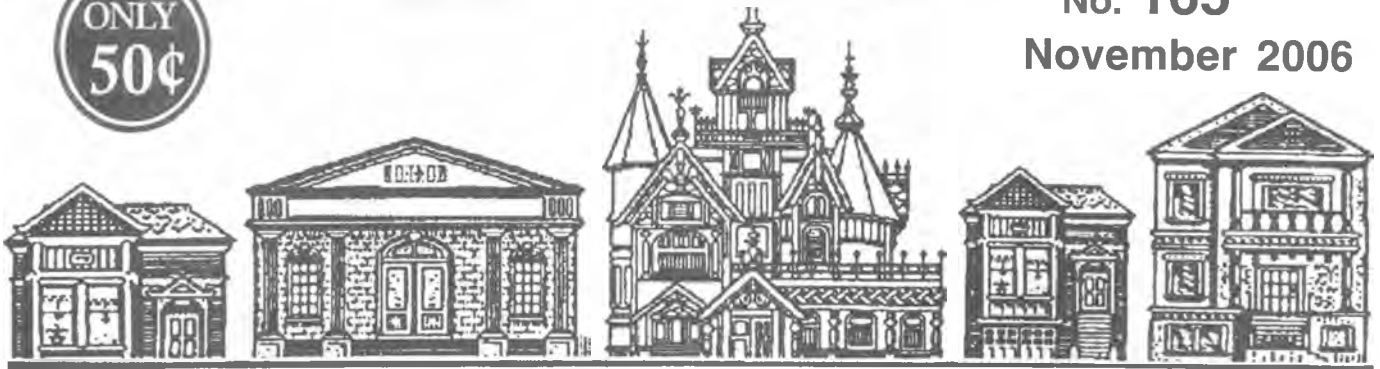


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November 2006



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## The Prophet

He was a minister who had been cursed with the power to look at someone and know when, and how, they were going to die.

Some people claimed he was a prophet, while others said he was an agent of the Devil.

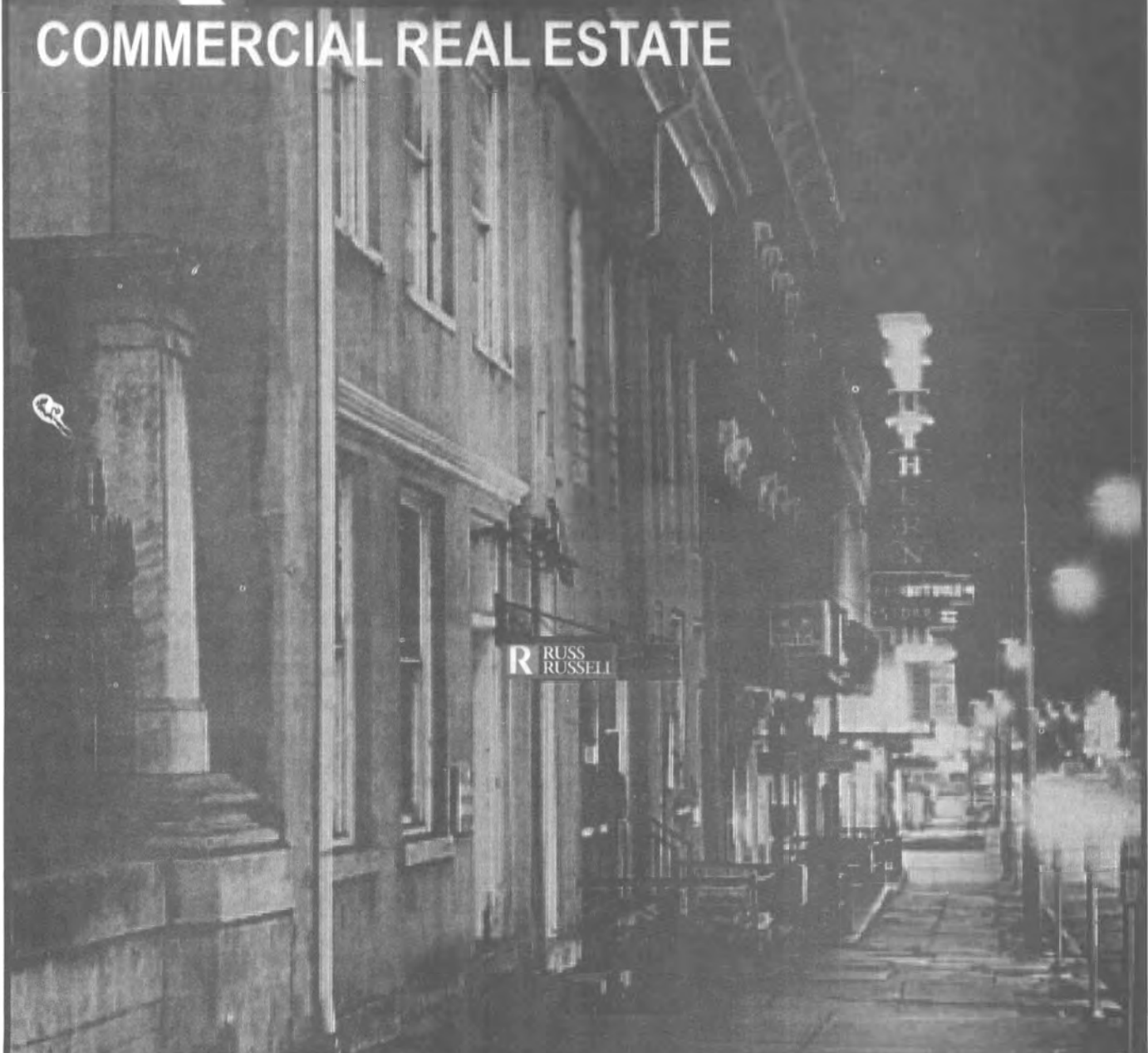
Regardless of what he was, many old timers still talk about a time, years ago, when the Devil's rage set the mountains on fire as it battled for the soul of a country preacher.

Also in this issue: The Indian War

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# The Prophet

Take a drive across the Monte Sano, then continue about fourteen or fifteen miles towards Guntersville, Ala. As you go around a slight curve, look over to the right at a small hill about two hundred yards off the road. The hill is covered with kudzu vines, small trees and briar patches, all struggling valiantly to grow in the barren rocky soil.

If by some miraculous means you could travel back into time to a period around year 1882, you would have seen a small, one room church in the middle of a clearing, built with rough, hand-hewn lumber from the nearby woods. The lumber had already taken on the silvery patina of age, betraying the years it had perched precariously on the side of the hill.

At first look there would be nothing to distinguish it from hundreds of other small rural churches scattered throughout the foothills of Sand Mountain.

But talk to some of the older people who still live in the isolated coves and foot hills. Once you gain their trust they may tell you of the strange events that oc-

curred in the church over a century earlier. They may whisper at times; some of the people feel hesitant talking about a time, years ago, when the Devil's rage set the mountains on fire as it battled for the soul of a country preacher.

The Reverend Eli Hensley arrived at the church on a beautiful Sunday morning in the spring of 1882, driving a patched up one-horse wagon pulled by an ancient mare whose coat had turned mostly gray years earlier. Sunday services had just ended and people were preparing to leave when Hensley approached some of the members and introduced himself.

After talking for a few minutes, Hensley made a strange request. He was a skilled carpenter, he explained, and he would be willing to do repairs on the church. He didn't want any pay but if the members wanted to give him something to eat occasionally he would be grateful. He would sleep under his wagon and not be a bother to anyone.

The church members looked over their shoulder at the old building and instantly agreed. Several of the members offered to let him stay in their homes but he refused, saying he would rather be by himself. The congregation was thrilled; not just about the work, but because it



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gave them the opportunity to have a minister in their midst.

There had never been a regular minister at the church. The congregation was too small and isolated for anything more than an occasional visiting preacher who might stop by for a few days. Whenever this happened it was cause for great excitement.

The next few days settled down to a comfortable routine. Hensley, true to his word, was a skilled carpenter who appeared to do wonders sawing and shaping the wood into new doors, benches and chairs. Every evening one of the parishioners would deliver a covered plate. As they began to grow used to Hensley they would often stay for a while, trying to draw the minister into a conversation.

Hensley was always polite, almost humble, but whenever questions about himself came up he would change the subject abruptly. Almost immediately some of the people asked him to lead them in church services but he always respectfully declined, saying there were better people than him among the congregation.

Despite his refusal, it was generally agreed that he was a man of God. Most people said he even looked like a minister. He was tall, rail thin; the type of man who always looked gangly in the black suit he wore. His hair was unruly, coal black with

streaks of white betraying his age. It was his eyes, however, that most people remembered.

They were a luminous, piercing gray that seemed to change colors as he talked to you. People later said that he did not merely look at you; he looked inside your soul.

What would turn in to a bizarre chain of events began one evening when a church member delivered a covered plate dinner. After making small talk for a few minutes the man turned to leave. Suddenly Hensley placed his hand on the man's shoulder and told him that he was sorry about his brother.

Startled, the man turned to Hensley and asked what he was talking about.

Hensley, instead of replying, stared at the man intently for a few moments, with a look of anguish on his face, before abruptly turning away with tears in his eyes.

The next morning the man received word that his brother, who lived about thirty miles away, had died during the night.

As strange as it may sound today, the congregation merely took this as another sign that Hensley was a man of God. Ministers with supernatural gifts were well-known phenomena at the time. Reverend Sanders, who lived in Mooresville, and who would gain fame as the Sleeping

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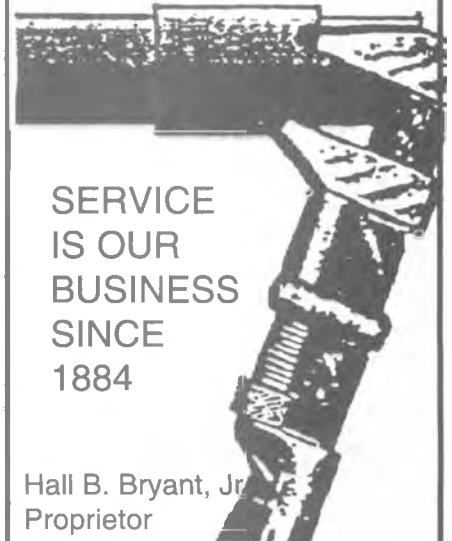
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"Because of your experienced staff

Betty's life was saved."



Steadman, Dr. Gilbert and Karen

Preacher, was well known for his psychic abilities. While in trances he would tell of events that were happening miles away and of funerals that had not yet taken place. His strange gift was witnessed by many of Huntsville's most prominent citizens who later signed affidavits about the events.

In Chattanooga the Reverend Foster Hawkins gained fame when he suddenly interrupted his service on Sunday and beseeched his parishioners to avoid a certain bridge the following night. The next day brought horrendous rains with flash floods. The bridge he had warned his church about was washed away with two people losing their lives.

Members of the small church redoubled their efforts to convince Hensley to be their pastor, but still he refused. If anything, he became even more reclusive and seemed to develop a habit of not looking anyone in the eye.

About a month after Hensley's arrival the church decided to have a camp meeting. It was an occasion where families would spread blankets under the trees for picnics and enjoy the fellowship of neighbors and friends. A minister from Guntersville had agreed to attend that day and lead the services.

The day dawned bright and by mid-afternoon the small clearing was filled with people exchanging news and children running back and forth playing

games. Suddenly the still air was rent by a horrible piercing scream.

A small girl had been running when she tripped and fell on the blade of an ax. The ax cut deeply into her leg, leaving an ugly gash stretching from near her knee down to her ankle. Blood was pouring from the wound soaking everything, and everyone, around her. People tried to stop the bleeding but the wound was too severe and too deep.

The Reverend Hensley had been sitting off to the side by himself, as if deep in thought, but when he heard the screams he rushed to where the small girl was lying in a pool of blood. Roughly shoving people aside he knelt next to the child and placed both his hands on the ugly wound as he leaned close while whispering something in her ear.

No one could hear what the minister said that day but they all agreed about what happened next.

Veins popped out on the preacher's face and his luminous gray eyes turned a deep coal black. His body began trembling as he struggled to pull something from deep within his soul.

Seconds later the bleeding stopped.

The crowd watched in awe as Hensley stood up. He appeared lost, disorientated, as if waking from a cruel nightmare.

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Suddenly, realizing what had just happened, he turned and fled to the safety of the nearby woods.

People began to murmur, speaking of prophets and miracles. Almost as if one, the crowd filed into the small church to give thanks for what they had just witnessed. The visiting minister, who had remained silent all this time, suddenly spoke up, "Do you people know who that man is?"

