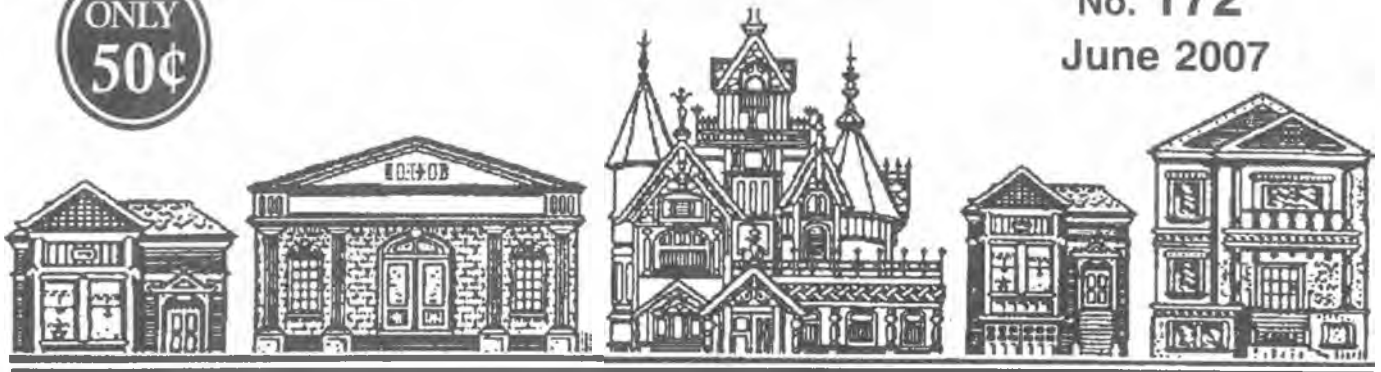


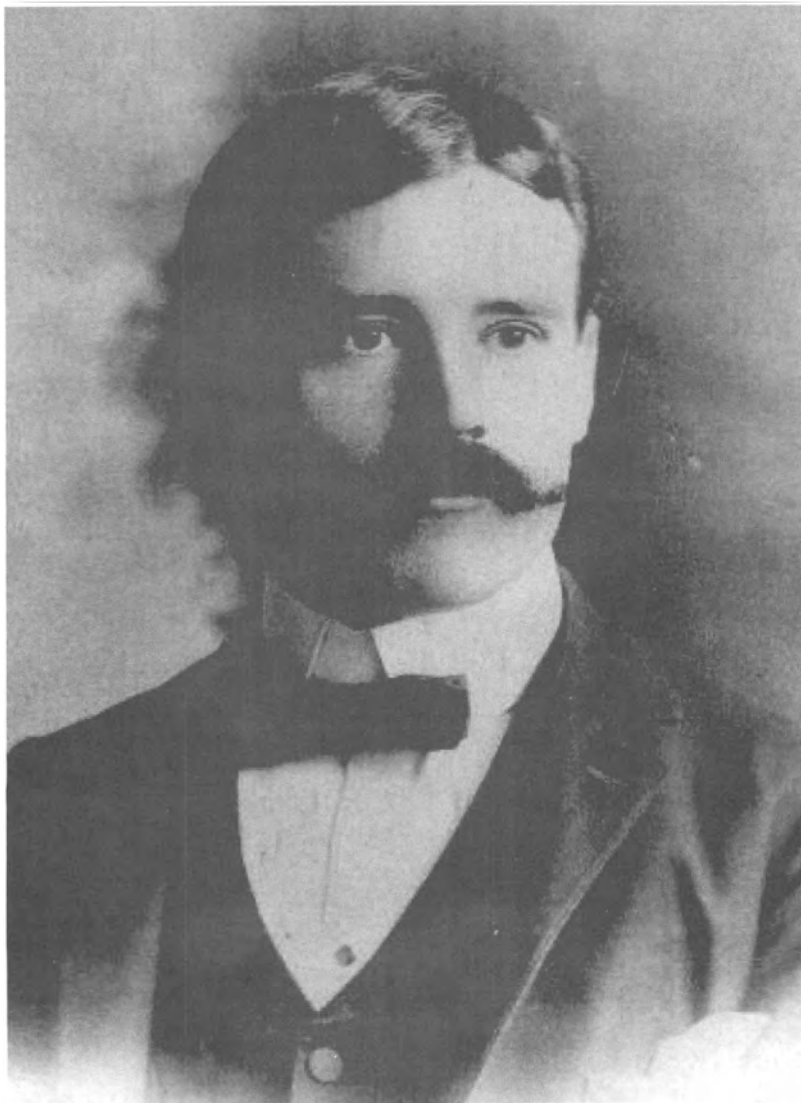
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## The Strange Case of **William Clark McCoy**

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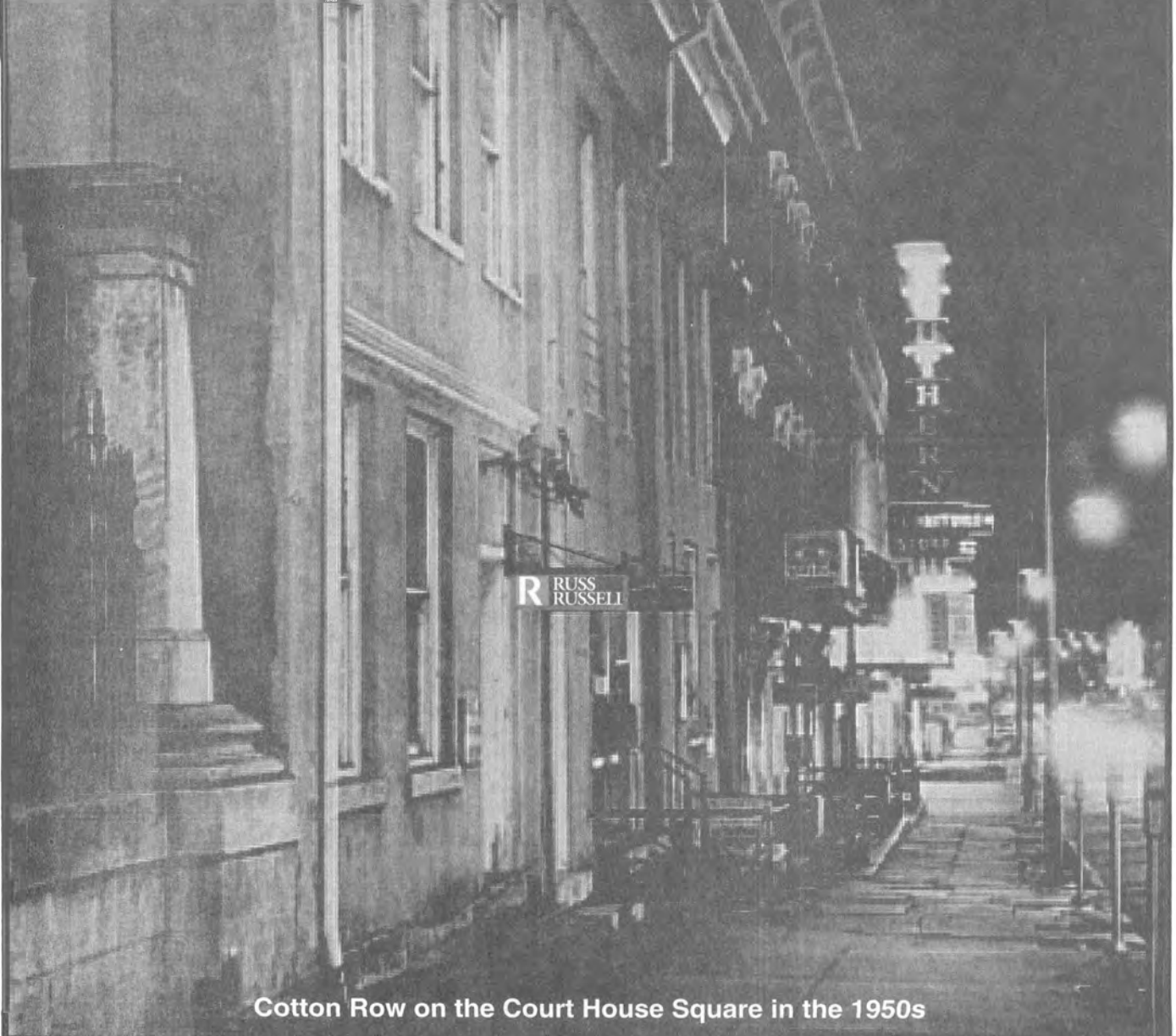
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# The Strange Case of William Clark McCoy

The Civil War was over. Men who had once watched their comrades-in-arms die on a thousand bloody battlefields were now faced with the task of rebuilding their homes and plowing the fields that had lain fallow for almost five years.

For most men, their service to the Confederacy was a point of pride. Even the lowest private would spend hours rehashing past battles and political careers would be built by men with the prefix of Captain or General added to their names.

A few men, however, wanted to forget. They knew that even the mention of their names would cause headlines in the northern newspapers, with all of them demanding vengeance. The Tennessee Valley, with its strong anti-union sentiment, was a perfect place for such a man to take on a new identity and hide.

One of these men was William Clark McCoy, a Methodist minister who was ordained

here in Huntsville. During the War, many people believed he had become synonymous with bloody massacres and terror.

While few people recognized the name McCoy, everyone had heard what was widely believed to be his real name, William Clark Quantrell.

Our story begins in 1857 on the Kansas border. An undeclared border war had been raging for several years between Unionists and Southerners. Bands of outlaws, Union sympathizers calling themselves Redlegs and operating under the guise of patriotism, murdered and pillaged the countryside. In this conflict there was no middle ground, you were either for them or against them. A choice either way made you eligible for a bullet in the back and your home burned to the ground.

It was into this conflict that William Quantrell rode in the summer of 1857. Quantrell was a native of New Jersey whose older brother had moved to Kansas several years earlier.

Shortly after Quantrell arrived, the two brothers decided to take a trip to California. The first part of the trip was uneventful until they reached Cottonwood, Kansas, and made camp for the night.

Late that evening, after supper was finished, a group of



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Redlegs approached the camp. At first the brothers were not alarmed, strangers were always welcome in their camp.

Suddenly, without warning, the leader of the group pulled his gun and began firing at the hapless brothers. Quantrell was severely wounded, his brother dead, and all their worldly possessions stolen.

According to legend, Quantrell lay there for three days, near death, guarding his dead brother's body. Finally an old Shawnee Indian stumbled across the camp, helped bury the older brother and carried Quantrell back to his home where he was nursed back to health.

It took Quantrell almost a year to completely recover his health and the whole time he had but one thing on his mind; vengeance for his dead brother. During this time he listened and learned.

He learned that the group of Redlegs who had ambushed him were part of an outfit operating under the leadership of a notorious guerrilla chieftain by the name of Jim Lane.

Quantrell grew a beard, changed his name, and began making friends with the guerrillas. Using the identity of Charles Hart, he was quickly accepted as a member of the band of cutthroats. He enrolled in a com-

pany that contained all but two of the men who had murdered his brother. Enlisting as a private, he was soon promoted to an orderly, and as his leadership skills became evident, was advanced in rank to the position of sergeant.

Before long, Redlegs began to disappear. First one or two would be found hung, or maybe with a bullet in the back of the head. Then it got to the point where scarcely a week would go by without another dead body being found. Men began to whisper about the unknown Judas in their midst. Even the bravest men were terrified.

One night about a year after he joined the band, Quantrell was sitting around the campfire listening to the men speculate on the identity of the assassin. One man brought up the story about the time he and a group of other men ambushed two brothers on Cottonwood River.

"That's a funny thing," he said, "all those men are dead. I'm the only one left alive."

"Not for long," Quantrell was reputed to have said as he pulled the trigger, sending the Redleg to burn in Hell.

William Quantrell was a wanted man now, with a price on his head, dead or alive.

