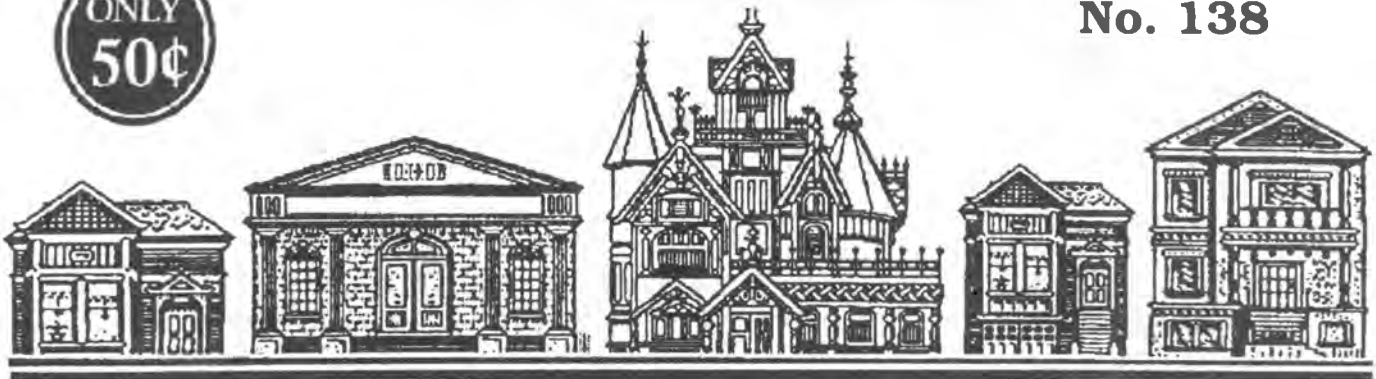


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In 1818 America moved west. The formation of the Alabama territory in 1817 opened vast tracts of land to settlers and the crown jewel of the new territory was Huntsville. Barely thirteen years old, the small outpost was transformed into a bustling metropolis by the influx of new settlers. James Birney, one of many who made the move west, changed the history of the United States forever and left a legacy that endures to this day.

Born James Gillespie Birney on February 4, 1792 in Danville, Kentucky, Birney's family had moved to Kentucky to engage in the mercantile business. By the time of James' birth everyone recognized the family as one of the most prosperous, and influential, in the state. Danville, Kentucky, as the local hotbed of political activity, saw many of the leading political figures of the day, such as Henry Clay and John Breckenridge, visiting and often staying at the Birney household. Even as a child Birney listened with fascination to the political arguments that shaped the destiny of this country. With his keen interest in politics, it was predicted that Birney would eventually make a name for him-

self in politics.

After graduation from Princeton in 1814 and being admitted to the Kentucky bar association later that year, Birney quickly gained a reputation as a shrewd and capable attorney. In 1816 he married, and shortly afterwards the state of Kentucky elected him as their State representative. History shows an undistinguished record in his brief term, probably because he had grown restless and wanted to move on.

In 1818 Henry Love, a fellow legislator, approached him about trip to Huntsville where he had heard stories of fabulous wealth to be made growing cotton. After a brief visit, Birney purchased a large plantation near present day Triana. Love purchased the adjoining plantation. The following month Birney moved his family to Madison County.

Starting a new plantation, even with thirty-five slaves, was a large undertaking for a man raised in the parlors of Kentucky. Regardless, working dawn to dusk and pushing his slaves, he cleared the forests surrounding his new estate and by the following spring had his first cotton crops planted.

As Birney's plantation grew, so too did his newly adopted territory. The United States Congress authorized the formation of a new state, to be called Alabama, and selected Huntsville as



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the site of its constitutional convention. Political leaders, impressed with Birney's hard work and knowing his history in the Kentucky legislature, selected him as a member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Birney, undoubtedly under the influence of James Titus, a close family friend, chose to take up the mantle of political responsibility again. Titus, a brilliant political strategist, had his quirks. Many thought of him as eccentric to the point of insanity. When appointed head of the Alabama Senate - and it's only member - Titus convened the senate, debated the bills, arguing both sides of the debate, and then called for a vote. After writing his vote on a slip of paper Titus then announced to himself the results of the only vote. In defense of his eccentric actions, Titus told Birney, "It only takes one man to be a political party," Birney never forgot those words.

Events doomed Birney's political career from the start, despite the influence of powerful political friends. The first meeting of the Alabama legislature, held in Huntsville, attracted visitors from throughout the southeast. Among them was Andrew Jackson, newly risen to national prominence after the war of 1812 and whom many already looked to as a potential presidential candidate. Although small in popu-

lation, the wealth of Alabama planters held political influence disproportionate to the state's size. For Jackson to be considered as a candidate he needed the crucial support of the Alabama delegation.

Although Jackson used the excuse of visiting the nearby Green Bottom Inn to race his horses, in reality he buttonholed members of the convention, trying to get promises of support.

Birney detested Jackson, calling him "vulgar, uncouth and a murderer," a reference to a duel Jackson had fought, killing his opponent. This seems highly ironic to modern ears considering Jackson's role in the Creek War, the Trail of Tears, and other events many today would consider atrocities. Although Birney gave several speeches praising the general as a military hero, he refused to support Jackson as a person. Eventually, the criticism of the popular general spelled an end to that phase of his political career.

Birney then turned his attention back to his plantation, but it was too late. He owed tremendous amounts of money as a result of gambling debts and creditors threatened to foreclose. Sadly, Birney sold his plantation, along with most of his slaves, and moved into Huntsville where he once again began practicing law.

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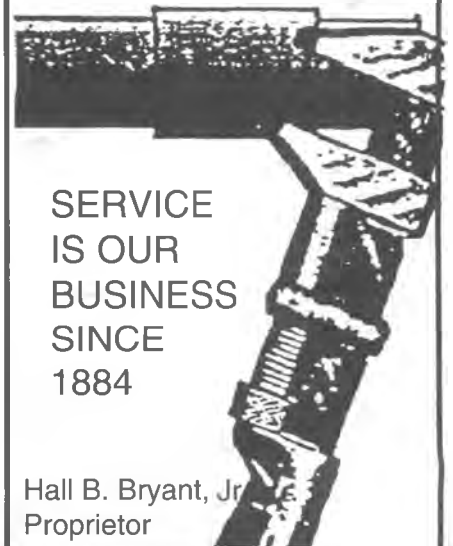


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But Birney could not stay out of politics for long. The following year Birney was elected Mayor of Huntsville, a job that few people wanted at the time. His son, in a book published in 1890, described the times: "He was elected mayor for the purpose of securing the suppression of the bloody brawls and affrays which had become an almost daily occurrence in the streets and public square. Stabbings and shooting affairs were giving Huntsville a bad reputation in the South. The officers and the law were helpless and discouraged. The new mayor reorganized the force, headed it when necessary, making some arrests with his own hands, and succeeded in establishing the supremacy of the law."

While serving as Mayor, Birney and his wife attended the First Presbyterian Church where Reverend John Allan pastored. As a controversial figure who simultaneously owned fifteen slaves and advocated for the anti-slavery movement, Allan led the local chapter of the American Colonization Society. This society believed in freeing the slaves and transporting them to Liberia. It often incited the ire of local slave owners. Birney, under the guidance of Allan, became involved in the anti-slavery movement. Ironically, although Huntsville's economy depended on slavery and most of its leading citizens owned slaves, Birney attracted a number of locals to

the cause.

Huntsville, like most of the nation at the time, held a common ambiguity. They recognized slavery as wrong, most people regarded it as a necessary evil. Huntsville gave lip service to the idea of freeing the slaves, but always with an ambiguous altitude toward slavery. Many slave owners in Huntsville gave lip service to the idea of freeing the slaves, but always with a vague "someday" or "when the time is right." In reality, no one wanted to give up *their* slaves. Even as Birney's stature in the antislavery movement grew, he continued owning slaves; five as household servants and numerous more on a farm he purchased near the Flint River. In all likelihood, Birney saw no contradiction in his reluctance to give up his slaves. In Birney's reality "someday" and "when the time is right" worked just fine.

Under Reverend Allan's guidance Birney began speaking out on causes he considered unjust. In 1826 he accepted the position as Attorney for the Cherokee Nation, which occupied much of the north eastern part of the state. This placed him at odds with the Federal Government which was already pushing for the Indians' removal, as well as the settlers who wanted the land.

Despite the numerous lawsuits he filed on the Indian Nation's behalf, most of them died a slow death when the courts simply refused to con-

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sider them.

Birney, while acting as legal counsel, became an active advocate of the Indians' cause. He recruited missionaries to be sent among the Indians and encouraged them to cultivate farms and open roads. When an Indian by the name of Sequoyah invented the Cherokee alphabet, Birney was instrumental in helping him start a newspaper. Most surprising of all, he succeeded in introducing several Indian girls into the Huntsville Female Seminary. They attended the First Presbyterian Church and were said to be accepted by all who knew them.

In 1830, when the trustees of the Huntsville Female seminary learned of a trip north Birney had planned, they asked him to recruit several new teachers for the school. In Cincinnati he visited Catherine Beecher, the foremost female educator in the country. Beecher quickly agreed to help recruit the teachers, and then the conversation turned to slavery. With their zeal for the anti-slavery movement, Beecher soon convinced Birney that more had to be done.

According to Virginia Clay Clopton, Catherine Beecher's sister, Harriet Beecher Stowe, later visited Huntsville and used the cellar of the old Calhoun house as the basis for the dungeon in her book "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

James Birney returned to Huntsville a deeply troubled man. He had failed in his careers as a politician and as a businessman and now outside forces pushed him to embark on a new career that would turn his friends and family against him. After much soul searching, and discussions with his wife, he became the agent for the South West District of the American Colonization Society.

Birney's new job seemed almost insurmountable. In addition to traveling constantly, speaking before groups and pleading for financial aid to purchase the slaves, he also chartered the ships, provisioned them and recruited missionaries to accompany the slaves to their freedom in Liberia.

Today, many of Liberia's most prominent citizens trace their families back to one of these ships and, ironically, consider themselves to be of American

ancestry.

In the end, regardless of how hard he worked, Birney was forced to realize that the few slaves he freed were an insignificant number as compared to the

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millions who remained in bondage.

