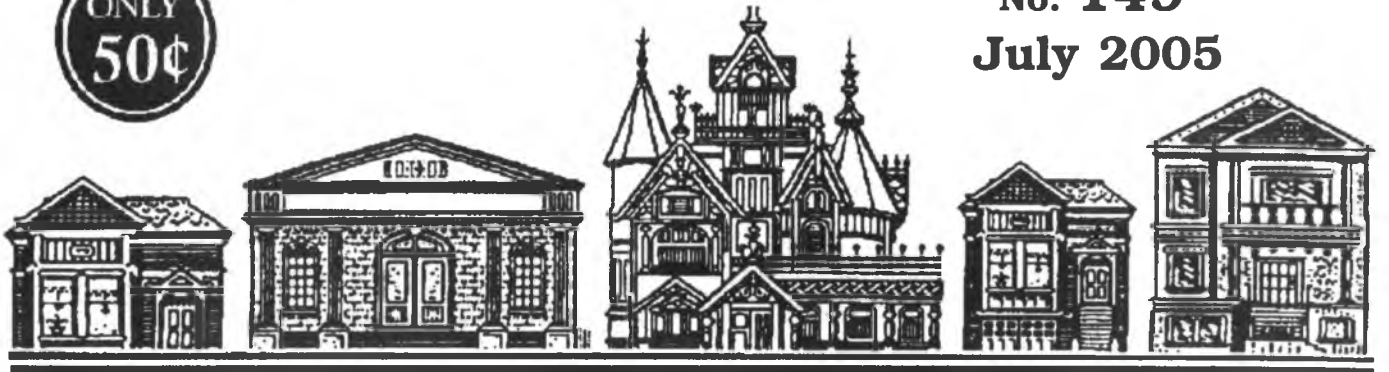


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July 2005



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## Lincoya

Andrew Jackson's  
Adopted Son?

Fact or Fiction?

The battle-hardened officer, who only hours earlier had ordered the massacre of hundreds of Indians, took the baby to his tent. There was no milk on the battlefield and the baby was crying. Summoning an aide, the officer instructed him to fetch some sorghum syrup. After diluting it with water the officer, with the aid of a flickering candle, spent the rest of the night dipping his finger in the syrup and letting the baby suck on it.

Thus began one of the strangest episodes in the life of General Andrew Jackson.

Also in this issue: The Life of William Bradford Huie

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# Lincoya

The tiny Indian baby boy was found hidden beneath a pile of cedar brush, with his parents lying dead a few feet away in the middle of a bloody battlefield. A soldier picked the baby up and carried him to a group of Indian women prisoners who were standing nearby.

Gesturing to the women, the soldier tried to get them to take the baby. The women refused; "Kill him too, just like you killed the others."

The soldier hesitated about leaving the baby to a sure death but there was no choice; Indian fighters did not carry babies with them. Reluctantly he made a bed out of pine straw and placed the baby on it. By this time other soldiers had gathered; some of them with bloody bandages from the morning's battle, their faces black from the powder of long rifles. They watched silently, possibly thinking of their own children back home, as the soldier prepared to abandon the baby.

An officer stopped to see what was going on. Silently, without asking questions, he understood the sad drama that was unfolding before him. Finally, in a low voice that was almost a whisper, he said, "Give the baby to me."

The battle-hardened officer, who only hours earlier had or-

dered the massacre of hundreds of Indians, took the baby to his tent. There was no milk on the battlefield and the baby was crying. Summoning an aide, the officer instructed him to fetch some sorghum syrup. After diluting it with water the officer, with the aid of a flickering candle, spent the rest of the night dipping his finger in the syrup and letting the baby suck on it.

Early the next morning, as the army prepared to move out and with the baby sleeping peacefully on his cot, the officer wrote a note to Leroy Pope in Huntsville. He was sending the baby to him, he explained, along with a group of Indian prisoners and was requesting that the child be cared for until the time he could come after it.

Minutes later the army was on the march again, and thus began one of the strangest episodes in the life of General Andrew Jackson.

War with the Indians was inevitable. Ever since the early 1800s when settlers began pouring into Alabama in search of new lands, many white people considered the Indians an obstacle to continued growth. Many settlers began moving onto Indian lands, and although the Indians were supposedly protected under Federal law, in reality the government turned a blind eye to the continued encroachments.

By August of 1813 the Indian's anger toward the whites



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had reached a boiling point. The Creek Indians, encouraged by their chiefs and prophets to drive the white invaders out of their country, attacked Fort Mims, brutally slaughtering its defenders along with the women and children. When word of the massacre reached Governor Blount in Tennessee he ordered Andrew Jackson, a Major General in the state militia, to raise an army to crush the Indians in retaliation.

Jackson sent word to the local militias to meet at Fayetteville, Tennessee. From all across Tennessee and North Alabama men and boys, shopkeepers and frontiersmen, rich and poor, kissed their wives and girlfriends good-bye and with long rifles across their shoulders, rushed to join the army.

Several weeks later, on October 11, 1813, rumors reached Jackson that Indians were preparing to attack Huntsville. Jackson responded by forcing his army on a grueling non-stop march from Fayetteville to Huntsville.

Although the rumors were

false, they proved to be a major benefit to Jackson. The militia that had gathered at Fayetteville resembled an unruly mob more than an army. Many of the men were unwilling to follow orders and even fewer were willing to drill and learn to march as an army. When news of Indians in Huntsville reached them, however, they quickly formed up in ranks and after a forced march lasting all day, with officers constantly pushing them on, Jackson had an army willing to follow orders.

Several major historians believe that Jackson, or his officers, actually started the rumor.

Another major factor in moving the army was supplies. An army of several thousand men required vast amounts of food and equipment and Huntsville, with its rich plantations, was one of the few areas that could supply the needs on short notice.

The next several weeks were hectic for the General as he made preparations for the campaign. Jackson separated his army into three different camps; sending one to nearby Ditto Landing, another to a spring near what is now Bailey Cove and the main force to Brahan Springs. Reed, Mitchel & Company of Huntsville was given the contract to transport supplies for the army as it advanced. Leroy Pope agreed to act as purchasing agent and Horace Nance got the contract to supply powder and

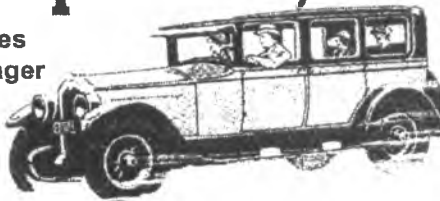
**"My memory's just not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be."**

**Ron Eyestone**

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flints.

By the last week in October the army was ready to move against the Indians but almost immediately it was besieged by difficulties. Promised supplies lagged miles and days behind the troops. Hungry and often bare-footed men rebelled. Villages were raided and burnt to obtain food, with Indian men, women and children slaughtered indiscriminately. Battles were fought with no surrenders accepted.

One of Jackson's men later said, "We killed all of them we could find," while Davy Crockett said, "We shot them like dogs."

At least one writer has written that Jackson may have been forced to allow, and even encourage, the slaughter. Most of his army had enlisted for ninety days and as their enlistments expired they were demanding to go home. There were few supplies and little food - the only thing holding the army together was the desire to seek revenge from the Indians.

It was at the village of Tallushatchee, located about 15 miles below Fort Strouther, where the Indian baby had been rescued from the carnage of the bloody battlefield by General Andrew Jackson. Perhaps as he held the

baby in his arms he thought of his own youth, when he too had been orphaned. Or maybe he thought of his three-year-old nephew, waiting for him at the Hermitage, whom he had adopted and given the name Andrew Jackson, Jr.

After writing Leroy Pope asking him to look after the baby until it could be sent to the Hermitage, Jackson wrote his wife Rachel.

"I have instructed Major White to carry to you the little Lincoya. He is the only branch of his family left, and the others, when offered to them to take care of, would have nothing to do with him, but wanted him killed immediately...."

"Quals, my interpreter, carried him on his back and brought him to me. Charity and Christianity says he ought to be taken care of and I send him to my little Andrew and I hope to adopt him as one of the family...."

While Jackson was worrying about charity and Christianity the other Indian women and children prisoners who had been sent to Huntsville with Lincoya were locked in a stockade near the present day Maple Hill Cemetery where many were undoubtedly sold as slaves.

Several months later, in another letter to Rachel, Jackson was still trying to arrange transportation for Lincoya to the Hermitage. "To amuse Andrew and to make him forget his loss (of his parents), I have asked Col. Hays to carry Lincoya to him."

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Rachel wrote back three weeks later, "I am vexed that none of your friends will fetch him to me."

While Rachel worried about the Indian baby, Jackson continued his campaign against the Creeks. More battles were fought, with no quarter given and often defenseless Indians slaughtered. In March 1814, at the battle of Horseshoe Bend after tremendous bloodshed, the Indians were defeated and forced to cede three fifths what would later become the state of Alabama.

During this time Lincoya apparently arrived at the Hermitage as Rachel wrote on April 7, "Your little Andrew is well. He is much pleased with his playmate Charley (Lincoya's nickname). I think him a fine boy indeed."

In May of 1814 a victorious General Jackson returned to Huntsville. A joyous crowd met

him at the town limits and escorted him to the newly completed home of Leroy Pope where he was feted as a conquering hero. Rachel had traveled from the Hermitage to meet her husband and after several days of festivities they returned home.

Days later Jackson's army began straggling through Huntsville. As the soldiers began telling their stories, a wave of disgust swept through many of the citizens. They heard of a senseless slaughter, of men starving for lack of supplies, of men being wounded and forced to make their way back home with no medical treatment. Perhaps the most compelling story they heard was that of a young soldier whose

enlistment was nearly up. When he tried to return home Jackson had him shot as a warning to others.

Even the most hardened of the frontiersmen were sickened by what they had seen.

If Jackson had intended to seek quiet refuge in the arms of his family at the Hermitage, it was not to be. As stories of the campaign began to spread, wild rumors were circulated, many of which were about his family.

Even the baby Lincoya was not immune to the rumors. Many people were aghast that Jackson would take an Indian child into his own home and treat it as a white person. Other people, per-

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*Johnny Stevens, Arab*

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haps the minority, called Jackson a hypocrite for waging such a cruel campaign against the Indians and then attempting to show compassion against a "token Indian."

Old charges of his wife being a bigamist were leveled at Jackson. She had been married earlier and failed to get a legal divorce before she married Jackson. Although it probably happened as a result of an innocent mistake, in the early 1800s this was akin to being labeled a prostitute.

Just as it seemed that the rumors and tales would put an end to Jackson's reputation came news that the British were about to attempt an invasion of the Gulf Coast. Jackson was ordered to hastily form an army to march against them. The ensuing battle of New Orleans made him a national hero and propelled him to the front page of every newspaper in the country.

It was an age of exuberant romanticism about the wild frontier. Writers, editors and pulp fiction publishers all vied with one another with lurid stories about red savages scalping innocent women and children. Luminaries such as Jackson, Davy Crockett and Sam Houston were lionized as Indian fighters. People, mostly northerners who had never seen an Indian, began

calling for the Indians to be evicted from their lands.

Jackson became the pivotal figure in dealing with the Indians. From 1814 to 1824 Jackson was instrumental in negotiating nine out of eleven treaties which called for the Indian removal. The treaties called for voluntary emigration however, and few Indians moved during this period of time.

Although Jackson believed that the best solution for the Indians was total removal, he apparently thought differently of Lincoya

He wrote Rachel in April of 1818 to, "Kiss my two sons and accept my prayers for your health and happiness until I return."

Several years later Jackson wrote a friend about his concerns for their education. "I have my little sons, including Lincoya, at school, and their education has been greatly neglected in my absence."

