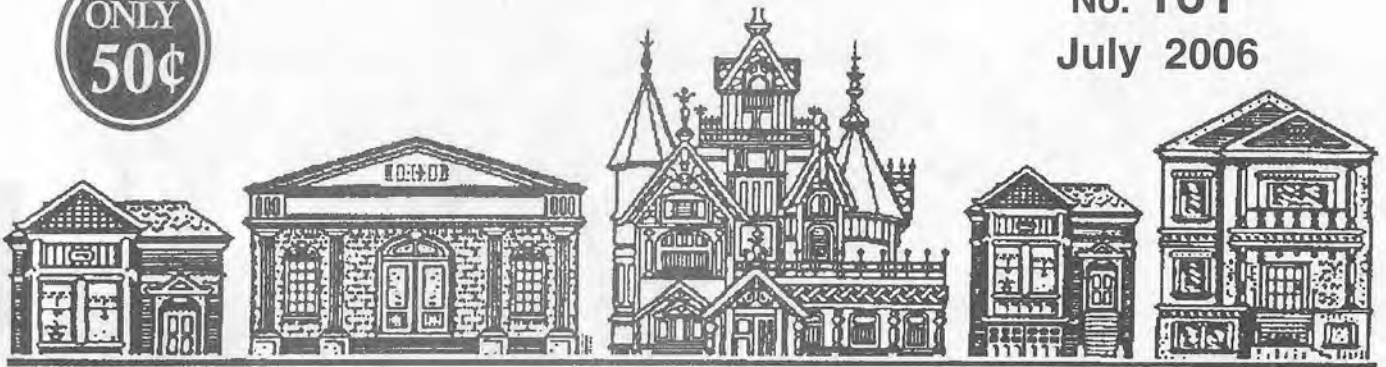


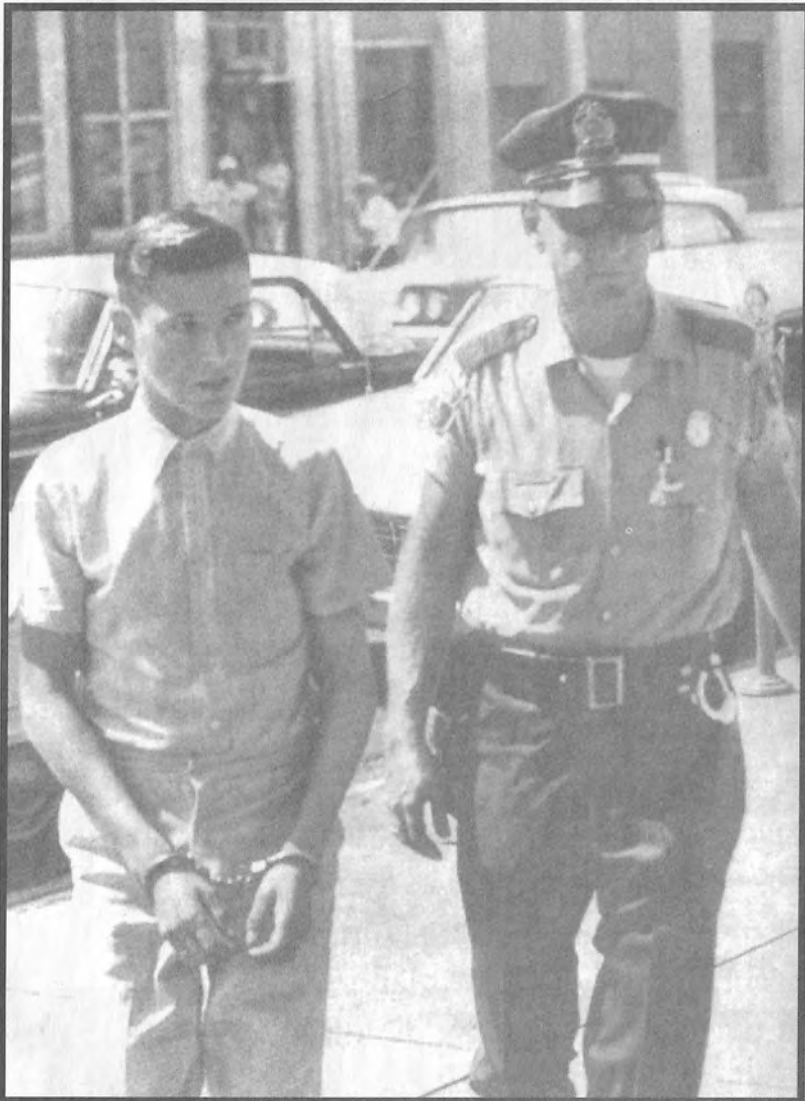
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July 2006



# Old Huntsville

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## The Boy Next Door

He could have been the boy next door who washed your car or cut your grass. He was shy; the type of boy who always said "Yes, Sir" and "No, Sir."

His name was Audie Lee Seagroves and he was charged with first degree murder, rape and robbery. If found guilty he would face death in the electric chair.

It was not a trial anyone would take pleasure from.

The defendant was only fifteen years old.

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Also in this issue: **The Last Indian**



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# The Boy Next Door

Huntsville Police Detective Norman Stephens tried not to show his irritation as he looked at the young boy sitting across from him. He already had a full case load and his mood was made worse by the humid temperature which had already climbed into the 90's. The small fan sitting on the corner of a desk struggled hopelessly to create a breeze in the small cramped office.

The last thing Stephens wanted on a hot day in August of 1964 was to counsel another fifteen-year-old runaway whose father had called Judge John Green for advice.

Green was an old fashioned type of judge who was well known for his work with juveniles. From his years on the bench he knew that once a boy got into the court system it was usually too late. Many of his cases were settled in his chambers where he would give a youthful offender the choice of enlisting in the military or going to jail. On other occasions he would ask the Police Department to pick the offender up to

have a talk with him. Sometimes the talk would consist of "Putting the fear of God" in the youngster and warning him what would happen if he did not straighten up. That, and a tour of the lockup, was often enough to change a delinquent's behavior for good.

Many times, however, a youngster would merely want someone to talk to about what was bothering him. Detective Stephens was a good listener who had a knack for establishing a rapport with juveniles. As often as not the session would usually end with Stephens writing his phone number on a card and telling the youngster to call him anytime he needed someone to talk to.

As Detective Stephens reviewed his notes, he tried to piece together what he knew of the young boy sitting across from him. Name: Audie Lee Seagroves, fifteen years old, the eighth of nine children born to Z.T. Seagroves, a farm laborer who sometimes worked as a housepainter. The family was poor but had a good reputation.

A frown came across Stephens' face as he read the next entry. Seagroves was on probation for stealing a car in Decatur several months earlier. As Stephens tried to decide how to handle the interview, he asked



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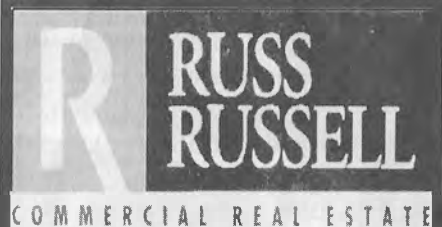
Features - Stefanie Troup

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the standard question he posed to all youthful offenders.

"Son, is there anything you want to talk to me about?"

Seagroves had been sitting silently, staring at the floor, but suddenly his head jerked up as he looked at Stephens with a look of terror on his face.

Stephens decided to press him further. "Son, your father told us you stole a pistol from him when you ran away from home. What did you do with it?"

Seagroves turned his head away, as if afraid to look the detective in the eye. Minutes passed, with Stephens sitting silently as he watched the young boy.

Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, Seagroves forced himself to look at the detective. His face was a mass of tears as he asked in a low trembling voice, "When did you find her?"

The interview had suddenly taken a different course, with Stephens at a loss as to what the boy was talking about. "Who are you talking about?"

Struggling to control his shaking body, Seagroves finally forced the words out. "The woman I shot on the mountain."

Stephens stared at Seagroves for a moment, not knowing what to say. Finally he reached for his notebook and started thumbing through it until he found what he was searching for.

"Ethel Marie Putnam, murdered, found on Huntsville Mountain."

With a sinking feeling he realized that the troubled young boy he was trying to counsel was possibly a cold-blooded murderer. He asked Seagroves if he was ready to talk about it.

"Yes sir," replied the boy. "I won't give you no more trouble."

Audie Lee Seagroves, by any definition, was a troubled youth. While other children his age talked about the Beatles, movies and going roller skating, Audie lived in a fantasy world of his own. He was going to get a horse, ride it to Arizona and become a cowboy, he confided to friends. Other times he talked about stealing a car and going to Florida where he would find himself a girl friend.

Roger Pelling recalls knowing Audie well. "There were a bunch of us kids who used to hang out at Sparkman homes. Sometimes Audie would show up early in the morning and wait for the other kids. I always had the feeling he was lonely and just wanted someone to pay attention to him. He never really fit in; it was like he just hung around the edges of our group. He was a quiet kid, kind of shy but not too bright. Some of the kids used to tease him but he never got mad. He would just walk away."

"Apparently he had a lot of trouble at home as I remember

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Steadman, Dr. Gilbert and Karen

several times when he ran away. There was a big ditch next to Sparkman homes where he would go and hide while pretending to camp out. Occasionally some of us would carry him a sandwich. After a few days he would be gone and it might be weeks before we saw him again. When he was arrested we were all in shock."

As the details of the murder began to emerge in the next several days it would prove to be more heinous than any one could have imagined.

After Seagroves finished his confession he was locked up to await a preliminary hearing. That same afternoon a reporter from the Huntsville Times, Jimmy Britnell, visited him in his cell. Although the story varied in small details it was basically the same one he had told the police.

On the morning of August 4, 1964 Audie, along with his father and two brothers, were chopping cotton at the Aaron Bailey farm on Johnson Road. The elder Seagrove, an experienced farm hand, began criticizing Audie for not "chopping clean." As the morning wore on Audie began to get angry, thinking his father was "picking on him." Finally, when his father was not looking, he leaned his hoe against a tree and walked home.

He said later his intention was to go live with his sister on Big Cove Road and if that didn't work out he was going to live in the woods. Perhaps that was the origi-

nal reason he took his hunting knife, a ball of twine and a 22 pistol that belonged to his father.

Audie began walking in the direction of Drake Avenue, hoping to spot a car he could steal. By this time it was the hottest part of the day and Audie was sweating profusely. At the intersection of Drake and Patton Road he paused for a few minutes to rest. A car, driven by Marie Putnam, approached the red light and rolled to a stop.

Perhaps it was exactly what Audie Lee Seagroves had planned, or maybe it was a combination of the scorching hot sun and humiliation that set into play the horrible events that were about to occur. We will never know.

We do know that he stepped up to the car driven by Marie Putnam, an employee at Redstone Arsenal, opened the door and slid into the passenger seat while brandishing the pistol. He ordered the frightened young woman to drive to the home of his sister on Big Cove Road. He tried to give directions but was unsure exactly where she lived.

As they were driving up Governors Drive, Seagroves ordered her to turn onto a deserted gravel road. After driving for a short distance Putnam said she could go no further because of the high weeds. As the car stopped she wrenched the door open and tried to flee. Seagroves aimed the pistol and ordered her to stop or he would kill her.

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A short time later, perhaps twenty minutes, the body of Marie Putnam was lying lifeless on the edge of the road. She had been raped and shot six times at close range. Fifty-five dollars and thirty-two cents was stolen from her purse.

Seagroves began walking down the mountain in the direction of Big Cove. At Halm's Service Station, on Highway 431, he purchased several moon pies and 4 RC Colas. He asked an employee where the nearest place was that he could buy some clothes. He was directed to the Kelly Grocery Store in Owens Cross Roads where he purchased blue jeans, a shirt, tennis shoes and socks. His old clothes were placed in a garbage can in the back of the store to be burned. He then went across the street to another store where he purchased a new B.G. Flyer bicycle.

He explained later he was thinking about riding it to Florida.