At first most Southerners were prepared to accept the Society and many actually contributed to it. If the slaves were to be freed, they reasoned, the owners should be reimbursed at fair value before shipping them out of the country. But events thousands of miles away, in London, England spelled an end to any popular support for the Society in the deep South. The British Parliament began debating a bill that would free all slaves in the British West Indies. The resulting confusion, as 800,000 slaves demanded immediate freedom, resulted in a complete collapse of the West Indies government. Lurid headlines of anarchy and mass murders turned public sentiment against any type of freedom for the slaves.

In Huntsville, Birney's beliefs in emancipation had taken another turn. He had given up hope for the "Colonization Society" and was now advocating full freedom for all slaves with no conditions attached. In 1833 he published a series of essays in the *Huntsville Democrat* and other papers around the South about the evils of slavery. Although mild by today's standards, the articles ignited a firestorm of indignation across the South. This marked

one of the first times an anti-slavery advocate had been given exposure in the southern press. Many newspapers reacted to the tempest by refusing to carry the articles. Others in the press went even further and condemned Birney. Public meetings were held demanding his exile from the state.

Even in Huntsville sentiments began to harden against Birney. The *Huntsville Democrat* refused to publish any more articles by him and the townspeople ostracized him. In the fall of 1833 he moved his family back to Danville, Kentucky, the place of his birth. Birney later wrote that he "retired to other climes for reasons of personal safety."

If Birney had been expecting a warm reception in his hometown, he was to be disappointed. By this time Birney had become a national figure in the anti-slavery movement and his notoriety had preceded him. His family, all slave owners, turned against him and lifelong friends shunned him. Purified by the fires of persecution into a man able to see timeless truths, Birney finally took the crucial step and emancipated his own slaves.

Birney considered opening an abolitionist newspaper when

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he first moved back to Danville. However, prominent businessmen in the community foiled his plans by buying the local printing presses and refusing to print his paper. Never the less, he continued writing essays on slavery, mailing them to newspapers throughout the country. When a number of his essays were printed it created a controversy that would embroil the whole nation.

The very foundation of the United States postal system rested on the ability of the individual to mail letters without censure. Birney, however, along with other abolitionists, used the mail to spread their antislavery tracts throughout the country. Pro-slavery forces condemned the mailing of such material, saying it incited rebellion and was against the public interests.

Almost immediately every state in the Union passed laws against sending seditious materials through the mail. Rhode Island actually set up a committee to examine the mail and to decide what should be delivered, and what should be confiscated. Both the Democratic and the

Whig parties were staunchly pro-slavery and endorsed the censorship. Some historians claim this was the period of time when Birney began openly advocating the need for another political party.

A wave of indignation swept the country as citizens saw their rights being infringed upon. Birney shrewdly capitalized on this, tying freedom of the mail to the abolitionist cause. Within several years the movement had attracted tens of thousands of supporters.

Unfortunately, although the ranks of the abolitionists were drawing record numbers, the movement itself had fragmented to the point that no one really understood what its goals were. Factions of the movement favored a gradual emancipation while others still believed in colo-

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nization. One group even wanted to create a separate state in what is now part of Texas, reserved solely for ex-slaves.

The issue of reimbursement to the slave owners confused people even more. A group in New York wanted a special tax passed to reimburse the owners while others wanted the sales of public lands to be earmarked for the purpose. Another faction favored letting the slaves earn their freedom by working for wages.

James Birney probably had the most radical idea of the times. His message simply said, "Freedom now, with no strings attached." For the next several years he traveled almost constantly giving speeches and trying to unite the different factions into one party. Gradually his idea took hold and "Freedom Now" became a rallying cry for the whole movement.

Although Birney received accolades from many circles, the citizens of Danville considered him a traitor. After numerous threats against the well being of him and his family, Birney pulled up stakes and moved to Cincinnati, Ohio where he again tried to open an abolitionist newspaper.

This too failed when mobs wrecked the office and threatened his life unless he left town. Once again Birney moved, this time to New York. He had become the face of the abolitionist movement but still sought an issue to finish uniting the movement.

His opportunity came when his old foe, Andrew Jackson, now president, ordered the removal of the Seminoles from Florida. The swamps of Florida, where the Seminoles lived, had long been a haven for runaway slaves, many of whom had married into the tribe. By the time of the removal many of the runaways had produced second and third generations of children, many indistinguishable from the Indians. When Jackson issued orders for the removal, he or-

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dered the runaways returned to their former masters. The Army set up special committees to physically examine each captive for traces of black blood. This resulted in one of the cruelest human tragedies ever played out on American soil. Children torn from their parents, old people declared slaves while their grandchildren were deemed Indian. Husbands were separated from wives while slave owners paraded through the prisoner compounds examining newborn babies for traces of black bloodlines. In the end, the proud Seminoles retreated into the swamps and began a war with the United States that continues to this day.

As word of the cruelties spread, it galvanized public opinion. Never before had the question been put forth in such blunt terms: Who is a slave and who is free? For the first time American citizens, many of whom had never seen or had contact with a slave, were forced to examine their conscience. Birney entered into the controversy, declaring

that no man could be half free and half slave. "Every person," he said, "is born under God as a free man and no man or law had the right to deprive him of a natural birthright."

These simple words of an overwhelming truth helped awaken the soul of a great nation.

All the different factions of the movement began uniting behind Birney and everywhere he went he drew enormous crowds.

A political party blossomed from the tiny movement that he had become part of years earlier in Huntsville.

In 1840 this fledgling party unanimously selected James Birney as their candidate for President of the United States. Although he only received 7,100 votes, the party laid the foundation for future elections. In 1844 he ran again and garnered almost 70,000 votes.

An accident soon after the '44 election rendered Birney an invalid for the rest of his life. By the time he died, in 1857, he had seen a movement sweep the nation that would forever change our destiny.

The political party he helped create went through several name changes. Known first as the Abolitionist Party, then the National Republicans, by the time Birney died the party had settled on the name by which it is known today - the Republican Party.

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Dear Father,

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The car broke down in Nashville and we were stuck for two days while Jerry tried to find a used radiator. We had to pay four dollars for it.

Chicago is a lot different than anything back home. It is a big city and everybody seems to be in a hurry all the time. It snowed a couple days ago but the snow looked yellow from all the smoke in the air. We went by to see Tom Lamb but they said he left a couple weeks ago. They thought he went back home. If you see him tell him we tried to visit him.

The job situation here is pretty bad. We heard Caterpillar was hiring but when we got there, there must have been a thousand people waiting outside the plant for jobs. Everywhere we go there are signs saying they don't need help. Jerry is working one night a week playing the guitar at a bar and we have gotten several days work unloading boxcars. They don't pay nothing but it is better than nothing. Tomorrow we are going to Hammond where they are supposed to be hiring people for a steel mill.

I think if we don't get work soon I am going to come home. If I am going to go hungry I would rather be home among my kin.

Your son,
David Hill

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from 1904 newspaper

The storm of wind and rain last week wrought considerable havoc and enacted some freaks worth mentioning in this part of the country. Mr. Bill Homer, east of New Hope, came to that village on his mule, telling us that his animal was saved from disaster near Mr. Lowe's store, but that when he arrived home, he found his top buggy and garden fence all blown down with the top badly demolished. Mr. Jim Thompson, of Meridianville, had two cows blown over a seven-barbed wire fence and his wife had a coop and large brood of chickens blown away and no feathers left to track them up.



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The Justice of Frank Gurley

The South was at War. Communities were being ravaged by arsonists and murderers operating under the protection of the Yankee army. Local authorities were powerless to enforce the law.

In one of the most remarkable documents to come out of the Civil War era, Captain Frank Gurley tells, in his own words, of wartime justice in North Alabama.

"A friend told me that there was a widow woman living in the river hills up to the night before and that a man went to her home, assaulted her and her grown daughter, and then killed all the family, including the mother, daughter and four other children. Among the lot was a little fat boy about four years old. The man took this child by one leg and beat his brains out against the fireplace.

"The citizens caught the man and carried him to the jail in old Bellefonte, but he was under the Yank's protection. The Yanks told them that if they did not turn him loose, they would turn him out and put them in the jail.

"When I got there that night I found the Yanks camped all over the town with a patrol on the street in front of the jail. Two of my men were with me and I was familiar with the town and we took in the situation. We hid our horses in a dense woods close by and crawled up near the jail, where we could see the guard walking his beat. The night was dark and cloudy. I had dropped men along behind us to protect our rear, and with one man, got close to the guard. When the guard passed us, I left my man and slied across the pike to the jail and was soon concealed in the shade.

"I knew where the jailor slept, and I got to his window and gave a Masonic tap. He asked me who I was and I told him. He wanted to know what I wanted. I told him I wanted the prisoner. He said the Yanks would kill him. I told the jailor, who was also the sheriff, that I intended to take the prisoner, or him, back with me.

"This was said to impress the other prisoners and to save the jailor from the Yankees when they found the prisoner missing.

"The jailor then got up and asked me if I had a rope. I told him no. His wife told us where there was one. He got the rope and he and I went down to the dungeon and tied the prisoner. When we were ready to go out, I rubbed my pistol against his face and asked him if he knew what it was, he said he did, and I told him if he made any fuss, I would shoot him and then take care of

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myself.

"The man I had left then joined me. I made the prisoner get down on his knees, and when the guard got in the right place, we all crossed the picket line and were soon getting out of danger.

"In a short time we were on our horses with that big 200 pound prisoner up behind our smallest man. But the load was too heavy for the horse, so I had the man ride up under a nearby tree. I took a part of the rope the jail woman gave me and put it around the prisoner's neck and over a limb. Then I rode out

"The prisoner was so heavy, the limb let his feet hit the ground, so I took another part of the rope and tied his feet up so they could not touch the ground. I remained close to him until he quit struggling and then we all rode off.."

Big Spring Safe From Enemies

from 1943 newspaper

Huntsville - In a joint statement issued by Mayor McAllister and Huntsville Police Chief Herman Giles, assurances were given that adequate measures have been put in place to protect Huntsville's water supply from possible enemy sabotage. Mayor McAllister says at this time there are no plans to erect a fence around the headwaters of the Big Spring.

