

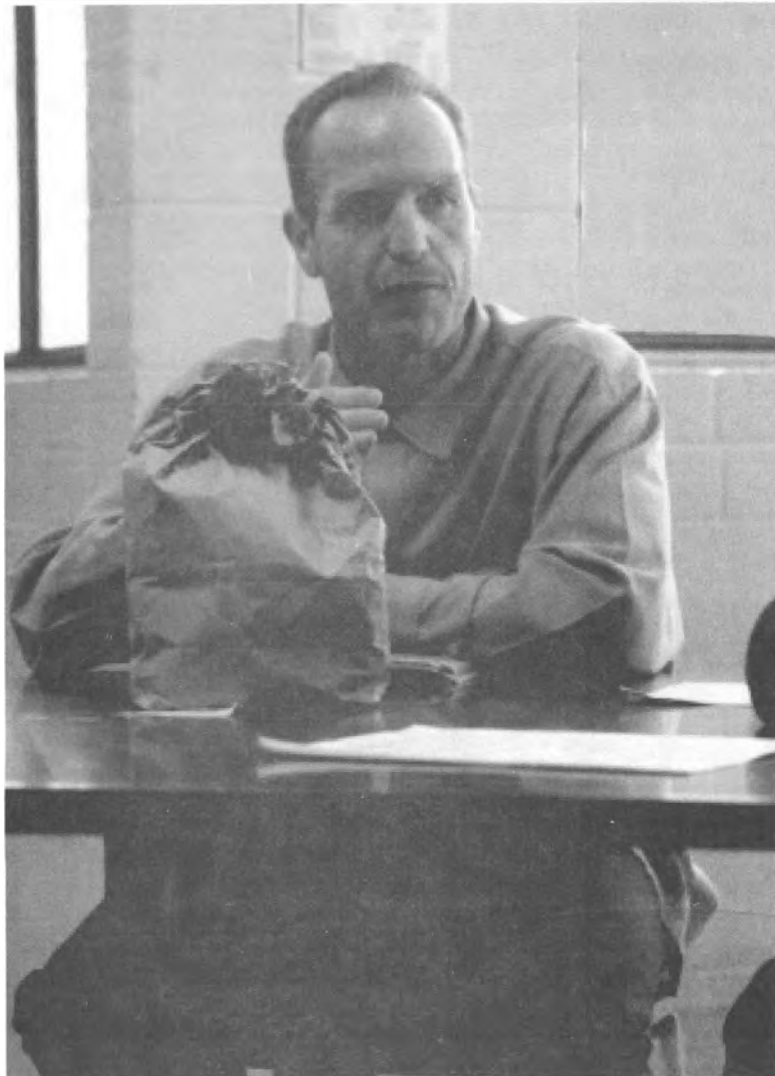
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No. 155
January 2006



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



50 Years Behind Bars

There is no way a person can really describe prison life. Noise, sirens, whistles and people banging on the bars night and day.

You learn to talk without saying anything and to look at people without seeing anyone. You share a cell with other cons but don't see anything they do. You see blood on the floor but don't wonder whose it is.

All you can do is wait.

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50 Years Behind Bars

by "Jitter" Powers
(as told to Tom Carney)

I knew I was in trouble that first day, in 1948, when they put me in population. I had a new pair of shoes I had managed to hold on to all through my trial and the time at the county lockup. Now, this big gorilla with tattoos all over his face was eyeing them. After a few minutes he strolled over next to the fence where I was standing.

"Give you a pack of cigarettes for those shoes." It was more of a statement than a question.

I mumbled something and started to walk away when suddenly I was hit on the back of the head with a rock. My next mistake was trying to fight back. Minutes later I was lying on the ground with a broken nose, a fractured arm and an ear hanging by a shred of skin.

As I lay on the ground bleeding I looked around the prison yard to see if anyone was going to help me. The closest thing I got to sympathy was an old-timer who looked down at me and grinned, "You shoulda took the cigarettes."

I really missed my mother right then.

I didn't have much of a family

growing up. I was only a couple years old when my father decided that family life wasn't for him and he just disappeared one day. My mother worked as a waitress in the honky tonks around Huntsville but the little money she earned always seemed to go to one of her boyfriends. Mama wasn't very lucky in love. Every time she thought she had a good man he would end up in jail, or with a wife and kids threatening him.

The longest we ever lived in one place was on Fifth Avenue. A widow man by the name of Pickens owned a house there with a two room apartment in back. I don't know how much the rent was but it couldn't have been much. Pickens was sweet on Mama and kept trying to get her to go out with him even though he was about forty years older.

Mama would humor him until she could save enough money to rent another place. After a few months in a new place we always seemed to get behind in rent again and would have to move in the middle of the night. Pickens didn't seem to care; he always let us move back.

With Mama working nights and sleeping all day, I had plenty of time to get in trouble. By the time I was ten or twelve years old



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I was already street smart. There were dozens of ways to make money for a kid if he didn't care what people thought.

Sometimes a friend and I would get up early in the morning and follow the milkman as he made his rounds. As soon as he would leave we would steal the milk, and after getting a wagon full, would sell it to a Mom and Pop grocery near us who didn't mind making an extra buck. Other times we would hang out near the YMCA until we got a chance to steal a bike. We sold them, for a couple of bucks each, to a man in Dallas Village who swapped parts on the bikes before repainting them and selling them.

Huntsville didn't really have a way to deal with juveniles back then. If you got into trouble, most of the time they simply threatened you and let your parents take you home. If there were any damages your parents were expected to pay them. Mama got used to paying.

I was seventeen when Mama got married again. Her new husband and I didn't get along so I decided to leave. "Benny" Gregson, a friend, had a sister living in Chicago and we decided to go there

We made it to a small town near the Indiana border when the car broke down and we stole another one. We found a pistol in

the glove compartment and Benny started talking about robbing a store. I could have said no, but I didn't.

The store we picked was a small country store with one gas pump out front. We went in and Benny pulled the gun on the woman running the store while I went for the cash box. Suddenly a man walked in and grabbed Benny from behind. The gun went off and the woman was killed.

We ran to the car and took off but only made it a few hundred yards before a cop pulled us over. The car we had stolen belonged to his sister. Seconds later other people arrived on the scene, identifying us as the people who had killed the woman.

I had turned eighteen the day before.

The trial wasn't much to talk about. They charged us with murder, armed robbery, auto theft and resisting arrest. I called Mama and she sent \$500 for a lawyer. The prosecution wanted the electric chair but my lawyer talked him into fifty years. He told me to not expect parole.

As soon as we got off the bus at the state prison we were lined up for orientation - there was about six of us. After the usual rules and regulations one of the guards walked up and down

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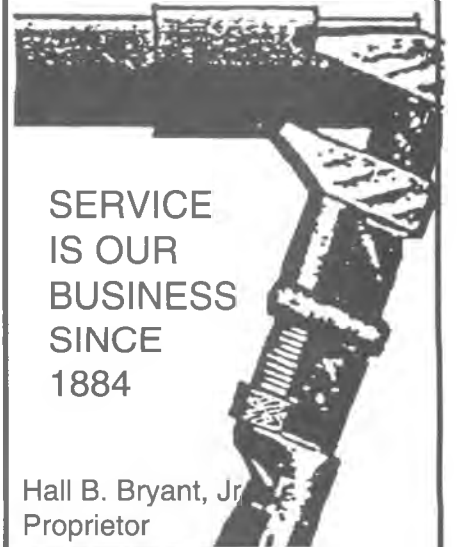
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in front of us watching us carefully. Finally he stopped in front of a con and said "My shoes are dusty - what are you going to do about it?"

The con dropped to his knees and said, "I'm going to shine them, boss."

The guard did the same thing with several other prisoners, with the same result, until he came to me. That was when I made my first mistake - telling him to shine them himself. Immediately guards were all over me, beating me with their clubs. After a few minutes they paused to admire their handiwork and give me a lecture about "respect."

I didn't wait for the question. I dropped to my knees and started shining shoes.

There is no way a person can really describe prison life. Noise, sirens, whistles and people banging on the bars night and day. You learn to talk without saying anything and to look at people without seeing anyone. You share a cell with other cons but don't see anything they do. You see blood on the floor but don't wonder whose it is.

The first four or five years are the easiest. Then the reality sets in that you are going to be there until your sentence is up. Some of the newer cons couldn't take it and would try to commit suicide. A few would actually go crazy and be transferred to the mental prison.

Even though I had been sen-

tenced to fifty years I kept hoping for a miracle. I stayed agitated all the time, looking for something that never happened. The older cons started calling me "Jitter Bug" because I was so nervous. Ever since then people have called me Jitter.

Several of the cons had pieces of cardboard on their walls with separate blocks for every month of their sentence. As each month would pass they would mark off the block. I tried it one time but couldn't find a piece of cardboard big enough. I knew I had to get out.

I was assigned to the loading docks at the sewing factory where all kinds of uniforms were made. I had been there for about three years when I began to notice a certain truck that would pick up uniforms every month. For some reason the guards never searched this truck. They just put a lock on the back door and sent it on its way.

The next month when the truck came I jumped in and hid in the back of it, I got some of the guys to stack boxes in front of me. It was bitterly cold outside - I learned later it was below zero. I finally felt the truck began to move and could hear some of the guards as we slowed down at the gate. Hours passed and it got colder all the time. Later that evening the truck stopped but no one opened the door.

I didn't really have a plan

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except to get out of prison. I figured when they opened the door I would make a break. More hours went by and I began to worry about freezing to death so I began banging on the side of the truck trying to get someone's attention. Finally I heard people talking and the door was unlocked. Almost immediately guards were all over me with their clubs.

I was inside another prison, Joliet Penitentiary in Illinois. The truck had been carrying a load of prison uniforms. I did hard time for the next year.

Cons are always looking for ways to shorten their sentence. Many get religion. One guy on my cell block got religion and actually became a prison preacher. When he went up for parole the board was so impressed they let him out early.

Unfortunately, as soon as he got out he robbed a beer store and was back in prison within six months.

You never get used to prison. You just live one day at a time. The hardest thing is waking up every morning knowing that day will be just like thousands be-

fore, and thousands after. You don't have any friends because if they say or do the wrong thing it comes back on you.

Time passes slow. A week, a month or even years - they are meaningless for someone serving long time. Last year is remembered as "when they stabbed that guy in the yard." You never think about next year.

Mama and her husband visited me in 1953. Looking back I can see how hard it must have been for her but at the time I didn't care. Before she had even sat down I accused her of not caring because she wouldn't send me money. Every time she tried to say something I would cut her off until finally they got up and left. I remember she was crying when they left.

I didn't get any more letters after that. When I wrote, the letters were returned.

Everyone in prison had a hustle. We weren't allowed money so the currency was cigarettes. If you had cigarettes you could get a tailored uniform, a decent haircut or even a better job. I had an connection in the kitchen I got coffee from and I

wired up a "hot coil" in my cell so I could brew it. I charged two cigarettes for a cup. After a couple months the guards found my coil and I was out of business.

A lot of prisoners were into

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making prison "hooch", a concoction made of almost anything that would ferment. It was always awful tasting but no one cared if it would get them high. Sugar was the most important ingredient. Someone almost started a riot once when they stole the sugar from the dining room and replaced it with salt.

Other prisoners made bill-folds and belts if they had a connection on the outside to sell them. One of the best paying hustles, if you could draw, was doing tattoos.

Then there were always the people in the rackets - loan sharking, gambling and drugs. That was dangerous though. If you loaned to the wrong person or didn't pay your dope deal you could end up in the hospital - if you were lucky. I've seen cons get stabbed over a carton of cigarettes.

