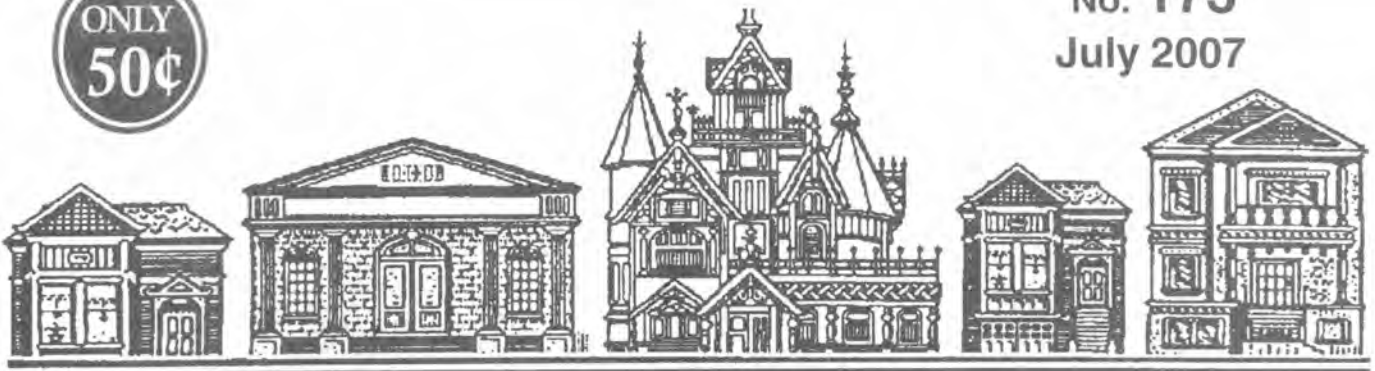


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Old Huntsville

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The Red Dress

When Lula was asked what her husband called her she looked surprised, but was too honest not to reply. After thinking for a long moment she replied, "Woman."

"What does Edwin call you?" she asked in reply.

Susan did not have to think about the answer. "Nothing," she replied as she angrily sorted the dirty clothes. "He never calls me anything."

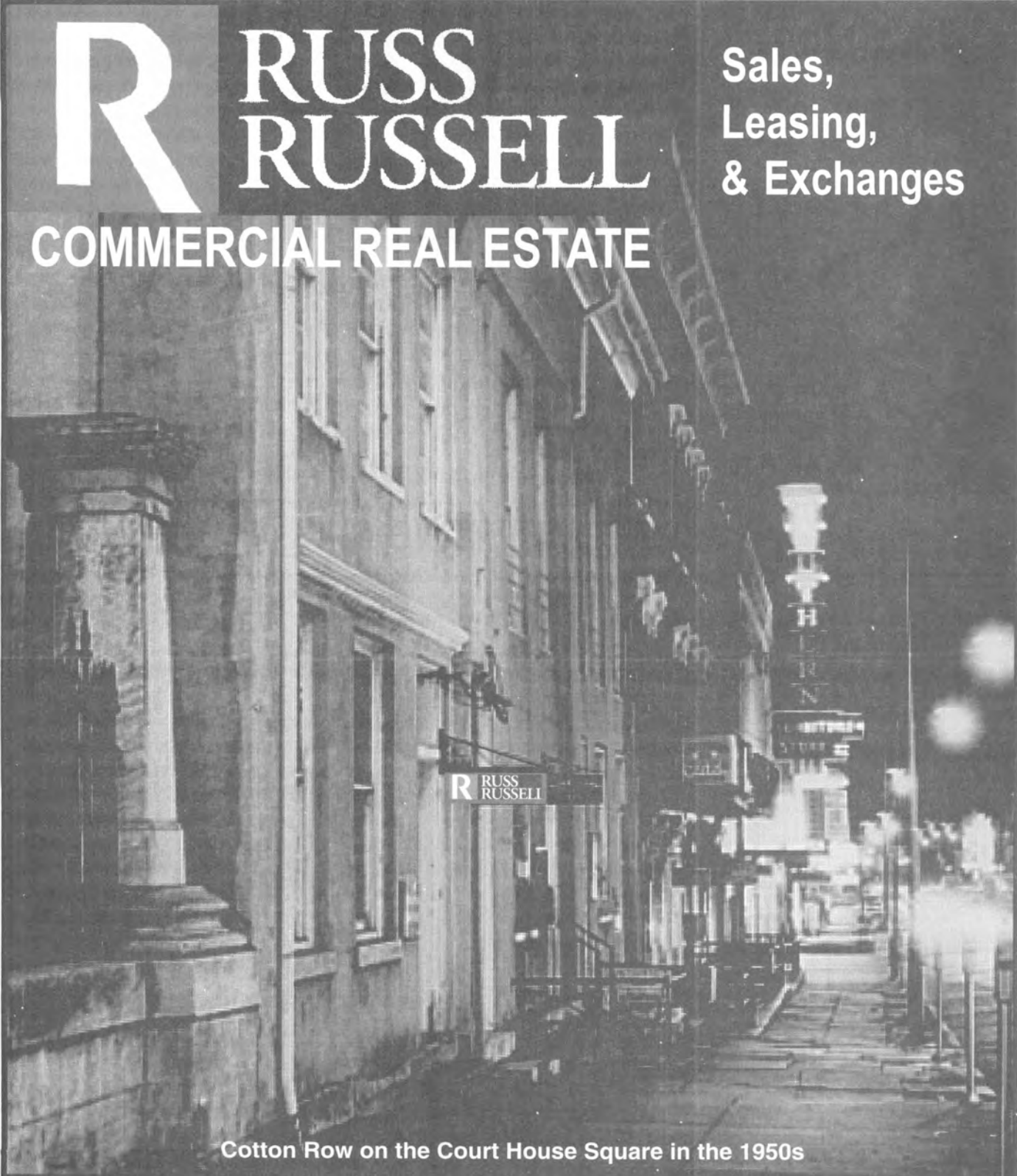
Lula, perhaps remembering when she was a child bride, wrapped Susan in her massive arms. "Honey, you just have to pray. We all have our places in this world."

Also in this issue: **Early Days of Redstone Arsenal**

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The Red Dress

by Elizabeth Edwards

As a young woman Susan would lie in bed, early in the morning while it was still dark outside, and wonder what it would feel like to be in love. She knew it would make her feel warm and giddy all over. She could even visualize feeling light-headed as she fantasized about an imaginary beau who would sweep her up in his arms before carrying her off to a never-never land where they would live forever.

Unfortunately, most times her dreams would be interrupted by the crying of a baby or the loud snores of her husband. As she pulled herself out of bed to begin preparing breakfast, she would once again come face to face with the stark reality of her life.

She was a married woman, with a child, and love was something she would never know.

Susan Baxter was born in Huntsville in 1919, the daughter of a God-fearing man who made a living delivering coal to homes around town. He and his wife were solid pillars of the

community; never raising their voices, always paying their bills on time and attending church every time the doors were open.

The church they attended, Brother Sharp's "Welcome All Congregation", was located on the fringes of a neighborhood in Huntsville known as the Honey Hole, a notorious area where gambling, bootlegging and prostitution flourished openly with little interference from the authorities. The church was a small frame building that had probably once been a store but had grown into such disrepair, the owner was willing to rent it for the few dollars a month Brother Sharp paid.

The Welcome All Church was in many ways typical of the small independent churches that were a phenomenon of the southern culture. Part Baptist, part Holiness and part Pentecostal, the congregation usually focused on a charismatic leader who interpreted the "Word" according to personal "revelations" he received from God..

The services were conducted in the typical "Hell, Fire and Damnation" manner with all the women and girls sitting on one side and the men and boys on the other. All the women wore long black cotton dresses, with the hems brushing the top of their shoes, and their hair tied



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up in tight buns on top of their heads. The men wore white, long-sleeved shirts with the top button always fastened no matter how hot it was. Adornments such as hair bows or suspenders were frowned upon, and public displays of affection were thought of as being scandalous.

"The whole time I was growing up," Susan later remembered, "I never saw a husband hold his wife's hand."

The Welcome All Church was not as inclusive as the name might suggest. Brother Sharp taught that the world was a sinful place and that true believers should limit their contacts with outsiders. To have any social contact with someone not belonging to the church was considered improper. Children were sent to school for only a few years, just long enough to acquire a crude understanding of the basic skills, before being pulled out so they would not be corrupted.

Despite Susan's meager education, she became a voracious reader, eagerly devouring everything she got her hands on. As a young teenager she discovered the "Dime Romance Novels", a popular series of romantic novels that sold for a dime. All the novels had the same basic theme; boy meets girl, boy and girl fall in love, boy and girl get married and live happily ever after.

Susan had to hide to read the novels as her parents would not allow any book except the Bible in the house. The one time she was caught reading one she was forced to "confess and ask for forgiveness" in front of Brother Sharp.

The first inclination that her life was about to change came when she was fifteen years old. One Sunday morning as she was about to leave the church and walk home with her parents, her father told her to wait; Edwin Sharp, the son of Brother Sharp, wanted to walk her home.

Edwin Sharp was a young version of his father. Tall, rail thin, never smiling and always with a Bible in his hand if he was not working. At twenty-two years old, he was considered to be one of the most eligible bachelors in the church.

For the next several weeks Edwin walked Susan home every Sunday. There wasn't much conversation; they really didn't know one another enough to feel comfortable talking about everyday things and they had nothing else in common. Mostly they just walked in silence.

One afternoon Edwin and his father suddenly appeared at Susan's home. Her mother, quickly sizing up the situation, took her into the kitchen where they remained until the visitors

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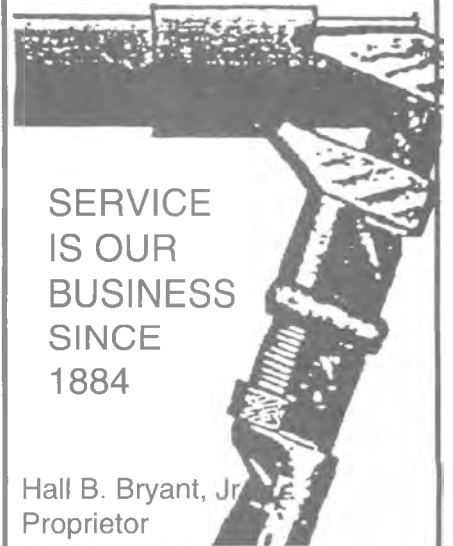
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had left. When Susan entered the room where her father was, he motioned for her to sit down.

"Brother Sharp's boy has asked for your hand in marriage."

One look at her mother, sitting with hands folded and a smile on her face, told Susan that her future had already been decided.

"I don't want to. I don't love him! I don't hardly even know him!"

Mother tried to be persuasive. "He's a good provider and he's a good God-fearing man. What else could you want?"

Susan burst out crying. "I don't love him. Can't you understand?"

The argument continued until finally her father put an end to it. "Love has nothing to do with it. Those books have put silly ideas in your head. You will do what is best for you!"

As hard as it may sound today, Susan had little choice. She could either agree to the marriage and make everyone happy or she could refuse and become an outcast among her own family and friends.

Susan Baxter and Edwin Walker were married five days after her sixteenth birthday. Years later she would recall the ceremony. "While Brother Sharp was praying, a train passed by behind the church. Its whistle was blowing and I remember wondering where it was going. Suddenly I decided I wanted to

just walk out of the church and go with it. I tried, I really tried but my legs would not move. I didn't have the courage."

The next week was busy as the newly married couple moved into their own home and church members stopped by with wedding gifts. Edwin's mother, Lula, purchased a new clock for the new bride. Susan was thrilled with the present until she learned its purpose.

