

Old Auntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



A Private World

One day I returned from shopping and my husband met me at the door with a strange look on his face. "Your mother is dead. I just got a call from the Knoxville police and they said she was a homeless person. She was a victim of a hit and run accident."

Suddenly all the bitterness, shame, frustration and sadness from a whole lifetime swept over me. I ran to my bedroom, locked the door, and spent the rest of the day and night crying. My husband was wonderful. He didn't know what was going on but knew I needed the space, and time, to sort it out.

Late that night the tears stopped. I went into the guest bedroom where my husband was sleeping and woke him up. I don't remember how I started, but I told him about my childhood, about my father and about my mother and about the shame I felt.

Also: "Was Simon Legree From Huntsville?"

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A Private World

by Janie Martin as told to Tom Carney

If Dad had lived in a different era, or another time, he might have been a sea captain or maybe an explorer. He may have never found what he was searching for but I think he would have been happy.

Dad was twenty-four years old the day he met my mother. He was going to school under the G.I. bill studying to be an electrician. Mother was a secretary at the school and a mutual friend introduced her to Dad. Six months later they were married and when Dad got out of school they moved to Huntsville.

Huntsville was booming in the 1950s and jobs were plentiful. Both Dad and Mother went to work on the Arsenal, him as a maintenance electrician and she as a book keeper. Life was good for them. They bought a home in Blossomwood, had two cars, a perfect yard and from all outward appearances seemed to be the typical middle class couple. Walls can hide secrets, though, and the brick walls of our home held many.

Mother had always been a little different than my friends'

mothers. She was more demanding and erratic in her behavior. She might spend days planning a Sunday dinner and then when she had it on the stove cooking, would forget all about it and go shopping. Other times we would plan a trip to the movies and at the last minute she would announce that she thought the movie "gave her bad feelings" and refuse to go.

I was nine years old the first time I realized there was something wrong with Mother. Her parents came to visit us for Christmas and while we were eating dinner grandpa made a joke about the turkey. Mother seemed to get a glazed look on her face, like the calm before the storm. Suddenly she got up from the table and went into the kitchen where we heard the sound of breaking glass. She was emptying all the cabinets and throwing everything out the back door.

When Dad tried to calm her down she began cursing him, telling him that he had planned the whole thing, that he had made her life Hell and he would pay. Dad finally talked her into going to bed and my grandparents left. Dad spent the rest of the evening cleaning up the kitchen and the back yard.

Later that night Dad came into my bedroom and sat on the edge of the bed. I could tell he was worried but he tried his best



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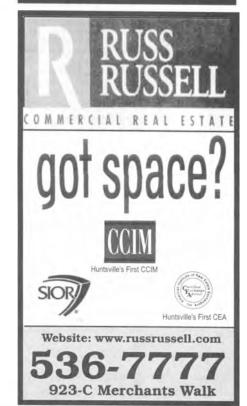
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to make me feel better. "Mother's just having one of her spells," he explained.

At about this time Dad brought a boat home. He was always doing work for other people on the weekends and someone had traded him a boat for his labor. Even as a child, the boat looked pretty sorry to me. It was about thirty feet long and looked as if it had been through a tornado. Much of the decking was missing and the rest was so warped you couldn't tell what it was supposed to be. The motor actually had green moss growing on it.

I suppose everyone thought Dad was crazy but it made him happy. It was the only thing I ever remember that he did for himself. He would spend hours sawing a piece of wood and fitting it into place. It was obvious the project would take years but he didn't seem to mind. For his birthday that year I bought him a captain's hat. It became a private joke between us; I would call him Captain and he would call me First Mate.

Mother's "spells" started be-

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- Paul Firenzi

coming more frequent. She developed a fixation that people that she worked with were conspiring against her and that the books she worked on contained hidden messages. She could never quite explain what the messages were, except that we "would know when the time was right."

Finally Mother's employer let her go, citing "disruption of the workplace" as the reason. Losing her job seemed to push her further over the edge. In her mind she was convinced that her employer and Dad had conspired to make her lose her job. She had a fantasy that they were part of a "good old boy" network and, after she was destroyed, the "good old boys" would take care of Dad forever.

Dad and I both realized she had serious problems. He tried to talk her into seeing a doctor but she refused, saying he was the sick one. In our own bizarre way we learned to cope with her spells. When she thought the *Huntsville Times* crossword puzzle was sending her coded messages, Dad simply canceled the paper. If she complained about the light bulbs sending out "strange rays" we would replace them.

Looking back, the only time I remember Dad being happy was when he was working on his boat. He had worked on it for





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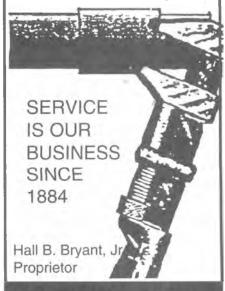


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several years at this time and it was still no closer to completion, but Dad didn't care. Sometimes, late at night after Mother had gone to bed, he would string an extension cord with a light out to the boat and work on it till the early hours of the morning.

With Mother no longer working it gave her more time to shop. Before long Dad started getting bills in the mail for thousands of dollars that Mother had charged. When Dad confronted her with the bills she began accusing him of having girlfriends, saying it was all his fault. The more she screamed, the more violent she became. She began hitting Dad with her fists and when he tried to restrain her, she butted him with her head, bloodying her nose.

Almost immediately she smeared the blood all over her face and hair and then ran screaming to the neighbors next door. The neighbors, not knowing what was happening, called the police. Dad spent the night in jail and had to attend domestic violence classes while I had to go to counseling. No one offered to do anything to help Mother.

With all the new bills Mother had charged Dad could no longer make the payments. Sadly he put our house on the market and we moved into a rental house on Rison Avenue. Regardless of how he tried there was not enough money to pay everything. In the end, Dad filed for bankruptcy.

The only fight my father and I ever had happened at that time. Dad had called several people trying to sell his boat. One person came out and looked at it but only laughed when he saw its condition. Still, Dad was willing to sell it for scrap if he had to. To me, that was heartbreaking. Dad had scrimped and saved and worked countless hours on it, and even though it wasn't much to look at, it was still his dream. I told him if he sold it I was going to sell everything I owned too.

He finally relented and agreed to keep it, most likely because no one would buy it.

That same summer Dad lost his job. Mother had decided, in her mind, that Dad was no longer working and the "good old boys" were supplying him with phony pay stubs, money and girlfriends. She would call him at work sometimes fifteen or twenty times a day. If he could not come to the phone she took it as proof he was not working. If a clerk answered the phone Mother would accuse her of being one of Dad's girlfriends. A short while later the company had a "cutback" and Dad was laid off.

Dad got another job with another company but Mother soon found the phone number and Dad lost that job too. In the next couple of years the same thing would happen over and over again. One employer actually called Dad into the office, and

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before laying him off, gave him a lecture about "controlling your wife."

We begged Mother to get help. The preacher from our church talked to her as did her parents. Mother ignored the pleas, blaming her situation on some vast unknown conspiracy that was trying to silence her. Dad and I both knew Mother had to get professional help. Unfortunately, if you are broke, with no insurance, your options are limited. Our preacher recommended a place in Georgia that treated people like Mother - for \$1,200.00 a week. Dad was struggling to pay \$300.00 a month rent.

One afternoon I came home from school and saw a crowd of people in front of our house. Mother had thrown all of our belongings into the front yard and told people to take what ever they wanted. Neighbors were carrying off furniture and strange people were picking through my clothes like buzzards picking a carcass clean.

The police took Mother to the hospital where she was admitted for psychiatric evaluation. A few

days later a judge ordered her committed to the mental hospital in Decatur.

As sad as it may sound, those three months when Mother was in the hospital were some of the happiest in my life. Dad and I would take long walks in the evenings, and for the first time, really talked to one another. Dad began to smile again and even started working on the boat again. When he didn't have the money to purchase a new piece of wood, he would simply sand the same piece all over again. It was about this time that I realized Dad would never complete the boat. Working on it was therapy for him, allowing him to forget his problems and escape into a simpler world for a few hours at a time.

I asked Dad why he didn't get a divorce. He thought about it a long time before answering. "If it was me who was sick," he finally replied, "and your mother was normal, I hope she would take care of me."

When Mother was discharged the doctors told us that she could live a productive life if she would take her medicine and continue to see a pyschiatrist. They told us it was up to us to make sure she took the medicine.

No one ever explained how we were supposed to do it.

When Mother came home



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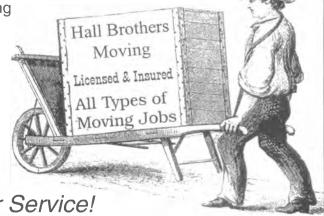
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she was a different person. It was as if a dark evil force was lurking in her body trying to escape. Dad and I both tried to make her take the medicine but it was useless. She would lie about it, hide the pills and make excuses. If we confronted her and made her take the medicine in front of us, she would go to the bathroom and throw them up. Dad was spending almost three hundred dollars a month on medicine that Mother would throw away.

We kept trying but within a couple of months she was back in her own private world.

Despite Dad's problems and the lack of money, he always tried to be a good father. He always attended the different school events I was involved in and encouraged me to have friends. Most of my friends realized there was something different about Mother and accepted the fact that I never invited anyone home.

Mother had been a pretty woman at one time but as her condition worsened she rarely ever took time to brush her hair

The trouble with owning a home is that no matter where you sit, you're looking at something you should be doing.

Dub Pierce, homeowner

or take a bath. Sometimes she would wear the same clothes for a week before Dad could coax her into changing. Anytime she left the house, even in the hottest parts of the summer, she wore a long coat that she had gotten out of someone's trash.

One day after school some friends of mine asked me to go to the Parkway City Mall. While we were parking one of my friends noticed an "old bag lady" sifting through a trash bin. Immediately, as most kids would, they began making jokes about her and the family she must have.

They never knew it was my mother.

Dad tried to get Mother committed again but was told that as long as she was not a danger, there was nothing the authorities could do. Of course we heard the famous words again, "Just get her to take her medicine."