The congregation looked at him but no one answered.

"That man is Eli Hensley. He has the look of death."

Gasps broke out among the people. A few raised their hands in prayer as if asking for divine protection while others prepared to flee the church. Everyone understood what the minister was alluding to.

While today most people generally think as "the look of death" to mean someone looks ill, years ago it had an altogether different, more sinister, meaning. There were, according to folklore and tradition, some people who had the power to look at other people and predict when they were going to die, and how.

Most people associated the power with being the Devil's handiwork.

Accusations flew back and forth in the small church. Some people, remembering Hensley forecasting the death of a member's brother, had no doubt he was an agent of the Devil. Others, recalling how Hensley miraculously stopped the bleeding of the small child's leg, asserted he had to be a prophet. Most people, however, simply wanted an answer about who, and what, the Reverend Eli Hensley was.

Finally an elder of the church, in a loud commanding voice, demanded silence. "Let him finish speaking," he said referring to the visiting minister.

The minister took the middle of the floor and began speaking. He was from Cincinnati, Ohio, he explained, where he took over a church that Hensley had once pastored. Hensley had left amidst great controversy and had almost split the church apart.

From what he had heard, Hensley was born in Boston and had entered a seminary at a

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young age. When the Civil War erupted he had volunteered to serve as a chaplain. His regiment was stationed near Bowling Green, Kentucky when a stray artillery shell landed only feet from him, wounding him badly. Everyone around him was killed and Hensley remained in a coma for several weeks.

Once he recovered and was discharged, he took over as pastor of a small church in Indiana. It was about this time that Hensley began experiencing excruciating headaches and strange visions. While preaching one Sunday morning he noticed a man and woman in the congregation whom he was particularly fond of.

Suddenly, instead of seeing the young couple, he saw two closed caskets. In his mind he heard terrifying screams and saw fiery flames of fire. He looked at his hands and saw blisters begin to erupt as if his skin had been burned.

That same night the young couple was killed in a house fire.

The following week he stopped at a neighborhood store to buy a newspaper. While talking to the owner he suddenly had a vision of the man lying on the floor, clutching at his chest. The store owner died of a heart attack the following day.

The visions appeared to be random. Sometimes he would have two or three in a week and then they would disappear, sometimes for months at a time.

Hensley became a recluse, rarely venturing out from his home except to conduct church services. Even then he would keep his head down, afraid to look people in the eye and have the power to know if they were to live or die.

After one especially horrifying series of visions, Hensley confided in several of his fellow pastors. They recognized immediately what people called "the look of death" but refused to accept that he might be anything



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except a man of God. They recommended, and made arrangements, for him to spend time in a psychiatric hospital.

He spent almost a year in the hospital without experiencing any more visions, and the doctors declared him cured. A short time later he accepted the position of pastor of a church in Cincinnati. For several years he led a normal life and was well respected by his congregation.

His life changed forever on a fall morning in 1879. He was delivering a sermon and as he looked out at the people sitting in the rows he suddenly saw the shadow of death descend upon the congregation. Instead of people peaceably listening to a sermon he saw visions of people screaming and writhing in agony. Sounds of gun shots filled the room and flames of fire danced on the walls. There were long rows of caskets and people sobbing.

Hensley stopped the sermon in mid-sentence. People waited for him to continue but he looked lost,

disorientated and tears filled his eyes. Suddenly he left the pulpit and walked unsteadily down the aisle and out the front door.

"He never went back," said the visiting minister. "We heard rumors of him wandering across the country, volunteering to work on churches, but I don't think he ever preached again."

The room grew silent as the minister finished the story. Finally, after a long pause, a man spoke up to ask the question that was on everyone's mind. "Preacher, is he a man of God or the Devil?"

The minister shook his head slowly. "I can't answer that," he replied. "I don't know what is inside of him."

Bedlam broke out in the small church as people once again began arguing. Shouts and accusations filled the air. Finally one of

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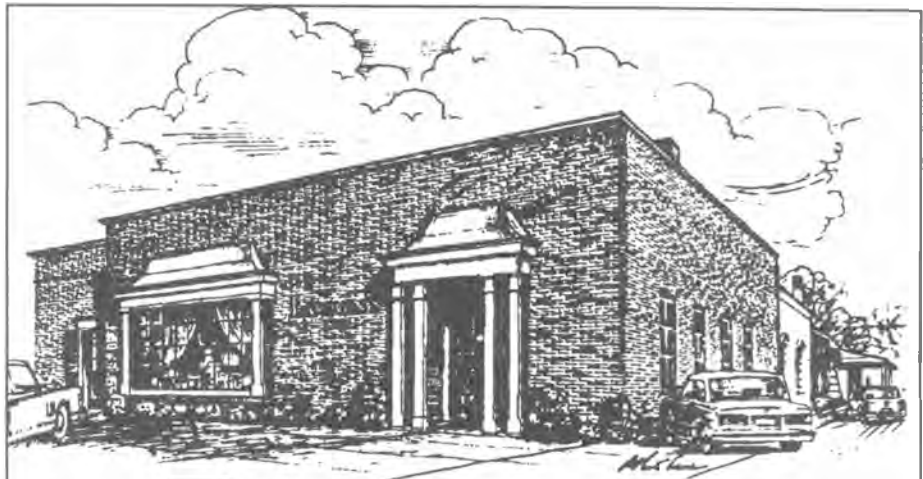
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the elders stepped forward and motioned for the crowd to be quiet. "Before we start accusing Mr. Hensley, I think we should hear what he has to say."

Several of the men left to find Hensley. Minutes later they led him into the church where he was placed in a chair facing the crowd. Every few minutes his body would convulse with tremors and tears continued to roll down his face.

One of the elders got straight to the point. "Mr. Hensley, are you a man of God?"

Moments passed, with everyone watching every move of his body. Finally he answered in a barely audible voice, "I don't know. I don't know what I am anymore."

While this was happening, heavy black storm clouds began darkening the sky. Within minutes the church was dark, as if at night time, and people scurried to light lanterns.

Another voice spoke up from the back of the room. "Mr. Hensley, do you have the look

of death?"

A lightning bolt lit up the interior of the church and the building seemed to shake as the thunder reverberated throughout the hills.

Hensley replied, "Some people say I do."

There was stunned silence with no one knowing what to

say. A woman sitting near the front was unsure exactly what Hensley meant. "Do you mean that you can actually look at someone and tell when they will die?"

"That's what people say."

People looked at one another, all knowing what the next question was going to be but afraid to

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ask it. Finally, a voice in the back of the room spoke up again, almost shouting to be heard above the storm raging outside.

"Mr. Hensley, is there anyone in this room.....?"

Before he could finish the question, a fiery bolt of lightning struck a tree next to the church, followed by another one, and then another. Gigantic roars of thunder seemed to shake the earth as more lightning bolts danced across the hilltops.

A window shattered, showering people with broken glass. The front door blew open and began swinging crazily back and forth as if some demonic hand was guiding it.

As the storm increased its fury, Hensley's body began trembling. Within seconds the tremors had turned into violent convulsions. His head jerked back, as if hit by some unseen force and seconds later a trickle of blood appeared at the corner of his mouth. His clothes seemed to be jerked first one way then another.

People would later swear that the barest outlines of a smile began to appear on his face.

Suddenly the church itself was struck by a bolt of lightning, knocking everyone to the floor. Seconds later the building was on fire and people were fleeing for their lives.

The church burned to the ground that night. The next morning Hensley's horse and

wagon was gone and no one ever saw him again.

Well over a hundred years later people still argue about whether he was a man of God or a son of the Devil. Was he a prophet with an uncanny, though horrible, gift or was he simply a poor demented soul with mental problems?

Possibly the only clue we will ever have is a small notice in a Nashville newspaper that appeared several months later.

"The Reverend Eli Hensley was struck and killed by the northbound L&N train last night. Witnesses said he stepped in front of engine. The death has been ruled a suicide."



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The latest incident began when the elder Rodgers was accosted by members of the Ricketts family while on his way to town. Harsh words were exchanged and both parties returned home to "gather their kin-folk."

Late that evening Jim Ricketts and Halbert Rodgers met on the banks of the Flint River. Both were armed with shotguns.

Hatred between the two families was so great that both parties immediately began firing.

The first blast caught Ricketts full in the chest and neck. A second later Rodgers fell to the ground grievously wounded in both legs.

Although Rodgers and Ricketts would live many years after the gunfight, they would both remain crippled for the rest of their lives.

Jim Ricketts and Halbert Rodgers were both only thirteen years old.



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# Lloyd Hawkins

by Austin Miller

People who grew up with Lloyd Hawkins say that he was not a standout in sports or academics at Central School. At seventeen, to get out of the cotton patch, he forged his father's name on enlistment papers and joined the Army.

Like countless others who joined at seventeen, it wasn't what he expected. He didn't like it and begged his father to get him out by certifying that he had not signed for him to join. His father agreed and he was discharged. But Lloyd Hawkins was not destined to be a farmer. World War II started and he was drafted back into the Army. This time he stayed. After the war he switched to the Air Force and became a pilot

In the fifties, his mother lived directly across the road from Wears Chapel Baptist Church and about 300-400 yards diagonally across the road from Central School. Lloyd had an unusual way of visiting his mother. He arrived in a jet fighter, suddenly appearing from the western horizon at tree top level.

We lived in the flight path and sometimes a distant rumble would materialize into a jet fighter screaming as it passed our cotton patch. He flew so low that he was visible in the cockpit along with the military markings on the

plane. Lloyd maintained the same altitude until he approached his mother's house about a mile east of our place on Ryland Pike.

Upon arrival at his home place, he sharply dipped his wings twice and shot up in a steep climb. The end of that maneuver required a turn around over Maysville and preparation for the second run at the house. On the return, he maintained the same altitude, dipped his wings again and rapidly ascended to the northwest. In an instant, he was out of sight and out of hearing.

As quickly as he came, he was gone and the thrill was over. Not everyone appreciated the excitement and Mr. Clay Kennemer, the local principal at Central, objected to a jet fighter doing stunts while school was in session. I never saw the stunt but

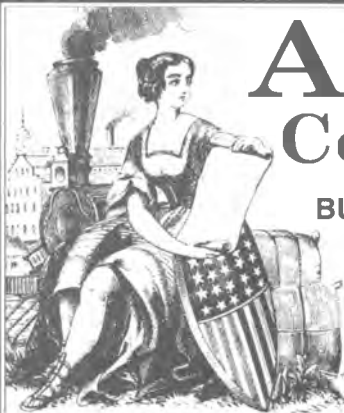
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his nephew Billy Joe Hawkins told me that Mr. Kennemer reported him to the authorities for flying low and upside down over the school.

This stopped the aerobatics over Central but not the passes over his mother's house. Mr. Kennemer was Lloyd Hawkins' former principal and neighbor. Clay Kennemer was an outstanding educator and was principal at Central School for many years.

There is no explanation of how much those fly-bys thrilled us all, children and adults alike. I have seen the Blue Angels perform magnificent feats from a close vantage point but it doesn't compare with the thrill as a small boy watching a flyover by Lloyd Hawkins.

The up close sight of a speed-fighter over our cotton patch just beyond our backyard was a thrilling intrusion into our lives. It was a brief interlude of exhilarating entertainment that stirred our patriotism and ambition for adventure. The fact that we had no idea of what far-away airbase the flight originated or ended added to the magic. I never saw anything in the movies more exciting. Also, it was our first close up view of a jet fighter and our closest view of any airplane at the time.

The last I heard about Lloyd Hawkins was in the late sixties when he was flying combat missions in Vietnam. Lately, I saw Billy Joe at the court house and asked him about his uncle. He said that Lloyd stayed in the Air Force for thirty seven years and seldom comes back to Ryland. He now lives in California.

Lloyd Hawkins was my hero and I day dreamed of growing up to be a jet fighter pilot.

The thrill of fifty years ago when he flew like the blink of an eye three hundred feet above our cotton patch is still fresh in my memory.



## Heard on the Streets in 1891

\* Yesterday, through Capt. J. Bone, Mr. W. R. Van Valkenburg sold to Mrs. E. M. Musick, one of his cottages on Maiden Lane, for \$2,000.

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

\* For Sale - a three room cottage on Walker street. The lot is 60 feet front, 200 feet deep. Terms cash. Apply to E. R. Latta

\* Manager Halsey is making a deserving effort to give our people's higher class of entertainments at the Opera house this season. Although he is handicapped in the way of making needed improvements in the Opera House interior, he adds a new feature in the employment of an orchestra, something that has been needed for years.

