy but they would not let him in because he was too tall. Finally in October 1936 he gave up on joining the Navy and joined the Army.

The Army life was much better than the farm life. The Government paid him twenty-one dollars a month, gave him good clothes and shoes to wear and plenty to eat.

I was only nine years old when he left for the Army. He was stationed at Fort McClellan and would come home on some weekends. I remember every weekend I would sit on a limb of the big oak tree at the end of our porch and watch for him to come walking down the red dirt road that led to our house.

I will now back up here and explain something to the folks that knew James Curtis Miller growing up because they may not know whom I am talking about. The story goes this way. When he started school the teacher asked him his name and he replied James Miller, at that instant his cousin, William Miller, jumped up and said, "No, his name is Gibbus Buntin." That was what Mom called him. After this episode the name has been shortened to Gib. That is what he

was known by and always will be known by his siblings, nieces, nephews and friends.

Gib learned to be a soldier

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in the old brown boot army aptly described in James Jones classic "From Here To Eternity." I remember him wearing the old woolen wrapped leggings and riding pants. Later on it was much better when the Army went to combat boots.

Huntsville News from 1888

- The quarries on Monte Sano are furnishing the finest gray limestone rock, not only in quality but size, that could be found anywhere in this country. The Monte Sano Railway has a large amount of stone on the grounds at the plant and are keeping plenty of material for the masons to pursue their work on the foundation. Laborers are employed under the superintendency of Mr. Henry E Turner. in ditching work.

- The many friends of Jack Hall are glad to see him out and on the streets again after several week's confinement to his bed and room caused by a jump from a buggy in which he sustained a badly sprained limb. Mr. Hall with the aid of crutches is able to get about and around, and we wish for him a speedy recovery and free use of the crippled member.

- The colored citizens living on Howe Street, off Meridian Road, were made painfully aware that some more than usual elemental trouble was in progress, when the water entered their homes and the furniture began to float around the rooms.

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful.

Ann Landers

It was a terrible dilemma to be placed in, to face the blinding storm outside or remain indoors and perchance perish if the angry waters continued to rise. The cause of the high water was the narrow state of the bridge under Meridian Street, which could not accommodate the raging flood, but held it in check until a lake of backwater was formed, and this found its way back into the houses.

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A black and white portrait of Parker Griffith, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a white dress shirt, and a patterned tie. His hands are clasped in front of him. To his left, an American flag is partially visible, showing the stars and stripes. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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News From The Year 1900

News From Huntsville and Around The World

New York Subway Opens

New York - Wielding a sterling silver spade made by Tiffany & Company, New York Mayor Van Wyck turned over the first shovel of dirt in a ceremony inaugurating construction of the city's first rapid transit tunnel. When completed, the \$36 million East River tunnel will link Manhattan with Brooklyn.

The tunnel marks the birth of a subway system promising to extend to Jersey City and even Staten Island. If Chief Engineer Parson is right, Harlem's 125th Street will be reached in only 13

minutes.

Subways are not a new means of transportation. London's system, which went into service in 1863, is the world's oldest. The first in the United States was Boston's, begun two years ago. And Paris is now building a subway of its own. Hailing it as "second only in importance to the Erie Canal," Van Wyck said "this rapid transit underground road is necessary" for "the accommodation and comfort" of residents.

Hawaii Becomes a Territory

Hawaii is now officially a territory of the United States. A chain of islands near the center of the northern Pacific Ocean, Hawaii had sought annexation by the United States for some years. In 1898, America agreed to annex the islands and grant territorial status. However, it was not until this spring that Congress enacted legislation spelling out terms for the new island government. President McKinley had pushed for territorial status, arguing that the islands are a natural gateway to trade in the Orient.

World Exposition Opens in Paris

Paris - The Paris Exhibition of 1900, covering a vast site of 547 acres, larger than any previous European world's fair, has opened its gates to the public. Most of the nations represented have their own palaces on the Rue des Nations along

the Quai d'Orsay. The most noteworthy attractions at the fair are the magnificent effects produced by electricity in the Chateau d'Eau and Hall of Illusions; the two palaces of the fine arts on the Champs Elysees; and the Alexander III Bridge over the Seine. The exotic exhibits about France's and England's colonies also promise to be popular.