"Edwin is just like his father," Lula explained. "He likes his breakfast - one egg, one biscuit and two slices of bacon at exactly 6:15 every morning and dinner should be on the table at 6:00 sharp every evening. He needs a clean shirt every Sunday, Tuesday and Friday and he likes the collar starched." This was followed by another fifteen minutes of detailed instructions of what Edwin expected from his wife.

Completely overwhelmed, Susan blurted out. "But what if I don't want to?"

A puzzled look appeared on Lula's face. "But why would you not want to?"

Lula Sharp was a huge woman, probably tipping the scales at about two hundred and seventy five pounds and with a heart just as big. Although her hair was snow white, her upper lip boasted a black moustache. She later confided to Susan that she had once tried to shave it but her husband had forbidden it, saying she was vain.

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the two women became friends of a sort. Susan called her husband Mr. Sharp, just as the other wives called their husbands by their last names. One day while washing clothes Susan asked Lula what her husband called her. Try as she might, she could not ever recall Brother Sharp calling his wife by any name.

Lula looked startled by the question but was to honest not to reply. After thinking for a long moment she replied, "Woman."

"What does Edwin call you?" Lula asked.

Susan did not have to think about the answer. "Nothing," she replied as she angrily sorted through the dirty clothes. "He never calls me anything."

Lula, perhaps remembering when she was a child bride, wrapped Susan in her massive arms. "Honey, you just have to pray. We all have our places in this world."

Years passed and Susan tried to become the dutiful wife. Dinner was on the table every night at 6:00 and she starched the collars of her husband's shirts. A daughter, Lizzie, was born.

And every night Susan would lie in bed with a stranger, cringing at the thought of him even touching her.

One day when her daughter was about four years old Susan was shopping and, without thinking anything of it, purchased some paper cutout dolls. That afternoon when Edwin came home Lizzie was sitting on the floor cutting out the dolls and dressing them in various outfits. With hardly a second look he grabbed the dolls and threw them into the fireplace, saying, "She's got no business with such foolishness."

Suddenly a feeling of revulsion and hopelessness engulfed Susan. For a split second she saw her daughter's future. Her daughter would grow up to be just like her and it would be Susan's fault.

Grabbing Lizzie in her arms, Susan ran from the house. For hours she wandered the streets of Huntsville, her mind in a turmoil, trying to decide what to do. Finally, hours after dark, Susan returned home. Her husband was sitting on the front porch waiting for her.

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Without any preamble Susan put into words what she had just dared to think about before. "I want a divorce."

"That's impossible," he replied with a blank look on his face. "Why would you even think something like that?"

Susan tried to explain. "I just don't love you and I have never loved you."

When Edwin reached for his bible Susan fled to her daughter's bedroom where she made a pallet on the floor. The next morning when she got up he had already left.

That afternoon Edwin was late getting home from work. When he did arrive he was accompanied by his father and mother as well as several other members of the church. Brother Sharp motioned everyone to be seated and announced, "We need to pray for Satan to leave our sister."

Susan lost it. "Get out of my house!" she screamed. "Get out of my life! Get out!"

During the next several weeks Susan moved out. She rented a room in a boarding house and found a job. The lady who ran the boarding house agreed to watch Lizzie while Susan worked. But, if she thought her troubles were over, she was mistaken. It was 1939 and divorces were almost unheard of.

She talked to an attorney about a divorce and was told it would be expensive and hard to get. Edwin was a good husband

and it was doubtful the court would rule against him. "In fact," the attorney told her, "Edwin will probably get custody of your daughter if he tries."

Edwin must have been talking to the same lawyer. Several days later Susan returned to the boarding house to find that he had taken Lizzie. That afternoon she confronted Edwin and, with tears in her eyes, begged him to let her have her daughter back.

His eyes were stone cold when he replied, "Come home, do the Lord's will and you can see her."

Edwin, his family and the congregation made it impossible for her to have any contact with her daughter, no matter how



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hard she tried. The only time she could see Lizzie was at church where she was surrounded by his family.

Days, weeks and months passed. Susan attended every church service hoping for a chance to hold her daughter's hand or to tell her how much she loved her. In a perverse sort of way many of the church members seemed to approve of the arrangement. There was no divorce and it was clear to everyone that Edwin was still in control of his wife.

Susan had given up all hope when one afternoon she stopped at a used clothing store hoping to find something that would fit her. She had sorted through most of the clothes and was about to leave when she noticed a dress at the bottom of a box. It was bright red, of a silky material with bows on each shoulder. It was the kind of dress you would have expected to see in a burlesque show. For the first time in months a smile played on her face.

The next Sunday, Susan timed her entrance into the church perfectly. Brother Sharp was in his element, condemning everyone who did not believe like him to eternal Hell, and the congregation was on their second round of Amen's. Looking straight ahead, Susan slowly made her way down the aisle and took her regular seat.

Gasps broke out as the members gawked at the red dress. Never had the Welcome All Church been defamed in such a way. The congregation shifted their attention to Edwin who was sitting in his customary place staring straight ahead, his face almost matching the color of Susan's dress.

After the service Edwin confronted her, telling her that she could not dress that way in church. Susan looked at him coldly and said, "I want Lizzie and

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I want a divorce."

It became almost a dramatic comedy. Each week Susan would show up wearing the red dress and Edwin would grow more flustered as the congregation whispered and pointed. At the end of one service a group of members actually approached him and demanded that he do something about his wife.

It was obvious that something had to be done, so Brother Sharp took matters into his own hands, announcing that the next week he was going to preach from the Letters of Paul. Everyone knew what he meant. A woman was to be submissive to her husband and obedient in church.

The next week began like a repeat of the previous weeks. Susan, dressed in her bright red silky dress, made her way to the woman's section where she took her seat. Edwin was in his seat staring straight ahead and trying to ignore the looks and whispers.

Brother Sharp started off in good form. Quoting scripture,


he explained how the Lord had ordained that everything in his kingdom had a place and a woman's place was to be subservient to her husband.

"At the end of time God will take his vengeance," he shouted, "and you had better be ready!"

Warming to his own words, he let his voice rise to a feverish

pitch as he railed about women who adorned their bodies with fancy clothes, ribbons and bows. Suddenly, just as his voice reached a rousing crescendo, he stopped in mid-sentence while staring at the women's section.

Every face in the church turned to look as Lula Sharp, the preacher's wife, reached into



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her bag and pulled out a small red bow which she carefully fastened to the shoulder of her dress. Titters of laughter broke out among the congregation as they struggled to keep their composure.

The following week Edwin agreed to the divorce, explaining that his father had had a revelation.

Nine years later my grandmother met her true love. They were married and lived happily ever after until her death in 1992.

She never talked about religion except to say that her God was one of love, not of vengeance.



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from 1863 Richmond, Virginia newspaper

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An Expensive Cow

from 1919 newspaper

There is a man in Huntsville who pays \$2,000 a year for the privilege of keeping a cow. He is a sane man, a business man, a man of family and generally respected in the community.

His poor relatives declare him a freak, and his neighbors shrug their shoulders and murmur things about rich men's whims.

The way of it is that he possesses a valuable building lot in a choice residence portion of the city, and having nothing else to do with it, he put a nice little fence around it and quartered therein his pet Jersey cow.

The cow was an artistic cow and harmonized well with the green turf and little bushes, so people rather admired the arrangement.

One day a man came along from Paint Rock who thought he would like to build on that particular lot, so he hunted up the owner and made him a spot cash offer of \$30,000 for the land. His offer was refused, politely and decisively. "But," remonstrated a relative aghast, "that would pay you \$2,000 a year! Why did you refuse it?"

The rich man lit a cigar and turned a calm face on his accuser. "Yes," he assented in a puzzled way, "but what would I have done with my cow?"



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Buried Treasure in Hazel Green

by Charles Rice

An oft told tale in northern Madison County concerns a buried treasure that supposedly was hidden 130 years ago near the town of Hazel Green. Now don't get excited and run off to look for it, because it is said to have been found long ago. Well, it just may have been - if it ever existed.

The swashbuckling story concerns the quite respectable Townsend family, early settlers of our region and very wealthy cotton planters before the War Between the States. We leave it to you to decide how much truth there is in the tale.


The patriarch of this old Madison County family was one Parkes Townsend. Born in Lunenburg County, Virginia, in 1795, Townsend had left his home in 1827 to seek new lands in Alabama. He grew rich here and fathered a large family before his untimely death in December 1849 at the age of only 54. Even after his property had been divided among his heirs, it remained quite impressive. In fact, in 1860, just before the Civil War, Townsend's widow, Mary, still held title to \$30,000 worth of land, while her personal property was listed at \$74,870. This was a virtual

fortune in those long ago horse and buggy days. Townsend's son Daniel owned \$20,000 in land plus \$51,685 in personal property, while another son named Samuel claimed some \$18,120 in real estate and \$151,000 in personal wealth. Exaline Townsend, apparently a widowed daughter-in-law, owned land valued at \$36,000 as well as a personal estate of \$50,000. Clearly, the Townsend family was among the wealthiest in Madison County.

This much of the story is verifiable. However, what follows clearly falls into the realm of legend. According to old timers around Hazel Green, in 1862 some of the Townsend family became frightened at the approach of the invading Union Army. Realizing the "thieving Yankees" would take everything

they owned, they loaded several barrels with gold and silver and drove off one evening after dark. Allegedly, a slave or two accompanied them. Stopping at a large walnut tree somewhere near Charity Lane, the Townsends ordered the slaves to dig a deep hole and conceal the treasure. Then, imitating the bloodthirsty pirates of the Spanish Main, these respectable Alabamians supposedly murdered the inoffensive slaves and threw their bodies into the pit. Refilling the hole, the Townsend men returned to their homes to quietly await the return of peace.


So what do you think happened next? You guessed it. Somehow the walnut tree mysteriously disappeared during the course of the war, and the Townsends could never find their treasure again. Foolishly,



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it would seem, they rented the land to a stranger - a virtual share-cropper, more or less. After about two years, the stranger up and disappeared one day. No one around Hazel Green ever saw him again, but he reportedly bought himself a fine farm in Tennessee and lived there happily ever after.

A good story, right? But realistically, could such an event actually have happened in Alabama? Slaves in the antebellum South had few legal rights, but one simply could not go about murdering African-Americans with impunity. Surely, the Townsends' other slaves would have talked, and the Union Army would have taken action even if the Alabama authorities did not. Furthermore, were the Townsends really such a brutal lot? This prominent family remained in the area long after the war, and retained the respect of their neighbors - something that

would not have been possible had they been viewed as murderers.

Perhaps something really did happen back in 1862. Maybe the Townsends hid part of their wealth and could not find it again. And just possibly a tenant farmer did discover it, and take off for parts unknown. But the rest of the tale has too much of the "Yo ho ho and a bottle of rum" in it to be believed. It sounds rather like some of the old boys at the Hazel Green town "liars' bench" had been reading about pirates, peglegs, and Long John Silver and simply decided to spice things up a bit. After all, the real fun in any story is the telling of it, isn't it?



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Chelsie Smith, 8

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News from 1909

- A responsible business man of Huntsville has said that for \$200 he will find the main stream of the big spring on the Little Mountain and provide water enough to supply the city. The gentleman wants the money for his trouble and it will not have to be paid him if he fails to find the stream. The matter will probably be taken up at the next city council meeting.

- That puddle in front of the Post Office Cafe is still there. It has been there ever since the square was paved. A load of Iuka gravel would save the skirts of many of the ladies and prevent some hard words from being spoken by the gentlemen who must pass there after heavy rains. People walk through the court house yard to keep from passing the unsightly place and this will finally hurt the business on that side of the square, for when the number of passersby is cut down, the rents go down also.

- That deer in the court yard is going to cripple someone yet and who is going to pay the damage? Is the county responsible? Put the buck in a fenced-in corner of the yard or else have him removed entirely from the court yard.