In 1821 Jackson ran for and was elected to the United States Senate. Almost immediately he began pushing for forced emigra-

**"I've tried to find a suitable exercise video for women my age, but they haven't made one called "Buns of Putty."  
Cheryl Tribble**

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5. *When the Germans Invaded Big Cove: The Old Spy Man* by Billy Stone \$17.50

6. *Why is it Named That?* 250 Place Names in Huntsville/Madison County (new edition with a few corrections) by Dex Nilsson \$13.95

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tion of the Indians, saying that "two races, with so many differences, can never live side by side in harmony."

Some of the strongest opposition came from the same men who had served with him during the Indian campaign in Alabama. Davy Crockett said he would be "ashamed to back such a measure," and Joseph Adams asked why Jackson himself did not move, instead of the Indians. William Pierce went even farther and accused Jackson of using the issue to run for President, "with no regard for human dignity."

Strangely, while Jackson was pushing the issue, he was also attempting to get an appointment for Lincoya to the military academy which had a firm rule that only Caucasians could be admitted.

In 1824 Jackson ran for President of the United States. Although there were many other issues - banking, tariffs, and states rights - the theme most people seized upon was his stance on forced Indian removal. People seemed evenly split with wealthy landowners backing removal and commoners generally opposed to it.

Old rumors about Rachel Jackson were dredged up once again and stories of Jackson's Indian son became fodder for the gristmill. Some newspapers called Jackson an opportunist for having an Indian son and at the same time advocating Indian removal. One of Jackson's supporters replied to the charge saying that Lincoya was not really a son, but more like "a house servant."

In a bitterly contested race Jackson won the popular vote in a four-man race. Neither won a majority of the vote however and the election was sent to the House of Representatives where John Quincy Adams was selected.

Jackson and his supporters were bitterly disappointed, believing the election had been stolen from them. Almost before the last ballot was counted plans were laid for Jackson to run again in 1828.

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Up until this time Jackson seemed genuinely fond of Lincoya. The lad, about 15 years old at the time, often accompanied Jackson on trips and was entrusted with many duties befitting that of an adopted son. He was well cared for, had a good education and had most of the privileges of a young man in the aristocratic south.

Suddenly, in the late fall of 1827, Jackson accompanied Lincoya to Nashville where he was apprenticed to J.R. Howard, a saddle maker located near the center of town. The young boy, used to a life of privilege, now found himself working over a saddler's bench six days a week and sleeping in an unheated room in the back of the shop. Several months later Lincoya caught pneumonia and died a short time afterwards.

According to Jackson's official biography, Lincoya's body was taken to the Hermitage where it was buried in the family plot.

The grave has never been found.

A few months later Jackson, making Indian removal a central theme of his campaign, won the U.S. Presidency by a landslide.

Today one of the few reminders of the Indian baby is a street named Lincoya here in Huntsville. Appropriately, it is just west of Andrew Jackson Way, the same direction the Indians were sent.

## Old Huntsville Trivia

1818 - John Hershey is sentenced to receive 39 lashes on the back and to be chained to the pillory for three days for abandonment of his family and the vice of "drunkenness".

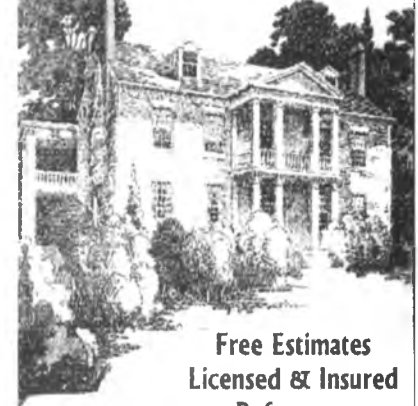
1831 - A new town ordinance declares that a police patrolman will call out the hour and half hour until daybreak.

1876 - The Huntsville City Council passes an ordinance to regulate the sale of cocaine.

1905 - 1,479 white men and 112 Negro men are registered to vote in Madison County.

1930 - 54 moonshine stills are raided in Madison County.

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- When you get ready to move up to Monte Sano, let us know. Your groceries won't cost you one cent more delivered on Monte Sano than they do delivered to this city. John P. King, Grocery Co.

- Injured in runaway - As the result of a runaway accident near the Wade Mattress Factory yesterday afternoon, Mrs. R. B. Searcy was badly injured and Mrs. Frank J. Thompson was painfully bruised..

The ladies were driving in front of the factory when the horse got his tail over one of the reins and began to run. Mrs. Searcy attempted to jump out of the buggy and was thrown with great force against the ground, the back of her head striking against the stone curbing and cutting the scalp very badly. Mrs. Thompson did not jump but was thrown from the buggy a little further down the street. She was painfully bruised but not cut. Mrs. Ward is believed to be serious. The ladies were attended to by Dr. Brooks and last night both were resting quietly.

- For sale - Pine bird dog, 8 months old. Apply to Tilford McLean, Telephone 39.

- Joe Mason Arrested. He claims that he did not sell whiskey but only bought it for his friends. Joseph Mason, the well known egg and produce dealer, was tried before Commissioner Greenleaf yesterday on a charge of retailing whiskey, and was placed under bond for appearance before the next grand jury of the US. Court.

The revenue men claim that Mason has been violating the revenue laws with impunity for several years and has kept a whole section of Paint Rock

Valley supplied with whiskey. Mason, on the other hand, claims that he was not selling whiskey but that he merely took orders for it and delivered it to his friends and customers whom he desired to accommodate and furthermore, that he made no profit whatsoever by delivering the liquor. The case is unique and will be an interesting one for the next grand jury to pass upon.

- We beg to announce that Hutchens & Murdock have been appointed sole agents for the Block Light in the city of Huntsville and that the light is on exhibition at their offices. The Block Light will give 300 candle power and save half your gas bills. It takes six inch electric lights to give the light of one Block Light. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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# The Old Green Chest

by Austin Miller

I don't know how old the chest is. It has been in our house for more than thirty years. Daddy told me that it belonged to my grandfather's grandmother. As a reference to its age, my grandfather, Mose Louis Miller, was born in 1872.

It is three feet wide, thirty-one inches high and sixteen inches deep. There are two important identifying features. One, it has a piece of white marble sixteen inches long and eight inches wide that sits on the front center surface of the chest. The other feature is carvings extending the full length of the three drawers.

I re-discovered it at the last place my grandparents lived. I remember it in their house on Toll Gate Road. Their last home was a two-room house in our front yard that Daddy and my uncles built for them in 1959. The house was so small that most of their belongings had to be stored in the loft of our barn. They chose the chest as one of the few pieces to go in the house.

In 1972, Mama and Daddy were cleaning up and there was talk about throwing it away. I told them not to because I might want to keep it. On second look, I decided it was beyond use and repair. More than a hundred years of soot from stoves and fireplaces, countless moves from one share-cropper shack to another and dirt brought in over many seasons from cotton fields, barns and gardens made it look shabby and worn.

I looked at it a second time

**"I'm getting into swing dancing. Not on purpose. Some parts of my body are just prone to swinging."**

*Jan Eddings, Madison*

and again decided it was beyond saving. It kept nagging at me, however, and I went back a third time. This time, I loaded it in the trunk of my car and hauled it to Douglasville.

In the sixties and seventies a process known as antiquing was popular. To do this, you put on a primer and a second coat of the final color. Before the second coat dried you took a rag or piece of steel wool and lightly wiped it over the wet solution to get the antique look you wanted. Antiquing was perfect for the chest. When the second coat dried, I highlighted the carvings in yellow and installed new hardware on the drawers. It instantly became a prized piece of furniture in our house.

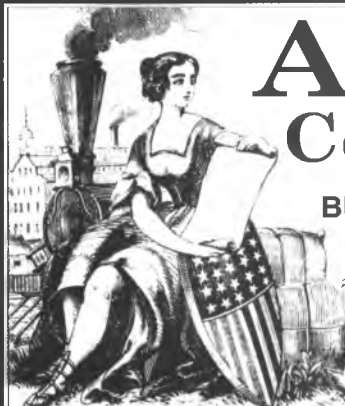


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Sometime before the civil war, the chest was passed down to my great-grandparents, Burgess and Mirah Marcum Miller. When Burgess was away during the War a Yankee troop raided their house in Big Cove. They rode their horses through Mirah's garden, trampled her flowerbeds and ransacked the house searching for food and valuables. They rode away with her food in sacks and her meat on the end of their bayonets. As the soldiers galloped away she yelled at them, "I hope the bushwhackers get you before you get out of this valley!"

Her wish came true. Before the Yankees got out of the range of sound for rifle fire, the bushwhackers did indeed kill all of them. She was about 25 at the time. The old green chest was in the house when the Yankees came calling. Later, it was in their home when my grandfather was born. Sometime in the early part of the twentieth century Burgess and Mirah moved in with my grandparents. That's how the chest came into their possession and eventually mine.

During the twenties, thirties and forties it was moved in and out of many sharecropper houses. These houses were usually dilapidated shacks with several family members sleeping in one room. Every room except the kitchen would have two or three beds. There was no sofa and very few pieces of other furniture. One piece that was there, besides beds, in the Mose and Anna Miller house, was the green chest.

My grandparents housed seven boys and at least two or three other neighbor boys on a regular basis. Daddy and Uncle Gib always slept in the same

room. Their horseplay at bedtime is legendary in family history. My grandmother said they wrestled so much with her quilts that they pulled some of them in half.

Uncle Malcolm tells about when Uncle Robert married and brought Aunt Boots home. Daddy and my Uncles as well as several visiting boys all ran out of the house when they saw them coming. They moved in and shared a bedroom with two or three of my uncles. As strange as that seems now, it was the norm for Ryland sharecroppers in 1935.

Mama and Daddy did the same thing when they married a few years later. There was no air conditioning, no central heat, no indoor toilets, no electricity or running water. The roof was made of tin and there was no insulation in

the ceiling or walls. It was cold in winter and hot in summer. Life was hard for the Mose Miller family.

The chest is probably valueless as an antique and might not bring twenty dollars at a yard sale. But to me it is priceless. It is a reminder of my roots. The chest has been a furniture item for at least five generations of Millers.

It is a little staggering to know that the old green chest, as we call it, has been in the Miller family in three different centuries. Soon we will be moving back to Huntsville and taking it with us. It is going home. I believe God had a hand in me discovering and saving the chest. It is a blessing for me to have it in my house.



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**"I asked my old man if I could go ice-skating on the lake. He told me, 'Wait til it gets warmer.'"**

**Rodney Dangerfield**

**Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!**

# Soldiers in Huntsville

When the Spanish American War began, the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce sent representatives to Washington, D.C. to ask that Huntsville be used as a troop encampment. At that time it was claimed that next to West Point, N.Y., the healthiest place in the country was Huntsville.

As many as 14,000 troops were scattered in and around Huntsville. The 5th Ohio, the 5th Cavalry Regulars, and the 69th New York were at or close by Brahan Springs. The 10th and 2nd Cavalry were in West Huntsville. The 2nd Georgia was on the William Moore place. The 5th Maryland, Co. D. Engineers, and the 1st Florida were on the Steele place. The 8th Calvary, 3rd Pennsylvania, 7th Cavalry Regulars, and 16th Infantry Regulars were on the Chapman places. The Provost Guard consisted of twenty-eight tents pitched on the Calhoun lot near the square.

It seemed that Huntsville was a merry place to be at this time with the increase of social activities taking place for the soldiers. Many of the more prominent families even used some of the soldiers as local estate guards.

All was not "sweetness and light" however as there was a marked increase in the number

of local taverns and other non-desirable houses.

In one instance a group of drunken, rowdy soldiers were arrested and temporarily interred in the basement of the courthouse. They discovered boxes of papers and set fire to them "for the fun of it." Before the fire was discovered and put out, many valuable county records were destroyed.

Apparently this and other incidents didn't set well with many Huntsvillians. When the Chamber of Commerce moved to secure Huntsville as a permanent encampment they were turned down by the War Department which cited a petition signed by a number of Huntsville citizens begging that no more troops be sent here.