Madison County Deputies and Huntsville City Police are jointly patrolling the spring and have been issued orders to arrest any strangers loitering without cause.

All citizens are warned to be on the look-out for any suspicious activities that might affect the war effort.

You know you're getting older when dinner and a movie is the whole date, rather than the beginning of one.

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Heard On The Street

by Cathey Carney



That sweet baby in the **Photo of the Month** for July was none other than **Parker Griffith**, and the first of many correct guesses was called in by **Lillian Allen**, of Meridianville. Congratulations to Lillian!

It was good to meet **Chuck Whittenberg** the other night, sitting at one of the sidewalk tables outside the Kaffeeklatsch downtown. He is visiting here from Dayton, OH and works with MTC Technologies. He was traveling with his dog **Jazz**.

Well, we thought it would never happen but **Joanne Randolph** turned 50 at a huge bash at the Monte Sano Tavern. The pink and lime green was carried out in the "It's all about ME" theme and many of her friends had a great time.

Some of the lucky attendees at this event were **Loretta Spencer**, **Vicky Loomis**, **Mary Jane Caylor**, **Danny Banks**, and **Brenda** and **Mike Fahey**. We also saw **Carol** and **Jerry Arszman** having a good time there, as well as **Glenn** and **Sheila Brooks** and **Ron & Barb Eyestone**.

We were so sorry to hear that **Louie Tippett's** mom died in July. **Vera Tippett** was a dear

lady who meant so much to so many. We send our love to **Louie** and his wife **Jane**.

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Mary E. Johnson**, we know you all will miss her.

It was good to see **Tom Antoniel**, and **David** and **Renee Nunn**, at the Furniture Factory last week. Tom's looking great for being such an old guy!

Our dear friend **Anny Rausch** died in July, at age 94. She was a feisty German lady who loved to cook and entertain. Our condolences to her sons **Felix** and **Ekkehart**, and granddaughter **Steffi** as well as other family members.

A special hello to the sweet guy I met at Walmart's on South Parkway recently. **James Rusiniak** works in the garden shop there and says it's the best part of the store to work in!

We had a good breakfast recently at Little Farm Grill on Whitesburg and talked with **Jo Ellen (Jodie) Adkins**. She's a really sweet lady. There's even a Liar's table there, like Aunt Eunice used to have!

A dear friend of **Robert Martin** died recently, **Gene Ward**. Our sympathy to both Mr. Martin and Gene's wife of 61 years, **Helen McDonald Ward**.

A big hello to **Carol Smith** who called us the other day. She is from old families in Huntsville, the **Walkers** and **Grizzards**.

Susie Nolen and **John Bennett** will be saying "I do" at their Weeden House wedding in October. Susie is a sweetie as well as a terrific singer, and we wish her and John the best.

We really appreciate **Sue Orme**, of Verizon, who recently did an outstanding job in working through some phone changes.

We ran into **Tommy** and **Cathy Bagwell** recently and it was good to see them again. Also gorgeous **Annette LeBrecque** with her friend **Joel**. She is a past **Miss Canada** and now teaches music at UNA.

Best wishes to **Ann Price** who hasn't been feeling too well lately. Her niece **Gale Nichols** is sure taking good care of her.

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 girl knows everyone in town and is now selling cookbooks, too!





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We talked with **Jim** and **Merita Watson** recently, both work for 3D Labs and used to love going to Eunice's Country Kitchen.

Paris on Whitesburg, with Tammi Sims and Jamey Hightower, had a grand opening recently and the food was great - it was catered by **Bettie Beal, Glenn Ferraro** and **John Sims**.

While there we saw **Brenda Belew**, who has had lots of business experience in Huntsville. She was owner of the **Pub Club**, as many of us in our 50's and 60's will remember.

Gay Money was having fun at the Paris event - she is the sister of **Trice Hinds**, who is a recognized artist in Huntsville.

Our friend **Bill Collier** gave us some good advice the other day - to get rid of those fire ants, wet the mound, then cover with grits. He says this really works!

Ollie Rice's husband **Milton** has been really sick lately and we hope he feels better soon!

A special hello to **Walter Tripp**, a retired cabinetmaker who grew up in Fayetteville. His daughter is our good friend **Linda Hamlin**, of **Linda's Printing**. She tells us that her dad used to be in the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) many years ago.

We had a good time recently visiting with **Charlotte Fariss, Bob Bridges, Gordon Cox** and **Robert Martin** who all live at the Morningside Assisted Living in Madison. Also there was the handsome **Willard Rogers**, who has written a book titled "Looking Back at WWII."

We spoke with **Ray Stubblefield**, city councilman of Madison and his wife **Sherry** who works at Morningside. **Shirley Anderson Turner** works there as well and is certainly a cheerful lady!

We recently met **Betty Young Evans** who told me that her relative, **John Shell**, was 120 years

old when he died! When he was 90 he married a young lady and had a child. Good genes!

We heard from our friend from Woodstock, GA - **Mrs. C. A. Goltz** - who sent us some really interesting 1904 information. She's 85 years young and proud of it!

Happy birthday to that handsome **Ken Owens** - that gray hair looks good on you! (That's what his wife **Diane** says, anyway).

Hello to **James Porter** who's really honing his skills at slow-cooked barbecue and it is great!

It was good to see **Ricky Thomason** recently. He's still stirring up folks with his column in the Huntsville Times. That same night we neighbored with **Donovan Wright** of Huntsville Alarm.

We want to send best wishes to **Doug** and **Bobbie Dutcher**, of Benefit Advisory Group.

Aunt Eunice would've loved this time of year with all the political races going on - she was always right in the middle of them! We sure do miss her.

Well, you all have a great month, and try to stay cool til we see you next month!

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The Lower-Carb Lifestyle

Here are a few Editor's favorites - not NO-CARB, but LOW-CARB.

Chicken Parisian

6 chicken breasts, boneless and skinless

3 t. paprika

Salt and pepper

1 t. garlic powder

1/2 c. dry white wine or vermouth

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 4-oz jar mushrooms

1 c. sour cream

1/4 c. flour

Coat the chicken breasts heavily with a mixture of the paprika, garlic & salt/pepper. Place in crock pot. Mix remaining ingredients and pour over the chicken. Sprinkle paprika on top. Cook on medium-low crock pot heat for about 6 hours.

Chuck's Baked Chicken

Chicken breasts

Melted butter or margarine

Onion powder

Garlic powder

Salt and pepper to taste

Wash chicken well, dry with paper towels. Mix spices in with the melted butter and coat the chicken using a basting brush. Bake in pre-heated oven at 325 degrees for an hour and skin is browned.

Zesty Cole Slaw

1 c. vegetable oil

1 T. chopped fresh cilantro

2 T. roasted sesame oil

1 pack Splenda sweetener

2 T. chopped garlic

1-2 t. crushed red pepper

1 bag shredded cole slaw

Chopped cucumber

Grated carrots

Chopped red pepper

Mix first 6 ingredients well in a covered bowl - give it a few hard shakes to make sure it's mixed well. In a large bowl pour the cole slaw, then add carrots, cucumber and red pepper chopped to taste. Mix dressing into the cole slaw mix, refrigerate for an hour before serving.

Wonderful Fudge

16 oz. cream cheese

2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled

1/2 c. Splenda sweetener

1 t. vanilla

1 t. instant coffee

1/2 c. chopped pecans or walnuts

Line an 8-inch square baking pan with waxed or parchment paper. In a small mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese, the

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melted and cooled chocolate, sweetener and vanilla til smooth. Stir in the nuts and pour into pan. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Strawberry Delight

Washed whole, fresh strawberries

Heavy cream

Splenda sugar substitute

Toasted, slivered almonds

Slice strawberries into a small serving bowl. Pour in whipping cream to taste. Top with sprinkling of Splenda and toasted almonds. Blueberries are good too but the strawberries are best. Warning - You WILL become addicted to this.

Good Summer Lemonade

Small container Crystal Light lemonade mix

1/2 c. real lemon juice

In a 2-quart container mix the water, Crystal Light and lemon juice. Serve cold with lemon or lime slices.

Tomato-Cottage Cheese

1 c. small-curd cottage cheese

2 small tomatoes, chopped

1/4 c. chopped Vidalia onions

1/2 t. dried basil

Salt/pepper to taste

In a large bowl put the cottage cheese. Next layer on the to-

matoes, onions and top with basil and salt/pepper. Serve cold.

Baked Almond Custard

1/2 c. heavy cream

2 eggs

1 T. Splenda sweetener

1/2 t. almond extract

pinch nutmeg

In a small bowl beat the eggs til light yellow in color, pour in the Splenda and cream and mix well. Sprinkle on nutmeg and place in microwave.

Cook on 50% power for about 6-7 minutes. A knife should come out clean when inserted near center of custard. Serve chilled with sliced strawberries or cantaloupe on the side if desired.

Jello-Nut Bon-Bons

2 c. heavy cream

2 small pkg. sugar-free Jello powder, any flavor

Chopped toasted almonds

Combine all ingredients with electric mixer on low speed til blended. Beat til stiff. Drop in tablespoon-sized mounds on wax paper covered cookie sheet. Freeze til firm. Store lightly covered in the freezer.

Mashed Cauliflower

1 head cauliflower, cooked

1/2 stick butter

4 oz. cream cheese
Garlic powder, salt & pepper
Mix hot cauliflower with the butter, cream cheese & spices, til of a mashed consistency. You'll think this is just like mashed potatoes!



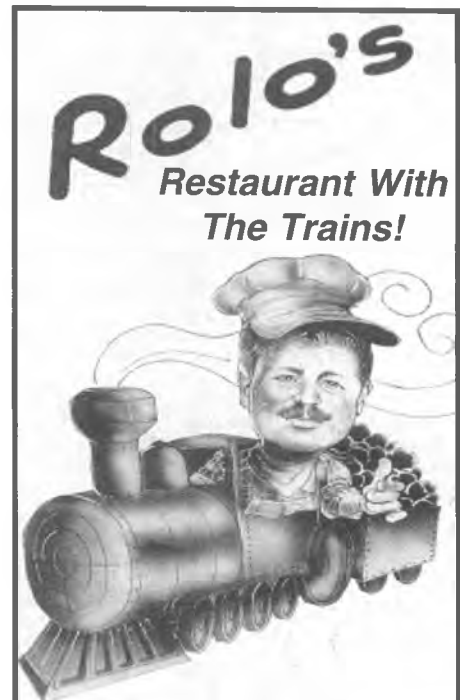
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Heard On The Street In 1891

- Henry Hone, white, who resides in the northern part of the county, had been lying in jail for some time now on a charge of being unlawfully married - he having a living wife, was turned loose yesterday on bond for his appearance at next term of Circuit Court.