One of the fastest ways to get in trouble was to disrespect someone. It might be something as small as accidentally bumping into someone in line or giving someone a funny look. Most of the time you could settle it by sending them a couple packs of cigarettes. That way they saved face and you earned respect by doing the right thing. If it was something more serious - you just did what you had to do. I've known cons to break their own legs so they could get in the hospital where they thought they would be safe.

Every con is going to have trouble with someone sooner or later. It's the long timers you have

to worry about the most. With twenty or thirty years left to serve, they don't worry about having more time tacked on to their sentences.

I got in so much trouble that when I went before the parole board for a hearing they laughed at me.

By the 1960s I was considered an old timer. I knew everyone and everyone knew me but I didn't have any friends. I learned to be a loner and no longer thought about getting out.

How do you describe the important things for fifty years? In the 1960s we got a television for the common room. In 1968 our cells were painted green instead of grey. In 1978, after having served 30 years, they let me have a radio in my cell. That same

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year I received word that my mother died.

In 1980 I became a "guard gopher," someone who takes care of the guards' room, fetches coffee, shines shoes or whatever. It was the best job I ever had. I had learned my lesson. If they said shine shoes, I said "Yes, Boss."

As the years went by the prison population changed. A lot of them served their time and were released, a few died, but there were always new ones to take their places. A lot of the new prisoners were the sons of cons I had known years earlier. I knew if I lived long enough I would probably see their children, too.

Prison was no longer frightening to me. It had become my home - the only home I knew. Sometimes I would lie in my bunk at night and try to remember what it was like to be in the outside world but those memories were no longer there. They had been erased by time.

I was 68 years old when my time was up. I had spent fifty years, seven months and three days in prison.

A few weeks before I was due for my papers the prison counselor called me to his office to ask what my plans were. I told him I didn't know. The only life I had ever known was behind bars and I didn't know if I could get by in the outside world.

He was probably used to hearing that. He told me if I got in trouble again they would make sure I was not sent back to the same prison. I would have to start all over again in a new place.

The day I got my papers was hard, in a way. They gave me a blue suit, a cardboard box to put my stuff in and \$349 from my account. When they walked me out the front gate I had an overpowering urge to turn and run back to my cell.

Suddenly, for the first time in fifty years, I was all alone with no one to tell me what to do. Ev-

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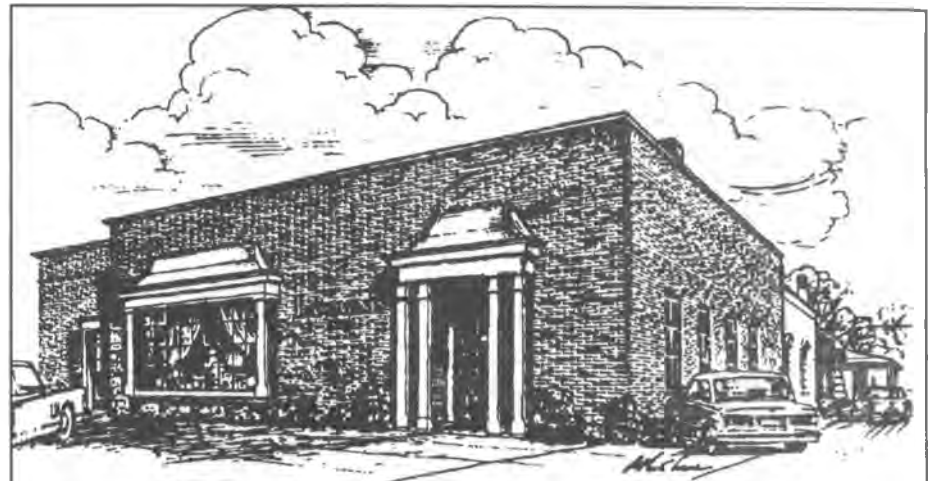
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everything was so unreal and frightening. When I got hungry there was no bell to tell me it was time to eat. There were no guards watching my every move. No one cared what I did now.

As frightening as the real world was, I looked forward to returning to Huntsville where I hoped there would be familiar sights and people I knew.

I watched out the window as the bus pulled into Huntsville. There was nothing I could recognize. I walked downtown to the square but everything I remembered was gone. Even the apartment where I had lived as a kid was now a doctor's office. I searched the faces of everyone I passed on the sidewalk hoping to see someone I recognized. There was no one.

The world had passed me by while I was in prison.

I have a job in a restaurant now. I'm still a gopher. I mop up, wash dishes and sometimes even help cook. I get my meals there and most of the people are nice to me. They know I spent time in prison but don't care.

It's when I get off work that is the hardest for me. I'm all by myself. I tried going to some of the stores but I felt uncomfortable. Once I bought a ticket for a movie

but when I walked in there were so many people I got scared and left.

Perhaps the worst part is not having anyone to blame. I made the decision years ago when I was a punk kid and now I have to live with it.

So, I go back to my room every night and wait. For what I don't know.



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- Mr. & Mrs. De Young, formerly of Pulaski, Tn. and now living in Huntsville, had their little son Robbie bitten by a rattlesnake Sunday morning, while he was walking on the Chapman Place, near the Barracks. The snake hung its fangs in the boy's heel and as the boy ran he jerked the snake several feet.


An older brother witnessed the whole thing and killed the snake, which had only one button and no rattles, showing the snake to have been one year old. Dr. Ridley was summoned to the little sufferer. Arriving on the ground in an hour after the strike, he administered two ounces of whiskey with a teaspoonful of aromatic spirits of ammonia. Ten drops of spirits of ammonia was injected hypodermically and the bite saturated in spirits of ammonia. This treatment was repeated in half an hour and the little sufferer is convalescent.

It would be well for everyone to note well this remedy and especially those who are compelled to go into places which snakes are accustomed to inhabit.

- Yesterday Mr. Jere Murphy offered Mr. John Neely \$5 to walk to Whitesburg and back, allowing him from 4:30 p.m. yesterday until 1 a.m. this morning to accomplish the trip. At 11:15 last evening the tired form of Mr. Neely was seen to arrive at the Square, his garments covered with heavy dust, and a weary look upon his face. But he had made the trip honestly, for he brought certificates from Capt. Joe Brown, of Whitesburg and all of the toll keepers enroute. On his way home he stopped to take a bath in the Tennessee river. After which he said he felt like a new man. He, of course, won.

This evening at 7 p.m. Mr. Kennard started out on the same trip. He was seen to go pacing down the road with a pistol in each hand and a defiant expression on his face. Up to the time of going to press, he had not been heard from.

- Jay Pollard has a horse and buggy for sale if it can be found. It was stolen yesterday from in front of the courthouse.



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Cooking In the Old Days

by Johnny Johnston

I remember an old shed that Dad had made in the back of the lot on Maple Street. I can't remember why it was built or what exactly it was used for. It may have been constructed for the one old Cow, "Dixie" to stand under out of the Sun. It was constructed of poles buried into the ground with a tin roof on top. Simple construction, inexpensive for the day, but it must have done the trick.

This morning my wife Barbara was telling me that her Mother had ordered some dried apples from a supplier in Knoxville and they arrived in bad condition. That is what reminded me of the tin covered shed out back.

I can remember sitting down with Mother and cutting the apples into slices. After this was finished we spread clean sheets on top of the shed's tin roof and carefully placed the slices of apples on the sheets about an inch apart. They would lay there in the sun for 4 or 5 hours when, in the judgment of Mother, they had dried sufficiently for her fantastic apple pie. Mother learned to cook on a wood stove and if you know anything about wood stoves, the only control was the damper.

The damper was inserted into the stove pipe and did nothing more than slow down the draft of air through the fire. Some stoves also had a damper on the front of the stove which regulated the air into the fire. If you were impatient, controlling the heat with any degree of accuracy was not possible. Somehow Mom didn't learn anything except hot.

Mom did well with that but the top of any stove, to her, had only one temperature. Hot! She tried hard but most things from the top of her stove were burned. I think that is why the pie's and cakes were so good; they were cooked in the oven.

Hot had a great effect on Mom's canning. I have arrived home several times to help clean food off the ceiling, cabinets, and on other things from clear across the kitchen. If the interior




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of a pressure cooker got too hot the air pressure would often blow the lid completely off. When Mom learned such a thing existed as a pressure cooker during World War II, she got one. From then on she did all her canning and most of her other cooking with it. It was simply faster, and Mom was always in a hurry to get things done.

After I met Barbara in 1957 (we married in 1958), I experienced different styles of cooking and eating which I had not known before. Her father's family consisted of several men who were raised on the farm in central Tennessee. They raised cattle, horses and pigs but ate more chickens than most farms raised.

We were visiting the farm when my son Rick was about 3. He, as usual, was having a great time outside with the animals and playing in the gravel. At that time the farm was still a farm with milk cows, chickens and the like. Rick agitated the chickens and upset a rooster that had a bad temper anyway. The old rooster jumped Rick on the calf of his leg and sent him into the house crying. Papa Brown, Barbara's Grandfather, slipped out of the house and sure enough we had rooster for lunch!

After the meal was prepared and placed on the table, the men

would eat first with one exception. Mama Brown always ate with the men. Don't know why except she would monitor the conversation and keep the dirty words from the table and make her boys, and husband, hold the line on jokes. She usually had her opinions and was not shy in sharing them. When the men finished the women had their chance to. I had never seen this before but that's just the way it was

My first time at this table was the day after Christmas in 1957. Barbara and I had become engaged and all the six or seven families were at the farm for Christmas. Food was everywhere including the inevitable fried chicken. What struck me funny were the four brothers who

slipped into the kitchen just before the meal was ready to eat. I didn't know why at the time but my wife pointed out to me that

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Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!

they each had their favorite piece of the chicken and they were stealing it early and hiding it someplace in the kitchen. As they went into to sit down for a meal, they each would find the chicken breast or leg they had hidden and put it on their plate.

This ritual was really fun to watch. I have seen one or the other look through the window to find where the other was hiding his chicken and then move it to his own secret location. I have seen one steal the other's chicken while his back was turned a minute from his plate. It was a riot and always big time competition.

I still remember cakes baked by my Aunt Annie. She lived on a farm located on Rescue Road in Morgan City along with her husband and three children. Somehow she could make a cake so moist you would swear it had been soaking in sweets for 24 hours.

I always enjoyed visiting that farm with its fresh vegetables growing just outside. I also remember working sugar cane on that same road. There was a mule pulling a sugar mill. My job was to feed the cane into the grinder while avoiding the mule and the large pole attached from him to the mill.

And then there was Barbara's other Grandmother in Morristown, Tennessee. We spent many a Thanksgiving with her. I remember the great meals she

cooked. Every day of Mrs. Smith's life she cooked pinto beans. If you were there on Christmas, New Years, Thanksgiving or any other day you had her wonderful pinto beans.

That was sure some good cooking!



Auburn Waiting For Last Dog To Die

from 1977 newspaper

Ms. Elinor E. Ritchey, heiress to the Quaker State Corp., left her entire fortune to her 150 stray dogs. She died in Ft. Lauderdale in 1968. The will was contested, however and the original \$4.3 million dollars had become over fourteen million dollars by the time the will was settled and there was only 73 dogs left. They were tattooed and kept apart so as not to produce more heirs. When the last dog dies Auburn University will receive the remaining fortune.

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Moving to Huntsville in 1948

by Bill Miller

In 1948 I was working for Butler & Cobb Contractors from Montgomery on a job in Gadsden, Al., one of the many places that my family and I had lived while working for them. In May they mailed me Drawings, Specifications and all the beginning paperwork I needed and instructed me to move to Huntsville to construct a U.S. Naval Reserve Center.