Mother started disappearing; at first for a few hours, and then days at a time. Dad and I would ride up and down the streets trying to find her and coax her into the car. Several times business owners called to tell us that Mother was harassing their customers. Finally it got to the point where Mother would only show up at the house every couple of weeks for a few days and then

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- **2.** Rammer Jammer Yellow Hammer: Alabama football mania by Warren St. John \$24
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disappear again. When she did come home she always smelled of alcohol and often had ugly bruises on her arms. Dad would always try to clean her up and make her a bed on the couch but in a day or two she would be gone again.

Finally one time Mother was gone for about six months. Every few days Dad would call the police department and the hospital but no one had any knowledge of her. Suddenly late one evening Mother showed up at the house with a man she whom introduced to me as "your Uncle Charlie."

"Uncle Charlie" and she were going to get married, she explained, just as soon as Dad signed the divorce papers. Almost on cue, Charlie handed the divorce papers to Dad.

Dad took the papers into the kitchen where he read them carefully before finally signing them. Giving the documents back to Mother he wished her good luck. After they left Dad turned to me and said, "It's over."

Neither one of us ever talked about Mother again. It was a subject too close and too painful for

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both of us. Occasionally I would receive a package in the mail but they would usually be filled with bizarre newspaper clippings or perhaps several pages of stock quotes from the Wall Street Journal.

Several years later, while I was in college, Dad received a phone call from her. She had been picked up for shoplifting in Valdosta, Georgia and wanted Dad to send her money to pay the fine. Dad agreed to send the money but when she wanted to come home he said no. "It would only have made matters worse," he later told me.

Dad died that same year. A few months after that phone call he had gotten rid of the boat he had spent twenty years working on. Perhaps he didn't need it any more.

Years passed and I married



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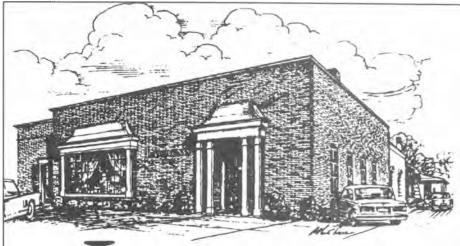
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One day I returned from shopping and my husband met me at the door with a strange look on his face. "Your mother is dead. I just got a call from the Knoxville police and they said she was a homeless person. She was a victim of a hit and run accident."

Suddenly all the bitterness, shame, frustration and sadness from a whole life time swept over me. I ran to my bedroom, locked the door, and spent the rest of the day and night crying. My husband was wonderful. He didn't know what was going on but knew I needed the space and time to sort it out.

Late that night the tears stopped. I went into the guest bedroom where my husband was sleeping and woke him up. I don't remember how I started but I told him about my childhood; about my father and about my mother and about the shame I felt.

I told him that I believed my mother was a good woman and

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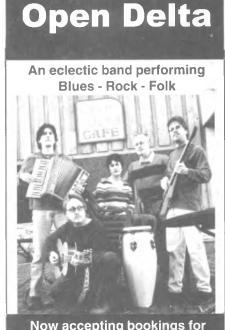
she couldn't help the sickness that had ravished her mind. I talked about how Dad had stood beside her and tried to get help from a system that was uncaring.

We didn't turn the lights on. It seemed easier without them.

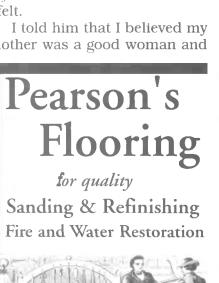
When I finally finished talking my husband didn't say anything. He just took me in his arms and held me for the rest of the night.

Two days later we drove to Knoxville where we made the funeral arrangements. My husband helped pick out a dress for her and we found a burial plot that overlooked a peaceful wooded valley.

For the first time in my life Dad, Mother and I were all finally at peace.



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

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

Martin built a grand home for

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

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

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

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

For many years it sat unnoticed in front of the Post Office Cafe, where it finally became lost forever, leaving only the footnote that it was, as reported by a New York newspaper in 1916, "the first bathtub with running water in the United States!"



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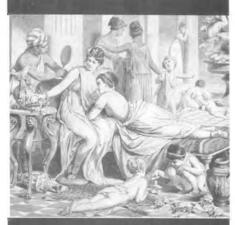
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Heard On The Street In 1904

- The monthly meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy was held in the parlors of the Huntsville Hotel yesterday morning and among other things, the ladies decided to have two entertainments for the benefit of their chapter in the near future. One entertainment will be a presentation of "Tom Thumb's Wedding," and the other will be "Spinster's Forenightly Club." Mrs. M. T. Terry was appointed to have charge of the first and Mrs. James Murphree the second.

- Mrs. F. T. Matthews, wife of one of the managers of Allen's New Orleans Minstrels, created a sensation at the Huntsville Hotel Friday night by pretending that she had attempted suicide. She had quarreled with her husband and when he returend to their room, she was on the bed in a supposedly critical condition.

On a table stood a half drained glass of amber liquid which the woman said contained bichloride of mercury. Mrs. Matthews pretended to be in great agony and physicians were hastily summoned and heroic treatment was given her.

She recovered rapidly and went off with her husband on the

It has been reported that many resort hotels have towels so thick and fluffy that you can hardly close your suitcase. noon westbound train yesterday. The contents of the glass she drank from was analyzed by a Huntsville chemist and were found to be pure Budweiser.

- After going several weeks without a fire or fire alarm, three fires occurred in this city within the space of eight hours. The first was in Dallas at 1 a.m., the next was in south Huntsville at 9 a.m. when a tenant house belonging to Ed. L. Pulley and occupied by negroes was destroyed. The third occurred yesterday morning at 10 am in the residence of Mr. Wilkes on East Clinton Street.

Huntsville has been singularly free from fires for the past two months and Dallas has had the most remarkable record of any village its size in the country. Until Saturday morning there had never been a fire in the village proper for thirteen years.







The Courthouse

When Huntsville's early settlers first started arriving, they discovered a large mound of stones directly above the Big Spring. This mound of stones was infested with rattlesnakes and was considered worthless.

In 1809, the Mississippi territorial government decreed that Madison County was to have a system of circuit and county courts and that the appropriate buildings be erected. This mound of stones, known as the public square, was deeded to the local government and in 1811 the first courthouse was built. The first floor was used as offices and courtrooms. The basement was also completed and was open on the north side. The first city market was located in the basement. A small wooden jail and pillory was constructed on the northeast corner of the public square.

The incomplete courthouse became the nucleus for civic, religious, and commercial activity. In 1817, arrangements were made to complete the building of the first courthouse. Arrangements were also made for a more substantial jail and pillory to be built on the east side of the square.

During the 1820s and the prosperous 1830s, Huntsville and Madison County continued to grow. By 1835, it was evident that a new courthouse was needed. Plans were drawn up and the firm of Mitchell and Wilson was hired to construct the new courthouse at an approximate cost of \$31,000. The building was built in the popular Greek Temple style, being constructed of brick and stone and having two full stories in addi-

tion to a full basement. The old courthouse was sold at auction for \$494.

After it was removed, the tenfoot elevation it sat on was graded down and the rock was used to pave the surrounding square. As work progressed,

changes and additions were made to the original plans, necessitating additional revenue.

The new courthouse was completed 1840 and provisions were made for a new jail in 1846. The new iail was a brick structure located at the northeast corner of Washington and Clinton streets. During this time the square began to take on the appearance of a thriving business center. The yard in front of the courthouse became a place where cotton could be bought or sold, slaves could be auctioned off, and punishment would be administered by flogging or even sometimes hanging.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, when it was realized that the courthouse might be occupied by Yankee troops, most of the public records were removed and





sent to Blount County for safekeeping. When indeed Huntsville was occupied by federal troops in 1862, the courthouse was taken over by military officials. A blanket of depression and hardship descended upon Huntsville during the occupation. From the courthouse, signed passes and loyalty oaths were extracted from any citizen entering or leaving town, buying supplies from the commissary, or when protection was needed by Union troops.

After the war, the grounds of the courthouse had deteriorated badly due to lack of money and upkeep. Many newspaper articles of that time spoke of the "overgrown courthouse yard."

One of the more interesting stories of the late 1800s concerns that of pet deer kept in the courthouse yard. No one today is sure where they came from, but for years they were a common sight to anyone having business downtown. According to one old-timer, the deer were taken from a bootlegger when he was arrested. The sheriff, not knowing what else to do with them, turned them loose in the courthouse yard. When the courthouse was torn down, they were moved to the McCormick estate on Meridian Street.

The original plans had called for that courthouse to be remodeled, but when work began it was found to be in much worse shape than anyone had expected, and

had to be torn down. The third courthouse was completed in 1914. Certain items were retained, such as the town clock, the massive "Doric" columns, the D.A.R. plaque listing the names of all the Revolutionary soldiers buried in Madison County, and the statue of the Confederate soldier, which was a memorial to the Confederate dead.

As Huntsville continued to grow, the third courthouse was renovated in 1940 to help accommodate this growth, but during the boom of the 1960s it was found to be woefully inadequate.

In 1964, \$37,050 was awarded to the Bama Wrecking Company to demolish the old (third) courthouse. The contents of the 1914 cornerstone were saved and the twenty massive stone columns were salvaged to be used elsewhere. The weather vane atop the old dome was transferred to the First Alabama Bank on the west side of the square.

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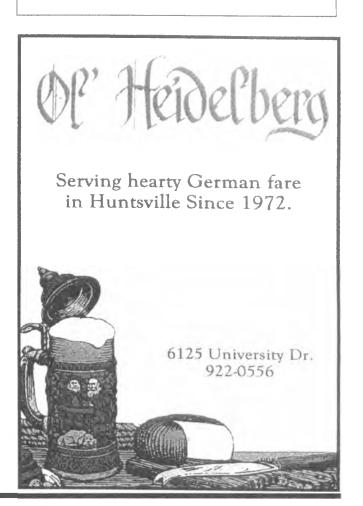




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Heard On The Street

by Cathey Carney

Congratulations to **Joyce Hoover** of Gurley, who called with the first correct guess for the Photo of the Month. The pretty girl was none other than **Nancy Holliman**, of Huntsville.

Bob Nathan and his lovely wife **Carolyn** recently went on a trip to St. Louis hosted by the Association of the U.S. Army.

A big happy 4th birthday to **Hannah Troup**, daughter of Stef and John Troup.

Congratulations are in order for **Milton Lamb** and his publication, **The Valley Planet**. The paper turned a year old in July and they're still going strong!