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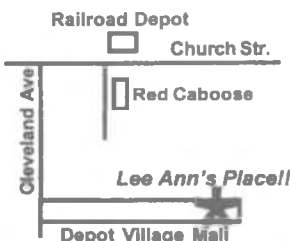


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One day, Dr. Wernher von Braun and two other German scientists who worked for NASA were having lunch there when a couple sat down at the next table. They were obviously Yankee tourists, with Bermuda shorts, cameras slung around their necks, and two handfuls of guidebooks.

The Yankee lady, upon hearing von Braun speak, leaned over as far as she could. After intently eavesdropping for a few minutes, she turned to her husband and said, "I just love these Southern accents."

## Body Found in Warehouse

A body of a man was found in the back of a warehouse last month. Identification processes are still underway.

No details have been released. Strange circumstances surround the case. The victim's mouth was gagged with cereal.

No suspect has been found, but authorities believe it is the work of a "Cereal" killer.

*from 1905 Publication*

**"You never realize how patient you can be until the fellow who is arguing with you is your boss."**

*Sam Johnston, Arab*

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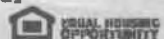
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# Paving California and Bus Rides

by Judy Chandler Smith

Boy, was it ever hot on that summer day in 1948. Hall Bryant, Sarah Bryant, Charles Shaver, Linda Holmes Sullins, Carol Banks and I were sitting on the curb watching the action about to start. The city of Huntsville was finally going to turn the dirt road at Newman and California (heading south) into a paved street. California was already paved north into Five Points and on the bus route.

Because it was so hot, I decided we could make some money having a lemonade stand. My grandmother lived with us at this time in my life, so she reluctantly began squeezing lemons and getting out the sugar since there was no powdered mix in 1948. We had the real thing. In no time I had a card table and was all set to start

up business. We entertained ourselves much of the day in the steaming hot weather selling lemonade and watching the pavers.

When they were finished and we were in want of something else to do, Mom suggested a bus ride. The bus stopped at the corner of Newman and California, right across from our house. Mother would give us all a dime and we could ride the bus for a complete loop. A complete round trip would take an hour, but you could stay on if the bus driver was in a good mood

and would let you ride the loop again.

Starting at Newman, the bus took us up California street past Maple Hill Cemetery, on to Five Points, Holmes to downtown, then head out Madison Street, turning right on Fifth Avenue Road (Governor's Drive) at the main entrance of Huntsville Hospital and left on Gallatin passing Fifth Avenue Hospital, which is now a medical rehab facility. On Gallatin we'd pass Kroger on one side and Fifth Avenue School on the other (both

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gone and now parking lots). You could see Braggs Furniture just down the road from the intersection. The store today is not the original store. Braggs burned in 1973 and Leonard and Joe Ed Bragg promptly built the new store and were back in business in fairly short order. The bus continued out Gallatin through the streets of Mayfair and back up Whitesburg (past Snow White Drive In) turning onto Franklin passing over Fifth Avenue again and then a right on Townsend in front of the Grand Cleaners (which is now the 801 Franklin Restaurant), and over to Adams Street. All the land occupied now by Huntsville Middle School and track and athletic fields, were rows and rows of tiny wood homes.

The bus would pass Mr. Terry's grocery on Adams, and there was another store next door to him. Mr. Terry had a delivery boy on a bicycle who would deliver small loads of groceries in that area. So, if the bus driver had to stop to let riders on or off, he would wait for us to get off the bus and buy a penny sucker in Mr. Terry's and get back on the bus.

What a treat to enjoy one or more penny suckers as we were chauffeured around Huntsville. My mother had given me very strict instructions NOT to go in the other store next to Mr. Terry's and I never knew why.

I am still curious about this as I think about it.

Returning down Newman to home and mother was waiting for us at the bus stop exactly one hour later.

This was entertainment right at your door. Wouldn't we all like to put our child on the bus to be entertained for an hour or more for one shiny dime? Those were the days.

## News from New Market - 1888

\* A run-away train created a little excitement when it sped through the village, but no one was injured and there was no damage done. Some flat cars loaded with logs broke loose at Plevna and passed here at full speed, a day or two ago, but the heavy grade a mile below checked them and they ran back to the depot here. They were captured by the engine in a few minutes and carried back.

\* It is difficult to understand

how, in 1888, fresh oysters could be served to the public so far from the seacoast, but that is what the ladies of the M.E. Church intended to do on Christmas Eve night.

\* Some 250 bales of cotton were reported to have been sold in the local market this season, ranging in price from 8-1/2 to 9 cents a pound.



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# Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to **Debra Pamplin**, of Huntsville, for being the first to call with a correct guess for last month's Photo of the Month. The sweet little girl was none other than WAFF's **Liz Hurley**. Liz does so much for breast cancer awareness. Debra is a 23-year Chrysler employee, employed by Siemens.

We were so sorry to hear that **Linda Hamlin's** sweet husband **Bob** had died very recently. We send our love to Linda, his friends and other family members, who will miss him so much.

**Jimmy & Karen Stubbs** are so proud of their latest addition - new daughter **Cardin Louise**. She is known as "Lulu" and was born on her daddy's birthday!

A big Happy Birthday wish to **Margaret Tucker**, wife of that famous mayor of Hurricane Creek - **J. B. Tucker!**

**Carlton McClain** has so many admirers all over town, but he's very modest! His advice - no matter what happens to you, always try to look on the bright side.

**John Bzdell** sure had an exciting trip recently. He traveled to the Ukraine, Hungary and Poland. He visited his grandmother's village, and church she wor-

shipped at, which is almost 300 years old.

A special hello to our Pennsylvania friend **Scottie Brier**, who spent many years in Huntsville and misses it. He says, "A day away from Huntsville is a day without sunshine!" And he's so right!

Happy birthday to beautiful **Stefanie Troup**, mom to **Hannah** and **Evan Troup**, and wife of **John Troup**. Stef is the best daughter a mom could wish for.

We wanted to let **Benny Little** know that we are thinking of him. Get well soon!

Happy 27th wedding anniversary to **Ron** and **Barb Eyestone**, of Madison. It gets better every year, right?

It was so nice to meet the **Dempsey** family recently at the rocking birthday party in Hazel Green for 18-year old **Amanda Stolz**. **Denise, Joshua** and **Jordan Dempsey** were all there. Speaking of birthdays, Joshua had a birthday recently also so

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to you!

**Caroline Jane Kearney** had a chance to experience Washington, DC in a way most people don't. She spent time as an intern in Congressman **Bud Cramer's** office! Caroline is a political science major at Troy University, and a 2003 graduate of Lee High school. She is the daughter of **Amy Kearney**, and granddaughter of **Bob & Betty Moore** and **Catherine Miller**, all of Huntsville.

Happy birthday to little **Sullivan Gray Reid**. His proud parents are **James Ashburn Reid** and **Sandy Reid**, and the really proud great-grandpa is **Cecil Ashburn**.

It was great to visit with **Martin & Eddress Burke** recently at Redstone Village. They were having Sunday brunch there with son **Marty** and daughter-in-law **Ann**. Ann, by the way, is managing editor of the Willowbrook Church publication called Faith & Family Matters.

## 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, his father and both of his sons are well known around the courthouse.



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We want to say hello to our buddy **Floyd Hardin**, mayor of the mill village. Stop by Jackson Way Barber Shop and he'll tell you some great stories of "Old Huntsville!"

It was good hearing from **Doyle Ramey**, who has returned to Indiana but spent many years here in Huntsville. He was a newspaper boy in the Old Town area, years before it was Old Town. He had a stroke 6 years ago but is now doing great. He's happier than ever and says life is all about the struggle, but a positive attitude is the way to go!

**Lola Stutts-Blaxton** of Muscle Shoals just had a visit from a very special person - her son **Will** who is an actor living in the Philadelphia area. **Lola, Will** and his sister, **Diane Owens** had fun catching up over the last couple of weeks.

A 97th birthday is not something you hear of everyday, but we heard today from **Betty Esslinger** that her sweet Mom turned 97 in September! **Briginia Mae Esslinger** has been a lifelong resident of Madison County - Happy Birthday to you!

The political season is really heating up and hopefully the turnout will be good for **November 7**. Remember, voting is one of our rights and we should take advantage of it!

**Diane Owens**, of Huntsville, is sure proud of her newest little second cousin! **Chloe Myrick** was born in October, she's the first child for **Steven Myrick** and **Joanna Meeks**, who are sure proud of that little baby!

Speaking of babies, **Liz** and **Joe Waggett** are the beaming grandparents (for the first time) of a new little grandson! His name is **Carter Jacob Waggett**, and his happy parents are **David** and **Carrie Waggett**.

**Robert Martin**, a resident of Morningside Assisted Living in Madison, is sure proud of son **Randy Martin**. Randy is back in

Iraq for another tour and we sure hope he gets back for the holidays. We are so proud of ALL our **service men and women** who put their lives on the line for us each and every day.

**Vivian and Bill Kruse** are sure proud of their son **Keith**. He and his fiance **Ashleigh** are getting married soon, and the parents are sure thrilled!

Hello to **Ward and Betty Gately**, of Cruise Vacation. They just love the Big Spring Park and walking around downtown this time of year, with the leaves changing color!

We hear that **Lee Roy Cunningham** is opening up a discount clothing store for men and women. That guy never stops working!

**Benny and Shirley Griffin**, of Boaz, are sure proud of son **Dan Griffin**. Dan lives in New York and is the co-author of a very interesting new book on Elvis Presley's original band. Come see us, Dan!

It was sure fun to see so many goblins and witches out and about on **Halloween night**. The little ones are just adorable and downtown was packed with kids and parents going door to door.

Have a great Thanksgiving, and remember how lucky we are to live in Huntsville, Alabama!

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# Holiday Confections

## Brown Bread Pudding

- 1 c. brown bread crumbs
- 2 c. milk
- 3 eggs
- 2 T. maple sugar
- 2 egg whites
- 1 T. sugar
- 2 T. thick cream

Soak crumbs in 1/2 cup of the milk for 15 minutes. Make a custard of the remainder of the milk, eggs, and maple sugar and pour it hot over the crumbs. Beat egg whites with 1 table-spoon sugar and the thick cream. Stir lightly into the cus-tard and bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve with cream.

## Sandies

- 1 c. butter
- 1/4 c. powdered sugar
- 2 t. vanilla
- 1 T. water

2 c. flour

1 c. pecans, chopped fine

Cream butter & sugar, add vanilla and water. Add flour & mix well. Stir in pecans last. Shape into small balls and bake on cookie sheet at 300 degrees for 20 minutes and lightly browned. While still warm, roll them in confectioners sugar.

## Coconut Cookies

- 1/2 c. white sugar
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 2 T. shortening
- 1/2 t. vanilla
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1 c. flour
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 c. coconut
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans, toasted

Cream together the sugars and shortening. Beat in the va-nilla, salt and egg.

In a separate bowl sift together the flour, baking soda and baking powder.

Stir in the coconut and toasted nuts. Drop by teaspoon on a greased cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 10 minutes or lightly browned.

Remove from cookie sheet when cooled and store in an air-tight container.

## Cream Cheese Bites

- 16 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 T. lemon juice
- Vanilla sugar wafers

Mix the cream cheese with other ingredients. Put a vanilla wafer in the bottom of a foil bak-ing cup in a muffin pan. Spoon 2 tablespoons of filling into the cup on top of the wafer. Continue with remaining. Bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. When cool, top with pie filling of your choice

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## Burnt Sugar Cake

- 1/2 c. butter
- 2 c. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/4 c. sifted flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 2/3 c. cold water
- 4 T. burnt sugar syrup

To melt the sugar, place one cup of white sugar in a skillet and heat over medium-high heat. The sugar will begin to liquify, turn down heat a bit and stir with wooden spoon. Stir til all sugar is melted and brown. Be careful not to burn it - that will happen quickly if you don't watch it!

Remove skillet from heat and stir in 2/3 cup boiling water. This makes enough for several cakes and will keep in jars in a cool place.

For the batter, cream butter and rest of sugar together. Break the eggs in one at a time, beating all the while.

Sift together flour, baking powder and salt, and add alternately with the cold water. Add burnt sugar syrup last and beat well. Bake in a greased pan at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Check with straw to make sure no batter stays on it when you insert it in cake.

## Vinegar Pie

- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 4 T. vinegar
- 2 T. flour
- 1 T. butter
- 1 c. hot water
- 1/2 t. nutmeg, ground

Mix together all ingredients and pour in a fresh open pie crust. Bake at 325 degrees til center is done. This is a very old recipe.

