



Terror In the Night

It's been almost thirty years since the Southwest Molester unleased his reign of depraved horror on Huntsville, but people still remember the terror that stalked the city's streets.

Housewives purchased guns and people were afraid to venture outside at night. No one, not even one of the the victims, ever suspected the molester was a trusted friend.

Also: Inside the Mind of the Southwest Molester

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Terror in the Night

He had a name we couldn't pronounce and committed crimes we'll never forget.

By Heather Douglas

It's been almost thirty years since the Southwest Molester terrorized Huntsville, but residents remember the minute details of his crimes as if they had just happened last week.

What most people remember is the terrible fear that seemed to paralyze Huntsville. Housewives purchased guns and people were afraid to venture outside at night.

It seemed at first as if the molester had a precise modus operandi. Then, when police were getting close to capturing him, he ventured out among other parts of the community. No one knew where he would strike next and everyone felt helpless.

He obtained entry to each of the residences by open windows or unlocked doors. It seemed apparent, even though he later adamantly denied it, that he had observed his victims prior to the attacks and had knowledge of their residences and day-to-day

He had created thirteen crime scenes and eighteen victims before he was caught. As the crimes continued, investigators could tell that it was beginning to take more to satisfy the bizarre craving of the molester.

The cuts became deeper and the beatings became more severe. He admitted later he had to throw away a gun he had taken from one of his victims because he was afraid that he would eventually use it to kill.

He used knives, scissors, a hammer, and other objects as weapons, most of which were taken from the victim's residences. He later admitted to taking a table leg to one location but only because he had been carrying it around for hours simply "to have something for my hands to do."

Huntsville Police were working overtime but the public demanded more.

A "Molester Task Force" was formed and many investigators worked around the clock participating in stakeouts throughout southwest Huntsville. The molester, possibly sensing the police presence, began venturing into other neighborhoods, including downtown, and complicated the investigation even further.

Eunice Merrell remembered



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the terror that swept through the city. "Everyone was afraid," she recalled. "I remembered being afraid to walk to my car at night after church services. Luckily there was a nice man who always walked me to my car and made sure I was safe."

Investigators enlisted the help of all local law enforcement agencies, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Special Agent Robert Ressler (now retired) assisted Huntsville police by creating a "profile."

Ressler and John Douglas are credited with coining the term "serial" relative to criminals who perform similar crimes on several victims. Ressler and Douglas were instrumental in forming the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Division and were among the first to develop "profiles."

Ressler took the information from the police reports, and by studying the FBI's database of convicted criminals who had committed similar crimes, was able to develope a profile that would most likely fit the molester.

When the profile was returned to Huntsville Police it included the following descriptions of the offender:

"He is a white male, approximately 30-35 years of age, a sexual sadist who enjoys gratification through infliction of pain on others, brutality involved in

the crimes is displaced aggression caused by real or imagined injustices from women in the subject's life, he is a high school graduate with some formal education, possesses above average intelligence, has a possible arrest history, is a well groomed individual, owns and operates a two to three year old automobile which has been well maintained and is a model employee."

As months passed, investigators began to feel extreme frustration at the molester's ability to evade capture. "How," they wondered, "could someone commit so many crimes and not leave any clues at the crime scenes?"

Despite the frustration, the police knew that sooner or later the molester would make a mistake, and when he did, they would be ready.

On September 19, 1979, the molester struck a second home on Miller Lane in the Big Cove community. This time he made mistakes; this time would be his last time.

The eighteenth victim was a young mother with a seven year old child. Awaking from a sound sleep she was viciously attacked

"I want to hear it so quiet we can hear a mouse dropping."

Gregory Ratoff









by an assailant who bound her hands, and her child's, with tape. As mother and daughter lay there paralyzed with fear, the molester cut away the victim's clothes and began viciously slashing her body with a knife. Within seconds the room had become another bloody crime scene.

When the assailant had finally satisfied his sick craving, he got in his car and drove across the mountain: driving aimlessly until the sun began to appear over the horizon.

He noticed later that morning, as he was preparing to go to work at a computer services firm, that his car was muddy from the night before. He went to a car wash on Sparkman Drive where he washed the mud from his car.

For the Southwest Molester it was too late. Despite his careful planning he had made the mistake the police had been waiting

The police had discovered tire tracks and a partial shoe print at the crime scene and were already making casts of them. After consulting with tire manufacturers Huntsville police learned the tire print belonged to a small foreign car.

Orders at Police headquarters were simple but to the point - check out every small foreign car in Huntsville. Hundreds of people were stopped and questioned.

One resident told of being stopped three times in the same day by different policeman.

The hard police work paid off. Within a short time, investigators zeroed in on a man who drove a small blue foreign car, and who also fit the profile. Investigators quickly learned that the owner of the car had a criminal record and had no alibis for the times the crimes were committed. After obtaining a search warrant, police discovered evidence in his apartment linking him to the crime scenes.

After intensive questioning, the suspect finally confessed to the crime spree that held Huntsville in one of the most terrifying grips it had ever known.

Shock and disbelief swept the city as word of the arrest spread. "When I heard about it I couldn't believe it," recalled Eunice Merrell. "It was the same nice man who used to walk me to my car!"

John Paul Dejnozka began his criminal career in Illinois where he had been convicted of a vicious rape that was eerily similar to the ones he would later be convicted of in Huntsville. He received a four to twelve year prison sentence for the rape charge but was released after serving only thirty-two months. The last three months of his prison sentence was spent in a work release program in Illinois. After being granted a parole, he moved to Huntsville to start a new life near his family.

Dejnozka had a very impressive resume that included extensive education. He had served his

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country by enlisting in the Navy and spent a tour of duty in Vietnam before earning a master's degree from the University of Southern Illinois and a technical degree in water and wastewater technology. He had also taught college courses in Edwardsville, Illinois.

It was his technical degree in computer science, however, that would land him a job at a Huntsville computer firm. It wasn't hard for anyone, including his family, his employer and neighbors in his apartment community to recognize the potential in John Deinozka.

Although his family knew that John had gotten into some trouble in Illinois, they still loved him and wanted him to start a new life.

That is exactly what Dejnozka appeared to do be doing. He excelled in his job and received three promotions before he was arrested. He was active with his social circle at Haystack apartment community where he helped plan the 1978 Halloween costume party and took home first place honors for his colorful Italian chef costume. The mild-mannered

Dejnozka, whom everyone seemed to like, reported monthly to a local probation officer and appeared to be a model of rehabilitation.

After Dejnozka's arrest, he confessed to all of the crimes investigators suspected he had committed. He told them that he was "really sad that it had to end this way" and how he was just beginning to become successful in his career and was financially independent.

He admitted he played "road games" and that he often followed women at night who went home alone. He told one of the key investigators in the case that he was "attracted to a light like a moth in the night" and advised women not to draw unwanted attention to their homes by keeping all of the outside lights

On other occasions he followed women home from a local grocery store, though he denies that any of those women later became his victims.

Dejnozka talked about his unsuccessful attempts to manage anger. He told of the many nights victims were spared because he

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beat pillows from his own bed to let out his anger.

Dejnozka discussed his own feelings of helplessness, "...after the first one, I knew something was wrong and I didn't have anybody I could talk to about it."

He couldn't talk to a mental health professional, he later said, because he was already on parole for a similar crime and was afraid he would be turned in immediately.

Whether or not talking to someone could have helped Dejnozka control his behavior will never really be known, but is definitely an unlikely possibility. In a pre-trial psychiatric report Dejnozka was characterized as "intellectually bright" scoring in the upper 2.2% of the general population. The psychiatrist also established that Dejnozka was resistant to guilt feelings and described his frustration tolerance as "low."

The report stated that Dejnozka tended to be "selfish, callous, impulsive and resistant to learning from experience and punishment." It also stated that he "rationalized any deviant behavior on his part." It further stated that previous imprisonment and therapeutic efforts had "shown little effect on his overall psychological adjustment."

One of the key investigators in this case, Captain Ron Curlee, still says, "Dejnozka was an opportunist. He would have continued to prey on women. In fact, his crimes were becoming progressively more severe in nature. He stopped only because we caught him."

A Huntsville Times editorial entitled "A Great Relief" was published Sunday morning, September 23, 1979. The article described the capture and confession. It also expressed the sentiments of the law enforcement community who had been most anxious to make the arrest. The community could finally take a deep breath and relax somewhat. Husbands, fathers, brothers and sons no longer paced floors in the midnight hours, checking and rechecking door and window locks. They were able to finally get a good night's sleep after nearly two vears.

It wasn't such a great relief for the Sharp family, however. As a





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shavers@mindspring.com 2362 Whitesburg Dr. Whitesburg at Bob Wallace Huntsville, Ala, 35801 matter of fact, it was just another twist to the nightmare that had begun months earlier - May 6, 1979.

On the eve of their sixth wedding anniversary, Mr. Sharp reluctantly left his southwest Huntsville home and headed to Chattanooga on business. Before he left his wife and two little boys, words were exchanged about being careful and something was also mentioned about the threat of the "Southwest molester."

It wasn't anything that either one of them took too seriously. However, they were aware "He" was out there. Mrs. Sharp went about her daily activities as usual. Later on that evening, she knew that a few of the Amway salespeople would be dropping by to pick up their orders. One of those salespeople was John Dejnozka.

Mrs. Sharp mentioned to the salespeople how she was a bit uneasy about her husband being out of town, especially on their wedding anniversary. She thought nothing of that statement.



After all, she was among friends, or so she thought.

Later that evening, she put her children to bed and then she retired also, not giving any thought to the back door which, she is sure now, was unlocked. It was through that unlocked door that a masked man entered, grabbed a knife from a wooden block out of her kitchen and started up the stairs to her bedroom. The creaking of the steps woke Mrs. Sharp from her sleep. She remembered thinking that the steps only creaked when someone was walking on them. A moment later she called out the name of her oldest son and the creaking stopped. As she drifted back to sleep, she faintly heard the creaking begin again.

Suddenly, she opened her eyes and a masked intruder was standing in the doorway. Without



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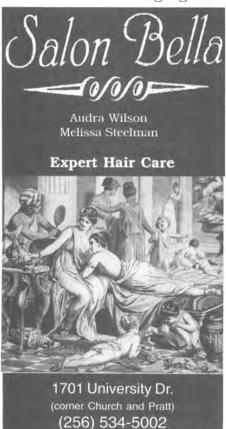
Huntsville, Alabama



thinking she let out a terrifying scream. Before she could gather her wits about her, the masked intruder bounded across her bed and hit her across the face with the handle of her own kitchen knife. As her nose began to swell and her heart seemed to pound so hard her body was shaking, the intruder put his hand over her mouth to silence her, calmly whispering, "Shut up or I'll kill you."

He ordered her to lay on her stomach with her hands behind her back before then taking a pair of pantyhose out of his pocket and tying her hands. After placing a pillow over her head, he turned the bathroom light on and began pilfering through the contents of the medicine cabinet. He then reentered the bedroom and after taking a pair of pantyhose from the dresser drawer, wrapped them tightly around her head, making it impossible for her to see him.

The intruder demanded to know where she kept her money and drugs and when she told him she had none, his language be-



came offensive and abusive. In a rage, he lunged at her and began stuffing a pair of panties into her mouth and wrapping more pantyhose around her head. He emptied two pillowcases of their pillows and placed them over her head. As she gasped for air, the intruder pulled her nightgown over her head and placed the cold silver blade to her stomach.