Terry's Pizza is as familiar to many Huntsvillians as a cup of coffee in the morning. Terry's just celebrated their 45th anniversary here in Huntsville, owned by Lou Pejza. Congratulations to Lou and all of his employees in their 3 locations!

We recently had occasion to talk with **David Knapp**, of Total Handling Equipment Handling Company, of Madison. It was good to see him!

At Furniture Factory recently we sat with our good friend **Mike Mitchell**, who has worked at NASA for the past 14 years. His pretty daughter **Anna** is 16 years



old, a junior at Huntsville High, and likes to drive around with Dad in his red Mercedes convertible!

That same night we talked with **June Morgan** who works at Eyecare Associates in Jones Valley. We talked with **Kimberly Camp** as well.

All the partiers were well cared for by bartenders **Laura Stone** and **Stacy Bryant** - other than the heavy rain it was a perfect night on the outside patio.

It was good to talk with **Tony Farmer** and **Lou Walker** last week.

Jean McIntosh is sure proud of her new granddaughter Melody Jean Albritton (love that name) as are the parents, Richard & Lynn Albritton. Melody joins brother Bryce, who's 3, and sister Audrey, 6.

A large group of folks turned out early for the WAVE on Sparkman and University drive, for Glenn Watson. David & Janet Milly were there, with Buddy & Bill Chapman, and Bill Poole among many others. Glenn was high atop the trees in

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DEVELOPMENT

a cherry picker adorned with a large American flag! By the time you are reading this, the election will be over and we'll know who our elected officials are.

Beth at **Dr. David Whitworth's** dental office in
Madison gave us some good advice - she said to be sure and always brush your gums AND your
tongue with a soft toothbrush, along with your teeth! Gums stay
healthy that way & your breath stays clean.

Happy birthday to **Alexander Young**, who just turned 6 in August and will be attending East Clinton school. His proud parents are **Tom & Allen Young**.

Russ Russell was looking good the other day - his Dad Bill Russell is a member of the Golden K Kiwanis and he is sure proud of his son!

We recently spoke with **Ronnie Lenoir**, that handsome guy who works for **UPS**. A lot of folks know him and think the world of him.

It was fun the other night at **Black Water Hatties** - it's always

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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good to see Cynthia White, along with Margaret Poole and Danny George.

Bonnie Johnson and her family, who live in Memphis, are sure proud of their new grand daughter Hope Kirby. The parents are Todd & Linda Johnson, also in Memphis, and the little baby joins her three and a half year-old brother, Hayla.

It was great to hear **Curtis J. Hall, Pat McQuiston** & **T. A. Miller** recently. They form a band that plays regularly at the End Zone. They had everyone up and dancing that night and Curtis kept us in stitches!

We saw **Paula** and **Bill Ferguson** last week in Fayetteville - they haven't changed since the 80's and still have many friends in Huntsville!

Dan Schmit, weather guy for WAFF, has been not feeling well lately and we wish him a speedy recovery.

It was good to hear from our friend **Pete Fleming**, who really loves Huntsville's history!

The many folks who worked at the Hewlett-Packard office in Huntsville met recently to commemorate the closing of the Huntsville office. John Rader, Kerry Pinkerton, Phyllis Rogers, Dale Cassidy, Cathey Carney, Frank Smith, Lee Rhoads, Gary Hill, Jack Batchelor, Joan Priest & Bob McCoy are some of the friends who gathered. Russ Letson was the guy who finally turned out the lights!

A special Hello to J. B. Tucker, Mayor of Hurricane Creek, and his lovely wife Margaret. We hear that the fish have really been biting this year and JB caught them all!

Bill Sefton has been not feeling well at all lately - we're thinking of you, Bill!

We were really happy to hear that **Steve Cappeart's** friend **Kim** is doing much better after suffering a bad fall from her horse during a thunderstorm. We're thinking about you!

A special hello to our good friends in Twickenham, **Bob** and **Nell Drakey.**

Sazio's is now open in 5 Points and we had dinner there - it was delicious and the place has really good atmosphere!

We were so sorry to hear about **Glenda Huffstetler**'s brother this month. **Willard Nesbit** was only 66 years old, much too soon. Then just a week or so after that, Glenda's husband **Sam** lost his sister in North Carolina. We send our love to you both.

Many people in Huntsville remember **Beth McLain**. She now lives in Winston-Salem, NC and is married to a sweet man-**Glenn "Skip" Boswell**, who is VP of AWH Corp there. She recently helped raise \$20,000 for the Children's Choir there. Beth says to say HI to all her friends and that she misses everyone! Her proud mom is **Nancy Holliman**, of Huntsville.

Remember how much fun you'll have at Trade Day on the Square - Sep. 11. We'll see you there!

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Mama's Cheese Olive

24 med. stuffed green olives 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese 1 stick soft butter

1/2 c. sifted flour

1/4 t. salt

1/2 t. paprika

Pat olives with paper towel to remove excess moisture. Mix rest of ingredients as you would pie crust and roll to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut pastry with biscuit cutter. Roll around olives. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes. May be made in quantities and frozen.

Zucchini Mexicana

2 T. butter 3 med. zucchini, sliced 1 med. onion, chopped 1 t. minced garlic 1 can niblets corn, drained Sml. can chopped chiles 3/4 c. grated cheddar cheese

Saute squash, onion and garlic in butter for about 8 minutes, stir in corn and chiles. Pour into small casserole dish and top with cheese. Bake uncovered for 10 minutes at 350 degrees or until cheese has melted. If you saute in an ovenproof pan, you won't have to wash a casserole dish.

Round Steak with Rice Stuffing

Thin round steak

1 onion, finely chopped

2 T. water or beef stock

1 T. Worcestershire sauce

1 c. cooked rice

1 T. fresh parsley, chopped

Pound steak to tenderize. Cook onion in Worcestershire sauce. Add stock or water until onion is soft. Stir in cooked rice and parsley, spread stuffing over steak. Roll up steak and fasten with skewers or tie with a string. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours and steak is done. Slice in rounds and serve.

Pepper Jelly

3/4 c. chopped bell pepper 1/4 c. hot red peppers, chopped

1 sm. bottle Certo

6 1/2 c. sugar

1 1/2 c. apple cider vinegar

Rubber gloves

Mix sugar and vinegar and bring to boil. Put in chopped peppers and stir for 2 minues. Remove from stove and let cool for 5 minutes. Stir in Certo and pour into jars. Wear gloves when chopping red peppers to protect your hands.

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Sabayon

5 egg yolks 1 T. cold water 3/4 c. sugar

1/8 t. salt

1/2 c. Marsalis or sherry wine
In the top of a double boiler,
beat egg yolks with water til
foamy and light. Whisk in sugar,
salt and wine. Beat over hot, but
not boiling, water til thickened
and fluffy. This takes only a few
minutes. Spoon into sherbet
glasses and serve hot.

Clotted Cream

2 c. whipping cream

Put the cream in the top of a double boiler over barely simmering water. Cook for 3 to 4 hours, making sure that there is always enough water. The cream will develop a crust on top. Cool, remove crust and throw it away. Chill and serve over berries.

Pecan Merinques

1 egg white

1 c. brown sugar

1 t. vanilla

1 T. flour

1/8 t. salt

1 1/2 c. pecan pieces

Beat egg white. Gradually add sugar and vanilla. Sift flour

and salt over the mixture, then add pecans. Drop by teaspoonfuls on cookie sheet. Cook at 275 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

Bridal Salad

2 pkgs. cream cheese

2 c. mayonnaise

8 T. confectioners sugar

1 sm. bottle sliced maraschino cherries

2 c. crushed pineapple, drained

2 c. whipped cream

Cream the cheese, mayonnaise and sugar. Stir in cherries and pineapple before folding in whipped cream. Place in individual molds or large dish and freeze. Serve on lettuce leaves or other salad greens.

Sugar Balls

1 c. butter

1/3 c. granulated sugar

2 c. flour

1/2 c. chopped walnuts

2 t. milk

2 t. vanilla

Confectioners' sugar

Cream butter and sugar til fluffy. Mix in flour, milk, vanilla and nuts. Chill dough, roll into small balls. Bake on un-greased cookie sheet in 375 oven for 12-15 minutes. Roll in powdered sugar. Makes about 40 cookies.

Nancy Holliman's cookbook, "Cooking with Nancy - Plain or Fancy" is available at Star Market, Marie's Imports, Medical Arts Apothecary (Hampton Cove & Huntsville) and Lawrens.





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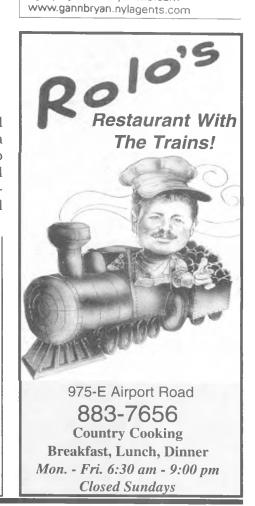
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Hospital Opens in Huntsville

Doctors Expected To Take Advantage Of It

Sept. 11, 1897 Weekly Mercury

The ladies of the United Charities have done a grand work for our city in establishing the City Infirmary on the corner of Randolph and Green streets. In some localities it is believed that only charity patients are received and cared for, while in another portion of the city people think that only paying patients are admitted. The management wants it understood that all, both rich and poor, are admitted and everyone receives all the attention and care that an experienced nurse can give.

There are now five patients at the hospital, only two of them are charity, all doing splendidly. The building has been renovated from top to bottom and put in as good sanitary condition as it was possible to do. Miss Tweed, the lady in charge, is a lady of considerable experience, culture and refinement and thoroughly understands her business.

When the physicians of our city learn of the great benefits to be had at the hospital in the way of an experienced nurse, cleanliness, sanitary precautions, and the many little necessary things found only in a well-regulated hospital, they will take advantage of it and send their patients there, thereby avoiding many of the ills that follow operations solely on account of the want of proper care and at-

tention. The hospital is now in good

hands and the ladies are to be congratulated on securing the services of such an estimable lady as Miss Tweed.

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- 4. The store must not be opened on Sunday unless necessary, and then only for a few minutes in case of dire emergency.