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Gold in Alaska

Canada's Klondike region east of the Alaskan border continues to draw folks with dreams of easy money, despite the fact that the more lucrative gold mines there have been staked out. Since news of the 1896 discovery of gold at Bonanza Creek reached the United States two and a half years ago, 60,000 prospectors have flocked to the Klondike, and about \$50 million has already been mined. The population is booming. Dawson has burgeoned from a mining camp of a few shacks to a bustling town of 20,000.

Dawson is also becoming known as the Sin City, as bordellos, gambling establishments and dives openly do business in spite of the authorities efforts to close them. The crime rate is said to be higher than any other city in North America,

Strikes Paralyze Europe


Belgium and Germany have been severely shaken by a recent wave of strikes in their respective coal basins, and many factories, already running short of fuel, have been compelled to halt their output.

This month, labor revolts spread into other industries in Europe as well. In Vienna, steelworkers are on strike; in Brussels, it is glassworkers.

And in western Bohemia, 5,000 workers in various fields are out on strike. These actions are reportedly spontaneous, not the result of an organized movement.

But most of the laborers are making similar demands: an eight-hour day, a significant pay increase (up to 20 percent in some cases) and better working conditions. In spite of the disorders, company managers remain steadfast and do not appear to be making any concessions to their disgruntled employees

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Merrimac Memories

by Newman Ward

When I was recently in Massachusetts visiting my granddaughter and great grandsons I became interested in "Merrimack" and how the word and location had so much influence on me when I was growing up in Huntsville. The history of that northern "Merrimack" is intimately tied to the "Merrimack" we know as a part of Huntsville. My granddaughter lives directly on the banks of the Merrimack River and the main street through town is Merrimac Street. I felt as if I had come full circle.

According to a Massachusetts historian, "Merrimack" means "salmon" in what used to be the local Indian language. That suggests the Merrimack River, which is still an important waterway in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, must have been full of fish. From that origin the name Merrimack (often spelled "Merrimac"), which has a pleasant, melodious sound, must have been both common and popular because it has been adopted by so many places and businesses.

In Newburyport, MA. Merrimac and Merrimack have phone book listings for 30 separate businesses. In Haverill there are 45 listings. In Boston I found 10. And both names are common throughout Northeastern Mass.

A section of the Merrimack River was selected as having enough water power to operate cotton mills. In 1822 the Merrimack Manufacturing Company built the first cotton mill on the river and nine others quickly

followed suit. The town of Lowell built up around the mills and became the world's largest producer of textiles, which helped transform the United States into an industrial nation rather than an agricultural based society.

By World War I the mills began to close. Foreign competition and labor strikes took their toll. At the end of WW II only three mills were operating, and today there are none. In the last 50 years Massachusetts lost 90% of its textile jobs.

To compete the mill owners moved to the South, where labor was cheaper and strikes were unlikely. Our Huntsville Merrimack Mill and village was built in 1899 and operated until 1989, and was demolished in 1991. The City bought the mill's land

for \$1.1 million and now plans 10 soccer fields. The Mills were dismantled brick-by-brick and sold as mementos.

While it lasted the Merrimack Mill seemed like a great place to be. It provided steady, dependable jobs, a wonderful school (Joe Bradley High), an indoor sports court, churches, movies, streetcars, then buses. An M.D., Dentist, and Registered Nurses gave free care to employees and families. The house rent was really cheap, only \$4.00 a month with free water. And just thinking about Merrimack brings back many memories about some wonderful people; Professor DuBose, all our great school

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teachers, neighbors, just everybody. We were friends with the bus and street car operators, Mr. Rodgers, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Peter Sharp. We even had a horticulturist, Mr. Byrne to beautify the village

As a young man I lived with my wife's family at 246 "A" Street in Merrimack and our son, Fred, was born there. My wife Bess' father, W.T. Church, was known by everyone in Merrimack village. He was the Mill's gatekeeper for many years, took tickets at the theatre (which showed movies three nights a week in the school auditorium), was the song

leader at his church, and with Ed Gray formed the village police force. Mr. Church was always happy, smiling, and a pleasure to be around.