## St. Nicholas Candy

- 4 T. gelatin
- 1 c. cold water
- 1 1/2 c. boiling water
- 4 c. sugar
- Red and green food coloring
- 1 t. extract of cloves
- 1/2 t. peppermint extract

Soak gelatin in cold water for 5 minutes. Add boiling water and stir til completely dissolved.

Add sugar and boil slowly 15 minutes, stirring constantly. Divide mixture into 2 portions. When somewhat cooled, add red coloring and the extract of cloves to one portion. To the other add green coloring and extract of peppermint.

Turn into separate shallow pans wet with ice water and chill

in the fridge overnight.

Turn out the next day, cut into squares and roll each square in granulated sugar. These looked like bright jewels when coated with the sugar and are perfect for holiday get-togethers!

Thanks to Joan Hutson for these recipes.



Gann Bryan, LUTCF

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# A Letter

*Note: Names have been removed and only the initials used.*

New Market, July 27, 1929

Letter of Importance  
Mr. B. B.

I'm writing you to see if you will help me out a little. I want that set of F's got out of the neighborhood some way or some how. My life is nothing but trouble on account of them and especially that gal they call Barbara. Now my husband has tried to do better this year but he can't get rid of her. They all and especially her runs after him all the time. They have been trying their best to get back on the place all this year, and when they do there is going to be some serious trouble.

Mr. B., that is the reason that I am writing to you, so you'll see that they are got out of the neighborhood at once. I don't want to get in serious trouble but this has run on long enough with me. If you can't do nothing to move them see Mr. R. and get the Klan Clucks to move them.

Now Mr. B. I don't want you to tell nobody about this that it would get out that I had anything to do with it. But you'll please get that old man F. and his family away especially that gal. I learnt there is another married

lady jealous of her and maybe some more so it will put people guessing as to who has this done.

My plan to get them to go away is find a way to get to the old man, tell him he is not kneced in this neighborhood any

longer and give him a certain length of time to move and tell him he shouldn't stop before twenty or thirty miles of this place and never be caught back in this neighborhood any more.

But you work the best plan you can, not to let it be known that



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I had anything to do with it. Please keep it a secret and please do this for me. If you charge anything to do this it will be paid. I will never see no peace as long as this low down mess is close about. Then I don't want serious trouble but if they are not got away it is bound to come, so I will please ask you once again to keep this a secret. Just get them away from here as quick as possible.

Yours truly,  
Mrs. L. S.C.

## Put the Thieves To Work

*from 1875 newspaper*

On Saturday night the warehouse of Mr. J. A. Stephens was broken into, and as much bacon carried off as the thieves desired. A large hole was made through the wall at the rear of the house where was stored a large amount of bacon - some thousand pounds. The amount taken could not be ascertained. No arrests have been made to this time.

Where there are so many idle and worthless people floating around as are now found in Huntsville, this thieving will continue and the sooner the vagrant law is enforced the better. Whenever a man is found loafing about without visible means of support he should be promptly arrested and put to work. It is evident that those who do not work must steal for a living.

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# You Can't Get to Huntsville from Here

by Gene Primm

In 1955 I worked for Monroe Calculating Machine Company. I was sent to St. Louis, Missouri to a service school. I left Huntsville from the old bus station on Clinton Street.

After leaving Huntsville we stopped at what seemed to be every cross roads and country store we came to. It took me eighteen and a half hours to get to St. Louis.

While in school I met another employee who was from Nashville, Tenn. He had come to St. Louis by automobile. I told him about my trip by bus and suggested to him that I would pay his gas expenses if he would let me ride back to Nashville with him then I could get a bus on in to Huntsville, saving me many hours of travel time. He agreed to this and after the school was over we left on our trip to Nashville.

We arrived in Nashville some time after 12:00 midnight. I asked him to take me to the bus station so I could catch a bus to Huntsville. When

we got to the bus station I found out the next bus to Huntsville did not leave until 7:00 that morning. I decided that was too long to wait so I asked my friend if he would take me to the Huntsville highway so I could hitchhike on in to Huntsville. Hopefully, I thought, I would be in Huntsville long before the bus ever left from Nashville.

The first car that came by stopped and said he was going as far as Murfreesboro. He was a bus driver just getting off from work. I really appreciated him stopping and thought this hitchhiking was going to be easy; it was a piece of cake.

After he let me out in Murfreesboro I stood there for hours without getting another ride. As it started to get daylight I began to get worried. Then finally as the traffic started to pick up a man stopped and ask me where I was headed. After I told him I was going to Huntsville, Ala., he told me to hop

in and that he would take me as far as Tullahoma, Tenn. I thought for a minute and asked him how far Huntsville was from Tullahoma and he told me about seventy miles. I asked him how far it was from Murfreesboro to Huntsville and he said about seventy miles, but he said it was a beautiful drive to Tullahoma. After spending the night standing on the side of the road I really was not interested in viewing the countryside. Despairing of any more hitchhiking I asked him if there



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was a bus station there, and after he replied "yes," I got in the car for the seventy mile drive to Tullahoma.

The stranger dropped me off at the bus station a few hours later. Hurriedly, I approached the ticket agent and asked if there was a bus leaving for Huntsville, Ala., anytime soon. He told me I was in luck, that there was a bus just getting ready to leave was going to Huntsville. Without even a pause I said: "Give me a ticket."

The agent gave me my ticket and pointed the bus out to me and I was on my merry way.

As I approached the bus I saw

on the front that it was going to Nashville, Tenn. Puzzled, I ran back inside the bus station and told the ticket agent that the bus he had pointed out was going to Nashville, not Huntsville.

He then informed me you could not get to Huntsville from Murfreesboro without going to Nashville first!

I took the bus back to Nashville and caught the same bus to Huntsville that I would have caught anyway if I had not spent the night hitchhiking through the back roads of Tennessee.



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# Sawmill Gravy

by Johnny Johnston

Some dear friends recently expressed their fondness for the fairly new Dallas Mill Deli; they know first hand how much I really enjoy old pictures, especially when they were taken in Huntsville. I just had to go see them and sample some of the food I had heard so much about. My friend Larry Mullins has gone to great expense and covered Mullins Drive Inn walls with this type decoration, so has the Blue Plate and other local businesses. They are depending on those pictures to draw me in to buy their wares, and it's working!

The location of the restaurant is just past that of the old Landmark Chevrolet and Woody Anderson locations. I sauntered in this morning and ordered Gravy, Biscuit and one Scrambled Egg. They don't explain the difference in Gravy and Sawmill Gravy. What they served me was some great tasting Sawmill Gravy. At the first bite I began to hear this sound, couldn't figure it out for a minute. Then out of nowhere the past just walked up to my table where I was sitting alone and began to fill my mind from over 60 years ago. It seemed I could hear the singing of a giant saw cutting into hardwood just outside the window.

Looking across Pratt Avenue I could almost touch the ground where my father worked so hard

from about 1939 until the mid 1940's. He had been driving a truck from deep in Paint Rock Valley on a regular basis delivering hardwood to the Stave Mill which sat on the very site where Sherman Concrete is now. They needed "hired hands", as the title went then, and hired him to stack staves, load them on the truck and keep up with the count.

They hired my Dad to work there on a regular basis for about two dollars a day. At this time the Mill workers drew around eighteen dollars for 40 hours work. My Dad had a very limited education but had an uncanny ability to decipher math without writing it down. He taught me the principle of new math 40 years before it was discovered by the school sys-



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**"Why do people always return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?"**

*Betsy Joiner*

tem. After Dad had loaded a truck he told the Forman exactly how many board feet was on the truck with out writing anything down.

The stave mill work was extremely hard but then he had grown up in the Saw Mill business with his family and knew nothing but hard labor all his life. Dad didn't want his children to grow up in Paint Rock Valley, working in a sawmill. Education in the Valley at that time was just intended to get you through 'reading, writing and some arithmetic'.

The valley was totally consumed with illegal whiskey manufacturing or as we know it "Stills". Even long after we moved from the valley and would drive back to visit relatives, dynamite would be set off along the road to tell whiskey makers that strangers were coming, "look out for them they might be the law".

Dad took the job, found a place to sleep and came to Huntsville to go to work. I shall thank my father for the rest of my life for making that move. I'm just not the type to grow up away from city life.

A short time later Dad had saved enough money to rent a renovated shack on Maple Street in Lincoln and hired a neighbor to bring his family down. I don't remember living in that shack but my older brothers say it was not much bigger than a modern day closet. Water had to be carried in and waste carried out.

A few months after Dad brought his family into town, they found an empty house on Blue Spring St. (now Orchard St), and made arrangements to rent it by the month. In order to pay for the house I remember Mom taking in boarders which necessitated the four boys bunking together.

Finances were tight but you know, I think every-

one was having a tough time in those days. The older siblings, Hestle, Nell, Fred and Lloyd, walked to Lincoln School over on Meridian Street passing over the railroad tracks or crawling through a hole in a fence which surrounded a large empty field then they passed over a creek on Abingdon St. I was the youngest, too young to go to school and



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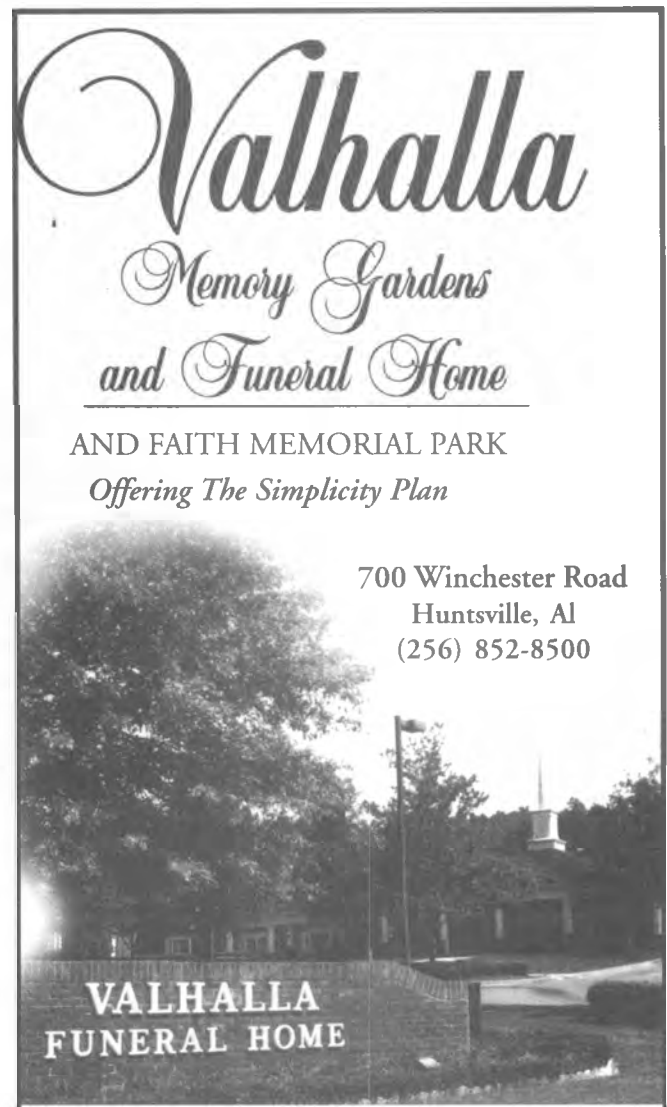
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since Kindergarten had not yet been invented, I stayed home with Mom while the rest walked away. When my brother Lloyd, two years older, headed off to 1st grade I was not a happy camper. I remember clearly when Mom carried me across the pasture and into Frazee's store and bought me an orange drink (called cold drink back then) in order to stop my crying because I had been left all alone.

Just down from the pasture stood two businesses. Frazee's Store, owned by our neighbors who stocked only a few things but had that ice box filled with ice and cold drinks. That was a luxury when I was 3 years old. Truthfully I don't remember having another cold drink the entire time we lived on Blue Springs St.

Next to Frazee's grocery stood a place that shaped iron and steel, it was called Houk Foundry. Many years have passed since it operated and my mind is real fuzzy on anything they might have manufactured.

I still have some letters from

**"I was thinking that women should put pictures of missing husbands on beer cans!"**

*Joannie Parsons*

my Grandfather, Sam Johnston of Mobile, which were addressed to John F. Johnston in care of Frazee's Store in Huntsville, Al. And we got them!

That was a real great place to live. The railroad track ran less than fifty feet from the house and in the 1940's most trains were pulled with steam engines. I was always listening for that lonesome whistle sound. It blew when approaching, passing and leaving the city. I can remember standing by the track and, by some unclear means, getting the engineer to blow that whistle just one more time.