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Growing Up In Huntsville

by Johnny Johnston

Today I took my grandson, Ryan, who is six years old, out to buy old bread at the bakery for feeding the birds. We bought 25 loaves of bread and 25 hotdog buns for \$2.00. I remember when fresh bread cost ten cents a loaf. A Coke was 5 cents a bottle and who knows what beef cost. I had my first steak when I was 20. My three brothers and my sister and I, were raised on sopping gravy, biscuits, beans and potatoes. I'm not complaining, that's still my favorite food.

The thing is, my friends who lived in the Lincoln Cotton Mill Village, just yards away, thought my family was rich, simply because we lived outside the mill houses. My friend Norman Stevens recently sent me a note of thanks for not making fun of his clothes in school. I returned a note stating how surprised I was that he thought of that. I only had a couple of shirts, maybe one pair of overall pants (now called jeans), and one pair of

shoes. I assured him that my shirts either had holes in the elbows or had patches and were handed down from my brothers. Who was I to make fun of him?

I am sure we were all poor, we just didn't know it!

In 1990, I was charter president of Greater Huntsville Rotary Club, which gave me a tremendous amount of pride. During the charter speech, I related a previous pinnacle of pride, which happened, when I was a boy, nine years old.

I was on the school patrol with Charlie Grayson and some other boys at Lincoln School. Our job was to safely guide the other children across Meridian Street, (also highway 231-431 which was the only highway from the north into Huntsville), by stopping traffic, placing something across the flooded curbs in wet weather to keep them from getting their feet wet, etc. It was fun and I thought an honor. We got to attend a movie at the Lyric once a week as reward. That was something else, wearing that wide white belt to and from town and being allowed into the movie free. Wow!

The Kiwanis Club sponsored the school patrol. Each year they presented a dinner at the Russel Erskine Hotel in which each member brought a Patrol Boy. My older brother dropped me off to find my sponsor Mr. Milton Peeler. He was Superintendent of the Lincoln Mill. They didn't get any more important in our neighborhood than Mr. Peeler. That was the first time I remember eating outside the home other than a few trips to The Tip Top Cafe. After the dinner, Mr. Peeler offered me a ride home; I was scared to death. I had not met

If God had wanted me to touch my toes, he would have put them on my knees.

Mamie Stephens



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anyone as important as him. He had a nearly new Chevrolet, and he was offering me a ride home! I remember little about that ride except that when he turned off Meridian on to Maple, I was hoping everyone was standing outside to see me in that honored position. I wanted to blow the horn and yell out the window. I wanted everybody to see me in that new car with such an important man. At that moment I was marshall of the grandest parade on earth!

Our house was located at 119 Maple Street. Mom and Dad (Daisy and John F. Johnston) paid \$1,500 for it in 1941. They were only able to pay the interest on the loan for years until after Dad started making a little money. The four-room house was on a lot that was about 40' wide and 75' deep. Dad built a pole barn with a coal room, bought a milk cow and built her a lot and eventually added a couple of rooms to the house. The old house was recently burned by the city. As sentimental as I am, I went by and found a window

pulley to hang on to as a memory of our home.

Now someone will call me and ask, "What the devil is a coal room? Well, as I remember, the barn backed up to the alley, and the coal room had a window which was opened so Mr. Giles could pull his delivery truck down the alley and shovel that \$8 (per ton) of coal into the barn.

Dad gave up the stave mill business just after the war and started working for Montgomery Ward. He was digging the ditches and installing septic tanks. In those days you inherited money, had a good education or you had to make a choice. Work hard or your family goes hungry. Dad didn't inherit any money and he didn't have much education so he had to work hard. He was one of the hardest working people I can remember. Later on my father became one of the best plumbers in town and continued working until he was 73 years old. Dad was one of the plumbers who worked on the old Huntsville High School building in 1952-1953.

About the time Dad went into the plumbing business, Mom became a nurse's aid and worked very hard. The doctor she worked for decided he needed to be able to contact her quickly during the war and insisted she get a telephone. Telephones were extremely scarce during that time. I didn't know anyone who

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even had a telephone. The doctor sent a letter to the officials who controlled such things and bang, we had a telephone. The number was 1230-R. We were to answer a combination of four short rings and four long rings. The telephone later became a problem because we were traveling for blocks to find neighbors to answer their phone calls. Some of these people we didn't even know. The problem came when some married people accepted calls from their boyfriends or girlfriends and we became privy to private lives. Mother, disapproving, was very quick to cut off their telephone accessibility in the future.

Another problem was the eavesdropping on the party line. I think there were twelve telephones on the line and some of those people listened to all the calls.

Our house on Maple Street was not on any historical registries; it wasn't on the list of neighborhoods to tour. Some considered Lincoln a place to avoid. I think however our house was on one list in particular.

Almost daily someone would show up saying they were hungry and needed something to eat. Mom fed an awful lot of people she never knew. If heaven has a star for people who fed hungry and destitute people, my mom got one in 1993 when she departed this life for eternal life. I hope folks welcomed her by saying thanks for the meal.

I drove my wife, Barbara, by the empty lot a couple of weeks ago, she could not believe it was big enough to have had a house on it, let alone a barn and cow lot.

We were on the next street over from New Village. Employees picked up the Village garbage and trash, driving a draft horse that pulled an open wagon

On one occasion a horse bumped his nose on a water trough at the stable. The stable was on Abingdon Street, just around the corner from our house. The horse got excited and ran off, pulling his wagon behind him. By the time he came by my house only pieces of the wagon were still attached and he had workers chasing him up the street on foot. It looked like a Roy

Rogers movie, which could have been showing at the Elks Theatre.

I mentioned the Tip Top Cafe. The back of it was only a few feet from our yard. Yep, I watched it being constructed. I was about seven

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years old and I'm sure I worried the block layers and carpenters to death with my questions. Those were the first concrete blocks I had ever seen and I was amazed they could go up so fast. Mr. Dick Church was the owner and lived just two doors down from us on Maple Street. He had twin sons. Brooks and Marshall. but no one could tell them apart so they were both called Bubba. The Tip Top Cafe was the first "eating out" experience I ever had. Mom was working the night shift at Redstone Laundry; Dad was working days so they allowed my brother, Lloyd and I to eat lunch a few times at Tip Top. Mr. Dick Church was an important man to us. He was a neighbor and helped us whenever he could. I remember that he had the only lawn mower around and he was kind enough to allow his neighbors to use it.

My first and favorite meal was chili, crackers and a Coke, which all together cost 25 cents.

The Tip Top served Beer which really was the focus of the business. Mr. Church would serve food at any time but when the school children were present he would take up all the beer bottles and not serve it again until after we left. I can still see the gentlemen sitting on the barstools giving us the evil eye, hoping we would soon leave. Mr. Church was a good man who monitored his customers well. When they appeared to have too much to drink he stopped serving and asked them to leave. This cost him his life at another restaurant he owned a few years

 $\ll \infty$

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A Letter About The Reverend McCoy

by Gerald Nance

I read with much interest your recent story about Reverend McCoy. According to my grandfather, who knew McCov well, it was widely known in the community that he was in fact William Quantrell. According to my grandfather, Quantrell and many of his men sought safety in North Alabama after the war and assumed new identities. Grandfather said that everyone knew who these men were but even though there was a bounty on their heads, no one would turn them in.

Grandfather said that besides McCoy there was another one who was later elected to state office from Guntersville and another member of the band was supposed to have been a deputy sheriff in Huntsville. He also remembered one who became a businessman on the Huntsville square.

As I got older I dismissed many of these stories as being tall tales. After you published the story on McCoy, I sent a copy to my grandson who attends Auburn. Several weeks later he sent me the following article which he found in the Alabama Archives.

BOYD, RUFUS KING, law-

yer, Secretary of State of Alabama, was born in 1831, in Williamson County, Tenn., and died May 10, 1883, at Guntersville. Mr. Boyd received little education other than that obtained in the common schools of his neighborhood, and in 1849, when he was eighteen years old, he went to California and joined William Walker in his Nicaragua Enterprise. He probably escaped execution with Walker by being on a temporary recruiting mission in New Or-

leans, La., at the time of Walker's capture. When the War of Secession began, he joined Stewart's cavalry as a private and served until 1863, then returned to his home for the first time since leaving it in 1849, in order to organize a regiment of volunteers for the C.S. Army. Circumstances frustrated this attempt, and soon he left home again. For several years his family received no tidings of him, and of this period of his life nothing definite is known, but it is certain that he was a

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member of Quantrell's band of guerrillas during the remainder of the war.

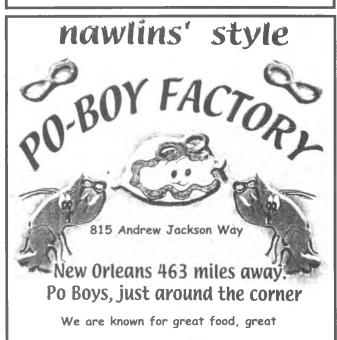
Frank James, the noted outlaw, when in prison in Huntsville, so stated, and said that he knew Boyd well. Dr. W.C. McCoy, later a Methodist minister in the northern Alabama conference, and father of Bishop McCoy, was a member of the same band. How Mr. Boyd received the knowledge of law that he possessed when he came to Alabama is unknown.

In December 1865, he located at Guntersville and formed a law partnership with the late Judge Louis Wyeth, under the firm name of Wyeth & Boyd. This partnership continued until Mr. Wyeth went on the bench as circuit judge. In 1872, Mr. Boyd was elected to the legislature from Marshall County and became a leader in that body. In 1874 he was nominated and elected Secretary of State on the Democratic ticket which redeemed Alabama from the carpetbag rule; and was re-elected for two years in 1876. He was an uncompromising Democrat, one of the acknowledged state leaders of his party, a Methodist Episcopalian, and a Master Mason.

Snakes In Big Spring

Another report has been received of someone else being bitten by the snakes that are infesting the city spring. It would be believed with all the improvements in Huntsville that the city leaders would do something to rid the spring of such a dangerous nuisance.

from 1901 newspaper



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A five dollar reward will be paid to anyone finding my dentures. The initials HRW are etched on them. Inquire at this newspaper.

from 1903 newspaper





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Doctor's Orders

Doctors, in the early years of this century, were accustomed to working long hours and answering all kinds of questions. One such doctor was returning from treating a patient in Hazel Green when he stopped at a country store to purchase apples.