Such times, such places, and such people are unlikely to be seen again. Alas.

The U.S. Postal Service sent out a message to all their letter carriers a few years back to put a sheet of Bounce in their uniform pockets to keep yellow jackets away.

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The Kiwanis Club of Huntsville/Golden K got its start in May 1986. Since that time we have never deviated from our primary mission of service to youth in the Huntsville community. Currently, the club consists of 43 members with an average age of 79 and its motto is “**Young Children, Priority One.**” Since the club’s founding, its members have volunteered over 90,000 man-hours in various community programs.

For some years the club has been affiliated with *Old Huntsville Magazine* in distributing the magazine throughout the Huntsville and Madison areas. In return for distributing the magazine the club retains all funds derived from its sale for use in many charitable and youth-assisting programs. These programs have been numerous and varied over the years but all with one goal - to make the community a better place to live in.

Fifty cents does not sound like a lot of money, but your quarters have enabled us to disburse over \$200,000.00 to assist youth programs in Huntsville. We know your quarters have made a difference in many children’s lives - and for this we thank you. **We want to especially thank the many, many businesses who have allowed us to place boxes and machines at their locations in order to distribute the magazine.**

Next time you pick up a copy of *Old Huntsville*, stop and think for a minute about where your 2 quarters are going. A partial list of monies collected from the distribution of the magazine would include:

- * Huntsville Boy Scout Troop 102, Troop 400 and Cub Pack 400 - \$15,000.00
- * Huntsville Boys and Girls Club - \$7,500.00 * College Scholarships - \$32,000.00
- * Alabama Science Fair - \$6,000.00 * Children’s Miracle Network - \$6,000.00
- *Head Start Program -\$2,500.00 *Huntsville Police Ranger Program - \$1,500.00
- * World Wide Children’s Health Program - \$20,000.00 * Kids On The Block - \$3,500.00
- * Reading Is Fundamental Program - \$10,000.00 * Huntsville Opportunity Center - \$1,500.00
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My Old Fashioned Daddy

by Mary Patten Conway

For as long as I can remember, every summer Daddy had a vegetable garden, sometimes two. He'd give away almost more than he kept. Like to the widow lady up on Washington Street, who he knew was having a hard time. Or to James, the shoe repair man, or to Mrs. Brown, another widow lady on Church Street. Then there was a family on Virginia Boulevard. You've already guessed this was long before anyone had heard of food stamps.

It was a treat to go to the garden with Daddy to watch how he cared for his "young'ens." He grew most of the common garden things, plus beets, kohlrabi, banana peppers, and icicle radishes. A true treat for me was when he'd pull a fresh baby carrot, lop off the long wispy leaves, wipe the carrot on his jeans, rub off the fragile roots, then hand it to me to eat. The mix of flavors (fresh juicy carrot with a hint of dirt) was heaven-sent.

Later Mama would chastise him for feeding her child dirt! Regardless, Daddy and I regularly repeated this dirty deed!

Daddy was a master carpenter as well as an extremely skilled wallpaper hanger, since he was well over six feet tall. Because of the after-war effort and marginal national economy, Daddy would frequently barter for his handyman services. Sometimes he

would end up with a piglet. Then he would sell half of the piglet to my Uncle Archie who lived down the street. Uncle Archie was fairly helpless at doing anything as his head was so far into his long-neck bottles (of course that was before canned beverages).

Uncle Archie would pay Dad for his half of the pig, but Daddy had to cook the whole thing. This meant we got all the pig skin. Do you realize how many "cracklins" you can get from one piglet? Well, enough to make one sick if they ate too many too quickly.