- The policemen on day duty presented an imposing sight when they began their rounds on horseback. From now on every section of the city will be covered during the day by the mounted men. This has been the law for years but it has been neglected and many of the policemen found it more comfortable to walk than to ride horseback.

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Col. Gary Knight #1850 & Col. Spencer Glasgow Al. License #741

Frank James in Huntsville Jail

from 1884 Huntsville newspaper

jump off into the great elsewhere in a jiffy. His extreme pallor is suggestive of a want of sunshine. Since October of 1882, he has not enjoyed the bounding, buoyant life of a dashing freebooter, but has sickened over with the damp of prison walls. His life has undergone a change!

The latest accession to the list of our local sojourners is the last of what is known to the history as the James Band - no less a personage than Frank James himself. He was brought here last Thursday from Missouri by two United States Deputy Marshals and turned over to Marshal Hinds.

Having had all his state cases in Missouri disposed of finally, by virtue of the infamy of Dick Liddel and the consequent invalidity of whatever this sweet scion of reformation might say. Frank James was immediately taken in hand by government officials and brought here to answer a charge of conspiracy to rob Postmaster Smith at Muscle Shoals. As soon as it was noised about that the distinguished outlaw was in the city, quite a throng of curious bodies went to the Calhoun building where they got a glance of him.

"There he sits with a thin, cornsilk moustache, and smoking a cigar," said a bystander to the scribe. The scribe at once proceeded to make mental notes of the supposed bandit, and had succeeded in making a good mental photograph, when the said subject arose and quietly walked out of the house and across the street to one of the neighboring saloons. It was one of the Missouri deputy marshals.

Next we turned to the true, and veritable Frank James, a man five feet ten and one quarter inches high, seeming taller than what he is (for he only weighs about 130 pounds) with dark

hair, a clear, firm, earnest eye and quite quick and almost nervous in his movements.

He looked travel worn and when seen several days later, in his cell at the jail, there was a marked difference for the better in his appearance. He is rather pale, but by no means a cadaver standing in stockings ready to

A glance reveals the fact that his chest is his weak physical point, but he is not yet on the perilous edge of the grave. He informed our scribe that his natural weight was not over 140 pounds. He has a dry, comfortable cell at the jail and thinks he is stronger than he has been for some months past.

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He thinks he would like Huntsville, whose beauties of scenery and charming air were already familiar to him. He had been to Huntsville several times before, but had not tarried here for more than a day or two at a time. He had likewise traveled through on the Memphis and Charleston railroad several times and had admired the mountain fastness of Jackson County.

Concerning his case, of course, we did not expect him to say much. He said that he had employed Gen. L.P Walker as his local attorney and expected that Governor Charles P. Johnson, of Missouri, would be on hand to attend his trial. His habit was to get the very best counsel to be had, and then leave everything to them.

Yes, he always slept well; slept as easy as an infant, went to bed about nine o'clock every night and did not get up until half past ten next morning. He found that sleep had all the health-giving powers so often ascribed to a thousand and one nostrums.

His circumstances had been indeed a hard school.

He would not try to make bond, he reckoned, as it was but a short time till the April term of the Federal court and his friends had already been exceedingly kind to him. He could make it easily if

he chose to. He did not wish to tax his friends any more than he found actually necessary. He hoped the local press would at least, not go out of its way to pound him, and prejudice his approaching trial. Every man is entitled to an unprejudiced trial. With quite a merry twinkle he said that he thought the entire press owed him a large bounty, for he had furnished them food for gossip and reflection for twenty years, and they had often taken the privilege of placing him a thousand miles distant from where he re-

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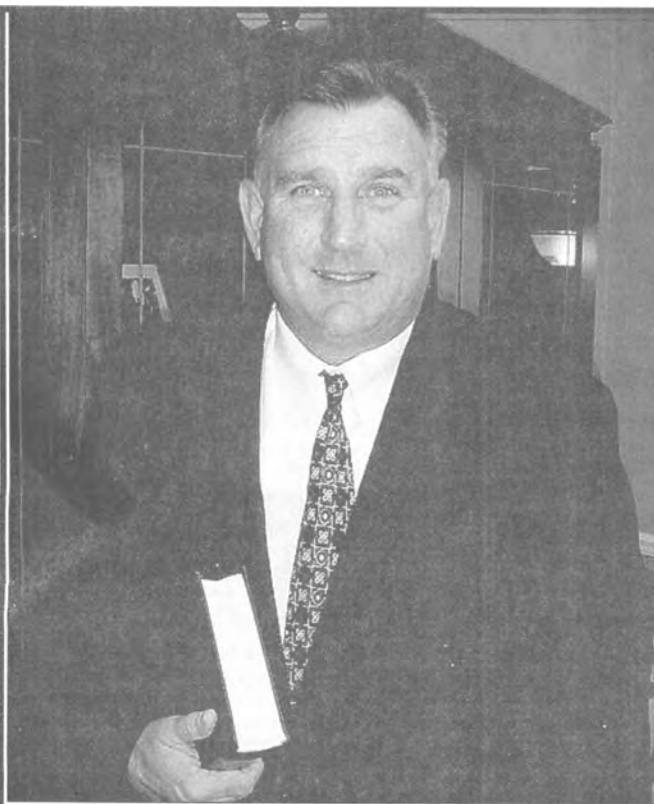
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ally was.

When the scribe bade him "good morning," he extended a cordial invitation to the scribe to call again as he had always been a good friend to the "quill-drivers" and had never interfered with one of them. The scribe has a vague suspicion that there was another twinkle in his eyes this time, as he said he had never "troubled" any newsman.

We would not charge him wrongfully for a million of shining ducats, but unless we are on a false trail, there was in this last mentioned, laughter in his eyes which arose from a knowledge on his part of the impecuniosity of the journalists guild, as much to say: "Frank James knew where to find what he wanted."

"My wife made me join a bridge club - I jump off next Thursday."

Rodney Dangerfield

Captain Gurley to Host Two-Day Reunion

from 1907 newspaper

Capt. Frank B. Gurley will have the annual reunion of the surviving members of his Confederate Cavalry troop at this home near Gurley beginning Wednesday.

All of the members of this intrepid command who reside anywhere in this country and are in the enjoyment of good health will be there and they will be royally entertained by their old commander for two days or as long after as they wish to remain.

The reunion of the Gurley troop is an annual affair and one that is looked forward to with great pleasure by all concerned.

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Heard On The Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Our readers are doing so well on guessing the Photo of the Month. We had an early winner last month - **Bonnie Mann**, who is a happily retired Federal Government employee, was the first to call and guess that the handsome boy was none other than **Randy Roper!**

Congratulations to the graduating class of Huntsville High, 1947, who recently held their 60th reunion here. The attendees recognized each other and really enjoyed their event!

That smiling face you always see at Colonial Bank on Church street belongs to **Jennifer Dugan**. She wants to wish happy July birthdays to her mom, **Kim Dugan**, her sister **Beth Dugan**, best friend **Jimmy Scott** and fiance **Ted Parmenter**. Another lady celebrating her birthday is **Sabrina Williams** who also works at Colonial bank. Happy Birthday to all of you!

Suzie Nolen recently surprised her sweet hubby **John Bennett** with a birthday party at Blackwater Hatties on So. Parkway. Many of their friends showed up for cake and ice

cream and had a great time. We won't tell his age but let's just say he's between 59 and 61!

Leroy and Betty Jo Cunningham recently celebrated their 49th anniversary - they look like newlyweds and 49 years is hard to believe!

Three lovely Beta Sigma Phi ladies took an exciting trip to Italy to sample the food and great wines there. **Connie Smith, Louise Avery and Barbara Saunders** had a great time and just recently returned - we can't wait to hear all about it!

Vic and Mary Grimes celebrated their 65th anniversary recently at the Jazz Factory with a small family dinner.

We were so sorry to hear of the death of **J. B. Tucker** of Hurricane Creek. He was much loved by all who knew him and especially his wife (61 years) **Margaret** and daughters **Linda** and **Sandy**.

Ann and James Caudle celebrated their 25th wedding an-

niversary recently. They are the owners of New South Architects.

The local Optimist Club recently honored 6 law enforcement officers for their outstanding service to the public. One of those was our friend **Tim Clardy**, who joined the force in 1981. Congratulations to you, Tim!

Linda Drake certainly keeps busy, and she was honored recently by the Salvation Army who awarded her the annual Marietta Bailey Award for all the volunteer work she does in helping to feed the hungry.

We hear from **John Bzdell** that **Margaret Watson**, from the old Lakewood neighborhood, is remodeling her condo in South Huntsville. It's looking really good. John owns Marathon Painting.

On July 7th the **Farmer's market on Cook Avenue** is hosting their annual Corn Fest, where our local farmers bring in their fresh produce. Please go by and show your support for them,

Photo of The Month

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

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they will be selling everything from ice cold watermelon, to tomatoes, to veges, honey and everything in between!

Happy birthday to **Evan Troup**, who turned 4 in June. The sweet little guy celebrated with a swim party at his home, with parents **John** and **Stefanie Troup** and their family.

Our **Mayor Loretta Spencer** was recently surprised with a birthday gift from **President George Bush** when he visited our area in June. What a memorable birthday for Loretta!

The Rison-Dallas Association will host its 35th Annual reunion on August 4th at Jackson Way Baptist Church on Andrew Jackson Way. Guest speaker will be **John Pruitt**, long-time sports editor of the Huntsville Times. Be sure and attend!

By now you've heard that **John Shaver** is closing his bookstore on Whitesburg Drive. It's just hard to compete with the big box stores these days. John has an outstanding selection of books about Huntsville and this area, with local authors and historians and he will still have his books for sale at Railroad Station Antiques and Hartlex Antiques in Madison.

A special hello to our friend **Bill Miller, Sr.** Mr. Miller built most every bridge in Huntsville and the area and is just a sweet guy. He sure loves Huntsville's history!

That handsome **Dick Ma-roon** recently celebrated his birthday - he and his wife **Karen** live in Twickenham and just love this area. Dick's sister **Tammy** will soon be relocating to Huntsville and we know she'll love it here too!

There are so many great things to do in Huntsville, for you new folks to our area. The Botanical Gardens are beautiful and ever-changing, the Art Museum is worth the time to go there, Burritt Museum is packed with

history, the children's fountain off Church is great for kids and FREE, a petting zoo just west of Huntsville in Woodville, there are concerts in the Big Spring park every Monday evening, there are plays at the Renaissance theater on Meridian, a really good library to visit - the list just goes on and on!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of **Grover "Griff" Griffith**, who worked years ago at Thiokol Chemical Corporation here. We send our condolences to his family and friends.

It was great to see **Malcolm Miller** recently. We didn't realize that Malcolm had been a barber and a postman years ago! He is a really interesting guy, and a great writer.

Congratulations to **Patrick** and **Holly Stapler** who married in late June. The wedding took place at **Brad Merrell's** home, Brad is the grandson of our dear **Aunt Eunice**.

The **Historic Lowry House** was the setting for the kickoff of **Glenn Watson's** run for Country Commissioner, District 2. **Jane** and **Louie Tippett** are the owners of the home, and it was packed with friends and supporters. This will be a race to watch!

Have a great July, and keep an eye on your older neighbors in this extreme heat.

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Misty Adams, age 7



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Hot Summer Treats

from Carol Christopher

Family Sesame Sticks

- 4 slices bread
- 1/2 c. parmesan cheese
- 1 stick butter
- 1 oz. sesame seeds

Cut crusts off bread and cut into 4 strips. Dip the strips in butter, then in parmesan cheese, then in sesame seeds. Do not cut again. Line on cookie sheet. Bake at 200 degrees for an hour plus a few extra minutes to get golden brown.

Peanut Butter Ice Cream Pie

- 4 T. peanut butter
- 4 T. light brown sugar
- 1 pint vanilla ice cream
- Graham cracker crust
- Crushed peanuts

Melt peanut butter and sugar in saucepan over low heat. Add ice cream and melt, stirring

constantly. Pour into graham cracker crust and top with crushed peanuts. Freeze and serve.