The doctor was paying his bill when a lady standing nearby, realizing he was a doctor, took advantage of the situation to solicit some free medical advice. "Doc," she said, "I got an old jackass that's been giving me some trouble. Can you recommend something to calm him down."

The physician, though tired from working all night, neverthe-

Nothing is more annoying than to have someone fail to tell you a piece of gossip you said you didn't want to hear in the first place.

less took time to answer her question.

"Do you keep him in a barn," he asked.

"Oh no," the woman exclaimed, "I wouldn't think of putting him in a barn!"

"That's probably your trouble, 'mam," the doctor said as he headed for the door. "Just start putting him in the barn at night and feed him fresh hay." Several weeks later, while making his rounds at the hospital, the doctor was accosted by a highly agitated elderly man.

"Doc," he exclaimed in a threatening voice. "What are you trying to do to me? My wife has had me sleeping in the barn for the past two weeks and now she's trying to get me to eat hay!"



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Jack Jeremy

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Strange But True

- The fattest man who ever lived was Robert Earl Hughes of Fish Hook, Illinois. He weighed 1,069 pounds in the last year of his life, and his waist measurement was 124 inches. When he died in 1958 he was buried in a piano case and transported to the cemetery by a moving van.

- At full maturity Claude Seurat - the skinniest man who ever lived - had a back-to-chest thickness of only three inches.

- At many fiestas in rural parts of Mexico, one of the treats enjoyed by the guests is ant candy. This unusual confection consists of the bodies of ants which gather honey from a species of oak leaf. The ants swell enormously until they are about the size of gooseberries. After the ants' legs and heads are removed, the bodies are placed on dishes and served as candy. The taste of these insects is very similar to that of sweet, juicy fruit.

- In a road-safety campaign, English police in Sussex asked girl pedestrians to wear mini skirts because bare legs stand out more clearly at night than long dresses or slacks.

- On June 13, 1948 a Los Angeles resident named Jack O'Leary caught a bad fit of hiccups. It was not until June 1. 1956 - about 160 million hiccups later - that the fit finally ended. During that time Jack lost 64 pounds and received through the mail over 60,000 suggestions for cures of the hiccup.

- Jerry Unger, of Atlanta, Georgia was sentenced to 12 years after robbing a bank dressed in a mask and wig. He was identified by his ex-wife who worked there as an assistant manager and recognized her own wig.

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The Governor and Aunt Eunice

by Fob James

Several years ago during my first term as Governor, I had occasion to spend several days in Huntsville attending a series of meetings. The second day I was there I awoke early with a ravishing hunger. As I lay there thinking about it, I remembered Eunice's Restaurant, a place I had visited many times before, and which was well known for its ham and biscuits.

Quietly getting dressed, so as not to awaken anyone, I slipped out of the hotel room and, after sneaking by the guards stationed in the hall, caught a ride with a taxi that was waiting out front.

Eunice's had not changed very much. The autographed pictures of many famous people were still on the walls, and the coffee pot was still brewing. Trying to be as incognito as I could,

I quickly hugged Aunt Eunice, slipped into a back booth and ordered breakfast. I was halfway through my second biscuit when I noticed this elderly gentleman staring at me. Every few minutes he would turn excitedly to his companions and, after pointing at me, would engage them in a spirited conversation.

"Oh well," I thought, "I should have known I would be recognized."

Deciding to make the best of it, I hurriedly finished my breakfast and walked over to shake hands and introduce myself.

"I'm. .. ," I began.

"I know who you are!" The old gentleman exclaimed, with a grin on his face. "You're that TV fellow who announces the wrestling programs on TV every Saturday! Can I have your autograph?"

Suffice to say that the gentleman got an autograph and Aunt Eunice never let me live it down.

We'll miss her.



Looking For Information



This photo was found while renovating an old home on Kildare St. If anyone has any knowledge of whom it may be, please call Old Huntsville at 534-0502.

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Growing up in the Country

by Helen Medlin

Everyone that has lived during the time of The Depression has many stories they can tell about how they had to make do with their money, transportation, and food during that time.

For my Grandparents, Charlie W. and Hattie O. Tidwell and their family, it was no different than any others who worked and farmed and had big families. Even though the times were hard, they did have food on the table but that did not come easy because if the garden did not produce or if there was a drought, you just did not have as much food as you expected.

There was hog killing day in

the fall, and from all the fat of the hog, there was home-made soap, made with Red Devil Lye and hog fat, cooked in a big wash pot in the yard, which took most of a day and then put in a long wooden tray to get cold. All of us know when grease gets cold it is hard, but put Red Devil Lye in it and it becomes another product of "hog killing day" and this process was called "Lye soap." You have never had a bath until you'have had a "lye" soap bath.

We had ham stored in a smoke house hung up in cloth sacks and also sausage, that puts the "store bought" sausage of today to shame. There was bacon, or some folks call it "streak-olean," salted down in a salt barrel.

They raised their chickens and had eggs, owned a couple of cows and had milk and butter.

TIMOTHY JAY FOOTE



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My granddad bought a car so he could sell vegetables he raised at the Farmers Market, but before that he would go door to door in Huntsville and sell much of his vegetables. The car was a 1919 Dodge. This car he lost during the Depression.

My mother remembered that one year it was a bad year for crops, just after the Depression set in and Dad only made \$75 for the whole year which he had to buy fertilizer and seed for the next years crops. For Christmas money that year he made corn shuck brooms and sold them. There were nine children for Christmas who were at home for presents and we all got a piece of fruit, some nuts, candy cane, and one toy, which I don't recall the kind.

Grandma, was a hard working woman. She could take a sack of flour and make it do many things for her family. There were ten hungry mouths to feed three times a day and that can put a strain on a person, be it woman or man, She was always in the kitchen as I remember and the stove was a wood burning stove that got real hot in the summer when she cooked.

My granddad and those of his children who were old enough, maybe 10 years and up, would work in the fields, either chopping cotton, corn or bean rows. When cotton picking time came, usually in September, the school would already be in session and they would let out for six weeks



so the families could get their cotton crops in. This provided the money for cloth and thread to make the clothes for the school year. Also there were flour sacks with floral prints that were also used as the flour sacks were

emptied.

My grandparents were raised on Hurricane Creek Valley. They moved to Madison County about 1912, at the same time my Great grandparents moved to Arlington, Texas, which for some reason unknown to any of us, my grandparents moved afterwards.



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My uncle Howard Tidwell was three years old, and my mother and her twin brother was six months old. They rode the train and shipped their furniture to Texas.

Then in 1914 they moved back to Hurricane Creek Valley and lived with my Great granddad Wilson Allen Tidwell. They moved around 1919 to what was then Oakwood Road, later changed to Tidwell Lane and today is Grizzard Road. Neighbors were Mr. & Mrs. Roper and Mr. & Mrs. Brosemer. Later when they moved from the big house, which is the Grizzard home, to the Parker place down the road, our neighbors were Mr. & Mrs. McCay.

In 1929, Granddad Tidwell bought a new Chevrolet, my great grandparents moved off Hurricane Creek Valley and from there they all became grocerymen. Great grandparents and grandparents, they all retired from the grocery business as well as four sons, Howard, Clarence, Otis, and Joe Tidwell. The family is still very close and we all appreciate what we have seen out of a hard working, never losing faith family

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The Frugal Reader

* Instead of buying costly plastic dish covers, buy a package of 15 shower caps at the Dollar store for \$1. They are big enough to cover even huge bowls or large pans.

* Wash clothes at night and leave the washer lid open overnight. When you dry them in the morning, you will save approximately 10 minutes of drying time.

* Everyone knows you can re-use gift bags and boxes, but what about the tissue paper that comes inside? If it's crumpled and wrinkled, just take a warm (not hot) iron and press the paper flat again. When the paper cools it will be flat, smooth and just like new!

* As a gift for birthdays or holidays, give a coupon for your services such as baby-sitting, yard work, car washing, running errands, light housekeeping, cooking, house watching or pet sitting. This costs you nothing and the recipient can redeem the coupon anytime they like!

* You can often save on your car insurance by keeping your agent up to date on your driving habits. For example, if you have recently become a stay-at-home mom, a telecommuter, or have retired and no longer drive back and forth to work, you may be eligible for a reduction in your premium.

* Instead of paying high prices at a health club, drop your membership, buy some good shoes and hit the road!

* Make your own furniture polish by mixing 1 part lemon juice with 2 parts vegetable oil.

* Instead of throwing out that stained, mildewy shower curtain liner, wash it in the washing machine with a load of towels, detergent and one cup of white vinegar. Remove before the final spin and hang on the curtain rod to dry.

* Olive oil is an effective and economical facial and body skin moisturizer. It maintains the elasticity of the skin and does not leave a greasy residue. Add a few drops of an essential oil such as lavender to enhance its soothing

effects.

* To save money on perennial plants, buy them at the end of the season when they are often on sale, even if they look almost dead. Plant them in your yard, give them a little TLC and water, and the following spring they will be thriving!

* To keep your green produce fresher and crisper longer, wash them and store in the fridge in a plastic zip-lock freezer bag with a folded damp paper towel covering the produce.



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Huntsville News From 1901

- Sharp & Newson have purchased from Boyd and Wellman several acres of ground at the head of Locust Street on California, formerly a part of the estate of the late Gen. Samuel F. Moore, and will lay it off in city lots. Streets will be extended through the new addition, granitoid sidewalks built and shade trees planted.

This will be made one of the most desirable residence sections of the city. The gentlemen composing this firm are prominent Nashville businessmen and the fact that they are fit to put their money in Huntsville property shows that Huntsville real estate is looked upon as a good thing by capitalists in other cities.

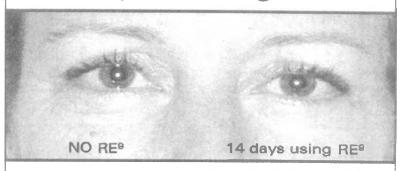
- Walter Bradford, a weaver employed in the Merrimack Mills, was probably fatally injured yesterday afternoon by allow-

ing the elevator to descend on his head. The young man was looking down the elevator shaft and did not see the car descend from above. The floor of the car caught his head on the side and his scalp was almost torn off. The accident was a horrible one and Bradford is not expected to live.