Daddy made the cracklins by baking them in the oven at a low temperature for what seemed like hours. They were truly hard since they were real pig skin. They'd cut your mouth open inside if you picked one that was too thin. Little did we know that

a few years hence these treats would be manufactured, bagged, and sold as pork rinds (sans the

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Patsy Jackson, Madison

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real pig skin).

Daddy did most of the canning in our house. As the vegetables would mature, they'd be picked, carried to the back porch and prepared. This took a great deal of the summer as their growing times were different. He'd scald the jars, blanch the vegetables, peel the skins, plunk them in the jars, then boil or pressure cook them, depending on what he was preparing at that time. He'd can plain and pickled beets. To identify the pickled beets, he'd put a hard-boiled egg in the jar with them. Of course it was always a fight to share the purple boiled egg when pickled beets were opened in the winter. Daddy built shelves in the cellar just for the canned goods, which were actually in jars. The ones which intrigued me were the green jars with the one piece zinc-plated lids. They distorted the colors of the vegetables inside making them look alien.

Will share more with you about My Old-Fashioned Daddy in a forthcoming issue of Old Huntsville.

Dangerous Ladies

from 1864 newspaper

On March 2, three young men named Benj. Arthur, Leonidas Bouris, and John K. Morris, of Company A, 5th Ohio cavalry, went outside of the Federal pickets near Huntsville, Alabama, to visit several lady acquaintances. During the evening they were pounced upon by a detachment of the enemy, who summarily threw them all into a well, and covered them with about twelve feet of earth.

After two days absence, a force went out in search of them, and found the well partially filled with dirt.

After digging down, they found the bodies of the three young men, and from a neighbor they learned the facts connected with the deaths as above stated.

One hundred and thirty-five dollars was taken from one of the young men. All three men were residents of Clermont County, Ohio.

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Frustrated Warriors

by Charles Rice

On February 15, 1898 the battleship Maine blew up in Havana Harbor, Cuba, with a loss of 266 American lives. Rightly or wrongly - mostly likely wrongly - the Spanish government was held responsible for the disaster. Public opinion, flamed by fabulous and often fictitious newspaper accounts of alleged Spanish atrocities, demanded the United States declare war. A reluctant President William McKinley was virtually dragged into the conflict by hotheads in Congress.

The wave of patriotism that swiftly swept across the nation was unmatched since the start of the Civil War, and men both young and not so young eagerly rushed forward to volunteer. Attempting to salvage something from the situation, President McKinley called Alabamian Joseph Wheeler to the White House and asked him to lead the invasion of Cuba. Wheeler, a 62 year old former Confederate general, protested that he was too old for active duty. However, McKinley argued that he needed the Confederate hero as a symbol that North and South were now united. Little Joe finally accepted and put on his uniform once more - only this time in a less familiar shade of blue.

Alabama would recruit two

white infantry regiments and one black infantry battalion for the Spanish-American War. To their disappointment, however, not one of the Alabama patriots, black or white, would ever fire a shot at the enemy. In fact, the closest the Alabama soldiers succeeded in getting to the fighting in Cuba were the debarkation camps of lower Florida.

There was understandable dissatisfaction with this, since despite President McKinley's good intentions it would be mostly northern troops who would fight under General Wheeler, while Wheeler's own Alabamians were left behind. "It might have been an accident that the six regiments selected to suf-

fer at Miami came from Southern states," wrote Sergeant Moses Koenigsberg of Mobile. But some of the Southerners wondered. In fact, the title of Koenigsberg's wartime book said it all: *Southern Martyrs*.

Northeastern Alabama provided three companies for the Alabama white regiments. A fourth company became part of the black battalion.

First to arrive at the Mobile troop rendezvous was a newly formed company from Decatur, haphazardly thrown together at a meeting on April 29, 1898. The would-be soldiers elected Osceola Kyle as their captain, and he promptly telegraphed Governor Joseph Johnston that

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Rhonda Simmons, Athens

night to offer their services. Called the "Joe Johnston Rifles," the company, 76 strong, arrived by rail at Mobile on May 1 and were mustered into the Army twelve days later. They became Company E of the 1st Alabama Infantry Regiment, with Osceola Kyle appointed major and W. E. Wallace replacing him as captain.