When the Civil War began, Quantrell chose the side of the South. The Confederacy had no organized armies in Kansas and

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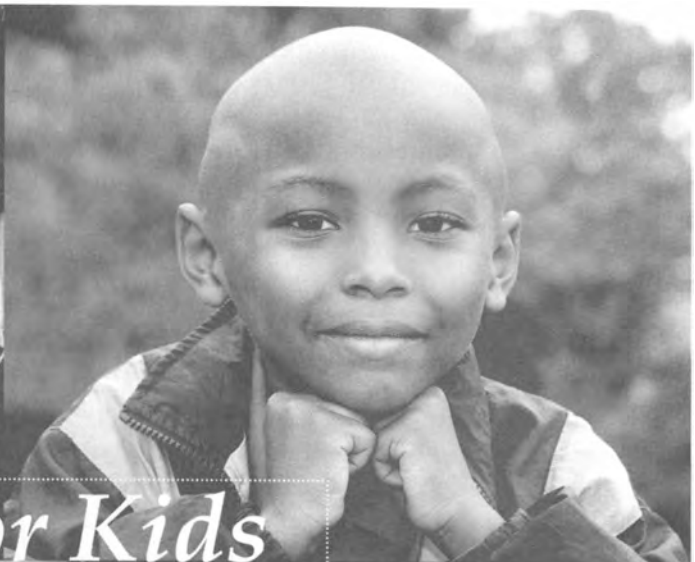


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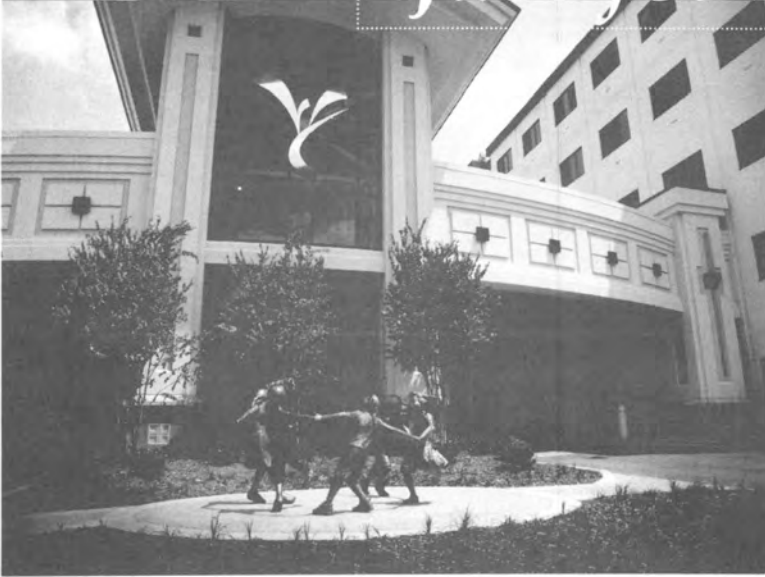



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warfare was conducted by guerilla bands. Quantrell quickly rose to the forefront of partisan leaders.

Word of his exploits galvanized Kansas and young men thirsting for adventure and revenge began flocking to his side. Jesse and Frank James, their homes burned by northern sympathizers, joined up as did Kit Dalton, Cole Younger, and many others eager for vengeance.

The warfare in Kansas, led in large part by Quantrell, quickly became one of the most brutal chapters of the Civil War. Homes were burned in the middle of the night. Sons and fathers were shot in the back as they went about their chores. You were either for the North or for the South; there was no middle ground.

Although it has never been verified, rumor has always persisted that Quantrell was commissioned a Colonel in the Confederate army. This, however, is highly unlikely due to his tactics. Quantrell's army, fighting under the black flag, did not take prisoners.

His most infamous deed was the August 21, 1863 raid on Lawrence, Kansas, where he and 273 of his men captured the city and put one hundred and fifty of its citizens to death.

On May 10, 1865, Quantrell and his men took cover from an afternoon thunderstorm in a barn belonging to a Mr. Wakefield. Coming from the op-

posite direction was a column of 120 Union soldiers commanded by Captain Edward Terrell. The Union soldiers, seeing the fresh footprints leading to the barn, decided to investigate.

Immediately shots rang out. During the furious gun battle, most of Quantrell's men were able to make an escape, leaving only five men behind, two wounded and three dead. Captain Terrell, upon questioning the two wounded men, was shocked to hear one of the men confess his identity as that of William Clark Quantrell.

The man purporting to be Quantrell was badly wounded. He had suffered gunshots to the shoulder, in addition to a broken back. It was obvious the man was mortally wounded.

"Please," said the man, "leave me here in peace to die."

After checking the man's wounds, the union captain agreed to the wounded man's request. Calling for his men to mount up, the officer led his men back to town, satisfied that he had caused the end of Quantrell. Unfortunately, his commanding officer did not share the same satisfaction.

Angry at the fact that his men had left Quantrell to die in peace, the Commander sent another squad of soldiers to recover the fallen chieftain.

By most established reports, Quantrell died about two weeks later of his wounds while being held a prisoner in Louisville, Ken-

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tucky. Before dying he was supposed to have been converted to the Catholic faith and made a full confession. His remains were buried in a local graveyard with no marker.

The burial marked the beginning of a mystery that continues to this day. No one who had ever known Quantrell stepped forward to identify the body. The only proof the soldiers had was the wounded man's own statement. Even the confession, and the account that he had converted to the Catholic faith, began to lose credibility once it was pointed out that William Clark Quantrell was a Methodist.

Even the local newspapers hesitated to identify the person as Quantrell. The *Louisville Times*, May 14, 1865, reported:

"Captain Twirl and his company arrived here yesterday from Taylorsville. They brought with them the guerilla who bears the name 'Quantrell.' It is not the Quantrell of Kansas notoriety, for we have been assured that he was at last account a colonel in the rebel army under Price. This prisoner was shot through the body in a fight in a barn near

Taylorsville on Wednesday last. Several others were killed at the barn, but what their names are we have not been able to ascertain. The prisoner brought here is confined to the prison hospital and is in a dying condition."

Adding further to the confusion is a newspaper article dated June 7, 1865, that throws the whole question of a confession into doubt.

"It will be remembered that a guerilla calling himself William Clark, captain in the Fourth Missouri Rebel Cavalry, but generally supposed to be the infamous monster Quantrell, was wounded and captured on the 10th of May and placed in the military hospital of this city. He died of his wounds yesterday afternoon, about four o'clock."

If Quantrell had confessed, why did the paper still identify him by the name William Clark and state that "he was generally supposed to be Quantrell?"

And so, for lack of a better answer, the military authorities buried an unidentified body and wrote a finish to the bloody chapter of William Clark Quantrell.

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Or so they thought. When Quantrell's mother had the body exhumed to move it to a family plot, the corpse was discovered to have red hair. Quantrell's hair was black.

Almost two years later our story takes another bizarre twist. A young man by the name of William Clark McCoy, who was employed as a Methodist circuit rider, moved to Huntsville. According to the story given at the time, McCoy was an ex-soldier who had served briefly with Quantrell and then later joined Stonewall Jackson's army as a courier. At the end of the war he learned there was a reward offered for members of Quantrell's band, so instead of returning home, he made his way south to Alabama where he became a minister.

Rumors surrounded McCoy as to his real identity from almost the first day he moved to the valley. Photographs of Quantrell had been circulated throughout the country and there were thousands of ex-soldiers returning home from the war who had fought with Quantrell or had seen him. Although many of these veterans believed McCoy to be Quantrell, no one ever turned him in to the authorities.

After accepting the Methodist faith, McCoy became an active worker in the church. One of the anecdotes about McCoy handed down through generations had to do with his helping raise money for a church. The church was having a picnic along with

games and contests. One of the contests was a shooting competition with the winner receiving a freshly baked apple pie. Unfortunately, even with the low entrance fee of 25 cents, the contest did not generate much interest.

Some of the local men, having heard the rumor of Quantrell being in their midst, and noticing the brace of pistols he wore underneath his coat, appealed to McCoy to try his luck. Maybe if the crowd saw him entering the contest it would encourage other men to do the same.

At first McCoy refused, but after many appeals to his charitable nature, he finally agreed.

The crowd grew silent as he



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approached the firing line.

Twelve bottles sitting in a row at a distance of thirty paces was the target. Slowly he pulled one pistol and, after carefully taking aim, hit the first bottle dead center. The second shot came a few seconds later and another bottle disappeared. As the gun began to feel comfortable in McCoy's hand again, the crowd watched with amazement as he continued firing at the bottles so rapidly that it was impossible to tell one shot from the next.

People later said that after McCoy had finished firing, he stood there for a long moment, staring at the spot where the targets had stood, and as he slowly turned around to leave, reached down and unbuckled his gun belt. Though he taught all of his children to become expert marksmen, and gave occasional shooting demonstrations, he never strapped on a gun belt again.

During this time McCoy had been ordained as an elder in the

Methodist church here in Huntsville. According to legend, when McCoy signed the notice appointing him a minister, he signed with the name William Clark Quantrell. The Bishop then penciled in the name "W.C. McCoy" and kept the papers in his personal collection.

Word of his eloquence began to reach the church superiors and in almost an unbelievably short period of time he began to advance in his newly chosen career. Besides serving in the pulpit of churches in Guntersville, Birmingham, and Decatur, he was appointed the editor of the *Christian Advocate* in 1886, and served as financial agent for Southern University.

Even with the good work that McCoy was doing, rumors persisted as to his being Quantrell. Neighbors and friends tried to question him, but McCoy, a man

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of God, refused to give any information about his past, neither denying or confirming the rumors.

As his children began to grow older, they also heard the rumors. In a youthful attempt to learn the truth, his children questioned him about where he grew up. He refused to talk about it. They asked him about his family and again he would not talk. Finally, exasperated, they asked him if he really was Quantrell. McCoy, by this time one of the most respected ministers in Alabama, refused to answer.

McCoy's son, Dr. J.H. McCoy, who at the time he related this story was a Bishop in the Methodist church, told about an incident that seemed to confirm to him his father's real identity.

The sons had heard the rumors about their father being Quantrell and they had also learned that Quantrell had a tattoo of an Indian maiden on his left forearm. Their father, however,

always refused to take his shirt off. Even in the hottest part of the summer he would not roll up his sleeves. One hot August day McCoy and his sons were working in a field next to a cool, flowing creek. Late that afternoon the boys suggested a dip in the water to cool off. "Go ahead," McCoy said, "I'll be along directly."

After the boys had finished their dip, they dressed and went in search of their father, who in the meantime had disappeared. Walking down the creek they found their father with his shirt off, bathing in the creek. Seeing the tattoo of an Indian maiden on their father's left forearm, the boys began to ask questions.



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McCoy, highly agitated, quickly put on his shirt and told the boys, "Now listen to me, you haven't seen a thing, not a thing, you understand?"

One of McCoy's sons later told about strangers visiting his father. McCoy and the strangers would ride to the middle of a nearby large field and sit there on their horses for hours talking, out of hearing for anyone who wanted to eavesdrop.

In 1881, while serving as pastor at Haney's Chapel near Guntersville, McCoy read in the newspaper that Frank James was being held prisoner in the Huntsville jail. Summoning his brother-in-law to accompany him, he told his wife, "I must go to Huntsville and see Frank James."

After arriving in Huntsville, they quickly received permission to talk with the prisoner. The Huntsville city jailer at that time and McCoy's brother-in-law both verified what happened next.

As the door to the cell opened, Frank James was sitting on an army cot idly glancing through a book. Looking up and seeing he had visitors, he

started to speak, and then fell silent with a look of astonishment on his face.

"Bill," James cried out. "Everyone said you were dead!"

McCoy asked the other men to step outside so they might talk in private. Again, true to his character, he refused to ever reveal what they talked about. Later, when his wife questioned him, McCoy simply chuckled and replied that James had said, "If you can become a preacher, anyone can."

The years wore on and more people stepped forward claiming that Reverend McCoy was really Quantrell. He finally admitted to knowing and having been friends with Jesse and Frank James, the Younger brothers, and numerous other members of the outlaw band, but he still refused to give an answer to the question that was on everyone's mind.

William Clark McCoy died in 1891 in Decatur, Alabama. His

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children, knowing that their father kept a collection of old papers, wanted to settle the matter of who he really was. They were too late.

Their mother, immediately after his death, had burned the papers. While she readily admitted that McCoy was not his real name and that there had been a \$50,000 reward for his capture, she refused to reveal his real name. "I promised your father to never talk about it" was all she had to say.