# War Taxes

Americans have never stopped paying wartime taxes since the birth of the republic. There is some consolation, however, in that the debts of at least one war, the War of 1812, are finally paid.

The United States Government closed its books on that almost forgotten war in 1946 when the last pensioner died. That pensioner was a woman 82 years of age, the daughter of a veteran of the campaigns of 1812.



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# Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



We had a great winner for the Photo of the Month last time. **Joe Patterson**, Sheriff of Madison county from 1978-1995 and now retired, called with the first correct guess. The young boy was none other than **Sam Spry**, of Spry Funeral Home. We're proud to call Sam and Joe our friends!

Congratulations to **Laura Hamacher**, who recently turned 90 years young in July and says she sure misses all her friends.

Well, we watched the 26th annual **Cotton Row Run**. We saw folks like **David Milly** of TLC lighting, **Mike Kaylor** of the Huntsville Times, and **Lee Rhoads** of Agilent running. We also saw our friends **Michael O'Halloran** and good neighbor **Tom Young** of Integraph!

We were sorry to hear of the death of **Mildred McIntosh**, mother in law of **Jean McIntosh** and mom of **Ron McIntosh**.

Many remember **Newman Ward**, who used to live in west Huntsville and now lives in Malibu, Ca. He recently became an ordained minister (in his late 80's) and will be performing the wedding ceremony for his granddaughter in mid-July. Also, Happy Birthday to **Fred Ward**,

Newman's son!

**Claude and Layne Dorning** are thrilled that their daughter **Suzanne** and her husband **Jerry** have moved to Huntsville from Louisville. Sons **Foster**, 9, and **Hampton**, 6, are already making friends here. Jerry and Suzanne will be managing Railroad Station Antiques downtown.

Normally we don't recomend books but we are going to make an exception this time. For anyone interested in Huntsville's history or the space program, **Dr Space - The Life of Wernher von Braun**, by **Bob Ward** is an absolute must read. Shaver's bookstore has it but you might want to call first - they are selling as out fast as he can get them in.

**Rick Jobe's dad, Wayman Jobe**, is in Mobile suffering complications from surgery. **Rick** and **Marji**, his wife, traveled there to be with him.

A very handsome young man just celebrated his 62nd birthday in July. **Harold Sanders** attributes his good looks to all that dancing he does! His daughter

**Rosetta Fuller** is very proud of him. One of Rosetta's young sons, **Andrew**, also celebrated his 4th birthday in June!

A big hello to **Joan Hatfield** who wants all her friends to have a safe and happy summer!

**Joe Hursh**, father of **Barb Eyestone** of Madison, hasn't been feeling too well lately and we send our best wishes to him.

**Diane Bruschette**, of Sanders Cleaners, is so happy to have her daughter and grandkids visiting from Bad Nauhiem, Germany. **Lisa Johnson** is here with her children, **Shyann** and **Summer**. They say the weather is so much different from Germany!

It was great to see our favorite cousin, **Ann (Frazier) Hill**. She just received deployment orders from the National Guard. May God look over your shoulder and bring you home safe!!

Our good friend **Tom Gurley** recently spent time in the hospital but he's now on the mend - we're thinking of you Tom!

## Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the youngster below wins a full one-year subscription to "Old Huntsville" magazine.

Call (256) 534-3355.

Hint: This young boy has become a very popular and respected man around the Huntsville courthouse square.



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Many people were saddened to hear of the death of **Ellis Sparks**. He was a retired doctor here in Huntsville and beloved by everyone who knew him. We send condolences out to his wife **Jean** and their family and friends.

**Terry & Rick Sharp** just celebrated their 5th wedding anniversary - and are still in love after all these years! Terry owns the new restaurant "**Someone's in the Kitchen.**"

We had a nice visit recently from **Leo & Mickie Miller**, former Hurricane Creek folks. They grew up on Hurricane Creek and sure can tell some great tales!

**Calvin and Nannie Holder** are still in love after 2 great years of marriage - they went to school at Rison and have good memories from those days.

Be sure and mark your calendar for **Trade Day on the Square** this year on September 10. It starts at 8am and you have to be there early to get some good buys! There'll be food and entertainment too, so be sure and come!

We had some great wedding anniversaries during the month - **Chuck and Annelie Owens** celebrated 58 years, while **Ken and Diane Owens** are holding at 34.

We heard recently that **Michael Carney** surprised his wife **Gwen** with a birthday trip to Nashville - what made it even more special was how they traveled there - in a limo! What a sweet husband!

Many of you may remember **Shirley Frazier** - she was dispatcher at the Huntsville police department for years and now lives in Magnolia, NC. She was here recently visiting friends like **Phil Guthrie, Don Taylor, Danny Cox, Dick Yarrick** and calling her friends **Eloise, Londa and Judy** among many others. She sure misses Huntsville and loved catching up on all the news.

**Mickey Lanier** was looking especially handsome the other

night at the Furniture Factory. Everyone loves that guy!

Happy Birthday to that sweet little boy **Evan Troup**! He turned 2 in June and sure has proud parents in **Stef and John Troup**, and older sister **Hannah**!

**Barbara Fortner**, our own California Southern Belle, recently had some eye surgery and we send best wishes for a quick recovery!

We hear that **Johnny Johnston** sure is having a blast speaking before Civic groups in Huntsville, telling tales about living in Huntsville in the old days. He said to be sure and let people know that he does not charge for his talks - he just loves Huntsville.

Sources tell us that **Mrs. Mayor (Loretta)** is definitely going to run again. Several people who were going

to run for mayor have now changed their minds - saying **Loretta** is unbeatable right now.

Well, that's it for this month but try your best to stay cool!



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## “Cooking with the Choir”

*These recipes are taken from the popular cookbook, “Cooking with the Choir,” contributed by Holy Spirit Catholic church members.*

soning, place in bottom of dish. Add half the cheese, then sauce, then rest of cheese. **Sissy Griffith**

Fill greased muffin tins about 2/3 full. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes. **Katrina Lister**

### Hot Crab Dip

- 3/4 c. butter
- 3/4 c. chopped green onions
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 lb. shredded crabmeat

Saute onions in butter, while they are still crunchy add cream cheese til it melts, then add crabmeat. Prepare this 1/2 hour before serving, and serve with crackers. **Gerry Richards**

### Tea Punch

- 6 tea bags
- 1 qt. boiling water
- 6 oz. lemonade concentrate
- 6 oz limeade
- 1 - 1 1/2 c. sugar

In 2-quart container, pour boiling water over tea bags. Steep for 5 minutes, remove tea bags. Add remaining ingredients and water to make 2 quarts. Decorate glasses with mint sprigs.

**Carol Chapman**

### Pecan Muffins

- 2/3 c. melted butter
- 1 c. light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. flour
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- Whole pecan halves

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter 24 mini-muffin pans. In medium glass bowl, melt butter in microwave, mix in sugar. Mix in eggs, then flour and chopped nuts. Pour into greased mini-muffin pan, filling each cup 2/3 full. Add a pecan half on top of each. Bake 12-15 minutes. **Harold Carey**

### Italian Dip

- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 t. Italian seasoning
- 1 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 3/4 c. parmesan cheese
- 8 oz. spaghetti sauce
- Blend cream cheese and sea-

### Quick Rolls

- 2 c. self-rising flour
- 2 heaping T. mayonnaise
- 1 c. milk
- 3 t. sugar
- Stir all ingredients together.

### Broccoli Salad

- 3 heads broccoli flowerets

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# Gibson's BAR-B-QUE

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- 1 c. black raisins
- 1/2 c. sunflower seeds
- 1/2 c. chopped walnuts
- 1 c. mayo
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 t. vinegar
- scallions, chopped
- 4 T. fried, crumbled bacon

Mix all together and serve.

**Connie Beveridge**

### Railroad Slaw

- 1 pkg. slaw mix
- 1 green onion bunch, chopped
- 2 pkg. Ramen noodles (don't use seasoning)
- 1 pkg. sliced toasted almonds

**Dressing:**

- 4 t. Sesame seeds, toasted
- 1 c. vegetable oil
- 4 T. sugar
- 6 T. rice wine vinegar
- 1 t. salt/pepper
- 1 t. Accent

Mix almonds and seeds. Mix with dry noodles and set aside. Combine all ingredients, adding dressing just before serving.

**Megan Curran Taylor**

### Best Chocolate Sauce

- 6 oz. semisweet chocolate pieces
- 2 T. butter
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 t. vanilla or almond extract
- 1 dash salt

Combine all ingredients in a heavy saucepan and cook over low heat til melted. Stir constantly til slightly thickened. This is delicious over cream puffs or ice cream.

**Bunny Nagle**

### Uova Con Peperoni (Eggs with Peppers)

- 5 eggs
- 4 large firm green peppers
- 5 T. olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, chopped
- Salt/pepper to taste

Clean, seed and slice peppers lengthwise into strips. Beat eggs thoroughly. Heat oil in frying pan. When hot, add garlic and sliced peppers. Fry til slightly browned, about 5 minutes.

Lower flame, cover pan, saute slowly for about 15 minutes and peppers are soft. Fold in beaten eggs, stir gently til eggs are of desired consistency. Serve immediately.

**Ann Morea**



### Armenian Cookies

- 2 c. unsalted butter, melted
  - 4 1/2 c. self-rising flour
  - 1 1/2 c. confectioners sugar
  - 1/2 t. vanilla extract
  - 1 1/4 c. chopped walnuts
- Combine sugar, nuts and vanilla with butter. Mix thoroughly.

Add flour til a soft dough is formed. Shape into half-finger shapes. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes til bottom is slightly browned. Cool & roll in confectioners sugar.

**Julie Linderman**

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# The Typhoid Home in Huntsville

*In the 1800s typhoid was one of the most deadly diseases in much of the Suth. No one knew what caused it or how to treat it but that did not stop many newspapers from printing what they believed to be sound medical advice. The following is from a 1892 Huntsville newspaper.*

- Typhoid is a disease which runs a definite course. It cannot be stopped or cured by medicines.

- The chief thing to be done at the outset of an attack is to send the patient to bed, so as to have strength from the beginning.

- Cocaine can relax the patient and make him receptive to treatment.

- As the fever develops, and the strength grows less, light food should be taken at short intervals - water, toast water, barley water, milk and water, light broths not made too strong or too gelatinous.

- If the fever settles in the brain then it is helpful to have the patient repeat his name, and the names of his family, at regular intervals to prevent a complete loss of memory.

- The restlessness or wakefulness in fever is best remedied by

the careful giving of wine or spirit with the food, or in water. No more than one quart a day is to be administered.

- The bed room is to be kept at a temperature of 62 degrees. (They did not explain how to accomplish this in the age before air conditioning.)

- Great care should be taken to keep the bed clean and sweet. This is most easily done by having a second bed in the room, to which the patient can be removed for two or three hours daily, while the other is thoroughly aired and the linen changed.

- All fatigue is to be sedulously avoided. No visitors are to be admitted and no other person but one nurse and one attendant to help her.

- Patient's room never to be left unattended for a moment, as in delirium of fever patient might jump from the bed and injure himself.

- All fireplaces should be carefully cleaned and floors scrubbed with lye ashes.

- All windows in the sick room should be kept closed and shuttered to prevent the night air from entering the patient's lungs.