Somehow she managed to push the garments just far enough out of her mouth to speak. She asked the masked intruder, "Sir, do you know the Lord?"

Without a sound, he shoved the panties deeper into her throat and she heard the sound



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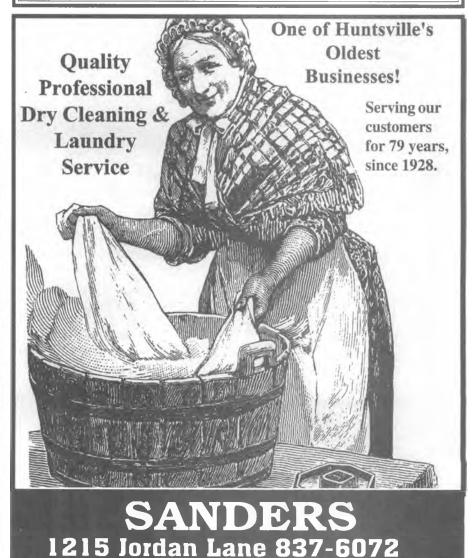
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of his jeans dropping to the floor. The intruder began to rape her.

Mrs. Sharp prayed for some sort of noise that would startle the intruder and make him stop, make him leave. Suddenly, her son began coughing uncontrollably.

Seemingly startled, probably because he had thought she was alone, the intruder jumped up and pulled at his pants. Before leaving, he told her, oddly enough, that he wasn't going to hurt her anymore. She heard the stairs creak, the front door open and then there was silence.

For a moment, all she could do was thank God that she and her children were alive. She knew she needed help. Somehow, she managed to twist around on the bed, with her hands still bound behind her back, and reach for the phone that was on her night stand. Almost incoherent with fear, she called her sister and brother-in-law who lived across the street.

Without even pausing to hang up the phone, the brotherin-law rushed across the lawn and up the stairs where he found her still tightly bound. He couldn't understand exactly what she had said, but he knew that

"Books are a nice change from reading prescription labels."

Maxine

she needed help. After calling the police, they called her husband at his Chattanooga hotel and told him he needed to come home. Mr. Sharp arrived at the hospital and collapsed into his wife's arms as she lay recovering from her attack. Over and over he apologized for not being there to protect her.

Mrs. Sharp later stated that she believed God had spared her and answered her prayers.

In the weeks and months that followed the rape someone they barely knew began spending time at the Sharp's home. It was the Amway salesman, John Dejnozka. Before long they all became good friends and John acted as if he just couldn't do enough for the Sharps. John had a boat and often he and his girlfriend, Loretta, would take outings and invite the Sharps along.

No one thought much about it at the time. John seemed like such a nice man with good Christian values.

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It also wasn't unusual for John to sit outside the Sharp home for hours talking with Mr. Sharp about his life and his salvation.

A few months after the friendship really blossomed, Mr. Sharp received a disturbing phone call early in the morning hours. A family friend called to tell him that John Dejnozka had just been apprehended and was thought to be the "Southwest Molester." Mr. Sharp dressed hurriedly, grabbed his Bible and some bible tracts and went down the jail to try to talk to his friend. He wasn't able to see his friend in jail, but he was able to leave the bible tracts.

The Madison County grand jury returned 26 indictments, containing 41 counts, against John Paul Dejnozka on September 26, 1979 in connection with 13 residential break-ins and sexual assaults on Hunts-ville area women that began in early 1978. It took over a year to catch the "Southwest Molester," but only two days to convict him in his first trial.

Then District Attorney Fred Simpson and Assistant District Attorney Charlie Hooper successfully prosecuted Dejnozka. Two local attorneys, Richard Kempaner and Bruce Williams were appointed to represent Dejnozka. There would be a second trial before Dejnozka pled guilty to the other charges.

As Charlie Hooper stated in his closing statements to a jury in 1981,"... there was something sinister about the method. It is a common understanding that a burglary in the nighttime is a serious offense because we







are helpless during that time of our lives... we all must lay down and sleep and become unconscious, It is part of our existence. If you want to come at me and if you want to hurt me, give me a fighting chance, give me a chance in the daytime so I can see you coming. In the nighttime when I am helpless, you ought to let me alone."

Eventually, John Dejnozka confessed to all his crimes, which included raping his friend, Mrs. Sharp. In his statement he says that he did not feel remorseful for raping her because he, "...did wind up finding out what fine Christian people they are..."

Dejnozka is currently serving an eight hundred year sentence for his crimes at Holman Prison in Atmore, Alabama. It is unlikely that he will be released in his lifetime.

Family members hope that is the case. They feel that his debt to society could never be paid. The person who committed those crimes wasn't the same personable and caring person they remember.

They didn't stay in close contact after John graduated from high school. However, there was no abuse at home and their father was a respected Air Force

"I had a few words with my wife, and she had a few paragraphs for me."

Jimmy Smithey



officer. Although the family travelled extensively, they were never unhappy or disadvantaged.

Something had to have happened to John Dejnozka to radically change him from the good kid his family knew him to be.

The motives behind Dejnozka's crimes will quite possibly remain unknown. Something, somewhere, somehow went terribly wrong and this city will never forget its consequences.

Editor's note: Some names have been either left out or changed to protect the privacy of innocent victims.

"My weight is perfect for my height, which varies."

Linda Sorenson, dieter

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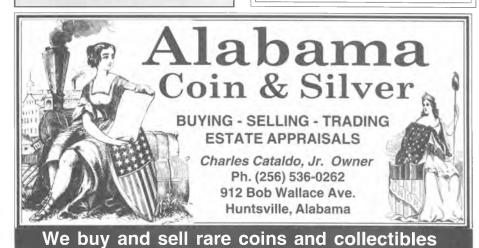
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3 1/2 c. powdered sugar

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Combine cake mix, butter and one egg.
Mix well and pour into a 9 x 13" pan.
Combine remaining ingredients. Beat well and pour over the first layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.





Household Tips & Advice

* Many people have a hard time getting to sleep, including me. I tried a few things that worked really well, and wanted to pass them along. I stopped drinking coffee in the morning - used to have 3 or more cups a day. Instead of coffee I tried green tea, and my sleeping improved. Also, I tried hanging my pillowcases outside in the fresh air & sun, after I washed them, and change them daily. That fresh air smell is great for putting you to sleep!

* For cleaning unvarnished brass, rub with half a lemon

dipped in table salt.

* Hang sachets of dried lemon peel inside cupboards or closets to keep moths away.

* To prevent a crust from forming in your tea kettle, keep a large marble or oyster shell in it.

- * When you have a fire in your fireplace, toss a good handful of salt in there. It will act as a cleaning agent and help in preventing chimney fires.
- * If you have a rusty knife to clean, stick the blade into a raw onion and let stand for an hour. Rust will quickly disappear when you follow this by washing and polishing.
- * Brighten leather bookbindings by rubbing them with egg white.

* Boil apple peelings in aluminum pots and pans to brighten the metal.

* If you feel depressed, write down what activities you would do to make yourself happy, and start doing some of these.

Also, volunteer to help those who are in worse shape than you - it helps immensely to take your mind off your troubles, and you will know you are helping others.

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He was supposed to attend a reception at a palacial home on Williams Street but after shaking hands all day and dealing with the weather, he wasn't looking forward to it. A couple of blocks before they reached the house he told the driver to pull over and let him out.

He thought he would walk, take his time and maybe cool off a little. In the meantime his advance men could go in, shake hands and prepare the way for him.

Trouble was, Wallace, with no tie and his sleeves rolled up, just didn't look like a future governor. First thing he had to do was find a place to clean up a bit before facing the mob at the reception.

Cutting across the backyard, Wallace went up to the back door and knocked. The lady of the house jerked the door open, and before he could say anything, she threw an apron at him and told him to "get over to that sink and wash those hands good. I got Mr. George Wallace out there and my husband can't even send me good help!"

Not wishing to displease the lady of the house, Wallace washed up, took the tray and began serving drinks. There were probably two hundred people standing around, smoking, drinking and shaking hands. They also had no idea who anyone was.

Pausing briefly in the kitchen while getting another tray of drinks, Wallace, with a twinkle in his eye, asked the lady which of the gentlemen in the parlor was Mr. George C. Wallace.

"He's the distinguished looking one! Don't you have eyes in your head?"



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Requisites for a Confederate Soldier

by Robert B. Morrow (written in 1912)

In July 1864, 1 joined as a volunteer of Co. L, 5th Regiment, Alabama Cavalry.

I rode a mule, a large gentle one, a good traveler. The bridle was made of home-tanned cow leather sewed into the bits with cords made of home-tanned fox or coon hides. The bit was made in a shop nearby and was what was called a cord bit.

The saddle, homemade also, consisted of two pieces of poplar, shaped so it was supposed to fit the mule's back as they lay lengthways on her.

These were fastened together in front by a piece of tough oak

with rivets made of iron in the shops nearby, the back part was fastened the same way, by tough oak, cut so as to resemble any ordinary saddle.

This saddle had holes mortised, through which to tie on the belongings of a soldier of the C.S.A. When this was covered with a heavy woolen blanket, spun and woven at home by my Mother and Sister and colored with bark, the soldier, dressed in cloth made by the same loving hands was ready to mount and be off to war.

An extra shirt, a frying pan and a pouch were all the other supplies needed.

Neither the boy nor his equipment would make a formidable looking soldier or inspire terror, you will say.

True! But the mule could travel, and the boy could shoot. These three formed the chief requisites for a Confederate soldier.

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- * To develop by precept and example, a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship.
- * To provide through Kiwanis Clubs a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities.
- * To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism and good will.

Welcome to our new members since Jan. 2007:
Rand Lehman
Hank Mattern
Bob Smith
Jim White

Our Motto - Young Children, Priority One - Our Goal - Helping Kids

David Baker - Clyde Barclay - Donald Bishop - Bill Brown - Chuck Bobo - Martin Burke
Winston DeShields - Gordon Dison - Kinley Eittreim - Ernest Francis - Neil Cocker - Vic Grimes
Jack Grosser - Bill Grunwald - Ed Hardin - Steve Harris - Jesse Hopkins - Bill Ivy
Andy Karabinos - Rand Lehman - Hartwell Lutz - John Martin - Hank Mattern
Hank Miller - Archie Murchie - Robert Overall - Chuck Owens - Wilbur Patterson - Pasqual Rico
Roscoe Roberts - Donald Royston - Bill Russell - Bill Sevey - Reggie Skinner - Joe Sloan
Bob Smith - Walt Terry - John Vaughn - Ray Weinberg - Jim White - James Winning
Jim Yeager - Sam Zeman

Seen in the Papers in 1891

- For Sale - Five head of cattle, one mule, hay, corn, fodder and all farming tools. Also assorted house furnishings. Owner is removing himself to Texas. All will be sold on the barrel head the first Saturday of next month. Cash money only.

- J.B. Turner is in the lock up again for public drunkeness. He appears to be a regular customer of the city's facilities as this is the thirteenth time this year he has been arrested.

- The roof is now placed upon the great Dallas Mills. Thus it is that this immense structure is rapidly nearing completion. The wing now nearly completed is three hundred and fifty feet long, one hundred and fifteen feet wide, five stories high. It will require eigh-

teen hundred operatives to run this mill.

- Apprentice wanted for chimney sweeping. Must be no more than five foot tall and one hundred pounds. Will furnish room and board for one year, then will negotiate a salary. Only boys from good families need apply.