Quantrell was the only member of his group who had a price on his head at the end of the war.

McCoy's children and grandchildren, some of whom went on to become noted professors, judges and pastors, traveled thousands of miles, spent untold hours poring over old records and interviewing countless people in order to establish a genealogical record of their family.

In all of their research, the only thing they could establish was that no such person as William Clark McCoy existed before 1866.

The only records were those that he chose to give. Even these records present a puzzle. In the course of twenty years, he listed four different places of birth and four different birthdays. Was the quiet spoken Methodist preacher really the bloodthirsty William Clark Quantrell? Although his family believes it to be so, possibly no one will ever be able to prove it conclusively.

The one thing that we can be certain of is that his name was not William Clark McCoy.



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# Was McCoy Really Quantrell?

- Both were the same height, same weight, same color hair, and both had eyes described as "steely blue."

- Both had a tattoo of an Indian maiden on their left forearm.

- Both were expert pistol shots.

- Both had the same first names, William Clark.

- Quantrell had been known to use an alias.

- Both had the first joint missing from the little finger of their right hand.

- Both were known to be excellent public speakers.

- McCoy became a Methodist preacher and Quantrell had taught at an eastern Methodist college.

- Both had excellent writing skills. McCoy was editor of *the Christian Advocate* and Quantrell had taught English at an eastern college.

- McCoy's wife, though supposedly eligible, never applied for any sort of a pension for

her husband's wartime service in the Confederacy.

- Both exhibited traits as natural leaders.

- The only mention McCoy ever made of his family was that one of them had been killed by

the Yankees. Quantrell's brother had been bushwhacked by the norther sympathizers.

- Methodist church records identify McCoy as a former guerilla during the War Between the States.

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# News From 1923

- Two bandits armed with re-  
volvers 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 \$650 per year. Call  
John Parks phone 19.

- Notice - A. Elam has moved  
his leather repair shop to Green  
Street, opposite the jail.

- Lost - small black milk Jer-  
sey cow with left horn broken off,  
finder please call at Fannings Liv-  
ery Stable near Big Spring and  
receive reward.

- 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.  
He was fined \$5 by the Mayor.

- The Friday Morning Bridge  
Club will meet Saturday at Mrs.  
Schuyler Richardson's home at  
her apartment on Franklin  
street and ten thirty o'clock. Note  
change of day.

- Farm for rent on halves or  
quarters. 55 acres cleared, 10  
acres woodland on Moores Mill  
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- Taken up - two black sows,  
three pigs, one black cow.  
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- For sale - at 2 o'clock Saturday January 6th my entire stock of paints and varnishes at auction to the highest bidder for cash will be sold in the store in the Reid building at the corner of Green and Clinton streets. Contact W. S. Garvin

- If Mr. Harry Rhett will call at the News office he will be given one ticket to the Lyric Theatre to see "Back Home and Broke" on Friday.

## Rules for Alabama Women Teachers in 1915

- You will not marry during the term of your contract
- You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores
- You may not smoke cigarettes
- You may not dress in bright colors
- You may under no circumstance dye your hair
- You must wear at least two petticoats.
- Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle
- To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once each day; and start the fire at 6 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.
- You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function. Violators should report to their superiors immediately.

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# Local Man Wants to Build Aeroplane Plant in Huntsville

*from 1913 newspaper*

William L. Quick of this county has invented and perfected a new type of monoplane which, it is believed, will overcome many of the deficiencies that are found in the flying machines now in use.

The system of control is designed to become instinctive on the part of the operator since, by simply leaning forward, the attachments to the tail of the machine will guide it upward and by leaning backward it will go downward. The rudder is regulated in the same manner.

Mr. Quick has been at work on the model of this machine during the last eight years and

it looks like he has solved the problem. The lines of the machine make it impossible for it to fall directly to the ground either head first, backwards or upside down. Mr. Quick claims that should the motor power be shut off while the machine is in the air, it would drift slowly to the ground.

He has made a study of aeronautic problems during the last several years and knows the deficiencies of every machine now used in the United States and abroad and he has constructed his own with a view to avoiding all these.

He has twenty patents pending, sixteen of which have already been granted. The others will no doubt be allowed in time. Mr. Quick expects to organize a company for the manufacture of his machine and he would like to have the plant located in Huntsville.



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# Different Name

by Charles Rice

Names are simply convenient labels we use for people and things. Nevertheless, one must take care to avoid confusion. And such was the case with our century-old Huntsville Hospital.

During the War Between the States, our city was occupied at different times by Union and Confederate troops. It was the common practice of both sides, while in our city, to designate whatever city building they used to house their sick and wounded as the Huntsville hospital. In late 1863, the Union Army built a frame building in Fagan's Hollow. This one was officially known as, you guessed it, Huntsville Hospital.

The old hospital on Fagan's Hollow burned just a few years

after the Civil War. Nevertheless, to a generation of our city's residents, Huntsville Hospital meant that old structure built by the hated invaders. "What? Put me in that Yankee place? No way!" said the old-timers.

When the ladies of Huntsville finally succeeded in creating their public hospital in 1895, they wisely chose to call it the Huntsville Infirmary.

For its first 31 years, the city's medical facility carried this old-fashioned name. Finally, in 1926, the directors decided the

old Union hospital was far enough into the past to have been forgotten. That year the name was officially changed from the Huntsville Infirmary to Huntsville Hospital.

The name change does cause confusion once in a while to family genealogists. When they discover that great-grandpa had been treated at "Huntsville Hospital" way back in the 1860s, they scratch their head and gaze in wonder at the large modern building now bearing that name.



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# Dear Daughter

September 20, 1891  
Mrs. Sally Sandlin  
Daughter,

I seat myself this beautiful Sabbath to answer your letter that you rote sometime ago. I was glad to hear from you and to know that you was well and doing well. Sally I have nothing to write to you that would interest you no more than we are all well, hoping that this would find you and Len both well.

What to say? I recon that you think that I mite rote you sooner. I could have wrot a letter a long time ago, I just kept thinking I would write. That is the only reason that I have for not writing sooner. Well, Sally if you will excuse me for not writing no sooner, I will try to write you a letter once a month.

Dear Daughter, if I could see you with your rosy cheeks, loving smiles, & a kind heart with them lilly white hands clasp my one, that would been briter to me than the britest star that ever shone. Sally I recon you would like to no something about how times is here.

They are very hard times here money for horses & cattle & hogs cheap, corne & wheat is a veary fair prise. Every thing else is. Sally I recon you would like to no what sort of a crop we have got. We made 60 bushels of wheat, a few oats, I have got about 2 acers of cotton.

We have got a fine corn crop. We ant tending mutch of our land in corn. The land that we rented will make 10 barrels per acer. I have got a fine sweet potato patch made rite smart of arch potatoes. No cabbis no garden no chickens hardley heap of ducks.

Sally we had squirrel and chicken for breakfast this morning, two big possomes for dinner. I dont no what for supper yet.

Sally the children talkes a heap about sister Sally. There is another little boy here he come here the 20th of march 6 months old today. His name is John T. Buckhannon after the governor of the state, don't you think that will dough. I must close for this time. Sally you & Len write to me just as soon as you get this.

I remain your affectionate father over till death.  
Henry Rutledge

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# Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to **Karen Noblitt**, who guessed last month's Photo of the Month. The little boy was **Curtis Parcus**, owner of Dallas Mill Deli, who is just as cute now as he was as a little baby! Karen works for the State of Alabama. And speaking of Dallas Mill Deli, they just celebrated their first anniversary of the deli on May 25! It seems like just yesterday when they first opened.

We want to welcome **Ret. USAF Gen. James Rothenflue** and his family to Huntsville. They just moved here and have already made good friends. The retired General will be working at Lockheed.

It was so good to catch up with **Tess Grella**, bartender at The Corner on Bailey Cove. She is so proud of her daughter **Megan**, who just celebrated her 20th birthday.

**Rudy Mockabee** has been entertaining folks in this area for years - he spent 17 years at Hoppers at the Holiday Inn, and more recently moved his venue to Lee Ann's off Church Street, where he is packing in the crowds.

We recently met **Rena Lanter**

at Furniture Factory. She is the pretty daughter of **John & Donna Hays**, and lives in Colorado with her husband **Chris** and family. Her children recently had June birthdays - **Will** turned 5 and **Hays** turned 4 - Happy Birthday!

We were sorry to hear that **Edith Thompson** had died, at 87. Her daughter **Carleen Whisenant**, who lives in Arab, told us that her mom loved reading about the history and stories of North Alabama.

We had a chance to spend some time with **Sonya & Dieter Schrader** recently, and they are such a good-looking couple. They own Ol' Heidelberg and Cafe Berlin restaurants. It must be that good German food that keeps them looking so young!

Many may remember **Bill King**, who was a State Senator from our area. He now lives in Birmingham and has written a new book called "Hack", a novel

taking place in 1962 about a man who returns to his roots in a cotton mill village in Alabama. Bill grew up in the mill villages of Huntsville and is well known to many people here.

It was good to see **Ginny Bragg** recently - we were both shopping at Rebecca's sidewalk sale in 5 Points. She is the prettiest lady!

Happy Birthday to **Thalia Hamilton** from her mom **Kim Straka**!

**Chuck and Annelie Owens** will celebrate a huge milestone in their marriage on June 8 - a 60th anniversary! The event will be marked by a party at Redstone Village with many friends and family. Congratulations you two!

**Luke Wikle Jr.** has just returned from 7 months duty in Iraq with the Marines. His sister is **Ruth Ann Dean**, and brother-in-law **Pluitt Dean**, and the family were so happy to have him back safe and sound.

I had a chance to neighbor

## 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 boy really knows how to decorate.



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with **Ty Samples** while downtown Ty recently celebrated a birthday and the older he gets, the better he looks!

**Ralph Pearsall** was a kicker years ago at Huntsville High, and many remember that he holds the record for the longest field goal kick ever made at the school. He was a gentle, sweet man and when he died in late March, he left many friends and family who miss him very much. His daughter **Theresa Carlisle** is very proud of her dad. Theresa owns Marie's Hallmark and her husband **Kirk Carlisle** owns Carlisle Gallery, both in 5 Points.

We were so sorry to hear that **Thalia Holden**, of Florence, had died recently She was 90 years old and had lived a rich and full life. We send our sympathy to her sister, **Lola Stutts-Braxton**, niece **Diane Owens**, nephew **Will Stutts** and their many friends and family.

The Rison-Dallas Association will be hosting its 35th Annual reunion on August 4th at Jackson Way Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be **John Pruitt**, long-time sports editor of the Huntsville Times. Should be a really fun event!

We witnessed a real groundshaking event held recently in front of the old Heart of Huntsville mall. **John Henegar** and councilman **Glenn Watson** were in the cabs of the bulldozers when they pushed down the heavy sign "Market Square" that was in front of the mall. **Scott McClain** has a wonderful vision for the center that includes condo's, businesses, restaurants, clubs, etc. **Mayor Loretta Spencer** was there along with councilman **Mark Russell**, **Robert Norris** and many other dignitaries to commemorate the event.

Turning 101 years old is quite a milestone. **Angelica Wilhelm** recently celebrated her birthday with a party at Redstone Village,

where she lives. Congratulations to Angelica!

We lost a very sweet man recently. **Joe Hursh** lived in Pennsylvania but was planning to move here to Huntsville soon. He died of a massive heart attack in May. We send our deepest condolences to his sister **Barb Eyestone**, and brother in law **Ron Eyestone**.

Much progress is being made on the **Merrimack Hall** on Triana, and it will soon be a full-fledged performing arts stage. **Debra Jenkins** is doing a fantastic job in heading up the project.

A special happy June birthday to our good friend **Cecil Ashburn!**

We want to send out a special welcome to **Darryl & Linda Goldman!** They recently moved to Twickenham historic district from across the mountain in Hampton Cove. They really love the downtown area. Linda celebrated her birthday in late May, so Happy Birthday to you!

Happy anniversary to **Ken and Diane Owens!** They have been married now for 37 years and say it's as wonderful as it was the first day!

Well, that's all for now. Get out and walk in our beautiful city - it's good for you! And just remember how lucky we are to live in Huntsville, Alabama.