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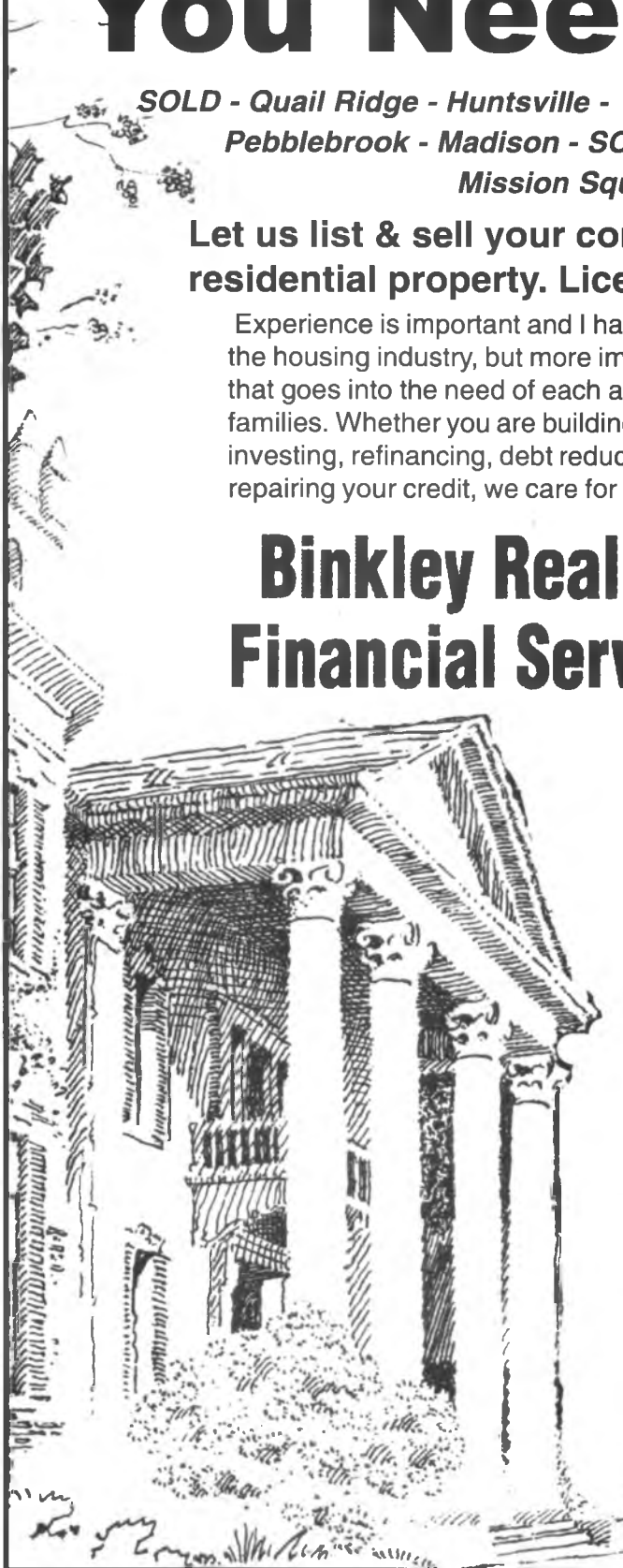
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# The Civil War Letters of Private Robert Richards

*Robert Richards enlisted in the 18th Regiment of the Wisconsin Volunteers in 1861. He was captured at the battle of Shiloh and interned in POW camps until he was exchanged. He then rejoined his regiment which was part of the occupying forces in Huntsville. The following are excerpts from letters he wrote to his sister.*

Miss Caroline Richards  
Jan. 4th, 1864

There is a great excitement here about re-enlisting. We have had orders read to us every evening on dress parade about the bounty pay and the furloughs that are to be granted to veterans. There [are] five or six companies that have nearly all gone into the veteran service. There is but two or three of our Co. going into it. I would not enlist again for three years for all the money I could carry. I think three years of a man's life is enough to give his country. If it is not, at least it is all I can afford to give for it is actually throwing away so much of his life. There is a great many of the boys that are enlisting for the sake of the furlough, but I do not want a furlough of thirty days. bad enough to enlist for two years longer.

One year longer and I shall get a furlough for life to go where and when I please and will not be obliged to live on hard crackers and stinking beans. I have no more to write now and it is almost time for lights to be out. Besides that I have got to go on guard to-

morrow, so I will bid you good night with the request that you will answer this as soon as possible.

from your Brother, Robert Richards

Miss Caroline Richards  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Jan. 20th/64

Dear Sister, I rec'd your letter of the 10th of Jan. night before last, together with four newspapers. The gloves have not yet



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made their appearance and I had about given them up for good till last night one of our boys got a pair of gloves from home that had been on the road six weeks. So I think mine may come yet. If they dont come pretty soon they may stay away, for the cold weather will soon be over with and they will only add to the weight of my knapsack.

I rec'd the stamps you sent to me and they came just in time too for I was just out of stamps.

I see by the papers that you are having some pretty cold weather up in Wisconsin. The coldest day we had here was new years day. I was on guard that day and I thought should freeze. Every one thought the mercury was 10 or 15 degrees below zero, but instead of that, it was 17 degrees above. Where ever it was, it about seems to me I ever suffered more with the cold up north. I suppose the reason is that our blood is in a different state here in this warm climate than it is up north. And another reason why we felt the cold so much was the sudden change. The day before new years

the mercury was up to 70, which I suppose is warmer than you have seen in some time.

Yesterday morning we got up and found the ground covered with snow to the depth of half an inch, which is the deepest snow we have had this winter and that all disappeared before night. The weather has not been very cold for the past few days, but the weather is so changeable that you can make no calculations on it. One day it will be froze up tight as a drum, and the next too warm to wear a coat. I have tried to draw an overcoat but have not succeeded yet, and if I dont get it pretty soon I will not get any at all for if I cant send it home, I shall have to throw it away if we have any marching to do.

I wish you could take a walk through the town and see some of the gardens and walks in front of some of the dwellings in this place. You never read a description of any such things that can beat these gardens here. I dont know the names of the trees and shrubbery. They are green now as they are in summer. Some gar-

dens have got marble statues. They are enclosed with a handsome iron fence. Inside is a hedge as high as the fence. It is trimmed so that it looks like a green wall about two feet thick. The houses are not as good as they are up north. there is quite a number of citizens here, more than I have seen in any

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other town in the south. There are niggers here without number and they have a dance about every night. The other night I was on guard and we went to a dance to get some boys that were there. The black cusses had been dancing some time and got pretty well warmed up. I guess I have wrote enough for this time, so I will quit. write often as you can.

Robert Richards

Huntsville Ala Jan. 27th 1864

Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 15th last night. I came off of guard this morning and will not have to drill till this afternoon and I improve the few leisure hours by writing to you and Charley if I have time. and if I dont I must take time, as you say, for I have neither written to him or heard from him since we have been here. I am glad that mother is going to get her state money for there is no show for our getting paid very soon. The Veterans are getting discouraged about getting home. There dont seem to be any show for there getting home till next summer and I can see by the way they talk that they are sorry they enlisted and I dont blame them, for I no I should regret of it if I had been such a fool.

You and mother need not trouble about my reenlisting. I am as anxious to get out as any one can be and I intend to go out west

and get me a farm when I do get out and then I think I can enjoy myself first rate and you and mother could too.

The rebs are hovering around us here. Our cavelry scouts have had a few skirmishes with them. The rebel Gen. Roddy took a town called Athens the other day. Yesterday our cavelry went out there captured 400 rebs and drove the rest across the river, so I guess now they will let us alone a little while. The rebs are deserting and coming in here every day. They take the oath of alleigeance and go north. The most of them live in Tennessee and Kentucky and some in this state.

We are having fine weather here. it is almost as warm here now as it is up north in the summer. We do not have any fire in our room and it is too warm to be comfortable then.

We have had to live on short rations since we have been here, but they have got the bridge finished at Brownsboro and the [railroad] cars are expected in here today, so I expect after this we shall get the mail regular besides getting full rations, which is a matter of great

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importance to soldiers. I have finally come to the conclusion that the gloves mother sent to me are lost, for have certainly had time to get here if they were coming.

I got the two newspapers and extra [edition] night before last, that mother sent me.

I have no more to write now, so good bye. write as soon as you can and let me know how you are getting along.

Whitesburg Alabama  
Sunday, June 12th 1864  
Dear Sister,

I rec'd your letter of the 5th night before last and yesterday morning I went on picket, so I could not answer it untill today. I am very glad to hear that you are going to school, which I hope you will continue to do every day this summer that it is possible for you to go. I am glad to see you improve in writing as you have since you wrote the letter before this. And if you are getting along as fast with your other studies, you will soon have a good education.

I have not rec'd a letter from Charley since he left home but I suppose he is waiting till they get

into camp. We were paid the fourth of this month. I sent mother ten dollars that day, which she has rec'd by this time I suppose. The sixth I sent her another letter with twenty dollars in it and the same day I sent Jim Roberts five dollars. If mother gets the thirty dollars I sent her and gets her state money, it might make you comfortable for some time or untill I get my pay again.

Today it has been raining ever since 5 o'clock. but that is nothing strange for this country, for it has rained every day for the last two weeks and it looks as if it would rain six or eight weeks longer.

We were on picket yesterday on the bank of the river and I and another

of Co. E set a lot of fish hooks, but nary fish did we catch, but to make up for it we caught four soft shelled turtles and we cleaned one and fixed him for supper. It tasted exactly like fish. We got one a few days before and boiled it and it

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tasted so near like chicken that you could not tell the difference. When I get home I am going to catch every one I can find and have you cook them. You ought to see the peices of meat squirm when you put them into a pan and put salt on them. But it is getting dark and I must stop writing. Write as soon as you can and let me know how you are getting along at school and tell me too how Fred is getting along at school.

Your brother, R. Richards

In Camp near Stevenson June 29th 1864

I rec'd your letter of the 19th night before last. We did not expect to stay here longer than that night, but we are going to stay here till tonight. We are then going to Stevenson, take the [rail] cars and go to the front—or as some say (and I hope it is true) guard some place on the railroad. I am glad you are getting along so well at school. I did not suppose Fred was getting along so well as he is in reading and arithmetic. I think as you do, that the reason he does not learn to write faster is because he is left-handed, but I think he will soon get over that. if he is obliged to leave school, you might get copies for him and have him practice writing at home so that he will not forget what little he learns at school. I am glad mother had that hay cut, for it will go a little way towards wintering the cattle next winter.

I think I shall write to Charley

today, but I hardly know where to direct it to for they say our men have left Baton Rouge. The day before we left Huntsville I went over where the 6th Wis. Battery was camped and found an old friend there. It was Bill Harrington. He belongs to that Battery and the Battery belongs to our Brigade, so we shall not be far apart where ever we go. He came down here last Jan. and was there at the court house lots of times to see the boys and I never happened to come across him till just before we left Huntsville and I shouldnt have found him then if it hadnt been for Ed McDougal. They say there has been an order just issued to muster out all non-veterans three years from date of enlistment. So next new year you can calculate I am making tracks for Wisconsin. Six months more. It looks a great way off and our going to the front makes it look darker still, but I dont know but our prospects are

as bright as they were last fall. We got through without the loss of a man and we may this fall. There is one thing sure - the reg't will go home this fall and if we go home with the reg't we shall have a better time yet.

I can think of no more to write now, so good bye. Write as soon as possible.

Soon afterwards Private Richards was wounded in the knee cap during a skirmish near Huntsville. He spent the rest of the war in a Federal hospital at Jeffersonville, Indiana.