- For SALE - a three-room cottage on Walker Street. The lot is 60 feet front, 200 feet deep, terms \$2600 cash. Apply to E.R. Latta.

- Charlie (Buck) Monroe, after several months absence, has returned to the city and will in the future be associated with his brother, D. C. Monroe, in the tontorial line at the McGee Hotel.

Both of these young men are competent and skilled artists in their business and will please the public with their work. They extend their friends a cordial invitation to call on them.

- Saturday closed the 20th annual exhibition and fair of the Huntsville Agricultural & Mechanical Association. A larger number than was anticipated was present to witness the many attractions. Several made-up

racers were enjoyed by the assemblage, among them being a free-for-all trot with entries of horses belonging to gentlemen of this city and county. The race resulted in Mr. Tom Young securing the premium, he owning the winning horse.

- The marriage of John Ring, aged 70 of Jackson County, and Miss Mary Donnan, aged 20 of Decatur, is somewhat romantic. An old friend of the aged groom says that Ring was at one time in love with Miss Donnan's mother, but on account of his then comparative poverty was forced to see her wooed and won by her present husband.

He remained true in his feeling, however, and when his present bride was a little girl, became much attached to her. In appearance so much like her mother, the old gentleman found in her childish affection a solace for the loss of her mother's love. As the girl grew to womanhood the old gent became a wealthy man, and when he sought the hand of Miss Donnan a short time ago found the mother a ready helper in the match.

The groom has just purchased a fine farm near Bir-

mingham and will enjoy his last days in the sunlight of the smiles of his young bride.

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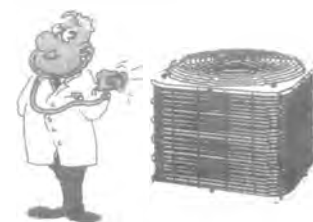
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By making a single premium payment of \$5,000 or more, you can buy a completely paid-up life insurance policy. Once you've purchased the policy, you will also have several choices with regards to how your premium is invested. While some single-premium life policies give you a set interest rate for a certain period of time, there are others that allow you to invest in stock, bond, government security or money market portfolios. You can even transfer your money between accounts as your needs change, allowing you to customize your investments.

One of the main benefits of a single-premium life policy is that the money you earn from your investments accumulates tax-free, as long as you maintain the policy. The only time you have to pay taxes on earnings - regardless of the types of investments you choose - is if you decide to cash in your policy or take distributions from it. Another advantage of a single-premium life policy is the prospect of a death benefit that has the potential to actually grow. With some insurance policies, a death benefit - the money paid from the policy upon your death - is usually fixed at the time of purchase. With single-premium life, however, the policy's account value has the potential to grow - depending on the performance of the underlying investments - and the death benefit can increase as a result of that potential growth.

The potentially increasing death benefit makes single-premium life a valuable estate-planning tool. At the time of purchase, a single-premium life policy sets an initial death benefit amount that is much greater than the cash deposited to purchase the policy. Keep in mind you may eventually lose some of the value of the account, if the underlying investments in your portfolio experience weak performance.

As with most life insurance policies, one of the key elements of a single-premium policy is the benefit it provides to your beneficiaries upon your death. At such a solemn and difficult time, the last thing you want your loved ones to have to deal with is tax consequences from your estate. Fortunately, the payment to your beneficiaries from a single-premium life policy will be free from income taxes. You may want to consider this type of policy if you're looking for tax control in addition to insurance protection.

Planning for your financial future can be quite a task, and it's even more difficult to make decisions knowing they can have an impact on your dependents. To help put your mind at ease with regards to their welfare in the event something should happen to you, take the time now to make sure they will be taken care of.



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

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INVESTMENTS SINCE 1887

Huntsville in 1887

from 1887 Huntsville newspaper

As showing that the spirit of progress and new life are abroad in Huntsville, it will not be amiss to note the changes and buildings in course of construction.

Work on the street railway is going forward and will be pushed to an early completion. Fully a half mile of track has been laid, and this week will likely see a mile completed. As stated elsewhere this street railway will be extended to the new mammoth hotel on Monte Sano.

The work of remodeling, repairing and furnishing anew the Huntsville Hotel begins in a few days - just as soon as the architect completes the designs, at which he is now engaged.

While the city is well and amply lighted with gas, a company has just been organized with large capital and have applied to the city for right of way for the erection of posts in the city for Electric lights. A new bank is also being discussed, and its establishment is among the early probabilities. This enterprise is but an evidence of faith gentlemen of capital and fine business judgement have in Huntsville's future which grows

brighter each day.

Important improvements will also be made at once to the already handsome hotel of Mr. Henry McGee, adding new designs to its artistic appearance.

A number of new store and residence buildings are in course of erection, and contracts let for others to be completed this year.

On the vacant lot between the Huntsville Hotel and Opera House, Col. Jas. F. O'Shaughnessey will erect a block of three large, three story business houses, and will have solid glass fronts and constructed according to the latest and most approved designs in Architecture.

They will be an ornament to any city in the land, and a fitting place for them will be in this city of rare charm and unequalled beauty.

Mr. J. R. Stegall has just completed one of the largest, handsomest and most splendidly arranged Livery Stables in the South.

The growth of Huntsville is solid, based on a sure and certain growth that will be permanent, and is not the flashy outgrowth of a "boom" on paper and speculation. Its future is not only assured but no city of the South has brighter prospects and more encouraging evidences of realizing its every promise and hope than Huntsville. To see it and

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know it is all that is necessary to be convinced that what we have stated is true.

Land that sold thirty days since within two miles of our city for thirty and forty dollars per acre, today readily commands sixty dollars per acre, and in sixty days more will be sold for one hundred dollars per acre.

This is not unnatural, for real estate eligibly located within three and a half miles of as beautiful a city as Huntsville is, with a population of at least six thousand inhabitants, is intrinsically and really worth two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. We have our streets as well macadamized and as well lighted with gas as any city of its size North or South.

Huntsville now has a cotton factory of ten thousand spindles, and the yarns made are equal to any in quality of any factory in the Union. This company has just recently doubled its capacity, which is the result of an increased demand for their goods. This factory has never been able to meet the demand, and will continue to increase its capacity

until able to do so.

It is only a question of a short time when there will be factories here for making domestics and calicoes of all grades.

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The Old Airport

By **Johnny Johnston**

The old Huntsville Airport was a simple place, which barely met minimum standards for aviation, let alone airline traffic. It was a setting for fun, making memories, and a place, which consumed a great part of many peoples' lives. Some current local residents assume that the airport has always been west of Madison, with all its parking, food activity and many, many jobs. Not so!

I was asked just the other day "Why do they call it Airport Road - there's not an Airport any where near there!"

Well, there was, and it provided a place for more than a few people to feed their families. The truth is that the first official airfield located in the Alabama St. - Bob Wallace area was used from 1931, until 1942. The next airport, the Huntsville Madison County Airport, was used from 1942, until 1967, The Terminal Building you will read about here, served the area from 1942, until 1952, when the new building was completed. The new building is now the Police Academy. The road leading to the airport, Airport Road, was a gravel

and dirt country road until it was paved in 1949.

There are many stories about the airport including the fact that when I went to work there in 1953, there were only eleven people, including me, who were employed there. Eastern Airlines had a total of 3 employees, Capital Airlines 4, and James McAlister had 3 combination mechanics/pilots. James McAlister, one of the unforgettable characters, was the owner of Huntsville Air Service and the unofficial "Airport Manager."

Mr. Ed Gouldener told the following story to me about when he was the first Manager for Eastern Airlines. If you listen to his story carefully, you will realize the smallness of our city during the mid 40's. When Ed reported to Huntsville in 1945, the size of the city was around 12,000 residents.

In 1945 Ed was a Chief Agent for Eastern in Mobile, Alabama when he got notice of his promotion to Station Manager

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in Huntsville. The country began to grow just after World War II; companies were in a hurry to expand into new and promising growth areas as quickly as possible. The airlines were getting their aircraft back from the war effort and looking for places to fly them. Huntsville had been growing at a rapid rate since the installation of Redstone Arsenal in the early part of the decade, so much so that airline service had started in 1944 by Pennsylvania Central Airlines, (PCA), and during 1945 Waterman Airways began service to Birmingham, Mobile, Memphis and Dothan. The Civil Aeronautics Board had given Eastern authority to begin service in Huntsville on its North-South Route from Chicago to Miami. Eastern was anxious to get started and told Ed to cancel his vacation and proceed immediately to Huntsville.

Ed loaded his pregnant wife Marie into his prewar sedan and

headed to Atlanta to board her out until he could find a place for them to live in Huntsville. He later told me of his fear of driving over what he later learned was Monte Sano Mountain. Us old-timers remember that road to be the most unsafe and frightening road in the area. It was narrow, extremely crooked and with very bad pavement.

Ed checked into the Russel Erskine Hotel late at night without seeing anything but dark and empty streets. He said he couldn't wait for breakfast the next morning because he was so excited to get to his new job at the Huntsville Airport. When he asked a bellboy how to get to the airport, he was told that there was only one road south and gave him instructions to go one block east on Clinton then turn right on Jefferson St. at Hutchins Hardware. When he got out of the city he was told he should watch carefully for a sign on his right that pointed to the airport.

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Ed said he drove on the isolated Whitesburg Drive until he got to the Tennessee River. Thinking he might have gone too far he turned and headed back to Huntsville where he asked someone on the street where the airport was. They gave him these instructions. "There is a new subdivision where the old Huntsville Airfield used to be (Alabama Street and Bob Wallace), that he should go past that out of the city limits (where Drake Ave. is now). Shortly he would encounter heavy woods on both sides of Whitesburg Drive. He was told he should look for a small sign on the last tree on the right.