- News is that the Pullman Car Company wrote Monte Sano Manager Harvey S. Denison on the subject of securing the adoption and use of the name of our loved mountain on one of their palace cars. Yesterday Mr. Denison received a letter from one of the officials stating that they have named one of their cars "Monte Sano" and thanked him for the suggestion.

- Wanted - a lady companion - I will give her a comfortable home. Marriage is not a consideration nor are children.

- For Sale - 175 acres near New Market. 12 acres in fields with three room house, year round spring and serviceable barn. Will sell all for \$1200 cash. No terms or credit.

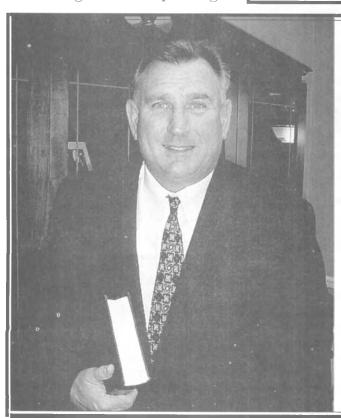
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She Married the Wrong Person

from 1878 newspaper

Marancy Hughes, of this town, was married in September last to a person who was known as Samuel M. Pollard. Her relatives opposed the match, but she eloped and was married without their knowledge.

A short time after their marriage, Pollard confessed to her that he was really a woman; that she had had trouble with her relatives in the East; had lost her property and assumed the disguise of a man for the reason that avenues for making money would be open to her in the character which would be closed to her as a woman.

Pollard has never given her any particular reason for doing her this great wrong, but is believed to have been actuated by foolish pride in appearing in the character of a married man. The victim was ashamed to acknowledge that she had been so imposed upon and shrunk from

"Have you noticed that a turtle only makes progress when he sticks his head out?"

Hannah Troup, First-grader Weatherly Hts. Elementary



admitting the truth.

Pollard, without actually threatening her life, repeatedly intimated that it would be bad for Marancy if she exposed him/her, and she kept silence until a fortnight ago, when her aunt got a perception of the fact and questioned her closely, and she related to her the whole story.

The victim says that the woman's real name is Sarah M. Pollard, and that her trunk is filled with feminine apparel.

A complaint was filed yesterday by J.C. Howerton, accusing Pollard of perjury in swearing when he took out the marriage license.

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Heard On The Street

by Cathey Carney

The winner of the Photo of the Month contest for last month was **David Everett** of Huntsville. He is a 35-year Aflac agent, recently retired. His wife **Lora** worked for Chrysler for many years. The photo of that handsome kid was of **Jamie Cooper**, whose show "Cooper & Company" you can catch daily on ZTV.

Marsha Mathes, massage therapist & esthetician and her sweet husband Capt. Bob Mathes, a riverboat captain, recently spent New Year's Eve at the Holiday Inn Select in downtown Huntsville. They have only lived in Huntsville for a couple of years but they love it here and plan to stay.

We were so sorry to hear that **Harley Hope** had died recently. He was 86 years old, and a former member of the **Golden K Kiwanis**. Harley was a Huntsville native, and served in the Army as an infantryman. He was a sweet man, and will be so missed by his wife **Louise**, his family and friends.

Mrs. Audrey Buford of Rock Hill, SC recently had a 94th birthday and her good

Sandra Steele



friend in Huntsville, **Loretta Colburn**, wants to wish her Happy Birthday!

The Huntsville Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution recently held their Annual American History Awards luncheon, where outstanding essay winners from local 5-8 grade schools were given awards. "Old Huntsville" magazine was very honored to receive the annual Media & Public Relations award from the DAR.

Some of the Hewlett-Packard & Agilent alumni recently met at Green Hills Grille and caught up. Dale Cassidy, Phyllis Rogers, Mary Barksdale, Russ Letson, John Rader, Dewitt Uptagraff, Gary Hill and Frank Smith and I were happy to swap stories of the old days. Everything was good, but the crab cakes were outstanding! David Wheeler is the new general manager there and made sure that everyone was well taken care of.

There were lots of February birthdays for the **Smith/ Trentham** family. **Ed Trentham** and his son Steve both had birthdays, Steve is married to **Michelle** whose sweet mom **Ann Smith** works at Colonial Bank. Ann's husband **Walter Smith** also celebrated in February.

Tom Huskey's father Marvin Huskey was a movie projectionist at the Princess Theatre in Huntsville years ago. Tom had seen Newman Ward's name on several stories in "Old Huntsville" and wondered if Newman was the friend his dad often talked about. It turns out that Newman worked with Marvin for years and remembers the good times they had together.

When **Ron Eyestone** took his father, **Willis Eyestone** to the hospital recently one of the Huntsville Hospital employees there went out of her way to talk with Ron and see how his dad was doing. **Jane Tippett** is a long-time employee of the hos-

Photo of The Month

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

Call (256) 534-0502
Hint: This little girl is well known for knowing everyone.





enfingersteele.com

pital and certainly is a great representation of the hospital.

It was fun running into **Deiter** and **Sonya Shrader** recently at Chef's Table. We had a great time catching up and before I left Deiter planted a Big kiss on my cheek. He's such a sweet guy!

Mary Barksdale is sure one proud mama. Her son Will Barksdale, who is an Ensign in the U. S. Navy, was one of 18 enlisted men in all the navy to become an officer. He is stationed in Norfolk, VA. aboard the USS Cole, and returned recently from a 6-month deployment in the Middle East. Congratulations to you. Will!

Ann Collins sure had a memorable birthday recently. Her son Ron, along with his wife Jeannie, who both live in Atlanta, arranged for a birthday party for her at Redstone Village, where Ann lives. Many attended and snacked on hors d'euvres, desserts, wine and soft drinks. The following day a group of her friends went to Carraba's in Parkway Place mall for dinner, where they continued the celebration. Happy Birthday Ann!

Another big birthday was that of **Alica Stolz**, of Hazel Green. She just turned 17 and said she had the best birthday ever, probably because she celebrated with her boyfriend **Ben Sweitzer**.

If you happen to be in the Holiday Inn Select anytime soon, be sure and walk down some of the hallways to check out the interesting old black & white photos lining the walls. Huntsville has so much fascinating history, and this project was spearheaded by general manager **Jim Larkin**.

Happy birthday to that handsome **Brandon Owens**, who used to live in Huntsville but now resides in Tucson with his wife **Susan**. Parents **Ken & Diane Owens** are really proud of them!

I ran into David Milly of

Theatrical Lighting recently. I need to find out what kind of vitamins he takes - that man always looks good never looks any older!

Leroy Cunningham recently celebrated another birthday, and this time he celebrated in style at Lee Ann's with great music and good friends. Curtis J. Hall, T.A. Miller, Danny Banks, Pat McQuiston, and others got up on stage to play music and celebrate with Leroy and a huge crowd of partiers.

We want to say a special hello to **Roscoe Roberts** and his sweet wife **Jane**, we're thinking about you both.

Happy birthday to our good friend **Gale Nichols**, who recently had a birthday. Her beloved aunt, **Ann Price**, died recently and everyone who knew her is still very sad that she's gone.

Our good buddy **Butch Taylor** stopped by the other day to swap stories. He's running in a special March 6 election to fill Albert Hall's seat, so be sure and get out to vote for that New Hope boy.

Well, that's about all for this month but get out and walk because Spring is almost here!!

Always remember how lucky we are to live in Huntsville, Alabama.

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Peggy's Favorites

Peggy Conti lives in Hazel Green, and loves quick & delicious meals for her family. Here are some of her favorites.

Chicken Casserole

Whole chicken, cooked, skinned and pulled off the bone

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 can cream of celery soup

1 c. chopped onions

1 box Stove Top stuffing

(If you like, you can add any of your favorite spices such as cayenne pepper, salt & pepper, or hot sauce)

In large bowl, mix chicken, onions and soup well. Pour into a greased casserole dish. Spread prepared stuffing evenly over all.

Bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes.

Great served with white rice and veggies!

Cheesy Corn with Jalapeno's

3 medium cans of shoe peg corn, drained

1 8oz. pkg. Philadelphia cream cheese

1/2 c. milk

1 stick butter

Jalapenos, chopped

In large sauce pan, melt cream cheese, butter and milk. Add corn. Stir well and add Jalapenos to your liking. For extra spice, you can add a table-spoon of Jalapeno Juice if you like!

Salt and pepper to taste and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

This corn is WONDERFUL to serve with corn bread & pintos! Best of all, you can make a double recipe of this, put it in small containers and freeze it - great!

Quick and Easy Chicken Parmesan

Tyson chicken patties (10 come in a bag)

1 bag of Rotini noodles

1 can of Ragu sauce, heated

2 T. parmesan cheese

Cook noodles, drain. Bake chicken patties as directed (about 15 min.). On your plate, place cooked noodles first, then chicken patty on top. Pour sauce over that and add parmesan. That's it! This is simple, but such a nice change of pace!

Baked Spaghetti

1 pound ground beef 1 med. bag of Spaghetti

noodles, cooked al dente

2 cans spaghetti sauce Shredded cheese

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(Add seasonings to your liking, like oregano, basil, garlic, etc.)

Brown ground beef and drain. Add sauce. Slowly add noodles until mixed well. Spoon into a baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Add cheese on top and bake another 10 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes and it will slice like lasagna!

Serve with salad and garlic bread!

Chicken Fajita Soup with Rolled Sandwiches

Soup:

1 pkg. TACO BELL Fajita Seasoning Mix

1/3 cup water

1 lb. boneless skinless chicken breasts, chopped

4 cloves garlic, minced

2 T. cilantro

1 lrg. red onion, chopped

l small green pepper, chopped

8 oz. PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, cubed

1 16 oz. VELVEETA, cut up

2 cans chicken broth

Combine seasoning mix and water in medium bowl. Marinate chicken in mix for thirty minutes to one hour.

In large nonstick pot sprayed with cooking spray, add garlic and cilantro; cook on medium-high heat 1 min. Add chicken mixture, onions and peppers; mix well. Cook until chicken is done.

Add cream cheese, VELVEETA and chicken broth; mix well. Reduce heat to medium. Cook until cream cheese and VELVEETA are completely melted and chicken mixture is heated through, stirring occasionally.

Garnish with additional chopped cilantro, if desired. Serve with rolled sandwiches, below.

Rolled Sandwiches:

l package of small flour tortillas

1 lb. of deli fresh chicken, thin sliced

Lettuce, chopped Tomato, chopped

Sliced or shredded cheese to your liking

Simply roll up chicken, lettuce, tomato and cheese in tortilla to make a wrap. Add mayonnaise or mustard or any other sandwich favorites if desired. This is a simple sandwich that is delicious dipped in the Chicken Fajita soup!

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Sweet Local Honey from Bobby Fanning

Flying at the Old Huntsville Airport

by M.D. Smith

I started my flying lessons in 1965 at the old Huntsville airport. My father in Birmingham had said he planned to take a flying lesson that weekend, and I thought that was a keen idea. I took mine and had a great time, only to find out later that my father "chickened out" and didn't go.