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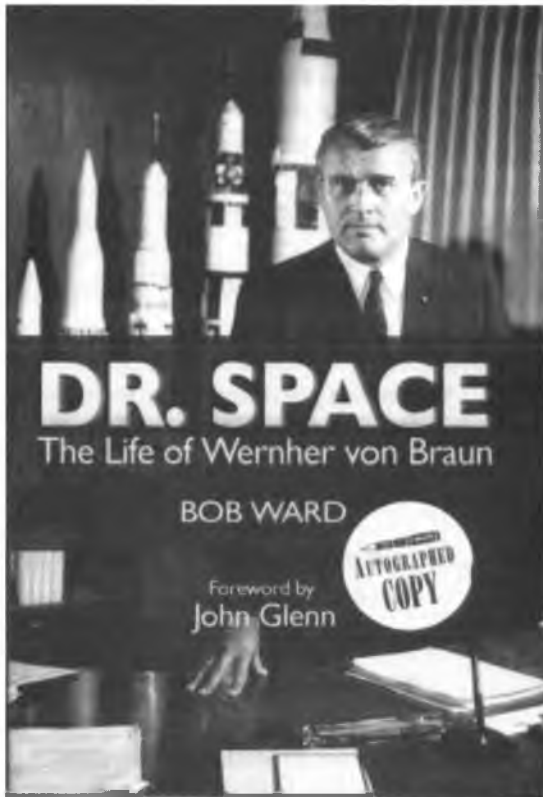
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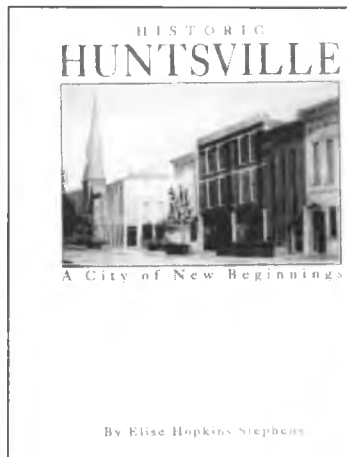
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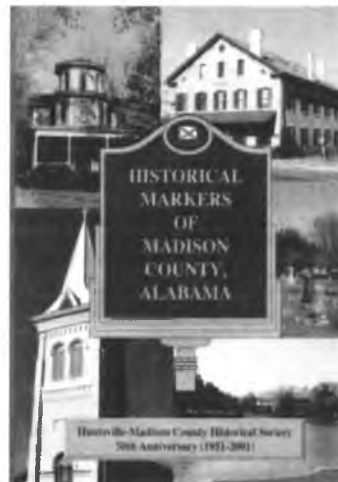
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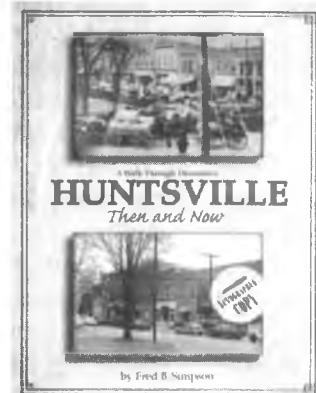
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# Ready For Another Accident

from 1879 Huntsville paper

Thos. Whitely, the Louisville & Nashville brakeman who was hurt last Sunday by falling from a moving freight train near Decatur, was out again yesterday.

His experience lately has been quite varied. He is a youth about 20 years old, and has been employed for some time by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company. About six weeks ago, as the train on which he was riding crossed the river, he was knocked from the side of the caboose as he was climbing up the ladder. He fell into the water and swam to shore, where he fell insensible.

The train stopped and took him to Huntsville, where he remained lingering between life and death for three weeks.

He was then taken to the Nashville infirmary and had just recovered and gone to work where he fell from the car at Cunningham, bruised and cut his

head and sprained his knee. He is now walking with a hickory stick, and will be ready for another accident in a few days.

**"Democracy is a great thing, except for that part about letting just any old yokel vote."  
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## Court News From 1903

There was little happening in the court yesterday. The same regular customers were fined the same amounts. Afterwards the judge went fishing.

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# Memories

by Jim Harris

Huntsville had a mass transit system when I grew up in the thirties and forties. It was still going strong when my family moved out into the county in 1946.

Actually, the part of Lincoln Village I grew up in was still in the county in 1946. The city limits were about halfway between Oakwood Avenue and 5-Points, as I remember. We still were not more than a mile from downtown.

The transit system was probably the best public service this city has ever had. It was also affordable, even in those days. A nickel or dime is all I ever remember paying for a ride downtown. If a kid had a quarter, he could go to a movie, at least at the Elk Theatre, have a Coke, a bag of popcorn and ride the bus downtown. If a candy bar or ice cream cone was more important, he could walk. I don't remember riding the bus back home that often. It could be that I seldom saw a coin larger than a quarter. Even then, a quarter would buy only so much.

The route my bus took ran north on Meridian Street to Oakwood Avenue. Right on Oakwood Avenue to Andrew Jackson Way (Lee Highway at the time). Then right on Andrew Jackson to downtown. The buses ran often enough that to miss one meant only a short wait until the next one. If you were in a big hurry, you could probably walk fast and beat it.

Somewhere along the way something went wrong. When the masses got scattered out around downtown as far as the eye can see, we got rid of the mass transit system. But then, we also got rid of many good reasons to go downtown. I suppose whoever was in charge of the system decided that if a bus doesn't go downtown it may as well go nowhere. That was especially true of Saturdays.

Saturday downtown was similar to First Monday in Scottsboro. It was especially important to people out in the county. Farmers usually worked six days a week but

**You can just tell it's not going to be a good day when your internet date turns out to be your ex-wife.**

*Jerry Springfield, Arab*



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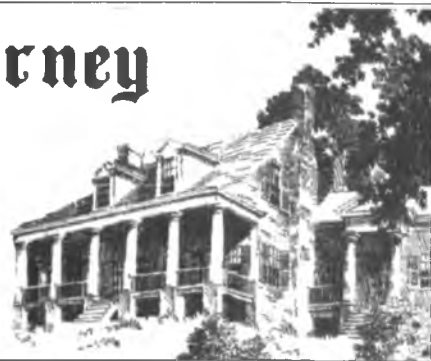
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when they went to town, it was usually on a Saturday. The Square didn't play a role in my life until we moved out into the county. My folks would allow us to go off on our own, but when time came to leave, we met at the courthouse. Everything took place around the Square. You could buy, sell or trade anything. When trading something, though, the goal was not a fair or even trade, but one of the traders had to make a better deal than the other. You could ask each trader who got the best deal and each would say he did. Even things that couldn't be displayed publicly were sold.

I remember one man who always had a bag of something. He always hung out around the men's bathroom, and never approached kids - only men. I never did see what that guy was selling.

My favorite downtown activity took place around the Big Spring. I always admired the fish. I fished a lot after we moved out into the county, but never caught nor did I ever see anyone else catch fish as big as those in the Big Spring. The Big Spring really was the "Big Spring" back then. Big enough

that workers had to go out in a rowboat to clear out millfoil and seaweed.

The area from the Spring up to the street on the East side of the Square was a grassy slope where one could enjoy a picnic or just look at the natural scenery. That place was as beautiful as any in the country. Many people enjoyed it. Now, however, most people just travel through, and then, only if it's a short cut from where they want to be and they can't find a parking space down below.

We don't need to stop progress but as beautiful as downtown Huntsville is now, the area around the Big Spring doesn't compare to the beauty that the Creator first gave it. I hate that part of progress.

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**George Carlin**

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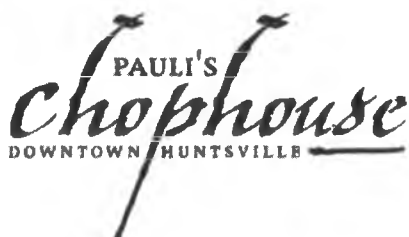
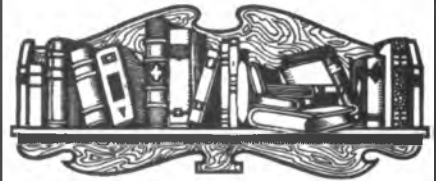
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# Dullsville

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About six months after moving here Billy Joe received a call from an old colleague who worked on the editorial desk for Webster's Dictionary in New York City. After exchanging the appropriate pleasantries the friend asked how the local news was going.

"Dullsville!" replied Billy. "The most exciting news we had last week was the school board meeting."

His friend, a stickler for proper verbiage, replied, "Billy, there ain't no such word as dullsville."

"There is if you try to cover hard news in Huntsville, Alabama," came the reply.

In about eight months a package came in the mail from his friend at the publishing company. It contained a new edition of "Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary," with a note attached instructing him to look on page 388 for "dullsville":

"Dullsville, dull + sville (as in Huntsville) slang: something or some place that is dull or boring; also: boredom."

*Editor's Note: Don't believe this one? Get a copy of Webster's Ninth Collegiate Dictionary, and look it up yourself.*

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# News From The Year 1924

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Woodrow Wilson Dead

#### 28th. President Dies In His Sleep

Woodrow Wilson is dead, a shattered man with a shattered dream. The wartime President died in his sleep this morning at his home in Washington. Outside, hundreds of persons had kept a solemn vigil throughout much of the night.

Death came in a third floor bedroom where for years after leaving the White House he had sat quietly, looking out upon a city in which he had known joyous triumphs as well as bitter defeats. Just days ago, he told a friend: "I am a broken piece of machinery. When the machinery is broken..."

As the 28th president, he guided the nation through an impressive series of progressive domestic reforms and the war in Europe, and had later worked for his fondest dream, the creation of the League of Nations "to make the

world safe for democracy." With Senate refusal to allow U.S. participation in the League, his health began declining. To some, he seemed as much a casualty of war as the men who died on the battlefields of Europe.

### King Tut Tomb Opened

Today, a 3,300-year-old silence was shattered by gasps of wonderment as the golden mummy case of King Tutankhamen was revealed. Howard Carter and his team of Egyptologists have labored months for this moment. Scientists and dignitaries, told that Tutankhamen's sarcophagus would now be uncovered, flocked

immediately to Luxor, Egypt. Many stood in the stifling heat outside the pharaoh's tomb for the privilege of being among the first viewers.

The sarcophagus lid, carved of heavy granite, was hoisted with a tackle. Lights were aimed inside the casket. Carter rolled back a linen shroud to display a gold life-size figure clutching a scepter against its breast. A wilted wreath of olive leaves encircled its brow, a gilded serpent embraced its temples. The eyes, lifelike and lustrous, were chiseled crystal. For some scientists, the real beauty is yet to be seen: the mummified remains of the boy-king within.

It is expected to take years to evaluate the mummy.

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The landmark broadcast is being hailed as an example of the power of radio to link peoples around the globe. Latest figures indicate there are nearly 800 stations broadcasting in the United States and that many as five million American homes now have radio receivers.

## Hitler Out of Prison

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Adolf Hitler, the German Nazi leader who tried to topple the government in a beer hall coup, was paroled today after serving just eight months in prison. The original sentence was five years, and even that was considered lenient.

## Electrocardiograph wins Nobel Peace Prize for Developer

Dutch physiologist Willem Einthoven has won the Nobel Prize in medicine for his invention of the electrocardiograph.

In the early 1900's, Einthoven constructed an electrocardiograph that was sufficiently sensitive and reliable to detect and record accurately the variations in electrical impulses associated with the human heartbeat. Then he used the recording, or electrocardiogram, for diagnosing various types of heart disease. Einthoven's electrocardiograph, which weighed more than 600 pounds, was simplified. Then it was manufactured in quantity and sent to different parts of the world.

The Nobel Committee did not distribute the Peace Prize nor the prize in chemistry. The Polish inventor Vladislav Stanislas Reymond was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature.

It is not known yet what effect this might have on treatment of heart diseases in the future. One doctor says it has the potential to save thousands of lives a year.

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# The Life of William Bradford Huie

by Jon Jackson

He was shunned by his neighbors, called a traitor by his friends and threatened by the Ku Klux Klan. Fellow writers accused him of checkbook journalism. Despite this, William Bradford Huie, a son of the Tennessee Valley, became one of the greatest writers of his period.

To the Huie family, there was no greater place to be in the world than the South. William's grandfather fought in the Civil War with General Pickett, charging with him at Gettysburg. Later he regretted fighting for the Confederacy, saying, "It was a poor man's fight but a rich man's war."

When William Bradford Huie was born, on November 13, 1910, his mother was determined that he would have something better than the hard scrabble existence so common to the people of that era. From an early age, while many children in the small north Alabama town of Hartselle played in the red dirt, she pushed her son to excel in academics.