This time Ed found the small hand-painted, faded sign nailed to the last tree in the woods and turned right on the dirt and gravel country road; however he thought this was a mistake and again turned around and went back to civilization. He asked someone where the big airport was where Eastern Airlines Inc. was soon to start service. After confirming his worst fears, Ed said he retraced his route and "turned down the gravel dusty road, crossed over a slight rise, past some rough railroad tracks and there before me was Huntsville Airport".

In his words "The Airport Terminal Building was a small wooden shack complete with smokestack set in an unpaved gravel lot. The airport ramp was a paved asphalt area about the size of a postage stamp bounded by a sagging wire fence that

helped to prevent stray livestock access to the restricted aircraft parking area. The smokestack was the stovepipe protruding from a coal fired warm morning heater siting inside the shack."

Ed was equally impressed by the appearance of the ramp. "A forlorn set of Pennsylvania Central Airlines DC-3 type loading steps and a DC-3 nose loading stand were the only ramp equipment in sight. Their lone (ONE) baggage cart was parked adjacent to an entrance door to what

I would shortly learn was the "Terminal Lobby" complete with what must have been a genuine antique desk upon which the "Airport Manager" and "Base Operator" had his feet. He wore a faded baseball type cap reversed and pushed back on his head and, as I seem to recall, clutched a half empty half pint. Some crumpled papers on the desk completed the scene. I later learned the half-pint would come into use just before closing time each day.

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What Ed did not say, but I do remember, was that the entire building was only one-room, maybe 30 feet by 25 feet in size. The front and only passenger door, complete with screen, was the passenger entrance along with the access to the ramp and aircraft. I say aircraft because there was room for only one DC-3. There were two small, no, very small closets with toilet facilities that a large person would have to squeeze into. The joke was "you had to unzip before you went in".

Ed goes on. "I introduced myself to the Airport Manager, and inquired as to Eastern's planned location in the terminal. He pointed to a vacant area the size of a very small closet immediately adjacent the counter complete with a set of baggage scales used by the Wright Brothers at Kitty Hawk in 1903."

Ed said that no furniture had

arrived and did not for months to come. His orders to depart from vacation immediately and report to Huntsville seemed to be of less importance since his first flight did not arrive until January 1, 1946. Ed and his first employee, Frances Hill, {her family owned Hill Jewelers}, operated the first departure with a card table, a folding metal chair and Miss Hill to welcome the first two or three passengers for that day. What made his job so strange was that Eastern only scheduled two flights per day into Huntsville with both flights arriving and departing about the same

time. Huntsville Airport was scheduled for "daytime operations only" because lights for runway operation did not exist.

During this time and until the advent of Omni Radio, Flight Crews used the broadcast of Radio Station WBHP, (then lo-



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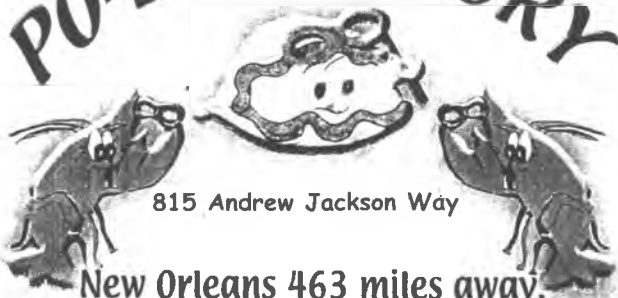
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cated on 5th. Ave., now called Governors Drive). The Runways at HSV were only 100 feet wide and not very long. If you were making an approach using WBHP you had to be very careful not to be blown off course by the wind. With your IFR instrument pointed to the Radio Station, it was entirely possible to come in from the North pointed to the station with a West wind and arrive at the airport coming in from the East. The minimum ceiling was so high that weeks sometime went by without a landing.

Ed had a great experience on his first day of operation in HSV. Eastern brought in an airplane for public relations purposes to take local Dignitaries for a ride. The Mayor was afraid to fly and refused to ride on the flight. A county Commissioner, his first flight and also afraid to fly, was drafted to take a ride to view the City and County. It was his first flight and probably his last flight, considering how frightened he was. They flew down the landing strip of the old Redstone Arsenal Airport, now abandoned, and came close to hitting a

weather vane that someone saw quickly and yelled at the Pilot to take action. They narrowly avoided the accident.

Ed remembers the wire fence which looked that was supposed to prevent cattle from getting on the runway. That was a major problem for the Airport for many years to come. He chased cattle from the runway many times with his truck before I went to work there in 1953. When I was there and had my Harley, I delighted in herding the cattle from the runways.

Ed Gouldener is now in his eighties, a director in the Eastern Airlines Retirement Association and a very accomplished cartoonist. I had the wonderful pleasure of reporting to Ed when I was a Manager in Chicago. He became one of my very best friends.

Like most early employees at the airport, I carried my lunch most of the time. Bought lunch was a long way off, you could drive to Whitesburg, turn left and go to a cafe at Huntsville Hospital which was the nearest place to get anything to eat. Remember, the Parkway was not started

until 1955. I enjoyed driving over to Airport Road and parking under a large tree while I listened to Paul Harvey on WBHP and ate my lunch. That was near where Rolo's Restaurant is located now. The only building on Airport Road that I remember

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was on the East End facing Whitesburg which housed a district office for the Alabama Highway Patrol. It was later to be the private office of Mr. Walton Fleming whom I admired greatly. Now it is a shopping center.

After returning to Huntsville in 1984 to bring back Eastern Airlines services, I had a visitor from the home office in Miami, Fl. to assist in design of the terminal reconstruction. He presented me with an old picture thinking my image was there just inside the door. One look and I knew it was a picture of the backside of the first Huntsville Airport Terminal building which was used from 1942 until 1952. I immediately saw that it was not me in the picture and found other clues with my magnifying glass. A truck parked outside the building with Huntsville Glass Co. printed on the side, Southern Airways (local service operator before it was an airline), offering rides for hire. There was an Eastern Airlines DC-3 sitting on the grass besides the building. It took me nearly a year to get the history of that picture. I found this story with the help of an old

friend, George Mahoney. We were able to find Mr. Turner, retired owner of Huntsville Glass Co. who said he was only there once in that truck which was a new 1950 Chevrolet. While there he was told that Capt. Rickenbacker was inside. After contacting Ed Gouldener and several other people at Eastern, I learned the entire story.

Eddie Rickenbacker wanted to expose his staff to the field offices of Eastern airlines so he had each of them fly with him to each airport location. There, in that one-room building which was not big enough to hold lobby furniture, located at an airport with no runway lights, was one of the most famous people in the world, meeting with the entire official staff of one of the largest airlines in the world. It was the fall of 1950 and from what I could find, not one mention was made of it in the local newspaper.

Note: Johnny Johnston worked with Eastern Airlines for 32 years in many locations. He retired from Eastern in 1988, as District Manager of Sales and Services. He was the first Executive Director of Downtown Huntsville Authority. He has been a professional speaker, is a licensed auctioneer and is retired in his hometown of Huntsville. Having grown up in Huntsville, he remembers the old city well.

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P. J. O'Rourke

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pable of being raised up vertically to accommodate the clothing to be washed, and at the same time it can be slid back and forth over the surface of them.

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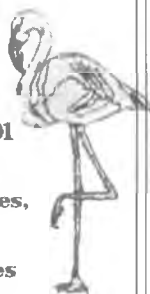
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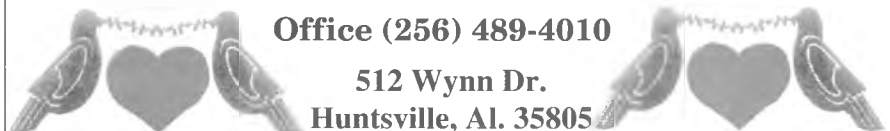
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- 1/2 c. dark brown sugar
- 3/4 t. soda
- 1 c. light cream
- 1 1/2 T. butter
- 2 c. pecans halves

Combine sugars and soda in a 3 1/2 quart saucepan, mix well. Stir in cream.

Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly.

Reduce heat, cook and stir to soft ball stage (234 degrees) and mixture caramelizes slightly. Remove from heat and add butter. Stir in pecans, beat until thick, 2 or 3 minutes.

Drop from tablespoon onto wax paper.

If candy becomes too stiff, add a tablespoon of hot water. Makes 30 pralines.

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from 1889 newspaper

First look at the color; if it is white, with a slightly yellow or straw tint, buy it. If it is very white with a bluish cast, or white specks in it, refuse it.

Second, examine its adhesiveness; wet and knead a little of it between your fingers; if it works soft and sticky, it is poor.

Third, throw a little lump of dry flour against a smooth, dry, perpendicular surface. If it falls like powder, it is bad.

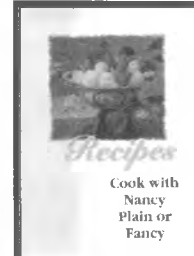
Fourth, squeeze some of the flour in your hand; if it retains the shape given by the pressure, that, too, is a good sign.

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during the ensuing month; that no part thereof shall be sold or otherwise disposed of by me of by my authority, connivance or consent, except for the dole use and consumption of my family, and that to the best of my knowledge and belief no application has been made for any permit for the same or like supplies, to any other officer or agent, and that no supplies for the same family for the period mentioned, have been or are expected to be applied for elsewhere, or elsewhere obtained."

The invoice attached to the affidavit included:

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- Seven yards of calico at 30 cents per yard2.10
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We have the yellow fever here in its most malignant form. Out of eight cases, six have been laid beneath the sod. The two cases we are now on, Charles Austin and Mat Todd, are doing very well and I think will recover. There are two sick among the Negroes, but I don't think they have the fever as yet. Almost all of the white people have left town and gone into the country. There are a few colored people left and they are doing all they can to help us. The business houses are all closed, except two: Scott's and Stewart's. The late one is kept open by Capt. Smith, who has orders from that noble hearted citizen, Capt. John Stewart, to let those that remain in Decatur have what they need, with or without the money.