It was getting dark by this time and Seagroves stopped at Hunter's Grocery to buy a flashlight for his bicycle. He asked about spending the night in the

barn behind the store. Instead of giving permission, Mr. Hunter asked an employee to give Audie a ride back to Huntsville.

The next morning Audie's father called Judge Green to ask for advice. A few hours later Audie Lee Seagroves was arrested for the murder of Ethel Marie Putnam.

News of the gruesome crime sent shockwaves throughout Huntsville. Every place people gathered there was one topic of conversation. "He's only fifteen years old....."

For Judge Green, it was one of the most agonizing decisions of his public life. He had spent much of his career working with youthful offenders and understood only too well how easy it was for a youngster to choose the wrong path. At the same time, however, he had to look at the severity of the crime.

Two weeks after Seagroves was arrested Judge Green signed a decree declaring Audie Lee Seagroves incorrigible. He would be tried as an adult and face the death penalty if convicted.

"I pray I made the right deci-

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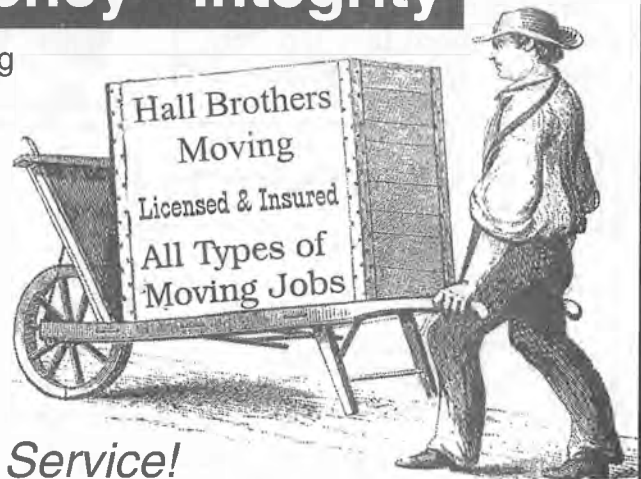
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sion," said Judge Green later. "A child that fires one shot and is immediately remorseful is one thing, but a child who shoots six holes in a woman after raping her is another thing."

A short time later Audie was sent to the Alabama State Hospital for the Insane for a mental evaluation. Six weeks later the report came back. He was declared to be somewhat "dull," with an intelligence level below what was considered normal, but still well within the ranges of sanity.

Despite the evaluation Seagroves' defense attorney, James White, decided that Audie should plead not guilty by reason of insanity.

On February 27, 1967, almost a year and half after the murder, the trial began. Audie Lee Seagroves was charged with first degree murder, rape and robbery. District Attorney David "Dea" Thomas was the prosecuting attorney with Judge David Archer presiding. Because of the gruesome nature of the crime photos, the trial was closed to the public.

Witness after witness paraded through the courtroom testifying to the murder scene. Others told of Seagroves buying new clothes and a bicycle. Police detectives testified to the details of his confession. After two days of testimony the prosecution rested its case.

The defense attorney James White announced they too were resting their case. They would call

no defense witnesses. For all practical purposes the trial was over.

It was a trial that was especially hard on everyone. Despite the fact that Seagroves never said a word in court, his presence was felt by everyone. Dressed neatly in a white shirt and light colored pants, he could have been the boy next door who cut your grass or washed your car.

"There was never a question as to whether he was guilty," remembered an observer. "The question on everyone's mind however was why? What made a young fifteen-year-old boy commit such a terrible crime?"

The following day the jury returned with a unanimous verdict - Guilty - with the punishment being death. Judge Archer ruled that Audie Lee Seagroves would

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be transferred to Kilby Prison where he was to be executed on June 2, 1967.

Seagroves' attorneys, James White and Donald Weir, appealed the decision before the Alabama Supreme Court, arguing that his rights had been violated because he was not informed of his rights to an attorney when he was taken to the police station. The court ruled that, in their opinion, Seagroves had not been picked up for counseling but as a suspect in the murder case. A new trial was ordered.

The prosecution was severely handicapped in preparing for a new trial. The court had ruled that Seagroves' confession, evidence from the crime scene and many of the witnesses were no longer admissible. Despite the fact that the case was now very much circumstantial, the prosecution decided to take a gamble.

The day the trial was to begin the prosecution invited the defense attorneys to look at the evidence they would be presenting during the trial. Although the confession Seagroves had made to the police was no longer valid, the

prosecution was going to call the reporter from the *Huntsville News* whom he had talked to. The reporter would testify that Seagroves had confessed during the course of an interview.

Seagroves' attorneys were faced with a dilemma. If their client was convicted he would receive the death sentence again with little chance of it being overturned. After much discussion, they decided for a plea bargain. The prosecution agreed to drop the robbery charges if Seagroves pled guilty to first degree murder and rape.

That same afternoon Seagroves appeared in Judge Archer's court. In a low voice that most people had trouble hearing, said he was changing his plea to guilty. He was sentenced to life in prison.

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sometimes be short.

In 1978, only ten years after being convicted, Audie Lee Seagroves was paroled and moved to Texas. In 1982 he was arrested for parole violation and returned to prison in Alabama. He remained behind bars until his death in 2002.



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*Erma Bombeck*



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# News from 1920

- County Solicitor Addison White, to whom an alleged flogging of Jesse Warren in the Hazel Green neighborhood was reported, declared yesterday that he will make a thorough investigation of the occurrence and if facts warrant it, will cause arrests to be made if identification of the masked men can be obtained.

- According to reports received here, George Macaloy, residing in Dallas village, was beaten about the head and body with a flatiron in the hands of his son-in-law, Fred Maples, Sunday afternoon, during a fracas between the two men. Macaloy was rushed to Huntsville, where he received medical attention. No arrests were made.

- For Sale - pedigreed Flemish Giant Rabbits. Phone 653 or 270.

- Improving - Mr. Charles Shaver is reported as doing nicely after having his tonsils removed at the City Infirmary yesterday.

- Mr. Milton Anderson, Harry Coons and James Wall have rented a cottage on Monte Sano, where they will spend the remainder of the summer.

- The erection of twenty new cottages at the Lowe Manufacturing company's mill is well underway with carpenters and other workmen being busily engaged on the work. The new homes will be occupied by employees of the mill and will add greatly to the appearance of the mill village.

- A man who gives his name only as "Branch" and who had been sent to the street gang 3 months ago and escaped shortly thereafter was recaptured yesterday at his home about 4 miles from Huntsville. The officers, who had long suspected his whereabouts but until yesterday had been unable to get their eyes on him, finally managed to finish the job. Several of the officers yesterday went out to the man's home and, upon learning that he was on the premises, surrounded the place and finally effected a capture.

He was brought to the city and locked up, to be again returned to the street gang where he will work at hard labor..



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## Writers

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# Reminiscences of Mr. R. Harris

*Originally published in  
"The Confederate Veteran",  
1905*

In March, 1861. I enlisted in the first company to leave Jackson County, Ala., for the war. We were sent to Fort Morgan, and remained there several months under Gen. Hardee. While on outpost duty at night at Navy Cove, near Fort Morgan, I was shot at by one of a crew of blockaders who had landed to pick off some of our chain pickets or videttes. He missed me, and I brought my gun to bear on him instantly, but it failed to fire, and he escaped through the lagoon.

I think this must have been the first shot fired on Alabama soil. I was mortified at the failure of my gun, but a few days after this Wilder, a small blockade runner, was grounded near this same point. Daylight showed Yankees to be on her, and several of us got a few shots at her from sand hills till we were shelled out of our position.

We could not tell the dam-

age we had done till the second morning, then thirty-nine Yankees were washed ashore and buried by our men.

From Fort Morgan we went to Fort Gaines and on to Fort Pillow, where we were discharged at the end of twelve months, our term of service. Most of the regiment reenlisted at once; but, determined to join the cavalry, I went to Corinth, Miss., where the battle of Shiloh was being fought; made my way to some Alabama troops, secured a musket, and took a hand in the battle. The next night I left on foot for home, and in a


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few days I was mounted and with Col. Starnes, who soon completed his regiment, the Fourth Tennessee. I became a member of Company F, under Capt. F Rice; the members were about two-thirds Alabamians and one-third Tennesseans. I was soon joined by my brother, Polk Harris, who had served in the Virginia army and had passed through all the battles from First Manassas to the seven days fighting about Richmond before he was seventeen years old.

We were on the move all through Middle Tennessee. Col. Starnes, with most of his regiment, went into McMinnville late one evening and found that a major commanding one hundred scouts had just left, headed for Murfreesboro. He called for a hundred volunteers to go with him, and we followed them all night, finding them at daylight at Readyville eating breakfast. William Whitworth and I captured the picket at the front gate of the Burton House (I think that was the name).

Before our men could reach us we were discovered by a Negro boy, who ran around the house giving the alarm. About thirty men were here, and they rushed for the front and began firing before I could get to the end of the house. Whitworth fired from the side into the dining room, from which came screams: "We surrender." We captured eighty-seven of the hundred, only losing two horses killed, and no man hurt much.

I was with Bragg's march

into Kentucky, and with the advance guard of Kirby Smith's Division, commanding five men in extreme advance. We were being bushwhacked every few hundred yards by citizens, several of whom we captured. One I got out of a hollow log, and Gen. Smith turned him over to his wife, who lived near by and came screaming and begging for his life, followed by ten or a dozen children. Both kissed the Bible that they would be non-combatants in the future.

Tom Hunt and I came upon four surgeons at a spring just outside of town with four young ladies, and we demanded their surrender. One of them requested that I bring forward my colonel for him to surrender to, as that was his rank; but when I replied, "No foolishness," he promptly surrendered. The young ladies were all pretty, and one of them abused us very much, saying if she had a pistol she would shoot me. I handed out one, and she grabbed at it and I believe would have shot me if she had gotten it.

I was in various fights of the command up to Tullahoma, and was on the skirmish line and just in front of Col. Starnes when he was killed. We had ceased firing and he was hunting a position for a battery just behind the skirmish line. Several spoke to him of the danger, and

when he turned to go back he was killed.

At Chickamauga I drew the first shot from the enemy. I had gone forward to the top of the hill and was peeping over a fence to locate the enemy, when I saw a gun glitter from behind a tree and a ball cut through my hat. Then the fight was on, and it continued until Sunday evening. I then went through the various battles from Mission Ridge to Resaca, Ringgold, and Kennesaw Mountain.



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**Sometimes Nothing Else Will Do!**

After Hood's retreat from Nashville I passed back through my home country in north Alabama, and saw how the Tory companies, as we called them, were stationed at almost every railroad station in the country and learned of their daily robberies, murders, and abuses of the old men and good women in the country.

I felt sure then of our defeat, but went into the Federal lines, in command of a few picked and tried men in advance of Col. Russell's Fourth Alabama Cavalry. We had several engagements, and I was one of eighteen who fought eighty-seven in Wills Valley commanded by Hamlin and Springfield, and where we killed two and captured forty seven horses.

The time from then till the close of the war I spent in the Federal lines with a small band of tired men fighting as we had opportunity--never from ambush, but always in the open and mounted. So far as I know, I made about the last fight of the war with five men against sixteen. Of these, there were two Indians, one Negro, and thirteen Tories of North Alabama. We charged upon them in close quarters, killing five and wounding two. Out of the six shots I made with my revolver. I think five struck home, and am sure that I was shot at twenty-one times in close quarters.

Having learned that our com-

manders had surrendered and ordered all soldiers to do so, I sent in a note to Col. Evans, at Larkinsville, asking to surrender, and his adjutant assured us that we would be paroled as our command had been.

We were taken to Huntsville and allowed the liberty of the streets for a while, and were told to report at a given hour for parole. As I was passing along the street a finely dressed officer accosted me with: "Yes, you are whipped at last, aren't you?"

I replied, "No sir; we are more overpowered than whipped."