It was a year before he took his first lesson and was also as hooked as I had gotten the first time. By then, I had my student license with about twenty hours of flying under my belt, first in Cessna 172's and later in a Piper Colt as Huntsville Aviation bought Rocket City Air on the old airport. I didn't like the Piper colt which was a fabric covered steel framed airplane that landed more like a rock than the gentle glide of the Cessna 172's. So I financed my first airplane, a 1956 Cessna 172, for \$5,000.00 with the First National Bank (now Regions) on Madison Street. It got me my private license and was

a great bird to own, but after a year I was training in a twin engine Piper Apache, so I sold the Cessna for the same \$5,000.00 that I paid for it.

My father continued his lessons in Birmingham and after he got his private pilot's license

he bought the first company Cessna 172 and named it the Aerial News Hound and had WNUE and WAAY painted on either side of the tail.

The old airport layout was a fairly long 5,200 foot main runway 18/36 on which air-





planes landed either North or South, depending on the wind. If you landed on 18, heading South, you came in at about 200 feet over Montgomery Wards department store.

Airlines usually landed in that direction because it had an ILS (Instrument Landing System) approach and the middle marker radio beacon was located on the roof of Montgomery Wards. That was a thrill for a pilot to come in for a landing in the clouds and break out just

as they passed over Wards at 200 feet altitude. You didn't want to get too low for sure.

The other landing on 36 didn't have an instrument approach and you also faced a granite wall from the rock quarry that would stop you suddenly if you came in too low there.

City fathers wisely decided for the sake of future airline expansion, to move to our current Carl T. Jones Jetport in the county. In 1967 when the airport moved, airlines were beginning to use jets in Huntsville, and anything less than a mile long, was a really tight landing. But for the Southern Airways Martin 404 aircraft, the old airport was just fine.

My multi-engine instructor was Bob Wise, and more about Bob from Judy a bit later.

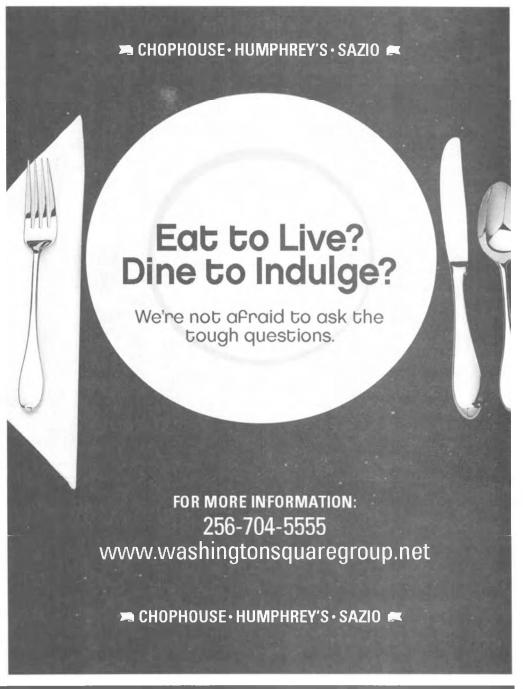
By May of 1967 I had gotten my multi-engine and instrument ratings, and we all were flying from the new Jetport where most of my instrument work was done in a Piper Cherokee 140 with instructor Grady Thrasher.

I got checked out in a twin engine Piper Aztec and

some time later took my father, my wife and my mother on a great flying trip to Nassau in 1967. It was an absolutely fabulous trip in the rented Aztec from Huntsville Aviation. We did have a bit of a weather problem coming home and after dodging thunderstorms much of the day, we landed at Tallahassee on the edge of one storm that was ending and just before another came across the field.

Judy and my mother were the most disturbed by that instrument landing I did, and frankly they stressed me out a whole lot more than the weather did. As I was making my approach, she and my mother were in the back seat and Judy was screaming out, "Oh, we are gonna be killed, we're gonna be killed."

At the same time she was holding a brown raincoat over her head, for whatever good that was going to do. I had to holler back for them to shut up or that might come true as I had my hands full with the IFR approach. I made a perfect landing and taxied to the



ramp just before the second thunderstorm hit the field. I remember hitting the motel bed in Tallahassee that evening at 7:00 p.m. and went to sleep spread eagle on the bed and didn't wake up for dinner.

Well, that bit of a stressful trip convinced Judy that she needed to be qualified to fly and land an airplane should I ever get incapacitated when just the two of us were on a trip so she decided to take flying lessons.

Here the story really gets interesting.

Learning To Fly

by Judy Smith

I guess I started flying lessons backwards. After the trip to Nassau, I knew that if I ever went up in another small plane, by golly, I wanted to know how to land it. So I started flying lessons from instructor Bob Wise. I felt free as a bird while flying and in no time had soloed. I got my solo flying plaque with the date on it, August 7, 1967.

I remember I would call the tower after I had descended to 1500 feet (800 feet above the ground) for clearance to land. If the person in the tower said that a Southern Airways flight was ahead of me, I'd ask him to

please divert the other plane to go around and let me land first. The tower always complied with my wishes. I guess I had a convincing voice.

I continued to fly, but I guess I can upset most anyone at times and my instructor, Bob, would holler out things like "pull up" or "slow down" or whatever he felt I needed to do. It made me very nervous and took a lot of the fun out of flying. I also remember when we'd be turning base or final for the

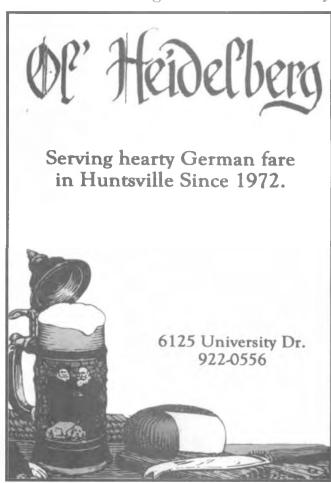
runway, I'd use landmarks, like the big church on Airport road as my point where I'd turn to final. Bob wanted me to use the instruments and references to the runway, knowing that at other airports, would not have such convenient landmarks.

Sometimes when landing, Bob would jerk the control horn and over ride my steering to pull the nose up or down. I'd have done just fine, but he was not so sure and didn't want to

take chances. This didn't do a whole lot for my confidence.

M.D. was taking instrument lessons from Grady Thrasher, a kindly old southern gentleman with a very mild manner. I started taking lessons from him, and loved flying a whole lot better. By then, we were all flying at the new airport.

When M.D. wouldn't baby sit for a lesson, I'd drop the kids off fifteen minutes before Sunday School and they could stay through church in the nursery.



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That was just long enough for me to head to the airport for a quiet, peaceful, serene flight.

Several months later, I tried to contact Bob for old time's sake since I had not seen him at the airport for a long time. I was told that after he had finished giving me flying lessons, he decided to quit being a flight instructor and became a psychiatrist.

I never was sure exactly why he quit instructing, but I believe I had something to do with it.

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Huntsville, 1919: It has become necessary for us to discontinue the practice of permitting our telephone operators to answer requests for the time of day, the location of fires and other information not a necessary part of telephone service. On and after March 16, 1919, our operators will not give you the time of day.

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升



A Soldier's **Diary**

The following are excerpts from the diary of Jenkin Jones, a private in the 6th Wisconsin Artillery Battery.

Jan. 9 - Huntsville - Natives say it is the coldest day known for years. Animals and wagons covered with ice. Came into camp a mile north of town on Russel Hill.

Jan 10 - Not withstanding that all were tired from the march of the last three days. camp reverberated with the sound of ax, saw and lumber, erecting quarters for the third time this winter.

Jan. 12 - Pleasant in the middle of the day but freezing at night. Busy most of the time completing our shebang (hut). It is 6 ft. by 8 ft. Very small but quite cozy for two soldiers.

Jan. 17 - Walked over town. Visited the waterworks of the city, which is the largest of the kind in the South with the exception of the one at Columbia. S.C. Returned to camp for supper and evening roll call,

Jan. 20 - Health good. Plenty to eat and nothing to do. Foragers brought in several hogs. Gave us a piece of ribs which we roasted before the fire. A fine dinner.

Jan. 24 - Clothing inspec-

tion by Captain Dillon. He was very particular, found much fault with the service worn clothes in which we have marched through rain and mud, sleeping on the wet ground, etc. He seemed to have little sympathy with his privates, but is determined they shall look well.

Jan. 25 - A delightful night to stand guard. Mail came in while I was on. I received one from brother T.L. which I read by the pale light of the moon while walking my silent beat, contrary to military rules.

Jan, 28 - Notified I was to go on foraging detail. Fell in with long (wagon) train under quartermaster of 18th Wisconsin. Went on turnpike and traveled about eight miles on winding road but beautiful country. Obtained plenty of corn on a large plantation which all the whites had left, leaving a large flock of Negro women and children unprovided for. They seemed de-

lighted to see us until some of the boys took unallowed privileges with the chicken coop.

Feb. 3 -Instead of the usual drill this morning, was general policing, ground to



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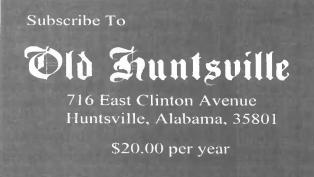
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be swept, about five acres. Guard house and kitchen to be white-washed. A well started. I climbed Russel Hill for evergreen boughs for brooms in company with a couple of others and managed it so as not to return until nearly recall. That is the soldier's strategy - Do no more than you can.

Feb. 7 - Attended church (Episcopal). Gothic style, poorly arranged for sound. The civilians were apparently of the aristocratic class, mostly women equaling the military in numbers ... careful always to omit the prayer for the president of the U.S.A.

Feb. 9 - Called on before finishing my breakfast to go foraging. Two wagons from the battery fell in with a train of 150 wagons. Drove fast nine miles south - where there were 100 Negroes at work for the government, husking corn, protected by infantry. Soon loaded and started back at head of train. Arrive in camp not very tired but exceedingly hungry having had nothing since morning.

Feb. 20 - As soon as breakfast was over I hitched up a new team and drove out to a confiscated fence a mile off, for a load of lumber as the Hungerford brothers were desirous of coming in with us, and we must build a bigger hut.

Feb. 22 - On foraging detail.

Traveled in south westerly direction for 15 miles. Walked most of the way. Evie was on horseback and procured four chickens and a hog in exchange for coffee. Also got a mutton.

Feb. 25 - Reported at sick call and was excused from duty. Four desperate big powders of quinine, opium, etc. to be taken. Returned to quarters, burned the powders and went to bed. Could eat nothing all day.

March 1 - A dreary rainy day. Huddled indoors all day. Whiled away the heavy moments as best we could, dominoes, etc.

March 4 - Evans and myself went to the city on pass. Visited the Christian Commission rooms. Bought stamps. Also went to the colored school under charge of Chaplain of 17th Colored.

March 8 - Henry Robson taken to smallpox camp having been sick in camp for nearly a week. On duty hauling wood for the cooks both morning and afternoon.

March 14 - Was on detail of 20 men to go foraging with two days rations in haversacks. Fell in at 9:00 A. M. to go with brigade teams thirty in number. A ride of 30 miles brought us to the corn field at 3 PM., two men to a wagon. Jerked it from the rows and in about an hour started back. Drove hard until sun

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Chase Milton, age 8

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Old Huntsville Page 30 down.

March 15 - Went into a citizen's house to procure my breakfast. Had warm biscuit, buttermilk, etc., for 50 cents. Walked nearly all the way to camp where we arrived at 11:00 A.M.

March 18 - Formed funeral procession and marched to the funeral of M. Murphy. Chaplain officiated at the grave.

March 22 - All were surprised this morning upon looking out to find the ground covered with snow.