It was a short walk to the train depot where dad would take us when the circus train unloaded. We watched the animals leave the train and head to whatever side of town had been selected to pitch the tents. We couldn't afford to go to the circus but that was OK; we could always stand and watch the trains. When the circus was close we could hear the sound of the animals and crack of the whips. But the real fun time was the Madison County Fair.

The Fairgrounds were just across the railroad track from our house. We could sit on the porch or walk around in the yard and listen to all the people having fun on the Midway. We could hear the barkers luring people into the peek show, get-

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ting 10 cents for a chance to win that doll and hear clearly that music always playing. Music mixed with the Ferris wheels, merry-go round and other rides. It was great; you just couldn't get enough of it. We could hear the animals at the agricultural show and the judges bellowing out the winners. Usually by the Friday or Saturday night show Dad would have come up with enough money that we could go to the fair.

That was the exciting thing to see the lights, smell the cotton candy, candy covered apples and other sweets we didn't often have. There were so many things to interest my young eyes that I sometimes wandered off from the family. That is what gave me my life-time interest in Motorcycles.

I was about two years old when I got lost on the Midway, couldn't find my parents, was scared and didn't know what to do. An Officer with the Huntsville Police Department did. He put me on the back of his Harley Davidson and drove up and down the Midway running his siren and yelling "does anybody know this boy"?

And now, today, within a stone's throw of all these memo-

ries I was sitting in the Dallas Mill Deli eating Sawmill Gravy. Gravy was what everyone ate for breakfast when I was a child.

When my older Brother, Hestle, went to work he decided he wanted some of that new fangled cereal for breakfast. I remember to this day standing with the rest of the family and watching him pour milk on his Rice Krispies. We had heard the radio advertisement which spoke of the sound "Snap, Crackle, and Pop", and were listening for that sound and were not disappointed!

I say Gravy because that with biscuits was on every morning menu. Folks with money had gravy, biscuits and sausage. If you had a little money but not enough to buy everyone sausage you cut up what sausage you had and put it into the gravy.

That, my friend, is called Sawmill Gravy".



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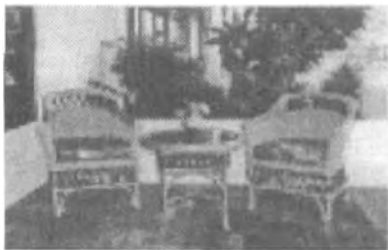
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# Mule Thief Arrested

*from 1876 newspaper*

Tom Webb, a youth about eighteen years old, was brought to Huntsville on Monday last, charged with stealing a mule. In an interview with the fellow it was discovered that he went to the stable of Kennon Steger, who lives a few miles from Huntsville, between midnight and day, and took the mule and went to the blacksmith shop and helped himself to a saddle and pair of saddle bags, then started for Lincoln County, Tennessee.

On the way he met Bill Goolsby and swapped the mule for a mare. He rode the mare to his grandfather's on Cold Water Creek. Goolsby and one other man had followed him and took the mare from him. Webb then left Lincoln and went to his father's who lives in the North-eastern part of Madison County, where he was arrested and re-

turned to Huntsville.

Webb says that Goolsby and Parkinson, after taking the mare from him went on their way towards Petersburg, in Lincoln county, to join some friends who he says are thieves, that live in what is known as "California Hollow," a few miles from Petersburg. He says there is a regular "nest" of horse thieves who steal mules and horses and run them towards McMinnville. They tried to get Webb to go into business with them but he declined.

Tom Webb is a hard-look-

ing case, and as strongly marked with the villain as it is possible for one of his young years to be. He looks as though he had never been washed. His clothes are stiff with grease and dirt, and his skin as filthy as his clothes.

He is not expected to steal any more mules for the next five to ten years.

**"I still have something on the ball, but I'm just too tired to bounce it."**

*Joe Smithey, old*

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# The Squatter's Church

by Berns Miller

Prior to the land sale of 1809 Madison County was occupied by intruders or more commonly referred to as squatters. Squatters with their cabins and land improvements occupied Madison County by 1804.

One of those squatters was Richard Crowson. His improvements as registered on January 30, 1809 by Thomas Freeman were in the NW quarter of section 24. Richard and his wife had five sons and six daughters and two slaves. These pioneers bravely advanced into the unknown wilderness seeking land and their fortunes but the roots of their civilization were never far behind.

Before government, the Church was the first institution to arrive on the frontier. Shiloh Methodist Church was established in 1808 for organized services and

preaching for the squatters in the vicinity of Richard Crowson's home. Some of Crowson's neighbors living on other improvements in the area were David Lindsey Sr., David Lindsey Jr., Thomas Lindsey, John Rodgers, Benjamin Wilson, David Harless, John Helms, James Christian, Thomas McBroom and Thomas Hewlett. David Lindsey Sr. was Richard Crowson's father-in-law and both families were Methodist.

The Shiloh Methodist Church was a creation of the Western Conference held October 17, 1808 in Williamson County, Tennessee. Shiloh was organized two months before Madison became a county in the Mississippi Territory and eleven years before Ala-

**"Brothers are really annoying until they get a car."**

*Leslie, age 12*



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bama became a state in 1819. The first preacher at Shiloh was James Gwinn who served the Flint River Circuit. The first church meetings were held in brush arbors and cabins. Later, a permanent structure was built on the Crowson land.

Richard Crowson's wife, Hulda Lindsey, died in 1812 and was apparently buried in the Ryland Cemetery. The Crowson and Lindsey families came to Madison County together and left together in 1816 for Shelby County, Alabama. The US victory at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend opened the Creek Indian lands for settlement and the Crowsons and Lindseys moved to the new frontier.

Richard Crowson and David Lindsey died in Shelby County and made local history as early pioneers. The local Shelby County chapter of the DAR in Shelby County is named David Lindsey. Lindsey was a Revolutionary war veteran. Richard Crowson's grave is located behind his remodeled log cabin at Montevallo.


Richard Crowson sold his Madison County land in 1816 to Nathan Green and wife Jenny. Churches were allowed to own property in 1819 and as a result Nathan and Jenny sold the half acre known as "Shiloh" to the church trustees. Records indicate the half acre was deeded in 1820 to trustees, David Thompson, John W. Hewlett, Thomas King, Augustine Hewlett and Joel Tatum. The deed description was 13 poles west of the Fleming Jordan line and 6 1/4 poles south, west and then north to the point of beginning. In 1876 the church moved about fifty yards across Ryland Pike to the current location.

In 1876, one year prior to the official end of Reconstruction and Yankee occupation, Elizabeth J. Kelly Karsner and her husband Benjamin Karsner deeded the southeast corner of

the southwest quarter of section 13 (contiguous to Jordan Cemetery) to the Shiloh Methodist Church South. Mrs. Karsner was the daughter of Russell J. Kelly, a planter who once owned large tracts of land around Ryland. The church deed was witnessed by Russell's son, Fleming Jordan Kelly. The deed had a stipulated purpose of building a church and school house. The Kellys were Methodist. Shiloh Methodist Church is still holding services and will celebrate their 200th anniversary in 2008. Shiloh has witnessed many changes since its origins with the squatters.

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*Fred Segal, Athens*



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# The First Bath Tub

Among history's "firsts" is the unusual fact that Huntsville had the first bathtub. This splendid invention was the brainchild of Thomas Martin of Fairfax, Virginia.

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

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

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

to heat the water for the bath.

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

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

## Grandmas Bread Pudding

1 loaf dried bread, torn

1 t. vanilla

3/4 c. sugar

2 eggs

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Mix all in a big pan, pour into a baking pan. Bake for 35 minutes at 350 degrees.

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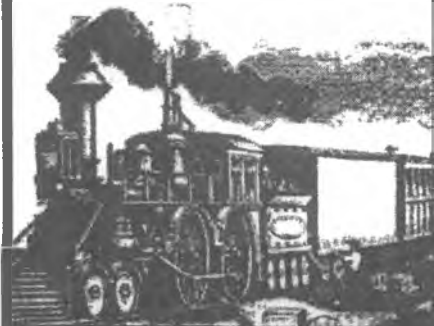
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# Big Jim and the Hitch-Hiker

by Billy Gene King

I learned a lot about Alabama politics during my freshman year in the House. I listened to the political stories told by some of the Legislative members, who had served even before George Wallace. Most of these "veterans" stayed at an old downtown Montgomery hotel, named appropriately, The Jefferson Davis Hotel. They always frequented the hotel bar after the Legislature adjourned for the day. Many of my freshmen colleagues and I would go there, to listen to their stories, after the liquor started flowing.

One of the their favorite stories happened during the term of a colorful Alabama Governor named James Folsom, Sr., affectionately known as "Big Jim" or "Kissin' Jim". The story, as told to us, would get very animated, and probably exaggerated, because of their gullible audience.

According to the story, "Big Jim" was on his way to South Alabama to name a bridge after a local Legislator, who was instrumental in getting the new bridge funded. He was late leaving Montgomery in his chauffeur-driven limousine, recuperating from a party the night before.

He must have been in a gregarious mood, because he instructed his limo driver to stop on the highway and pick up a hitch-hiker. The hitchhiker and Big Jim became fast friends, especially after the Governor opened a quart of whiskey.

By the time Big Jim and friend got to the dedication location, about two hours late and

quite inebriated, most of the people had left. But the local legislator did his best to keep some of the crowd there, especially the newspaper reporters.

It seems that the hitch-hiker and Big Jim had become so close, during the booze sharing trip, that the Governor decided to name the bridge after the hitch-hiker, rather than the local legislator.

When Big Jim broke the news to the local Legislator, he was devastated, but the Governor smoothed it over by telling him that he would have many opportunities to have public structures named for him, but..., the hitch-hiker would never have anything named for him.

The bridge still carries the name of the hitch-hiker to this day.

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# How a Northern Man sees Huntsville

*from 1875 newspaper*

*This letter was written in 1875 by Mr. H. Mears, who had recently moved to Huntsville. He sent this letter to his friends in the frozen regions about Port Huron, in Michigan. It describes what he experienced in Huntsville, and wants his old friends to get a feeling of our city. His letter was published in both the Huntsville and the Port Huron newspapers.*

"We left Decatur Monday morning, and one hour's ride brought us to the beautiful city of Huntsville, called the Garden City of the South. A more beautiful spot I never have seen. Surrounded by high hills, it lies in a valley, one side is the Monte Sano. Upon the top of this mountain you can get one of the finest views in this country.

Here they have a very fine Court House with a city clock sounding the hours plain enough to be heard all around. The business houses are brick, similar to those in Port Huron and about as many. Around the immediate vicinity of Huntsville are several old Planters Homes.

Here within half a mile you can take your choice of as fine land as you ever saw cultivated for \$10-20 per acre. Just think of what your lots on the Reserve cost, and they are not to be compared to anything here.

A lot that would be considered cheap

(100x75 feet) at \$100 in Port Huron here with the same money you could buy 40 acres of land right in sight of the city, where you could grow everything except tropical fruits. You could raise your corn and sell it quick for \$1.25 a bushel. The people here seem to be cotton-crazy. If they left cotton more alone and devoted their attention to raising wheat, corn, potatoes and garden vegetables a man would be wealthy in just a few years.

Yesterday I rode and saw some farms owned by Northern men who have come to Huntsville and they look beautiful. The Southern man has no idea of farming. When you see the two farms as you do here, side by

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side, you can see at once what northern white labor can do.

The large landowners here are willing to do almost anything to get white people to come here from the North to work. Nowhere can you go and be met with such warm friendships as with the people of Huntsville. I was introduced to L. P. Walker, Jeff Davis' Secretary of War, a splendid man and a gentleman. He expressed himself warmly in regard to getting good working white men to come south and laughed at the idea of a northern man not being allowed to live here.

I have been introduced to all prominent people here and they are brim full of kindness and don't hesitate to do all they can to make you comfortable and happy. This is election day in Huntsville, and the law is that

the day previous to the election, day of election and day after, no liquor is allowed to be sold anywhere.

There is a wonderful spring here. It rushes out from the side of a rock about 70 feet high. Here is beautiful air, pure water, fine land and the most beautiful scenery as to be seen anywhere North. There are the kindest and most wonderful people you'll ever meet. I am satisfied and pleased to squat here and try to make a home for myself and family.

The city is situated in the northern part of the state, on the Memphis & Charleston railroad. A railroad from St. Louis to the seaboard via Huntsville will soon be completed and several other roads are spoken of. It is the largest city of North Alabama and the business center

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Huntsville has a female college, a female seminary, two high schools for boys, besides a free school; churches of all denominations, good hotels especially the Huntsville House - a large elegant building facing almost upon the public square and within a few steps of the great spring.