In the 1930s Alabama was becoming a different place than it had been. The University of Alabama was originally conceived to be an institution of higher learning for the sons of wealthy Southern planters. If Huie had gone to the university a decade earlier, he would have found it full of the "right people" from Alabama and other parts of the South. There he would have seen a student body where race and family mattered more than ability. But at the beginning of the Depression, the financially strapped university had begun advertising in Northern newspapers and magazines. Rich Northern liberals, progressives,

and socialists (many of them Jewish) sent their children south seeking an education bargain. Into this diverse mix strode a young Bill Huie.

During his freshman year Bill published his first article in *True* magazine. There and then he knew he wanted to be a writer. Upon graduating in 1933, Huie took a position with the Birmingham Post Herald. There he saw firsthand a darker side of the

South. While racial issues played a part in city politics, what he saw could be best described as the corruption inherent in any political structure.

During this time he also began working for the *American Mercury*, a famous literary magazine of the period (which he would eventually own). He also married his high school sweetheart, Ruth Puckette, and wrote his first novel *Mud on the Stars* during this time. Based on events in his life, the story centers around a family forced off their land by TVA during the Depression and on a young man who goes to the University of Alabama during the 1930s. Things went

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well for the young Huie for the rest of the decade, until the outbreak of the war.

As it was for most young men of his generation, the Second World War would prove to be a pivotal event in his life. He enlisted in the Navy shortly after the outbreak of the war. Bill's previous work led to his recognition by an Admiral who saw the talent in the young sailor. Promoted to officer status, Bill traveled with the Admiral and wrote propaganda about the Seabees and other units under the Admiral's command. During his time in the Navy the young officer wrote a series of monographs. *The Fight for Air Power*, *Seabee Roads to Victory*, *Can Do!: The Story of the Seabees*; *From Omaha to Okinawa: The Story of the Seabees*; and *The Case Against the Admirals: Why We Must*

*Have a Unified Command* rolled off his typewriter to a public eager to hear about the victories of war.

According to Huie, William Faulkner had told him years before that publishers often took advantage of writers and that he should take care of money first. Faulkner went on to say that the only work he wrote that made money was about a prostitute. In 1951 Huie published *The Revolt of Mamie Stover*, the story of a white Southern girl in Hawaii who industrialized prostitution by having a system of booths where she could put customers and then go from booth to booth servicing them. Based on a true story, it was an instant best seller, and in 1956 Twentieth Century Fox made it into a movie.

In 1953 he wrote *The Execution of Private Slovik*, the story

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of the only soldier executed since the Civil War for desertion. There he detailed how the Army used a marginally retarded draftee and petty criminal to set an example.

After the war, Huie moved to New York, where he hosted the nationally broadcast interview show, *Chronoscope*. When the show made the transition to television Huie did so too. But Huie missed the South, and in the mid 1950s he moved back to his native Tennessee Valley.

Barbara Thomas, writing for the *Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, commented that Huie's writing "dealt with subjects other authors trying to make a living considered too hot to handle." Huie's subject matter and research methods were beginning to be considered explosive. But the best was yet to come.

In 1954, while on assignment for *Look Magazine*, Huie began one of the most controversial phases of his career. In 1953 Emmett Till, a young black boy

from Chicago visiting relatives in Mississippi, was brutally murdered (supposedly for whistling at a white woman) by two white men and his body tossed in the Tallahatchie river. When Till's mother insisted that the funeral be an open casket affair so that the world could see what the murderers had done to him, the case became an international phenomenon as television cameras took the images around the world. Yet in Mississippi, the speedy trial resulted in the acquittal of the accused murderers.

Huie had already learned the power of money in researching stories. In late 1953 he took a "suitcase full of cash" to Mississippi and bought the rights to the case. Huie later said, "I liked fifties and twenties, not hundreds. You take that much cash and spread it out in front of them, men who had never seen that much money before in their lives, and they **couldn't** not talk." The men had already been tried and found

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not guilty so they couldn't be tried again. As Huie stacked the money in front of them, they told the whole story.

But Huie never trusted the men he paid for their stories. At night he would meet them in their lawyer's offices, and by day he talked to others. If the others would not verify the stories, he would go back and insist that the two tell the truth. The technique worked, and in January of 1954 he published *Wolf Whistle* and set his reputation as a checkbook journalist and as someone to be trusted to tell the truth.

If Huie wanted to become a hero of the civil rights movement, he failed. During the uproar over the case, the civil rights movement made much of the fact that Till's father had died while enlisted in the Army defending America and freedom only to have his son murdered back home. Yet during the war Huie had come across information about a cemetery in Europe, used by the Army to bury soldiers convicted by court martial and executed for crimes like rape and murder. One of the soldiers buried in that graveyard turned out to be Emmett Till's father. When Huie published this, it caused a firestorm in the civil rights movement, many thinking he had sold out to the segregationists.

In 1956, Zora Neale Hurston, a frequent contributor to *American Mercury* and a prominent black author, contacted Huie about a story that could have eas-

ily ignited a racial powder keg in Suwannee County, Florida. Huie went to Florida to get the facts on the story. While there, he began uncovering things many thought best left alone. Judge Hal Adams became so incensed at Huie that he cited him for contempt. Even though it was primarily for trying to influence a psychiatrist brought in by the prosecution, everyone knew the real reason was embarrassing the locals.

Whatever the case, in 1956 Huie published *Ruby McCollum: Woman in the Suwannee Jail*. There he revealed the story of a black housekeeper torn between her husband, who threatened to shoot her if she had another white baby, and her lover, prominent white physician and senator-elect Dr. Leroy Adams, who threatened to shoot her if she aborted his child. McCollum chose to murder her lover. To keep her from speaking to the press, local authorities kept her in jail, allowing her to speak only to her attorneys and immediate family. Yet Huie, by spreading cash in the right places,



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managed to get the story out.

From '59 to '63, Huie published four books about or related to the war. *The Americanization of Emily; The Hero of Iwo Jima, and Other Stories; Hotel Mamie Stover; and The Hiroshima Pilot* each became national best-sellers. By this time he had become one of the most famous writers in the country. Despite this, his earlier books dealing with civil rights had made him a pariah in the segregated south. Repeated threats from the Klan caused him to install floodlights outside his homes and neighbors whom he had known all his life shunned him. "Now I had to sleep with one eye open and one hand on my automatic shotgun," he later said.

By 1964 controversy over his books had just about died down when he got a late night call from Joseph Carter, an editor at the *New York Herald Tribune*, asking if he would look into a story about three civil rights workers who were missing in Mississippi. Three young men - two New Yorkers and a Negro from Meridian - had been jailed briefly before being released but hadn't been heard from since.

In spite of his reluctance he again loaded up with money and headed to Mississippi. After forty-four days of searching, the FBI had found the bodies of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner buried in an earthen dam but it was Huie, with his

southern accent and fifty dollar bills, who got the inside story. The result of Huie's investigation was a scoop for the *Tribune* and his best-seller, *Three Lives for Mississippi* set records in book stores all across the country


Huie came under increasing attacks for his use of checkbook journalism. Many writers felt it was unethical. Huie said he didn't like paying murderers for their stories, but "I just didn't know any other way to get them to talk." He also pointed out that the FBI spent far more money than he did and didn't get anywhere near the results.

In 1967 Huie published his most explosive story to date, the novel *The Klansman*.

Set in Alabama shortly after the 1965 Selma march, the novel told how the Klan maintained its power through violence and coercion, as well as by the acquiescence of many otherwise decent Southerners. The Ku Klux Klan became outraged, burning crosses in his yard and terrorizing his family. Huie asked then-

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Longtime friend and fellow writer Barbara Thomas once asked Huie why he remained in the South. "For all the things I've said about the South," he replied, "I'm proud of what is good. It's the demagogues of the South, the hatemongers, I hold in contempt."

On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was killed on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. When James Earl Ray was captured two months later and charged with the murder, Huie wanted the story. Going to Ray's lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes Sr., Huie offered \$40,000 and a share of the royalties for exclusive rights to the story behind the death of the civil rights leader. Hanes, with no one else to pay his legal fees, agreed and got Ray to sign off on the deal. In spite of a gag order, Huie had Hanes smuggle questions in for Ray to answer. When the answers came back Huie went to work verifying the story.

Ray's story was a convoluted affair centering on a shadowy figure he called 'Raoul'. According to Ray, Raoul recruited him for various criminal activities, from smuggling to burglary all the while setting Ray up to be the patsy for the King murder. Ray said in his letters to Huie that he believed Raoul was working for someone else. But even from the

start Ray's story began to change. At first Raoul worked for black activists who didn't believe King was radical enough. Then it was the U.S. government. In fact, as soon as Huie closed one avenue for the story, Ray went down another.

Again, Huie pulled out his suitcase full of money and traveled across the country gathering background information. He had members of Ray's family flown to Huntsville where he interviewed them extensively.

Huie, working on the information from Ray, began writing a series of stories for *Look Magazine*. In the first two articles he detailed how Ray was a participant (though an unknown participant) in a conspiracy to kill Dr. King. But, as he delved into Ray's story he began to have doubts. Ray had switched lawyers by this time, hiring Percy Foreman

and infuriating Huie who had an exclusive contract with Ray's first lawyer.

Huie, nevertheless, negotiated another contract with Foreman, giving him exclusive rights and the attorney a percentage of any future publishing deals. After talking with Huie, Foreman convinced Ray he had no chance of acquittal, and that his only hope was to plead guilty for a life sentence.

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Ray would plead guilty, Huie, in the third and final article for *Look* magazine, retracted his first two stories and wrote that Ray was the lone assassin. The day before Ray was to be sentenced, however, Foreman received word that Ray was about to change his story and plead innocent. This was the worst possible news for Huie.

Huie's exclusive rights to the story (which he had spent \$40,000 of his own money to acquire) would have been wasted if the case had gone to trial. The evidence for the case would have become public domain and Huie, his credibility already having suffered for his retraction of the two previous stories, would have lost everything. Any potential book contract, based on a guilty plea, would have also been worthless.

According to several published sources a series of frantic telephone calls were held between Huie and Foreman before the attorney rushed to the Memphis jail

to confront Ray. The exact nature of the conversation is not known but in the end Ray reluctantly agreed to the deal. Many people believed, and still believe, that Huie's check book was the deciding factor.

Whatever the case it is true that Huie, having paid the legal fees, had inordinate control over the outcome of the trial, in the opinion of many.

On March 10, 1969 Ray stood before Judge Preston Battle and admitted that he had "fired a shot from the second floor bathroom of the rooming house and fatally wounded Dr. Martin Luther King who was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel." Ray also waived his right to trial. In return for this plea, the judge sentenced

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him to 99 years in prison. Soon after, however, Ray filed an appeal to have the sentence overturned.

*He Slew the Dreamer*, published in 1970, represents the high water mark of Huie's career. After the Ray book and the way some felt he manipulated the outcome of stories, many publishing houses found reasons not to work with him. His fortunes declining as he tended to his ailing wife, Huie published only three more books during his lifetime. On November 22, 1986, Huie was found slumped over his desk, the victim of an apparent heart attack.

In his lifetime William Bradford Huie wrote twenty-one books with over 28 million copies in print. Today he is virtually forgotten in his native Tennessee Valley.

*Jon Jackson is a professional writer working in Huntsville. His daily column, The AM, can be read at [www.seerocketcity.com](http://www.seerocketcity.com). Comments can be sent to: [Jon.Jackson@seerocketcity.com](mailto:Jon.Jackson@seerocketcity.com)*

## Old Huntsville Trivia

1883 - Wes Brown is abducted from the County jail and lynched on the northwest corner of the Court house lawn. He had been accused of the axe murder of William Street, a Huntsville policeman.