*Ladies First Boutique*



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*Hannah Troup, age 6 3/4*



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## Unusual Recipes

### Cucumber Sauce

- 2 medium cucumbers
- 1 t. horseradish
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 2 t. minced onion
- Dash cayenne pepper

Peel cucumbers, cut in half, remove seeds, chop or grate. Mix with remaining ingredients, adding cream last. Keep refrigerated in a covered jar. This is delicious on any seafood.

### Sweet Potato Balls

Cream boiled potatoes very smooth and fluffy with butter, dash salt, little sugar and a little sherry. Dip out a large kitchen spoonful - push a marshmallow into the center, shape into a ball & chill. Roll in crushed corn flakes. Bake in 400 degree oven only til heated and lightly browned.

### Lemon Kiss Pie

- 4 egg yolks
  - 1/2 c. sugar
  - 3 T. lemon juice
  - 1/8 t. salt
  - 1 c. heavy cream, whipped
- Cook in double boiler til thick. When slightly cool, fold cream whipped into the mixture. Pour into prepared shell and top with whipped cream.

### Bishop Whipple Pudding

- 1 c. sugar
  - 2/3 c. flour
  - 1 t. baking powder
  - 2 eggs
  - 1 c. dates, chopped
  - 1 c. pecans, chopped
  - 1 t. vanilla
- Beat eggs, add sugar; then flour sifted with baking powder. Fold in dates, nuts and vanilla, spread in buttered pan in 375 degree oven, bake about 20 minutes. Break into pieces, sprinkle

with powdered sugar. Serve with flavored whipped cream.

### Annelie's Easy Clam Dip

- 1 container French onion dip
  - 1 can minced clams, drained
  - 1/2 t. garlic powder
- In bowl mix the onion dip with the minced clams. Stir well, add back about half of the clam juice depending upon the consistency you desire. Add the garlic powder, and salt to taste.

### Fried Corn with Brown Crust

Place about 4 tablespoons butter in a large frying pan and let melt. Pour fresh sliced corn over the butter, and let cook over low heat about 30 minutes. When ready to serve, use a metal spatula to flip the corn onto a plate, with brown, crusty side facing up. Enjoy while it's hot!

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## Caramel Powder

Carmalize 2 cups sugar in a heavy skillet, add 1/4 cup boiling water, stir til smooth. Strain & cool. When brittle, pound in cloth bag until it is a powder. This is very good for decorating many desserts, as well as baked ham.

## Caramel Topping

- 4 c. sugar
- 1 1/2 c. water
- 1/2 c. cream
- 1 t. cream of tartar

Mix first 2 ingredients and boil til golden brown and spins a thread. Cool slightly. Stir in cream & tartar til thoroughly mixed.

## Yum Yums

- 1/2 lb. melted butter
- 1 box light brown sugar
- 1 c. white sugar
- 4 egg yolks
- 2 c. flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 4 beaten egg whites

Mix the butter, sugars and egg yolks together. In a separate bowl mix the flour, baking powder and salt. Add the liquid ingredients to the flour mixture. Add the pecans and fold in the beaten egg whites. Cook in greased and

floured pan, spreading thin, for about 20 minutes at 350 degrees. Cut in squares while warm, and sprinkle with powdered sugar.

## Creme de Cacao Sauce

- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1/4 c. butter
- 2 t. cornstarch
- 2 sq. unsweetened chocolate
- 2 T. light corn syrup
- Dash salt

Combine above ingredients and cook over medium heat, stirring til blended. Add 1/4 cup cream and bring to boil, stirring constantly, til thickened to the right consistency.

Remove from heat, stir in 2 tablespoons Creme de Cacao liquor. Serve warm over ice cream, cakes or puddings.

## Butter Cream Mints

- 1/4 lb. butter
- 1 egg
- 1 lb. confectioners sugar
- 1/8 t. salt

Cream butter, add half of the sugar, add egg and remaining sugar with salt. Use more sugar if necessary to make dough stiff enough to stand. Drop on oiled paper with spoon or run through pastry tube. Allow an hour to dry.



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# Paul Miller

by Malcolm Miller

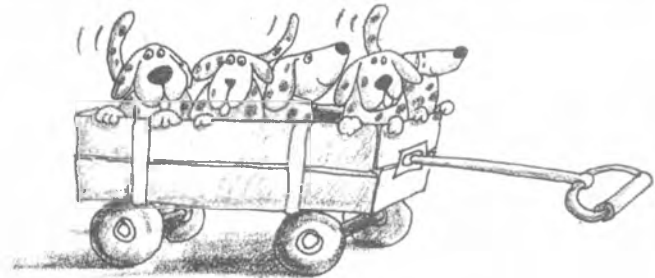
He was never really what you would call a healthy child when he was growing up. It seems that every germ that was searching for a home landed on him. Born May 23, 1919, the fifth son of Mose and Anna Miller, Paul Beirnes Miller just seemed destined to have it rough all the way. Life was hard for everybody back then but Paul seemed to have more than his share of bad times. Somehow, though, he was always able to bounce back from sickness and adversity. This toughness was no doubt a determining factor in helping him survive the ordeal that he was to endure later in his life.

I know first hand the subject of this story, because you see, Paul is my brother. I have seen him fight for his breath for hours at a time during an asthma attack, then get up the next day and go to the field and pick cotton with the best of us. I have seen him lying lifeless in bed surrounded by sacks of hot salt. They were trying to sweat out his pneumonia. That was before the discovery of penicillin and many times pneumonia was fatal. Yet he bounced

back from this illness in time to go back to school and help his basketball team at Gurley win the county championship.

During World War II, Paul was called for a physical for military service. He was rejected because of asthma and high

blood pressure. They also said there was something wrong with his heart. He came home thinking he was at death's door. In time, however, they called him again and he passed the physical. It was a turning point in his life. He liked the army and all his health prob-



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lems disappeared. He begged the army to send him into combat but they wouldn't because he already had three brothers fighting in Europe. Like all good soldiers he did as he was ordered and became a medic.

In July 1946, when Paul was home on leave, he met and married Miss Lavelle Jacks. In the summer of 1950 on his fourth wedding anniversary, he was assigned to the 2nd Infantry Division and shipped out to Korea. During Thanksgiving, when it seemed the North Koreans were whipped and our troops were coming home for Christmas, hordes of Chinese swept down from the North and overran the NATO forces. To allow the majority of the 2nd Infantry Division to escape, Paul's infantry regiment was ordered to stand and hold against overwhelming numbers of Chinese.

Some were able to retreat but most were killed or captured. In an attempt to elude capture from their stranded convoy, Paul and a doctor made a mad dash for freedom. Chinese machine gun fire kicked at their heels. Their breathless run was to no avail. The Chinese were everywhere and they were soon overwhelmed by the enemy.

When death seemed certain, a marine fighter pilot circling above saw their predicament. The pilot flew low passes over their location to save their lives. The Chinese knew that if they shot Paul and the doctor, they too would be killed immediately by the plane. Until this day, Paul has only high praise for the marines. This was the second time they had

saved his life. The first time was after the Inchon landings when his unit was being pushed back into the sea. Soon after the marines arrived, the North Koreans broke ranks and ran.

The date of his capture was December 1, 1950, at a place called Kunuri. This is where, I believe, Paul's rough life on the farm and his grit and determination to survive began to pay off. And survive he did, when so many did not. He was marched across North Korea's frozen terrain for

the better part of a month in sub-zero weather. The only food was boiled shelled corn. Catching a cold was fatal and the man who as a boy caught every germ didn't have the first sniffle. Finally, he was moved to the Camp 5 prison compound on the Yalu River.

He remained there for the majority of the time with brief stays at two other compounds. Paul's time in captivity was thirty-three months or as he puts it, one thousand and three days. During this time his weight fell to

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about one hundred and ten pounds. Of those captured from his regiment only about thirty five out of a total of over a hundred survived. They were constantly harassed, terrorized and beaten by their captors.

Finally, on August 30, 1953, Paul, along with the other survivors, were set free after what seemed to be a never ending ordeal. I recall so well the very happy day the plane bringing Paul home landed at the old Huntsville Airport. All of Huntsville and Madison County turned out. The huge crowd included the mayor and numerous other politicians and dignitaries.

But the thing that remains firmly implanted in my mind about the joyous homecoming was the look on Daddy's face when Paul appeared in the door of the plane. You see he was old and feeble and had said so many times that he didn't believe he would ever live to see his son again. I was holding on to Daddy's arm trying to steady him and when Paul appeared the look on Daddy's face told a story words could never describe.

He just repeated over and over, "It's him, it's him!" This was the end of an ordeal for Paul and his family. An ordeal that made Paul appreciate the little things in life that the rest of us take for granted. He paid a terrible price for freedom, his and ours. He had seen war at its worst and everybody thought surely he would get out of the army. But he was a professional soldier and went on to serve two years at Redstone, four years in France and six years in Texas.

He retired from the army in 1965 as a master sergeant and returned to Huntsville. He worked for Huntsville Hospital for about twenty years and became director of medical records.

Paul and his wife Lavelle have been married sixty one years and she lives in their comfortable home in Huntsville. They have six grown children, five of whom also live in Huntsville.

Paul, at 88, is in reasonably good health for his age and resides at the Tut Vann Veterans Home.



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# Old Huntsville Trivia

1807 - Religion comes to Madison County when Methodist Robert Bell holds the first camp meeting in Alabama at Indian Springs.

1809 - John Carter, newly appointed justice of the peace, has his hands full trying to find people to serve in public office. No one is interested.

1809 - In preparation for land sales, Thomas Freeman is hired to survey land in Madison County. When Freeman finished, he had become one of the largest land-owners in the county.

1811 - Huntsville citizens are in an uproar about the dead animals being discarded into Indian Creek. They manage to get an ordinance passed, making it the first water pollution bill in Alabama.

1812 - Records show 916 families living in Madison County, along with 1,744 slaves.

1813 - General Andrew Jackson builds a stockade camp in Huntsville to house Indian prisoners. Some of the prisoners were sent from as faraway as Florida.

1863 - While Huntsville is occupied by northern troops, a young boy attempts to save the family business by smuggling whiskey into Huntsville. Years later the boy would take over the business and it would be named for him - Jack Daniels.

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# Legends From The Grave

by John Crow

If you look at any tourist information on Huntsville, Alabama there is almost always a reference to the beautiful Maple Hill Cemetery. The literature will usually make reference to the beauty of the dogwood trees in full spring bloom, or perhaps the fact that five former Alabama governors are buried there, or maybe tell of the section where the Confederate soldiers are laid to rest. What it won't tell you are the many legends associated with the cemetery.

When the night is strangely still, and the quiet is not even broken by a cricket's chirp or a night breeze rustling, an eerie sound comes from a lonely mausoleum. It is the whispered creak, creak of a rocking chair rocking. It is the young ghost of Mary Chambers Bibb, tragically poisoned in the full bloom of her youth, and buried upright in her rocking chair by her grief-stricken husband, where she rocks the years away ... rocking ...rocking... back and forth.

In the early 1830s two pretty cousins were always at the center of the many prominent social gatherings in Huntsville. It seemed that wherever the girls were you would also find the dashing Bibb brothers, the sons of Alabama's second governor, who would come to the parties by carriage from their family estate at Belle Mina. It wasn't too long before gossip had it that the two couples were smitten and a double wedding seemed to be in the offing. This was confirmed when it was learned that the girls were having wedding gowns specially designed and made in Paris, France.

Whenever the stage coach would arrive there would be the girls, eager to check the baggage for any package addressed to them. But alas, there would be no gowns, for Paris had run out of the proper fabric. Finally, in early 1835, a parcel did arrive,

but it contained only one gown. It was decided that Mary Chambers would proceed with her wedding plans to William Bibb and the wedding was then scheduled for February 26, 1835.

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*Rob Jones, Arab*

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Oh, gentle reader, I hesitate to put to paper what follows next, for in steps a grim and sinister Fate.

It seems, as is common with young people, that the excitement and anticipation of the coming event created a "pimple" situation on the young girls' complexions. Their faithful and dutiful "Mammy" had a remedy for such situations. She took from a cabinet a bottle of "salts" and Mary Chambers volunteered to take the first spoonful. After taking that tragic first swallow, Mary grasped her young throat and in gasping breath rasped out, "I've been poisoned!"