Next to reach Mobile were the "Huntsville Rifles," a militia unit that had succeeded the old "Madison Rifles" of Civil War days. R. L. Hay was their captain, but he soon resigned and was replaced by H. C. Laughlin. The Huntsville men arrived on May 3 and were mustered in as Company F, 1st Alabama Infantry.

The third white unit from northeast Alabama was a rough-neck assortment who called themselves the "Jackson Volunteers." Wrote Sergeant Koenigsberg, "Attired in jeans and homespun, the Jackson County volunteers appeared at the Mobile rendezvous as one of the most realistically volunteer commands that reported there." Circulars had been posted across Jackson County inviting patriotic citizens to gather at Scottsboro for a meeting on April 30. The company was then formed with Charles Quintard Beech chosen captain. The men from "High Jackson" became Company I of the 2nd Alabama Infantry Regiment. The "Jackson

Volunteers" acquired something of a reputation for rowdiness and had more court-martials than any other company in their regiment, but this was only in keeping with their rustic character.

The African-American company, organized jointly by Captain John Sheffey of Huntsville and Dr. Andrew Boyd of Scottsboro, became part of the Third Alabama Volunteer Infantry (Colored). The black Alabamians, too, would be denied service overseas.

The Alabama white regiments were soon sent on their way to the camp at Miami. However, the Florida site was by no means the pleasant resort city of today. In fact, it was little more than a sandy stretch of beach front studded with palm trees and sharp-pointed yucca plants. The Southern regiments were assigned camping grounds with little thought of sanitation.

The camp site had



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previously been declared unsuitable by army inspectors, but the Army had gone ahead and stationed the troops there anyway. Not surprisingly, many of the men would quickly fall prey to disease. The carelessness of the green soldiers made the situation even worse, since they simply dumped their refuse in convenient low spots not far from the wells where they drew their drinking water. "Had the troops at Miami been commanded by a wise and firm officer," wrote Sergeant Koenigsberg, "with any ordinary knowledge of sanitation, there would have been no reasonable complaint."

Within weeks of arriving in Miami, however, the death toll in the camp would climb to more than twenty. Most deadly was the dreaded typhoid fever. The Alabamians were "so far removed from the theater of active operations that they were not even issued ball cartridges," noted Sergeant Koenigsberg. Yet they suffered their casualties just as much as the soldiers at the front.

The war with Spain lasted less than three months. Nonetheless, it marked the beginning of United States as a world power. America emerged from the war with an empire stretching from the Philippine Islands to Puerto Rico, and the country would

never be the same.

This was little consolation to the three men from Jackson County and the one from Decatur who died of disease in the camps of Florida. Probably hardest to bear for Alabama's frustrated patriots was the fact that they had not had the opportunity to prove themselves in battle. It is hard to feel like a hero when you didn't even get to fire your weapon.

Nevertheless, Alabama's Spanish-American soldiers earned our respect and gratitude. They had stepped forward to give their very lives for their country. They had suffered silently with patience, while the eyes of America turned elsewhere.

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Tips From Liz

Household Advice, Beauty Tips
and Common Sense



Since we're in gardening season, here are some of my favorite (and mostly original) planting tips.

* When you need ivy for potting, and will be using quite a bit of it for windowboxes, planters, etc. - buy a hanging basket of it for around \$12 or so - you will find the length you need, as well as the shape for hanging - and there are usually 20-30 plants in one basket!

* That grey spanish moss that you buy in bags looks beautiful when tucked around your plants in containers or windowboxes - it also helps keep the moisture in. Leave part of it hanging for good effect.

* Miracle Grow - the powdered form that you use with your sprayer - works great on all plants and really makes a difference in growth and blooms.

* Don't plant trees that will grow large too close to your home - the roots will crack your foundation years down the road.

* Anyone can make a beautiful color bowl of flowers - start with a "Spike" plant (available at nurseries), put in right in the middle, then fill in with smaller flowers around the Spike, then finish with hanging ivy or other plants that hang and balance out your taller plants.