1888 - First newspaper published in New Market. One of the first editions related W.F. Laxon's comment that "lightning struck my popcorn field and popped every grain of it."

1901 - President William McKinley visits Huntsville, where he is given a new shittam wood walking stick. Five months later he would be assassinated.

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# The Perfect Mint Julep

by Ron Eyestone

Summer is upon us and rumor has it that several springs (water type springs, that is) played a role for Huntsville back in the late 1800's. One spring, up around Lynchburg, Tennessee, was judged by a certain Mr. Jack Daniels to contain the perfect amount of lime from its limestone source to make a palatable sipping whiskey. Another spring in Huntsville was found to be amenable to the wild growth of a certain kind of plant known as spring mint. It is only natural that these two fine spring products should find a way to complement each other.

Now few folks agree on how to properly prepare these wonderful ingredients for maximum human enjoyment. (It's rumored that some backwards people even used peach brandy, but I largely discount that for all who had access to these perfectly matched spring products.) In Huntsville, back around 1890, these two ingredients were combined in the following manner.

Dissolve two lumps of sugar in enough water to form a sort of thick syrup. Crush several sprigs

of tender mint shoots in a glass until most of the mint flavor has been extracted. Remove the mint from the glass. (This is done so that you don't end up straining mint pieces through your teeth.) Fill the glass with cracked ice and pour in the amount of Mr. Daniel's product you desire. Let this combination sit and become thoroughly chilled. Add the heavy sugar syrup and stand a few more moments. stir the mixture, it will blend by itself.) Place a few sprigs of fresh mint at the rim of the glass and serve immediately.

I personally do not believe the old tales that it was after several of these Mint Juleps that the cow Lily Flagg got her name.

**"When a man's best friend is his dog, that dog has a problem."**

*Edward Abbey*

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Rather than relocate many miles of track across several mountains in this Tennessee Valley area, and span the Tennessee River with a bridge, the N.C. and St. L's riverboat railroad was begun.

It took about four hours to travel 22 miles.

## Stealing Watermelons

by Jim Harris

One summer evening, a group of boys in the Merrimack Mill Village decided to steal some watermelons from a nearby patch, as boys are apt to do.

The patch was in the backyard of one of the village houses, up close to the house. As the boys sneaked into the yard, the owner of the patch was inside the house - windows open - and heard the raiders making their assault on the much desired melons.

The man watched while the leader, a boy named Jack, walked

into the middle of the patch. Jack spotted a particularly interesting melon and decided to test it for ripeness - because there's no sense in stealing a melon that's not ripe.

Jack leaned over and thumped the smooth, green rind. Just as Jack thumped, the owner flipped on the back porch light. In a panic, Jack stood up and yelled to his partners in crime,

"Run for it boys, he's got 'em wired!"

**"Carlos was absent from school yesterday because he was playing football. He was hurt in the growing part."**

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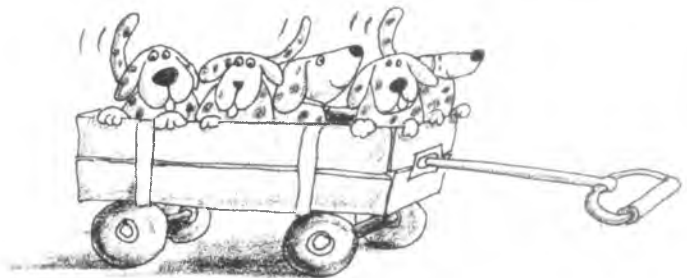
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# Remembering The 1955 Celebration

by Malcolm Miller

I remember well when Huntsville celebrated its one hundred fiftieth birthday. Huntsville was still a small town. You knew almost everyone. You met on Washington Street on Saturdays and all the stores, especially the ten-cent stores, were thriving with shoppers or just lookers.

I was working at the local shoe factory at wages barely above the poverty level, but we were very much involved in the sesquicentennial celebration. The men were involved in Chapters of Brothers of the Brush, because every man had to either grow a beard or buy a license to shave. Believe me you had better do one or the other or suffer the consequences. There was a pond behind the shoe fac-

tory and just about every day some one was thrown into the pond, kicking and yelling, because they had shaved without a license.

Downtown they would have competitions of various kinds between the different chapters. One I remember was a tug of war between my chapter and another one. The side that lost was pulled into the water. One fellow broke and run, but they caught him after he ran all the way up the hill to the First National Bank, then they drug him kicking and protesting back down and tossed him unceremonially into the water.

Let me say here that the ladies had their own chapters and dressed in long dresses and bonnets. Their activities were many, however I cannot recall all they did.

I wore a black top hat, string tie, and black coat and carried a cane. In this get up I looked like an ugly Abe Lincoln with a scraggly beard.

To illustrate how much things have changed in fifty years, I have

a group picture made of all the employees of the shoe plant and believe it or not, only three women were brave enough to wear pants to work.

Nineteen fifty-five stands out in my memory for another reason, Mr. Louis Collier, then postmaster of Huntsville, hired both my brother Frank and I to be letter carriers. In this position I witnessed Huntsville's fast growth first hand as new streets, subdivisions, the parkway and shopping centers were built. I was twenty eight years old fifty years ago and I never thought I would still be around to celebrate the bicentennial. However, I am, and I feel very fortunate to have lived these years and have seen the enormous growth and prosperity in the city of Huntsville.

**"Just for today, I will not sit in my living room all day watching TV. Instead, I will move my TV into the bedroom."**

*Jenny Ferguson, Arab*

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# Remember When?

by Johnny Johnston

This past month the Butler 1955 graduating class held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion at the Bevill Center. The talk of the night was not so much how we had changed. It was how the city and surrounding community had changed. Remember, the 1955 class was located at the present location of Stone Middle School at the intersection of Clinton and Triana. What most people don't know is we were in the Madison County school system. Consider that the school was just slightly over 1 mile from the County Court House and outside of the city limits!

Some of us were students at Lincoln in the early years before the Parkway was built. Meridian Street was the north-south highway so we would watch the traf-

fic coming in from Tennessee. Sometimes there would be snow on the cars and Huntsville was dry! Since that was part of the Florida Short Route, we saw license plates from all over. At that point most of us had never been out of Alabama at all and didn't know if north was a destination or direction.

Highway 72 was very narrow and had multiple curves coming down from Chapman Mountain. I remember a tree that grew very large on the corner of Oakwood and Lee Highway, (now Interstate 565), which was involved in a large number of accidents.

Brakes were not really reliable in those days and many automobiles tried to climb the tree trunk. Several passengers were lost by those collisions.

When I was very small my mother gained ownership to her father's farm in Lacey's Spring, just across the Tennessee River in Morgan County. That first year, 1946, we did things only she had done before, we farmed. I was only 9 years old but all the family pitched in to raise a few vegetables, pick a few wild plums and really get the lay of that land. My grandfather, James Thomas Buck, had come down from

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Sparta, TN about the turn of the century and began "truck" farming on rented land in Lacey. Lacey is how the family identified the area. He bought 30 acres from his brother-in-law W. T. Oakes, who lived just down the road around 1924 and moved his family onto his very own property for the first time. During 1946-1949 Mother had an opportunity to teach her children just a little of what she had learned as a child.

A few years before mother passed away in 1993 she asked to go back to Lacey and find a farm where her family was sharecropping in about 1915. She said there was a big sinkhole just back of the house where they lived where a calf once got trapped. We found the depression ok, but now it was in the center of a new housing development.

When she had been married about 2 1/2 years (she must have been 18) she told about walking with her only son who was 18 months, up the old road from Lacey to Cotaca which is 3 miles west of Morgan City. They had arranged to get a cow from someone who lived there, and having no means of transportation, had to walk. Mom left just after daylight she said, and walked past the Lipscomb Cemetery and climbed up the road to Brindlee

Mountain. That old road was still there in 1946. It wound around the northwest side of the mountain arriving on top near where the WRSA tower is now located. They got there around "Dinner time" ate the bread they carried with them then walked back to Lacey. I also remember her walking us to "the Lacey Spring" which was somewhere back of the then U. S. Post Office. The Post Office was located on the south side of Highway 36. facing the entrance to the old section of Lacey. That included the Hough property and the original road.

I remember mother about this time relating how her family trav-

eled to see her Uncle Odie and Aunt Lulu McMurtrie who lived in Monrovia. I visited there a few times before they passed away and remember the farm well. It was a huge place with hired help to plant and harvest the cotton. They were a very prosperous family, worked hard, raised a large family and were very respected. My Great Uncle Odie gave Lloyd and I a beautiful little white Spitz Puppy. Now that entire farm is covered with new and very expensive homes.

Mother said that her family would get up before daylight, pack enough food for "Dinner", load up the wagon and head out



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very early. They would cross the Tennessee River at Ditto Landing sometime later and continue up the road through Huntsville. In Huntsville they came out on the Athens Highway and right into Monrovia. At that time Monrovia Rd. was the Huntsville - Athens road, and unpaved until 1930. Usually they would arrive about mid afternoon, spend the night then head back with the mules and wagon the next day. Ironically, I now live on Russell Hill in the exact spot where that old road passed over the hill. I am told that when the mail came in from Athens, the wagon would stop on the east slope of the hill and the driver blew a horn to let the Postmaster know he was on his way.

To those of us who grew up with "lunch". In those days there was "Breakfast, Dinner and Supper". I read something the other day that said Supper was just a small dinner. Don't think that's what it meant back then.

I remember my mother telling a story about an uncle of hers who was the first to get an automobile. He decided to make that trip across the Tennessee and come to Huntsville. He, my Grandfather and most farmers from Lacey spent Saturday on the Square in Huntsville but this was his first trip by car. He got so excited while driving his car onto the Ferry he forgot where the brakes were. He kept bouncing off the retainer chain and yelling "whoa mule" until the engine died.

Mother saw her first car in



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1918. It belonged to a Doctor who made a house call at the Oakes home. Mother was afraid at first but the Doctor offered her a ride home, which she accepted. She said it was a black two door T-Model Ford.

That summer I was left to prowl the countryside in Lacey with the Thomas boy from up the road. Fred, my older brother, plowed with "old Jack", a mule dad bought at the Auction on Oakwood. When we first brought him home Fred tried to ride him like Gene Autry (Fred is a Gene Autry Fan), but he was tossed aside like some unwanted bug. I remember making remarks like "old Jack has rock feet", stepping on two snakes in one week and generally making a nuisance of myself.

One of my favorite parts of the farm was the well! We were able to draw cool water from way down in the ground and magically open the end of that big round bucket and watch the water run out. I especially liked making dams in the ditches and watching the water either puddle up behind or wash the dam away during a good rain. And there were Pine trees. A large thicket where I was often found climbing to the top and getting covered with Pine tar.

Now that area too is covered with homes, cars and other modern conveniences.

So many roads in and around Huntsville have changed direction and location over my lifetime that

I hardly remember how some of them were. Governor's Drive (then 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) only went from Triana to Madison Street. If you wanted to go across Monte Sano you turned right off 5<sup>th</sup> on Harvard then left on Longwood. Longwood crossed Madison as it does now and made several sharp turns before it became Big Cove Road. Coming down was the same route. Many trucks lost their brakes and crashed into the houses that sit behind Harvard on Sewanee. Some homeowners placed barricades in their back yards to help

protect their homes.

Big Cove Road has always been a dangerous highway. About 50 years ago it was widened and straightened some. I remember on the backside of Monte Sano, the road took a turn back into the mountain, made a loop and came back out again. A business was built there called "Buena Vista"; I think it was an eatery and overnight camp.

Fifteen years ago I came upon a picture of Big Cove Road which developed my interest. The picture was made in 1930 from an

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altitude of maybe 5,000 feet. It shows how crooked the road was and the fact that it was not paved. I took that picture to Thurman Drake who was raised in the Big Cove Community from about 1915. He began looking hard at each curve on the picture, each clearing and comparing it to his memory. The homebuilder had an excellent memory. He picked out a clearing on the ridge very close to where the WAFF-transmission tower is now and started his story.