- About 6:30 a number of men, women and children were at the depot watching the old Confederates leave for the reunion, and as the second section of No. 57 was passing by at a high rate of speed, some unknown young man threw off a large limestone rock into the crowd from the train.

Isaac H. Davis was struck on the right leg. The force of the rock, which weighed 39 pounds, crushed his leg bones in fragments, and passing on struck Tillman Davis a painful blow on one of his legs. Mr. Davis was carried to the Baty House where his leg was dressed.

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The Diary of Col. John Beatty

May 2, 1862 - Took the cars for Huntsville. At Paint Rock the cars were fired upon, and six or eight men wounded. I had the train stopped and taking a file of soldiers, returned to the village. The telegraph line had been cut, and the wire was lying in the streets.

Calling the citizens together, I said to them that this bushwhacking must cease. Here after every time the telegraph wire was cut we would burn a house; every time a train was fired upon we would hang a man; and we would continue to do this until every house was burned and every man hung between Decatur and Bridgeport.

I then set fire to the town, took three citizens with me, returned to the train and proceeded to Huntsville.

May 10 - Have been appointed President of a Board of Administration for the post of Huntsville. After an ineffectual effort to get the members together, I concluded to spend a day out of camp, so I strolled over to the hotel, took a bath, ate dinner, smoked, read, and slept until supper time.

May 23 - The women are outspoken in their hostility. A flag of truce came in last night from Chattanooga, and the bearers were overwhelmed by favors and visits from the ladies.

August 3 - The gentlemen of the South have a great fondness for jewelry, canes, cigars, and dogs. White men rarely work here. Judging from the number of stores and present stocks, Huntsville. in better times, does a heavier retail jewelry business than Cleveland or Columbus. Diamonds, rings, gold watches, chains

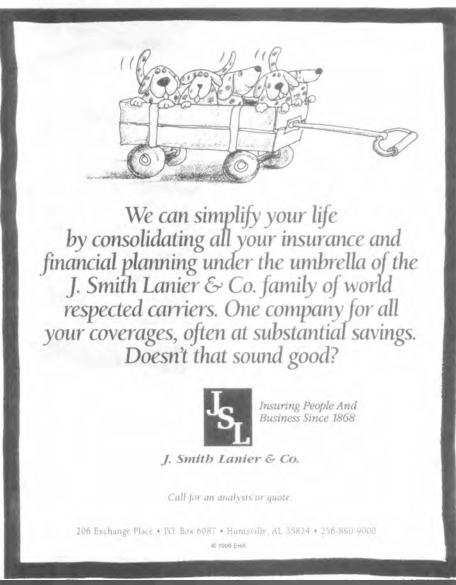
and bracelets are to be found in every family. One may walk a whole day in a Northern city without seeing a ruffled shirt. Here they are very common.

August 7 - General McCook was murdered near Winchester, yesterday by a small band of guerrillas. When the Dutchmen of his old regiment learned of the unfortunate occurrence, they became uncontrollable, and destroyed the building and property on five plantations near the scene of the murder.

August 8 - The night is exceedingly beautiful; our camp lies at the foot of a long range of mountains called the Montesano.

August 25 Ordered to move.





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News From The Year 1939

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Drivers License To Be Required Oct. 1st.

Huntsville - Sept. 7: - The new law requiring a driving license for the operation of all automobiles and trucks on public roads goes into effect October 1 and applications are now being made.

According to the Probate Judge "Under this law you make application for a driver's license. The price of the license is \$1.10. There is no difference in owner and non-owner license but the license is good for two years."

When you make application at the probate judge's office you will receive a receipt. The receipt you will receive when you pay your license fee is good as a driver's license for 45 days. Your permanent driver's license is photographed from your application and mailed direct to you from the Department of Public Safety, Montgomery, Alabama.

"The probate judge's office is urging the public to cooperate and make these applications as soon as possible so that licenses may be issued by the time the law comes due.

"Help reduce the loss of lives and property on the highways by co-operating with the probate judge's office, and the highway patrol in taking from the roads persons who are unfit to drive automobiles."

NAZI Planes Bomb Warsaw

Warsaw - Sept. 2: The French news agency reported from Warsaw that the Polish capital was again raided by German warplanes this afternoon.

The German planes first appeared at 5:05 p.m. (11:05 a.m. EST), flying singly or in formations of three. Polish fighting planes gave battle at heights around 4,500 feet. The

battle lasted for 25 minutes.

Field Marshal Herman Goering has assured the German people that the conquest of Poland will be completed within fourteen days of its beginning by September 14. He also declared that Britain would not be able to defeat Germany by either military or economic weapons.

President Roosevelt told reporters yesterday that his administration will make every effort to keep the United States out of the conflict now brewing in Europe. He has appealed to European powers not to bomb civilian populations and unfortified cities.



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Local Spanish War Veterans Volunteer To Fight Hitler

Though they fought their last battle 41 years ago, local Spanish-American war veterans are ready to at go at it again. The 35 members of John McDonald Camp 10 veterans' association voted unanimously in their meeting last Sunday to volunteer their services for their country in case of war. The enthusiastic meeting evoked proud memories of the day in 1898 when they first answered a call to arms. These aging warriors said they would serve the U.S. government in any capacity in which they could be used.

"Gone With The Wind" opens in Atlanta

Dec 15. Rebel yells greeted the premiere of "Gone With the Wind" tonight in Atlanta. The film, based on Margaret Mitchell's sweeping novel of the Civil War South, has passed its most difficult test. Would Atlantans view the technicolor torching of their city as a smear on Southern honor? Judging by the whoops and hollers of the crowd, the reply is a resounding "Hell, no!"

The Atlanta Grand Theatre was dressed up to resemble Twelve Oaks, the plantation where Scarlett O'Hara and her beaus dallied. At six o'clock, the theater was roped off to keep the stars, arriving in their limousines, from being crushed by the screaming mob. Clark Gable put in an appearance at 8:40 p.m. A few women fainted at the sight.

"Gone With the Wind" was directed by Victor Fleming. It also stars Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland and Hattie McDaniel. Max Steiner composed the film score.

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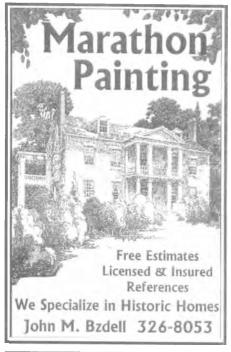
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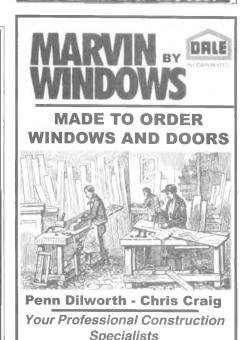
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The Journal Of A Yankee Soldier

From the diary of R. S. Dilworth, 2d Lieut. of Co. G, 21 Regt. O.V.U.S.

Huntsville, - April 12th, 1862 We left camp yesterday morning at 5 a.m. and marched 21 miles to our present place. At 4 a.m. of April 11th, the adjutant came to me and told me he would have to use me today. He wanted me with 20 men to go ahead of the regt. and see that the road was all right so I took my squad out and left. And Oh!!!! what roads. Mud and water, mud and water all the way for 10 miles. We put 27 rods of fince [fence?] into the road at one place, and that is the way it was for 10 miles. The roads were awful, 'till within 4 miles of town when we struck the pike. At 8 a.m. of April 11th we heard the sound of heavy artillery, and when got to camp (a town) learned that they were shelling the locomotives to stop them from leaving. But one got away and thus saved us of a fight.

The Col. came around and charged us to be on the alert and for each man to have his gun by him so that he could catch it in a moment, and be out in a line for he said we are right between the rebel's forces.

Huntsville - April 13

Rained nearly all night, more pleasant this morning, rather cool and lowering. Our troops came in this morning from Chattanooga. They took 3 locomotives and all the cars on the road, and burned the bridge. One of Alban's boys stopped at a house and asked for something to eat, and the fellow told him that he had some nice hams in his smokehouse and told him to come in with him and he would

give him one and it should not cost him anything. So the boy went with him. And he took out his bayonet and stabbed him 6 times but they came to his assistance, Alban took him and found a hole dug in the smokehouse where he intended to bury someone. Our pickets were out and found one of the 33rd Regt. hanged till he was dead, dead, dead!!

Huntsville - April 15

Company G. of the 21st was ordered out on picket. We therefore shouldered up our rigging and marched out 4 1/2 miles and stationed our guards upon a large plantation owned by an old bachelor, and a hard looking old crockling he was. He owned 100 negroes on that plantation and 2 others with 200 negroes on one of them and 50 on the other. The

negroes brought us pies, cornbread, eggs, milk etc. But you would have laughed to have seen the wenches furrowing out the campground. The day and night passed away without any-





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thing of importance. When we returned to camp the regt. had moved.

Huntsville - April 16

Col. Norton appointed Provost Marshall of the town of Huntsville. We are the Provoguard. The day was spent in rigging up our camp.

Huntsville - April 17

Provo station courthouse Huntsville. We of the provo guard had a gay old time. I had 70 men, 4 corporals and one sergt. with me. I captured one horse, the charger of a secesh colonel, a splendid animal he is. I also captured a secesh spy and searched him and put him in the lockup. After the capture of the spy, the night passed off smoothly and peacefully it appeared as though there were no distractions in the bosom of our beloved country. I was relieved by Lieut. Bumpous of Co. I with 60 men, 3 corporals and one sergt. When I came to camp I found my regt. moved

down to the edge of town just back of the engine house.

Huntsville - April 18

Capt. Walker of Co. B captured 9 secesh horses and 6 saddles. Nothing of importance save this has occurred to day.

Huntsville - April 19

J. B. Moore of Co. F died yesterday of congestion of the brain and will be buried today. Reverend Mr. Gaddis of the 2nd Ohio Regt. will preach his funeral at 11 a.m. Rained all night and is still pouring and rainy at intervals. George Brooks, J.W. Cummins and William Palmer and I.J. Blakeman all received their discharge today.