He then said, "We could have slaughtered all of you," to which I replied that I bet he belonged to the 'bomb proof' department, and never fired a gun at the front and that if only I had the chance I would whip him.

He turned to two sentinels and ordered me taken to jail, but I was released within thirty

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minutes by a sergeant of the guard, who stated that he had heard all that passed between us and had reported it to the officer of the day, who ordered my release and had the other man under arrest. I am sorry I did not get the sergeant's name, but he told me that night that the man who had me arrested was a Capt. P. and that he belonged to the ordinance or quartermaster's department.

I am proud now of this united country. My grandfathers were revolutionary soldiers, and I had a son in the Spanish American war, but I believe the volunteer army of the South, facing such insurmountable odds, were some of this country's most heroic soldiers.

**"The woods would be silent  
if only the best birds ever  
sang."**

*Lori Otto*

## Ads From 1923

- Fowler Bros. - "We offer cool suits - \$11.50; canvass and leather slippers - \$4.50; Comfortable shirts - \$2.50; Athletic underwear - \$1."

- Edwards Buick Co. - "New Dodge coup - never been used - will sell for \$100."

- Grand Shine Parlor - East Clinton street - "Why pay the price of a new straw hat when we can make last summer's hat look like new?"

- Big Chief Remedies (Chas. E. Jackson) - "If you feel tired and worn out, you need a system purifier. Big Chief Tonic is the best remedy on the market today. Come by for a bottle."

Work horses for sale - on the square every second Saturday.

- Burk Auto Company - corner of Green and Eustis streets. Nash Touring Model - prices range from \$915 to \$2190, f.o.b. factory

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# Ku Klux Klan Rally in Huntsville

*from 1923 newspaper*

From near and far Friday night a thousand or more people of Huntsville and adjacent territory drove through rolling roads of mud and fields of more mud to the football field of the Big Spring branch where the Huntsville Ku Klux Klan held their much talked of "Public Naturalization" as conducted by the Invisible Empire. The services were impressive as groups of white-robed men, held in relief by a "burning cross" composed of electric light bulbs, gathered about their respective stations with each man holding a flash light or torch high above their heads, the "naturalization" appearing to be what is called initiation into the mysteries of the order.

Placing the candidates in the center, leaders of the Klan ad-

ministered the oath which qualified them as members of the order, the public held back at considerable distance, watching with bated breath for some mysterious happening which never came.

The flag of the United States played a big part in the cer-

emony, with one large flag and two smaller ones. After the "naturalization" had been completed the Klan closed its public meeting with singing "Nearer My God to Thee" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee", sung by old and new members.

Within five minutes after the closing, not a single white-robed man was to be found in the large number of people gathered to participate and witness the ceremony. Whither they went or when, nobody appeared to know.

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Two representatives of the News who were present to view the exercises and to report thereon were admitted within the lines, but not near enough to recognize the candidates whose identity were kept as close a secret as were those of the older members.

They were treated with courtesy, the only request being made of them being that the KKK leaders desired to have it known that any one seeking information concerning the group could get it by addressing a card to Post Office Box 23, Huntsville.

There were no untoward incidents connected with the ceremonies, the public being kept at safe distance from the ceremony to prevent possibility of any identification of the members.

## Bootleg Brandy Causes Trouble in New Market

*from 1907 newspaper*

On Saturday last, at New Market in this county a young man, George Norris, raised a difficulty with another young man.

Bud Powers, and the town marshal William Mullins tried to arrest him. Norris drew his knife and resisted arrest. Mullins struck Norris with his stick, and a young man, William Fuqua, threw a stone at Mullins, striking him on the head and knocking him senseless.

Our informant says that new bootleg brandy made at stills near New Market is the cause of the trouble and is causing a good deal more of trouble in the neighborhood.

## Must Be 16 to Drive

Mayor Adams desires it to be known that hereafter children under the age of 16 will not be permitted to drive automobiles in Huntsville streets unless accompanied by a parent and are clearly capable of handling a car themselves. This will mean a stop to local businesses employing children as deliverymen. *from 1922 newspaper*

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# Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



**Jean (Miller) Pitsinger** was the winner of the Photo of the Month contest for June. The picture of that adorable girl was of **Judy Smith, (Mrs. M.D. Smith IV)**. Congratulations, Jean!

Our buddy **Cecil Asburn** recently had a birthday celebration at 801 Franklin given in his honor by **Marie Hewitt** and **Louie & Jane Tippett**. Cecil gets more handsome with each year that goes by!

**Connie Broadway** and **Joe Lougheed** were married recently at the beautiful Lowry House. **Louie** and **Jane Tippett**, owners of the home, hosted the event and the reception was attended by many friends and family.

Looks like it is going to be a boring city council election this fall. **Sandra Moon** and **Mark Russell** have no opposition but **Jackie Reed** is going up against **Bill Kling**. Maybe Jackie can liven things up some!

We had great time talking with **Polly Sanders** and **Earl Watts**, They are so interesting!

One of the most incredible young men we have met in a long time is **Jason Flores**, whom we saw recently at 801

Franklin. He does things with a deck of cards that seem impossible. Maybe we should bring him to Las Vegas!

Happy birthday to **Louise Avery**, one of the sweetest ladies we know. She asked that friends donate to **CASA** rather than buy her a present. Way to go Louise! **CASA** is a great organization.

Our good friend **Tommy Hooper** is going to be up against our pal **Blake Dorning** in the Sheriff's election this fall. We are lucky to have such good people to choose from.

Getting ready to celebrate a late July birthday is none other than that handsome **Ken Owens**, of Cinram. Ken won't say how old he is, but let's just say he's getting closer to 60 than 50!

Speaking of **Ken**, he is also celebrating his 36th wedding anniversary with his sweetie **Diane**!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of **Newman Wilkerson**. Mr. Wilkerson owned & operated the Gulf Service station in 5 Points

for 36 years before he worked at Star Market. Many remember how he helped people, and the sweet smile he had for everyone. We'll really miss him.

It was great seeing **Curtis Parcus** recently at his new restaurant Dallas Mill Deli on Pratt. He wanted to thank Huntsville for their patience

I enjoyed meeting with **J. Mort Loomis** recently. He is a resident of Redstone Village, loves to cook and is quite an avid gardener. He also has some great stories to tell!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of **Joe Hursh**, father of **Barb Eyestone** of Huntsville. We send our deepest sympathy to Barb and her mom, **Ruth Hursh**, as well as her brother, **Joe Hursh**.

**Matthew Baker**, son of **Ercie Baker**, will be in his last year at Madison Academy and is just taking it easy for the summer. It was good to catch up with Ercie recently at Furniture Factory.

The Concerts in the Park have

## Photo of The Month

The first person to correctly identify the youngster below wins a 1-year complimentary subscription to "Old Huntsville" magazine.

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Hint: This little boy probably holds a record for having checks written to him.



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finally started up again with huge crowds. Recently we talked with many folks we haven't seen in a while - councilman **Glenn Watson** and son **Skip**, Skip's wife **Rhonyan**, and their children **Carter** and **Savannah**. Glenn's daughter **Connie Ward** just had a 35th birthday recently and her husband is the famous **Ken Ward** who holds court at Jackson Way Barber Shop along with Dallas Mill's mayor, **Floyd Hardin**.

We also caught up with the famous **Billy Joe Cooley** who is a legend in his own right.

**Arthur D. Neese** stopped by the office recently to visit. He lives in Murfreesboro but loves visiting Huntsville.

It was great to see our favorite gal **Ann Hill** recently, after a trip to visit her Mom **Shirley Frazier** in North Carolina!

We enjoyed talking with **Laura Burkholder** while sitting outside at Sazio's. She's the waitress with the million dollar smile who also takes good care of her customers.

It was interesting to find out that **Ann Smith** (of Colonial Bank) has a daughter, **Michelle**, who married **Steve Trentham** last October. Steve's parents, **Ann & Ed Trentham**, have a daughter **Susan**, married to **Brandon Owens**, who currently live in Tucson.

It was really nice meeting **Danny & Selecta Watson** recently. Danny works for Huntsville Utilities and loves our city's history!

A fascinating couple who also love Huntsville's history stopped by to visit recently. We could spend all day listening to the stories by **Elizabeth and Ed Yancey**.

Our buddy **Lynne Berry** has a new office in the Gold Room of the Russel Erskine Hotel. Lynne is the new Community Relations Director of the Nature Conservancy of Alabama. They recently hosted a reception at the hotel with guests such as **Steve & Bonnie Hettinger**, **Brunson White** and **Peri Widener**.

We met with **Harold and Ruth McMurran** at Big Spring park who are celebrating their 59th anniversary. Their children are **Lissa Dougherty**, **Scott McMurran** and **Dian Collins**.

It was great to catch up with **Fletcher Davis** recently. He's a good friend of **Walker McGinnis** who is running for school board. He is working really hard on the campaign.

We hear that our favorite bartender, **Lee Ann Lancaster**, is opening up her own place called, you guessed it - Lee Ann's! We also have been hearing a rumor that the legendary **Tony Mason** may be entertaining there!

Well, that's about all for this month but always remember how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful city as Huntsville, Alabama.

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# RECIPES

## Old Charleston Favorites

### 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 the rum or brandy. Use as dip for strawberries, grapes, cherries or any fruit.

### English Split Pea Soup

1 pint split peas  
1/3 t. soda  
3 qts. cold water  
1/2 lb. lean ham or bacon, cut in pieces  
1 t. salt  
3 stalks celery, chopped

Wash peas, cover with cold water adding soda, soak overnight. Put in kettle and pour 3 quarts cold water over them. Add ham or bacon, salt and cel-

ery. When soup begins to boil, skim off froth. Cook slowly, simmering for 3-4 hours. Add small piece of butter for extra rich soup.

### Spicy Lemon Salad

1 3-oz. pkg. lemon jello  
3/4 t. salt  
1 c. boiling water  
1 T. vinegar  
Dash pepper  
1 c. sour cream  
1/4 c. horseradish  
1 t. grated lemon

Dissolve jello in the boiling water. Chill til slightly thickened. Stir in remaining ingredients and chill for 3 hours prior to serving.

### Rum Peaches Royale

1 29-oz. can cling peach halves  
1/4 c. rum

Drain a 29-oz. can cling peaches in syrup. Boil the syrup,

uncovered, about 10 minutes and liquid is reduced to about 1/2 cup. Remove from heat and stir in rum, pour over peaches. Chill for a few days to allow flavors to blend.

### Chicken Ashley

4 whole chicken breasts  
1 can cream of mushroom soup  
1 c. cream  
1 c. Sherry wine

Mix soup, cream and Sherry. Place chicken breasts in shallow baking dish, side by side. Pour sauce over chicken. Bake, uncovered, at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours.

### Party Beef

5 lbs. boneless brisket  
seasoned salt  
Garlic powder  
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1 pkg. dry onion soup mix  
Parsley

Rub meat with seasoned salt, garlic and paprika. Put in pan, sprinkle with onion soup. Cover with 2 cups water. Sprinkle parsley in pan, to taste. Bake at 425 degrees for an hour, covered. Baste and turn. Cook for another 1 1/2 hours. Take out of oven and turn over. Allow meat to remain in gravy and refrigerate overnight. Cut thin the next day. Serve with thin slices of party rye bread.

### Savory Spinach

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 very well. Drain mushrooms and reserve 2 tablespoons liquid. Mix the sour cream, salad dressing mix, mushrooms and reserved mushroom liquid. Add cooked spinach. Pour into 1 1/2 quart greased casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes and set.

### Scalloped Squash

1 lb. yellow summer squash  
1 t. sugar

1 egg  
1/2 lb. sharp cheese, grated  
1 c. bread crumbs  
Salt and pepper  
Butter

Cook squash until crisp-tender in boiling salted water. Drain. Add remaining ingredients. Beat until light. Put in buttered casserole. Top with bread crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees til cheese is melted and egg is set.