* Silver plants make a striking contrast in flower beds - in fact, some herbs like curry have a really pretty silver color.

* To make spiders and other critters find homes somewhere else, just spray them with the cigar/cigarette juice you made last month. They hate it.

* To keep your lawn healthy

and green during the hot summer months, don't mow too low - keep the mowing level high.

* When you're out working in your garden and don't want to be bothered by mosquitos, rub your exposed skin with a sheet of Bounce before you go out.

* Have you noticed that when you water your garden after a dry spell, you become surrounded by bugs? That's because they get thirsty, too, and are just trying to get a drink!

* Run your fingernails along a bar of soap before you start digging in your garden, and they'll be much easier to clean.

* To mow a sloped lawn buy a pair of golf shoes with spikes

for added traction. Always mow crosswise and not up and down.

* Plain old table salt will kill grass in your sidewalk cracks.

* Find an area in your garden where you can bury your vegetable and fruit scraps. You will soon have dark, fertile soil.

* Do you lose your small garden tools in the grass? Paint the handles a really bright neon color and you will spot them more easily.

* Lazily curving planting areas around your home will generally look better than straight lines.

* To keep the "goo" from your pruning shears, spray first with vegetable oil - it'll slide off.

* If you have small indoor plants you want to water slowly, take a paper cup and punch a small hole in the side near the bottom. Push it down about 1/2 inch into the soil and fill it with water. This will work for your larger outdoor plants as well.



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He Fought For His Freedom

John was afraid.

Afraid that his master would catch him and return him to slavery or that the patrollers would catch him and lock him in a jail where he would be flogged for running away. But his biggest fear was running into some roving band of Confederate guerrillas, who, if they guessed he was on his way to Huntsville to join the Union army, would summarily execute him on the spot. Lying hidden in the heavy foliage next to the road while waiting for another group of strangers to pass, he let his thoughts wander.

Yesterday he had been a slave on the Jackson plantation in Limestone County, laboring as a black smith. Though only 25 years old, he had been married twice. The first marriage, to a woman on a nearby plantation, had ended abruptly when her master sold her out of state. His next marriage had produced no feelings of endearment and it was with no remorse that he left her behind when he decided to run away.

The Emancipation Proclamation, a document freeing all slaves in the rebellious territories, was almost a year old when John heard of it. The Union government, while giving lip service to the document, had proved strangely ambiguous about enforcing it. There were many cases where runaway slaves had been returned to their masters by the northern troops.

Strangely enough, though Huntsville was occupied, most of the outlying plantations continued the practice of slavery.

John had dreamed about freedom all of his life and when he heard that the Union army was recruiting black soldiers, he quickly made up his mind to

enlist. Along with two others he began the trek to Huntsville.

A recruiting office had been opened on the north side of the courthouse square. Townspeople, already incensed that the Yankees would have the gall to enlist Tories, scalawags and other traitors, were now horrified when they learned that blacks were to be enlisted also. Every day the opposite street corner on the square, known as "Secesh Corner," would be crowded with people jeering at the ex-slaves waiting to become soldiers. Now and then a detachment of Yankees would wade into

the crowd and, amid loud curses and occasional pricks of the bayonet, cause them to disperse.

The small group of black, would-be soldiers however, stood resolutely at the door of the office waiting for it to open. Regardless of the taunts or threats, they were determined to wear the blue uniform and earn their freedom.

Official documents show that John was enlisted as a member of the 110th U.S. Colored Infantry on Dec. 30, in Huntsville. As John, like all the other ex-slaves, had no last name, he was enlisted as John Jackson, that being the surname of his master.

Of the almost 4000 black troops from North Alabama that enlisted in the Union army,

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records show that fewer than 75 could sign their name. The rest simply made their "mark" on the enlistment rolls.

After a short training period at Nashville and Pulaski, Tenn., John Jackson and 450 other black troops were assigned to protect the railroads in and around Athens, Ala. These railroads were essential for the Union's supply and communication lines, a point that the Confederacy was well aware of.