After briefing the Superintendent that relieved me, I checked a road map and decided to travel highway 431 through Gurley and across Monte Sano Mountain. The old road, now known as Old Big Cove Road, was very narrow with sharp curves and narrow bridges and has changed little over the years.

I was towing a 35 ft. house trailer and there were times I had to pull over as far as possible to the edge of the road to meet on-coming traffic. My wife became upset and remarked that it looked like the road was ending and the jumping off place would be around the next curve, and maybe we should turn back before we get to the top of the mountain.

When we got down the mountain where California and Old Big Cove intersected we saw the Roper home with a large flower garden and wind mill in front of the house (the present site of Huntsville Hospital East). Next, was Huntsville Hospital and the city limit sign. We turned right and were soon at the Court

House Square.

I parked (plenty of space, very few cars in sight) on the Square and walked to the Police station which was located where the parking deck on Madison and Fountain Street is at present. I introduced myself, told the man why I was in town and asked for house trailer accommodations. He directed me to the intersection of Green Street and Holmes Avenue to a trailer park there

next to the Catholic School and service station.

The next day I opened a post office box to establish an address, next I opened a bank account and began to inquire about an engineering firm. I was directed to the office of G.W. Jones and Sons. Their Chief Engineer was Mr. Bill Blevins.

After studying the drawings and specifications and determining the site location, he quoted me

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a price of \$100 for stake-out and bench marks. We then went to the site and he told me that it had once been a garbage and trash area. I asked Mr. Blevins about building materials, concrete, hardware and an earth moving contractor. He took me to Huntsville Building Materials which was located on Wheeler Avenue and introduced me to Dick and Joe Van Valkenburg.

Within the next few days Mr. Cecil Ashburn of Ashburn & Gray Construction Company came by the job and traded to do the earth work.

Joe, Dick, and Cecil soon became my good friends. I kept close contact with each one of these men. We have since lost our friends Joe and Dick, however, Cecil and I are still close and get together often. We have worked together on many projects since then in and around Huntsville until Cecil sold Ashburn & Gray and semi-retired.

The Naval Reserve building was located on Monroe Street near the new Embassy Hotel un-

til it was torn down during part of the Civic Center expansion. In 1948 there was a street that crossed beside the railroad trestle, then turned east back to the old Council School. This was a dirt road used to get to the fill site.

A Sunday outing in 1948 was a trip to the park on Monte Sano or to the Big Springs Park. The trip to the park at times was entertaining if the families that lived in the apartments behind cotton row had hung their laundry over the balcony to dry.

Saturday was a day to shop, or visit downtown. Almost everything you needed was within walking distance of the Square. You could hear a sermon on many street corners, smell fresh popped corn, parched peanuts, and cooking smells coming from the restaurants.

Huntsville soon became home. It was then and still is the best place I have ever lived.



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South on Memorial Pkwy., Left on Veterans Dr. [3/10 of a mile past Hobbs Rd.]



Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to Gary Evans who guessed Albert Hall as last month's Photo of the Month. Gary works in the Madison County Sheriff's department as a corrections officer at the jail.

Happy Birthday to Mary Dudley of Huntsville, from her good friend Peggy Hutson!

It was good seeing Regina Sanders the other day, working at In Bloom on Pratt Avenue. She sure is one hard-working lady!

Happy Birthday to Chuck Owens! He's the best Dad a girl can have!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of Lou Pejza, manager of Terry's Pizza. Billy Schaaf, manager, said Lou was at work every single day and it doesn't seem right without him there.

We were so sorry to learn of the death of Joan Murchie who always had a hug and a big smile for everyone. Archie Murchie was the lucky man who was her husband for the past 65 years. We know her family and friends will miss her very much.

While having dinner recently with Sherri Williams, of Pleasures, we met Jim St. Clair at

Bonefish. He is from Norcross, Ga. but looks forward to his frequent travels to Huntsville.

Jean McIntosh's mom Dorothy Lindenschmidt, of Evansville, In. has a very interesting birthdate - 1/11/11. She still drives to church and the library. Happy 95th birthday to you!

I couldn't let the year go without saying a "Happy Birthday" to my sweet husband Tom Carney. He sure gets better with age!

Marie Hewett, Louie & Jane Tippet, Rene Forten and Lloyd Garrison hosted their annual Christmas bash at the Elk's Club on Franklin. So many people were there including Charlie Cox, Danny Banks, Doug Smoot, and Robert Madison. Also there were Dieter & Sonja Schrader, Hall Bryant and Cecil Ashburn.

It was great catching up with Lynda Hall, Tax Collector, and friend Andrea Reeves from UAH. Lynda has to have one of the pret-

tiest smiles in Huntsville!

A special hello to Robert Luna who sure knows a lot of Huntsville history. Another friend, Nolan Myrick, who lives in Fayetteville now, is also a great story teller.

We recently heard from our dear friends Alan and Rhonda Warren, who now live in Michigan with handsome son Garrett. Alan was a popular photographer for the Huntsville Times for years. They really miss Huntsville and say Hello to all.

Betty Davis wants to wish her aunt Jean Pitsinger a happy birthday. Jean is turning 91 and is very proud of that. Congratulations!

Audrey Brand wants to say hello to all her friends. Audrey's husband Ray Brand was a musician with the band *Crawlers*, who died a couple of months back. We know he's always in your heart.

Shirley Bush, who works at Colonial Bank, is sure working hard as Secretary/Treasurer of the William Hooper Council

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 sweet little girl is a good business woman and friends with everyone. But, no, she does not sing "Elvira."



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Alumni Asso. Their goal is to preserve the old school building on St. Clair. Shirley's late husband, Richard H. Bush, Jr., was the first President of the association.

We sure are proud to call Lola Blaxton, of Muscle Shoals, a good friend. She retired a few years ago but now stays busier than ever!

It was really great running across some dear friends at the Furniture Factory recently. Some of them were LeeAnn Lancaster, Charlie and Aneita Scott, Steve and Kim Cappaert, and that good-looking boss lady, Donna Hays.

Newman Ward, a retired postman from Huntsville, wrote to tell us that he is now living in Malibu, Ca. with his son Fred & family. He says it's nice but he will always miss Huntsville.

Happy Birthday to Audra Wilson, of Salon Bella, who says she has the worst possible day for a birthday - Dec. 26!

Edna Stone, the sweet mama of Walter Stone of Good Habits, sure loves going out to eat with her good friends Catherine & Jiggs Roper, and Jim & Willie Williams. They always have such a good time together.

Look for the upcoming grand opening of the Dallas Mills Deli, a new restaurant on Pratt Avenue. Our good buddy Curtis Parcus is the boss man there and we know he will do great!

Recently we saw Johnny Frazier, one of our favorite cousins. He is really a nice guy.

There were so many parties this year and our favorite city councilman, Glenn Watson, must have been at every one of them. He is a hardworking man who really cares about Huntsville & her people.

We were sorry to hear that Susan Bzdell, of Decatur, died at a young 53. John Bzdell of Huntsville is her brother-in-law.

Anita Palmer was rocking the house recently at Furniture Factory - that girl can sing! We had

no doubt she was a sweet lady as she is also a friend of Robert Madison.

Chanc Saari is Senior Manager at Chop-house downtown. We spoke with him recently while attending the Pleasures Annual Christmas party - what an interesting guy!

Jean and Ron McIntosh want to send greetings to their good friends Hugh and Daisy Yates.

Well, that's about all for this month but just remember how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place like Huntsville, Alabama!



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by Shell Segal

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Charleston Favorites

Best Fruit Dip

1 c. sour cream
 1 t. grated orange or lemon rind
 1/4 c. sugar
 1 T. rum or brandy

Mix first 3 ingredients. Add rum or brandy. Use as dip for strawberries, grapes, cherries or any fruit, makes a great appetizer and will be a big hit at parties.

Hot Mushroom Dip

1 c. mayonnaise
 1 c. grated Parmesan cheese
 1/2 t. garlic powder
 1 4-oz. can mushrooms, chopped and well drained

Mix well and bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes. Serve with any good multi-grain crackers.

Copper Pennies

1 stick butter
 1/2 lb. sharp Cheddar cheese, grated
 1 c. flour
 1/2 pkg. dry onion soup mix
 1/2 t. salt

Let butter and cheese come to room temp and mix thoroughly. Add remaining ingredients and blend. Shape into three rolls about one inch in diameter. Wrap in wax paper and chill. Slice rolls into 1/4 inch thick slices. Place on ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 375 degrees for 10-12 minutes and brown around the edges. Keep in tight container.

Chicken in Soup Cream

4 chicken breasts, boneless

and salted

Sauce:
 1/2 pint sour cream
 3 T. flour
 1 can mushroom soup
 1/2 c. white wine

Add flour to sour cream, then soup and wine. Mix well and pour over chicken. Bake at 300 degrees for 2 hours.

Chicken Indigo

6 chicken breasts
 1 1/2 c. poultry stuffing mix
 2 T. Romano cheese, grated
 1 clove garlic, crushed
 1/2 stick butter, melted

Crumble stuffing mix in blender, stir in cheese. Add garlic to butter. Dip chicken in butter, then in crumbs. Place on buttered cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for an hour.

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4 10-oz. pkgs. frozen chopped spinach

1 4-oz. can sliced mushrooms

1 1/2 c. sour cream

1 pkg. dry blue cheese salad dressing mix

Cook spinach and drain really well. Drain mushrooms and reserve 2 tablespoons mushroom liquid. Mix sour cream, salad dressing mix, mushrooms and reserved mushroom liquid. Add the spinach and pour into greased casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

Red Cabbage

1 medium head red cabbage, cut fine

1 lrg. apple, peeled and sliced

3/4 c. vinegar

1/2 c. water

1 T. sugar

Salt and pepper

Cook all ingredients together in covered pan til cabbage is tender, about 30 minutes.

Olive Cheese Puffs

2 c. sharp cheddar cheese, grated

1/2 c. butter

2 c. flour

1 t. paprika

48 medium stuffed olives

Cream cheese with butter, blend with flour and paprika. Mix well. Wrap about 1 teaspoon of mixture around each olive. Place on cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees for 12-15 minutes. These can be frozen before baking.

Sea Foam

2 c. sugar

1/2 c. water

1/2 c. corn syrup

1 c. nuts, chopped

2 egg whites, beaten

Cook sugar, water and corn syrup til it will harden in cold water or reaches 250 degrees on candy thermometer. Remove from heat. Stir in the nuts and add gradually, stirring constantly, to beaten egg whites. Beat til it gets to a creamy consistency. Pour onto buttered plate. Cool and cut into squares.

Charles Towne Butter Taffy

2 c. brown sugar


1/4 t. salt

3/4 c. butter


1 c. water

Melt butter in a saucepan.

Add sugar, salt and water. Bring to boil and continue, without stirring, til mixture becomes a bit brittle when a drop is placed in cold water or it reaches 290 degrees on a candy thermometer. Pour onto buttered pan. Cool slightly and mark into squares.



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The Life and Times of Anne Royall

by Jim Coleman

Anne Royall was a unique woman in early 1800s America. She rose from poverty to riches, lost her inheritance and was again forced to fend for herself in a man's world. She was a prominent journalist for more than 25 years before dying in Washington in 1854. For her scathing editorials she was alternately praised and called a "holy terror." Even though she probably didn't realize it, she started her journalistic career in Huntsville.