### Charles Towne Butter Taffy

2 c. brown sugar  
3/4 c. butter  
1 c. water

Melt butter in saucepan. Add sugar and water. Bring to boil and boil, without stirring, til mix becomes a bit brittle when tried in cold water or 290 degrees on candy thermometer. Pour onto buttered pan, cool slightly and mark into squares.

### Chocolate Sticks

4 squares Bakers unsweetened chocolate, melted  
1 can sweetened condensed milk  
2 c. vanilla wafers, crushed (big box)

1 c. pecans, chopped fine  
Mix well and spread in shallow pan that has been lined with wax paper and buttered. Spread mixture 1/2 inch thick. Refrigerate overnight. Cut into thin strips and roll in powdered sugar.



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# Old Huntsville Trivia

**1810** - First Courts of Law established in Huntsville.

**1813** - Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett camped at the intersection of Lincoln and Holmes on the way to fight the battle of Horse Shoe Bend.

**1862** - Huntsville occupied by Yankee troops.

**1865** - Remaining Confederate Troops surrendered at Cold Springs atop Monte Sano. This marked the end of the Civil War for Huntsville.

**1868** - A judge from Athens was shot when 1,500 members of the Ku Klux Klan broke up a meeting of former slaves and radical Republicans.

**1883** - Frank James, the brother of Jesse James, was acquitted of robbing a federal payroll (and no, the James brothers did not commit any robberies in Huntsville).

**1892** - First long distance phone call was made from Huntsville. The telephone directory had 32 names listed.

**1893** - A circus elephant died while performing here. The remains were hitched to a double team of mules and dragged to an empty lot in the 500 block of East Clinton Avenue where it was buried.

**1904** - Allen Hutchens died in the first automobile accident to take place in Huntsville.

**1944** - Last Confederate veteran in Madison County died.

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# Reverend Sam Johnson

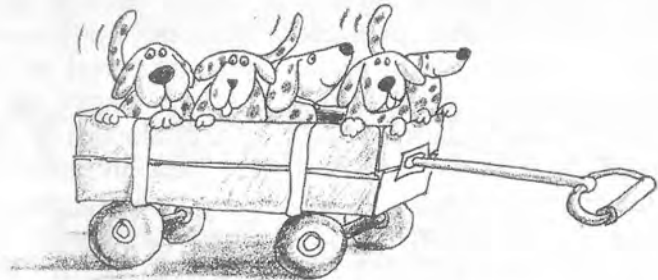
by Austin Miller

Sam Johnson grew up in Ryland during the twenties and thirties. Those who knew him as a boy said that he dropped out of Central School because he couldn't learn. His mother, a devout Christian, wouldn't accept that he was slow and read the Bible to him every night. I am not clear on whether he learned to read the Bible or if he knew it from memory. In any event, he knew the Bible from cover to cover and there were few if any who knew it better. This knowledge was not wasted. In his words, he got a clear call from God to preach. And preach he did. In the fifties and sixties he became a well known minister and revival speaker. There was no doubt in the minds of those who knew Sam in his youth that the hand of God had reached down and touched him.

There was nothing about

Sam's physical appearance that would make you think he was a preacher. He was about six feet tall, lean in stature with sharp features and a thick head of well groomed jet black hair. He had a thunderous deep voice that was so loud and clear that he

seemed to rattle the rafters when he preached. On summer nights when the church doors and windows were open, you could hear him a quarter of a mile away. Sam could have preached at the Von Braun Auditorium without the need of a microphone. He



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served many churches in Madison and Jackson Counties and was in constant demand as a revival speaker. Some said that, if they had a choice of hearing Billy Graham preach or Sam Johnson, they would choose Sam.

When he preached revivals, people who didn't set foot in church at any other time came to hear him. But with almost no formal education it was not possible for him to rise in the ranks of the Methodist church or get a church that paid enough to support his family. He got a token sum but made his living farming.

Despite the long hard hours in the cotton fields, there are few preachers anywhere that held more revivals, visited more sinners or conducted more funerals. As a result, it would be hard to find a preacher in the history of North Alabama who brought more people to Christ than Sam Johnson.

Sam grew up going to Shiloh Methodist Church. According to stories passed down, Sam's mother was very religious and sometimes shouted. Shouting

was a common occurrence into the fifties at both Shiloh and Wears Chapel Baptist church. Brought on by a good sermon, the testimony of others or the singing, people would be so filled with the Holy Spirit that they would shout out with joy. Sometimes the shouting would go on for a few minutes. Although this frightened young children, the people that did it were admired as having a special gift. Sam's mother shouted often. She knew that God had his hand on Sam's shoulder.

After he became a preacher he rarely came back to Shiloh. But one year in the mid-fifties, he preached the summer revival.

The revivals were special events usually held in late July or August. They started on Sunday and ended Friday night. If it was successful or if the preacher felt a need it would run through Saturday night. There was also a morning service.

Feeding the preacher during the week was rotated among various members of the congregation. If the revival was a success and a lot of people were converted, there would be a big baptizing Sunday afternoon. Shiloh's baptizing took place on Flint River down below Finis Parton's house.

The Wear's Chapel baptizing occurred on the river at Caleb Daniel's. At finis' people had to

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walk down a steep hill to water that was fairly swift and sometimes dingy. Any item of loose clothing was subject to promptly floating down stream. At Caleb's, to get to the river, you had to walk several hundred yards through his pasture among several cows and a mean bull. Despite the less than ideal conditions, this was an important community event that always drew large crowds.

People were excited about Sam coming. Sunday night you could feel the excitement. A lot of young people came.

The congregation and community were not disappointed. The church was overflowing every night and a number of people joined the church during the week to include almost every young person in attendance.

One of the few in the community that didn't come at least one night was Mr. Wess Taylor. Mr. Wess' unfavorable opinion of preachers and churches was well known and as far as I know he never set foot in a church to worship in the eighty plus years he lived. Sam knew this and visited him several times during the week. He failed at getting Mr. Wess to church but not as a preacher.

After the revival was over, Mr. Wess let it be known to all who would listen that if he ever did go to church it would be to hear Sam Johnson.

The last time I saw Sam was when he helped preach my grandmother's funeral in 1969. I couldn't put my finger on it but he was not like I remembered.

He and Daddy were friends from childhood and Sam came to our house every year about the time the watermelons got ripe.

If Daddy wasn't home, he knew it was

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*George Carlin*



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alright to go to the patch and help himself to as many watermelans as he wanted. He usually got two or three and never took the biggest in the patch.

One year in the early seventies, Sam came and Daddy told him to go to the field and help himself. Sam took him at his word and took every watermelon in the patch, green ones and all. Daddy was aggravated to say the least but he also knew this was not like Sam Johnson. It was obvious that he was not himself.

He soon lost his churches and faded out of the revival circuit. The job God had called him to do was done.

I believe that when Sam reported in at the Golden Gates, the last years of his life was not a consideration. I think that St. Peter just looked at all the work he had done, the countless people he influenced and the souls he helped win and said, "Reverend Johnson, job well done, come on in and take your place with the other great preachers of your time."



## 10 Dollar Reward

Ran away from the subscriber within seventeen miles north of Huntsville on the Meridian road on the 4th July, a negro girl named Sally, speaks English and the French language, twenty years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, of a yellow complexion, full face and a pleasing countenance, had on when she went away a white cotton frock. She has all her clothes with her, and it is likely she may alter her dress in yellow calico. She wears a handkerchief on her head and has a scar on one of her arms, some marks of the small pox.

The property formerly belonged to Mr. Lloyd, who brought her from Pensacola, to which he expects she will aim to get back again. Whoever takes up and brings home the said negro or secures her so that I can get her again shall receive the above reward.

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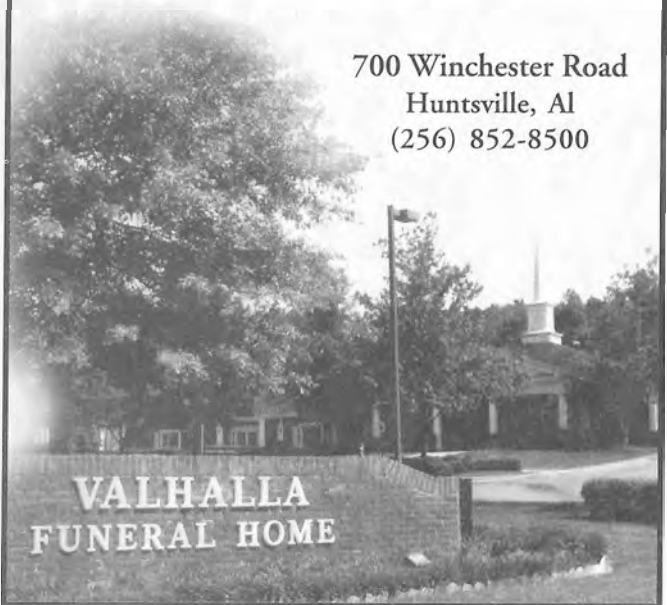
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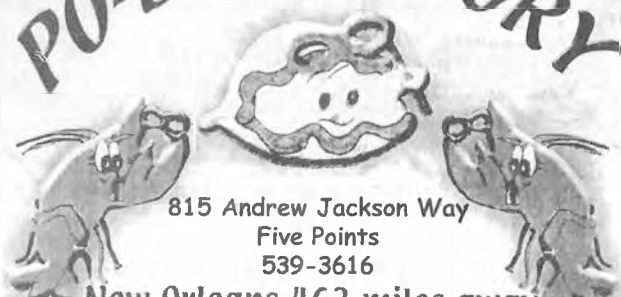
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# Old Huntsville Drive-In Movies

by M.D. Smith IV

I came to Huntsville from Birmingham shortly after the purchase of WAAY Radio in 1959. Being a teenager, I was anxious to meet girls, and I did meet quite a few beginning with those in the neighborhood and friends of their friends. A number of blind dates that I had were Drive-In Movie dates. This was an informal and good way to meet and chat with your date, even as the movie was playing, particularly if it was not a great movie. Load the speaker on the window and you were ready to watch the movie, or turn down the sound and enjoy conversation or more.

It was great to have such a good choice of movies to attend in Huntsville. Actually it was more Drive-In choices than I was used to in the Mt. Brook area of Birmingham where I had lived since I was born. We normally just had to choose from the Shades Mountain Drive-In or the Vestavia Drive-In. Here in Huntsville we had the Whitesburg Drive-In on

Whitesburg Drive at Airport Road (where Publix Supermarket is today), Woody's out on Meridian Street (where the Coca Cola Plant is today), The Parkway Drive-In with two screens back-to-back for entertainment that you could access from either the Parkway or Meridian Street (in the Byers Nursery area today), and the 72 Drive-In on Highway 72 going towards Athens (University Boulevard today). It's almost sad there is no trace of them today except in our memories.

It is too bad young people today don't have the opportunity to attend these movies, or perhaps they are too accustomed to air conditioning. In the summer it could get quite warm just after the sun had gone down, even though you rolled down all the windows

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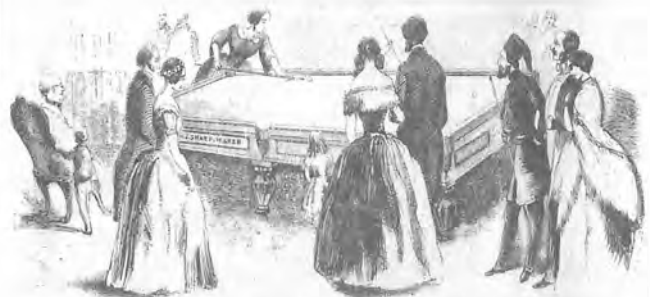
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to let the cool night air in. The opposite was the early spring and late fall where you'd usually keep the windows up because of the cold night air. Things could steam up inside and you might have to clean the moisture from the front window if you wanted to see the movie.

Not everyone was always watching the movie, and if you had a hot date and were smooching in the car, ALL the windows would fog up, but you left them that way, for privacy.