Huntsville - April 23

Up at 1/2 past 4 a.m. The morning broke in beautiful and clear. Co. H leaves with the prisoners for Ohio. Mail left at 4 a.m. Bought one fish weighing 3 lbs for (1.25) one dollar & twenty-five cents. Bought one book at Huntsville, a book of poems, &

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Huntsville - April 24

I visited Huntsville today. Visited the big spring as it is called. From which the whole town is supplied with water by means of a forced pump or water works. The spring is 40 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep in the center. It runs through under the town and appears at the western side of the town flowing out of solid rocks, and at least it appears so to the observer. The town of Huntsville is regularly laid out. The courthouse is a very handsome one and is surrounded with a most splend[splendid] yard enclosed by an iron fence with 4 iron gates opposite the 4 outside doors. On the north and south is a splendid stone pavement leading to the portico, which is entered by a flight of stone steps. The floors are all stone. In the 2nd story and the northwest corner of the building is the sheriffs office, Douglas, a full cousin of the little giant. Fronting the court house may be seen stores, groceries, jewelers, slop shops, etc.

The town of Huntsville is the most beautiful of all the towns I have yet visited. It is larger than Findlay and in riches not to be excelled by any. The rich are all marked not only by the buildings but also by the yards, the ornaments by which their yards are filled, the statues, the carved monuments of marble with which their yards are filled or ornamented.

Walking the streets in Nashville the ladies (dare I call them such) would spit from the windows of their room upon the officers; but here in Huntsville they will, but when seen in yards or on the pavement evening promenade or when in their carriages, draw their veils over their mortal prizes to hide their southern beauty from the vulgar gaze of the more than vulgar Yankees of the north. Awful modest are they not?

From the courthouse I passed one square east and then 2 north and took that street which leads to the cemetery. I passed on, passing several guards until I arrived at the place of the dead. What grandeur meets the eye in this place. Monuments of all kinds indented with very beautiful sentiments. and by the hand of the sculptor rendered susceptible of that high polish for which we so much admire it. Here in one grave rests 2 little ones, enclosed with a marble tomb with a monument on the top of which is panelled with glass and the form of 2 children sketched from marble laid side by side, so innocent, so lovely. And on the top of this are two little lambs side by side. The head of one reposing on the other. Oh! What respect is here shown to the dead.

Huntsville - April 25

Dull & rainy. The rain commenced at 7 a.m. & has rained steadily until the present & the prospects are favorable for more rain. Bought a fly coat for the sum of 10 dollars. 9 p.m. and still raining. General Mitchell

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promoted to Maj. General. Sending and receiving dispatches every 1/2 hour. Five men from each Co. was sent 33 mi. east by rail for wood.

Huntsville - April 26

An attack on our troops below Decatur and 18 men taken prisoners. Dark and pouring. We have with potatoes for dinner a rather rare dinner. Chicken from 25 cts to 50 cts a piece, potatoes 25 cts for Lunch. Ain't that rather fast living. Nothing of importance occurred through the night.

Huntsville - April 27

Sabbath morning sunny and beautiful. I attended church at Huntsville to day and heard a very good sermon from the text found Acts 17th Chapter & 23rd verse. The preacher's name is Frederick A. Ross, an old man. He throws all at us. Oh! What a church! The richest I ever saw. The names of all their pastors, are engraved on a marble slab set in the wall to the ministers left hand.

Huntsville - May 1

We are quartered in the depot hotel. My quarters is the ticket office. No guards today. 21 detailed to go to guard the bridge near the Tenn. River. Nothing occurred throughout the night.

Huntsville - May 7

More wounded have arrived. Calhoun's house taken for a hospital. The most splendidly furnished house I ever saw. Scouting parties hourly going out and returning. Reported to be fighting at Corinth. The boys did not leave for home on account of the bridge not being completed. The rebels call us the most impudent set of locomotive thieves they ever

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saw or heard tell of. The complete remainder of Co. H taken prisoners.

Huntsville - May 8

More prisoners. 8 soldiers brought in badly wounded. 300 cavalry sent out as scouts. Lieut. Monroe very sick. E.S. Bartlow of Co. G taken to the hospital sick of fever. Nothing of importance occurred during the day and evening.

Huntsville - May 13

Stationed 1 1/2 miles east of town, a very pleasant time. Detailed with one days rations and had to stand 2 days, took 2 prisoners the 1st day at noon though our day was up but no relief.

Huntsville - May 15

Rained all night last night and up 'till 10 this morning. when it ceased to rain and it is more pleasant now. We were released by Lieut. Porter of Co. G. and got to camp about noon. Very pleasant this afternoon. Co.'s G & C received orders to lay on their arms tonight. Mitchell expected an attack from Morgan. 4 men of co. D, 4 from co. F, 6 from Co. A, 8 from Co. C & 2 from Co. E all ordered under arrest and put in the guardhouse by Gen. Mitchell for going into a house during the rain. He says he will send them home in disgrace. Col. Norton & Niebling

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both swear that if he sends those boys home, the 21st Regt. will go with them.

Huntsville - May 16

The long roll was beat and the alarm call sounded on the bugle at 1 o'clock this morning. The 21st was out in line in 8 minutes after the call was sounded. We remained in line of battle with bayonets fixed for a short time and then returned to our quarters and was not disturbed again. At 8 a.m. the citizens were very much alarmed at the report of our Parrot guns. They thought that their town was going up sure. But they were soon guieted on that score but did not like the news much better, when they heard what it meant. Rejoicing at the downfall of New Orleans, Yorktown & Macon. Capt. Ewing of Co. D was taken by Morgan's cavalry on last Friday and was released on parole of honor on Sat. morning at 11 a.m.

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Searching For Family

I wish to learn of the whereabouts of my folks. My father was named Dickson; brother named Edmond Anderson; sisters named Polly, Dinah and Rachel Anderson. Sister Polly married a man by the name of John Anderson. They belonged to the Anderson family outside of Huntsville. I ran away the 2nd year of the war and went to Corinth, from there to Cleveland, Tennessee, where I joined the Federal Army and served three years.

Write Milton Anderson, care of the Journal.

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In 1863 the 42nd Ohio Volunteers were camped at Bibb's Spring, a short distance behind the Bibb residence at Mooresville. One of the officers of the regiment was James A. Garfield.

Garfield, a native of frontier Ohio, was reared by his mother and older brother after the death of his father. When war came, he received a commission in the U.S. Army and served his country with distinction. Some of the villagers at Mooresville learned of Garfield's presence and invited him to preach at the Christian Church.

General Garfield, in writing to his wife, mentioned the invitation. "There is a church in the village of Mooresville near by and they have sent up inviting me to speak to them on Sunday. If I am not too unwell I have a notion to speak to them."

Apparently the General was not "too unwell" because he delivered several sermons in the Mooresville church.

General Garfield left Mooresville with his unit to fight at Chicamauga. Following the battle, the General resigned his commission to enter Congress. In 1880, Mr. Garfield was elected the twentieth President of the United States.

He did not carry the state of Alabama.



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Remembering Burnam's **Swimming Pool**

by Walt Terry

Back in the olden days of the 'twenties and 'thirties, Burnam's pool, located about where the Big Spring Lagoon is now, was about the only place in town to swim. Of course, there was Pinhook Creek, Fagins Creek and the like, for those who couldn't afford Burnam's twenty-five cents admission.

The pool was unique by today's standards. It sides were wooden boards, its bottom was sand and mud. The men's bath house was wood frame with wood-slatted floors, as I remember. Available for the womenfolk were little wooden structures that looked like connected outhouses.

In the center of the pool, at the deep end, was what looked like, to our youthful imagination, a super-tall utility pole. Way up on it, almost out of sight in an imagined stratosphere, was a postage-stamp size platform you could dive from if you were crazy enough.

A local "prize fighter," named Dummy Robinson used to do it. I thought for years that diving off that insane pole was how he had earned his name. At least, I thought that until I learned he was as deaf as the pole he dove from. Maybe there was a connection anyhow, in that he couldn't hear the warnings (from people like me) who would not have



Huntsville, Alabama

plunged off that stupid perch for any fame or fortune imaginable.

Mr. and Mrs. Burnam were fine folks, he - a lock and gunsmith, as I recall - and she the commander in chief of the pool. Her authority was indisputable and unchallenged. Once I heard of a small boy telling her that a lady floating around in an inner tube had one of her "things" hanging out. Turned out she was a local prostitute advertising her wares. Mrs. Burnam was quick to inform the "lady" that her pool was a respectable place and she would have to hang out somewhere else.

The Burnam's had two children, Emily and Jimmy. Jimmy was my age, Emily two or three years older and infinitely wiser about many things, like where babies came from and even how they got there.

The two often fought, as siblings will. Emily, older, stronger and a tomboy, was sometimes

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overly aggressive. In one of their battles, Emily called her brother a "son of a dog." I was standing nearby and very carelessly said, "Hey, Emily, you called your own mother a dog."

Later in my life I did some boxing, but I never came anywhere near as close to being knocked unconscious as I did that day.

"You stay out of this!" she yelled, and I still can't for the life of me remember whether it was before or after she hit me. No matter. I stayed out of it, not only for that time but for all time to come. I might have been stupid, but I was not suicidal.

Emily forgave me. But she did me no favor when she invited me to go to the Lyric Theatre for the first Huntsville showing of "Frankenstein."

Soon after we had settled into seats in the front row, an evil looking man in a black suit came on the screen. In menacing tones he said something like, "If anyone in the audience has a weak heart or a cringing fear of unspeakable monsters, he or she should leave now!"

Well shucks, I wasn't that interested in seeing the movie anyway. I got up to leave.

Only to be collared by Emily, who told me in no uncertain terms to sit my "you know what" back down in that seat.

Well, on that day my fear of the monstrous surrendered to my respect for Emily's left hook. I sat back down.

I'll never forget that head-on, if tremulous, confronta-

tion with Frankenstein's monster - only one of many confrontations, some equally frightening, that I've since had to face up to.

And I'll never forget Emily, who played a very important role in getting me started.

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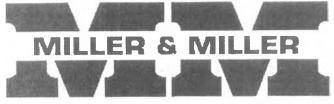
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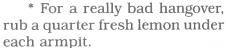


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* Or take 1 tablespoonful of honey once every minute for 5 minutes.

* Or take 1/8 teaspoonful of cayenne pepper in a glass of water, or try a cup of ginger tea.