Her father, William Newport, was said to be an illegitimate child of the Calverts, the founding family of Maryland. If so, Anne was of royal blood.. Newport, a Tory, lost his Maryland possessions and died shortly thereafter. Anne's mother moved to the Pennsylvania frontier where Anne's playmates were Indians, and poverty soon forced them to return to Maryland. On the way they stopped at the home of William Royall, a wealthy bachelor of the English squire type who fought with Washington in the Revolution

Royall employed Anne, then

13, and her mother on his estate. Fascinated in part with her native intelligence, enthusiasm and boundless curiosity, Royall married Anne 12 years later. Despite their age gap, they lived happily until his death around 1813. Anne inherited his extensive holdings.

Royall's heirs, all the time believing he had married below his station, sought to break his will. In the meantime Anne developed a yen for travel by reading from the extensive family library. She took to the bumpy, rutted roads and trails in her carriage. With personal servants along, she traveled leisurely with no timetable. Following a trip to New England and Canada, she headed south through Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee. In December 1817 she spent the night at Wells Tavern south of Fayetteville on her way to Huntsville, arriving here on Christmas Eve.

Upon approaching Huntsville she noted: "The cotton fields now begin to appear. These are astonishingly large; from four to five hundred acres in a field! It is without parallel! The cotton has been picked out.

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Although the land is level, you cannot see the end of the fields either way. We arrived in Huntsville about 2 o'clock p.m. and met another wonder at the entrance of the town, which was one of the great cotton machines."

Of all the places she visited, she proclaimed Alabama her favorite resting spot. She stayed two years at taverns and inns in Florence, Moulton, Courtland and Melton's Bluff (near Muscle Shoals), plus another two years in Huntsville. She began writing letters to "Matt," a lawyer friend in Baltimore, in which she described her travels. From these letters a book, *Letters from Alabama, 1817-1822*, was published in 1830. These letters touch on religion, literature, crops, education, social injustices and people she encountered. In Alabama she called on the most prominent families and was invited to their social gatherings. She met nearly all the leading citizens as well as many of the rank and file.

On Jan. 1, 1818, she wrote: "Huntsville! You will expect something of this flourishing town. It takes its name from a man called Captain Hunt, who built the first cabin on the spot where the Court House now stands, in 1805. In front of this cabin, which was built on a high bluff, there was a large pond. Captain Hunt cleared a small field west of his cabin the same year. This was between his cabin

and the Huntsville Spring. He spent much of his time in waging war with the rattlesnakes which were very numerous in his day, and had entire possession of the Bluff at the Spring. Thousands of them, it appears, were lodged amongst the rocks. The Captain would shoot hundreds a day by thrusting long

canes filled with powder into the fissures of the rocks."

"Whether Hunt or the snakes acquired the victory, I have not heard, as he was compelled to abandon his settlement to a more successful rival, who purchased the land. This was Colonel L. Pope, who in company with Dr. Manning and others, pur-

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chased the land. The land around Huntsville, and the whole of Madison County, of which it is the capital, is rich and beautiful as you can imagine; the appearance of wealth would baffle belief. The town stands on elevated ground, and enjoys a beautiful prospect. It contains about 260 houses, principally built of brick; has a bank, a courthouse, and market house. There is a large square in the centre of the town, like the towns in Ohio, and facing this are the stores, twelve in number. These buildings form a solid wall, though divided into apartments. The workmanship is the best I have seen in all the states and several of the houses are three stories high, and very large. There is no church. The people assemble in the Courthouse to worship. Huntsville is settled by people mostly from Georgia and the Carolinas though there are a few from almost every part of the world, and the town displays much activity. The citizens are gay, polite, hospitable and live in great splendor. Nothing like it in our country."

Anne left Huntsville and arrived at the settlement of Melton's Bluff where she penned her first letter from there to her friend Matt. She next visited Moulton, staying there from March 1819 until going to Courtland in June 1821. The fol-

lowing month she was in Florence which she described as "one of the new towns of this beautiful and rapid rising state."

She goes on to say, "There are two large and well-kept taverns in Florence and several Doggeries. A Doggery is a place where spirituous liquors are sold; and where men get drunk, quarrel, and fight, as often as they choose, but where there is nothing to eat for man or beast."

Back in Huntsville in January 1822, she writes: "Huntsville has greatly increased since my first visit; and not withstanding the check it has received in the great number of new towns on the river, it will always be a place of wealth and business. It now has a population of 1,300 inhabitants."

"Two churches have been built since I have been here; a theatre (now burnt), and a number of dwelling houses. It has now two printing offices - each publishes a paper; sixteen stores, several commission merchants, an auctioneer, a land office and various other public offices. There are two academies for young ladies, one for young gentleman and several common schools. Great encouragement is given to learning throughout the state. Every sixteenth section of land is set apart for the benefit of education, and provision is made by law for a

university, which is soon to go into operation. There's your chance Mr. Black-Coats! They have a tolerable library, fine taverns, several Doggeries, twenty-one lawyers and eight practising physicians!

"Few places combine more blessings than Huntsville and not a town in the world, perhaps, in proportion to its population, ex-

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cept Florence, has more wealth, more talent, more taste, more hospitality, mirth and gaiety, than Huntsville. The ladies of Huntsville distance every thing in the costliness of their dress; nor do I like their manners so well as I do the manners of the Florence ladies. They are always in the streets. But they are beautiful women, and very familiar. Their young gentlemen are rather better informed, are gay and lively, play and sing well. They often go out serenading and have a Thespian society which entertains the citizens at stated periods; to these are added balls and cotillion parties."

Back in Huntsville by April 1822, she wrote to Matt: "We had the most dreadful tornado last week. It prostrated everything before it - trees, houses, fences - all razed to the foundation. Trees were said to be carried fifteen miles, twisted and split to atoms and though strange, no lives were lost. Twenty-one in all were wounded, without food and clothing, and houseless - many of them widows and orphans. The ravages are generally confined to

a straight line ... this one about 50 miles long, and not exceeding one quarter or one half mile in breadth."

In June 1822, Anne wrote "I have often mentioned the great wealth of this place. Here are Col. LeRoy Pope, Gen. Braham, Dr. Fern, Dr. Chambers, Dr. Manning, Thomas Bibb, Esq., and a score or two besides, that are rich as princes. Dr. Manning, this year has 760 acres in cultivation, and Dr. Chambers and a dozen others, very little behind him."

Anne described LeRoy Pope as one of the wealthiest men in the state who lived in princely style. "His house," she said, "is separated from the town by a deep ravine and from an eminence overlooks the town from the west and on the east lies his beautiful plantation on a level with the house. If I admired the exterior, I was amazed at the elegance displayed in every part of the interior."

"You recollect your old school mate, Dr. Erskine. He lives here, and has become wealthy. He married sometime since, the beauti-

ful Miss Russell, and has one child. The doctor is highly respected in Huntsville. He rides in his carriage, and ranks with the first men in the place. Almost everyone rides in carriages here - very few are ever seen on horseback."

By the summer of 1823 Anne received the news that she had



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dreaded. The heirs of William Royall had succeeded in breaking his will. Anne, now past fifty, was left penniless and was forced to make her own living. Had it not been for this legal decision, she probably would not have become a journalist.

For the next eight years she spent her time traveling, writing and publishing books, one after the other. Between 1826-1831 she had published ten travel books and a novel.

From 1831 until a short time before her death in 1854, Anne edited a weekly newspaper in Washington. She named her first paper Paul Pry, but thinking it might imply the paper was a scandal sheet she changed it to The Huntress.

She was never able to buy good printing equipment or hire competent workers. When the printing was poor and delivery late, she usually explained why. "After all," she explained, "The foreman is only 13 years old." Anne did all the interviews and writing. She helped with the printing and, when necessary, delivered papers.

She cruised the halls of government buildings, interviewing numerous people on Capitol Hill and reported their views in her paper. She consistently exposed abuses of government in hopes of arousing public opinion toward reform.

She fought for public education, for keeping church and state separated, and for more liberal

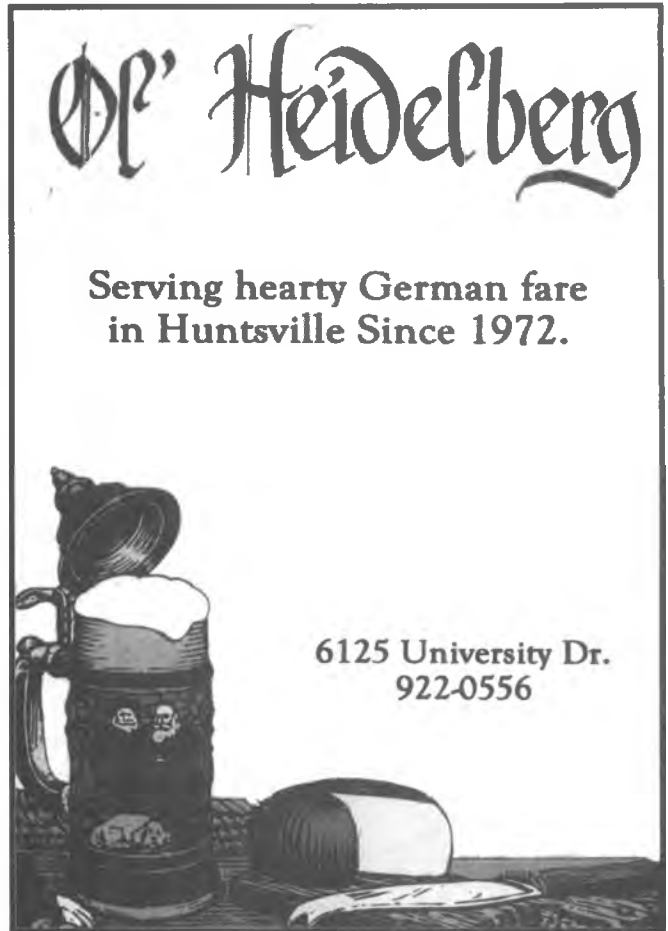
immigration laws. To strengthen her point on the latter issue, she cited Baron von Steuben, a foreigner who instructed her husband in military tactics, and Gen. Lafayette who brought men, ships and money to hasten America's independence. She hated slavery, but had no patience with abolitionists. She constantly attacked organized religion, harping on hypocrites. She blamed the church for her conviction in court as a "common scold."

Anne maintained good relations with President John Quincy Adams. She interviewed him numerous times on public issues. He always felt kindly toward her, and once gave her a shawl that had belonged to his wife. P.T. Barnum, another friend, visited her print shop and offered to pay her to lecture on public issues at his shows. During the conversation he sat on a dusty floor, helping her sort papers. She refused the offer, although Barnum felt it would have been a profitable ven-

ture for her.

As time passed, her attacks on those with whom she disagreed became stronger. She was best known for her salty editorials and exposing corruption.

But there was another Anne Royall who was trusting, optimistic and patriotic. At age 83 she penned an editorial in her last issue of The Huntress: "We trust in heaven for three things: First, that members (of Congress) may give us the means to pay for this paper. Second, that Washington may escape that dreadful scourge,



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the cholera; and third, that the union of these states may here be eternal."

She died two weeks later.

"Happy Birthday! You look great for your age - almost lifelike."
What you WON'T see on a greeting card

Old Love

from 1902 newspaper

The grandfather of Mr. Walls, now living near Athens, Alabama, never married until his 103rd year. His wife was just 20, and they lived happily together. "It was no unusual sight," says the Athens newspaper, "to see the old man, at the age of 130, plowing in the field. But he was taken sick when in his 138th year and lived but a few months.