The poor Mammy had grown farsighted in her old age and had taken from the cabinet a bottle of poisonous oxalic acid instead of "salts."

The shocked and heartbroken William Bibb made the honorable and loving decision to proceed with the wedding plans. Exactly three months after the wedding, Mary Chambers passed away.

The sorrowful, grieving William Bibb erected for the remains of his beloved wife the city's first grand mausoleum.

This new structure in the cemetery was a rather startling sight for the citizens of Huntsville. They had never seen a "grave above the ground" before. For the bewildered townsmen there could only be one explanation. Poor melancholy William had entombed his wife in her rocking chair.

Nevertheless, true or not, I have been told by very reliable personages that on a quiet night, if you listen carefully, and if you are walking by old Maple Hill Cemetery, you can hear the creak, creak of a rocking chair rocking ... back and forth ... just rocking.

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# Huntsville Medicine

In the latter part of the 1800s the surgeon general of the United States declared Huntsville to be one of the healthiest places in the nation, second only to West Point. Hopefully this did not come about as a result of the medicine and home remedy ads advertised in the Huntsville newspapers.

One of the greatest claims of that day was made by Swift Specific who advertised that its product cured cancer and also helped you sleep at night. Rangun Roote Liniment also claimed to cure cancer and ease aching muscles. You could also use it for your horse.

Prices were reasonable, too. Indian Wild Bark promised to cure your cancer for only \$3.50 and for another fifty cents you could purchase a bottle of Works Scalp Lotion, guaranteed to stimulate your mental processes.

Local newspapers often carried testimonials from citizens attesting to the miracle cures of these products. W. T. Hutchens, a well known citizen of Huntsville, claimed in a newspaper ad that "Dr. Humphrey's Blood Purifier" cured his rheumatism

in only three days.

And for the ladies, there was Scott's Elixir, which guaranteed to ease cramps and to provide a better disposition. The Elixir lived up to its promise to provide a better disposition, but it also provided a terrible hangover.

Another well known Huntsville citizen, John Hill, advertised a cure for addiction to opium and whiskey. Evidently, it did not work too well as the same newspaper also carried an article about him being fined for "public intoxication."

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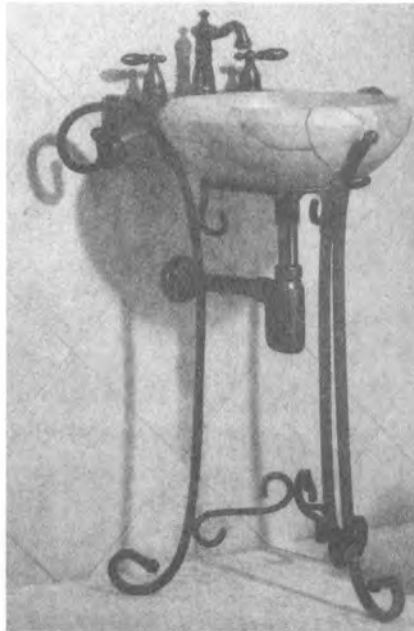
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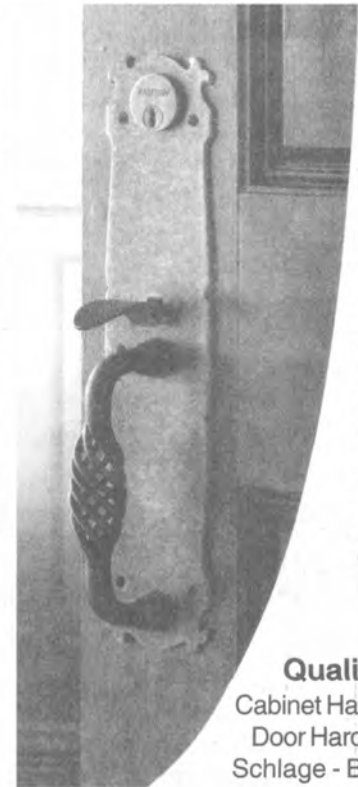
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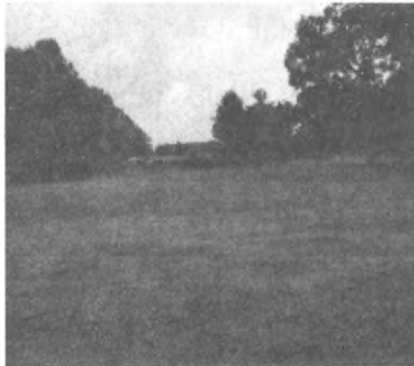
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# A Yankee Soldier in Huntsville

by Jim Coleman

When Colonel John Beatty arrived in Huntsville in April 1862 at the head of his 3rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment, he felt his organization would never see combat.

"After all," he wrote in his diary, "nineteen years earlier the 3rd went all the way to Mexico and saw no fighting."

What Beatty had no way of knowing was that he would spend only four months with General Ormsby Mitchel's occupation forces in Huntsville.

In August he would receive orders for his regiment to move northward where he would take part in all the major battles in the west, with the exception of Shiloh.

Before coming to Huntsville, Beatty found camp life boring in Kentucky and Tennessee, but he attempted to overcome it with a wry sense of humor. "The water is bad," he said, "whiskey is scarce, dust is abundant, and the air loaded with the scent and melody of a thousand mules."

His uniform had become so tattered in the battle zone by 1862, he wrote home to his wife, "My pantaloons are in a revolutionary condition, the seat having seceded." The most exciting action he saw during his tenure in Huntsville was when he ordered the

burning of Paint Rock.

Yet, Beatty made the best of his light duties in Huntsville. He served two months as Provost Marshal of the town before coming down with jaundice, a bile disorder probably caused by hepatitis. One of his close friends and fellow officers, General James A. Garfield, also contracted jaundice.



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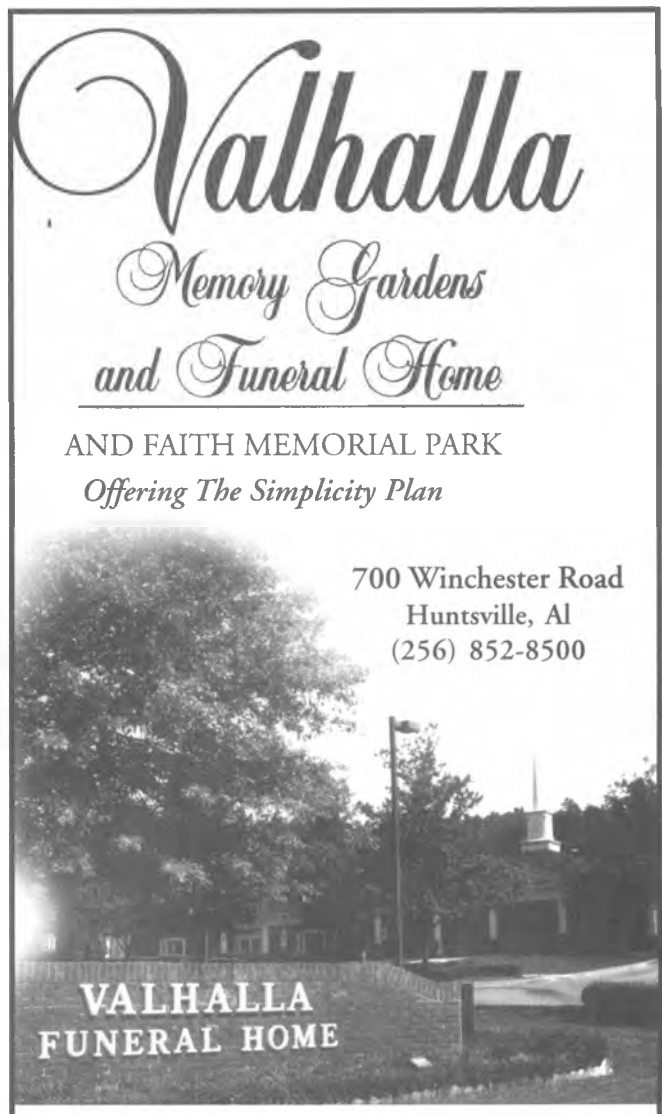
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But Beatty, who said when writing his memoirs later, he'd rather write about everyday happenings, rumors and observations than describe the tactical operations of armies. True to his word while in Huntsville, he expressed his interest and fascination with the ways of the Southern people, white and colored.

"The busiest time in the Provost Marshal's office," he said, "is between eight in the morning and noon. Then many persons apply for passes to go outside the line and for guards to protect property. Others come to make complaints that houses have been broken open, or that horses, dogs, and negroes, have strayed away or been stolen."

"In June," he said. "The men of Huntsville have settled down to a patient endurance of military rule. They say but little, and treat us with all politeness. The women, however, are outspoken in their hostility, and marvelously bitter. A flag of truce of rebels came in last night from Chattanooga, and the bearers were overwhelmed with visits and favors from the ladies. When they took supper at the Huntsville Hotel, the large dining room was crowded with fair faces and bright eyes, but the men prudently held aloof."

"A day or two ago one of our Confederate prisoners died. The

ladies filled the hearse to overflowing with flowers, and a large number of them accompanied the soldier to his last resting place.

"The foolish, yet absolute, devotion of the women to the Southern cause does much to keep it alive. It encourages, nay forces, the young to enter the army, and compels them to continue what the more sensible Southerners know to be a hopeless struggle. But we must not judge these Huntsville women too harshly. Here are the families of many of the leading men of Alabama; of generals, colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants in the Confederate army; of men, even who hold cabinet positions at Richmond, and of many young men who are clerks in the departments of the rebel Government. Their wives, daughters, sisters, and sweethearts feel, doubtless, that the honor of these gentleman, and possibly their lives, depend upon the success of the Confederacy."

On April 14, 1862, as various regiments converged on Huntsville from the north, progress was slowed because of bad roads. Beatty said, "We bivouacked for the night near a distillery. Many of the men drunk; the 10th Ohio particularly wild."

"As the 10th Ohio ap-

proached Huntsville, at one point a hundred or more colored people, consisting of men, women, and children, flocked to the roadside. The band struck up, and they accompanied the regiment for a mile or more, crowding and jostling each other



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in their endeavors to keep abreast of the music. "The boys were wonderfully amused."

"As we approach the Alabama line we find fewer, but handsomer, houses; larger plantations, and negroes more numerous. We saw droves of women working in the fields. When their ears caught the first notes of the music, they would drop the hoe and come running to the road, their faces all aglow with pleasure. May we not hope that their darkened minds caught glimpses of the sun of a better life, now rising for them."

Beatty entered the following in his diary, "Reached Huntsville at five in the afternoon. Just after sunset Colonel Keifer and I strolled into the town, stopped at the hotel for a moment, where we saw a rebel officer in his gray uniform running about on parole. Visited the railroad depot, where some two hundred rebels are confined. The prisoners were variously engaged; some chatting, others playing cards, while a few of a more devotional turn were singing."

On May 1, Beatty wrote,

"Moved to Bellefonte. Took the cars for Huntsville. At Paint Rock the train was fired upon, and six or eight men wounded. As soon as it could be done, I had the train stopped and, taking a file of soldiers, returned to the village. The telegraph line had been cut and the wire was lying in the street. Calling the citizens together, I said to them that this bushwhacking must cease. The Federal troops had tolerated it already too long. Hereafter every time the telegraph wire was cut we would burn a house; every time a train

was fired upon we should hang a man; I and we would continue to do this until every house was burned and every man hanged between Decatur and Bridgeport. If they wanted to fight they should enter the army, muster against us like honorable men, and not, assassin-like, fire at us from the woods and run. We proposed to hold the citizens responsible for these cowardly assaults, and if they did not drive these bushwhackers from amongst them, we should make them more uncomfortable that they would be in hell. I then set

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fire to the town, took three citizens with me, returned to the train, and proceeded to Huntsville."

"Paint Rock has long been a rendezvous for bushwhackers and bridge burners. One of the men taken is a notorious guerilla, and was of the party that made a dash on our wagon train at Nashville.

"The week has been an active one. On last Saturday night I slept a few hours on the bridge at Decatur. The next night I bivouacked in a cotton field; the next I lay from midnight until four in the morning on the railroad track; the next I slept at Bridgeport on the soft side of a board."