I hope someday to see all my old friends come down here to live and enjoy life. There is plenty of room, business is good and the people all will welcome you with warm hearts to your new homes."

Yours truly, H. Mears

*Here is the letter Mears received back from the Mayor of Port Huran:*

"Friend Mears. Your kind letter, informing us of the safe arrival of yourself and your family at Huntsville, Ala. has been received.

While we were loath to lose you in our town, we are happy to hear of the good fortune you find in Huntsville.

There is one thing, however, that I must find fault with, particularly as I am a resident here and at the head of the city government: the fact that you wrote to our newspaper in Port Huran and your letter was published. I am unhappy about that because it has turned the heads of one half of our citizens southward. If you keep on writing I am fearful that you will draw away a large number of our people.

I cannot blame you however for being so delighted with the weather but for heavens sake don't depopulate our city.

N. S. Boynton, Mayor

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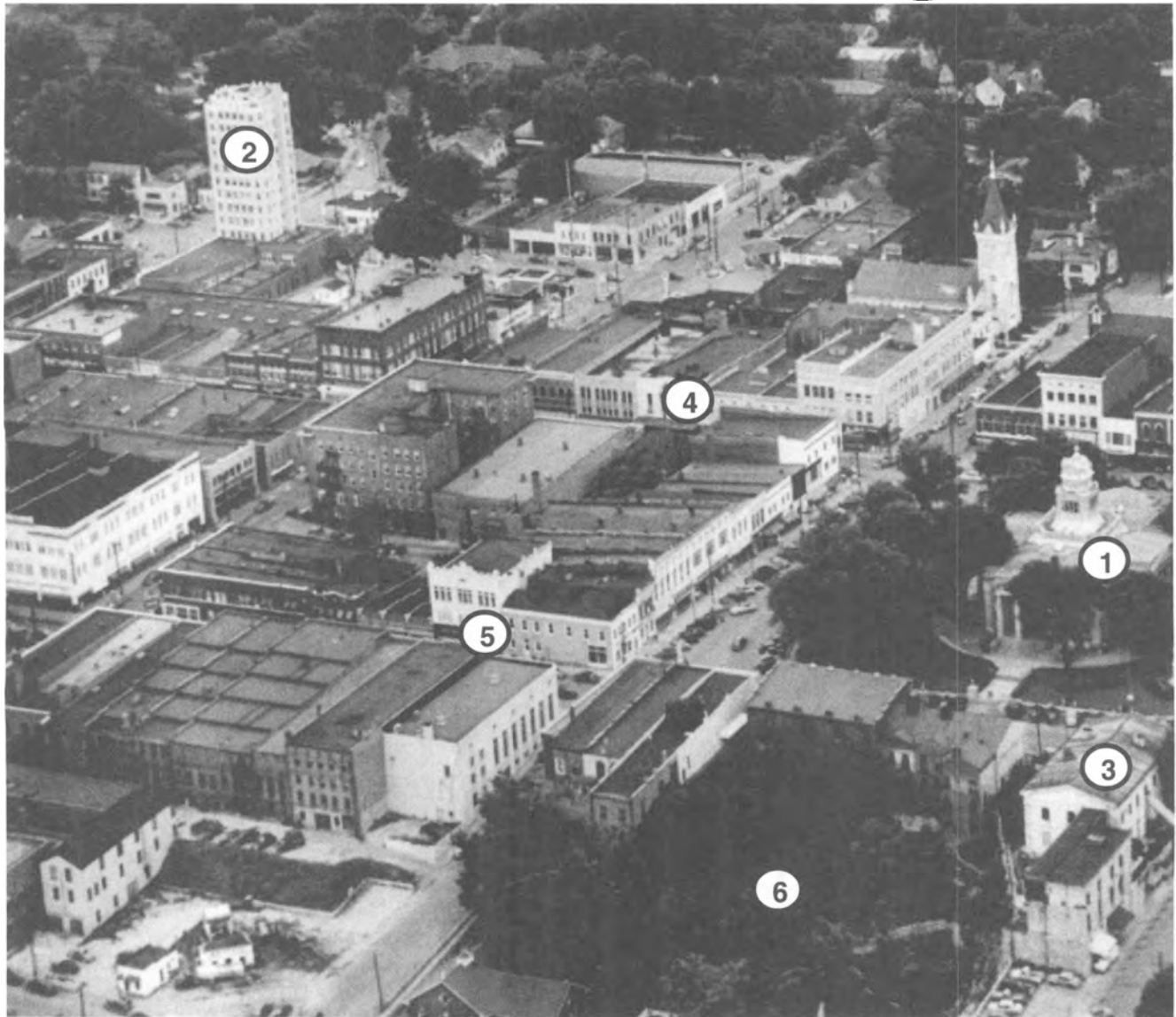
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*There are children whose only gift this year may be a toy from a local charity.*

*There are elderly people who will go to the mailbox every day hoping for a card so they will know they have not been forgotten.*

*And there are the soldiers who will be away from their families again this year.*

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# News From The Year 1965

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Freedom Marches in Alabama

After several short distance protest marches, marked by violence and mass arrests, 25,000 civil rights demonstrators embarked on a 50-mile walk for freedom from Selma, Alabama, to the state Capitol in Montgomery. With passion in their hearts and justice on their minds, they reached their destination and challenged Alabama to end racial discrimination.

The marchers, led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., requested and received a court order allowing them to proceed along U.S. Route 80 without interference. Federal Judge Frank Johnson ordered Governor George Wallace to refrain from "harassing or threatening" the protesters along their historic trek.

Wallace, a staunch segregationist, has often ordered the

arrests of thousands of Negro and white civil rights activists, despite reprimands from President Johnson.

On reaching the Capitol steps, King told the massive crowd, "We are on the move and no wave of racism will stop us!"

### Draft Card Burned

A quiet college student was arrested by the FBI in Vermont today and charged with burning his draft card at an anti-Vietnam rally in New York last Friday.

David Miller, a member of a pacifist group called Catholic Workers, is the first person to be arrested under a new federal law signed by President Johnson.

### 108,000 Troops in Vietnam; 650 Killed

The U.S. military headquarters in Saigon today released last week's casualty figures. Twenty-six Americans were killed, 44 wounded and three missing or captured, raising the number of Americans killed in action in Vietnam since 1961 to about 650.

The number of U.S. servicemen, just past the 100,000 mark, will soon reach President Johnson's goal of 125,000. Few observers believe that troop increases will stop there, especially if the Viet Cong put on new pressure. South Vietnamese casualties last week were 180 men killed to the Viet Cong's 420, a "kill ratio" in the government's favor but lower than usual.

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## 14,000 U.S. Troops in Dominican Republic

Both sides broke the eight-day-old cease-fire in the civil war that has divided the Dominican Republic. Efforts to set up negotiations failed. Warplanes of the military junta backed by the United States strafed a rebel radio station. Rebel forces allied with Col. Francisco Caamano Deno fired from their positions in the streets. At least one American paratrooper was killed. There are now 14,000 Americans bogged down in this chaotic, confusing and deadly civil war.

President Johnson made a televised speech on the 2nd to announce that he was doubling U.S. forces in the island-nation. Their mission is to "prevent another Communist state in this hemisphere." Johnson charged that the democratic revolution on the island had taken a sharp turn to the left under the com-

mand of Communist conspirators. "We must use every resource at our command to prevent the establishment of another Cuba," Johnson said.

Juan Bosch, former Dominican President, disputes LBJ's charge that Communists are behind the rebellion. The allegation, he said, reminds him of "a great big elephant afraid of a little mouse".

Anti-war protestors greeted the news with protests in New York, Chicago and Los Angeles.

## Maddox Organizes Segregation March

The Segregationist Lester Maddox and a band of 2,000 supporters are responding to civil rights protest marches by marching through the heart of Atlanta. They were forced to detour when someone tossed a smoke bomb in their path. Maddox told the crowd, many of whom belong to the Klux Klan, and other radical anti-integrationist groups, that "deadly, bloody and ungodly communism, threatens our very existence." The turnout was far below the expected crowd of 10,000.

**"My grandmother can say more in a sentence than a college professor can say in an hour and a half."**

*Angela Jones, age 14*

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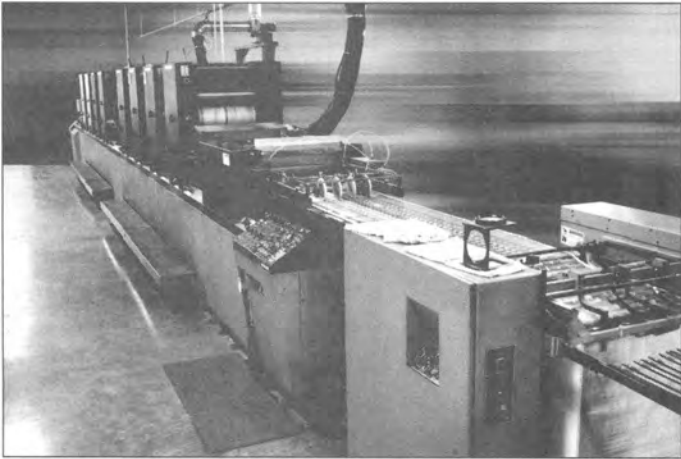
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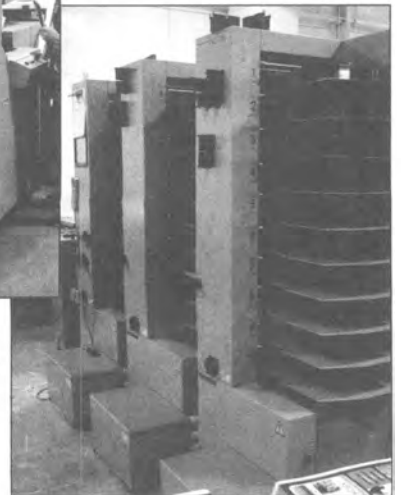
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# The Cost of War

- From 1861 to 1865 it cost the United States Government approximately 2 million dollars a day to prosecute the war; the Second World War cost more than 113 million dollars a day.

- In 1880 the Secretary of the Treasury reported that the Civil War had cost the Federal Government 6.19 billion dollars. By 1910 the cost of the war, including pensions and other veterans' benefits, had reached 11.5 billion dollars.

- The public debt outstanding for an average population of 33 million rose from \$2.80 to \$75 per capita between 1861 and 1865. In mid-1958 the per capita debt stood at \$1,493 for a population of 175.5 million.

- In 1958 the government was providing pensions for 3,042 widows of Union veterans. In June of that year, as a result of special legislation, 526 widows of Southern soldiers and the two surviving Confederate veterans became eligible for Federal pensions. The last Union veteran, Albert Woolson, had died in 1956, leaving the two Confederates, John Salling and Walter Williams, to draw the highest Civil War pensions paid by the United States Government. The last Civil War veteran, Walter Williams,

died in December 1959 at the age of 117. Since then, William's claim as a veteran has been disputed in the newspapers, but sufficient evidence does not exist to positively prove or disprove his military status.

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



# The Indian War

## A Personal Narrative

by Robert Paine

In May, 1814, my father removed from Person County, North Carolina to the State of Tennessee, and settled in Giles County. He had visited the country in 1807, and in the fall of 1813 had sent forward his servants in charge of my mother's brother, Robert, to make a crop the ensuing season. Thus it was that when the whole of the family got there in the ensuing spring a fine crop was growing, and a comfortable house and home awaited us. But when, after a long and wearisome trip of over a month, we had arrived within three miles of our new home we were surprised to see a number of men on the roadside in a rude kind of military parade.

Without inquiring the object of the meeting we passed on, but before we had gone out of sight, were overtaken, and informed that the head of that family had just been drafted into the service for Gen. Andrew Jackson's Indian Army, and must appear at Fayetteville to be mustered into active service within a few days. Of course this was done by

collusion, and for the relief of those who preferred to stay at home, or if they must go, to do so as paid substitutes.

The substitute heretofore alluded to was, unfortunately, my mother's beloved brother. Neither the earnest wishes of father nor the entreaties and tears of mother availed aught. The call for volunteers was sudden and urgent. Jackson demanded immediate and efficient military assistance. His

force had already been so diminished by repeated losses in battles and death from exposure in the swamps and bayous of the South, that fresh recruits were needed to retain possession of the territory which had been won

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sound, which explains why  
some people appear bright  
until you hear what they  
have to say.

from the Creeks and Seminoles.