Soldiers had rigged up a sled with young mules hitched to it, and a sonorous cow bell for music. They were looked upon by the native fair as crazy.

March 25 - Two horses died today, which is the same every day.

March 26 - The train from Nashville today came by way of Decatur. Generals Sherman and McPherson were on board and are now in town where the headquarters are to be established.

March 30 - Turned my sick horse out to die this morning. Obtained a pass to go to the city. Called at shoemaker's shop, fixed my boots.

April 26 - Reached Whitesburg by noon. After supper Evie and I went fishing in the Tennessee River, dropped our lines and watched the rebels on the opposite side on picket. Breastworks are to be seen but apparently vacant.

May 9 - Sent to work on the fort (on Echols Hill). The hill being so rocky, very tedious work. Forrest said to be moving on this place, hence the haste to complete the works. All the

"When I want your opinion, I'll give it to you."

Movie mogul Samuel Goldwyn, to a young writer Negroes in town pressed in and put to work.

May 24 - The boys as of old are doing steep jay-hawking, breaking into gardens, cheating sutlers, etc. Guards stationed on every corner.

May 29 - In the evening a bevy of staff officers visited camp, but were so beastly drunk as to be unable to carry themselves with propriety, racing their horses after Negroes, etc.

June 22 - Reveille sounded at 2:30 A.M. and quietly we broke camp and marched at 5 A.M. Marched through town in fine style and soon beautiful and dreamy Huntsville was placed among the past. Bathed in the clear waters of Flint in the evening.



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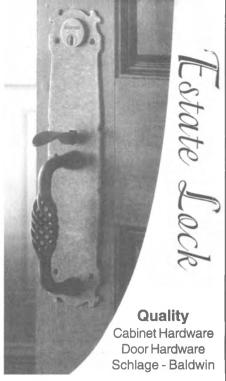
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Inside the Mind of the Southwest Molester

by Heather Douglas

Atmore Prison is a cold, foreboding place, surrounded by high walls and razor sharp wire. Guards, stationed on towers and armed with high powered rifles, stand watch.

As I walked through the gate for my interview with John Dejnozka I thought back to a time over twenty years ago when he terrorized Huntsville and became infamous as the Southwest Molester.

Nursing a recently broken collarbone and a few broken ribs, the 55 year old prisoner, dressed all in prison white, took the seat beside me in the visiting room called, "the yard". Careful not to stare, it was only when he began speaking that I examined the face of the small-framed man.

He has earned the lines around his face and the dark circles under his eyes. Life for him the past twenty years has not been easy, nor should it have been.

"I'm not the same person", he began, "and again, there's nothing that I could possibly say that would make anybody feel any differently about it. The fact is, I have had to change my life for my own sanity, not about going free, because I don't expect to ever be released "

He will never be able to serve the 810 years he has left on his sentence. He honestly believes he will never be paroled, but says he tries to make the best of what life has to offer within the prison walls. His mornings begin with breakfast about 5:00 a.m. After breakfast, he and his cellmates go back to their cells to clean up. Since he was injured in a prison riot, he has not been able to work a state job inside the prison. Instead, he spends his mornings in the leather shop doing hobby work. He takes a break for lunch and then



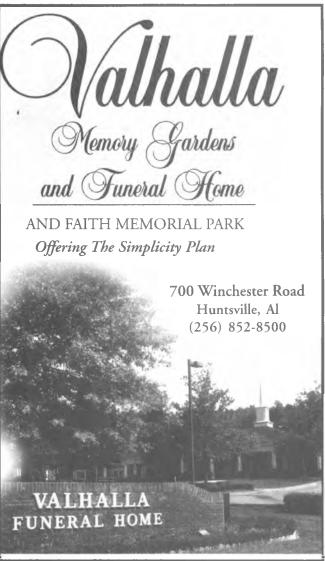




7500 Memorial Parkway South #122 Huntsville, Alabama 35802-2297 Buslness 256/883-6600 Fax 256/883-6650 slevecappaer@knology.net admits he is addicted to daytime soaps in the afternoons. He watches ABC soaps until supper.

After supper, he spends his nights reading whatever he can and writing to the only two people who care to correspond with him. One of those people is his mother and the other he describes as a Christian woman he met through





the mail.

A self-described oddball, Dejnozka explains that he does not have many friends in prison. He says he has always felt most comfortable as a loner. He does admit, however, that his first 5x8 cell in which he spent 23 1/2 hours a day for 9 months was too much isolation, even for him. In order to be released into the general population, he had to become a non-violent person.

Excuses come easy. He says he often thinks about what life would be like for him had something not gone terribly wrong. That something, he says, "is what really set things off." When he was in Illinois in the early 70's he was arrested, charged and convicted of rape.

He now claims, publicly for the first time, that the rape did not happen. He admits to being intimate with the married woman, but he now says it was a mutual affair. He says that the woman's husband saw him leaving and when confronted the wife filed rape charges rather than admitting to her husband that she had an affair.

Dejnozka says he was so frightened and confused that he pled guilty to the charge in order to receive a lighter sentence. He said, "If I had it to do over again, I would have fought tooth and nail regardless of the out-

come. I was never able to get over the rage."

After his release from prison, he said he had trouble getting a job. He claimed his criminal record began standing in the way of promising job opportunities. Nobody wanted to hire a convicted rapist. He had gone from a top computer programmer to a restaurant employee making minimum wage. "It simply seemed like everything I was doing was one step forward and two steps back." His financial situation and the only job offer he received led him to Huntsville.

In Huntsville, Dejnozka became more frustrated about his life because of \$2.50 an hour salary. He blames his crime spree on the rage he felt for his wrongful conviction and imprisonment. He says, "Something had to give and I gave... The situation from Illinois was still unresolved clear down into my soul."

He never explained how his supposed frustration drove him to break into thirteen homes to rape and terrorize helpless victims.

He says he does not remember how or why he chose his victims. He also did not want to discuss the crimes or the people involved. Whenever I

asked him about his victims, he merely said, "I should be dead to those people now."

The cold and evil way he said those words sent a chill down my spine. I felt he was hoping I would confirm his wishful thinking and tell him that no-



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body remembers what he had done.

Dejnozka seemed to become frustrated when I told him that he had left physical and mental scars on many people that time could never erase.

It seems odd that after all of these years he still refuses to accept any responsibility for his crimes. He does not even accept responsibility for getting into a fight that caused his broken ribs.

He always quick with an excuse or a reason for his behavior.

He says the prison altercation was part of a large riot and he was an innocent victim. He also says he was the innocent victim of a legal system that let him down.

Just once, it would have been gratifying to hear him say that he had made some poor judgment calls in his life. That he, alone, had chosen the path that led him here.

He says that he would like to be teaching mathematics at a junior college. He also says that if he were ever released, he

would probably go into Internet sales, though he has never had access to the Internet while in prison.

Dejnozka says he does spend some time thinking about what things would be like for him. "if"....

If, it seems he meant, was if he had not been caught.

The interview was soon over and I quickly gathered my notes to leave. As the guard escorted Dejnozka out he looked over his shoulder at me. Perhaps he realized that it would probably be years before he would have another visitor.

While leaving Atmore I once again noticed the high walls surrounding the prison. This time I felt comforted in knowing they were built to protect us from people like John Dejnozka. He will stay behind those walls until the day he dies.

"The sermon this morning is 'Jesus Walks on Water.' The sermon for tonight is 'Searching for Jesus.'"

Seen on church bulletin

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Huntsville News from 1923

Burglary In Lowe Village

The general merchandise store of Chaney & Reed in the Lowe Mill Village was entered some time during last night by burglars who gained their entrance by removing a large glass out of the front of the building. The sheriff's office was notified at 6 o'clock this morning and up to this writing no clue as to the guilty party or parties has been found. It is reported that only a few articles were missing.

Body of Woman Found on Railroad Tracks

Considerable excitement was caused in West Huntsville early this morning when about eight

o'clock Marvin Drake, 15, while on his way to school, discovered a white woman lying beside the Southern railroad tracks a short distance from West Huntsville, She was lying near a tree and was partly covered with bushes and grass. She appeared to have blood on her arm. Her hat was lying a few feel away and the disheveled condition of her clothes and general appearance convinced the youth that she was dead.

He hurried to nearby homes and informed the people that he had found a dead woman. Another party passing also discovered the woman and came in with the same story, and that they had seen men running from the scene. A party was quickly organized and started for the scene but when they arrived the woman was gone. A search was conducted along the railroad tracks but no sight of her was to be found There is no explanation and this remains a mystery.



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News From 1923

- Miss Virginia McCormick and Miss Grace Walker received a large number of friends at Kildare from 4-6 o'clock. The spacious home presented a spring-like appearance with quantities of varie-colored spring blossoms arranged throughout the home. In the dining apartment Miss Helen Wynn and Mrs. Philips Peeler sat at corresponding ends of the table pouring tea and coffee.

- According to Huntsville construction experts, the cost of upkeep on floors in homes and apartments has more than doubled during the last 10 years as a result of women wearing high heels. The heels are so narrow at the base, the experts say

that they actually dig into the hard wood. This compels closer scraping when the floors are refinished and consequently the wood lasts only half as long.

- Fearing infection in a finger which his cat had bitten, Theodore Jones, of Arab, chopped off the finger with a hatchet. He is expected to live.

- Get a Good Night's Sleep-there's nothing like it to put you in shape for the day's duties or pleasures. There's nothing like Dr. Miles' Nervine to bring refreshing, restful slumber. Buy a bottle. If it does not help you, we'll give your money back. Your druggist sells it at pre-war prices - just \$1 a bottle.

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Yogi Berra

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Roadhouse at Cedar Gap

by Austin Miller

The roadhouse at Cedar Gap was located on Highway 72 East about six miles east of downtown Huntsville. The old building still stands. No one alive today knows exactly when the roadhouse first opened but it was sometime in the early part of the last century. All the years the roadhouse operated, it served alcohol illegally in a dry Madison County. Churches in those days considered drinking a sin and preachers at both Shiloh and Wears Chapel railed against the roadhouse in their sermons. There was validity in their positions because if you were looking for trouble, this was a place to find it. Quarrels and fights were common. Sometimes the disputes resulted in violence. At least two people were killed there in the forties and fifties.

You could find trouble even if you weren't looking for it. Uncle Paul Miller tells about going there in the 1930's as a teenager for lunch. Although his parents, my grandparents, had often warned him to stay away, he went in anyway and ordered a Double Cola and hamburger. As he waited for his order, three men came in and ordered drinks. They offered him a drink, he responded by telling them that he didn't drink. They kept insisting and he kept refusing. When he tried to leave they became belligerent and shoved him into a corner. Two of the men held him while the third tried to pour the liquor down his throat. They were about to succeed when his brother. Louis Miller, and Jim Ben Gossett came in. Uncle Louis and Uncle Paul had five brothers, Jim Ben had four. Using

an old saying, the Gossetts and Millers were "thick as thieves". To Jim Ben, jumping on a Miller boy was the same as jumping on a Gossett and the Miller brothers felt the same. Although Uncle Louis and Jim Ben were little more than boys themselves and the trouble makers were grown men, the fight only lasted about a minute. They threw one of the men out the front door, Jim Ben booted the second one out with his foot and the third ran out the back through a latched screen door. Uncle Paul said he never went in the place again and I expect the same can be said about the three strangers.