On May 1, Beatty said, "Captain Cunard was sent yesterday to Paint Rock to arrest certain parties suspected of burning bridges, tearing up the railroad track, and bushwhacking soldiers. Today he returned with twenty-six prisoners.

"General Mitchel is well

pleased with my action in the Paint Rock matter. The burning of the town has created a sensation, and is spoken of approvingly by the officers and enthusiastically by the men. It is the inauguration of the true policy, and the only one that will preserve us from constant annoyance.

On May 10, Beatty was appointed president of a board of administration for the post of Huntsville. After an ineffectual effort to get the members of the Board together, he concluded to spend a day out of camp, the first for more than six months. "I strolled over to the hotel," he said, "took a bath, ate dinner, smoked, read, and slept until supper time, dispatched that meal, and returned to my quarters in the cool of the evening.

"The gentlemen of the South have a great fondness for jewelry, canes, cigars and dogs. Out of forty white men, thirty-nine, at least, will have canes, and on Sun-

day the fortieth will have one also. White men rarely work here. There are, it is true, tailors, merchants, saddlers, and jewelers, but the whites never drive teams,



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work in the fields, or engage in what may be termed rough work.

"Judging from the number of stores and present stocks, Huntsville, in the better times, does a heavier retail jewelry business than Cleveland or Columbus. Every planter, and every wealthy or even well-to-do man, has plate. Diamonds, rings, gold watches, chains, and bracelets are to be found in every family. The negroes buy large amounts of cheap jewelry, and the trade in this branch is enormous. One may walk a whole day in a Northern city without seeing a ruffled shirt. Here they are very common."

Beatty states that he and Captain Mitchell were invited to a strawberry supper at Judge Lane's. "Found General Mitchel and staff, Colonel Kennett, Lieutenant Colonel Birdsall and Captain Loomis, of the army, there," he said. "Mr. and Mrs.

Lane, Colonel and Major Davis, and a general, whose name I can not recall, were the only citizens present. General Mitchel monopolized the conversation. He was determined to make all understand that he was the greatest of living soldiers. Had his counsel prevailed, the Confederacy would have been knocked to pieces long ago.

"It is exceedingly dull; we are resting as quietly and leisurely as we could at home. There are no drills, and no expeditions. The army is holding its breath in anxiety to hear from Richmond. If McClellan has been whipped, the country must in time know it; if successful, it would be rejoiced to hear it. Why,

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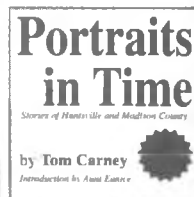
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therefore, should the particulars, and even the result of the fighting, be suppressed?

"A lieutenant of the 19th Illinois, who fell into the enemy's hands, has just returned on parole, and claims to have seen a dispatch from the Adjutant General of the southern Confederacy, stating that McClellan had been defeated and his army cut to pieces. He believes it.

"Toward the end of July, the Ohio 10th went on a foraging expedition, under Colonel Keifer, and was some fifteen miles from Huntsville, in the direction of the Tennessee River.

"At one o'clock last night our picket was confronted by about one hundred and fifty of the enemy's cavalry; but no shots were exchanged.

"The rebel cavalry were riding in the mountains south of us last night. A heavy mounted patrol of our troops was making the rounds at midnight. There was some picket firing along toward morning; but nothing occurred of importance."

On August 25, 1862, General Mitchel ordered Beatty's regiment to move. Four days later the 10th Ohio was at Decherd, Tennessee, and on October 8 arrived at Perryville, Kentucky, where they engaged the Confederate forces of General Bragg.

"The next day," Beatty said, "we went to the field where the fight occurred. We found a hundred men of the 10th and 15th (Ohio) lying stiff and cold. Besides these, there were many wounded whom we picked up tenderly, carried off and provided for. Men are already digging trenches, and in a little while the dead are gathered together for internment. We hear convulsive sobs, see eyes swollen and streaming with tears as our fallen comrades are deposited in their narrow grave."

Beatty continued with, his new regiment

under General Rosecrans until January 1, 1864, when he resigned and returned to his home in Columbus, Ohio, where his brother William Beatty was running their bank. Beatty had promised his brother that he would return and allow William to get a taste of army life. William entered the army in 1864 and rose to the rank of major before the end of the war.

In 1868 Beatty was elected to fill an unexpired term in the U.S. Congress. He was re-elected to two full terms before returning to Columbus to establish another bank where he served as president for 30 years.

In 1884 he ran unsuccessfully for governor on the Republican ticket. He died in Columbus in 1914, five days after his 86th birthday.



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# Heard on the Streets in 1907

- Delsie Long, a young man from Marshall County, was arrested in the Whitesburg precinct yesterday and brought here to jail on a warrant charging bastardy. A warrant for the young man's arrest was sworn out in Justice Grimmert's court by Miss Daisy Bowers, a young girl of the Whitesburg community, who claims that the man promised to marry her some time ago. Long is not 21, she claims, and his parents have refused to give their consent for him to marry her.

- I propose to open a private school for boys at my residence on East Holmes Street on Tuesday, the first day of October, 1907. I will teach whatever is necessary for entrance into the Sophomore class in any college in


the state. Baseball and football will be in my curriculum, my fee is \$5 per month, paid in advance. Chas. O. Shepherd.

- There is a move underway to put 2 pet deer in the county court yard. The feeling is they will make the yard look more attractive. The unsightly pathways will soon be obliterated as the sheriff has placed a number of signs up bordering the pavement forbidding anyone from walking on the grass. In the future whoever violates this rule will be arrested and fined.

- Burglars ransacked John Cicero's store on the corner of Washington and Holmes Street last night. They entered through the rear door, but were not satisfied with merely breaking the lock. They took the entire door off and set it neatly to one side. Mr. Cicero early this morning reported the loss of more than 1,000 cigarettes, a batch of cigars, some boxes of candy and various other small items as well as \$6 which was in the cash drawer.



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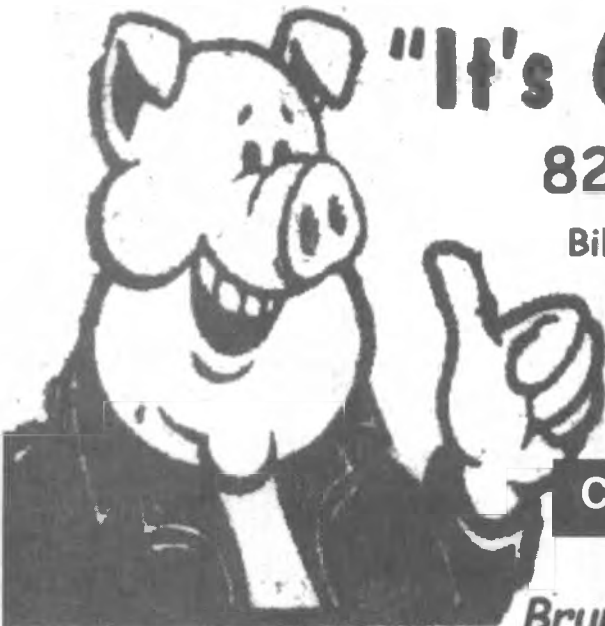
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# Doctor Carpenter

by Sara Ruth Burleson

"Did you know Dr. Carpenter?" Many conversations in my life have begun with that question. My Grandfather, Dr. Carpenter, touched many lives in New Hope and the surrounding communities. Because of his service and commitment to patients over the years, people always seemed to make an instant connection to my family and me. Stories about his care would immediately flow from their heart and I would have another glimpse into the life of a man that I did not know.

Dr. Jimmy, as he was affectionately known, was the last of a dying breed in Madison County - he was a country doctor. His father began practicing medicine on horseback in New Hope before the turn of the century. Dr. Jimmy was born in New Hope in 1909 and graduated from New Hope High School in 1927.

He graduated from the University of Alabama, Vanderbilt School of Medicine, and interned at General Hospital in Toledo, Ohio. Dr. Carpenter married Anna Ruth Farris, from Hampshire, Tennessee, in 1935. In 1936, Ruth and Jimmy moved back to New Hope where he followed in his father's footsteps and began his life of service to this community. He spent his days and nights making house calls and traveling between his three offices in New Hope, Gurley and Farley.

Dr. Jimmy and Ruth were blessed with 2 daughters, Henrietta and Jimmie Ruth. Their family time together was surely limited due to the fact that at any time of the night they could be awakened by a frantic knock on the door or a phone call from a patient about to give birth.

For you see a country doctor, unlike those who practice medicine today, was on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dr. Jimmy delivered an estimated 5,000 babies in the home.

He would go to his patients no matter what the weather was and no matter what financial state a particular family happened to be in at the time. Can you imagine being paid for your services with a live turkey or a used scope for a rifle? Can you imagine only paying \$2 for an office visit that included medication? I can not, but many did who lived during the days of Dr.

Carpenter. His giving nature may have taken away from time with his family. It may have even taken away from financial fortune that could have been gained like "city doctors".

But look at the lives he touched as a country doctor-look at the legacy he has left to his daughters.

I often wonder about those fortunate people who were treated by Dr. Carpenter years ago. Does your mind drift back to the "days gone by"? As you sit in a doctor's waiting room for an hour or two, then wait for another period of time in a

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patient's room, only to be examined for 10 minutes by a doctor, do you think back to your visits with Dr. Carpenter?

Times have really changed for many of you over the past several decades. Hospitals and specialists have changed the medical profession, but for my generation it is the only way we knew. There are insurance papers to file, long waits in doctor's offices, and late night trips to hospital emergency rooms. We do not live in a time when you called a doctor and he came to your home, or you went to his home whenever there was a need. We do not live in a time when "payment for services rendered" was not a priority in the mind of doctor or patient.

For all Dr. Carpenter did for the medical profession years ago, he was also very involved in civic organizations and politics. He served many years as the team physician for the New Hope School basketball and football teams. He was a member of the New Hope School Board, the Lions Club, the advisory board of the New Hope State National Bank, the Huntsville Hospital Board, the Ameri-

can Medical Association and the Madison County Medical Society. Dr. Carpenter was also a Mason and a Shriner. He was an ardent politician and served 12 years as Madison County District 3 Commissioner. What leisure time he did allow himself was spent fishing and coon hunting. He also had a cattle farm in New Hope.

I would like to thank all of those who have shared stories of Dr. Carpenter with me throughout the years. Because my Grandfather passed away when I was only two years old, you have given me a connection to a man I would have otherwise not known.

Whether you remember going to his home for help, having him come to your house in the middle of the night to deliver a baby, or walking up the flight of stairs at his New Hope office to get a shot from him, never take for granted the memories you have.

Dr. Carpenter was a special man who lived in a special time.



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## Local Boy Gets Third Leg

*from 1918 newspaper*

Private John Kellogg of Madison County received a telegram last week informing him that he had been wounded, degree undetermined, while serving with the Army in France last month.

When he contacted the authorities to tell them he was home on leave and was perfectly well, he was ordered to report to the military hospital in Augusta, Georgia to be fitted for an artificial leg.

If the authorities have their way, Mr. Kellogg will be the only man in Alabama with three legs.

## Lacey's Springs Woman Starves to Death While Sleeping

*from 1904 paper*

Mrs. Sallie Rutherford, of Lacey's Spring, was stricken with what was labeled "inflammation." She fell into a coma and her jaws were so tightly locked that no food, liquid, or solid could be administered to her.

Known as "The Sleeping Woman," her case attracted national attention and physicians from all over visited her. After 57 days without food or water, Mrs. Rutherford awoke and quietly asked for something to eat. Alas, she was unable to digest any food that she ate, and after lingering a few more days, she died of starvation.

**"Never go to bed angry.  
Stay up late and plot your  
revenge!"**

*Maxine*

## An Unfortunate Situation

*from 1901 newspaper*

After January 1, 1902 - I will begin to close out my entire stock of old whiskeys and brandies for cash only. Persons wishing to purchase a gallon or more of these fine goods should avail themselves of this opportunity. Will positively allow credit to no

one in the future. To the creditors who have placed me in this unfortunate situation, I say good riddance and may you reap what you deserve. W.E. Everett, Propr. Huntsville Hotel Bar.