* Take a matchbook from each hotel you visit. That way, if you leave something behind, you'll have the phone number and address to contact them.

* For a fun toy for your kitty, just crumple up a piece of aluminum foil into a ball the size of a golf ball - she'll love it!

* An umbrella stroller for kids is inexpensive and doubles in duty as a method to roll your bags of potting soil or mulch to different areas of your garden.

* The sugar-free lemonades are even better with a couple of tablespoons of real lemon juice added.

* Those large fuzzy hair rollers found in Walmart are great for giving body to your hair.

* Certain kinds of cancer can be avoided by eating just 3 almonds a day, according to psychic healer Edgar Cayce.

* This may be a fluke, but I was having trouble with bugs eating my small hosta plants. I put some pine straw from C. T. Garvin's around them, and now I have new growth and the plants are doing fine. My theory is that the bugs don't like the pine.

* Those who are able to drink a glass of raw sauerkraut juice every day seem to be able to avoid the flu.

* Paper cuts are painful - if you get one, spread some lemon juice over the cut, then dip your finger in ground cloves. The pain will be gone in minutes.

* If you get a surface scorch from a cigarette on your carpet, just rub a silver dollar on the scorch - the burned part will flick right off.

* If you travel and like to read at night, carry your own highwattage lightbulb with you in case the hotel lamp is not enough. Just remember to take it home! And don't sit on it!

* A cedar chest can be dangerous to small children. If it has a lock, remove it so your child can't get trapped inside.





"mom, please put the cocktail down and come out with your hands up!"

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Was Simon Legree From Huntsville, Alabama?

The book, Uncle Tom's Cabin, was a work of fiction but its author, Harriet Beecher Stowe, readily admitted that many of its characters were based on real people. For years people have speculated on the identity of the cruel slave owner, Simon Legree.

According to this article that appeared in the July 19, 1896 edition of the Washington Post, written by General William Hugh Roberts, Simon Legree was based on Meridith Calhoun who was widely acknowledged to be one of the wealthiest people in Madison County. His home was located diagonally across from the Church of Nativity. There is a marker there that commemorates the trial of Frank James which was held in the house when it was used as a Federal courthouse.

In the 1840s Calhoun began spending much of his time on his Louisiana plantations, although he still maintained a home in Huntsville. It was on his Louisiana plantations that he supposedly became the basis for the character of the cruel Simon Legree.

"In October, 1878, I spent a most charming week in Boston as the guest of the Hon. A. H. Rice, then the Governor of Massachusetts. The Governor lived at the Brunswick, Clarendon and Baylston streets. One morning as we were seated at breakfast I noted an elderly and somewhat distinguished looking lady observing the Governor with interest. Finally she caught his eye and bowed to him. He immediately excused himself for a moment, and walked over and spoke to his acquaintance. Returning, he said:

"Do you know Mrs. Stowe?"

"No,' I answered after a moment's reflection, 'pray present me. I spoke without thought just now, not knowing that she was in the vicinity.'

"So after a small cigar in the Governor's study, he sent his card to the lady, and a moment later I was making my bow to the author of the most famous antislavery novel ever written.

"Prejudiced as I was against Mrs. Stowe because of her political tenets, I found her extremely interesting.

"You wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin without any real, practical knowledge of slavery, did you not?' I ventured.

"Yes,' she said, 'I had to write it in that way or not at all. I was living in the West, and had no opportunity to see anything of slavery as it then existed in the far South. Yet I think my Legree is one of the best drawn characters in the book.'

"May I ask,' I interrupted, 'if you had any particular planter in your mind when you depicted Legree?'

"Oh, yes,' she promptly replied, 'and a very prominent one in his neighborhood, too. I got the story out of which I evolved Legree from a Cincinnati steamboat man, who was a pilot and a Captain in the Red River trade. Do you know,' said Mrs. Stowe, the man who before the war owned and operated the only profitable sugar estate on the north bank of the Red River?'

"Yes,' was my answer, 'Mr. Meredith Calhoun.'

"Well he was my Legree,' responded Mrs. Stowe, 'and never before have I so clearly indicated the character in real life from whom my Red River planter was drawn.'

"All this was very curious and most interesting to me. Mrs. Stowe requested that nothing be said or written by me relative to the identity of the cotton planter as long as she lived. I gave the



promise, and have never repeated the conversation until this moment. I think there can be no harm done the living nor injustice worked to the dead in my telling now what I know of the original Legree.

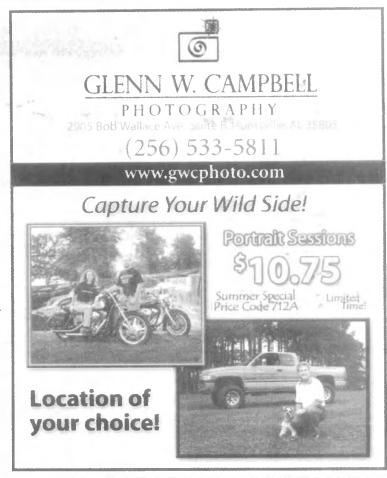
In 1831-2 there was a great rush of emigration from the older slave States to the lands on Red River in Louisiana and Arkansas. These lands were a wonderful red loam fifty feet in depth on a clay substratum, rich as the Valley of the Nile. Among the buyers was Meredith Calhoun.

"Just above the rapids of Red River was a tract of exceptionally well located planting land. It was naturally drained and perfectly adapted to the development of a large and valuable estate. There were in all something over 30,000 acres, and this tract became the property of Meredith Calhoun. Instead of burning the forests that covered 20,000 acres of this land, the owner erected great sawmills and cut and sawed timber that other planters would have burned into most desirable lumber. Slaves were another commodity in which the movement could have been called "active, supply hardly equal to the demand, prices gradually advancing." On each estate a few old, reliable family servants were re-

tained by the emigrants from the old slave States, but for the most part the negroes were imported from Africa, who assisted the Red River planters to make fortunes in those fertile valleys, where one crop of cotton or sugar was worth ten of the cereals and five of tobacco.

"Men of Anglo-Saxon blood in these days had but little time. and often smaller inclination, for the cultivation of what this generation would denominate the 'aesthetic side' of life, and often were disposed to jeer at the dandy, or, as we of today call him, the 'dude.' But though Calhoun was a bowling swell in the fashion of the period, those of rougher mold were usually very civil in his presence. And, besides his 'petit maitre' tendencies, he had a rather remarkable personality. About five feet in stature, his figure combined grace and activity in an unusual degree.

"Legree followed the mode of





the time in his dress, and was usually attired in a manner that would have been pronounced correct by a committee of clubmen form any city in the Union. His eyes in repose were dark gray, but in moments of excitement or anger they seemed to be a deep, cat-like green. Always smoothly shaven and immaculate in linen, he was something of a curiosity to a community where his peculiarities were usually held to indicate effeminacy to a degree that must be incompatible with 'real grit' as understood among the fighting men of the Carolinas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

"It chanced one day that Mr. Calhoun in some way happened to offend a man named Williams. The latter was a physical giant, tipsy enough to be without reason, and quarrelsome, besides. There was a shot. Then Williams staggered forward, his head half severed from his body by an awful slash from a nine-inch Bowie knife in the hands of Calhoun.

"I never beheld a human being that looked so much like Satan incarnate as did Calhoun, when he killed Jack Williams.' said the late Gen. Montfort Wells, of Rapides Parish, as he told me the story. Williams had killed three men, and he fired at Calhoun with a Derringer when they were not five feet apart. How he ever missed I don't know, but Calhoun leaped upon him like a panther, and at two strokes did the work. What was done about it? Why, nothing. Williams was a dangerous man, and it was with a feeling of relief that the community learned of his death. But the bad men of that time let the panther-like dandy severely alone after that, I can tell you."

He erected a mansion that for years was known as the finest residence on Red River, and furnished it in excellent taste. He had a French cook, and occasionally gave splendid dinners that were the talk and wonder of the whole country-side. The display of old silver and fine china was the delight and despair of the ladies who were invited to these dinners. But though he had good looks enough, and manners that were perfect, though they would be deemed a trifle florid now, somehow Mr. Calhoun was not popular. He was a bachelor, and a most eligible one, too, but the ladies did not like him, or, rather,

thev all avowed they were afraid of him. By and by curious stories were widespread about. They were to the effect that r Calhoun was in the habit of indulging in periodical and extreme fits of intoxication, and that

such times he was wont to call into his parlors two enormous negro drivers, and the three would drink and carouse together in the most riotous and familiar manner.

"A fearful story was told through the community. Men and women spoke of it with bated breath, and children were not allowed to hear it at all. It was told one day that two nights before a negro on Smithfield, the finest of the great Calhoun es-

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tates, had been chained to a tree: that pine piled high about him was ignited, and that he was roasted alive, while his awful shrieks echoed through the valley for miles around. What his offense had been, if any, could not be told. The late Hon. T. C. Manning. United States Minister to Mexico in Mr. Cleveland's first administration, was District Attorney. It was his official duty to investigate this matter. A number of gentlemen, planters, who respected their calling, waited upon Mr. Calhoun, acquainted him with the charge, and inquired if he had anything to say. He looked at the Hon. Henry Boyce, then United States District Judge, the head of the committee, a moment in silence:

Who is responsible for this story?' said the accused planter, as his face became livid with fury. 'Does any gentleman (emphasizing the word) make such a charge against me? Name him, and I will know how to deal with him.'

'No gentleman accuses you of such a horror,' answered the dignified Judge, himself a planter, 'but we learn that 300 negroes saw this cruelty committed.'

'A cheerful and dignified business for you to be engaged in, listening to slave's tales. When you can bring some responsible authority from this story, 1 will answer. Good-morning.' And he nodded to his gatekeeper to open the way out for his visitors.

"This story made a great sensation at the time, but it could never be proved, even if the entire force of the Calhoun estate had witnessed the burning as was charged, for a slave could not testify. Judge Manning would never say what his investigation had disclosed. Certainly had it been possible to make a case against him Mr. Calhoun would have been prosecuted.

his great wealth notwithstanding.

It was from the stories told of this strange man, one of the most accomplished gentlemen I have ever known, that Mrs. Stowe constructed what she thought was her greatest slave owning character - Simon Legree.





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