On Christmas night of 1948, a murder occurred at the roadhouse that affected almost every family in the close knit Ryland community. My father's second cousin, John

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M. Miller, Jr. was killed, According to people who were there, John M. and his cousin went to the roadhouse and a quarrel ensued with a man named Albert Ledwell. John M., who was fearless and aggressive. took up the fight for his cousin. Albert Ledwell shot John M. several times with a .32 caliber pistol. After the shooting, most everyone ran from the scene leaving John M. lying on the floor. Finally, two men dragged John M. Miller by the feet to the outside leaving him lying on the cold ground. The weather outside the roadhouse was severe and extremely cold. John M. was unattended for a long period of time and as a result, he bled to death.

The funeral was held at Shiloh Church in Ryland. A black man named Dan Jones lived in a shack about half a mile down Ryland Pike from the church. Dan was very old and had no visible source of income. How he lived was a mystery. Going in Dan's yard would rouse his passel of hungry

hound dogs into a barking frenzy. The barking brought Dan to the door with a shotgun. If he recognized you, he would invite you to come closer, if he didn't know you or didn't like you; he threatened to shoot if you didn't leave in a hurry.

John M. and Dan were friends. Every Christmas John M. visited Dan and took him a Christmas present. One of the things he did earlier in the night before he was killed was bring Dan his gift. In those days, black people didn't come into white churches for any reason. But Dan asked the family if they would make an exception and let him come and see John M. The family agreed. When Dan came the church was packed. With all eyes on him, he shakily walked slowly up the aisle and kneeled at the casket. It was said that you could hear a pin drop. When he got up and walked out, tears were in his eyes. There was a huge overflow of mourners outside that couldn't get in the crowded church. Dan walked through the hushed crowd



"Whose idea was it to put an "S" in the word "Lisp"?

Jerry Billings, lisper



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14163 Highway 231/431 North Located in the beautiful city of Hazel Green without stopping or speaking. He didn't stay for the funeral. A black person simply walking inside a white church in 1948 was unprecedented in Ryland, Alabama.

With the growth of Huntsville in the early fifties, the road house began attracting more strangers from outside the community. This prompted the church people to embark on a campaign to get it shut down. A group from Shiloh, including my father, went to the district attorney and asked that it be closed. The basis for closing it was illegal alcohol sales in a dry county. One member of the delegation, Elmer Sharp, testified that before he joined the church he was a regular customer and had purchased alcohol there many times. He also testified that he not only bought alcohol to drink, he had also worked there and sold it. Mr. Sharp's testimony was key and the road house at Cedar Gap was closed forever. But it did not die an easy death.

Not everybody was pleased by the decision. Many in the community wanted it to stay open, and its closure proved to be very divisive. Old friendships were lost and family relationships were affected. Families that had been close were strained for years. Some were never the same again. Today, when I drive by the old twostory dilapidated building with my uncles, they always mention John M's name and relate stories about the roadhouse. It has been closed for more than fifty years but it remains vivid in the memory and conversation of the few people still alive that lived in Ryland when the roadhouse was in its heyday.

"This morning when I put on my underwear, I could hear the Fruit of the Loom guys laughing at me."

Rodney Dangerfield

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Working at Lewter's Hardware

by Johnny Barnett

I went to work at Lewter Hardware in downtown Huntsville in 1957 when I was only sixteen years old. At that time nearly all the major retail establishments in Madison County were located close to the courthouse. Some of the businesses on the square were Penny's, Montgomery Ward, Harrison Brothers and T.T. Terrys, Dunavants, Belk Hudson and Lewter Hardware were located a short distance south on Washington Street. In the sixties, with the exception of Lewters and Harrisons, they all either closed for good or moved to the Parkway. Lewters is still open for business at 222 Washington Street in downtown Huntsville

When I went to work at Lewters, I thought I was smart and knew everything there was to

know. It didn't take me long to learn there was a lot more to the hardware business than I thought. To work at Lewters you had to know about every piece of hardware carried by the store. Also, you had to know how to advise customers correctly about everything from paint to plumbing to electricity. The most important thing you had to remember was that the customer was always right. Mr. J. M. Lewter, founder of the store, took me under his wing and taught me the business. When he passed on, the store didn't miss a beat but it was a great loss to me and I still miss him.

I worked from six A.M. until six P.M., Monday through Saturday. My take home pay was \$28 per week, which was good pay in the fifties, especially for a farm boy from Ryland. In addition to our regular salary, Mr. Lewter gave us a nice bonus at Christmas each year.

Nails were ten cents a pound and a good example of how low prices were in the late fifties. Six hundred dollars in sales at the end of the day was a good day. During the fifties and early sixties, some

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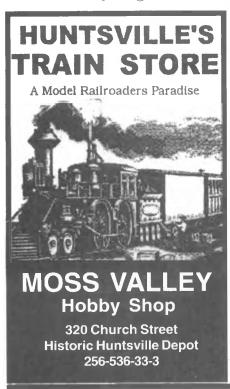
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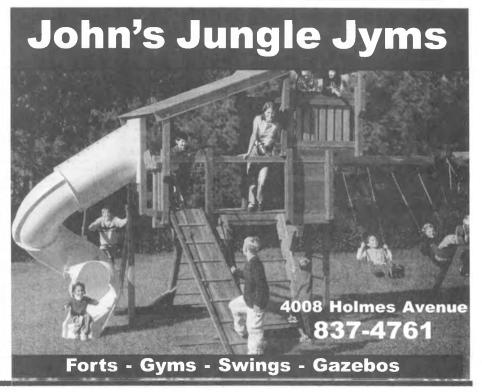
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customers still came in to buy plow lines and collar pads for mules. In the winter, people would gather around a big coal heater and talk.

Many from the county, especially farmers, only came to town on Saturday, usually Saturday afternoon. No matter where else they needed to go, they rarely missed coming to Lewters. It was one of the most popular places in Huntsville. Even today, you would be hard pressed to find an older resident of Madison County that has not bought something from Lewter Hardware.

The store has been in continuous operation since 1929, a period of about 78 years. I worked there for almost half of those 78 years (1957-1995). I enjoyed selling hardware and still miss the old store. I go by every once in a while to feel like I am back home again.

Nothing there ever changes, especially the specialized service to customers. The building, inside and out, looks just like it did fifty years ago and I know of no other place in the City that reflects the atmosphere of Old Huntsville more than Lewter Hardware.

Erom the

From the Year 1921

- Two bandits armed with revolvers held up the paymaster for the Ferry Cap and Set Screw Company here today and escaped with a payroll totaling \$15,000.
- For Rent Grocery store at 324 Washington street lights and telephone. Call John Parks phone 19.
- Notice A. Elam has moved his leather repair shop to Green Street, opposite the jail.

- Lost small black milk Jersey cow with left horn broken off. Finder please call at Fannings Livery Stable near Big Spring and receive reward child is heartbroken at the loss.
- Only one defendant faced Mayor Adams this morning in city court. He was a colored drayman and was arraigned for violating the traffic laws by turning his wagon in the middle of the street.
- Taken up two black sows, three pigs, one black cow. Two spotted heifers. Owner may be gain possession by paying for ad and feed. Chase Nursery Company
- Residence offered single man with 4 small children needs woman to help with cleaning, feeding, wood-chopping, cooking and sewing. Can't offer much except room and board. Contact the office at the News.



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Excerpts from the Diary of R.S. Dilworth

2nd Lieut. of Co. G, 21st Regt O.V.U.S.

April 24, 1862

I visited Huntsville today. Visited the big spring as it is called. The spring is 40 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep in the center. It runs through under the town and appears at the western side of the town flowing out of solid rock.

The town of Huntsville is regularly laid out, with the courthouse occupying the most conspicuous place in town. The courthouse is a very handsome one and is surrounded with a most splendid yard enclosed by an iron fence with 4 iron gates opposite the 4 outside doors.

On the north and south is a splend stone pavement leading to the portico, which is entered by a flight of stone steps extending 2/3 the way or breadth of the house. The floors are all stone. In the 2nd story and the northwest corner of the building is the sheriff's office.

Fronting the court house may be seen, stores, groceries, jewelries, slop shops, etc. Just east of the courthouse is the Episcopal Church. A most splendid structure indeed; with a steeple running up to the highest of one hundred & 60 feet & one square east & one south may be seen the gigantic structure.

The Presbyterian Church with its steeple running up and pointing towards the heavens at a distance of 190 feet from the basement, both houses are very large and show forth how very wealthy the denominations who built them.

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

"To be 80 years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be 40 years old."

Oliver Wendel Holmes, Jr.



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News From The Year 1914

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Fishing Trip on Tennessee River ends Tragically

Vassar Vest, residence 121 Washington Street, was drowned in the Tennessee River this morning about ten o'clock. At a point several hundred yards below the bridge, a boat occupied by Vest and a young man named Jim Breedlove turned over according to Breedlove's story, throwing the two out.

Breedlove has been arrested and placed in the county jail.

Breedlove, when seen in the county jail this afternoon, told the following story to a reporter: "Vest and I were crossing the river to fish and had reached the other side when the boat turned over, but I do not know what caused it. I grabbed the side and saved myself. I got the boat turned right side up when I had gotten about 50 yards from this side, after having looked for the body of Vest. I came on to land and got the fam-

ily of Vest and went back across the river. I was sitting on the bank over there when Deputy Sheriff McCullouch arrested me."

Breedlove does not appear to have a criminal face, but there appears to be several details of the drowning which he doesn't seem to be quite familiar with. He stated that he didn't know what caused the boat to turn over, dumping the men in the water, though he said that Vest had been teasing him about not being able to swim and had been rocking the boat in an effort to frighten him.

People who know both men say there had been trouble between them and were surprised when Vest agreed to go fishing with Breedlove. There are rumors about both being romantically involved with the same young lady.



Huntsville to Get Skyscraper

Ground breaking was held today for the Twickenham Hotel, a project expected to cost \$100,000. The hotel is being built on the site of the old market house which was purchased by the city for a reported \$15,000.

Upon its completion, Huntsville will be able to boast that it now has the tallest skyscraper in the Tennessee Valley.

Deer To Go

County officials today announced that they would no longer permit deer in the courthouse yard. The announcement was met with hoots of derision by people who have grown attached to the pet deer.

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Ford Pays \$5 a Day

Henry Ford astounded the business world today by announcing that he will give his employees a minimum wage of \$5 a day and will share with them \$10 million in last year's profits.

The automobile magnate also disclosed that the Ford Motor Company will begin operating around the clock, with three shifts of eight hours each instead of the present two nine-hour shifts. This will provide employment for several thousand more workers.

Still another part of the new plan provides that no person be fired except for proven unfaithfulness or inefficiency. Anyone doing poor work in one department will be given the chance to make good in another part of the plant.

About ten percent of the workers, most of them women and boys, will not receive any profit-sharing. However, all employees will receive a wage of at least \$5 a day, even the boys who sweep the floors.

The dramatic moves will af-

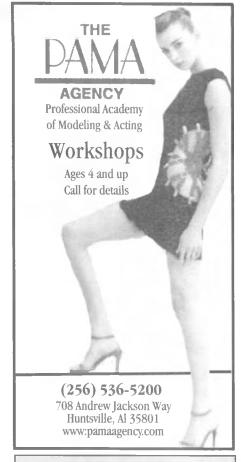
fect about 26,000 employes, of whom about 15,000 are now at work in the Detroit factories, while others are in Ford branches throughout the world. The company's financial statement for 1914 showed assets of more than \$35 million and a surplus of more than \$28 million.