San San's Cake Cookie

- 1 box lemon cake mix with pudding
- 8 oz. whipped topping
- 1 egg

Mix above ingredients, then place by the spoonful onto a plate of powdered sugar. Roll and coat well. Place balls of dough on cookie sheet and bake at 350 for about 12 to 15 minutes.

7 Cup Salad

- 1 c. grated coconut
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1 c. crushed pineapple
- 1 c. miniature marshmallows
- 1 c. cottage cheese

1 c. chopped nuts
Mix all together and refrigerate. Great for making ahead of time, and is delicious!

Tea Punch

- 7 tea bags
 - 2 c. sugar
 - 12 oz. frozen orange juice concentrate
 - 12 oz. lemonade concentrate
 - Sprigs of fresh mint
 - Water to finish gallon
- Brew tea as usual. Add remaining ingredients and stir.

Aunt C.C.'s Chicken Breasts

- 2 whole chicken breasts, split
- Salt
- Seasoned pepper
- 1/4 c. butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 bunch broccoli, cooked

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1/4 c. minced green onions
 1 t. paprika
 4 cans cling-peach halves
 1 c. sour cream
 1/4 c. mayonnaise
 1/4 c. grated Parmesan cheese
 Season chicken with salt and pepper. Melt butter in small skillet and add green onions and garlic and saute a few minutes. Stir in paprika and turn chicken in mixture til well coated.

Put in shallow baking dish, cover loosely with foil and bake in 375 degree oven for about 20 minutes. Arrange well-drained broccoli in pan on one side of the chicken and put the peaches on the other side.

Mix sour cream and mayonnaise and spoon over all. Sprinkle with cheese and put low in oven and broil til glazed and richly flecked with brown. Makes 4 servings.

Hawaiian Sweet Bread with Dill Weed Dip

Dip:

16 oz. sour cream
 1/4 c. parsley flakes
 1/4 c. dry onions
 32 oz. mayonnaise
 1/4 c. dry dill weed
 Mix ingredients for dip and refrigerate. Take one round loaf

of Hawaiian Sweet bread (can be purchased at grocery store) and cut out center of loaf for a small bowl to sit in.

Cut centerbread into cubes and place around loaf in platter. Pour dip into bowl just before serving. Place toothpicks nearby.

Broccoli "Delight" Salad

2 bunches broccoli, heads only

- 1/2 c. raisins
- 1/2 c. pecans
- 1/2 c. red onion, chopped
- 12 slices bacon, fried

Dressing:

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 T. apple cider vinegar

Mix the ingredients for your dressing and refrigerate overnight - this is important!!

Mix the first 4 ingredients for the salad in a large bowl. Just before serving, pour dressing over the salad and crumble crisp fried bacon over the top.

Carol Christopher is a local award-winning cook whose recipes normally place first in dozens of different categories.

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Early Days of Redstone Arsenal

by B.J. Smith

The news was announced on July 3, 1941. The Chemical Warfare Service would install a chemical plant and a separate ordinance plant just south of Huntsville. The timetable set by the War Department in Washington was strict, if not impossible. Construction would begin within a week, and production would begin in six months.

The Government sent a number of officers and enlisted men immediately. Arriving in Huntsville, they discovered that the area set to become Huntsville Arsenal was still occupied by farmers and property owners. Their first job was to remove these residents, many of whom had no place to go. Though many of these families had lived on the land for almost a hundred years, they reluctantly moved when it was pointed out to them that the land was needed for the war effort.

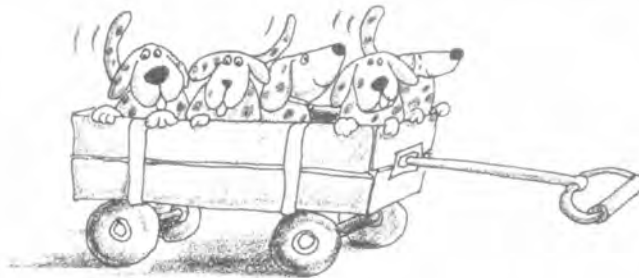
Organization in those early days was difficult. Many of the government officials and local administrators had to set up offices outside of the Arsenal until permanent buildings were

constructed.

A fact not commonly known is that the gym of Huntsville High School served as one of the first "office buildings" for the influx of new employees. In fact, office space was so limited that many churches, schools, and

other buildings in Huntsville were used as the "Arsenal" until initial construction was finished.

Eventually, workers began moving into newly constructed buildings. Many local employees formed car-pools, as the Government called for conserva-



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tion of gas and oil. When one of these cars broke down, which was fairly often, four or five workers became stranded, unable to work that day. To make matters worse, construction concentrated on buildings and not on roads.

Following heavy rainfall, the dirt and clay roads running throughout the Arsenal became treacherous "seas of mud." In probably a "first" for Huntsville's government workers, women were instructed to wear pants, not skirts, to work as they often had to trudge through knee deep mud to get to their workplaces.

One problem unique to the Arsenal's early history were the road blocks at the guard gates, creating long lines of overheating cars. The road blocks were designed to stop workers from sneaking alcohol off the Arsenal. Grain alcohol was used as an ingredient for some gasses, but many workers found it more profitable (and enjoyable) to use it for other "purposes." Workers initially smuggled the alcohol off the Arsenal in buckets, jars, and other containers but when the guard at the gate was "tightened" they were forced to use more ingenious methods.

To make it through the road blocks, many of the would-be bootleggers stored the alcohol in their car's radiators. Not a bad idea. Unless, recalls one worker, the car began to overheat in the long line. The aroma of the "still" would lead the guards directly to the smuggler's car causing several of the workers to spend part of their wartime service in the local jail.

As production began to

increase, the demand for workers became hard to meet. Most of the able-bodied men were in uniform and the few left were reluctant to work in a chemical plant. Ads were placed in newspapers throughout the country but there was still not enough labor to supply the Arsenal's requirements. As a last resort, job recruiters periodically drove through the streets of Huntsville, announcing available jobs with a loud speaker attached to their cars.

Anybody who wanted a job

and was willing to work soon found themselves employed on the Arsenal. There were no technical qualifications required. For many of the new employees, this was to be their first job off the family farm. Though many of them were barely literate, they proved to be hard workers easily adaptable to the rigors of a war-time economy.

Producing chemicals was an indefinite science. New workers seldom received any training before taking their place on the pro-

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duction lines. Mistakes were made, and the workers learned from them. Eventually, the process grew in efficiency and safety.

Some side effects from the production of chemicals did persist. Dyes of different colors were used to create smoke bombs and the dyes would also color the skin of the workers. The dye could not be washed out conventionally. It had to wear off in time.

It was quite common to see workers with brightly colored skin. You could literally tell which gas a worker was producing by the color of their skin. Arsenal employees could be seen walking around Huntsville colored blue, red, yellow, and violet.

A Huntsville native who worked at the Arsenal in its early days recalls dating his wife who also worked there. "Her skin was dyed violet and mine was yellow. When we got married that summer even our best man was colorful! His skin was green! My wife was so pretty that we all teased the best man about being green with envy."

Occasionally a worker would come into contact with a hazardous chemical such as white phosphorus. For these situations, deep holes were dug inside the building and filled with water. The workers were instructed to jump in, hopefully to rinse off the burning chemical. Fortunately the holes were seldom used.

As expected from a chemical and ordinance plant, Huntsville and Redstone suffered their share of fires and contaminations. However, from the first day of construction to the end of the War, only nine deaths were recorded. These fatalities resulted from the production of chemical weapons, which were not used at all in World War II.

Not all of the jobs on the Arsenal were directly related to the production of chemical weapons. One employee actually had the designation of being the only official "Spider Killer" listed in federal records at that time. When production lines were being built, certain areas became infested with large blackwidow spiders. With the production line employees afraid to enter some of the buildings and after more conventional methods had failed, the government finally hired a man to kill the spiders.

Other employees were in charge of growing and harvest-

ing corn and hay to feed the horses, chickens and pigs, which were raised on the Arsenal. The horses were used early on by a cavalry patrol unit.

The pigs and chickens were raised to help feed the numerous workers on the Arsenal. Neither project proved cost effective, and both were eliminated as part of the Arsenal's first "cut back."

Part of the huge Arsenal complex was used as a prisoner-of-war camp. When the allied offensive in

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Africa began, large numbers of German soldiers were captured and many of these were sent to camps in America. It is estimated that as many as seven hundred prisoners were kept on the Arsenal.

Many of these prisoners became converted "Southerners," and returned in later years as tourists. Ironically enough one of the prisoners had relatives who would move to Huntsville in a few years as part of the German rocket team.

In large, though, Huntsville Arsenal's main objective was to produce and load chemical weapons. Ammunition such as incendiary bombs and artillery shells were also produced, but in much smaller quantities.

The end of the War resulted in a decline of interest in chemical weaponry. Huntsville Arsenal was ordered to be decontaminated and demilitarized, and eventually sold off. Fortunately, this process took

longer than the Government had expected.

During this time, Redstone Arsenal was being considered as the home for rocket and missile research. In Oct., 1949, Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville Arsenal joined to become the new Ordnance Guided Missile Center.

The Huntsville Arsenal was officially closed, and the new Redstone Arsenal was born.



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A Letter Home

Sept. 5, 1861 Huntsville
Camp Jones

Dear Mattie,

This leaves me totable well and I hope it will find you and our darling babe doing well. I was rite sick yesterday. I took my blanket and went out and took an Eruetic. I believe it done me well as my appetite has returned and I hope by tomorrow I will be all right, though I can not tell for I may have a chill or fever tomorrow.

I believe that General Nicholson is one of our worst boys so far. The very first night he came here he got a company of our boys and went to Huntsville and taken the finest bar room and drinking saloon that is in the place. Taken it with bowie knives and pistols, so they say, and then marched something like a hundred men in by fours. Made them drink

and fall back so as to give room for others. They got a negro hemmed up behind the bar and made him light cigars for the Co.

Nicholson lost his watch and it was found in Davis' possession. A court Martial was held and he proved guilty of the charge. Davis then acknowledged that he was guilty, and he then wore a ball and chain everywhere about 40 lbs., for 4 days and was marched across the encampment once a every day and the rogues march played by all the old drums in the camp following just behind him and was drummed out of the camp this morning. I am sorry I ever new his name.

We have some exciting news of this time from Virginia, it is said that Lee has crossed the Potomac with 40 thousand soldiers to attack Washington City so we may look out for startling news from that point soon. Marylanders are gathering to the eastern shore by the thousands and Missouri is overrun with yankees and they have nothing to fight with but I trust we will soon be there to help them.

E.D. Treadwell

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Karen Johnson, 6

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The deserted wife bears an unblemished reputation, and when Meyers and the attorney were heard questioning her chastity they soon found themselves surrounded by a crowd of determined men armed with some antiquated eggs.

The lawyer pleaded so hard that he was not molested after he promised to leave the town. Meyers, however, became the very unwilling target for the eggs and was a sorry and odorous sight when he got on board a passenger train to leave.

The conductor at once put him off, out of consideration for the other passengers who immediately began to complain of the smell.

Meyers escaped by the aid of a brakeman on a freight train, who loaded him in a box car and hauled him out of town. There was no attempt made to arrest any of the participants in the mob, and their work is generally approved in the town and vicinity.