The town is lonely and desolate, and a mantle of sorrow and grief is hanging over us. We are working night and day to prevent the spread of the disease. The few brave men who have risked their lives will long be remembered by the citizens of Decatur. We think we have laid the last one to rest. In walking the streets, one sees the black spots on the streets, marking the place where bedding removed immediately after death was burned. The

town is silent as a grave. The few people remaining are sad, and the question most asked is, "Are there any new cases?"

We have plenty of nurses, medicines, and provisions, thanks to generous citizens of the U.S. Capt. Hurd of Cincinnati, and Dr. Cantwell of Decatur, now in Mansfield, Ohio, who each telegraphed us to draw on them \$1,000 if we needed help.

Truly, Eli E Jennings

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* Want to make sure you're getting the best prices on your favorite products? Start a "price book" that lists the food items and household products your family uses most along with the very best unit price you've found and which store you found it in. Take it with you when you shop and you'll know if a store sale is a good buy.

* To save on shampoo and conditioner, just shampoo the roots of your hair since it's usually the hair near the scalp that gets oily, and apply conditioner from the ends up where the hair is the driest and needs most conditioning. Hair near your scalp is conditioned naturally by the oils in your skin.

* Do you love the taste of gourmet coffee but not the price? Mix two different kinds, a less expensive generic brand and only a little of the gourmet brand, to improve the taste and quality.

* For an inexpensive fabric softener, add 1/4 cup of vinegar in place of liquid fabric softener in the final rinse cycle. It costs pennies and makes clothes cleaner, brighter and softer.

* Love the convenience of those expensive cleaning wipes for your home? Make your own by mixing water with a little of your favorite all-purpose cleaner and pour in a plastic covered container. Tear off and fold sheets of paper towels and place them in the container.

* If you are planning to have a service performed at your home such as exterminating, roofing or carpet cleaning, check with neighbors who may also

need to have the service done, and ask if the company would be willing to discount the prices since they are hitting two (or more) homes without having to make an additional trip.

* Before you shower, while you're waiting for the hot water, catch the cool water in a bucket and use it for your humidifier, watering plants, pet's drinking water, etc.,

* Cut your laundry costs by using only half the suggested amount of laundry detergent and

by cutting your dryer sheets in half. Works just as well as the full amount and saves \$\$.

* Stenciling is an easy way to decorate a room, but can be expensive. Instead, use air freshener container lids which often have cutout floral designs that are perfect for any room.

* Plastic bags that you get at the grocery store make good liners for your small wastebaskets. You can store lots of them in an empty tissue box, and they will pop out one at a time!

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Gossip from the year 1896

Huntsville: A handsome young woman from Birmingham recently came on a visit to a young matron whose husband is a prominent businessman in Huntsville. The fair guest was extensively entertained, remained several weeks and departed. A few days afterwards the husband left the city on a business trip. During his absence, his wife, in rummaging through the pockets of his coats, came across a letter written in a decidedly feminine hand. Her suspicions were instantly aroused, and she read the contents.

What was her astonishment and anger to find that the letter was an endearing little note from her recent visitor, fixing a meeting with her husband in Birmingham. When the gentleman returned home from his business trip, he was confronted with the 'billet doux.' Those who are acquainted with the fact say that the tender missive will probably be made public as an exhibit in upcoming divorce proceedings.

New Hope: Here is as warm a story as had cropped up in New Hope for many years. For some time past a well known young lady of this city has been puzzled and frightened by the occasional appearance of a skulking figure at night in the yard of her home. These visitations usually occurred on Saturday, and a couple of weeks ago she requested a married friend to send her husband over to lay in wait for the intruder.

The gentleman responded and about the time the young lady was retiring saw three men slip up to her bedroom window. He promptly raised the alarm and gave chase. They ran like scared rabbits, but the amateur detective hung to the trail of one of the trio and finally succeeded in overhauling him.

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found that his prisoner was a prominent young lawyer and worst of all, an ardent suitor of the very girl at whose case-ment he had been detected.

The young attorney was badly rattled and eventually made a clean chest of it. He admitted that he had been in the habit of spying at the window of his sweetheart for weeks past and that his companions were present at his visits. Both are well known about town, and one is a fledgling physician. Possibly he regarded it as a good opportunity to perfect his knowledge of anatomy.

The trio has since made a ghastly effort to pass the affair off as a joke, but this explanation is received with no smiles. The gentleman who solved the mystery has made no secret of the facts and wherever they have been heard, the comments are scathing. The affair is certain to result in the complete social ostracism of all three of the young men concerned.



Being Paid For The Job

The other day an ex-Confederate soldier, driving a government ambulance up Madison Street, was hailed by a United States soldier as follows:

"Hello Johnnie, you are burying Yankees now, are you?"

"Yes," said the gray jacket, "gone back to my old trade again, only now I get paid for it."

The blue coat didn't pursue the subject further.

from 1867 newspaper

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News From The Year 1961

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Tanks Face Off In Berlin

Soviet and American tanks confronted each other today across the border between East and West Berlin in a dispute over border transit rights. The confrontation, which lasted 16 hours, began when Soviet tanks wheeled into position at the Fried richstrasse crossing point on the Berlin boundary. U.S. tanks then took up position 100 yards away on the other side of the crossing point. The Soviet tanks were the first to withdraw, easing the tensions but apparently leaving unresolved the issue of the right of U.S. officials to cross into the Communist sector of Berlin.

The confrontation of the tanks developed after the United States challenged the right of East German guards to check on the credentials of American officials in civilian clothes crossing into East Berlin under a military police guard. In Moscow, the American Ambassador protested the East German action violated the Berlin occupation agreement.

Hemingway Commits Suicide

Author Ernest Hemingway was found dead this morning at his Ketchum, Idaho home. He had been wounded in the head by a shotgun blast. Some friends described Hemingway as despondent; others thought him in good spirits. His wife issued a statement saying Hemingway accidentally killed himself while cleaning the firearm.

Hemingway won the Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, influencing two generations of writers. His novels included "The Sun Also Rises" and "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Ty Cobb Dead of Cancer

Ty Cobb, the first player ever elected to Baseball's Hall of Fame, has died at the age of 74. He had suffered from prostate cancer, diabetes and heart disease.

Cobb still holds 16 major league records. He was known as one of the meanest competi-

tors in the game during his 22 years with the Detroit Tigers and Philadelphia Athletics. He was chosen for the Hall of Fame in 1936, beating out Babe Ruth by seven votes.

The so-called Georgia Peach was feared by rival players for his deadly use of spikes on the basepaths.

He won 12 batting championships and stole more bases (892) than any other player.

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Gus Grissom Becomes Second American In Space

Air Force Capt. Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom became the second American in space today, in a flight that was marred when his Mercury capsule sank in the Atlantic with valuable films aboard.

Grissom was launched from Cape Canaveral at 8:20 a.m and landed 302 miles away in the Atlantic Ocean 16 minutes later after a flight that took him 116 miles into space.

Minutes after the landing, explosive bolts blew out the side hatch of the capsule before a waiting helicopter could hook on and lift it upright. The capsule flooded, and Grissom had to swim for more than two minutes before a second helicopter plucked him from the sea. He said the dunking left him "a bit uneasy," but doctors said he suffered no harm.

There was jubilation in Huntsville, Alabama as they received word of the successful flight.

Chubby Checker Leads Twist Craze

Once reserved for gyrating teenagers only, the rock and roll dance craze, led by Chubby Checker's irrepressible hit "The Twist," has even shimmied its way up the social ladder. In recent weeks, throngs of Jet Set socialites have jammed the dance floors of such once-staid bastions of New York cafe society as the Stork Club and Peppermint Lounge, not only to twist but to jerk, poney, wiggle wobble and frug till the wee hours. Checker, 19, has embarked on a European tour, and one can only wonder if the new dance sensation is headed for the British royal palace

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The Legend of John Gunter

Most accounts claim John Gunter was born in Scotland and emigrated to America at an early age. During the Revolutionary War he sided with the British and afterwards was forced to flee because of his Loyalist sentiments.

Instead of heading north to Canada, as most Loyalists did, Gunter traveled south into what was known at the time as the "Great Indian Nations." Much evidence suggests that he was a salt trader, possibly buying the salt in Knoxville and traveling the length of the Tennessee River trading with the Indians. Around 1785 Gunter's travels brought him into North Alabama, to a small Indian village named Creek Path, the site of present-day Guntersville.

The chief of the small settlement was Bushyhead, a Cherokee of the Paint Clan. Bushyhead and his group of followers had backed the British in the Revolutionary War and they too had been forced to flee southward at the end of the hostilities. The Cherokee depended on trade with the whites for essentials such as salt and gunpowder, so John Gunter was probably tolerated, if not exactly welcomed when he first appeared at their village. Legend has it that Gunter was already fluent in the Cherokee language.

Chief Bushyhead, who at first probably considered Gunter a necessary evil, soon warmed to the quiet and unassuming young man. The chief would spend days patiently relating Indian lore and teaching Gunter the ways of the Cherokees.

If the chief seemed to place great emphasis on land, he had

good cause. As the white settlers moved into North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee, the Cherokees had been pushed farther south until now they resided at the very southern fringes of what had once been vast tribal lands.

Finally the day came when John Gunter was no longer considered a visitor. For all practical purposes he had become a Cherokee. He wore his hair long like the Indians, spoke their language and had adapted to their customs. The Indians had begun to trust the young man and literally considered him to be one of their own.

The chief, while realizing his tribe was dependent on the whites for trade, nevertheless wanted to keep contact to a minimum. The perfect solution seemed to be to make Gunter their agent in dealing with the whites. After much consultation with the council, the chief signed a treaty with Gunter which

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said, "As long as the grass grows green and the waters flow, the Indians can have salt."

To seal the treaty, Bushyhead gave his 15 year-old daughter (though some sources say she was 13), Ghe-go-he-li, to the 35 year old Gunter as a wife. Later, Gunter anglicized his wife's name to Catharine, or Katy.

The next twenty years were an idyllic time for the Gunters. They built a large two-story house near Big Spring Creek where they raised seven children. A nearby warehouse contained the hides and ginseng he received in trade with the Indians.

The only contact with whites were periodic trips to Tennessee to trade, or an occasional flatboat that might drift down the Tennessee River.