In announcing the new plan today, a Ford Motor Company representative said: "It is our belief that social justice begins at home. We want those who have helped us to produce this great institution and are helping to maintain it to share our prosperity."

Speed Limit Raised!

The Huntsville city officials moved the city into a new era last night when they approved raising the automobile speed limits from 10 miles an hour to 15.

Despite protests from people who claimed the increase will result in mayhem on Huntsville's streets, the measure was approved unanimously. The Mayor urged pedestrians to take extra caution in crossing streets.



"You know you're getting older when the only names in your little black book are those ending in M.D."

Sam Keith





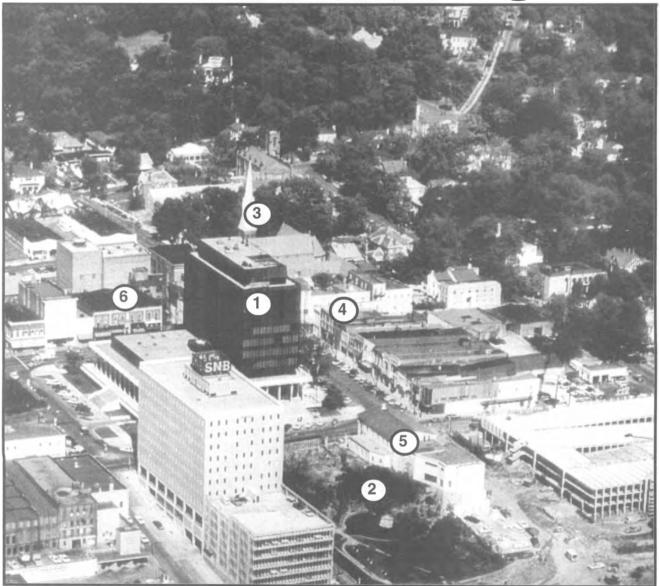


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- 3 Church of the Nativity
- 4 Harrison Brothers Hardware
- 5 Old Bank Building
- 6 East Side Square



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The Burying

by Ruby Pickens Tartt

During the early 1930s the government hired writers, under the auspices of the Federal Writers Program, to collect oral histories of what they realized was a fast-disappearing way of life. One of the subjects interviewed was "Aunt" Amy Chapman who was born a slave on a plantation belonging to Reuben Chapman, a native of Huntsville and the Governor of Alabama from 1847 to 1849.

n a Tuesday morning of last week, Aunt Amy Chapman, one of our oldest citizens, passed away. Although she had reached the age of ninety-five, Aunt Amy still possessed an extraordinary vigor of both body and mind far beyond her years.

Only a few days before her death she had met me and asked me to drive her home. "I'm tired and my feet hurt," she had said. "I want you to take me home." "Why Aunt Amy," I asked. "What

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"I bin picking cotton," she replied and as I did not think she was farming this year I expressed surprise. "Oh," she answered, "Tain't my cotton, hit's other folks' cotton. Didn't have nothing else to do, so I thought I might ez well help in de fiel's."

And it was in the cotton field that she suffered the stroke which proved fatal. She never rallied, and four days later "at first light" she passed away peacefully, as if in sleep. Perhaps it was fortunate that death came so swiftly, as a lingering illness with its consequent helplessness and dependence on others would have been unendurable to Aunt Amy.

Nothing could have been more abhorrent to her staunchly individualistic old soul than the thought of being constantly under obligations to anyone. She never asked a favor of me, to drive her over on Saturday when she went to buy her weekly provisions, or to take her home when she was tired, that she did not immediately force upon me some sort of payment in kind, a bucket of figs, eggs, or vegetables from her garden. When I heard that she was ill and went

to her house to see if I could do anything for her, her son Hewey showed me a box of sweet potatoes washed clean of dirt which she had dug for me. And I remembered the last time I had seen her; when I had taken her



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home in my car, she had insisted against all my protests that she would bring me some potatoes soon in exchange for my kindness to her. Even in her illness she had thought to tell Hewey to be sure to give them to me.

She was born a slave on Governor Chapman's place. She learned to be a seamstress - did sewing and weaving for her "Ole Miss." According to her own account, Governor Chapman was good to her, but he owned around three hundred slaves and had several plantations: and he spent most of his time with his family at Huntsville. One overseer he had dismissed upon learning that he treated the slaves with cruelty.

But it was a white overseer, a Mr. Hewey Leman, who was the father of Aunt Amy's children. "I didn't want dat man, but he wuz de overseer an

he beat me till I had ter have him - wasn't nuthin' else ter do," she told me once.

Mr. Leman (the overseer) was married and a curious relationship seems to have developed between his wife and Aunt Amy after Mrs. Leman became used to the situation. The couple took two of the children into their own home to live with them, Mr. Leman averring that since the scandal was out anyhow, he might as well own them! Before his death, he provided liberally for them, giving each a house and a piece of land. And when Mrs. Leman became seriously ill, it was Aunt Amy who nursed her till her death. One wonders about the Lemans what curious compulsions, what

distorted forces of the human psyche motivated Hewey Leman? What fates compelled Mrs. Leman to accept a situation so hopelessly impossible?.

She was too jealous of her independence to go and live with one of her married sons, and I was often anxious about her, wondering how she would manage if taken suddenly ill. But when illness came, her neighbors forgot her former aloofness of attitude and were kind. Several of them stayed with her to

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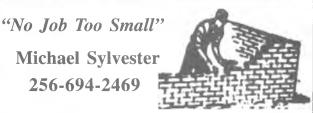
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the end, taking turns sitting up with her at night and seeing to it that she was kept as comfortable as her condition would permit. And on a Wednesday afternoon on a lowering, threatening day, fifty or sixty of them accompanied her to her last resting place in the old Chapman burying ground, a most out-of-the-way and almost inaccessible place.

According to her wish, Aunt Amy was buried on the plantation where she was born. There, on top of a limestone hill commanding a splendid view in all directions of once proud acres, her sister was buried, and they dug her grave beside Aunt Mary's. A few stops down the hillside were other graves unmarked, members of her family who had gone before.

The burying was set for two o'clock. (According to custom the actual interment is referred to as the "burying." The funeral is preached later on a Sunday to be appointed by the family, sometimes after a year or more has elapsed.) In this case, Hewey told us that he had set the funeral for sometime soon and that it would be held at the Baptist Church, of which Aunt Amy had been a member for over eighty years.

But as I had taken the wrong turn and lost my way twice, I was late in arriving. Probably I would never have found the burying ground had not Hewey sighted me from the hill and sent a man to guide me. Even then, I had to abandon the car and cover the last part of the way on foot.

Several wagons and a Ford or two were drawn up on the hill at a respectful distance, screened by the cedars. The closer relatives were seated together on an automobile cushion placed on the ground to one side. Hewey came up to speak to me, then returned to take charge of the digging of the grave.

This was the responsibility of the friends of the family and fellow church members and they gave their time and labor to the sad duty. As only a few inches of topsoil covered the solid limestone, it was an arduous process. A strong Negro man hewed at the rock with his pick, working his way the length of the grave, then back again. Then, as he jumped out panting with exertion and covered with sweat, two young Negroes took his place with shovels, throwing the chips out in two mounds, one on each side of the grave. Some of the men worked with cigarettes drooping from their lips, but there was no disrespect in this, for they meant no disrespect.

The men alternated, when one became tired

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he handed his shovel to another who was rested and the digging went steadily on. A smaller boy disappeared down the hillside in the direction of the spring, and after a time came back with a bucket of water and a dipper, which were passed gratefully from hand to hand.

I had time to look about me and recognize the beauty of the scene. On all sides the land sloped away from the hill, disclosing pleasant valleys and peaceful hay fields touched with the first colors of autumn. A damp breeze, unexpectedly cool, stirred my hair, and with its coming it was as though one could lay one's finger on a single moment out of time and say suddenly, "Fall has come, and it is no longer Summer."

I heard one of the men standing near the grave announce in a low voice that they had come to the "last tier," and moved over to speak to Hewey's wife who was leaning on her crutches, her broken ankle propped comfortably before her. She told me that two weeks before Aunt Amy had made the long trip to town to see them, "She said the spirits tole her to come see us, en I wuz afraid then that sumpin was gonna happen," she said.

Now the grave was finished, dug to the appointed depth of four feet and its bottom leveled to hold the casket steady. In lieu of a trestle, a sapling was cut from the nearby thicket and laid across the grave lengthwise. Steadied on this, first the outer pine covering, then the coffin of light purple were lowered in, and silently the men threw in shovelfuls of dirt until it was covered and the grave a quarter filled.

Then began the simple burial service, in most respects equivalent to that read in white churches today. At its conclusion, the preacher lifted his voice in prayer

which soon became a highpitched and melodious chant, the congregation joining in with "Amen!" It was a very brief but sincere and dignified service, and one which I am sure Aunt Amy would have wanted. The lavender casket, too, would have pleased her, as would the robe to match, which Hewey had selected.

Soon the men were again at work with their shovels filling in the grave. When finished, each worker rested his spade against the mound's side, iron point in the soft earth and handles pointing toward the sky. The effect was strangely impressive, but when I asked about it later I was told only, "It is customary." The ritual apparently had been followed for many years that its significance had been lost with usage. To me it seemed symbolic, perhaps, of the toiler who has laid

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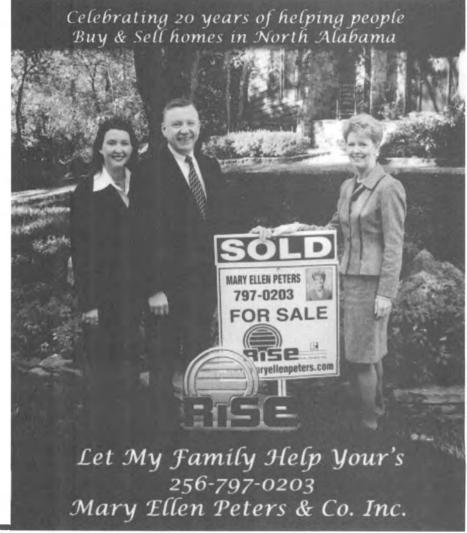
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away his tools at last and come to rest.

The preacher asked if there were flowers to be placed on the grave, and I was pressed to come forward first with my bowl of Zinnias which I placed at the head of the grave, levelling a place first with my hand so that the vase would stand upright without tilting. Then the others stepped forward one at a time with their drooping clusters of flowers mixed with short sprays of cedar.

And whether following my lead, or in accordance with a custom of their own I do not know, these they did not lay on the rounded sides of the mound as one would have expected. Instead they made small hollows in the earth in which they placed their bouquets, so that they stood upright also.

We stood a moment with heads bowed while the preacher pronounced the benediction, then made our way back down the hill and across the peaceful hay fields of Aunt Amy's "homeplace." She had been returned to the soil from which she had sprung and was one with the land which she had loved so intensely.

A Big Family

from 1901 newspaper

We recently learned of a most remarkable man in Jackson County named Thomas Freeman, a colored man of advanced age.

Mr. Freeman was married the first time when he was eighteen years old and the union produced fourteen children.

When that wife died he married again and the new wife bore him another fourteen children before she too died. The following year he remarried and so far that marriage has produced eleven children. With a total of thirty nine children so far Mr. Freeman says there is no reason to stop now.

"He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River."