When he and his brothers and sisters were small, they made a regular trip into Huntsville for supplies and to catch up on the big city news. The trip started early in the morning usually on a Saturday with horses and a wagon. They carried water for themselves and the horses, oats for the horses and food for the family. He said "you see this clearing? Right there, that is where we stopped and tied up the horses so they could rest from the climb and be ready to go on down the mountain to Huntsville. We would take care of the horses then eat our food. We would get into Huntsville early afternoon and try to get back home by dark, sometimes camping out overnight in Huntsville".

Mr. Drake has now passed

away, I wish I had talked to him for days, not just an hour.

When I speak to local Civic Clubs or really anyone who is interested, I bring that picture and several others of old Huntsville, which have been enlarged. One of these is a picture made from

an airplane in 1954. It centers on the Old Huntsville Municipal Airport Terminal and the ramp area in front of the terminal. A young U.S. Airforce Pilot, who grew up in north Madison County, was flying over in his B-29 when he decided to land in Huntsville.



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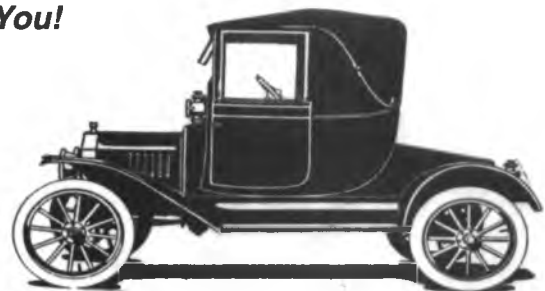
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He did so about midnight and parked on the southeast side of the taxiway, which connected the runways. The B-29 was so large that the wings hung way over both sides of the pavement. This B-29 is why the picture was made. For the airlines to operate it was necessary to taxi in on the north south runway, taxi to the terminal then turn around and go out the same way. The magic of this picture is the surrounding area. The picture shows most of the area from Airport Road north to where Drake road is now. There is no Parkway, no Drake, no buildings along the way, not anything!

During the years I was with Huntsville Air Service, 1953-54-55, Crop dusting was the name of the game, landing sites were places that are not now safe to walk in. One place was on what is now Wall Triana south of I 565 and alongside the railroad track, which crosses Wall Triana. A sharecropper lived there with cotton growing right up to the porch. Joel Williams had a blow out on his plane there while landing to load up with boil weevil poison. On another occasion we landed airplanes on Sunshine Mountain in Madison going up hill. That was a dangerous one.

Roads from Huntsville to Decatur were laid along the sec-

tion lines. It was over 40 miles from the Huntsville Municipal Airport to downtown Decatur before highway 20 was constructed. Highway 20, became an alternate airport for some pilots because it was so straight, level and smooth, not at all what local drivers were

used to!

It would take dozens of these issues to list half the changes in 50 years, even if one person knew all of them. Most have been for the better, but perhaps some have not!



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# He Swore To Tell The Truth

from 1885 newspaper

Mr. Bacon, of Huntsville, was courting a lady in Hartselle. She had refused him frequently and he often repeated his suit. At one interview she became exceedingly annoyed at his importunity, and told him that she could not marry him; that their tastes, opinions, likes and dislikes were totally different.

"In fact," she said, "Mr. Bacon I don't think there is one subject on earth upon which we would agree." "I assure you, madam," he said, "that you are mistaken and I can prove it." "If you can mention one thing about which we agree I will marry you," she returned.

"Well," said he. "I will do it. Suppose, now, you and I were traveling together. We arrive at a hotel, and there only two beds for us. In one there is a man and the other a woman; which bed would you select to sleep in?"

She arose indignantly and replied, "With the woman, of course, sir!"

"Well, there you are," grinning from ear to ear he replied, "So would I!"

## Big In School

Billy was in the third grade of school when the teacher told him he was the biggest in his class. That afternoon Billy told his mother what the teacher said and asked, "Is that because I eat more than everyone else?"

"No, honey", said Mama, "It's because you're eighteen years old."



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## Green King Sentenced to Drink Buttermilk

Green King was a moonshiner. During the 1920s he had the reputation for making some of the best moonshine in Madison County.

Unfortunately, he also liked to drink his own product. Saturdays would find him downtown around the old courthouse square, peddling his wares, and as the sun got higher, so did Green King.

And every weekend he would be arrested, to spend the rest of the weekend in jail.

Finally, the judge, after tiring of seeing King in his court every Monday, asked the defendant why he persisted in drinking.

"Because, your honor," Green replied, "I don't figure the town water is safe to drink."

Pounding his gavel, the exasperated judge fined the defendant two dollars and fifty cents, sentenced him to ninety-nine years, and suspended the sentence on the condition that Green would "hereafter forever drink only buttermilk whenever he came to town."



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## War News from 1861

- **Huntsville:** County officials have authorized payment of \$1000.00 to John S. Dickson for equipping Capt. Jones and Capt. Tracy's companies with uniforms. Also included in the bill was payment for furnishing pantaloons to Capt. Gaston's company.

- A payment of \$127.50 was made to J.M. Venable for supplying foodstuffs to the troops.

- Michael Callaghan received payment of \$50.92 for bacon furnished to the Polish Regiment of Louisiana while in Huntsville.

- John Popejoy is in town purchasing mules for the Commissary Department. Interested parties can contact him at the courthouse.

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# Dallas Village Memories

**Billy Harbin**

I don't have the memories of Dallas Village that my brother and sister have because they are older than me. We moved out of the village when I finished the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade at Rison.

The memories that I have are centered around the YMCA and Mr. H. E. "Hub" Myhand. Most of all of our activities involved the "Y." In the summers we played baseball at the Dallas Park, now the Optimist Park; and during the winter months, we played basketball and indoor softball in the Dallas YMCA gymnasium.

Hub Myhand was the Director of the Y and his wife was the village nurse. Mrs. Myhand had an office or clinic in the Y. Both Myhands were paid by the owners of the cotton mill. Hub and

those that we could get involved in sports as coaches were the babysitters for the village. One of the things that is vivid in my memory was our practices of slipping into the ballpark in the morning when the park was closed.

I guess we just couldn't wait for Hub to open the park in the afternoon or it could have been that this was all that we had to do. To get in, we had to scale the wall. We always climbed the wall on the east end of the grandstand opposite Hub's house. His house was located at the corner of Oakwood and 5th Street (Andrew Jackson Way).

Since I was too young to play on the team, my job was to sit in the grandstand and watch for Hub. If he came out of the house towards the park, I would let everyone know and we would hurriedly vacate the park.

There was a team from uptown who called themselves the Cavaliers. The team, as I remember, was made up of students from the Catholic school located on Holmes Avenue. Sammy Citrano, now

a prominent dentist in Huntsville, was their pitcher. We played this team all the time in the locked ballpark. I remember once we were playing the Cavaliers and to my great fright, I saw Hub heading toward the park. I alerted the group and we started to scamper out of the park over the east wall. One of the Cavaliers had brought their younger brother with him (even younger than me); and when he got on top of the wall, he was afraid to jump down. Everybody was pleading with him to jump, and finally just as Hub was entering the park, the child jumped.

As I think back, I am almost certain that Hub knew all along that we were slipping into the park, but he never let us know.

After my senior year of high school, I had the honor of playing

**"While in the emergency room she was examined, x-rated and sent home."**

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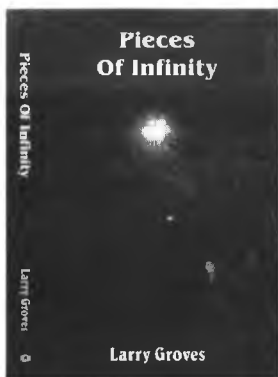
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# Valhalla

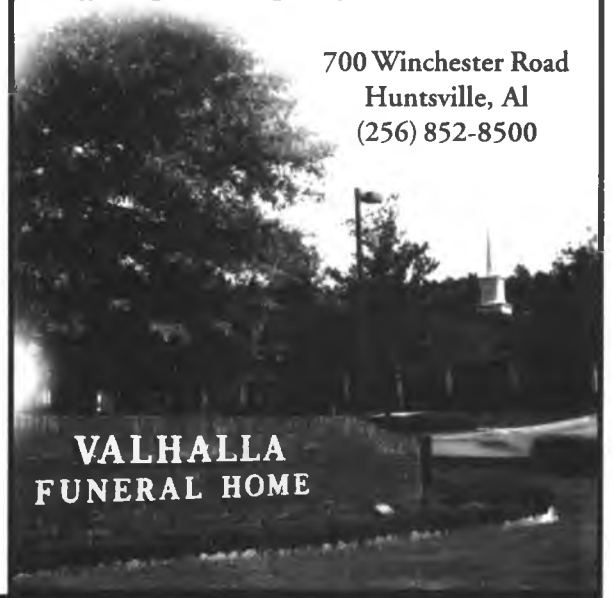
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baseball on one of the last Huntsville Booster teams that Hub managed. Most of the players were much older than me. Players like Slick McGinnis, Jack Troup, Jim Tally, Bill Daniel, Floyd Bryant and Freck Payne, to name a few and I felt that Hub was rougher on me than the others, but it didn't bother me because of the respect that I had for him. I guess he still considered me one of his kids from the village.

Hub Myhand was my hero. He was the Bear Bryant of Dallas Village and East Huntsville. I recently attended a dedication ceremony of the new sports complex at Optimist Park. Several fine people were recognized and honored for their efforts in making the new complex a reality. It was nice, but throughout the ceremony I couldn't help but reflect back to the days of Hub Myhand. I hope one day that a life size statue of Hub Myhand can be placed on the premises of the new complex.

# ESTATE AUCTION

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*Serious inquiries only*

# Live In Historic Twickenham

# I Remember Mrs. Gilbert

by Jimmy Brocato, Jr.

I also remember Mrs. Gilbert and her daughter Helen, or as we kids called her: "Old Lady Gilbert and Miss Helen." When my mother and I would go to the grocery store downtown, we would sometimes come back to find the two of them sitting in the back seat of our car demanding a ride home, or to take her anywhere else she had to go.

My dad had a black man working for him at the Central Cafe, known only as John Henry and who was almost completely deaf.

Occasionally my dad would hire John Henry to cut our grass. One day, while I was sitting on the front porch watching him mow the yard, Mrs. Gilbert and Helen came walking by. Mrs. Gilbert stopped John Henry and told him to come up to Whitesburg Drive and cut her grass when he had finished. She assured him that it would be all right and that he, my Dad, would pay John for cutting her grass, too. She kept repeating it over and over, loudly.

John Henry just kept nodding his head up and down, agreeing with her. After Mrs. Gilbert left, he strolled over to me and said, "Wut dat woman want?"

I fell off the porch laughing.

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A retired US Army Chaplain and Presbyterian minister, Darryl has told stories throughout the US and overseas. His friendly, but impertinent rabbit puppet, J.K. Huggs, usually has a less-than-reliable tale or two of his own.

No remuneration requested for retirement communities, assisted living, libraries and schools. Contact Darryl at (256) 520-1771 or [darrylgoldman@kw.com](mailto:darrylgoldman@kw.com).

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

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

**A Hardware Store....**

**The Way You Remember Them**

**222 Washington St - 539-5777**

*Domie Lewter*

*Mac Lewter*

# When life was simple...



During the long hot summers in the early 1920s the Flint River was a favorite destination for people wanting to cool off. Families would pack picnic lunches, young boys would fish on the banks and young lasses would play in the water while showing off their daring bathing suits.

Ladies' bathing apparel could be ordered from Sears and Roebuck for \$2.15 a suit. There were only three sizes and and you had a choice of color - as long as it was black.

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