In the summer when the windows were down, you could look into almost any car at the people inside as you traversed the distance from your car to the concession stand in the center of the lot. It was the center of the complex from which the movies were shown on one side and the large concession stand in the rear of the building.

Some innovative theater owners even installed a couple of pin-ball machines for further entertainment and to make more money.

In Huntsville when air conditioning was coming on the scene,

the concession stand was a very "cool" place to be and you could stay a while and watch the movie out of large plate glass windows. You usually bought more concessions that way, also. Most of the Huntsville Drive-Ins had a capacity around 200-400 cars.

If it was double feature night, they always had a long intermission so you had plenty of time (as well as before the first movie started) to stock up on popcorn, cokes and candy.

They had a kiddie playground area in front of the screen with swings and things

to occupy the kids if you came before the movie started, in order to get a good parking slot near the middle, or closer to the front and not far away from the concession stand (and bathrooms). This playground was also lighted between movies when there was a double feature.

A most interesting and not typical problem teens faced while "dating" in the car, was the "monitor man." This was a man, perhaps even the owner or manager, that would take occasional trips around some drive-ins during the movie and if he spot-

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ted a couple "making out" too intensely, he'd wrap on the car door (a real surprise) and say something like, "You'll have to stop that while you are here." It sure would get your attention and take the edge off a hot make-out session. One time a more enlightened monitor said to a buddy of mine who was necking with his girl, "Just keep the heads above the back of the seat, kids!" A final note about the movies - I learned NOT to take a date to see "King Kong" or "The Blob" if you wanted to "make out."

I met my future wife, Judy, shortly after I came to Huntsville, but oddly enough we met in Birmingham. Her cousin Mickey had come up from Birmingham to take her to a Sigma fraternity dance one evening in December 1959 (she didn't want to miss a day of wrapping presents at Rode Jewelry where she worked that holiday). I was a Sigma attending with a date that I broke up with that same night. We met there as Mickey introduced me to his cousin, knowing I had recently moved to Huntsville. I got her phone number and the relationship went on when we both returned to town. Judy still has that great, sexy black velvet dress she wore that night, and she can still get into it, even after having eight children over three decades. That dress has some very special memories attached to it. It was bought at the Town & Country shop on North Side Square owned by the McAnallys. We went to quite a few drive-in movies while we were dating.

After the drive-in movies, there were always a few good places to go before you went home. The Sno-White Restaurant on Whitesburg Drive about where the Burger King is today was a favorite spot. While their hamburgers cost more, probably as much as thirty-five cents, they were a masterpiece and certainly would fill you up, like a big Sonic Hamburger will today (albeit at a much higher price). The big advantage of the Sno-White was the great jukebox. It was really neat to put in a dime (three for a quarter) for a favorite hit 45 to be played right from your booth. You thumbed through the menu of hit songs and then pressed the two keys that matched the song you wanted to play. "E8" was one of my favorites by the Drifters.

The rich bass throb that accompanied the wonderful music was usually much better than you had on your home record player and certainly much better than your car. It was worth the money. The old Seeburg 100R was quite a machine.

Mullins Drive-In took your order from the car and it was only 10 cents in the mid 50's and even the Krystal in town cost 12 cents, according to Judy. You never had to go inside for anything. They had the typical metal tray that hooked on the window, almost all the way down but not completely, so that the rubber clamps would catch about one inch of the open window, and the rubber brace would lock and hold it at the correct angle so you could eat off the tray and put your trash and

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drinks back on the tray when you were ready to leave. Someone in town had a Rockola, Model 1000 that was one of the original big booming bass jukeboxes. It sure beat the little RCA 45 RPM player with a three inch speaker that many teens had at home.

Drive-In movies are gone, replaced by the mega-multi-cinema centers, who now compete with home DVD's, rental movies and satellite TV.

Times were certainly different forty-five years ago, weren't they?



**"You know you're getting older when it takes two tries to get off the couch."**

*Sam Keith*

# Newspaper Clippings from 1893

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

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

- A gentleman in Jackson County is offering a \$100 reward for anyone who provides a husband for his daughter. Gossip says it may take much more than that.

- J. Lampley purchased a train ticket for what he thought was Jackson, Miss. He is now in Jackson, Indiana.



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# Historic Civil War Sites in Downtown Huntsville


by Charles Rice

## Huntsville Depot Church Street

Built by the Memphis & Charleston Railroad in 1860, the historic depot saw the departure of many Confederate soldiers for the war. Ironically, it would also serve as a prison for others. A major target for the Union Army, the depot and machine shops were seized by the 4th Ohio Cavalry on the morning of April 11, 1862. The 159 un-armed Confederate soldiers captured aboard a train at the depot were temporarily imprisoned in the building. Union troops later made their living quarters in the depot, writing their still legible names on the walls.

On April 11, 1864, an artillery caisson blew up while a Union battery was crossing the railroad tracks, killing six gunners and injuring several others. This accident probably accounts for the impression of a cannon ball in the Church Street wall of the depot.

The Memphis & Charleston never really recovered from its wartime losses and eventually sold out to the Southern Railroad. The Huntsville depot is now a city museum. The brick freight depot just north of the



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tracks also dates to the war. It is one of the oldest railroad buildings still in use in the world.

**Calhoun House Site  
Northeast corner Eustis  
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Meredith Calhoun's impressive three-story home stood on this spot until early in the twentieth century. The large residence was taken over by General Mitchel as a hospital in 1862. It was thereafter used as a hospital through most of the remainder of the war.

It was later purchased by the U. S. Government to house the Federal court. In 1884, Missouri outlaw Frank James was tried in this building for the robbery of a Muscle Shoals Federal payroll. Huntsville's LeRoy Pope Walker defended the former Confederate guerrilla, and the Huntsville jury refused to convict the brother of the recently murdered Jesse James.

The home was torn down in the early 1900s. Occupied for many years by a grocery store, the site is now the parking lot for the YMCA.

**First Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Lincoln and Greene  
Streets**

Early in the war, Huntsville women met in this 1860 church's basement to make uniforms and knit socks for the city's soldiers. In a well-known incident of the 1862 Union occupation, Rev. Frederick Ross allowed Samuel Coltart to hide his mule in the furnace room to keep it from being stolen by the Yankees. During the solemn church prayer meeting that followed, the mule joined in by braying! Dr. Ross was later arrested by the Union troops for offering prayers for the success of the South. The church originally had a tall steeple, which blew down in a postwar storm and was never replaced.

**Church of the Nativity  
Corner of Eustis and Green**

Completed in 1859, the beautiful Gothic Revival structure is said to owe its continued existence to a pious Union officer. According to tradition, General Ormsby Mitchel ordered the church to be turned into a stable. When the

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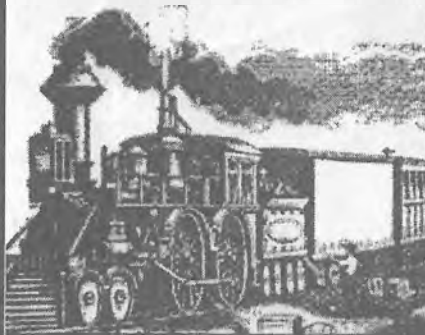
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nameless Union officer raised his eyes over the chapel doorway, however, he read the inscription: "Reverence my sanctuary." Tinged with guilt, the Northern soldier disobeyed his orders and stabled the horses elsewhere. Bishop Henry C. Lay of Arkansas often preached at this church before being arrested by Mitchel as one of the 12 Hostages.

**LeRoy Pope Mansion  
403 Echols Street**

Built by early Huntsville developer LeRoy Pope in 1814, this lovely dwelling was the wartime home of Dr. Charles Patton. Echols Hill was in those days known as Patton Hill. The Union Army erected a large fort on the hill top, blasting deep into the bedrock. The fort's outer rifle pits stretched almost as far as Eustis Street. Union General Edwin M. McCook, Mrs. Chadick's old friend from Steubenville, Ohio, made his headquarters in the Patton home in the fall of 1863.

**First Alabama Bank  
Corner Madison Street  
and Fountain Row**

Designed and built by local architect George Steele in 1835, this striking Greek Revival structure housed the Northern Bank of Alabama during the war.

It was taken over as local headquarters by the Union Army Quartermaster Corps. Long called the National Bank of Huntsville, it is now the First Alabama Bank. Unfortunately, the interior of the building has been completely modernized.

Brigadier General James A. Garfield presided over the court-martial of Colonel John B. Turchin at the antebellum courthouse, torn down in 1914. Thus the future President must surely have visited the bank building.

**Schiffman Building  
Corner Franklin and  
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This three-story structure is apparently the only antebellum building remaining on the courthouse square besides the First Alabama Bank. In early 1863,



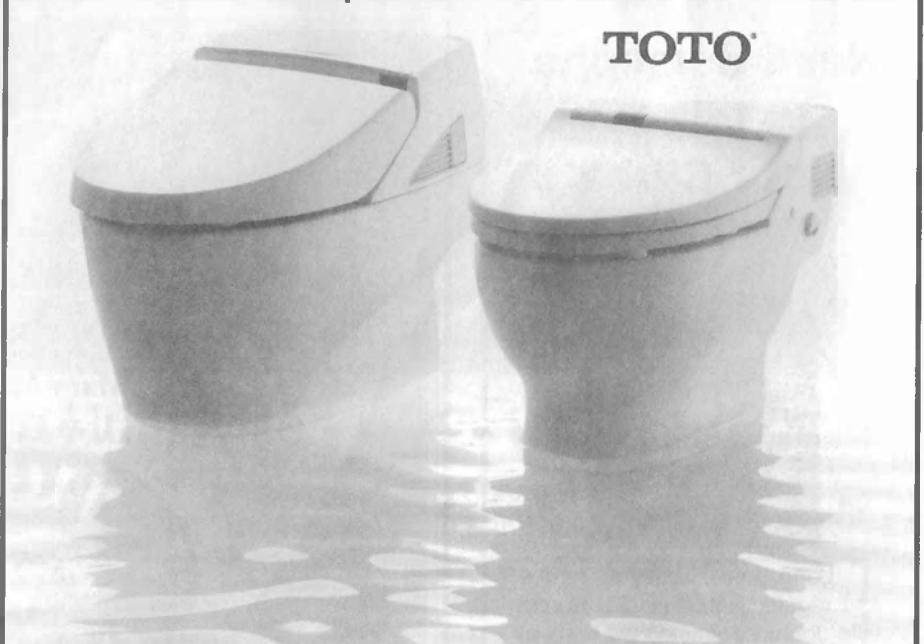
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Huntsville women were paid to sew pre-cut Confederate uniforms in this building--then Herstein's clothing store. The current facade was added in 1895. Screen star Tallulah Bankhead was born in an upstairs bedroom of the Schiffman Building.

**The Grove Site  
Corner Franklin and  
Eustis Streets**

A beautiful Federal-style mansion, The Grove was built by the Manning family and was the wartime home of Bartley M. Lowe, father of Sarah Manning Lowe, a teenage Huntsville diarist. John Hunt Morgan's cavalry camped among the trees, and Nathan Bedford Forrest stopped by the house for tea. Ormsby Mitchel also pitched his tent at The Grove before moving to the McDowell House on Adams Street. The many shade trees soon fell victim to Union sol-

diers' axes, being used for firewood. The Grove was torn down shortly before the First World War. The site is now occupied by the Mental Health Center.

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tablished by Alabama Governor A. B. Moore in 1861, Camp Jones stood in a wooded area along the Big Spring Branch. The 19th Alabama Infantry Regiment was formed here. However, its first colonel, Joseph Wheeler, moved the training ground to Camp Bradford to keep his soldiers away from the city's temptations.