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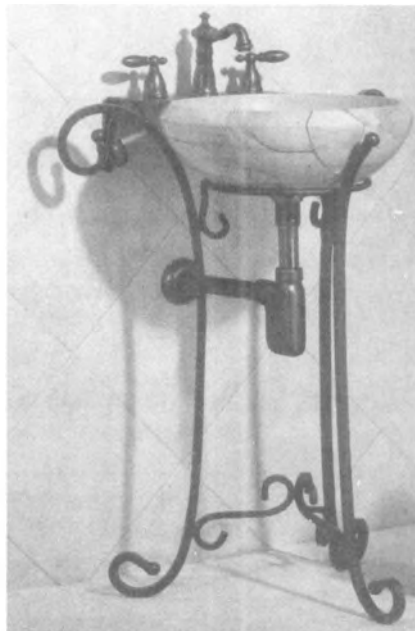
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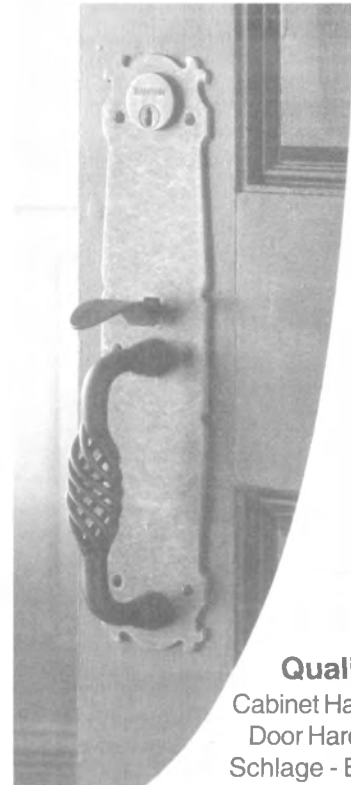
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Heard on the Streets in 1907

- Charles Hawk, a young painter of Huntsville, about 24 years old, while attempting to jump on a running freight train that was passing Dallas Mills Sunday afternoon, missed his footing and fell with his right leg under the wheels. It was so badly crushed that it had to be amputated three inches above the knee.

- On Thursday last, Mr. John Hertzler was riding in a buggy on Clinton Street in this city. His horse took fright near the Baptist Church, ran away, and ran the buggy against a tree on the opposite side of the street, throwing Mr. Hertzler out and breaking loose. The horse ran off. Mr. H. was knocked insensible, was taken into Mr. Thos. Jamar's house, remained there for two days, and so far recovered as to be taken home.

- In search of Mrs. Frances W. Gerkin, a music teacher, nearly blind, who left Norfolk, Virginia some years ago and is reported to have been drowned while crossing the Tennessee River, four or five years ago.

- A son of Lira Elliot, of Lincoln Village, aged ten years, was ill for a year and although having a ravenous appetite, grew emaciated. His physician gave him some medicine that produced nausea and he was choked by the appearance of a snake which required all the doctor's force to draw from his mouth. It was striped and eighteen inches in length. The lad recovered and is feeling better.

Reward Offered

A \$10 reward will be given for information on the whereabouts of Molly Younger. She is 13 years old, slender build and has black hair. She is believed to have eloped with John Nance to the Huntsville area. Contact paper.

from 1901 newspaper



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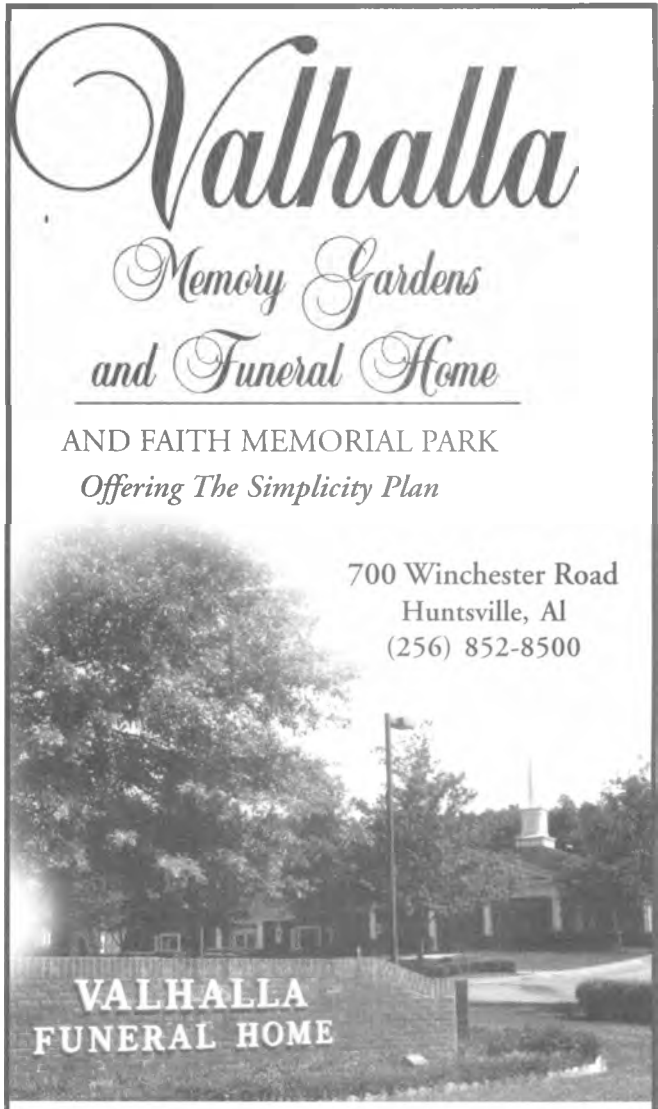
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When Turchin Came to Call

by Charles Rice

In the summer of 1862 a court-martial was convened by the Union army in the occupied city of Huntsville. Presiding was a general from Ohio who would one day occupy the White House. His name was James A. Garfield. All eyes at the time, however, were on the defendant: John B. Turchin, colonel of the 19th Illinois Volunteers. Turchin, a striking figure with a coal black beard, was a former Russian army officer who had emigrated to America and become a civil engineer. He was charged with ordering his men to pillage the city of Athens, Alabama, which they gleefully did without further prompting. As the testimony clearly showed, Turchin's troops ransacked homes, looted stores, trampled bibles, insulted white women, and actually raped several black women.

Turchin was finally called to account for his actions, being convicted and dismissed from the Union army in disgrace. Yet no where in the charges did it mention Turchin's behavior when he was at Muscle Shoals.

The story here was actually little different from that at Athens.

Tuscumbia in 1862 "was an attractive place, containing many fine business blocks and residences, and giving evidence of thrift and prosperity unusual for a southern town", recalled an Ohio soldier long afterwards. "The people were generally ardent in their devotion to the cause of secession. Even the young ladies turned up their pretty noses and curled their lips scornfully at sight of Federal blue, and took a circuit in the street to avoid passing under a United States flag. The rebellious woman of the south was a terror."

Tuscumbia and much of the rest of the Shoals area would be occupied by the Union army for three months in mid-1862. Those troubled days were described by Lewis B. Thornton:

"The Federal army first made its appearance in Tuscumbia on the 16th, April 1862 under Gen. Mitchel, who had first arrived in Huntsville and sent a few of his regiments to this place under Col. Turchin. I think the regiments here at that time were the 18th Ohio, 19th Illinois, and an Indiana regiment. I left Tuscumbia at this time and did not witness their depredations, but was told by my family and the citizens upon

my return. I saw the effects of their vandalism, after only about a week's stay in our midst. At that time they armed some of the negroes and took some of them away. They broke open nearly every store in the town, and robbed them of everything



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they wanted, arrested a great many peaceable citizens, forcing some to take the oath of allegiance to the U.S. Government, robbed the Masonic Hall of its jewels and maps, and broke open and destroyed the safes in the stores and offices. They destroyed my office by breaking my desk and bookcases, and destroying the papers, and took from my office thirty maps of the state of Alabama belonging to Mr. Cram of Montgomery. The 19th Illinois regiment was the one that committed most of these depredations. They were driven from here by a small body of cavalry under Captain Patton of the Confederate Army."

Oddly enough, Col. Turchin's friends went to bat for him at the White House. The disgraced officer was not only reinstated in the army, but was promoted by Abraham Lincoln to Brigadier General! But then perhaps this was only just, for John B. Turchin

appears merely to have been ahead of his time. When the Union army returned to Tusculumbia, Turchin and his men would have felt quite at home. L.B. Thornton continues his story:

"The U.S. Army under Gen. Buell arrived here on the 9th June 1862, and remained in this place and the

Tennessee Valley until the 8th Sept. 1862, at which time they evacuated to Iuka and Corinth, Miss. The first division of the

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army arrived here under Gen. Wood. Gen. Gaskell's Brigade was the advanced guard and first came into town making his headquarters at our fair ground. Col. Scott of Kentucky was the provost marshal with the 3rd Kentucky regiment as Provost Guards, under their stay with us, and while Gen. Buell was here, we were very little molested, not more so than would be necessary in the passage of any army thru the country, but when Gen. A.E. Paine took command, by bringing the other portion of the army, there was a wonderful change in the order of things. Ladies could not go safely out of their houses. Citizens were arrested and held in confinement, or sent off to the North, in many cases without any charge being

made against them, and the citizens were not permitted to meet on the streets and converse together.

Person nor property was safe from the soldiers. They took from private citizens whatever they wanted hogs, sheep, cattle of every kind, vegetables, corn, potatoes, fowls of every description, which they scrupled not to shoot down in our yards. They also took mules and horses in large numbers. They took from this country alone, about 500 Negroes, men, women and children, and a large lot of cotton, besides destroying a great deal of property that they could not take away.

"I did not witness it personally, but was informed by reliable citizens, that they entered houses, robbed ladies of jewelry, and broke open wardrobes and took ladies dresses, and took other apparel and decorated their horses and gave it to Negroes.

This was done by the 3rd Michigan cavalry under Col.

Meisner. They perpetrated some of the most outrageous acts of any portion of the army. The 11th Missouri regiment (as they were called, but they told me they were raised in Springfield, 111.) de-

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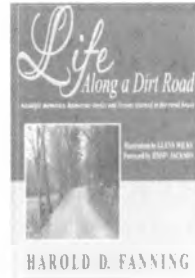
stroyed my fences, corn, fodder and potatoes, and insulted my family and me in the grossest manner. The 9th Ohio threatened to burn my house, and there were four stables burnt while they were here, and many dwellings had the furniture broken and destroyed.

"When they evacuated the town, they set fire to it in four or five different places, but we were fortunate enough to have it extinguished. It is proper for me to state that Gen. Fry, as learned, prevented my house from being burned, and returned a Negro boy to my mother-in-law, Mrs. Meredith.

They took twenty-nine Negroes from Mrs. Meredith, one from me, one from my sister-in-law, Mrs. Raglan, and thirteen from brother-in-law, Thomas F. Winston. Their conduct while here was more like savages than civilized beings. They arrested, while Gen. Paine was here, two citizens, a Mr. Burt and Wallace, because our cavalry under Roddey attacked the railroad cars and captured some prisoners, and stores in Trinity, and sentenced them to be hanged, but Roddey sent them word if they were injured in any way he would hang the prisoners he had, and that prevented them from being hung."

No wonder that when 7th Illinois Cavalry Lieutenant Charles Wills passed through Tuscumbia

in late July 1862, he would be moved to write: "People here hate Mitchel's whole command as they do the devil, and many of them more!"