Lady Swallows Snake

from 1913 newspaper

Miss Mamie Nolan, of Holmes Ave., has been in the habit of drinking water directly from the aqueduct by putting her mouth to the tap.

She will not do it anymore, however, for she had an experience today that showed her the folly of such a course.

While she was drinking, a water snake about ten inches long passed through the faucet, and went halfway down her throat.

She could not yell, but she managed to attract attention by throwing herself down on the floor and kicking violently.

The snake was pulled from her throat, and she fully recovered from her fright in an hour, but her throat is still sore.



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The Baracca Room

by Nolan Myrick

When I was about six years old my family started going to Fifth Street Baptist Church. The Rev. M.G. Wilson was the pastor and Mr. Ralph Bagwell was the song leader. We met in a little stucco building next to what all of east Huntsville called the Big Ditch. At the back of the stucco building we had a small two story building that was full of classrooms. Connecting the two buildings was the Baracca room which was mostly in the stucco building behind the auditorium.

The Baracca room was used by small groups so they wouldn't have to heat the big auditorium. I believe everyone in those days was more conservative, or maybe we just didn't have a lot of extra money. Sometimes at prayer meeting on Wednesday nights when they had business meetings

I remember it would get pretty hot in the auditorium and the heater wasn't even on. We had those big old ceiling fans that moved real slow to keep cool in the summer. I used to go to sleep during the preaching service by watching the fan above me go round and round.

I've been thinking about the Baracca room all week so I decided to write and maybe someone else might remember something I missed.

I took piano lessons up on Oakwood Ave. on Tuesdays and learned to play one song, "How Great Thou Art." We had an old upright piano at home that we got for fifty dollars and everyone that came to see us had to listen to me play that song. My father even made me go one Thursday night and play for the brotherhood meeting which was held in the Baracca room. That night I started and closed the meeting with my version of How Great Thou Art. I never did get asked to play for the brotherhood again.

The Baracca room always held a special treat for the holidays. It could have been on Christmas Eve or the night before, I don't know for sure but ev-

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everyone was encouraged to come to the church.

We all met in the heated auditorium. We had drawn names maybe a month earlier and you had to bring a gift for the person whose name you had drawn. After they gave out all the gifts, Clarence Carroll or one of the other deacons would open the door to the cold Baracca room and bring out a big box full of paper sacks.

They had enough sacks for every kid in the church. Inside the sack was a big cold red apple. It wasn't the scrawny kind grown in Huntsville, it was the kind they had at Star Market at Five Points that we couldn't afford to buy. The sack also contained a big orange and some hard candy. I really liked the candy because it was in a lot of different colors and sizes.

I remember I spent a lot of time looking at the back of the Christmas catalogs that Sears and Montgomery Wards sent us with pictures of the candy you could buy. Love those days!

Buttermilk King

Green King was a moonshiner. He had the reputation for making the "most potent" and the "most best" moonshine in Madison County.

Unfortunately, he 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 drink-

ing whiskey.

"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."

RAN AWAY

from 1832 newspaper

Ran away from the subscriber in Madison County, Ala., about the first of May, a Negro fellow, named Austin, of common height, very stout, and about thirty years old: has short narrow white teeth, those in front considerably separated, and has a scar on his forehead as a result of a dog bite.

\$100.00 reward shall be paid to the person delivering this slave back to me.

Stith B. Spraggins

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News From Huntsville in 1863

- We have intelligence from Huntsville. Oct. 2nd that the enemy was expected there from New Market on the 1st, but the report of their coming was untrue. There were none nearer than Winchester. Tenn., and had not been for about three weeks.

- The family of Geo. W. Lane. Lincoln's U.S. District Judge for the State of Alabama, had arrived some two or three weeks before, and were making preparations for a permanent residence, his wife having returned to Nashville or Louisville for groceries. It is said that they had an escort of 60 Federal cavalry on their trip to Huntsville. It was reported that Judge Lane got to Stevenson, en route for

Huntsville, but was too drunk to proceed further. It is quite as likely that "discretion, the better part of valor," interposed a most potent reason for shortening his journey.

- Wood and coal were scarce in Huntsville - wood bringing \$10 to \$18 per load (little, if any, over half a cord) in Confederate notes and \$8 in Federal greenbacks. The planters around are so nearly stripped of horses, mules, oxen and wagons, that few of them can haul wood. Some offer to give it to citizens, if they will haul it. Others seem disposed to grasp all they can get of their fellow-sufferers. The coal mines, in the vicinity of Huntsville, were worked by a Northerner and an Irishman, when we left there, which may account for the greenbacks entering the market.

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find me a wife."**

Jeb Smith, age 5

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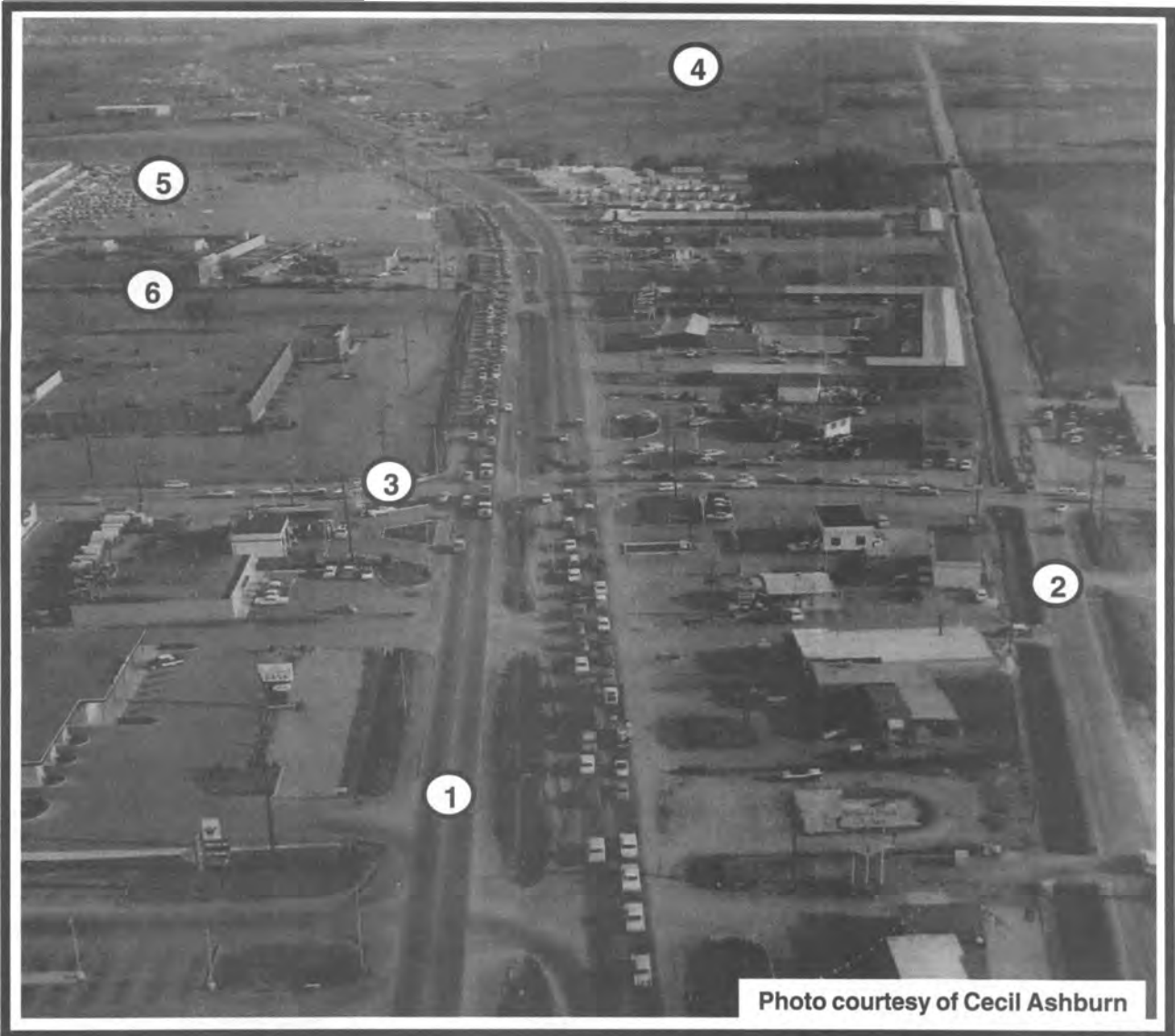
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News From The Year 1949

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Berlin Blockade Ends

Cheers broke out in Berlin this morning as lights burned past midnight for the first time in a year. Cars roared in both directions on the autobahn connecting Berlin to the British sector of Germany. And sighs of relief were heard among overworked employees at the airport. The blockade of Berlin was over, and Berliners felt they had beaten Russia at its own game.

The Russians choked off the city last June to protest what they called intransigence by the Western Allies on the future of Berlin and Germany. They ended the blockade today after negotiations in New York under the auspices of the United Nations. The Russians also agreed to attend a new meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers, to drop their opposition to the creation of an independent West Germany and to give up their plans for a single currency for all of Berlin. The Allies and the Russians also agreed to give more

autonomy to Berliners, although they retain tight control over security matters, foreign relations and the constitution.

It was the Allied airlift that punctured the holes in the Russian blockade. The operation started as soon as the blockade began, and it was costly. The Allies spent \$200 million to keep the planes in the air.

Frank Sinatra has New Hit

Frank Sinatra, gangly crooner and darling of the bobby-sox set from Hoboken, N.J., has yet another hit song in "New York, New York." He sings it in the film "On the Town."

The 33-year-old is just as popular today as when he sang "This Love of Mine" and "I'll Never Smile Again" with the bands of Tommy Dorsey and Harry James.

Israel Becomes Member of U.N.

Israel became a U.N. member today by a General Assembly vote of 37 to 12.

Nine abstentions included Great Britain. But before the applause had died away, five Arab delegations - Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen - walked out of the Flushing Meadow Assembly Hall in protest. They were complaining bitterly that Israel had not complied with U.N. resolutions calling for an international regime in Jerusalem and the repatriation of Arab refugees.

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Allies Organize NATO

Is it a legitimate defense treaty or a militaristic plan that will only provoke the Soviet Union? Forceful arguments were made for both viewpoints as the United States and Western Europe unveiled plans for a collective defense alliance they call the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. The Allies agreed that an armed attack on any one of them would be considered an attack against them all. Their goal is the "preservation of peace and security." They also reaffirmed support for the United Nations.

Critics say the treaty will turn Europe into an armed camp that will ignite a war with the Russians. Earlier this month, Belgian Communists adopted a resolution opposing any "war of aggression against the Soviet Union." Strong opposition to the alliance has also surfaced in left-wing circles in

Italy and France. A chief backer of the treaty, Secretary of State Dean Acheson, chides critics by saying that only strength will preserve peace.


The U.S., Canada, Britain, France and the Benelux nations wrote the treaty. Italy, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Portugal are invited to sign it next month.

B-50 Flies Non-Stop Around the World

An American B-50 bomber, Lucky Lady II, completed the first non-stop flight around the world today when it landed at Carswell Air Force Base near Ft. Worth, Texas, at 10:31 a.m., 94 hours and one minute after takeoff. The B-50 was refueled in mid-air four times during its 23,452-mile flight. The Lucky Lady II took off just after noon on February 26, flying toward the east. It was refueled over the Azores early Sunday, over Saudi Arabia later that day, then over Manila and over Hawaii yesterday. Air Force officials say the flight demonstrates that United States aircraft can drop atomic bombs at any spot on earth at any time.