In a few days my uncle was equipped, and was off for the war. I was sent with him to save him from fatigue, and to bring back his favorite beautiful horse. We arrived at the place of rendezvous, Fayetteville, at the prescribed time, and joining a large number of soldiers just coming in from various sections of Middle Tennessee, and with music, floating banners, and general greetings and huzzas, went into camp. The place of encampment was a magnificent natural forest, a mile or two from the little village of Fayetteville.

That was a night to impress a boy. The number of men, wagons, horses, the hundreds of campfires scattered through the dark forest, songs, laughter, and then the organization of the respective companies, the cooking and eating of breakfast, followed by packing up and getting ready to march were unforgettable.

What boy could see all this and not remember it? But when I had to bid farewell to my uncle and turn away for home, I sobbed like a child, and would have given an empire to go with him.

It was a campaign distinguished by closing up and securing the results of the victories of Jackson and his brave Tennesseans, which crushed the Creeks and their allies, and per-

manently protected the whites' country south of the Tennessee state line from the tomahawks of their relentless and wily savage foes; but it was memorable also for the fearful prevalence of disease and mortality among the soldiers. A most virulent form of malarial fever broke out, and soon spread to Fort Williams, where my uncle was stationed. The volunteers died in large numbers. The attacks were sudden, and the disease intractable.

Awhile before the proclamation of peace and the order to leave the Indian territory was announced,

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my uncle was stricken down with the terrible epidemic, and but for his regular habits, his strict temperance in all things, and his robust constitution he would have speedily shared the fate of many others; but, under a kind Providence, he withstood the shock, and while too weak to ride on horseback, he started in an army wagon, after nearly all had left for home. Informed as to the disbanding of the army, my father sent forward a friend with a carriage to meet him and bring him home. This friend consented, if I would go and assist him. My mother was seriously ill, and father could not leave her. The trip would be a long one, partly through the Indian tribes, and not without peril. Only after a painful mental struggle did mother consent to risk her boy to save a brother.

It was a rough and tedious trip. After entering the Cherokee Nation, we began to meet squads of soldiers, and afterwards hosts of them; there seemed no end to them. Wagons full of sick and wounded passed us. We often inquired for my uncle. One would say, 'He is dead;' another, 'No, not dead but too sick to leave the fort', the next, 'He is very feeble, but is trying to come on.'

**"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."**

*Forrest Tucker*

Still keeping on our way, at last we met him, lying in an army wagon, too feeble to sit up. We took him in charge, and got him finally to Fort Deposit (near present day Guntersville), on the Tennessee River. As he was too sick to proceed, my friend left me to wait and get my uncle home as best I could.

The long contest between the Indians and the whites had been settled for a time by Jackson's Tennesseans in favor of the latter race. The victorious soldiers left the Indian territory. The long line of vehicles accompanying them had crossed the Tennessee River, leaving behind the wagons bearing the wounded and sick. The commissary was about exhausted. I saw hundreds of barrels

of flour and other army stores lying on the banks of the Tennessee River, unfit for food.

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while the soldiers were suffering for subsistence.

Indeed, the unsound condition of some of the food issued to the army had been a prime cause of disease and death. And when the wagons containing the better part of the stores passed, with the main body of soldiers out of the Indian Nation, the sick and worn-down whose homes were in the southwestern part of Tennessee found themselves huddled together on the bank of the river, almost entirely destitute of food and tents, unable to endure the long and circuitous trip by land, and without the means of going down the river. Among others thus unfortunately detained, was the command to which my uncle belonged. To add to my trouble, he relapsed, and his death seemed inevitable. I succeeded, however, in getting him into an old Indian home and-nursed him with a tender and loving care. He repaid it by his gentleness and hopefulness.

No preparation seemed to have been made for this contingency. How or when this crowd would be removed, or be cared for while staying there, no one could tell. They lined the riverbank and roamed the swamp for game. That was a restless and strange crowd; soldiers, Indians, and Negroes were huddled together.

As for me, when I could be spared from the hard bunk of my sick uncle, I was trying to get medicine or food for the sufferer. I tried to kill birds and squirrels, and hired Indian boys to assist me in it, and was sur-

prised that with bow and arrow they could beat my gun. Game soon disappeared from the camping place, and we could not get enough food for the sick. Time passed away slowly and sadly.

At last an old, very large hulk of a flatboat, which had brought down corn and meat for the army the year previously, was found not far from the camp, and it was determined to repair it and use it as an ark of safety.

At once the wildest enthusiasm seized the whole crowd. By early dawn next morning a rushing throng was moving to the "ark." They swung my uncle in a blanket and bore him along; my horse and gig and myself were put into the boat. At one end of the long craft they improvised a bed and protected it from rain and sun, and allotted that as the place for their Major and his nephew. Then with a thundering shout of 'Farewell to war,' responded to by the wild whoop of their Indian allies on the shore, they cut loose and slowly drifted away on the bosom of the beautiful Tennessee.

War was over, and we were going home. It was our wish to stop at a place

called Ditto's Landing, where the river passes within ten miles of Huntsville, and where the volunteers from North Alabama and Middle Tennessee would debark for their homes. The fear was that in the darkness of the night on the wide and rapid

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stream we might pass beyond, and then we knew not where we could land.

They sung all manner of camp songs, told camp-tales, laughed and shouted all the evening until the long night had about closed, when, exhausted by excitement and rude merriment, they all fell into a profound sleep.

Just at the moment when the boat had swung herself round I perceived in the dim twilight of the early morning that we were near a landing-place, and cried aloud, "Here it is." The sleepers awoke instantly, and soon we drifted so near the shore that some leaped on it in time to prevent the boat from passing by.

The ark had served its purpose. Its freight was discharged at the right place and thence diverging to various points, and the barge was left to its fate.

I was deeply affected to witness the separation. I, who had witnessed their meeting in Fayetteville the year before, where I had gone to bring back my uncle's horse, and had been so delighted with the pomp and circumstance of war as to beg to be

a 'soldier boy,' had now witnessed the contrast in this ill-starred company of suffering, sick, and wounded remnants of various regiments who were leaving behind them hundreds and thousands who will sleep until the trumpet of God shall awake them. Nor did they, in their haste, forget my dear uncle. They lifted him out, and waited until he was snugly seated in the carriage, and as they respectfully bade their beloved

Major farewell, hoping they should soon meet in Fayetteville, where they were to be formally mustered out of service and receive their back-pay.

The route to Huntsville was through a fertile, level, and finely cultivated country, most strikingly in contrast with the wild unbroken forests, the bayous, and treacherous marshes of the Indian territories through which we had lately passed. The

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Bell Tavern was the terminus of that day's travel.

A nice, well kept hotel, with attentive servants, clean beds, and good food well-prepared, and free from the intrusion of gamblers and drunkards, is a benediction to a weary traveler, especially if he be sick and suffering. Such seemed that place to us. But even here my uncle found himself too ill to proceed, and we were detained. However, we had skillful physicians and drugstores, and he again rallied for a last effort to reach home.

At nightfall, on the second day's journey from Huntsville, we reached home, and my precious charge was delivered over to my father and mother. Words cannot express their gratification, but when with tender hands they bore his emaciated body into the house and found it needful to put him to bed at once, my mother's heart was deeply troubled. She could scarcely recognize him as indeed her brother; but the best medical skill, combined with constant attention and a resolute purpose to be present, if possible, at Fayetteville to make his final report as an officer and receive his discharge, so sustained him.


Unfortunately at this critical period a quack doctor persuaded him that he had a remedy which would promptly relieve him and enable him to go to the disbandment. Weak and exhausted in body and mind, he readily believed what he ardently hoped for, and became the victim of the confidence-quack. A quick relapse and breaking down of his

vital forces followed, and amidst the bitter tears and heart-rending grief of the family, he calmly and resignedly closed his eyes.

We buried him near a Baptist church, which stood on an eminence that overlooks the pretty valley of Cross Water. In after years I went in search of his grave, but was surprised and mortified to find no trace of church or cemetery. The dead were forgotten, and their memorials had perished. The very men who had turned pale at the rumor of an Indian raid, and had fled with their wives and children to less dangerous neighborhoods, heartlessly drove the plow over the sacred spot where rests the dust of the brave volunteers who promptly stepped between the fugitives and the uplifted tomahawk, and paid the penalty of their patriotism with their precious lives.

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**Hippolyte Taine**



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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

# Cooking Tips from Liz

\* When rolling cookie dough, sprinkle board with powdered sugar instead of flour. Too much flour makes for a heavy dough.

\* Slip your hand inside a waxed sandwich bag and you have a perfect mitt for greasing your baking pans and casserole dishes.

\* You can cut a meringue pie cleanly by coating both sides of the knife lightly with butter.

\* To keep icings moist and prevent cracking, add a pinch of baking soda to the icing.

\* Anything that grows under the ground, start off in cold water - potatoes, beets, carrots, etc. Anything that grows above ground starts off in boiling water - English peas, greens, beans, etc.

\* To clean aluminum pots when they are stained dark, merely boil with a little cream of tartar, vinegar or acid foods.

\* Pour water into your mold and drain before pouring in mixture to be chilled, it will come out of the mold much easier.

\* For extra juicy, nutritious hamburgers & meat loaf, add 1/4 cup evaporated milk per pound of meat before shaping.

\* Baking powder will remove tea or coffee stains from china pots or cups.

\* Washing silverware in which you have boiled potatoes will remove the stains.

\* Lettuce can be made crisp by placing it in ice water for a short time.

\* The best soup bones should be 2/3 meat and 1/3 bone and fat.

\* A strong thread is good for cutting a cake instead of using a knife.

\* Eggs keep in the fridge for

about 5 weeks. Store them in the original carton, points down.

\* Finally, and this is NOT a cooking tip but I think it is important - as soon as you feel you are getting that scratchy throat and

sniffles from a cold, take an Airborne tablet. They sizzle in water like an Alka Seltzer but are **great** for stopping colds. You can find them in any drug store like Propst or CVS Drugs.

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## The WAAY Christmas Parade

by M.D. Smith

In the 60's, the Huntsville Christmas Parade was a very different event than what it is today. It went from a 100% commercial venture to an "All Volunteer Christmas Parade" sponsored by a local TV station. Here's what happened.

My first involvement of the annual Christmas Parade was in the mid sixties. WAAY-TV had made an arrangement with Jackson Way Baptist Church to carry a weekly live broadcast of their services, if they would buy the microwave equipment, which we could also use a few times a year for the TV station's remote events. The first event we decided to televise was the 1968 Christmas Parade in downtown Huntsville. We televised it from the rented truck and platform on the East side of the square downtown and put the microwave antenna on the 6th floor window of the courthouse to beam the signal back to Monte Sano mountain.

The Chamber of Commerce organized this parade and was 100% supported by local area businesses. There was a group that solicited businesses to sponsor a single, elaborate and expensive float, with floral and paper decorations something like you might see in the Rose Parade, but on a smaller scale. These floats were costly to build and there was a markup for the float building company, that made them even more expensive. In the following years, when the floats got to be more expensive, fewer businesses felt it was worth the large costs and the parade kept shrinking.

Finally, by 1976, the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville announced that due to declining interest and sponsor support, there would be no annual Christmas parade in Downtown Huntsville that year. Bob Baron with WAAY-Radio, M.D. Smith, III and M.D. Smith, IV all got together and decided that WAAY Radio and TV would put on an "All Volunteer Christmas Parade." Everyone pitched in building their own - floats, entries, and bands - and the Parade went on. That was the FIRST and twenty years later, WAAY-TV still had the commitment to see that our All Volunteer Christmas Parade took place.

The location was moved from the route around the courthouse downtown, to a route

starting beside the Huntsville Hilton and passing the Civic Center and looping the downtown area because of the size. In 1996, the event attracted over 211 entries and close to 50,000 spectators. We even had a special 20th Anniversary patch that was given to all participants in the 1996 Christmas parade. The All Volunteer Christmas Parade lives today and is still organized by WAAY-TV, Channel 31 and is the symbol of people who felt a Christmas parade for the children and families of the Huntsville area was too important to see fall by the wayside just because it was too expensive to build commercial floats and find businesses to sponsor them. So we did it ourselves, and we, the people of Huntsville do it to this very day.

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# General Garfield Preached at Mooresville

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

Garfield, a native of frontier Ohio, was reared by his mother and older brother after the death of his father. When war came, he received a commission in the U.S. Army and served his country with distinction.

Some of the villagers at Mooresville learned of Garfield's presence and invited him to preach at the Christian Church.

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

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

General Garfield left Mooresville with his unit to fight at Chicamauga. Following the battle, the General resigned his commission to enter Congress.

In 1880, Mr. Garfield was elected the twentieth President of the United States.

It is doubtful that he received many votes from the Tennessee Valley.