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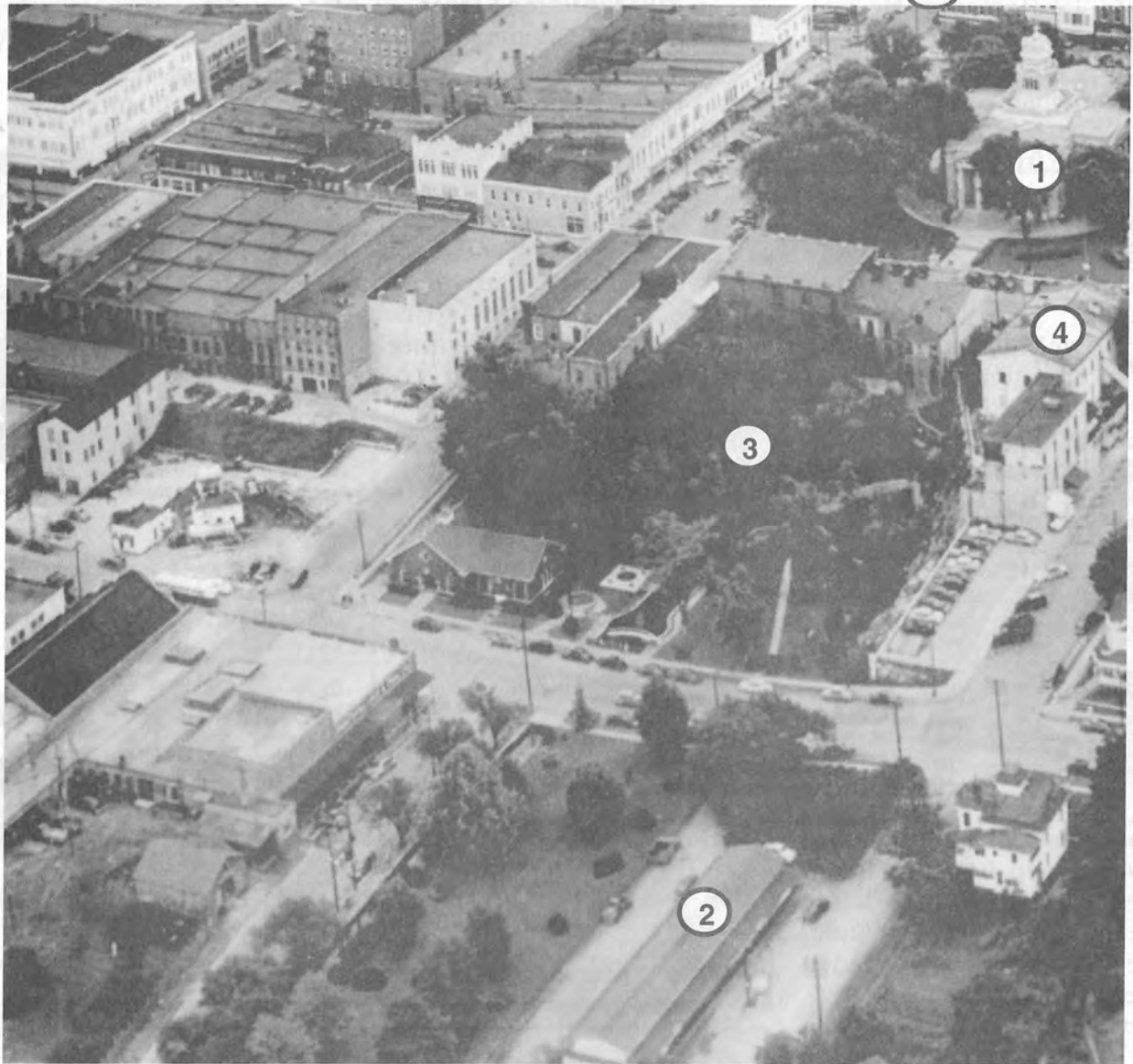
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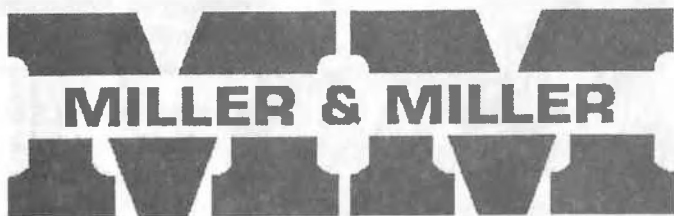
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Downtown Huntsville - Circa 1950's

1 - Courthouse  
2 - City Market

3 - Big Spring  
4 - Old Bank building



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**McDowell House  
517 Adams Street.**

William McDowell, a wealthy Huntsville merchant, was one of Mitchel's 12 Hostages. He was also held hostage for Christopher Sheets of Winston County. General Mitchel made this home his headquarters, working from a desk in the front parlor. Union General John Logan also made the McDowell home his headquarters, though Logan actually resided next door at 603 Adams Street.

McDowell's home was known to generations of Huntsvillians as the "backwards house." Supposedly, McDowell had entrusted the plans of his house to a builder, while he and his family went to Europe. When McDowell returned, he found the contractor had built the house facing the rear of the lot instead of Adams Street. The house has been greatly altered and enlarged in recent years.

**Weeden House  
300 Gates Street**

Built about 1819, the house was purchased by Dr. William Weeden in 1845. It was home to the famous Southern poet/painter Maria Howard Weeden and her brother, Colonel John D. Weeden of the 49th Alabama Regiment. The Union Army forced the Weedens to move out of their home, taking it over for officers' quarters. The antebellum front porch was removed when the

house became a public museum in the 1970s.

**Beirne House  
300 Williams Street**

This beautiful home was built by Thomas Bibb, second governor of Alabama, as a gift for his daughter. During the war it was the residence of George P. Beirne, another of Mitchel's 12 hostages. The house was frequently occupied by Union officers, and reportedly was used as headquarters by both General Don Carlos Buell and General William Tecumseh Sherman.



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# Chewing Gum Causes Young Woman's Death

*From 1907 newspaper*

Miss Elizabeth Goodwin, 21 years of age and from Birmingham, died today in Huntsville from lockjaw, a victim of her own habit of chewing gum almost incessantly.

For ten years she had been addicted to the chewing gum habit, and her jaws have worked incessantly, finally becoming cramped and then they clamped shut to open no more.

Her parents remonstrated with her but their scoldings were fruitless. In the corners of the house, under the tables and chairs, behind the bedposts they found bars where the girl had pasted them to use them later when she had no more money with which to buy fresh gum.

When the young woman became engaged several months

ago her fiance asked her to give up the habit. He told her in no uncertain terms that it made him very nervous to watch her gums constantly moving and Miss Goodwin did make a determined effort to give up the habit.

She was unable to do so, however, and several days ago

was taken to the hospital suffering from lockjaw. Food and medicine were given her by means of a hypodermic syringe but she grew steadily worse. Her parents could not bear to see their daughter in agony but her fiance remained at her bedside to the last.



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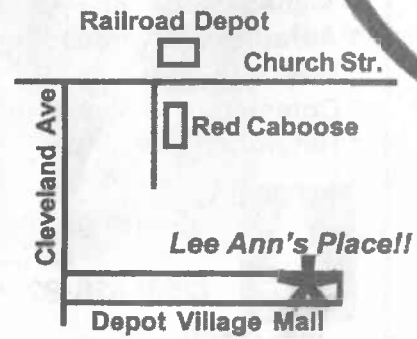


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# News From The Year 1938

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### "Crystal Night" Horror

Anti-Semitism has exploded throughout Berlin. Young Nazis went on a rampage, killing Jews at random, destroying stores owned by Jews and setting fire to the largest synagogue. More than 90 people were killed, mostly Jewish merchants. Thousands of store windows were smashed in what is being called "Crystal Night." Hundreds of homes and places of worship were destroyed.

The violence was unleashed after the assassination of Ernst von Rath, Third Secretary of the German Embassy in Paris. The killer was a teenaged Polish Jew, Herschel Grynspan. He said that he was avenging the treatment of his parents in Germany, who he said were "Chased like animals."

The men who looted and killed in Berlin tried in vain to publicize their opposition to the assassination in Paris. They were stymied. The Propaganda Ministry had already issued a decree banning all Jewish publications.

### Americans Panic over Scary Radio Show

**Oct. 30** - Aliens from Mars and other figments of the imagination caused havoc throughout the nation tonight during a radio broadcast of H.G. Wells' "The War of the Worlds." Orson Welles, known to the listening public as the voice of "The Shadow," directed the radio play and it aired over the Columbia Broadcasting system.

Welles gave fair warning. At the opening, he told the audience they were hearing H. G. Wells' classic science-fiction story. Three more announcements in the hour followed, and newspaper program guides spelled it out in black and white.

The havoc that followed was nationwide. A Dayton, Ohio man called to ask what time the end of the world would occur. Hundreds of New Yorkers rushed out of their homes with handkerchiefs over their mouths to guard against

Martian gas. Traffic jams, clogged phone lines and patients checking into hospitals reportedly in shock were just a few of the thousands of panic manifestations. A woman phoned the bus company to tell the dispatcher "The world is coming to an end and I have a lot to do!"

Orson Welles is one of the most popular announcers of the day and his mesmerizing voice has been called one of the most convincing in the industry.

The hoax was set up as a music program interrupted by "bulletins" about Martians landing near Princeton, NJ. In one hour, the aliens were pretty nearly everywhere.

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## Kate Smith blesses America in Song

The ever-popular Kate Smith surely lifted that popularity a notch higher last night when she introduced an Irving Berlin song, "God Bless America," on her Armistice Eve radio show.

Berlin wrote the tune originally for his 1918 musical, "Yip, Yip, Yaphank" but it was withdrawn and never before publicly performed.

With its simple sentiment and solid, four-square rhythm, the song seems tailor-made for the homespun Miss Smith, whose new radio program "Kate Smith Speaks" is becoming as popular as her evening musical shows. Miss Smith is certainly busy.

Though one critic has dismissed the daytime talk show as "sentimental, with a thick fudge frosting that the housewives love," those wives are tuning their dials to hear her discuss subjects of interest to women. The men who listen find her interesting as well but you will find few who will admit it.

Miss Smith, is, after all, a very special lady and a symbol of America ever since her 1931 radio debut introduced her theme song, "When the Moon comes over the Mountain."

## NBC Rebuked for Mae West Show

The Federal Communications Commission reprimanded the National Broadcasting Company for airing a lewd program last month starring Mae West.

Miss West, Don Ameche and Edgar Bergen's ventriloquist dummy Charlie McCarthy were part of Miss West's feature "Adam and Eve." The FCC told NBC it has a responsibility to curb material that was "Offensive to the great mass of right-thinking, clean-minded American citizens."

## U.S. Census Shows nearly 8 Million Jobless

The first U.S. unemployment census shows the total between 8-10 million with no job. A report from the Social Security Board reports that more than 36 million wage earners now have Social Security accounts and that 21 million are now covered by unemployment compensation programs run by the states. More than 2 million Americans are on government emergency payrolls such as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The first regular Social Security payments will be made in 1942.



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*Jimmy Johns, age 9*

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# WPA BLUES

by Jack Rushton

During the depression of the 1930's, my Dad, like thousands of others in the construction industry, had to look for additional work to supplement his income. He was an accomplished guitarist and vocalist and was able to get a job singing and playing on WSFA Radio in Montgomery. During this period he also worked for the government sponsored WPA (work projects administration).

He became quite popular at WSFA and soon had his own radio show called "The Little Jack Rushton Radio Show" which came on in the thirty minute time slot just before the national broadcast of the "Gene Autry Ranch Show" on Saturday night.

In order to promote the station and to help keep the Depression off everybody's mind, WSFA decided to sponsor a local talent contest to be held at the Paramount Theater in Montgomery with the first prize being a guest appearance on my Dad's radio show.

One of the contestants in the show was a tall skinny country boy calling himself "Luke The Drifter." The boy performed a song that he said he had written himself called the "WPA Blues."

My Dad said that he didn't think that the song or the performer was very good but that half the audience worked for the WPA and they really liked something about the kid so they voted him the winner.

A week later the young man came to the radio station to claim his prize of performing on the "Little Jack Rushton Show." Dad introduced him as Luke the Drifter

and the boy sang the same song that he had won the contest with. After the show was over and everybody was packing up to leave, the kid came up to my dad and asked, "Well, what do you think?"