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Huntsville Happenings - from 1885

- Stolen last Thursday night from Thomas Gore near New Market a black horse mule. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for the return of the mule, and ten dollars for the apprehension of the thief as long as he is delivered to me. The lucky man can reach me at the Mercury.

- Nine of J. R. Stegall's fine lot of hogs were impounded this week under the vagrant hog law. Mr. Stegall states that on Saturday night his hogs were closely put up in his lot, and on Sunday morning had escaped through the planks which had been removed either by a man or a hog. He claims that the ordinance does not apply where the owner of the hogs does not intentionally permit them to run at large and has been pardoned for this before. Justice R. W. Figg has been asked to test the question.

- The colored Cumberland Church laid the corner stone of their new church building on Church street Saturday evening, with interesting and appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Evening Star Lodge No. 6 A.F & A. M.

- A rope walking artist visited our town this week, but retired with paralysis on being required to take out city and county licenses before getting a chance to risk his neck.

- Yesterday, Deputy Sheriff Fulgham took Kitty Eldridge, a demented colored woman, to the State Asylum for the Insane at Tuskalooosa.

- John Rosemeyer, well-known farmer in the Scottsboro area, while bordering on de-

lirium yesterday, piled his bedding on the floor in his room and set fire to it, then mounting a chair on the table in the middle of the room and arming himself with a gun, bade defiance to his imaginary tormentors, when some neighbors heard the noise and

rescued him.

His eyes were burned and he was otherwise so badly burned that he cannot live. The house and its contents, worth \$3,000, were destroyed. He is presently lodged in the jail.



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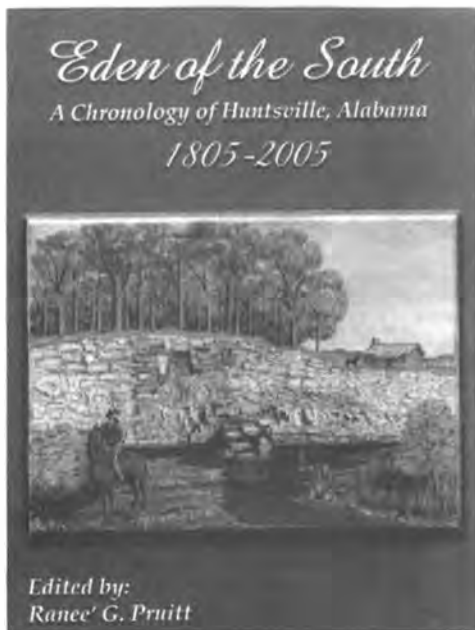
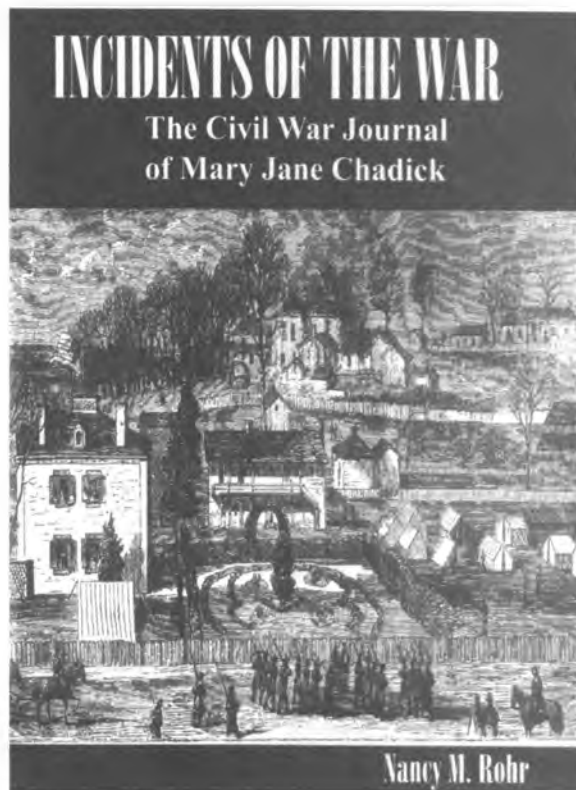
The War In Huntsville

The Civil War Journal
of Mary Jane Chadick

The Civil War diary of Mary Jane Chadick of Huntsville, Alabama, has been a popular source for historians since it first appeared in serial form in the Huntsville Times in 1937. Soon after this, it was printed in a small book, and in 1947 was reprinted in the Alabama Historical Quarterly, a selection so popular that surplus copies were quickly depleted. Chadick's witty observations of life under military occupation and the social and cultural tensions of southern women living in a wartime world are quoted by writers of many books about the Civil War. Nancy Rohr's edition is the first attempt to place the diary in context and interpret Mrs. Chadick and the wartime world in which she lived. Rohr's extensive annotations make this new edition an even more valuable primary source on women, northern Alabama and the Civil War.

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“Eden Of The South” Tells Huntsville’s History In Photographs

Just in time for the holidays, the Huntsville Madison County Public Library's premier publication is available for purchase. Eden of the South: A Chronology of Huntsville, AL - 1805-2005 is a must for everyone who has celebrated Huntsville's Bicentennial year.

Edited by Ranee Pruitt and researched by 20 of Huntsville's own historians, the 300 page book, complete with over 700 historic photos and illustrations, includes vignettes of history from Huntsville's 200 years. This beautiful hardback book is available for \$29.95, and the proceeds will help build an endowment fund to support the collections in the HMCPL's Huntsville Heritage Room and Archives.

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INCIDENTS of WAR

The following are excerpts from the recently released book, "Incidents of War, The Civil War Journal of Mary Jane Chadick," by Huntsville author Nancy Rohr. This is the first and the most in-depth book to explore the war-time occupation of Huntsville by Federal troops.

Saturday, April 12 ... Truly our town is full of the enemy. There is a sentinel at every corner. Everybody keeps the front door locked, and I make it a point to answer the bell myself, not permitting children or servants to open it... They have been searching the houses today for arms. We have not been molested. Servants are giving information of all the arms and soldiers who have been concealed...

April 21 ... Two prisoners at the depot made their escape this

way: They put on Yankee uniforms and walked out of doors, stood awhile and then went back. Whereupon, the guard ordered them out, telling them that "they had no business in there," so they went quietly out and walked up town and made their escape! As soon as it was known, the remainder of the prisoners were hurried off to Camp Chase, Ohio.

April 28 ... General Mitchell (Union) has been in a rage all the week on account of the cutting of the telegraph poles and lines, the tearing up of the railroad

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tracks, firing into trains, and holds the citizens responsible for the same, having had 12 of the most prominent arrested. It is probable that the work of our cavalry has annoyed him excessively, as they are constantly picking off his men.

May 12 ... General Mitchell complained that the ladies of Huntsville have given his officers the "cold shoulder" by not having received them into the social circle! Some of the Unionists gave a picnic and invited two of his officers, who accepted and went. The next day, he had them arrested. Some folks were malicious enough to attribute it to jealousy, because he was not invited himself....

June 9 ... There has been some cheering news from Virginia the past week. Something of the kind is needed to revive our drooping spirits, prisoners as we are. We hear no news but such as comes from the enemy, and that is rarely ever favorable to our side.

There has been some fighting the past week between Gen. Mitchell's men and our cavalry in Jackson County, the result of which is unknown to us. The Federals brought down a great many wounded men, most of whom have since died.

We heard a day or two since that the Federals had burned the house of Mrs. Dillard in Jackson. A story was also circulated to us of her son. A soldier asked for some meat, and he accompanied him to the

smokehouse and cut it for him. When the soldier said it was not enough, young Dillard then gave him the knife and told him to cut it for himself. After the soldier had put down his gun for that purpose, the son seized it and told the other that he was his prisoner. The soldier sent up a loud cry for help, Dillard threatening all the time to bayonet him if he did not hush. A struggle ensued, in which the Federal was killed and Dillard taken prisoner and carried to Stevenson. Some whisky, deeply drugged with laudanum, was given the guards by Dillard's friends. They partook of it, and naturally enough fell into a deep sleep. Dillard escaped and joined Sterm's cavalry, with which he is now doing service.

June 11 ... Last night, the guard discovered 50 or 60 negroes at the depot, armed with Enfield rifles. They were dispersed and some of them taken to jail. Col. Burke, the provost, seems disposed to make the negroes keep their places. Nearly all the troops



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here are leaving for Chattanooga. Rumor says there has been fighting there, and the Rebel troops have gained a victory.

... A funeral procession is passing. A flag is thrown over the coffin. Must belong to the artillery, as there is a cannon in the procession. The band of music from headquarters is playing a dirge. These funeral processions pass two or three times a day of late, and sometimes there are two coffins in the hearse at the same time. When a member of the cavalry dies, his horse is led in the procession, as chief mourner, with the blankets and accoutrements of the deceased thrown over him, which looks inexpressibly sad.

... The Federal mails were seized yesterday between here and Nashville. The mischief, as usual, was laid to Morgan.

June 20 ... This has been rather an eventful day. Miss Sallie Matthews and Miss Row Webster were arrested this morning and carried before Gen. Mitchell for having attached Confederate flags to their grace hoop and playing with them when his soldiers were passing.

... We are very carefully guarded here so that we know nothing that is passing without, and very little within. All that we hear is rumor, rumor, rumor,

with her thousand tongues. And we might add, a very small quantity of bacon.

June 21 ... The train was again fired into in Jackson County today, and 10 men killed and three or four wounded. A gentleman up there sent Gen. Mitchell word that he need not be punishing private citizens for these things, that he knew the Jackson County people had suffered too much already, and that he (Mitchell) had burned the house of a widow a few days since, and the men of Jackson intended to avenge it. He said they had formed themselves into two bands for that purpose and, as they were cut off from the army, they intended to stay there and aggravate him all they could.

When the news reached General Mitchell, he sent up a body of men with orders to burn every house in Jackson near the railroad between here and Stevenson.

They were met by the other party under flag of truce, saying that they (the Confederates) had about 50 Yankee prisoners in their hands and, for every house burned, they would hang a man. Where upon, the general countermanded the order.

August 4 ... The Yankees are using the negroes today by the wholesale, and have commenced their fortifications around the town. Patton's Hill is being forti-

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fied, as it commands the town.

... Five hundred blacks were sent off on the train this morning toward Nashville to erect fortifications. There is a great panic among the negroes. But few are willing to go, and they are running and hiding generally.

... They (the Yankees) are talking largely about burning the town, and if the "low-down pirates" are left to do as they please, they would soon sack and burn it. An officer said the other day that these people were too pampered in their pride, and he would like to see some of their fine houses destroyed.

... Another pirate said that he liked to stay in Huntsville, amazingly, that we have so many delicacies, and the climate is no warmer than in the North.

.... A party of them went to the house of the widow Scruggs last week, and, after robbing the place of every peach, melon and turkey, they returned again in large numbers and surrounded the house, knowing that there were no whites on the place except three ladies. They (the women) bolted the doors and windows, and ran upstairs for safety, while the brutes, aided by three negroes, uttering the vilest language, accompanied with curses and imprecations, clamored for admittance. A neighbor, seeing what was going on, started a servant on horseback to the courthouse, and an officer and guard soon made their appearance, whereupon the wretches dispersed and, of course, escaped punishment.

... There is a negro Colo-

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nel walking around town today as large as life. His regiment is said to be above here on the railroad. So they are arming the blacks. Truly, their course must have become desperate.

August 8 ... Spent the day with Mrs. Watkins, in company with Mrs. Powers. Mr. Fennel's cotton burned last night. Supposed to be work of his own negroes. Several houses were burned in Jackson County yesterday. Also several markets, among them Mrs. Vincent's, Mr. Crutcher's, Mr. Spragins', Mr. Sledge's and Mr. Word's. They kicked Mrs. Word out of doors and slapped Miss Anna's jaws.