**"There is a very fine line  
between "hobby" and  
"mental illness."**

*Dave Barry*



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# Aunt Thelma Parks

by Bob Everest

My family never lived in Huntsville, but we often went there to visit my mother's only sister, Aunt Thelma, when I was a child.

Aunt Thelma was the most unconventional person I have ever met. She was born in 1900 and lived all her life on a small farm about five miles outside of Huntsville. She never married, saying "there ain't a man on this earth I could put up with for very long."

One of her passions was fighting roosters. She never fought them herself but every Sunday morning she would inspect her roosters, telling her hired hand, Rufus, which ones to take and how much to bet. She would then go to church and pray for the sinners.

Aunt Thelma never learned to drive and always depended on someone else for a ride. In 1934 she decided the time had come to learn how. She sent Rufus to town with a wad of cash and instructions on exactly the kind of automobile she wanted.

Rufus was pressed into service as a driving instructor. The lessons quickly proved disastrous. She would yell for the car to stop, blow the horn instead of shifting gears and turn the steering wheel in the wrong directions.

Finally, after several weeks, Rufus informed Aunt Thelma that he did not believe God ever intended for her to drive. He also threatened to quit if he had to give another driving lesson.

The car was consigned to the barn and once a month Rufus would drive it to the front of the house where Aunt Thelma would sit in it and wave at the neighbors

who passed by.

Once a month Rufus would wax the car and once a year he would change the oil, even though the longest trip it ever made was to the front driveway.

In 1987 Aunt Thelma died and I went to Huntsville to settle

her estate.

Most of her property was sold or given away but I had one item shipped to my home in Arizona where it remains as one of my prized possessions.

A 1934 black Ford with 163 miles on it.

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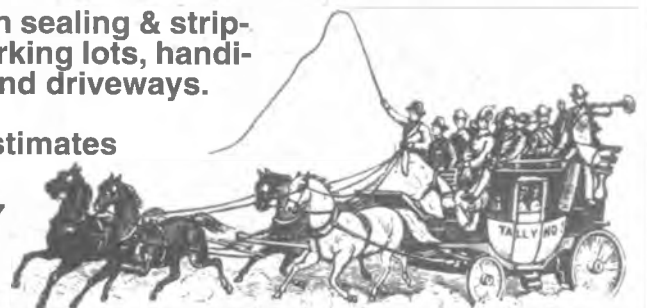
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# News From the Year 1930

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Nation Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Prohibition

The friends of temperance celebrated and its enemies tolled bells as America observed the 10th anniversary of Prohibition this month. The ban on alcohol, as provided under the 18th Amendment, has been the center of nationwide controversy since it took effect at the stroke of midnight, January 15, 1920.

Prohibitionists have called it a blessing, with money once spent on liquor now being used by working families to feed and clothe their children. Opponents, in turn, claim that the law has spawned graft and murder, enriching bootleggers and causing countless deaths from impure alcohol. Because of Prohibition, say the officials of the Moderation League, "a spirit of revolt" is abroad in the nation.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has reported that deaths from alco-

holism among its policyholders last year was six times the rate of ten years ago. Despite widespread opposition, it is not expected that prohibition will ever be repealed.

### New Gang War in Chicago

With the nation in the grip of a crime wave, a new Chicago gang war was launched this morning when machine guns served up death at a dinner party at the Fox Lake Hotel, a resort 50 miles from Chicago favored by the remnants of the "Bugs" Moran gang. The killers appeared at a dining room window and began showering the guests with a leaden entree, killing three and wounding two. Sources claim the Capone mob is responsible.

### Giant Department Store Coming to Huntsville

In a startling announcement today, W.F. Struve announced he was signing a fifty years lease with S.R. Kress & Company for property downtown on Washington Street.

The store is expected to carry a wide range of merchandise at most reasonable prices. Many of the smaller merchants were upset at the giant department store's decision to locate in Huntsville.

It is feared by many that the smaller stores will not be able to compete and will be forced to close as a result.

The store will employ 18 people and will be open six days a week.

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## Ku Klux Parade in Huntsville

The streets of downtown were filled with klansmen in full regalia as 150 cars, loaded with some 500 Klan members, slowly circled the business district.

Perfect order was maintained at all times by hooded klansmen posted on street corners and directing the traffic by means of a high pitched whistle.

Afterwards, over 1000 people gathered at Kildare to hear the Imperial Wizard, Dr. Hiram W. Evans lecture on White Protestantism.

## Tariff Bill Signed

President Hoover has signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Bill, ushering in a new era of protectionism. The Republican-sponsored bill will place the highest tariffs ever on American exports.

The bill incenses Democrats, who have strong political ties with farmers, who could be economically damaged by the legislation. Many economists believe the bill will bring retaliatory tariffs. But Hoover and the bill's authors celebrated the signing and are certain it will stimulate the economy.

## No Suspects in the Latest Unsolved Murder

Tensions have reached an all time high as citizens join the authorities in searching for the killer of H.E. Ross, a well known businessman and civic leader here.

Police have been deluged by well meaning tipsters offering leads to the brutal murder. The Chief of Police wants the community to know that every lead will be pursued and no stone will be left un-turned until the murderer is behind bars.

The slaying, and the controversy surrounding it, has caused Huntsville to become a virtual armed fortress as citizens carry rifles and shotguns as they go about their every day business.

Yesterday an armed mob confronted authorities at the courthouse demanding more be done to apprehend the killer. Authorities pleaded for patience but the mob refused to listen. This and other incidents have caused the governor to issue orders placing the Nation on alert.

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*Sam Keith*

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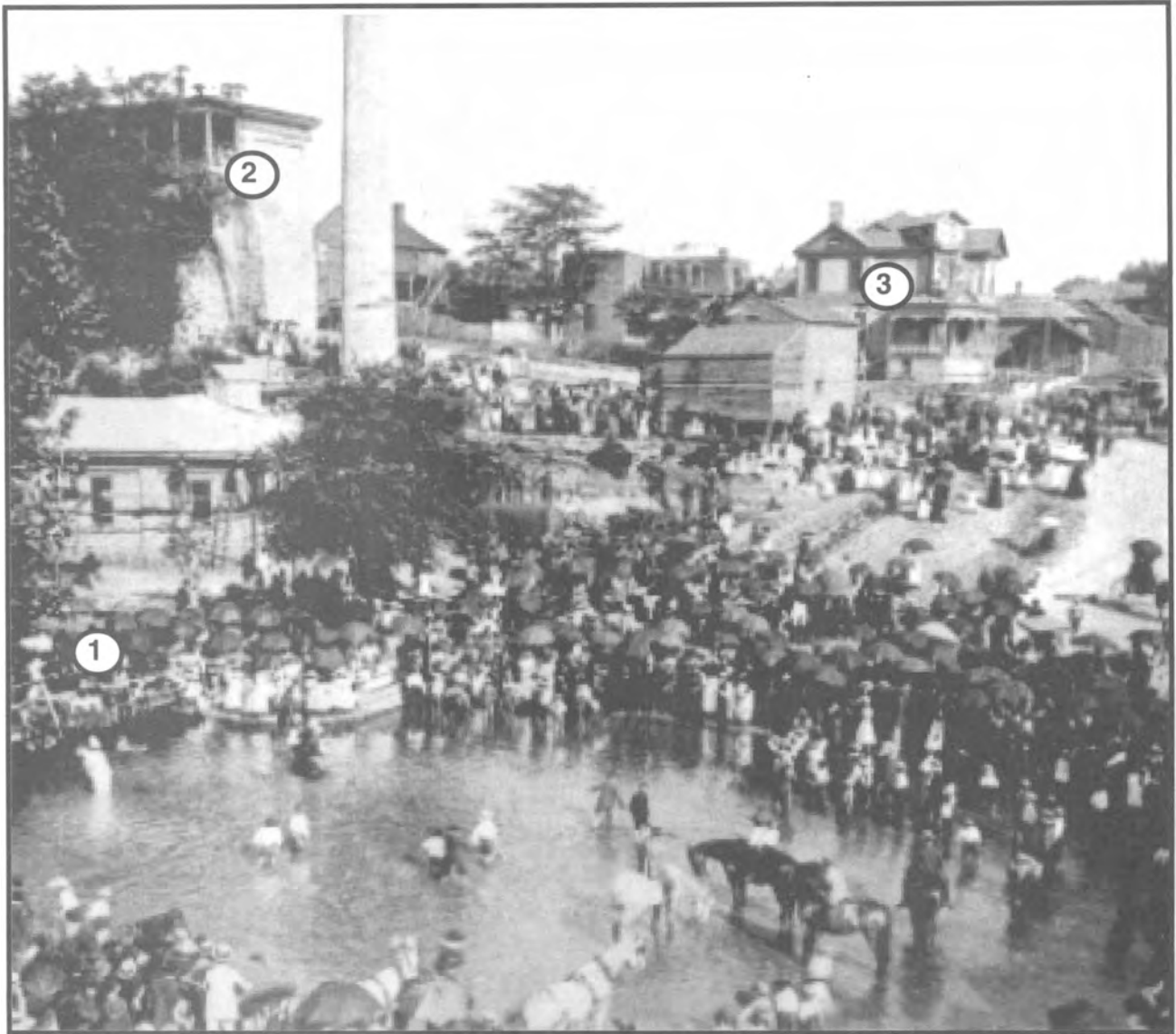
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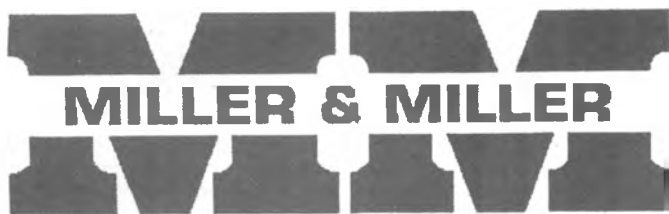
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# Escape from the Madison County Jail

In 1974, Craig McLarin was at the courthouse purchasing car tags when, as he started to leave, he noticed another man about his own age who was wearing a military jacket with a division patch on the shoulder. McLarin was well familiar with the patch; he had been assigned to the same division during his tour of Vietnam.

After brief introductions the two men began the timeless ritual of comparing dates of service and exchanging war stories. Invariably, the conversation turned to drugs and when the stranger said he had some good "smoke," McLarin invited him to his house.

Anyone watching the two men sitting around McLarin's kitchen that evening, drinking beer and smoking, would have agreed the pair made an odd couple. McLarin was 25 years old, white, and had recently been discharged from the Army. When his wife, who was also in the military, transferred to Redstone Arsenal, McLarin followed and began working a series of low paying menial jobs. The other man, Eugene Bonner, was black, a college graduate, married and had two young children.

As the two men talked and got to know one another, the conversation turned to money. McLarin began boasting about powerful people he knew in the mob and how easily they made money. "Just one job," he said, "could put both of us in high cotton."

When Bonner expressed a mild interest, McLarin began spelling out the plan he had been

thinking about for weeks.

"You've seen those homes in Twickenham," he stated. "Those people have fortunes tucked away in bank accounts. All we gotta do is grab one of those old women, have her telephone her husband and make him pay a big ransom. Real fast and real easy and we're on easy street."

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afternoon of September 6, 1974, McLarin picked up Bonner in his red Karman Ghia. McLarin had brought with him a .38 revolver and a military style K-Bar knife which he described as being "the same kind he used on missions in Vietnam." After first stopping at a hardware store on Madison Street to purchase a pair of rubber gloves the men then drove into the Twickenham neighborhood.

Slowly cruising down Franklin Street, the two men decided on a large white house whose occupants appeared to be affluent. Bonner waited in the car as McLarin approached the house and knocked on the door. Despite repeated knocking, however, it soon became apparent no one was home. McLarin thought briefly of breaking in and burglarizing the home but quickly abandoned the idea as his thoughts returned to the original plan.

Returning to the car to get Bonner, both men then approached the home of Mr. and Mrs. Traylor. It had a new Cadillac parked in the driveway, which to both men was a sure sign of wealth. McLarin knocked on the door and when a lady answered, he asked if she needed her grass cut. She said no and shut the door.

While Bonner watched, McLarin made his way to the rear of the house where he found an unlocked door. Seconds later, after hearing loud screams, Bonner entered the home and found McLarin standing over Mrs. Traylor's bruised and battered body.