The North had made it a point to garrison North Alabama with ex-slaves from this region, and the South, fearing that this action would inspire other slaves to take up arms, retaliated by treating captured black soldiers as runaway slaves.

A fact often ignored by modern historians is the treatment of black prisoners of war when they were captured by the Southern troops. The South refused, for the most part, to recognize them as soldiers. When captured they were treated as runaway slaves and often times sold back into slavery, if they were lucky. Many times they were simply killed.

In the spring of 1864, General Nathan Bedford Forrest had attacked and captured the Union stronghold at Fort Pillow. In the ensuing bedlam hundreds of black soldiers were brutally murdered, some with their hands raised in surrender. Though it was later proven that the Southern troops acted without Forrest's consent, the massacre had the effect of terrorizing black troops everywhere.

About six months later, when Forrest and his army appeared on the outskirts of Athens, John Jackson and his fellow black soldiers knew they could expect no mercy.

Every soldier in the garrison knew it would not only be a fight for their freedom, but for their very lives, also.

They spent the day and night of Sept. 23 reinforcing their already strong position. The fort they were defending consisted of earthen works, 180 by 450 feet, surrounded by palisades and a deep ditch. It was considered by many to be one of the strongest forts in the area.

Early the next morning, while the ground was still wet with the night's dew, the Confederates began bombarding the fort with artillery. The cannonade lasted for almost two hours, with about 60 shells being aimed at the defenders.

Inside the fort little damage

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was done, although one man was killed and several wounded. Jackson was one of the men wounded, suffering a minnie-ball to his leg. When the shelling ceased, Forrest sent an emissary, under a white flag, demanding the fort be surrendered. The commander of the Union fort, a Col. Campbell, refused, whereas Forrest asked to speak to him in person.

Forrest told Campbell that he intended to take the fort and he had the men to do it with. Telling the Union officer that he had nearly ten thousand troops besieging the fort, Forrest invited him to ride around his lines and see for himself.

However, Forrest had less than half that number of troops, but was able to maneuver his troops in a manner that made them appear greater in numbers.

Returning to the fort, Campbell ordered it prepared for surrender. As word of the surrender swept through the garrison, the officers and men of the Union's 110th Colored Infantry became outraged, with many refusing to give up their arms. Some officers had to threaten to shoot their own men in order to disarm them.

The black troops, many with tears in their eyes, demanded that they be allowed to fight on rather than surrender to Forrest and the Confederates.

With the flag lowered and their guns taken from them, the black troops finally had no choice but to surrender.

The officers of the garrison, well aware of the fate awaiting the black troops, later wrote an angry letter to their superiors in Washington condemning Campbell for the surrender.

Jackson, limping painfully on his wounded leg, was marched with the others out of the fort, where the hungry and ragged Confederate troops waited. Immediately, the gray-

clad soldiers fell upon the prisoners, robbing them of their clothes and rations. Any black who dared protest was beaten.

The prisoners were lined up on Browns Ferry Road, where with two columns of mounted cavalry guarding them, they began their painful trek back into slavery. After a three day march through the Shoals and Tuscumbia, the prisoners reached Cherokee Station, a railway depot about eight miles this side of the Mississippi line. Almost starving, and suffering from wounds and exposure, the prisoners loaded aboard dilapidated cattle cars.

Jackson later recalled that the only food they had to eat were the scraps that had been left in the cars from feeding cattle.

Upon reaching Meridian, Miss., the prisoners were separated, with the white soldiers sent to a Confederate prison at Cahaba and the white officers sent to Enterprise, Ala. to await exchange. The blacks were loaded onto another train.

Despite the fact that Forrest had given his word to treat the captured blacks as POWs, many cruel ties were perpetuated. Al-

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though there are no reports to describe what happened, there are numerous records of blacks being captured in other battles and sold back into slavery, or in many cases, executed.

Of the almost 450 black soldiers that had been captured in Athens, less than two hundred arrived in Mobile, their final destination. No one has ever determined what happened to the others. Somewhere, on the trek from Athens to Mobile, almost 250 blacks disappeared from the face of the earth.