August 24... Great stir in town today among soldiers. The 10th Ohio, "the heroes of Carnifax," have moved their camps up by the graveyard, and we now have all the Federal force in our neighborhood.

They appear to be moving their sick and stores, and the rattling of the wagon wheels along the streets is terrible to one with the headache.

(Noon). Mr. Samuel Coltart, the mayor, has just called me to tell us that the Federals will evacuate our town at 4 o'clock this afternoon, and no matter how great our joy is upon the occasion, no demonstration must be made on our part while it is going on.

Gen. Lighte (Actually Gen. W. H. Lytle, whose command evacuated Huntsville, Aug. 31, 1862) sent for him and requested him to tell the citizens this, as he could not be answerable for the conduct of the troops when leaving. He had received kindness from the hands of the citizens, and did not wish them to be molested.

We have heard of people being intoxicated with joy. That is precisely our condition at the present. As night approaches, many of them appear to be drunk.

... My kind friend, Mrs. John Robinson, gave me a cartload of green corn today for the purpose of drying for the winter. Great stir among the Feds this morning. Perhaps they are going to leave us at last. It is certain the 15th Kentucky, camped at Green Academy, are cooking rations.

August 31 ... Awoke a little after midnight by the sound of heavy tramping of feet, the sound of voices, uttering the most dreadful curses, the rattling of wagons in the street. Sprang out of bed and looked through the shutters to see what it meant, when, lo and behold, it was the Lincoln army making their anxiously wished for exit from Huntsville. Could hardly believe it, so joyful the thought.


- "Incidents of War" can be purchased at Shaver's Bookstore (536-1604). With 380 pages and a fold-out map, it is an absolute must for anyone interested in Huntsville's history.

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A Maternal Gobbler

from 1885 newspaper

A very strange incident occurred in Arab a few days ago at John Jason's farm. The facts are attested to by the people who lived in the area.

A very pompous turkey gobbler a few days since indicated a desire to imitate a prolific and motherly hen and in order to test its patience, Mr. Jason placed a dozen eggs under this maternally inclined gobbler. The gobbler set for the required period and at the proper time the little chicks pipped their way out of the shells and entered this world of sorrow and pain. The gobbler seemed to swell with pride as he gazed on his interesting brood and has been as thoughtful and attentive as the

most considerate hen.

All the little chicks are thriving and seem deeply attached to the he-turkey mamma.

Happy Birthday!

- Jan. 3
1951 Mel Gibson
- Jan. 5
1946 Diane Keaton
- Jan. 7
1957 Katie Couric
- Jan. 9
1914 Gypsy Rose Lee
- Jan. 12
1954 Howard Stern
- Jan. 15
1904 Cary Grant
- Jan. 22
1949 George Foreman
- Jan. 28
1936 Alan Alda
- Jan. 30
1882 Franklin D. Roosevelt

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A Sad Case

from 1889 newspaper

The saddest case of the Enoch Arden kind is that recorded of a Missouri man, which took place lately. One day in the year 1861 his wife sent him out to get an armful of wood, but he walked to town, where he enlisted and went away to the war.

When the war closed he drifted away to California and Mexico. His wife waited five or six years; then concluding that he was dead, she married again.

The second husband died in 1879, and in 1882 she led another blushing groom to the altar. About a month ago the original husband came lumbering back.

But there was no glad smile for him. The wife looked over her shoulder at him from where she sat by the stove and asked him if he had got that wood yet.

Then the third husband came in and told him to "make tracks, and make 'em lively." "Alas," exclaimed the first husband, "It has been for naught!"

Then he went out, and the second husband's dog chased him to the fork of the road.

The third husband is now fetching firewood while the first is still in town writing love letters.

Classified Ads From 1917

Lost - Red Muley Cow; burnt place on back; finder return to M. M. Maynard. 312 Humes Ave.

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A S S I S T E D L I V I N G

Little Known Facts About People of Madison County

- R.B. "Spec" Searcy - was selected as Employee of the Year while driving a bread truck.

- Cecil Ashburn - was head of the C.I.A. in 1960. (Construction Industry Assoc.)

- Albert Lane - made his operatic debut in Italy in 1955.

- C.A Glant - was National President of Horseshoe Pitchers Association in 1930.

- Malcolm Miller - wrote the song "What Are You Going To Do Without Me?"

- Mrs. Ray Dotson - was voted Miss Belgium in 1963.

- Harry Townes - had a major acting role in the movie Tobacco Road.

- James Record - co-wrote the book *Huntsville, Alabama: Rocket City U.S.A* of which 70,000 copies were sold.

- John Broadway - elected President of the Alabama Soft Drink Association in 1968.

- Barbara Chisholm - voted National Cherry Pie Champion in 1958.

- Betty Jo Cunningham - was in the first inaugural parade for George Wallace.

- Evelyn Quick - won the Alabama Hairdressers Grand Prize in 1941.

- Ron English - performed with Jerry Lee Lewis and George Jones.

- Glenn Sherrill - founder of Krystal Hamburgers in 1932.

- John Sparkman - elected to House and Senate at the same time.

- Mickey Stell - was a member of the Tommy Dorsey Band.

- Walt Wiesman - elected president of the Huntsville Jay-

cees in 1953 even though he was not a U.S.A. citizen.

- Bud Anderson - starred in the "High Chaparral" TV show in 1969.



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- Marjorie Canterberry - served as Vice Consul, Leopoldville, Belgium in 1951.
- Jo Holcomb - member of the June Taylor Dancers in 1969.
- Mrs. Josiah Hereford - voted Mother of the Year in 1945.
- Mrs. Charles Jaco - former National Maid of Cotton.
- John Richard - voted "Mr. Service Station of Alabama" in 1965.
- Tom Sharp - voted president of Alabama Tire Dealers in 1969.
- Mary Webster - won first place for hair modeling in 1959.
- Elizabeth Riddick - model who appeared in the Saturday Evening Post in 1938.
- Mrs. Lawrence Brock - appeared on the TV show "I've Got A Secret."
- Henry Holiday - won national hot dog eating contest in 1959.
- R.A. Moore - elected vice president of the Telephone Pioneers of America in 1925.
- Ginger Poitevint - elected National Miss Sun in 1968.
- Charles Stone - won National Outstanding Farmers Award in 1967.

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- 1 (3-oz.) pkg. chocolate pudding
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- 1/2 c. semi-sweet chocolate pieces
- 1/2c. chopped pecans
- Whipped cream



Preheat your oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 9x13 pan. In a sauce pan cook the pudding as directed, stir cake mix into the hot pudding. Beat 2 minutes on medium speed and pour into pan. Sprinkle chocolate pieces and nuts on top, bake for 40 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream.



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Before the Civil War, city road maintenance was performed by slaves. In 1841 the overseer for the slaves received \$900 a year, a house, meat, cornmeal, firewood and 150 pounds of lard.

It is believed the slaves were housed in the city market house on the corner of Washington and Clinton Streets which also contained the city jail and fire department. The town constable was in charge of the market.

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The Bridegroom Arrested

from 1890 newspaper

A sensation occurred at the depot today. An old man caused the arrest of a rawboned swain and a country bride. She looked not more than sixteen years of age.

When the procession reached police headquarters, the prisoner turned to the old man who had caused his arrest and said:

"Say, look here, Jim Burns, I've done married the gal, and you can't do no good by kicking up a row."

"I don't believe you are married to Ginnie. You've got to prove that," the old man replied. Someone was sent to the

courthouse and it was ascertained that a marriage license had been issued to Ben Morris and Virginia Burns, and Pat Owens had performed the ceremony.

"Good God, is my gal the wife of a horse thief?" the old man exclaimed when the news was told him. "But I'll make them suffer, Ginnie," he said, turning to the girl, "You and Ben stole \$45 when you left my house, and you've got to give it back to me."

"I love Ben," the young girl said, "and now we are married. I am happy. We didn't take but \$18, and you can have it back."

"Then, Mr. Policeman, take that fellow to jail for stealing my money," exclaimed the old man, who was white with rage. The policeman took hold of the young man, and after some trouble, with a pistol as a factor, the bridegroom was behind the bars. When he saw this, the

old man's heart softened, and upon the payment of \$18 by the girl he agreed not to prosecute her husband.

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Becoming a Millionaire

by Morton Allen

When I think about a title for any of my old stories, the only one that comes to mind is "Fact, Fiction, and Who Knows What." As with any senior citizen, certain allowances are made to me by virtue of age. You see, I am most likely one of the oldest citizens of Huntsville, with my 96th birthday rapidly approaching in March of 2006.

I could fill volumes of books with the many changes I've seen over the years with our fair city. But there is still one thing that we haven't gotten away from over the years, how to make a buck!

Even when I was a young boy, I had money on my mind. How to make it and how to spend it. One venture almost made me rich—and would have landed me in jail. (Upon further reading, please keep in mind that I have chosen to keep all identities anonymous to protect the innocent.)

As a young boy of about eleven or twelve, my friend and I had a little playhouse in the boiler room at East Clinton School. We would go in when the school was closed and play games and carry on as little boys do.

Did we have a key to the

school? Actually, we had another entrance. A side window. In this day it would be considered breaking and entering. In my day, it was just two boys having fun.

One day as we were playing we noticed a load of old iron rails from a railroad track. Why was that of interest to us? Boys my age would constantly comb the area for Coke bottles and scrap iron of any kind such as old horse shoes, plows, or any iron tool. Basically, anything iron that was thrown away was like gold to us. I used to take my little red wagon and look in alleys and behind houses for this precious "junk metal" because it could be swapped at a local "mom and pop" grocery store for candy.

On Washington Street, L.M. and Sons would buy any junk

you brought. He even bought old animal hides and I recollect that they stunk like the dickens. I can't imagine who would have wanted them and what they would have used them for!

So one can only imagine how excited we were to find these iron

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rails. We decided to form a partnership and we were going to be filthy rich. There was just one problem.

How were we going to get the iron rails out of the school window? We thought of every conceivable way to get them out and then a thought occurred to us. This might not be a good idea after all since they didn't belong to us.

Spending the night in jail didn't sound too appealing. Maybe my Methodist upbringing bothered my conscience.

Disappointed, we dissolved our business partnership and went back to being regular boys instead of becoming millionaires.

Help Yourself Store to Open

from 1923 newspaper

There is going to be a "Help Yourself" store opened in Huntsville, the store being of the buy and carry plan. The new concern will be operated by the W. L. Halsey Grocery company and will be managed by Mr. J. E. Connor, formerly with the Piggly Wiggly store in this city.

The Help Yourself Store will be located at the corner of Jefferson and Clinton streets. The W. T. Halsey Grocery Company has many stores in various points of the south and are opening new ones frequently.

Buster Brown Show Tomorrow

Tomorrow - the Real Live Buster Brown and his dog Tiger will be at our store giving his famous shows of fun and frolic for the children - free. We want every child in Huntsville to see him. The Cash Store - Ezell Bros. & Terry Co. (Saves You Money)

from 1911 newspaper



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Baked Possum

For many years Baked Possum was a popular food item for the rich and poor alike in the South. The Possum would be trapped and placed in a pen where it was fattened with corn and molasses. At the appropriate time, usually holidays, it would be prepared for the table. The following recipe is taken from an 1898 cookbook.

Put 1/2 cup lime in about 1 gallon of boiling water and scald quickly, and pull off hair while hot. Scrape well, remove feet, tail and entrails - like you would a pig. Cut off ears, remove eyes and head if desired. Pour hot water over it and clean thoroughly.