Within a few years Creek Path, or Gunter's Landing as it was known to the whites, became an important trading post. Indians from throughout North Alabama would travel to the settlement to trade for salt or gunpowder, while the whites occasionally traveling through the Indian Nation would find it a convenient place to stop and obtain supplies.

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a leader in the tribe, often being called upon to settle disputes with neighboring tribes. When Chief Bushyhead died, Gunter became the leader of the Creek Path settlement.

However content he may have been, Gunter probably realized it was a false illusion that could not continue forever. He had traveled throughout the "white" world and knew it was simply a matter of time before the whites began moving into the valley.

His prophecy proved true in the early 1800s when he received word of a white man, John Ditto, settling at Ditto's landing. A few years later he heard of a settlement at Hunt's Spring, followed soon by whites taking up land at nearby Muscle Shoals.

When some of the young warriors wanted to take up arms against the settlers, Gunter preached caution, saying there were too many of them and any conflict would end in disaster for the Cherokees. Instead, he urged a peaceful coexistence. "The federal government," he said, "has promised that we can keep our lands."

In preparation for the inevitable, Gunter had raised his children in both worlds. They were fluent in both the English and Cherokee languages and easily fit into either society. As one contemporary said, "They looked white but thought Indian."

Gunter and his family prospered. Like many other Cherokee families, they were slave holders and had vast amounts of acreage under cultivation. By 1810, Gunter was known as one of the wealthiest men in the Tennessee Valley. Much of his success was in being able to be both Indian and white without taking sides.

Regardless of Gunter's reluctance to take sides, he was forced to in 1813 when the Creeks waged war on the whites who had settled on their lands. Gen-

eral Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett had camped nearby and while waiting for their supplies to catch up, raised a regiment of Cherokees to help fight the Creeks.

Though the Creeks were traditional enemies of the Cherokees, there was still a reluctance to fight on the side of the white man. Gunter, realizing that Jackson could be a powerful ally for the Cherokees, urged his tribesmen to join the campaign. Over 200 Cherokees finally enlisted with Gunter's son, Edward, serving as Major.

If Gunter thought that having an ally such as Andrew Jackson would solve the Cherokees' problems, he was mistaken. Under increasing pressure from white settlers the Cherokees, in 1819, were forced to cede their lands north of the Tennessee River. Edward and John Jr., two of Gunter's sons, were instrumental in the treaty, which caused an uproar throughout the Indian Nation.

The Cherokee Nation at this time consisted of two factions. One faction, led in part by the Gunters, believed that peaceful

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coexistence was the Cherokees' only hope, while the other side was adamant against giving up any land.

The Indians' concept of land ownership was something the whites could not understand. Where a white man could purchase and sell land at will, the Cherokees believed the land belonged to the tribe and could not be sold. While an Indian might farm or live on some land, it never actually belonged to him, but to his people. Unfortunately, if an Indian sold the land to a white man, the white man's law recognized the sale as legal.

Even so, a few individual Indians, having become accustomed to white ways, had begun to sell the land they lived on. The Gunter, led by their father, did not agree with the treaty, but realized that the Nation could not contest the sales successfully in a federal court so they urged the Indians to accept it.

Reluctantly, the tribe agreed to do so.

The Indian Nation had always been a sore point with most of the white settlers who resented having a "foreign nation" with its own laws in their midst. In an effort to break up the tribal lands, the federal government offered the Indians "reserves" of land. By leaving the reservation, an Indian could take ownership of a piece of land to which he had free title. This proved attractive to many Indians who wanted to live like the whites.

At the same time the federal government began pressuring the Indians to migrate west to the new Indian territory (present-day

Oklahoma).

Land sales by Indians to whites had reached a point in 1825 where the Cherokee Council was forced to enact special legislation forbidding Indians from selling land.

Regardless of the law, some Indians continued to sell land. In 1828, as a last resort, the Cherokee Council met and passed the "Blood Law," which stated that any Indian who sold land to the whites could be put to death. Edward and John Gunter, Jr., were again delegates to the convention.

Numerous Indians, though

no one knows how many, were executed under this law. This served to infuriate many Indians who thought the whites should be the ones put to death.

Time and time again Gunter

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preached restraint to the young warriors who wanted to make war against the whites for taking their land. Still fighting for peaceful coexistence, Gunter sent his youngest son John to the new Indian territory to observe firsthand the conditions there. Hopefully, he thought it would be a place where the Indians could live in peace.

John's report to his father was devastating. The Indian territory consisted of barren lands over which intertribal warfare had broken out, and the whites were subjecting the Indians to more laws which had the effect of making them second-class citizens.

At about the same time, Gunter's daughter Martha met and married Hugh Henry. According to custom, Martha received land from the tribe to farm and live on. A short while later her husband sold the land, which was his right under white law.

This was the crushing blow to John Gunter. He was too much of a white man to take vengeance on his daughter's husband, but too much of an Indian

to ignore it. He banned his daughter from ever stepping foot in his house as long as she was still married to Henry. The fact that Henry was not killed by the Cherokees was probably due to the respect they had for Gunter.


John Gunter was an old man by now. He had preached peaceful coexistence with the whites and had raised his sons to be leading figures in the Cherokee Nation only to see the white man break all of his promises. Where once he had hoped the Indians could migrate to another land and once again be a powerful tribe, Gunter realized now it was undoubtedly all a pretense on the government's part.

Sensing his days were numbered, John Gunter had his will drawn up—a move highly unusual for an Indian. By using the white man's law, Gunter hoped to insure his family's future. The will stated that the land left by Gunter could not be sold or used by anyone except his family, and though he left much property to

his daughter Martha, it was stipulated that she would not receive it as long as she was married to Hugh Henry. To make sure his will would be enforced he named four of the leading Cherokee chiefs as his executors.




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Ever since he had arrived at Creek Path (today Guntersville) almost half a century earlier, Gunter and his wife had often walked to a nearby hill where they would sit for hours watching the lazy river wind itself through the valley. They had watched the history of the South travel down the river— first there were Indian canoes, then crude log rafts, followed by keelboats and steamboats. They had watched the peaceful little village next to the river grow from nothing into a bustling community of almost 800 Indians, with two stores and a ferry.

But where once boats called at Gunter's Landing with supplies of salt and trading goods, the cargo they carried now was much more tragic. It was the time of the Indian Removal, and Gunter's Landing had become a major shipping point for the Indians being sent west.

Legends still abound about Gunter, old and crippled with age, walking among the imprisoned Indians, offering solace when he had nothing else left to give.

It is said that Gunter once again let his hair grow long and began dressing in the Indian fashion.

Shortly before his death on August 28, 1835, John Gunter suffered a stroke. As he lay on his deathbed, legend has it that a group of young Indians visited him, asking for advice.

"I'm too old to give advice," he said.

When pressed about what he would do if he was younger, a fiery look came into the old man's eyes as he remembered his youth and all that he had seen.

"I'd be a warrior," he finally replied. Three months after his death the treaty of New Echota was signed, forcing all the remaining Indians at Guntersville into exile in Oklahoma.



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Growing Up Rural

by **Chip Knight**

I basically grew up in the city, but my uncle and aunt had a large cattle and cotton farm over in Limestone County. and a somewhat smaller one around Madison. So, I got to be both a city boy and a country boy. I learned to hunt on the Limestone County place, which was called the Fletcher place because it had come to my uncle from his uncle, a man named Shelby Fletcher. I do come from a strange family.

There had been bad blood between my grandfather, John Knight of Decatur and Shelby Fletcher of Huntsville. So, of course, John Knight's daughter and Shelby Fletcher's nephew insisted on marrying. Shelby Fletcher was into land and was

not badly hurt by the Depression, whereas John Knight was pretty well wiped out. So, I grew up with money all around me but with none of my own.

As a young boy, I remember that there were still several teams of mules on the place. One old man - General Washington, he was called - was known for his first attempt to drive a tractor. He got it started and then didn't know what to do. I was told that he was still yelling "WOAH" as it finally ran into a tree and stopped.

I also fondly remember Uncle Sonny, who was an ancient black man when I was a child. I don't know that he had ever been a slave, but he probably had. I do remember, though, that I could hardly understand the language he spoke. It was English, but it was really different from the way I spoke.

My uncle liked to fox hunt (ride, camp, drink and chase but do not kill the fox) and had

seeded the place with them. Not killing the fox finally caught up with them. I remember one night when I was camping down there, I was out trying to gig frogs and a fox, perhaps blinded by my



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lamp, came right up to me. And it is true, a fox den does always have two exits, at least the ones I've seen.

One day I was hunting on the place and was walking in the woods looking for squirrels and I came across an old graveyard, right there in the woods. There were just a few graves, and the most recent was from the 1880s. It was an eerie feeling, finding marked graves out in the woods.

The only duck I ever shot, I shot on the Fletcher place in a woods we called the Chestnut woods because it had been full of Chestnut trees before the blight killed all of them.

It was a cold morning, well below freezing, and I slipped in next to the spring head of what becomes Beaver Dam Creek, and there were about ten ducks in the water. I was ill prepared for ducks, as I was squirrel hunting. But, game was game. I slipped in a little closer and the ducks flushed. I missed with the right barrel but downed one solidly with the left. Of course, he fell in the water. I had no dog; I had no boat; I had no proper clothes. So. I waded in and collected my duck and got soaking wet up to my waist in that cold air and then walked about a mile back to where I had left the car. But, it was worth it because I had my duck.

Interestingly, in later years, I lived on the river over by Guntersville and we had ducks who lived there year round and

who would come up to the house for handouts. I fed them, but I have not shot another one since.

Being in the country has had some profound effects on my life. It has caused me to have a yearning for rural America that remains with me although I now live in the city. I would like to "go rural" again. I yearn for space around me even as I dearly love my neighbors. I also remember gathering hay in near 100 degree weather and running the tractor with one implement or another and that tempers my yearning somewhat.

I suppose I would really like to have my cake and eat it too. I don't really know how to do that, but I'm working on it.

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Tips From Liz

Household Advice, Beauty Tips and Common Sense



(These tips are presented for your enjoyment only - always check with your doctor for any medical problems.)

- When putting dirty silverware in your dishwasher, group your dirty spoons, forks and knives together in the silverware bin - it'll be faster to unload!