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# A Letter Home

Camp Taylor Apr. 13, 1862  
Huntsville. Ala.

It may surprise you to hear from me so far south, but nevertheless we are today (Monday 13th) lying in camp on a plantation just outside the corporate limits of the very aristocratic and equally rebellious city of Huntsville. Ala.

I believe in my last letter I stated that we had "orders" to prepare two days rations and on Wednesday (8th) at 4 A.M. when we entered the town of Fayetteville on the gallop and without opposition. All the stores and houses were closed and what few citizens could be seen looked like they could eat the Yankees without pepper or salt.

Just before entering into Fayetteville we captured a Southern mail which among other things contained Memphis papers of a late date with news of the first days battle at Corinth in which our troops were worsted.

With encouraging news the citizens of Fayetteville were very haughty and defiant in their manners and If it had not been for the rigid discipline to which our troops are subject many a young rebel would have had the conceit knocked out of him with the butt of a musket or sabre.

We expected (if the Rebel Army continued victorious) to be ordered at once to Corinth and at 10 A.M. Thursday we received orders to be ready to move at a moments warning. We thought that we certainly would soon have a chance at them. At 11 A.M., we left camp on the Elk River and traveled a little after dark when we camped in the woods. (The only way we camped was to tie our horses to the fence and lie down and sleep beside them for we were making forced marches and our train was far behind us).

No fires were allowed and the camp kept as quiet and secreted as possible. About midnight Company E was ordered to move to Huntsville in such a manner as to be at there by daylight; take possession of the Telegraph and Railroad offices and Company.

A little while after the whole Division moved do and travelled - until they were within 2 miles

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*Jerry Smithey, Decatur*

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of town when they heard the whistle of several engines just ready to start: the advance had dashed into town and startled them and they were making off. The "Charge" was sounded and away went Cavalry and Artillery at full speed. Soon a choo choo came into sight making for "Dixie" in fine style; it crossed the road in front of us about a fourth of a mile distant. There was a spot across a field where it came in sight again and a shell was fired at it but it struck first in the center of the track but 10 feet too far forward. Some of the 4th Ohio tore down the fences and took across the fields firing with their carbines, but the distance was too great.

A Negro on the surprise had a furrow ploughed in the top of his head by a spent ball but it did not hurt him much. The engine got away from us but a Wisconsin Regiment of Pioneers which was in our rear heard the whistle, tore up the track and saved it. Four more were secured in like manner before we reached town.

As soon as we entered detachments were sent in every direction to guard public roads and property. At the Railroad Station the most was found. Captain G. and several men had stopped a passenger train which was just ready to leave loaded with rebel soldiers. The train and passengers were taken. There were about 200 in all, a Lt. Col., Major, several Captains and privates. They were unarmed and were mostly new recruits and sick men who had been on furlough. There were a good many

on the train who had been wounded at the battle of Corinth and were going home for medical treatment. The above mentioned prisoners were -the least valuable portion of our capture. Sixteen locomotives, two passenger trains, two pieces of cannon and some provision were found.

The same evening we arrived. 3 cannons were mounted on a platform car and with a regiment of Infantry page sent down to the bridge over the Tennes-

see River at Decatur. When they arrived there they found the bridge already on fire and about 300 rebels on the other side fired at them, when they were "suddenly called away" and have not been seen since.

Six companies of the 4th are now stationed at Decatur. Col. K is in command. Lt. Col. B is in command of the remaining 4th companies at Huntsville where I am now.

I expect to go to Decatur tomorrow or the next day. There

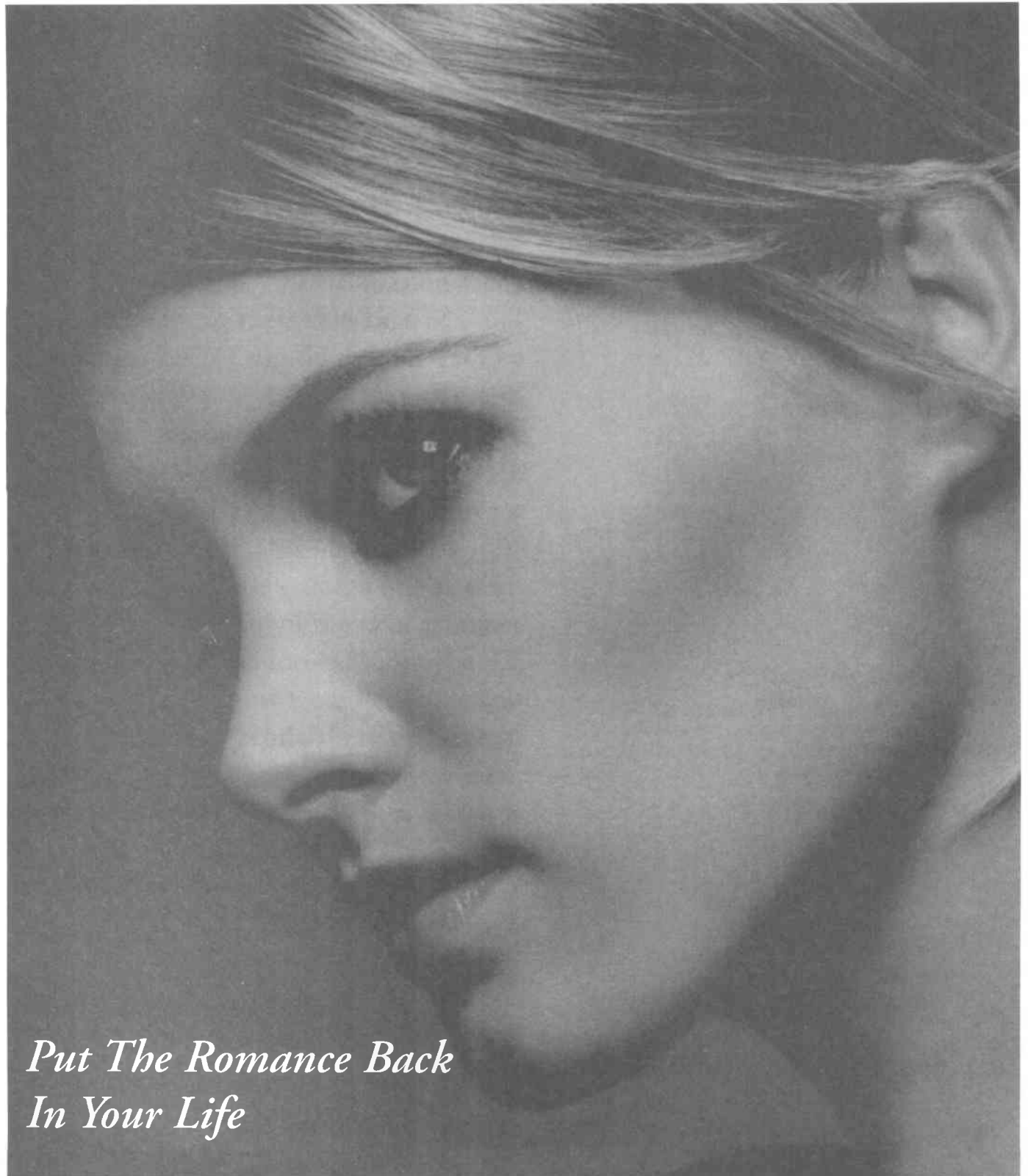
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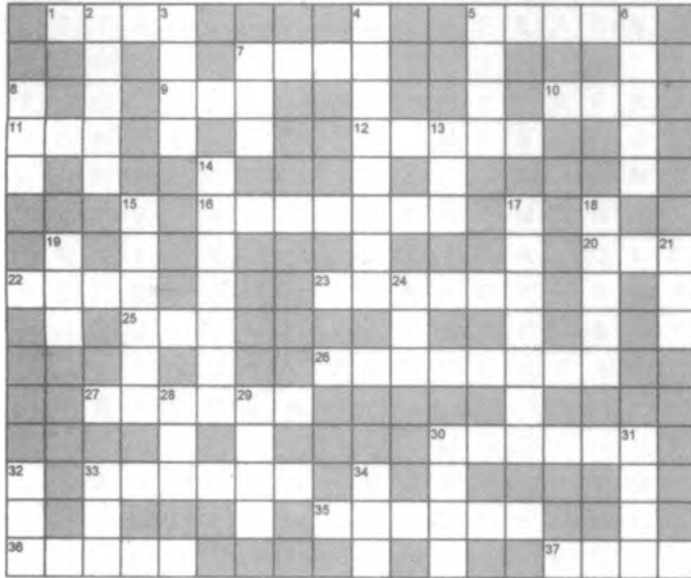
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# Old Huntsville Crossword

created by Bob Spencer



answers on page 61

## Across

1. Five Points \_\_\_\_ Market opened in 1944
5. "\_\_\_\_\_'s Canal". Name of barge waterway from Big Spring to Triana
7. West \_\_\_\_ Square, Madison St. extended
9. A new \_\_\_\_ camp was assigned to build a park on Monte Sano, 1935
10. \_\_\_\_ Reynolds, Huntsville Police Chief, 2006
11. The \_\_\_\_ Braun Civic Center opened in 1975
12. The HUNTSVILLE DAILY \_\_\_\_ Building completed, 1928
16. \_\_\_\_ Held ground-breaking ceremonies for new facility at Church and Clinton Sts., 1989
20. \_\_\_\_ Town, One of Huntsville's Historic Districts
22. Frank \_\_\_\_, President Huntsville City Council, 1930-1948
23. R. B. (Speck) \_\_\_\_, Huntsville Mayor 1952-1964
25. \_\_\_\_ sightings were reported all across Huntsville, 1973
26. Dr. Taavo \_\_\_\_ was selected as Director of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, 1989
27. Mrs. W. F. Garth founded the first \_\_\_\_ Club, 1924
30. Huntsville Mayor, 1889
33. \_\_\_\_ Jackson marched his troops through Huntsville to the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, 1913
35. Frank \_\_\_\_ built Railroad from Huntsville to Gurley in 1891
36. Carrie Nation lectured on temperance at the Huntsville \_\_\_\_ House, 1902
37. The \_\_\_\_ -TV Tower Collapsed, 2003

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## Down

2. Harry \_\_\_\_, Huntsville native, Star of Broadway, Movies & TV, late 30's thru 1980
3. \_\_\_\_ Rice of Huntsville was crowned Miss Alabama, 1973
4. \_\_\_\_ William's Public School, opened in 1895
5. \_\_\_\_ Points Historic District was created in 1999
6. President R. M. \_\_\_\_ Addressed Huntsville crowd of 30,000 people, 1974
7. \_\_\_\_-Quest, an interactive museum in Huntsville
8. Gov't Agency bringing sweeping changes to HSV
13. Huntsville's Automobile Speed Limit in 1909 was 12 \_\_\_\_
14. Seventh Day Adventist College in HSV
15. Former small town on Monte Sano
17. Subdivision off Whitesburg Drive
18. Tenn. River Island where 2000 year old skeletons were found
19. Westside Square was known as Cotton \_\_\_\_
21. Huntsville voted \_\_\_\_ in 1911
24. The Bon-\_\_\_\_ Motel and Restaurant opened, 1951
28. Huntsville's " \_\_\_\_ - Light" district was shutdown Jan. 1, 1914
29. " \_\_\_\_ OF THE SOUTH" a chronology of Huntsville, 1805-2005
30. "The \_\_\_\_", Then the largest enclosed shopping center in Alabama opened, 1966
31. Christian Organization on Green St.
32. Grand opening of \_\_\_\_-White Hamburgers, 1954
33. \_\_\_\_ Pizitz. First to buy ticket on Eastern Airlines Flight to Chicago, 1946
34. \_\_\_\_ Cramer, Madison County District Attorney, 1990

# Lewter's Hardware Store



In 1928 our great-grandfather, D.A. Lewter, and our grandfather, J.M. Lewter, started the family business in a small store on Washington Street. They believed in offering fair prices, treating each customer with special respect and hiring great employees.

We are the fourth generation, proudly carrying on the same tradition.

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

**A Hardware Store....**

**The Way You Remember Them**

**222 Washington St - 539-5777**

*Domie Lewter*  
*Mac Lewter*



# When life was simple...



In the 1960's the County Sheriff's department consisted of barely more than a dozen officers to enforce the law in all of Madison County. With deputies such as "Bulldog" Daniels, Ed Norton and Earl Frazier, many people thought twice before violating the law.

*Those days are long gone, but the folks at Propst Drug store still believe in offering the same dedicated, personal service that makes our city a special place to live.*

**"Old Tyme Friendly Service"**



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