Seen on high school essay submitting best analogies

A Bad Marriage

Kate Rodgers was arrested yesterday for the death of her husband who was well know for the abusive manner in which he treated his family. Sources tell us Ed Rodgers, while in an intoxicated state, beat his wife with an axe handle when his dinner was not prepared to his taste. After he passed out she gathered her children, set the house on fire and left. Bond has not been set.

from 1878 newspaper

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Trapping in Madison County

E.N. Woodcock, a native of Pennsylvania, was one of the last professional trappers. During his career he roamed the country, coast to coast, hunting wild game. The following account, written in 1912, of his experiences in Alabama, are remarkable in the sense it gives an outsider's view of North Alabama around the turn of the century.

ell, comrades of the trap line, as I am getting well up to the seventy notch, and as the chills of zero

weather chases one after the other up and down my spinal column, like a dog after a rabbit in a briar patch, and as I am unable to shake off that desire for the trap line, I concluded to go south again to trap.

On the last days of October, 1911, I arrived in Alabama where I met Mr. Ford, whom I found to be a gentleman in all respects, and a member of the M.E. Church.

My first day's outing after reaching Mr. Ford's place was on the Tennessee River, raising fish nets, and putting out a few mink traps to ascertain what the complexion of the inner side of a mink's coat was. I got a mink the first night, which I found to be of fairly light color, but not quite light enough to my liking. The setting of more traps was delayed for a few days and we spent the time in tending the fish nets.

I have whipped the streams

and drowned earthworms for brook trout and other fish, from my childhood days to the present time. I had never done any fishing in large rivers with nets, so you can imagine my feelings when one net after

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another was raised which contained many fish of different kinds, such as yellow cat, channel cat, buffalo, pickerel, pike, carp, suckers, black bass (called trout in the South) and many other kinds. These fish ran in weight all the way from one-fourth pound up to twenty pounds each, and occasionally a buffalo or yellow catfish much larger. Mr. Ford informed me that often on trot lines they got sturgeon, weighing more than one hundred pounds.

We intended to put out a trot line and catch a sturgeon that I might get some oil. It is said that the oil from a sturgeon is a sure cure for rheumatism in the joints, but it rained so much, keeping us busy adjusting our traps, that we did not get any time to get the bait and put out the trot line. So I did not get to see one of those large fellows.

I will not give my views of

the country and conditions in northern Alabama - it would not look well; it is sufficient to say that the greater part of the land is owned in large tracts by a few men and leased out at from \$3.00 to \$1.00 per acre. Corn and cotton are the main crops. Any land lying above the overflowing sections requires heavy

fertilizing in order to make a crop. These lands are mostly leased to colored people - in fact, I was told that the landlords did not care to lease to white men.

The poor white man in northern Alabama is worse off than the colored man, for he is looked upon as neither white nor black. In this section the popu-

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lation is largely of the colored class. All of the landlords have a store, so as to furnish their tenants with goods of an inferior quality at exorbitant prices.

There is no good water to be found in that part of Alabama. The water that the people use is something fearful - of course the wealthy class have cisterns. The soil is mostly red clay, and terrible to get about in when the least damp.

As to game in north Alabama, there is but little large game to be found. In the extreme northern part of Madison county, well up to the Tennessee line, there are a few deer and wild hogs; it was said that there were some bear, also plenty of wild turkeys. There were plenty of ducks, and a good many quail.

There is still some lumbering being done, mostly in oak of different kinds, though a good part is white oak. The logs are cut and hauled to the Tennessee River and taken by steamboat to Decatur in Limestone county, and worked up into lumber and manufactured articles.

Each family keeps from one to three dogs, which are out searching for food all the time. These people never think of feeding their dogs. Nearly every night these colored people are out hunting in droves of five or six, and with six or eight dogs, they think it no more of a crime to steal a trap, and anything found in the trap, than they would consider it a crime to eat a baked possum. A trapper must keep a good lookout when setting his traps to see that there is no one anywhere in sight. If there is, you may expect that that particular trap will be missing the next time you come that way.

In setting a trap, the first thing to do is to select a place where the trap is to be set, then go into the bush and get the trap, stake and everything that you will





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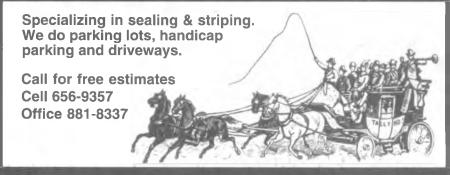


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use in making the set. Then you will again look carefully to see that no one is around, and will proceed to make the set, provided that yourself is the only human being in sight, stopping your work often to look about you. Do not think that this caution is not necessary, for it sure is. The writer had nine traps taken at one time within an hour after he had been over the line.

We went into our first camp, I think, on the 5th of November, at a place called Blackwell's Pond or Blackwell's bottom (Blake bottom?), I am not sure which. The first day after we got to camp, Mr. Ford went out and put out a few traps, while I stayed in camp and fixed up things.

The next morning we went out to look over the ground a little, while Mr. Ford went to the opposite side of the pond to set a few more traps, and see parties who owned land along the pond, for we found that the land had been posted "No Trespassing." When Mr. Ford came in that evening I think he brought in five rats. We set nine traps that day and went south along the pond to look over the grounds.

The next morning we had one mink and one coon in the nine traps. I think Mr. Ford brought in four rats and had one coon foot. That evening Mr. Ford went home to raise his nets, and when he came back he brought in two mink: I got two coon. Mr. Ford went home again and made arrangements for a team to come in and move us out to "pastures new." He also brought another mink, and I believe that we got two or three coons that night. I think we got nine rats, four mink and eight coons in the three nights with about twenty traps.

The next day after we went into Camp No. 2, I set a few traps near camp. Mr. Ford went down the creek toward his place and set

a few traps, and went home to look after his fish nets, returning to camp that evening.

While there was considerable fur to be found in the vicinity of Camp No. 2, it was a hard place to camp, owing to the scarcity of camp wood and the inconvenience of getting water, so we moved on to Beaver Dam creek in Limestone county, where we were in hopes of finding a few beaver and quite a plenty of mink and coon. But we were sadly disap-

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pointed; we found but little to trap, but found trap-lifters in abundance, so made haste to get out of that country while we had our boats left. Our catch was only two mink, twelve rats, five coon and one or two possum.

We moved from this place back into Madison county and pitched our camp at a point known as the Sinks, where we did a better business. But the rainy season soon set in, so we were compelled to break camp and get out, leaving a good part of our traps where we had set them, now under several feet of water. We shall never see them again.

Well boys, you will excuse me from bragging about just how many coon we got. I can only state that during the five weeks that Mr. Ford and the writer were in camp in Madison county, we got twenty-six mink, and I don't remember the number of coons, opossums and (musk) rats caught.

"Dog for sale - eats anything and is especially fond of children."

Classified ad seen in Decatur paper

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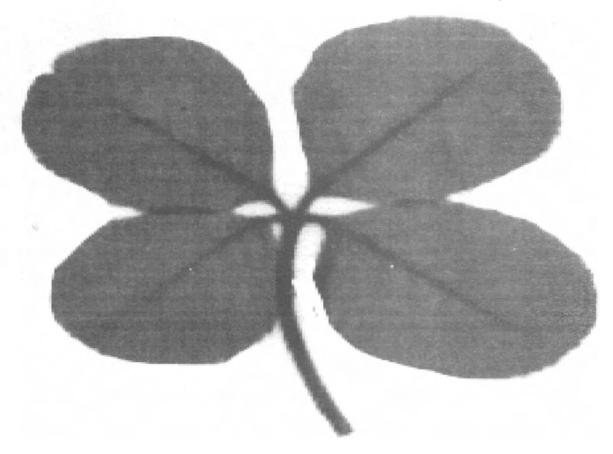
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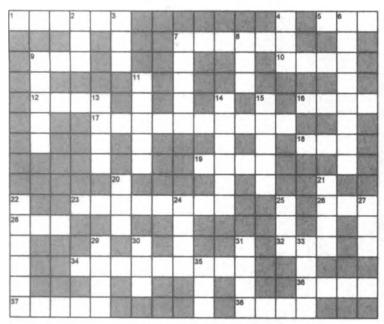
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Old Huntsville Crossword

created by Bob Spencer



Answers on page 56

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Across

1.	Huntsville's first State Store opened,1937
5.	Huntsville's Automobile Speed Limit in 1909 was 12
7.	Moon, City Council member, district 3, 2006
9.	Grand opening ofWhite Hamburgers, 1954
10.	Hughes (Huntsvillian) Swam the length of the Danube River, 2006
12.	Panoply Of The, opened 1982
16.	Newsweek Magazine named Huntsville as one of the top 10 " Cities" in the U.S.,2001
17.	Huntsville's Land Trust's underground attraction
18.	Several wells drilled in west Huntsville for Natural
19.	John Company started production of farm equipment, 1946
23.	Huntsville, auto race track in S. Huntsville
26.	Initials of ladies' organization which formed chapter in Huntsville in 1895
28.	First COURTS of were established in Huntsville in 1810
32.	Pizitz, First to buy ticket on Eastern Airlines Flight to Chicago, 1946
34.	The Theater opened at the USSRC, 1982
36.	Alabama's second Governor
37.	Ragland elected Madison County Tax Collector,1984
38.	Space opened in 1995

Down

۷.	signtings were reported all across muntsvine, 1973
3.	Westside Square was known as Cotton
4.	Bia Sprina Music Celebration
6.	The Theatre opened on Church St., 1946
7.	Hettinger, Huntsville Mayor,1989
8.	Huntsville voted in 1911
9.	Huntsville, Huntsville's baseball team
11.	TheTheatre opened in 1911
13.	Five Points Market opened in 1944
14.	WHNT Weather Man, 1960's
15.	Huntsville has High schools, 2006
20.	Huntsville's " Light" district was shutdown Jan. 1, 1914
21.	Monte Sano Ranch opened to public 1940
22.	The Huntsville played first Basketball game, 2001
24.	John J, Huntsville Mayor, 1859-1860
25.	Gov't Agency bringing sweeping changes to HSV
27.	First Streetin service, 1901
29.	Funeral Home, since 1919
30.	Quest, an interactive museum in Huntsville
31.	Hudson Department Store opened, 1941
33 .	Roper received the Humanitarian Award, 1992
35.	"Speaking News", Alternative newspaper available in Huntsville

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.

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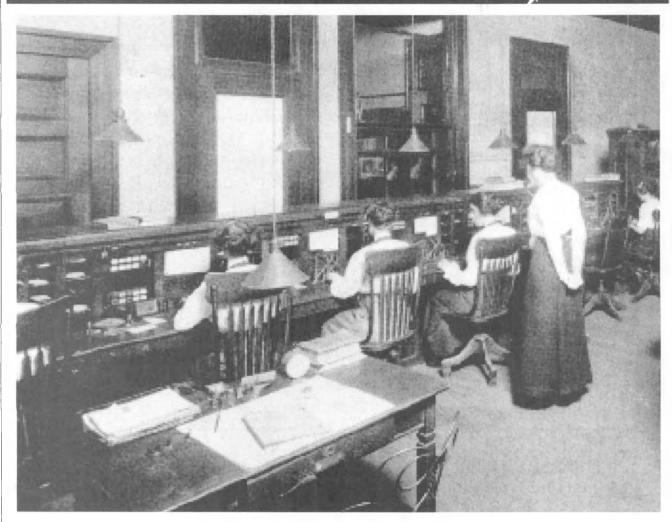
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