My Dad, not wanting to tell the boy what he really thought, just told him that his singing and writing style was a "little too raw and country," and he would have to polish his act up a good bit if he ever hoped to make it in the music business. He also told the boy that he would probably do better working for the WPA than he would singing about it.

As the dejected boy was leaving the studio my Dad

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called out to him, "By the way kid, what's your real name?"

"Hank Williams," the boy replied.

As you probably guessed by now the event described above turned out to be the first public radio performance of the legendary Hank Williams.

After the depression my Dad went back in the construction business and Hank, well, we all know what he did.

# Old Huntsville Trivia

1868 - A stray bullet kills Judge Thurlow during a meeting of freed slaves and carpetbaggers on the square in Huntsville. The Ku Klux Klan was present.

1869 - The city orders the City Marshall to feed the deer in the courthouse yard.

1871 - Thirteen gas lamps are put on city streets and Huntsville appoints its first official Lamplighter, Aaron Franks.

1877 - The county poorhouse is sold to Willis W. Garth.

1889 - The Huntsville city fathers pass an ordinance that forbids lewd women to ride through Huntsville on horseback.

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# The Last Indian

In 1902, in a small cove located in the north-east corner of Madison County, Polly Sharp was laid to rest. No marker was placed on her grave and no obituary appeared in the newspapers.

Polly's death at the age of 92 signaled the end to an era. According to family history, she was the last full-blooded Cherokee Indian living in Madison County.

Contrary to what many historians claim, the land in what was known as "The Big Bend" (of the Tennessee River) was already populated with many settlements when John Hunt arrived at the Big Spring. Although the area had been claimed by the Creek and Chickasaw Indians, it was the arrival of the Cherokees that marked the formation of permanent settlements.

The Cherokees' traditional homeland was the Great Smoky Mountains. Here, for hundreds of years, they had lived in peace and harmony with nature until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. White settlers had begun moving onto Indian lands and with the outbreak of war, the British seized upon this issue to win the Cherokees to their side.

By promising to protect their ancestral homelands, and by supplying guns, the British won a powerful ally against the rebellious colonies. Yet, as the winds of war shifted against the British, the Indians were often forced to fight alone. In a series of bloody battles, most of the Indian settlements in and around the Smoky Mountains were devastated by the colonists, many of whom immediately took possession of the land. Though most of the Cherokees were forced to surrender, a large pro-British contingent, led by Dragging Canoe, escaped. Desiring to get as far away from the white man as possible, the Indians followed the Tennessee River to the present day location of Chattanooga. Here they founded eleven new Cherokee towns. It wasn't long before these towns had grown into

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thriving communities. They also became the focal point of the pro-British factions, a factor which did not escape the colonists' attention.

Unfortunately, the villages were left without defenders frequently as most of the warriors were in Georgia fighting along side the British troops.

On an early spring morning in 1779, a large American army led by Colonel Evan Shelby surrounded the villages. A horrible slaughter took place, made even worse by the colonists' refusals to take prisoners or to discriminate between warriors and women and children. One account relates how many of the soldiers, in an effort to save ammunition, used heavy sticks to club the women and children to death.

The survivors were forced to hide in the hills until the warriors returned. After a hurried conference, Dragging Canoe made the decision to move even further south, away from the white man.

Cherokees had already been living in Jackson County since 1750 when they defeated the Creeks in a major battle on Long Island (near Scottsboro). A few years later they defeated the Chickasaws at Hobbs Island. The outcome of these battles effectively gave the Cherokees control of much of what is now Madison and Jackson counties.

The area into which Dragging Canoe moved his people

was largely devoid of white people. In 1777 a group of settlers, led by Thomas Hutchens, had passed through Madison County and settled near the Shoals area but were effectively expelled within a short time by Indian warriors.

It appeared as if the remnants of the Cherokees had found a safe haven. Within the next few years they established many new towns in the Tennessee Valley which became thriving centers of Cherokee culture. The years proved to be prosperous for the Cherokees. They developed routes of commerce stretching for hundreds of miles into all the neighboring states and territories. The settlements began to take on the look of "traditional" towns with log houses, plantations, fields and meeting houses.

Ironically, the oldest home in North Alabama is a house built by Cherokees Daniel and Molly Ross in 1790, at the present day location of Fort Payne.

At the end of the Revolutionary War the tribe realized they could no longer fight the white man. There were just too many of them. The most



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they could hope for now was a peaceful coexistence. Dragging Canoe was an old man by now and no longer possessed the youth and vigor to lead young warriors into battle. The mantle of leadership fell to Chief Black Fox.

Despite all their attempts to emulate and cooperate with the white man, the Cherokees began feeling increasing pressure from the settlers moving into the Tennessee Valley. John Hunt had settled at the Big Spring and the Criners had settled near New Market. Every week brought more settlers flooding into the area.

Reluctantly Chief Black Fox agreed to negotiate with the United States government.

By giving up part of their lands, the Indians were undoubtedly hoping to gain the help of the government in protecting the rest of their lands.

In Indian history, the decades that followed would become known as, "The time of broken promises."

On January 7, 1806 the Cherokee Nation signed a treaty with the United States government, giving up their rights to the land in Madison, Lauderdale and Limestone counties. Chief Black Fox was to receive \$100 a year for life and the tribe received \$2000.00 with another \$2000.00

to be paid every year for four years.

In addition the tribe received a grist mill and "a machine to clean cotton."

If the Cherokees had hoped that this treaty would put an end to their conflicts with the white man, they were soon disappointed. Within three years Thomas Freeman, in a report to the President, stated that hundreds of settlers and their families had moved onto Indian lands. Though soldiers were sent to remove the squatters, popular sentiment was against the Indians. Regardless of how many treaties were signed, land grabbers in Washington always demanded another one.

It was the era of Andrew Jackson, a popular General who was the darling of the aristocratic South. Though strongly professing to be a friend of the Indian, he was a staunch advocate of their total removal to another land.

In perhaps the strongest indication of his duplicity, Jackson took in a young Indian orphan named Lincoya, bragging to one and all that the lad was to be his adopted son. A few years later, Jackson, at the height of his power, apprenticed his "adopted son" to a saddle maker where the boy died of

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pneumonia at an early age.

Under mounting pressure the Cherokees signed another treaty in 1816 giving up their rights to Morgan, Colbert, Franklin, Winston, Cullman and Blount counties. Less than a year later they were forced to cede parts of Limestone and Lauderdale county.

Regardless of how much land the Indians ceded, It seemed as if there was always more white settlers who demanded more land.

By the time the Indians gave up title to the rest of Madison, Marshall and Jackson counties in 1819, the once powerful Cherokee tribe had been reduced to a shadow of its former glory. Though still powerful in North Carolina and Georgia, the Indians in North Alabama had been, for the most part, forced to assimilate into the white man's culture with no protection under his laws.

Indians, under the racial laws of Alabama, could not vote, hold office, nor sue for relief in district courts. Though many Indians owned slaves, strangely enough they enjoyed less protection from the courts than their slaves did.

A strong indication of this injustice may be gleaned from the fact that many Indians were sold into slavery here in Madison County. Judge Lane, a noted jurist here in Huntsville, kept a young Cherokee girl as a slave because "she was a good cook." When she tried to escape and join her tribe, Lane "hit her in the head with a piece of firewood and locked her in the kitchen."

By 1820, Indians in Madison County had become so rare that

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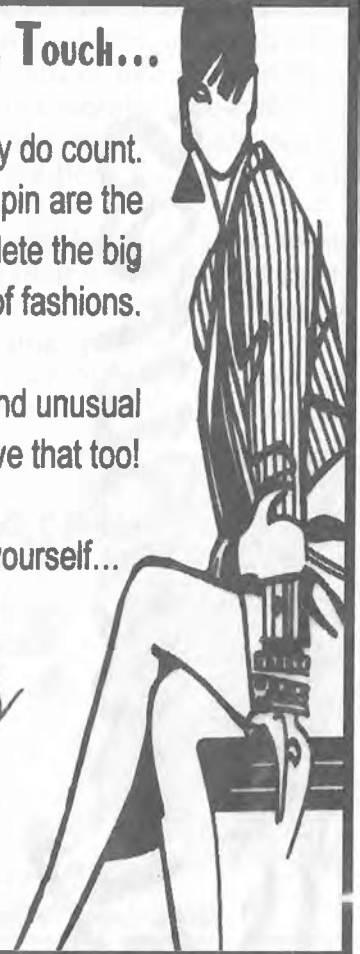
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a visit to Huntsville by Chief Mad Wolf and twenty of his braves, to purchase blankets, was treated as a notable news item by the local newspaper.

With the prevailing public sentiment against the Indians, the removal of the Cherokees was a foregone conclusion. Many of the chiefs in Georgia had already agreed to it and for the remnants of the tribes in Madison and Jackson counties there was no choice.

In the summer of 1836, under the command of General Benjamin Patterson, of Huntsville, the military began gathering the Cherokees together in preparation for the trek west. In Fort Payne, a dirt cellar was used to hold the Indians while others were kept in a ditch under armed guard. Indians living in Marshall County were gathered into a large stockade on the banks of the Tennessee River while Indians in Madison County were herded together at Three Forks of Flint. Anyone possessing as little as 1/8 Indian blood was liable for expulsion.

Squads of soldiers were sent into every hamlet, valley and cove in search of Indian families. Often times the families were torn from their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. One soldier, who later fought in many battles during the Civil War, later stated that the Cherokee removal was the saddest event he had ever seen. On file in Nashville, Tennessee is an account of the Indians passing through Huntsville, herded by soldiers through the narrow streets as the townspeople gathered to watch. The writer recalled almost a half century later the looks of helplessness on the Indians' faces.

Not all of the Indians went willingly. Early histories are full of accounts of Indians going into the mountains and hiding out. In Jackson County as many as 60 families are supposed to have hidden out. Often, escape was much easier. It was simply a matter of getting a white neighbor or friend to testify that the subject was also white.

Polly Sharp was 33 years old when the soldiers came after her family. It's easy to imagine her family sitting around the fireplace at night trying to decide what to do. Paint Rock

Valley was their home and to move west to an unknown land was almost inconceivable.

In the end, her family, like many others, chose to hide in the mountains. We can imagine them looking down from the airy heights and watching the soldiers march their kin out of the valley.

For these Indians left behind, it was the end to any semblance of their former life. Officially, there were no Indians left in North Alabama, except for a few families who were allowed to remain on private reservations. All other Indians were subject to prosecution and expulsion.



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It was a time of deadly hide and seek for the families who sought refuge in the hills. Soldiers and militia were constantly on the prowl for stray Indians. Usually, they were aided by the white settlers, who by informing on their ex-neighbors, hoped to gain possession of their belongings.

In perhaps one of the cruelest examples, an account in Georgia tells of how white settlers, for sport, hunted the Indians with dogs.

After several years of hiding, Polly's family, like many others, chose to pass as white. Polly's husband got a job as a farm laborer and they settled into a small cabin. They took the name Sharp from a white person who had befriended them. Probably everyone knew they were Indians, but then as now, the desire for cheap labor overruled people's desires to enforce the laws.

The few Indians left-- fearful of being exposed-- gave up their native customs. Legends that had been handed down for centuries were forgotten within a few short years. Parents, wanting a better life for their children, refused to talk of their Indian heritage.

The stigma of having Indian ancestry had become a source of shame.

Within a relatively brief period of time all traces of a once mighty Indian civilization, in North Alabama, had been erased.

Polly's husband died in the 1850s and she never remarried. She grew old tending her gar-

den and keeping to herself. To most people who knew her she was simply. "Old Indian Polly."

When Polly died in 1902, there was nothing to set her apart from the thousands of other Indians who had once lived here, except for the fact that she was the last one.