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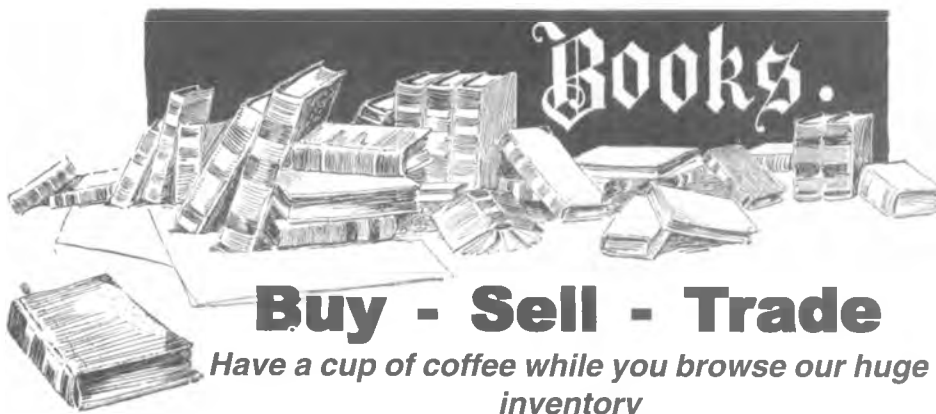
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I Recollect

by Malcolm Miller

This hot, humid July weather that we have had so much of lately seems to be getting to nearly everyone, including this writer. I don't know, maybe we have just gotten to be a soft generation of people. Nowadays we all think we have to stay inside in air conditioned buildings, or at the very least buildings cooled by electric fans.

Well, friends, lest you forget, it hasn't always been that way, I recollect back when some of us were growing up we had never heard of air conditioners; and if we had owned an electric fan it wouldn't have been any good to us because there was no electricity in those old farm houses to plug them into. In fact, the only fans that I knew anything about back then were the card board kind that had funeral home advertising on them and were used by the ladies in church.

I recollect that it was pretty nice if you happened to get a seat by one of those constantly fanning ladies during the big summer time revival meetings, when there was a long-winded preacher expounding on the perils of an eternity of fire and brimstone. You see the breeze from her fan would keep you from being so all fired hot that you would feel you had already arrived at the destination that the preacher was warning you about.

After working in the fields all day under a hot boiling sun, drinking water that had gotten so warm it was beaded up, and tasting sour from the fruit jar lid that was screwed on the jug to keep the bugs and ants out, you were certainly ready to go to the house and cool off when

sun down and quitting time rolled around. Well, you went to the house alright, but you didn't cool off because Mama had to have that old wood cook stove fired up to do the cooking and it was far hotter on the inside of the house than it was on the outside, so you would usually eat your beans and taters as soon as you could and get out of the house and stay on the porch or in the yard until the house cooled down some; or you were so tired and sleepy it just didn't matter any more. So friend, if your air conditioner isn't cooling you quite as much as you think it should, just remember, it could be worse, and, oh yes, there was one drawback to the ladies with the fans. They did not have deodorants back in those days so the breeze wasn't always pleasant.

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Old Huntsville Trivia

1877 - Huntsville suffers from weather problems. The temperature is 4 degrees below zero, with a 15 inch snow on the ground. Icebergs are reported floating in the Tennessee River.

1879 - The first phonograph is demonstrated in Huntsville. It was shown at the Huntsville Female Seminary and the admission was 50 cents per person. The money went toward the purchase of song books.

1889 - Coal oil is discovered on the farm of T. B. Crawford, three and a half miles from downtown Huntsville.

1880 - City editor Frank Coleman is involved in a gunfight with two federal marshals.

Thirteen shots were fired but no one was hit.

1882 - Huntsville hires its first black policemen, Joe Scales and Robert Brandon. Madison County also had the only black legislator in Alabama that year, W. P. Williams.

1889 - Businesses downtown are draped in black, mourning the death of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

1899 - Joe Wheeler, a general in the Spanish American War, visits Huntsville and is presented with a horse as a gift. The last time he visited Huntsville, in uniform, he was a general for the Confederacy.

1908 - The first local automobile agency and garage opens at 212 Washington Street. The owners were W. T. Harris and James W. Johnson.

1913 - W. J. Austiss of Scottsboro rents the old Gurley City Hall to install Gurley's first moving picture theater. Lemonade and roasted peanuts were sold as refreshments.



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Jeremy Stoddard

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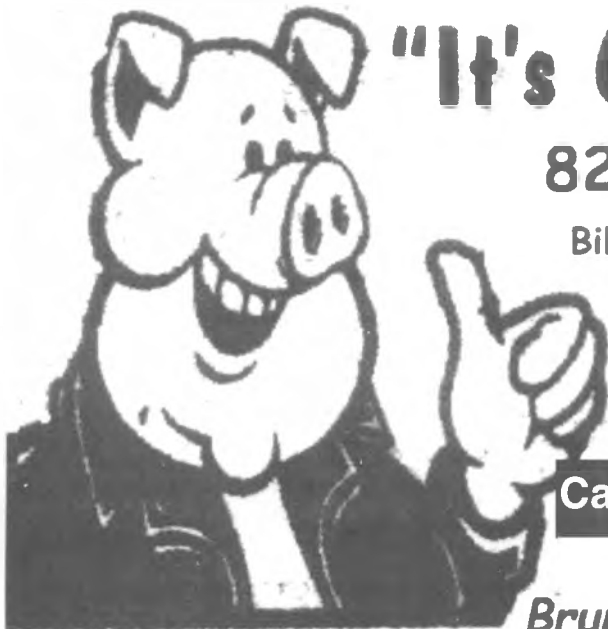
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The Story of Alfred L. Clark

by Emma McKenzie

Alfred Clark, who was born in Huntsville on October 20, 1886, only had his eyesight until the age of 7. In spite of that, he led a life that was full of inventions and love of people. When he died at the age of 82, he was living here at the home of one of his nieces.

Alfred had two sisters and two brothers. The youngest brother was my father, James W. Clark. After going through a serious illness and rare fever with subsequent surgeries that were unsuccessful, Alfred lost his eyesight completely, at the age of 7. That never stopped him from completing any of his endeavors, however.

As a youngster he delivered a newspaper called "Grit" to homes in the Village. Each home had a fence with a gate, but he never missed an entrance.

Alfred was always able to take care of himself completely with personal hygiene and was able to shave and dress himself, ready to do or go wherever he wanted for the rest of the day. He always wore a suit, shirt, felt hat and dark sunglasses, and carried a walking cane. Later he went to the school for the blind in Talladega, Alabama where he received a good education and learned how to type and read Braille.

Among other things Alfred was an inventor, a news commentator and ran a concession stand in the Madison County courthouse from 1948 to 1958. He had a shoeshine stand there also. He often would take the city bus to his job at the courthouse but most of the time he walked from Merrimack to uptown, occasionally catching a ride from a friend.

At one time he ran a grocery

store in Hobbs Island but had to close due to so much theft.

He also owned and operated the gristmill on Pike Street, now Triana Blvd., in Huntsville. He supplied fresh cornmeal and flour to many families here. He could play dominoes as well as anyone. His partners would tell him which spots were showing

and by feeling he dots he would play, scoring and blocking the game as well as any of his opponents. Over the years he read books on automobile mechanics and could just listen to an engine running and be able to tell what was wrong with it.

Some of his inventions were legendary, although he never got

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patents on them. Some of his other inventions included:

- A kitchen cabinet that would dole out measured amounts of staples such as flour, sugar, coffee, etc.

- A porch clock that allowed a homeowner to leave messages for delivery people. The clock showed time as well as temperature.

- A burglar mat, that, when placed at the door of a residence, would trigger an alarm when anyone stepped upon it

- A machine to make mops and brooms, which was one of his major sources of income

In addition to this he was a fine piano player and could tune pianos beautifully. He was a member of Merrimack Church of Christ. He could cane bottoms of chairs and make them look just like new. He ran for Alabama State Senator, but lost in the election.

My niece remembers that when she was a small girl, Uncle Alfred would take the children

to the store to buy apples for them. He could just feel the apples and pick out the best one for them.

He could recognize a person by just a simple Hello, he met everyone with a huge smile and friendly handshake. He would hold a small baby and tell the mother how beautiful the child was. He was a wonderful orator and a beloved radio commentator on what used to be WBHP radio.

Alfred was a bachelor who was a part of many families. He had a beautiful tenor voice and would sing many a night on cool summer nights on the porch. "Beautiful Dreamer" was one of my favorites, and the hymn "In the Garden".

He was never sick until his later years and never let his handicap hinder him from doing anything. I remember being a part of his life until I moved away in 1952.

I lived most of this story with him and heard the rest from my parents as I grew up. He was a good friend, brother, uncle and brought so much happiness to so many here.

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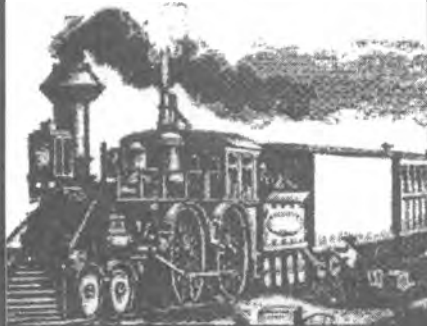
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Huntsville Happenings in 1907

- In the recorder's court this morning Peter Stevens, arrested for disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and costs.

- John Williams, an old man who was arrested a few days ago for drunkenness, was ordered released and directed to leave Huntsville at once. Williams is quite an old man being 72 years of age and Mayor Smith took pity on him.

- By reason of an open switch on the Southern railway freight train No. 306 - J. Edward, engineer and switch train No 431 with Conductor Miller in charge - collided on the side track on Meridian Street late yesterday afternoon, wrecking and derailing two cars of the regular train, demolishing the pilots of both engines, smashing the front of a car and the trucks of the end of the switch train. No one was hurt.

- Hon. W. T. Lawler, probate judge of Madison County, entered upon his 4th year of office on Monday morning with every deed mortgage left on the books from the past year. Business is heavier than ever and the probate office is especially busy.

- Mrs. Elma Wesley died of apoplexy in Merrimack. A long time resident of Merrimack Village, she died last night after a few days illness with apoplexy. She left three daughters.

- R.C. Smallwood, sixty years, died last night at his residence in the Lowe Mill Village of pneumonia.

- The bursting of a water main leading from the city pumping station to the standpipe caused no end of trouble Saturday and Sunday. A

leak was found in front of the Schiffman Building on the south-east corner of the square early Saturday morning and a force of men set to work to dig down and make the necessary repair. The job was bigger than they thought it to be. When the hard crust of the macadamized street was removed the escaping water burst forth and flooded the street.

The flood washed out a bed

down the gutter and being unable to get in the storm sewer at Randolph Street, passed on down to Clinton and flooded that corner. No damage whatever was done by the flood, however.

"Please don't throw your cigarette butts on the floor. The roaches are getting cancer."

Sign seen in Decatur nightclub



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Tips from Liz

* When you vacation on the beach, take a small bottle of baby powder to sprinkle on your skin as you leave - the sand will slide right off!

* This tip is from Hannah Troup, who is almost 7. When you have a bandaid on you and it's time to take it off, it will come off much easier if you rub baby oil on it before you remove the bandaid.

* Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal, mash til they are broken up. Add the rest of your ingredients for deviled eggs to the bag, mash some more. Cut a small corner off the bag and just squeeze the yolk mixture into your egg halves.

* When you feel stressed out, go to Bennett's nursery, or Earth Touch, and just walk around, breathing in that fresh air. You'll feel like a new person!

* Heat up left-over pizza in a non-stick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to medium low and heat til warm. This keeps the crust crispy and no more soggy microwave pizza!

* To keep squirrels from eating your plants, just sprinkle with cayenne pepper. Won't hurt the plant, but the squirrels hate it!

* Before you pour sticky substances into your measuring cup, rinse it out with hot water and don't dry. Your ingredient, like peanut butter, will slide right out!

* Use baking soda with a damp rag to remove kid's crayon marks from your walls.

* To prevent fires from occurring in your clothes dryer, take the filter out and wash it with hot soapy water occasionally. The dryer cloths you use are sealing the filter (prove it by pouring water into your filter) and could catch fire.

* After shopping, and you get into your car, immediately lock

your door. If someone comes up to you and wants to talk to you or ask you something, just shake your head and go home. There's no need to take unnecessary chances.

* Make your own iced Green tea. Just brew about 8 teabags for 2 quarts, pour into your container

with Crystal Lite lemonade (about half the container, to your taste) and fill with water. It's delicious and no unhealthy ingredients!