McLarin was visibly upset at the way his plan had gone awry. He had meant to simply kidnap the woman but when she resisted he had beat her brutally with the butt of his pistol. Now it was impossible for her to call with the ransom demand.

Thinking quickly, McLarin searched the woman's purse for her car keys and ordered Bonner to help him place the woman in the back seat of the Cadillac. With Bonner driving and McLarin giving directions,

the men drove to M o n t e S a n o Mountain where they turned off onto a dirt road near one of the television towers. W h i l e B o n n e r

watched, McLarin pulled Mrs. Traylor from the car and stabbed her repeatedly with his knife, all the time mumbling, "Can't leave no witnesses."

Satisfied that Mrs. Traylor was dead, McLarin and Bonner then drove the Cadillac to a field near Automatic Electric where they abandoned it before walking to



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McLarin's home nearby.

The discovery of Mrs. Traylor's body by a group of hikers horrified the citizens of Huntsville. The Traylor's were among the town's most prominent citizens and well liked by almost everyone. Within hours police were combing Monte Sano Mountain looking for evidence as well as questioning Twickenham residents about any suspicious people seen in the neighborhood.

At first it seemed as if the case would be solved quickly. Neighbors recalled seeing a red Karman Ghia parked near the house and several people told of seeing two "hoodlums," one black and one white, in the area at about the time of the murder.

As the police dragnet spread across Huntsville, officers began questioning everyone who owned a Karman Ghia automobile. McLarin was stopped and questioned twice by the police. Even though a large military type knife was found in his car, the officers had no evidence linking him to the crime and were forced to let him go.

In an almost perverse way, McLarin seemed to glory in being the center of attention. He collected every word written in the newspapers about the case and often approached police officers asking about "how the case was going."

When several months had passed with no new leads the case seemed to be at a dead end. McLarin, perhaps tiring of the game, reenlisted in the Army and after a short period of training was sent to Italy.

Even if other people were willing to forget about the murder, Mr. Traylor, the victim's husband, had other ideas. On October 3, 1974, he placed a large ad in the newspaper offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the

murderers.

Unfortunately for Bonner, he had made a mistake common to most criminals. He confided in a friend, a woman, and now spurred by visions of making easy money herself, she called the police.

When arrested and faced with the prospect of the electric chair, Bonner readily gave McLarin up in a plea bargain.

McLarin was brought back from Italy and on May 13, 1976 was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. Bonner, on the other hand, had been granted immunity and was never charged!

McLarin had no intention of spending the rest of his life behind

bars. By talking to other prisoners and spending hours watching the movements of the guards, he began to narrow his possibilities. Escape through the elevator or stairwell was impossible; it was too well guarded. Going on sick call and possibly escaping from the hospital was quickly ruled out when he noticed the prisoners were heavily manacled whenever they left the jail.

In January of 1977, eight prisoners escaped by crawling through ventilation pipes and lowering themselves to the sixth floor where they escaped down an unguarded stairwell. All of the escapees were quickly captured and if McLarin had any hope of using the same method, his hopes were quickly dashed when heavy metal grates were welded over the ventilation pipes.

Three months later a prisoner



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by the name of William Cordova attempted the impossible. By tying bed sheets together he descended to a lower floor from where he made his escape. But, like the other prisoners who had attempted to break out, Cordova was quickly captured, too. Jail security was greatly increased with jailors patrolling the cell blocks on a constant basis and, in case other prisoners had the same idea, the bed sheets were collected each morning.

McLarin watched Cordova's attempted escape with fascination. Regardless of the odds, McLarin realized this method was his best chance to ever get out of jail. But first he had to get out of a solid steel cell, escape the guards' attention, get to a window, find something to lower himself with and then get away.

Most people would have considered the odds impossible, but most people weren't serving life sentences for murder! McLarin's first opportunity came when, lying on his cot one day, he noticed a little crack in the metal ceiling. By rolling his mattress up and standing on it, he was able to examine it more closely. The crack was tiny, but maybe, just maybe, a hacksaw blade could fit in it! Calling his two cell mates into a tight huddle, he explained his discovery.

His cell mates, Raymond Moore and Terry Baker, were only too happy to participate. Moore was awaiting extradition to North

Carolina where he faced a long prison sentence and Baker was serving a lengthy term for the 1975 arson of the Diplomat Club here in Huntsville.

One of the cell mates owned a relatively new car which was still parked at a friend's house. Word was spread through the jail grapevine that the car could be traded for a hacksaw blade and two-hundred dollars. Finally, one prisoner was found who was about to be released and who agreed to the trade. A bill of sale for the car was made out and two weeks later a visitor to the jail delivered a Bible to the cell mates.

Hidden in the spine of the Bible was a six inch hacksaw blade and two twenty dollar bills. Evidently the "friend" had decided that McLarin was in no position to argue about the rest of the money.

It was impossible to do anything in a cell block without every prisoner knowing about it, and though many of them preferred to simply serve their time, they were not adverse to helping someone else's escape plans. If for no other reason, it provided a welcome break from the everyday boredom of

being in jail. McLarin was aware of this and soon gained the cooperation of many of the inmates.

Occupants of the cell next to McLarin provided the large poster used to cover the saw

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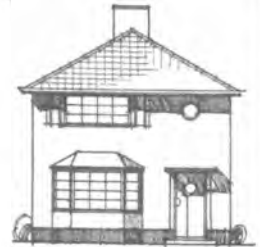
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marks.

Whenever a jailor entered the cell block a loud whistle from those nearest the door would alert McLarin and his cronies, giving them time to hide the hacksaw blade and cover the cut with a poster. When the jailor left the floor another whistle would signal the all clear. Still another prisoner passed on the information that electrical cable, being used in the renovation of a part of the jail, was stored in a room next to the cell block.

McLarin realized a crucial part of his plan depended on the jailers' attention being diverted. He had noticed for sometime that due to the overcrowded conditions, the jailors were busiest on visiting days. Unfortunately, visiting hours were on Sundays and if an escape was made then, it would be daylight outside with people coming and going on the streets below.

When McLarin explained his plan to his cell mates there was instant ridicule. "You expect us to climb down the side of the courthouse in broad daylight without anyone seeing us? You're crazy!"

"That's the beautiful part of it," argued McLarin. "Because it's daylight no one will be looking for us!"

Reluctantly and possibly after considering the alternatives, both men agreed to the plan. The following Sunday, May 22, was picked as the date of the break out.

On the appointed day there were more visitors than usual and the guards, already overworked, were kept busy simply monitoring the visitors. At a few minutes before three in the afternoon, a prisoner at the end of the block sounded a sharp whistle signaling all clear and McLarin decided it was time.

Working rapidly, the three men piled their mattresses into a heap in the middle of the floor. Climbing on top of the bedding, McLarin ripped the poster from the ceiling and gave a hard shove against the metal, exposing a round jagged hole. McLarin went first, squeezing his body through the narrow opening and scraping raw flesh from his arms. Next went Baker, who was much smaller and had an easier time fitting through the hole.

Suddenly, just as Moore reached for the hole, a sharp whistle warned of an approaching guard. With no time to do anything else and sure that he

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was about to be caught, Moore simply set down on top of the mattresses and waited. Almost unbelievably the guard walked right by the cell without even giving it a glance. In a matter of seconds Moore was through the hole and had joined his companions.

Silently the trio crawled across the top of the cell and lowered themselves onto the catwalk. From there they made their way to an adjoining room that was undergoing construction. All types of building material were scattered throughout the room but the only thing that caught McLarin's attention was the roll of electrical cable that one of the inmates had spoken of. After breaking the glass, McLarin began playing the cable out the window and down the side of the courthouse. The plan was to climb down five floors onto the roof ledge of the fourth floor and then break a window to gain entry to the courthouse itself. If everything went right it would then be a simple matter to exit through the elevator or stairwell.

Baker was first out the window. Climbing down hand over hand, he paused at one point to look at the people coming and going out of the courthouse. As McLarin had predicted, no one seemed aware of the drama un-

folding a hundred feet above their heads. Next out the window was McLarin. Earlier he had noticed a group of people standing on a corner across from the courthouse. When he saw them waving, he automatically assumed they were waving at friends or loved ones in jail, but as McLarin began the descent, to his horror he realized they were waving at him! Clutching the cable with one hand, he frantically motioned for the people to leave. The people, evidently not realizing they were witnessing a jail break, turned and continued walking down the street.

Suddenly, with still about twenty feet to go, McLarin's hand slipped on the cable causing him to fall in a crumpled heap onto the roof of the fourth floor. Limping badly with an injured leg, he joined Baker who was searching for something with which he could break a window.

By the time they found a piece of metal pipe and broke the window, Moore was halfway down when he too slipped and fell, severely injuring his back and legs. This posed a dilemma for McLarin. The original plan had been to go to a friend's house who would provide the jailbirds with clothes and transportation, but now McLarin realized, Moore was in serious need of

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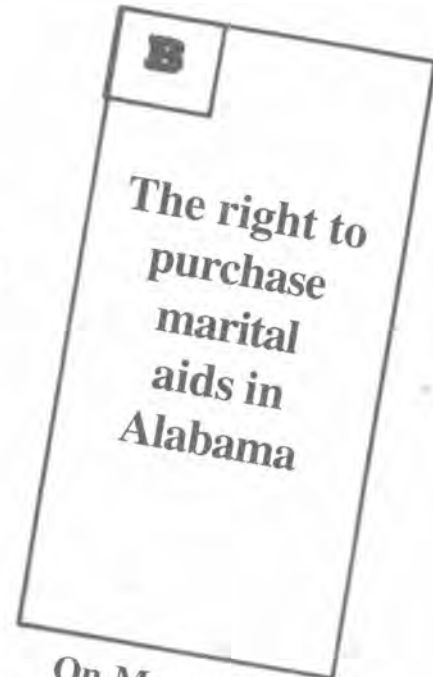
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medical care and it would just be a matter of time until the police caught him and make him reveal the whole plan.

McLarin solved the problem by telling Moore, "You're on your own! We'll help you get out of the building but then we're history!"

After breaking a window leading to the Grand Jury room, the escapees cautiously made their way to the elevator, with McLarin and Moore both leaving a trail of blood behind them. Once on the first floor, McLarin abandoned Moore to his fate.

Motioning Baker to follow him, McLarin then picked up a couple of brooms and a garbage can before walking casually out the door as if he were on work detail. As they approached the street corner opposite the courthouse, McLarin paused and looked upwards at the jail he had just broken out of. Grinning broadly he waved at the prisoners watching from the ninth floor.

Up until now, there had been total silence in the cell block as the other prisoners followed the escapees' progress. Suddenly, when they saw McLarin wave, pandemonium broke loose with every inmate trying to outdo the others in seeing who could make the most noise.

Minutes later, after someone reported the broken windows, the escape was discovered. Much

to no one's surprise, none of the inmates in the cell block had seen anything.

Moore was recaptured within minutes when deputies followed a trail of blood to a house on Walker Avenue where they found him hiding on a back porch. Despite all efforts of the police however, McLarin seemed to have disappeared into thin air. Descriptions of McLarin and Baker were immediately broadcast on radio and TV, but to no avail.

It is often said that, "Truth is often stranger than fiction." But in this instance, it proved to be an understatement. For while

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police were spreading their dragnet across Huntsville searching every nook and cranny, McLarin and Baker, still dressed in their prison uniforms, were sitting at the bus station casually drinking coffee and waiting for the next bus.

Though Baker was recaptured a week later in South Carolina, McLarin remained free for almost a year and a half. During this time attempts to capture him proved to be almost a comedy of errors.

He checked himself into a Veterans Administration hospital and though his records showed "serving life imprisonment for murder," he was still admitted and no attempts were made to contact the authorities.

He applied for and received a new drivers license under his own name, and at one point even visited a friend in the penitentiary! Though he was stopped at least three times by the police, no effort was ever made to run a "check" on him.

In the end Craig McLarin met the same fate as many other criminals -- he was turned in by a woman. He was sent to Holman Prison to serve a life sentence for the brutal murder he committed.

Unfortunately, a life sentence in Alabama is not always for life. He is up for parole this summer.




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