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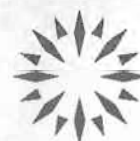
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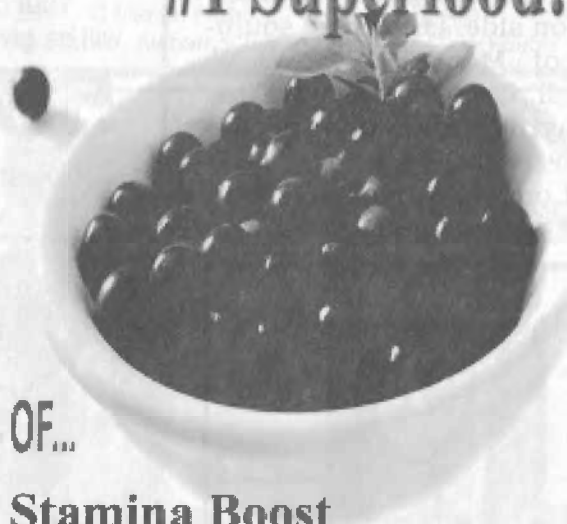
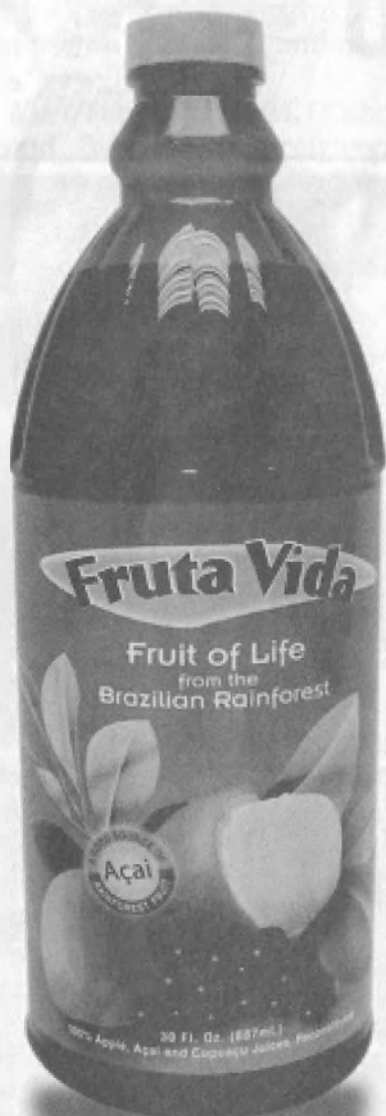
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# News from 1923

- John Brown, a department superintendent at the Lowe Mill, has purchased the old Echols property on East Clinton street and will remodel it for the use of himself and family.

- Wanted - good cook, phone 639 or see Mrs. June Martin, Lowe avenue.

- Found - light bay mare, age 6 years, small, hair worn off hind leg, sore back, skinned place on side. Pea Ridge, southeast of Merrimack. W. W. Mitchell. Owner can have same by paying upkeep and this advertisement.

- Lost - gold breast pin. Finder please return to bunga-

low, corner White and Randolph streets.

- For rent - furnished room in private home - apply at 302 West Holmes street.

- For sale - Oakland six tour-

ing car, newly painted, good tires, run less than 600 miles, price \$500. See the Baxter Brothers.

Wanted - Good team of mules. Will trade herd of goats. J.M. Kiles

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# The Fridge

**Judy Chandler Smith**

I'm so excited I can barely contain myself. While out running some errands for M.D., I found myself in Home Depot and there it was: a Hot Point refrigerator in the aisle beckoning to me. She was a real beauty. It had ice cubes, crushed ice and even water in the door. I couldn't help making the purchase. It was to be delivered in just two days.

I bought something I had really wanted and used to have 32 years ago. You ask what - well, I'll tell you and anyone else who will stand still long enough.

In the summer of 1974, I taught swimming all summer to buy a G.E. refrigerator. I was determined to acquire this luxury, although I was eight months pregnant and that would not stop me.

When I approached M. D. about the purchase, he said, "Who needs a refrigerator with an ice maker when I've got YOU to fill up the ice trays?"

Now you know what inspired me to teach swimming all summer to make enough money (\$800) to buy the refrigerator with ice cubes, crushed ice, and water in the door. No more filling ice trays - that's in the past.

I remembered the reaction M.D. had many

years ago about buying a new fridge, when the old one was working fine, so I decided not to tell him about it and just "surprise" him when he got home that night.

I remember the old expression, "it's easier to get forgiveness than it is to get permission," so I thought

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I'd just wait. What I had forgotten was that when I bought it and was arranging for delivery, I gave them both our cell phone numbers to call in case mine was not on.

When the delivery man finally got in touch with me to find out if I was going to be home since he was on his way to deliver it from Birmingham, I told him that if he could get there mid afternoon that would be best because I wanted to "surprise" my husband.

Then he replied, "Well, I don't think he's gonna be too surprised. I already talked to him on his cell phone and he thought I had called the wrong number because he didn't know anything 'bout a new fridge."

Whoops! There went that surprise. And you can probably guess who called me next on my cell phone after I got through talking to the deliveryman.

The two men who brought the fridge in loaded the 21-year-old one onto our truck.

It doesn't make ice, but will

serve us well in the garage at the lake house, and the one at the lake will go to Habitat or someone else who is in need of a nice free fridge to help them out.

The men, along with Champ (one of our best employees) helped get it through the door. When the delivery truck arrived, I was waiting in the driveway. I was thinking that, in just a matter of minutes, filling ice trays will be a thing of the past.

Modern technology has finally

returned, but M.D. will say, "Don't throw away those double and single aluminum trays - you never know when you might need them again."



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# Tips from Liz

- If you burn your tongue, sprinkle some white sugar on it for fast relief.

- A good way to restore hair and prevent baldness is to mix a tablespoonful of honey with a jigger of vodka and the juice from a medium onion. Rub it into the scalp every night, cover, sleep, awaken, shampoo and rinse daily.

- For thicker eyelashes, apply castor oil to them each night.

- To help diminish puffiness under your eyes, stop eating salt.

- Osteo Bi-Flex is an over-the-counter pill that really helps with the pains of arthritis - helps lubricate your joints.

- If you have a yard that gets sun nearly all day, you can't go wrong with a Zoysia grass, called Meyer. The sod will give you a lush lawn nearly overnight, and it will kill out weeds since it's so thick. Best part of it, you can get rid of your gas-powered lawn mover and buy a light aluminum push mower (we got ours from Lewter's and love it!) to mow your Zoysia with. No oil, No expensive gas, and it's so quiet!!

- If a tick has embedded itself in your skin, get clear nail polish and drop two drops on the insect. It will release its grasp and back out. GET IT and kill it! Then just wipe the polish off your skin.

- Keep potted geraniums around your back porch where you sit - mosquitos hate them!

- Take your pills standing up and keep standing for 2 more minutes. Take them with at least 1/2 cup of water, while standing - this will give the pills a chance to move quickly along, instead of staying in your esophagus where they may disintegrate and cause heartburn or nausea.

- If you have acid indiges-

tion, try chewing a teaspoonful of dry rolled oats. Swallow slowly, they soothe the acid and neutralize it.

- After you've eaten one of those heavy, rich meals that leaves you miserable, try this for relief. Take a wire hair brush or metal comb and brush the backs of both your hands for about 4 minutes. It will relieve that sluggish feeling.

- If gout is causing alot of pain for you, stop eating red meat, sugar and white flour. Many sufferers have sworn by this.

- If you're in a warm room and feel faint, just run cold tap water over your wrists for fast relief. Ice cubes rubbed on the wrists also work.

- An irritated or clogged gallbladder can make

you feel sluggish and tired, even first thing in the morning. Each morning, take 3 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice in half a glass of warm water, a half hour before breakfast. Try this for a week and see if it makes a difference in your energy level.

  
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# The Fiction of History

The Pilgrims did not land at Plymouth Rock and July 4th is not Independence Day.

Sounds preposterous?

The belief that the pilgrims landed on Plymouth rock rests solely on the recollection of a ninety-five year old man, 120 years after the event. Thomas Faunce told a crowd that his father, who arrived in America three years after the Mayflower, had once pointed out to him the rock as the place where the pilgrims had landed.

There is no other evidence for the tradition.

As the Coast Guard has

pointed out numerous times since, the current would have made it impossible for a small boat to land at that spot. Ironically, Plymouth Rock never entered our history books until the 1800's when it was used to advertise soap.

Another great deception that has been foisted upon the

American people is the celebration of the 4th of July as our nation's Independence Day.

Independence from England had been declared two days earlier on July 2, 1776.

Our second president of the United States of America, John Adams, in a letter to his wife, predicted that "the Second day



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of July, 1776 will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival."

To further undermine the real date, a nineteenth century editor, in publishing Adam's original letter, changed the date and had Adams informing his wife that "the Fourth of July, 1776," would be the great date in history.

Even the story of Bunker Hill is a myth. The famous battle actually took place on Breeds Hill, some two thousand feet away. By 1893 so many people believed the story that the authorities changed the name of Breed Hill to Bunker Hill, in an attempt to correct history.

Probably the biggest hoax handed down in our history books is the tale about the Liberty Bell. It did hang in the state-house but it was not rung upon the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The name, "Liberty Bell" was given it in 1839, symbolizing the hope for freedom of black slaves, not the independence of white Americans from Britain.

Another story that does not withstand the scrutiny of history is the battle of the Alamo. Contrary to popular belief, the defenders were not all heroes. Colonel Travis, the commander, had abandoned his pregnant wife and two year old child in Alabama, before ending up in Texas. In the oath he took, he lied, claiming to be a widower.

Jim Bowie was running from the law, and Davy Crockett had left his home in Tennessee where he had become a figure of ridicule.

There is absolutely no proof that the defenders of the Alamo fought to the last man. On the contrary, overwhelming contemporary evidence indicates that

Davy Crockett and his Tennesseans surrendered, rather than fight it out hand-to-hand.

Incidentally independence was not the only thing they were fighting for; they had also been promised large grants of land in return for their efforts.

Few people today remember that the song "Yellow Rose of Texas," was a song about Santa Anna's mistress. In the original version the chorus line was, "She's the sweetest rose of color, this ducky I ever knew."

In 1903, the Texas Histori-

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cal Society decided to sanitize their history and rewrote the words accordingly.

Teddy Roosevelt never charged up San Juan Hill. The hill they captured was Kettle Hill and when they finally got around to San Juan Hill, the Spaniards had already fled.

William Randolph Hearst, a publishing magnate and close personal friend who was aware of Roosevelt's political aspirations, ordered the name change in his newspapers. The reason he gave was, "San Juan sounds more heroic than Kettle."

Here in Huntsville, when they finally got around to writing a State Constitution (1819), it seems as if one of their biggest problems was keeping the delegates sober. They actually had to call the sheriff to remove some of the offending delegates.

No history book of Hunts-

ville prints the fact that our Huntsville Hospital got its start from a bordello or that Brahan Spring park is named after a swindler. Also, that the first voting rights demonstration in Huntsville oc-

curred shortly after the Civil War when a group of ex-Confederate soldiers held a protest demanding their voting rights be restored.



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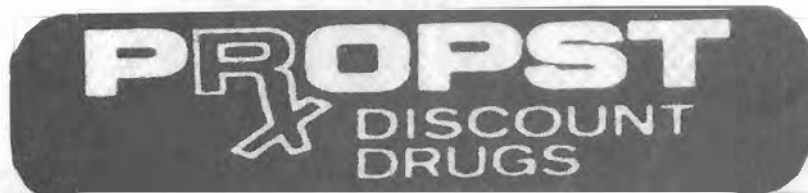


Clinton Avenue looking west toward the Russel Erskine Hotel

The 1950s were a time of growth for Huntsville and the surrounding communities. In 1950 there were 435 new homes built in Huntsville, and Capital & Eastern Airlines boarded 1,852 passengers. The county boasted 43 schools with 23 lunchrooms and 407 teachers. The schools closed for two weeks each fall so the students could help with cotton picking.

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