At this time, Mobile was under siege by the Federal fleet and all the blacks, freedmen and slaves alike, had been pressed into service, working on the fortifications. With the arrival of "Forrest's Niggers," the impressed workers were returned to their masters while the newly arrived prisoners took their place.

For the next several months, the prisoners, many still wearing the remnants of their blue uniforms, were subjected to the harshest forms of cruelty. While the ordinary slave had his master to protect him, the prisoners had no one. With their blue uniform and their black skin they seemed to represent everything the South lived in fear of.

One captured soldier, a Private Howard, later told of the men being whipped whenever they faltered in their work, often by their own fellow prisoners who were ordered to administer the lashings. With the diet of mule meat and corn meal they were being fed, few of the prisoners were in any shape to resist.

Often the prisoners were forced to line up for inspection by plantation owners who were looking for their runaway slaves. If the master recognized any of them, they were immediately returned to him where they would

be cruelly whipped or beaten as an example to any other slave who might have ideas of running away.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox brought to an end the Civil War, but ironically, John Jackson and his fellow prisoners would continue to toil as slaves for another three months. The Union officer who took charge of Mobile, fearful of a black uprising, couldn't decide what to do with them!

When finally released, Jackson, though still crippled from the minnie-ball in his leg, was sent to Nashville and reunited with the remnants of the 110th Colored Infantry, which was once again sent to Huntsville for garrison duty.

While at Huntsville, the regiment was mustered out and Jackson returned home. Upon arrival he discovered that his wife had married another man, so he married the widow of one

of his companions who had enlisted with him.

Although John was now a free man he was still shackled by the name of his former master, Jackson, a constant reminder of his life as a slave.

One of the few good memories he had as a child was that of the daughter of his master who had always treated him kindly. She had married a Dawson, and to honor her, John also took the name Dawson.

John Dawson settled on a small piece of land just a few miles from the plantation from which he had fled. For the rest of his life, until he died in 1905, his proudest possession was a discharge paper attesting to his service in the United States Army.

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Letter From a Yankee Soldier

From the Nashville Union, Saturday, March 12, 1864, From Huntsville, Alabama

March 5, 1864

A few notes from this department of the army may be interesting to your numerous readers.

This town of Huntsville is truly the gem of the Southern Confederacy. It is a most charming and delightful place. It is beautifully situated in the centre of a rich and enterprising population. Notwithstanding the horrors of war, it is still imposing and attractive. The mansions of the wealthy nabobs vie in picturesque splendor, with the lordly residences of European aristocrats. The Methodists have a magnificent Female College, in fact it is the finest structure of the kind I have ever seen.

Jerry Clemens resides here. He is a brilliant lawyer, and voluminous author. The fearless and patriotic Nick Davis stays here. This also was the home of the noble Lane, who kept the grand old flag floating from his house in the darkest days of rebellion.

And now what of our present camp? It is one of the finest, in all respects, which we have ever occupied. The water is excellent and abundant. Two regiments of the brigade are encamped on the slope of a large field, almost clear of timber, and beautiful for situation. The sanitary condition of the troops is all that we can desire.

The birth of the Father of his Country was celebrated by appropriate ceremonies in the beautiful rooms of the Huntsville Hotel. Though the design of the celebration was unknown a few days before, still the occasion was full of interest and enthusiasm. Peals of bells ushered in the morning, salvos of cannon resounded at noon. And the bands discoursed patriotic airs.

The contrabands are collecting here by the hundreds. Much has been said as to their future. Our land cannot do with-

out them.

A detachment of the 15th Tennessee Colored Infantry arrived today. They are a splendid set of fellows, and their soldier bearing won the admiration of all.

The Sanitary and Christian commissions have branch offices here, and are doing a noble work for the soldiers of the Union. Though authorized by the Government, it is not a Government institution. Since its formation, it has disbursed four hundred thousand dollars in money, and distributed seven million dollars worth of hospital supplies.

We don't know how long we will be in this garden of Eden but it truly a wonderful place.



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