* If your life is too complicated, un-complicate it. And that includes people in your life.

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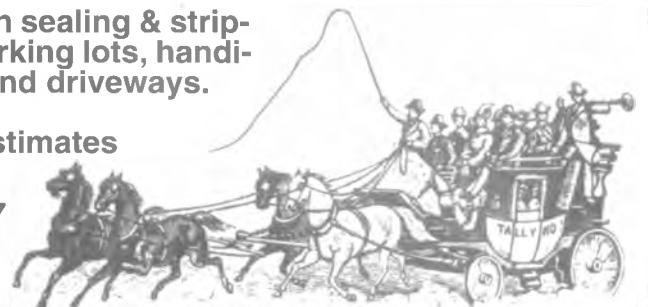
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News From the Year 1946

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Churchill Warns of Iron Curtain

"From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the Continent," proclaimed Winston Churchill today in a speech at Fulton, Missouri. The former British Prime Minister, referring to ideological barriers, warned that differences between the Western capitalist world and the Eastern communist world seemed irreconcilable and that the Soviet Union desired "indefinite expansion" of its power and doctrines.

Churchill urged the United States and Great Britain to formulate an alliance to discourage possible Soviet hegemony.

Reaction to the address varied considerably. The London Times took exception to Churchill's remarks about Russia, declaring, "while Western democracy and communism are

in many respects opposed, they have much to learn from each other."

U.S. Senator Pepper said Churchill spoke "in his best Marlborough manner for imperialism - but it is always British imperialism."

However, Senator Robertson agreed with the statesman, saying that until Russia "rolls up the iron curtain," close Anglo American relations are essential. British Conservative Anthony Eden underlined Churchill's desire for constructive existence with Russia.

Most political observers agree that America and Britain should continue to work together in a world so volatile, but with Russia's increasing desire to dominate Europe the prospects for peace are growing dimmer.

Einstein Deplores Use of Atom Bomb

In an interview with a British journal today, Albert Einstein stated regrets over use of the atom bomb.

"A great majority of scientists," he said, "were opposed to the sudden employment of the bomb (on Hiroshima)."

Einstein did not think Roosevelt would have used it, as he often counseled the President in nuclear matters. In March 1945, he sent him a memo urging the bomb not be used on Japan.

For reasons unknown, Roosevelt's staff never delivered the note. Einstein went on to say that the future of our world will be dictated by countries trying to develop their own bomb.

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IBM Develops First Computer

The U.S. War Department has announced the use of an extremely sophisticated calculator it calls ENIAC. ENIAC (Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer) works 1,000 times faster than any calculator ever devised. It operates by the flow of electrons in 18,000 vacuum tubes. There is not a single moving part in the machine.

ENIAC's creator is International Business Machines, a company previously known for punched card tabulating devices. The company plans to release its less ambitious electronic calculator called the 603 Multiplier. The 603 will be available for commercial use.

The vacuum tube is responsible for advancement over the adding machine. Mechanical switches are replaced by electronic pulses. Electrons flow effectively in the gas-controlled tube.

Although the computer will prove a boon for mathematic equations, it is not thought that it will have many other uses.

People eat Horse Meat as Prices Soar

New Yorkers are eating horse flesh in increasing amounts, it was learned this week as supplies of standard meats stayed at a record low. Black marketing spread and poultry prices soared to \$1 a pound. Prices on choice cuts of horse meat are 17 and 21 cents a pound. Former Mayor LaGuardia has called the eating of horses a sign of degeneration, while Health Commissioner Weinstein says horse meat is "as nutritious and as good as any other meat."

Louis Kayos Billy Conn

Joe Louis, in the 22nd defense of his world heavyweight boxing title, pounded Billy Conn for seven rounds and then finished him off in the eighth. A battered and bruised Conn said after being knocked out at two minutes 19 seconds of the eighth, "I'm quitting. This is my last fight"

Only time will tell if he means it.

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Sammy Johnston

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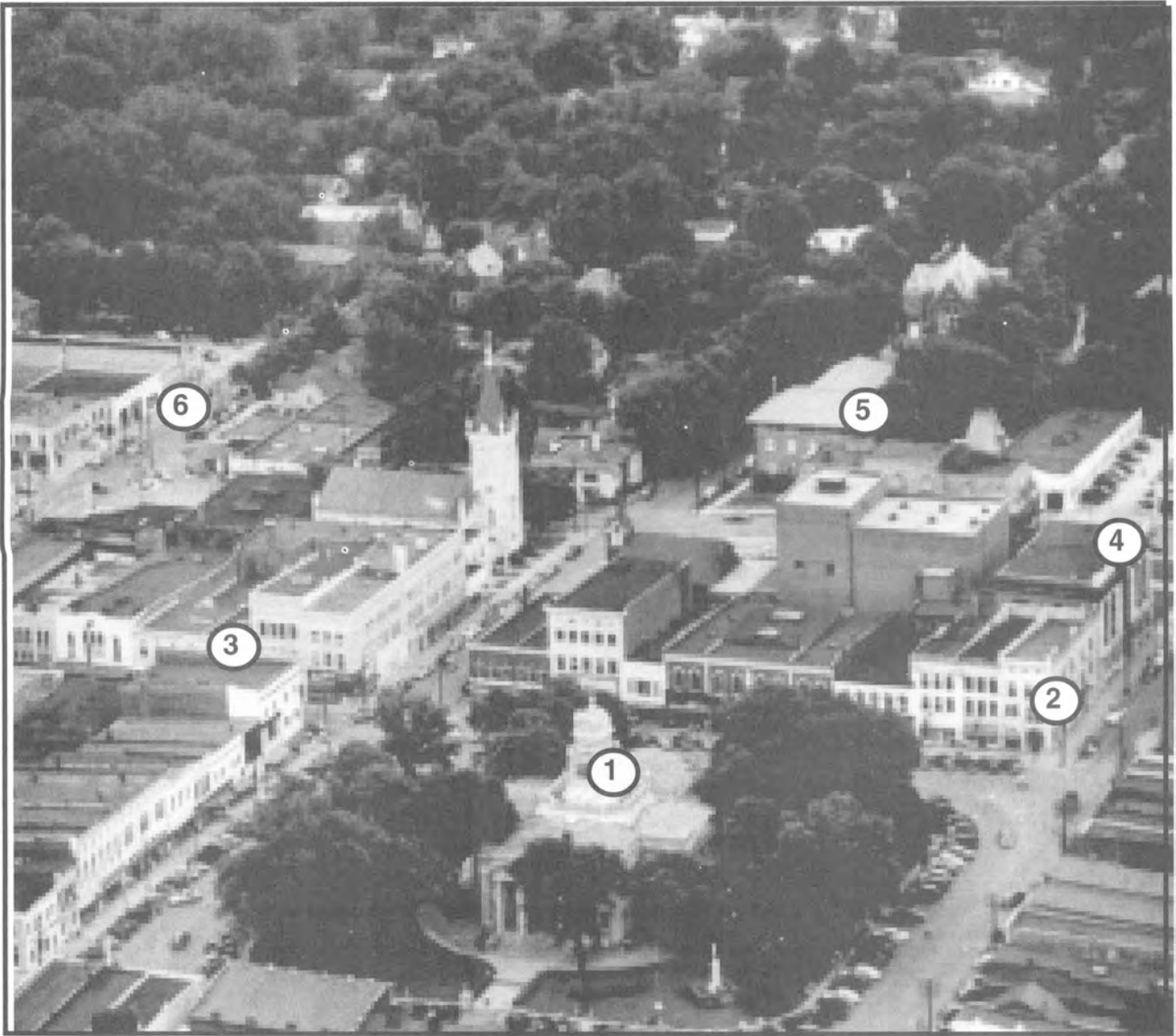


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Times Have Changed



Downtown circa 1953

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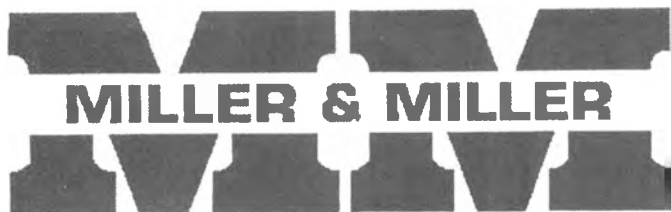
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The Thomas Townsend Story

A few years after the Civil War, Thomas Townsend, by any definition, was a successful man. He owned a palatial home on Adams Street, had a large plantation near Hazel Green, was a successful attorney and had been elected as a Huntsville city alderman.

None of this would have been unusual except for the fact that Townsend was an ex-slave in an era when racism controlled every facet of the community's social, business and political life.

And he was also related to many of the most prominent white families in Huntsville.

Townsend's father, Samuel Townsend, was white and also one of the wealthiest, and largest planters in North Alabama. He owned a total of eight plantations, seven of which were in Madison County and the 8th in

Jackson County. The main plantation, where he lived, consisted of over 1,700 acres near Hazel Green and was worked by hundreds of slaves.

Townsend was a hard and shrewd businessman who was known to spend hours poring over ledgers trying to squeeze an extra dollar's profit out of a cotton crop. He reportedly did not drink, smoke or indulge in any other of the numerous vices common to the wealthy elite of that era.

The only weakness he had was Hannah, a tall, dusky, slender slave who worked as his housekeeper and shared his bed at night.

Hannah was rumored to be the daughter of a James Bierney, a Huntsville attorney whose illicit affair was discovered when his

wife's serving girl became pregnant. The wife, after questioning the servant, discovered her husband was the father.

Fearing a scandal, the wife ordered her husband to send the slave to New Orleans to be sold. Instead, Bierney sold his pregnant mistress to Samuel Townsend, where he continued to visit her.

Bierney later moved to Cincinnati where he ran for President under the Abolitionist party.

After Hannah was born she

"If you want to be loved by someone who isn't in your family, it sure doesn't hurt to be beautiful."

Ashley Bender, age 7

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lived in the "big house" with her mother who became Townsend's housekeeper.

Townsend evidently was intrigued by the young girl. He ensured that she was taught proper manners, dressed right and was even taught to read and write.

At a young age; some accounts have her being only 13 years old, Townsend took her as his mistress.

Hannah took a keen interest in everything that transpired on the plantation. Townsend was often gone weeks at a time on business and he began delegating much of supervision of the plantation to his mistress.

Strangely, given the climate of the times, Townsend made no particular effort to hide his relationship. Even when she began to bear him children, nine in all, they all lived in the "big house" as a "normal" family.

When Thomas, the eldest son, was born, Townsend doted on him the same way any loving father would. Thomas often accompanied his father on trips into Huntsville where he was undoubtedly the subject of much

speculation and gossip.

Many people were infuriated that Townsend had hired a tutor to educate his son. This was a violation of Alabama law forbidding slaves from having an education.

Huntsville was a small town and although almost every one realized who Thomas' grandfather and father were, in the eyes of the law he was still a slave.

When Samuel Townsend died in 1855 his will stated that his entire estate was to be liquidated with the proceeds going to his children and mistress. He also made provisions for Hannah and the children to be taken North and freed. Under a law passed in 1834, slaves who were freed by their master could not remain in the state of Alabama.

Thomas, along with his siblings were then sent to Wilberforce, Ohio where they were enrolled in a private boarding school.

Thomas

will created a furor in Madison County. While most people were inclined to look the other way at people's private affairs, the idea of leaving an estate valued in the hundreds of thousands of dollars to "a negro wench and her picaninnies" was appalling to many of Townsend's former friends.

Repeated efforts were made to



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Sally Luther

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have the will declared invalid but they all failed. Townsend had anticipated the efforts and, before his death, had hired some of the best attorneys in the state to draw up an iron-clad will.

Finally, a much simpler strategy was decided on to deprive the family of their inheritance.