- If you use a meat baster to squeeze out your pancake batter onto the hot griddle, you'll have perfect pancakes every time!

- If you spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato-based sauces like spaghetti, there'll be no stains.

- A mousetrap placed on top of your alarm clock will discourage you from hitting the "snooze" button when you really should be getting up.

- Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting it in the fridge and it'll keep for weeks.

- Use latex gloves for opening jars - gives you more leverage for those hard-to open jars..

- Chalk lines work with ants - they won't cross it! Try it - not sure why this one works!

- You really only need two tools at home - WD-40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it moves and shouldn't, use the duct tape.

- Using air-freshener to clean your mirrors does a good job and leaves a great scent!

- DON'T throw away that leftover wine - freeze into cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

- I found the best itch/skin cream at Garden Cove - it's called Skin Gel by AloeLife - it worked wonders for dry, itchy skin!

- If you accidentally oversalt a dish while it's cooking, simply drop in a peeled potato and it will absorb the excess salt.

- To stop itch from a mosquito bite, apply plain soap to the area for instant relief.

- When you get a splinter, reach for the Scotch tape. Place it over the splinter, then pull. This will work for small splinters most of the time.

- A "reacher" is not just for old folks anymore. You can find them in all medical supply stores and they allow you to retrieve most items without having to bend over!

- By turning a cauliflower head upside down in boiling water it cooks more quickly and

retains more flavor.

- Calm down an angry child by whispering to her - she'll have to stop crying to listen to you. This works on husbands, too.

- Toast your oatmeal for better-tasting oatmeal cookies.

- To remove tar, rub with lard or butter, then rinse with warm soap and water.

- If paint fumes bother you, add 2 teaspoons of vanilla extract to each quart of paint.

- To measure shortening, use an ice cream scoop. Most scoops are 1/4 cup, and will be easier to use and to clean afterwards.

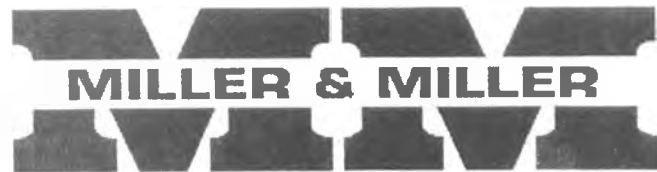
- For a new twist on apple pie, add 1/2 teaspoon of dill seeds to the apples.

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Growing Up With The State Guard

by Tillman Hill

When World War II started the Alabama National Guard was the first group to be called into the Army.

Everybody was excited the day they left. Every street had somebody that was going off with them. I don't remember the date, but I guess it was early 1942.

I was about 10 years old, and all the boys in the Village were going over to the Armory on Dallas Avenue to see them off. I told my Daddy I was going. I should have asked him if I could go instead of telling him because he said no, I could not go.

I started crying and he made me go back into the house. After everybody left, he came into the house and said that I could go. I told him I was not going over there now. That was the first and last time I sassed my Daddy.

He went into the kitchen. The sink was by the window and as Daddy always shaved by the window for the sunlight, he kept his leather razor strap hanging next to the sink. He got that razor strap, and boy, you ain't never been beat until you've had a good beating with a razor strap! After the whipping he told me to go over to the Armory and see the boys off. So with red eyes and a burning butt I was there waving bye to the boys going to war.

I had no way of knowing that day how important a part the Armory would play in my life for the next five years.

Soon after the National Guard left they started the Alabama State Guard. Everybody wanted to do something for the war effort. The State Guard was made up mostly of men either

too old or too young to join the Army. There were a lot of World War I veterans and boys too young to join the army so they enlisted in the State Guard until they were old enough to go into service.

One man who joined the State Guard and later went into the Army was one of the two men from Madison County to win the Congressional Medal of Honor. His name was Bushy Bolden and he was a professional boxer. He was my hero even before he went into the Army.

A lot of businessmen joined the Guard. My Daddy was one of the first men to join and I went everywhere he went. Before long I became the official "mascot" for the Company. My Daddy carried me out to A&M College. where there was a tailor shop, and had an Army uniform made for me. I attended all the meetings and helped out in the supply room. Mostly I did whatever I was told to do.

When Chauncey Sparks was elected Governor, the company was sent to Montgomery to

march in the inaugural parade. Of course, being the mascot, I got to tag along. We went down in an Army truck and stayed at the

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warehouses behind Kilby Prison. They had prisoners to help around the place and I will never forget one prisoner who had a pet crow who sat on his shoulder all the time.

I also got to go to Dauphin Island for a two-week training camp with the company.

The evening before we left was spent loading the trucks and getting ready to leave. After spending the night at the Armory we were awakened early the next morning and driven downtown to a place on Washington Street where we ate breakfast. We were on our way about daylight and best I can remember, we got to Mobile about 1:00 AM and then continued on to Cedar Point. As there were no bridges from the mainland to Dauphin Island at the time, we finished our journey by boat.


The island at that time had a small fishing village on one end and a county training camp, complete with barracks, on the other end which was where we stayed. Also on the island was Fort Gaines, an old Spanish fort which used to guard Mobile Bay. The fort was in ruins at the time, with old rusty cannons and cannon balls lying about. Having an old fort to run around in gave me a strong sense of being Tom Sawyer. The place was all mine!

The fort was later turned into a state park and is a big tourist attraction today.

Being on the island for two weeks was an experience that a kid like me could only dream about. The men trained all day while I stayed in the barracks and straightened up. The men did most of the work but I shined shoes and washed clothes after they left. The men paid me for doing chores and after two weeks I had made \$13 which was a lot of money in those days.

The State Guard met once a week to train and drill. Part of their training was learning to handle large, unruly crowds. They were called out a couple of times to work strikes and one time for a storm.

By this time I was about 12 years old and I had other fish to fry. I was working other jobs but I continued to work at the Armory. About 1946 they started



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to rent the Armory out for dances every week, and Frank McKinley hired me to clean up afterwards.

I had a key to the place and I would get there very early to clean up the place so I could go to school or work, depending on what time of the year it was.

In the wintertime the first thing I did was to go upstairs to Frank's office and build a fire. At this time they were selling beer at the dances and beer bottles were everywhere, and of course there was a little bit left in many of the bottles.

One morning, after I had built the fire, I started back downstairs and noticed Mac, a buddy of mine, sorting through the bottles looking for something to drink.

Mac often hung around the Armory, telling me stories and helping with the chores. He was much older than I, and was also my idol. Though I supposed I knew he was an alcoholic, the meaning never really sunk in until that morning.

After watching Mac drink leftover beer for a few minutes, I went back upstairs and stayed for along time. It hurt very much. He was still "my friend," no matter what.

When I finally came back down he had passed out.

Madison County's First Deed

We saw yesterday the first deed that was ever made in Madison County. It dates in the year 1810, and is a conveyance by Zachariah Cox of one thousand acres of land to Martin Beaty. The body of land deeded lay immediately southwest of town, including the Big Spring, then called Hunt's Spring. The price paid by Beaty was one dollar per acre. Huntsville was then called "Twickenham."

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From 1832 newspaper

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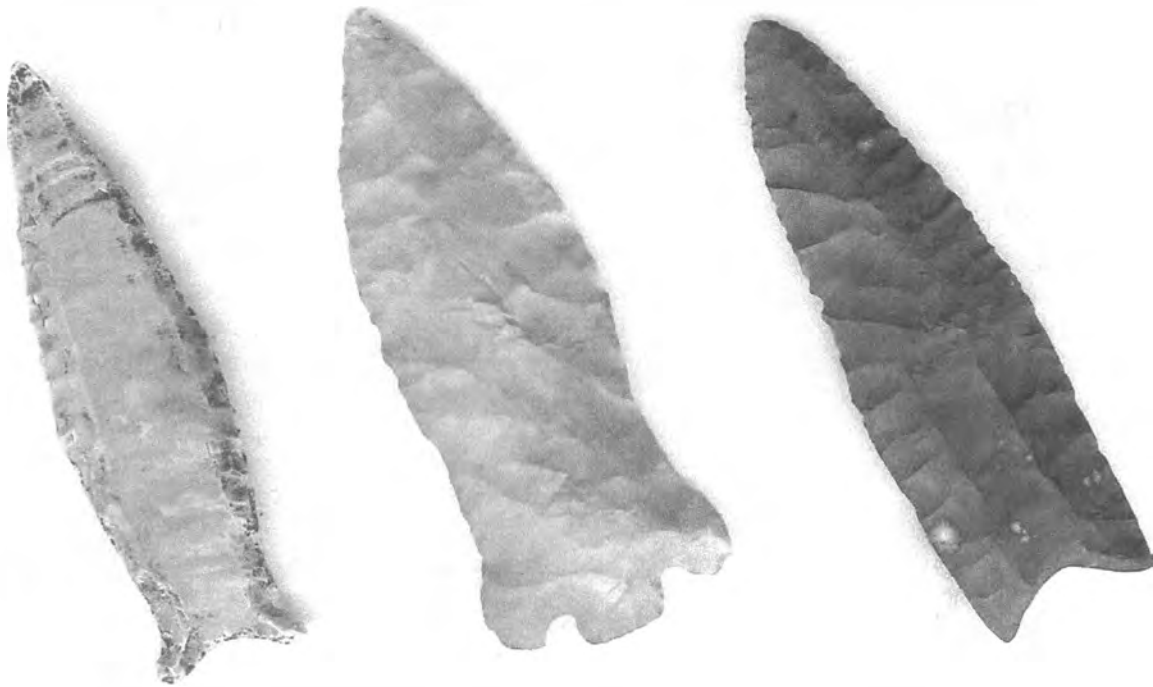
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How To Keep A Husband

from a 1950s High School Home Economics textbook

Have dinner ready. Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal- on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospect of a good meal is part of the warm welcome needed.

Prepare yourself. Take 15 minutes to rest so that you'll be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your makeup. He has been with a lot of work weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.

Clear away the clutter. Make one last trip through the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over tables.

Place his favorite newspaper next to his chair.

Minimize all noise. At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of the washer, dryer, dish washer, or vacuum. Be happy to see him. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.

Make him comfortable. Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him.

Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.

Listen to him. You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.

The goal: Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can renew himself in body and spirit.



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