Put 1 cup salt in sufficient cold water to cover possum, add one pod red pepper and let stand overnight. In the morning remove salt water and pour boiling water over it. Cook in enough boiling water to boil up over possum but not enough to cover. Cook until skin can be pierced with a fork easily, and let stand in water until ready for baking.

When ready to bake, place in pan with skin side up. Bake in a moderate oven until crisp and brown. If fire is too, hot skin will blister and burn.

Carve and surround with potatoes (sliced or quartered) which have been previously baked.

For Fresh Rabbits

When planting your fall garden allow several extra places near brush piles or thorn thickets for small patches of greens. Place your traps on the edge of the patch, not in it. Be careful not to over trap, allowing yourself one rabbit each month per patch. This will assure you of fresh rabbit throughout the winter months.

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SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2006

| | | | |
|----------|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Feb. 6 | 6:30 | Robert Patterson | Criminal Law |
| | 7:40 | Delaine Mountain | Damages in Civil Action Part II |
| Feb. 13 | 6:30 | Connie Glass/ Carol Wallace | Elder Law |
| | 7:40 | Phil Price | DUI Law |
| Feb. 20 | 6:30 | Ed Gentle of Birmingham | Mass Tort Settlement Trends |
| | 7:40 | Richard Chesnut | Real Estate Law |
| Feb. 27 | 6:30 | Bobby Prince of Tuscaloosa | Rules of the Road |
| | 7:40 | Susan Conlon | Divorce Law |
| March 6 | 6:30 | Archie Lamb of Bham | HMO Crises |
| | 7:40 | Justice Bernard Harwood | The Supreme Court of Alabama |
| Mar. 13 | 6:30 | Tommy Siniard | Nursing Home Law |
| | 7:40 | Mike Wisner | Wills, Estates, and Tax Law |
| Mar. 20 | 6:30 | Rebecca Brinkley | Contract Law |
| | 7:40 | George Moore | Workman Compensation Law |
| Mar. 27 | 6:30 | Charles Boyd of Gadsden | Social Security Law |
| | 7:40 | Rachel Self Howard | Government Contract Law |
| April 3 | 6:30 | Hare, Wynn, Newell & Newto | Trial Tactics |
| | 7:40 | Mike Worel of Mobile | Medical Malpractice |
| April 10 | 6:30 | Kerri Riley | Employment Law |
| | 7:40 | Robert Presto | Divorce Law |
| | 8:30 | Allen Brinkley | Graduation |

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The State of the Indian Nation

In the early days of Madison County it was bordered by Indian tribal lands. Indian Agents were appointed to represent the government and were required by law to submit a report once a year detailing the condition of the tribes under their care. John Allen, the author of this report, resided in Huntsville and was agent for the Chickasaws.

February 7th 1830
Sir:

In conformity with your request of the 29th January, to give the Dept. of War, the information of which I may be in possession, touching the condition of the Indians within the Chickasaw Agency.

Before I proceed in detail to answer the different Interrogatories, I presume that the situa-

tion of the Chickasaw will be better understood, were I to give a brief, but, correct description of the country that they have inhabited ever since they have been known to the whites as a Nation.

This may be decided entirely unnecessary by the officers of the War Dept., as well as many of the members of Congress from the circumstances of their being personally acquainted with the facts hereafter states but as this information is not intended for them, but for members of Congress who are seeking information on this important subject, I respectfully submit the following.

The Chickasaw Nation is bounded as follows (to wit) on the east by Tennessee river, on the north by the state of Tennessee until the line strikes the Mississippi, thence down said river until it strikes the Choctaw Line in the state of Mississippi for compliment, so as to include a portion of North Alabama.

The climate is temperate, the lands on the Tennessee, Mississippi, and Tom Bigby rivers, are of a superior quality; and a large portion of the interior of the Nation is of the second qualified land, the balance is poor sandy soil wood Land, fit for nothing but summer range except on the water courses, which

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is well grown over with cane or reed, and affords an excellent winter range for horses, cattle &c all of which subsists well without any food from their owners during the winter season or throughout the year.

The buffalo and bear are gone, and there are but few deer, not sufficient to satisfy an Indian to depend upon for support, more particularly those that have family. Consequently the Chickasaws are compelled to subsist by a different means than that of the chase.

They (the Chickasaws) have a plenty of horses of a superior quality as at least as well adapted to the use of Indians, they use them on their farms with much less food that is generally given those animals that are raised and used by the whites, and when traveling through their country, they travel from thirty to fifty miles per day never feed them, but let them subsist entirely on what grass or cane they can procure for themselves when hobbled out at Night.

They have large herds of cattle, swine, sheep and goats, and poultry of every description that are in use generally in that section of the country. The country is well watered; and is well adapted to the culture of cotton, corn, wheat oats peas, potatoes, beans & etc.

Cotton, beef, and pork are the principal articles for exportation. There will be cotton exported from the Nation this year probably to the amount of 1000 bales.

The proceeds from the sales of cotton, horses, beef cattle, hogs & etc., after retaining a sufficiency for their home consumption, is generally applied to the purchase of necessaries and luxuries of life; (to wit) slaves,

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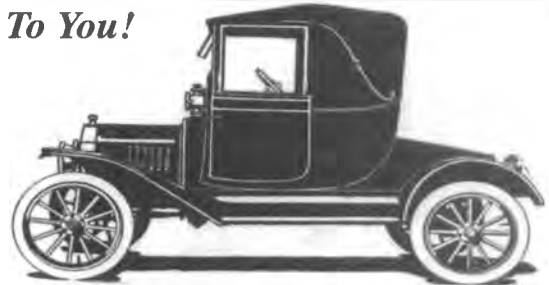
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The time has come when they no longer depend on the rifle for support, but it is used more for their recreation, and amusement than for the means of sustenance.

Every family cultivates the earth more or less, as his thirst for gain, or his imaginary or real wants increases.

Many of the Chickasaws profess Christianity. I attended a camp meeting in Nov., last at the Missionaries. Divine worship was performed alternately by white, and red men, in the English and Indian Languages; and for the first time I saw the sacraments taken by the Indians. Every thing was conducted with the utmost good order, and decorum.

As a Nation the men are

brave, and honest, the women (the half breeds in particular) are beautiful and virtuous; and I am of the opinion that there has been greater advancement in civilization in the last eight years than there was in twenty previous.

I think the present state of education does not meet the wishes or expectations of the Chiefs and head men of the Nation. Whether it be for the want of funds, or a improper application of them or a remissness of duty of those persons to whom the education of those children are intrusted is well worthy of the attention of the Genl. Govt.

The municipal laws of the Chickasaws consists in written laws, or resolutions commanding that which is right; and prohibiting that which they conceive to be wrong.

As it has been the wish of the Genl Govt, for many years

to promote the interest, and better the situation of the Chickasaw Nation, I am sorry to have it to say that the Indians and the Genl Govt have been greatly disappointed, from the unfortunate circumstances of their having made two bad appointments of Agents in succession for the Chickasaws, who have ruled the Nation with des-



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potism for the last eight or ten years, they have not stopped at the meanest acts of depravity that the human mind is capable of conceiving. They have oppressed, they have slandered, and they have cheated both them and the Genl Govt, thoroughly.

The Chickasaws being surrounded by the white inhabitants, I have found it a difficult matter to restrain the whites from violating the Intercourse Law, by driving their stock over the line upon the Indian Land, making settlements, trading with the Indians in a manner that is prohibited by law as well as stealing their negroes, horses, cattle, etc. but I am proud to have it in my power to say that those white persons who are so troublesome to the Indians are generally men of the lowest grade and dregs of society.

I have had a conversation with the principal Chiefs and head men of the Nation, at a Council that I called, on the 10th of November last. They all stated that they were much attached to their country, they were the first that occupied it, and had always been faithful to Genl Govt of the United States and on those grounds they bottomed a strong hope that they would be specially favored by the present men in power.

They (the Principal Chiefs) also stated that if the Laws were extended over them, they had no belief that they would be placed upon an equal footing with the whites; and if they made so by Law, all the officers of the Law would be composed of white men, and as they were unskilled in Law-suits; and the whites would be partial to each other, they had no belief that they would be able to withstand the encroachments of the whites upon them, and if they did attempt it, that in a few years they would not have a vestige of property left. Consequently they would exchange their country for any they could get rather than as they conceived, lose their native freedom.

Very respectfully Your
Obedient Servant,
John L. Allen



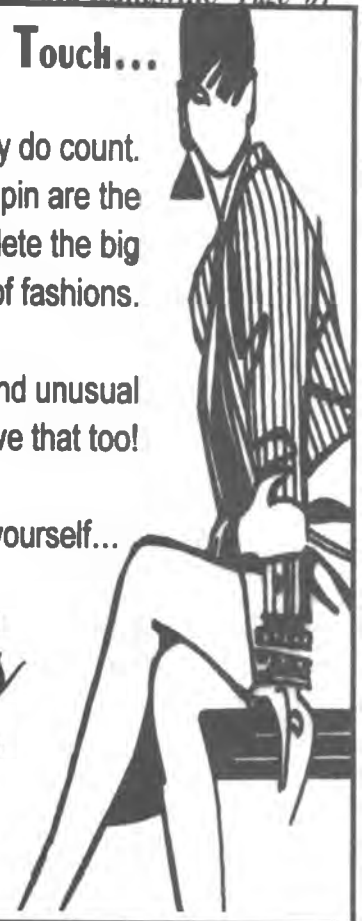
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Tips from Liz

* A gentleman in one of our Southern states came up with a great idea to keep squirrels away from his bird feeder. He had gotten one of those obnoxious singing Santas for a past Christmas, the motion-activated type that has movement and music. He placed it at the bottom of his bird feeder and as soon as a squirrel walked around the Santa/birdfeeder the Santa started singing and dancing. The squirrel ran head first into the bird feeder, and the man had no problems after that.

* Most of us use credit cards for our purchases, eating out, etc. Don't assume you'll get the right credit card back - oftentimes the waiter will have several to process at once and you could get someone else's. ALWAYS look at your card to make sure it's yours - it'll save you HOURS of time later.

* Green tea is a good appetite suppressant. At night, when I get to feeling hungry and want something sweet, I brew up a cup of green tea and after drinking it, have no desire to eat anything. Try it yourself!

* A good friend of mine, Carlton, pointed out the other day that people can be rude without meaning to be. When you are getting ready to pay for a purchase of any kind, rather than just tossing the money/credit card on the counter for the person to scramble after, why not just hand it to him/her? It's much kinder.

* If you're getting ready to really binge on ice cream or desserts, polish your nails. It takes a few minutes to dry, and usually by that time your raging impulse will have subsided.

* For a sore throat, try one of these: Sip a glass of pineapple

juice every couple of hours; or swallow a spoonful of honey; or, buy Airborne at the drug store and take right away - it contains Zinc which can shorten a cold.

* If you see a shooting star and can repeat "Money before the Week's Out" five times before the star disappears, your wish will come true.

* If you can't get rid of the hiccups, just lay a broom on the floor and jump over it six times. Or soak a sugar cube in lemon juice and suck on it slowly.

* Nuts are really good for you, especially almonds. Eating just 6 almonds a day will improve your memory substantially, if you can remember to do it!

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These Confederate veterans who gathered downtown Huntsville in 1938 were all that were left of the thousands who had marched to war from Madison County at the beginning of the Civil War. While these veterans were remembering battles from long ago, there were 24,000 people employed in Madison County and Gurley got its first telephone for its 65 subscribers.

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