The administrators of the estate simply took their time in liquidating it. Part of the land was sold to friends on credit. Other parts were leased, with the rent going back to the estate where the administrators and attorneys lined their pockets.

Between 1855 and 1860 the family had received less than \$7,000 out of an estate that was valued at almost \$250,000.

Meanwhile, Thomas, the eldest son, had completed his education in Ohio and was devoting almost all of his time trying to claim his inheritance.

The Civil War brought a temporary end to the settlement, when it was declared illegal to transfer money, or property, to anyone at war with the Confederacy.

In 1866 Thomas finally gained control of the estate but was immediately confronted with new problems. Much of the property had been sold on credit but, in a country ravaged by the Civil War, there was little money for anyone to pay bills with. Thomas decided to return to Huntsville to try and put the family's affairs in order.

Although Thomas probably thought his visit would be short, he almost immediately became involved in community affairs. He became a teacher for one of

the first Black schools organized in Huntsville and was instrumental in starting several programs designed to aid the ex-slaves in their new found freedom.

In 1868 the estate was finally settled. Thomas received less than \$4000.00 after the money was divided and attorneys fees paid.

Undaunted, Thomas rented the Wade plantation, part of the original Townsend estate, and began farming. Many of the blacks working on the farm were undoubtedly the same people he grew up with as slaves.

As the plantation began once again to prosper, Thomas became even more active in community affairs.



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**"People who want to share
their religious views with you
almost never want you to
share yours with them."**

Dave Barry, Columnist

Respected by both the black and white communities, Thomas Townsend became a bridge across the racial barriers. When the government began issuing pensions for the black soldiers, Thomas became a claims attorney and, working with several white attorneys, helped secure pensions for many of the black veterans.

In 1880 Thomas Townsend was elected as a city alderman, the first black to ever hold that position. He carried both the black and white sections of Huntsville.

As hard as it may be to believe, he was appointed to a committee overseeing the public schools even though blacks were forbidden to attend. He later served on the advisory board for the fire department and worked as a writer for the Huntsville Gazette.

When he died in 1916 he was eulogized by all the Huntsville newspapers.

As a tribute to a man who was born into slavery and became one of Huntsville's most respected citizens, the city voted unanimously to name a street after him. Townsend Street is located between Madison and Franklin Streets near Huntsville Hospital.

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."

Mae West

Incident at Cox's Still House

An early landmark in upper Paint Rock Valley was Cox's Still House, on Clear Creek. Oddly enough, some innocent jollification turned sour for a group of Union soldiers at the Still House one day in 1864. About 40 of the boys in blue had retired to the secluded spot, meaning to take time out from the brutal War Between the States. The yankees quickly confiscated all the whisky they could find, intending to make some egg nog with the milk and eggs they had stolen from local farmers.

Unfortunately, they made so much racket that some of Bushwhacker" Johnston's Confederates heard them. The Johnny Rebs sent several of their men to slip around behind the yankees. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederates set an ambush along the road. Without warning, the Confeds in advance opened fire into the carousing yankees. Panic stricken, the blue coats dropped their booze and fled straight into the ambush.

When the yankees sobered up, they were faced with the double humiliation of having a hangover and being taken prisoners.

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The Trial of Frank Gurley

The source information for this article on Frank Gurley came from an old 1920's publication called the Confederate Veteran and was generously submitted by Bill Walker.

Captain Frank B. Gurley feared for his life. He had been captured and was to stand trial for killing Union General Robert McCook during a raid near New Market in 1862. The Northern newspapers had misrepresented the McCook incident and pictured Gurley as a criminal and murderer, and the Federals wanted their revenge.

Capt. Frank Gurley finally arrived in Nashville by train and was placed in a four by seven foot cell in the military prison and clamped in heavy chains. In the same wing of the prison, there were 400 Federal prisoners all in ball and chain. Some would whistle,

some would sing, and all would curse and rattle their chains. Gurley said "such a sight is better imagined than described."

Gurley was kept confined and his harsh treatment and illness made him delirious with fever. He wrote to the Union commandant at Nashville, Major General Gordon Grainger, and told him "long confinement and lack of attention will soon kill me, and if that is what you want, please do me the honor of having me shot as soon as your conscience will permit." This complaint allowed him to go outside to the yard during the days.

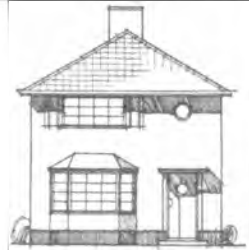
By this time, Captain Hunter Brooke, who had

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been on the wagon with McCook, was acting judge advocate of the Department of the Cumberland. He was most anxious to bring Gurley to trial and convict him, and begin pressing Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt to arrange for an early trial of the "robber and murderer". They agreed and arranged for an early trial before a military commission to commence on December 2, 1863.

Meanwhile, letters from Confederate Generals Nathan B. Forrest, Joseph E. Johnson, and William J. Hardee were received by the U. S. Army supporting Gurley's contention that he was a Confederate officer at the time of the killing and should be treated as a prisoner of War.

These letters were sent to General U. S. Grant who advised the Confederate officers that the Gurley affair fell under the jurisdiction of Major General George H. Thomas and assured them Gurley would get a fair trial.

A fair trial was impossible, considering the anger and preju-

dice against Gurley. His lawyers Jordan Stokes and Belie Peyton were able to present their evidence and cross examine the prosecution witnesses. There seemed to be no question that Gurley had shot McCook.

The case centered on whether or not he was an officer or citizen at the time of the killing. The defense failed to produce a commission, perhaps because Gurley's house had been burned to the ground by Union cavalry. Major General Lovell H. Rousseau did testify that he had seen a commission earlier from Major General Kirby Smith authorizing Gurley to raise a company of partisan rangers.

The court also had a letter from General Nathan B. Forrest that told that Gurley had served in his regiment from July 1861 and had not been out of the service until his capture. In spite of this evidence, passions were too high and Frank Gurley was found guilty of the murder of General McCook and sentenced to be "hanged by the neck until dead".

Gurley commented that the prison was a horrible place with 800 Union prisoners and "flies so thick you would get two of them in your mouth when you opened it". For trying to escape, he was made to sleep in his cell

in chains. Gurley saw one Yankee prisoner slash his own throat with a razor. Eight of the ten men in the same lock-up with Gurley

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Hannah Troup, age 6 3/4

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were hanged.

Gurley's execution was delayed while the verdict and findings of the commission moved up the chain of command. General Thomas approved the guilty verdict but suspended the execution due to the unusual circumstances and battle excitement under which the crime was committed.

Thomas recommended the sentence be commuted to five years in prison and sent these recommendations to the Judge Advocates office in Washington. Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt seems to have been particularly vindictive in the Gurley case because he sent the trial papers to President Lincoln with his recommendations that the original sentence be carried out in spite of threats of retaliation from the Confederate Government. Lincoln signed the papers approving the verdict, but he pigeonholed the authorization to carry out the sentence.

Gurley remained in prison for a year expecting to be hung at any time. Then in January 1865, the army bureaucracy made a big mistake and Capt. Frank B. Gurley was included with other prisoners being transferred to Louisville for the exchange of Confederate officers who were being exchanged.

Due to the high profile of Gurley's case, the jailer in Nashville asked for clarification from Washington, and was told by the War Department the order applied to "all officers" held in irons and close confinement. The jailer then sent Gurley to Louisville with eighteen other prisoners.

From Louisville, the prisoners were sent to Pittsburgh then to Point Lookout, Maryland. In Pittsburgh, the group was nearly mobbed by a large angry crowd who had found out Gurley was in the group. They had thirty guards that protected them.

On March 17, 1865, Capt.

Gurley was exchanged at Aikens Landing, Virginia and embarked on the long trek home. As he moved south, he found most of the railroads had been destroyed. A year in prison had made him too weak to walk but some of the stronger ones went ahead and sent back wagons and carriages for him.

He arrived in Montgomery, Alabama where he ran into his old commander General Roddy who gave him a horse. He continued on to Madison County and stayed with his brothers and sisters in Gurley until Lee surrendered.

Frank Gurley went to Huntsville, took the

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oath of allegiance, and received the parole. He did not feel safe in Huntsville so he went to Gallatin, Tennessee for two months and "had a big time with the women". Then believing the danger had passed, he went back home and on November 6th, was elected sheriff of Madison County.

Gurley did not know it but he was in greater peril than before because General Joseph Holt found out Gurley had escaped punishment and got President Andrew Johnson to approve orders to re-arrest Gurley and carry out the sentence.

Orders went out to all departmental commanders to search and capture the culprit. A sergeant was even sent to the Louisiana swamps to search for him. No one thought to look for him at home until news of his election to sheriff appeared in the papers.

On November 28th, Gurley was arrested, loaded with irons, and put in the Huntsville jail. His execution was set for November 30th but a telegram arrived from President Johnson suspending the execution until further orders.

Frank Gurley's friends and neighbors had come to his aid. They had arranged for a delegation to meet with the President and since many of Gurley's supporters were pro-Union, Johnson was receptive to their case.

About the same time the Union Army commander in Huntsville had advised President Johnson the citizens were threatening to resume killing Yankees if Gurley was executed. The situation could turn real ugly.

Preparing the case took a long time and Gurley remained in irons until one of his friends wrote to General Thomas and pointed out the jail was escape proof. The irons were ordered removed.

In April 1866, President Johnson consulted with General Grant about the case, and although General Holt still insisted that the sentence be carried out, Grant recommended the case be dropped and Gurley be released upon taking an oath to remain a loyal citizen to the United States. Gurley signed the oath and was finally released.

For the next fifty-four years Frank B. Gurley lived on his farm near the town of Gurley. Every year he held a reunion for the veterans of the 4th Alabama Cavalry.

He died on March 29, 1920,

outliving, by many years, Captain Brooke, General Holt, and others who sought his death during and after the Civil War.

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News from 1943

- Police Chief Herman Giles recently announced the purchase of two-way radios for the city's police cars. It is expected the radios will help to put a stop to the county's whiskey runners who have been operating with impunity so far. The radios have been tried successfully so far in Birmingham and Mobile. Giles is quoted as saying, "The benefits will justify the cost."

- A piece of history has faded into the background as Confederate Veterans unfurled their flags for the last time. The last official reunion of the comrades in gray was marked by John Steger placing a wreath of flowers at the base of the Confederate statue. A volunteer honor guard was provided by soldiers stationed at the Arsenal. With few people attending, it was unanimously decided to make this the last official reunion.

- Residents of Madison County have set a state record in purchasing war bonds. The \$446,000 raised will be used to purchase a Liberator B-24 bomber that will be named "The Madison County, Alabama."

- In other county news, a new housing project located on Seminole Drive had its grand opening last week. The project is named Binford Court in honor of the late Henry C. Binford. The project is one of the most modern facilities in the state.

- In a joint statement issued by Mayor McAllister and Huntsville Police Chief Herman Giles, assurances were given that adequate measures have been put in place to protect Huntsville's water supply from possible enemy sabotage. Mayor McAllister

says at this time there are no plans to erect a fence around the headwaters of the Big Spring.

- Madison County Deputies and Huntsville City Police are jointly patrolling the spring and have issued orders to arrest any strangers loitering without cause.

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The Mayor of Hurricane Creek

It was scorching hot the day they buried the Mayor of Hurricane Creek. People fanned themselves with pieces of cardboard as preachers lined up to tell us what a kind and gentle man J.B. Tucker had been.

But we already knew that. Anyone who grew up on Hurricane Creek could have told you the same thing.

At one point in the service the preacher asked anyone who wanted to share their memories to come forward. A few people got up and talked about him singing in the church choir and about his love for his family and football.

Most people, however, remained silent, their gaze directed at the floor. Their memories were personal, private, earned by decades of friendship.

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J.B. Tucker was born 1922, the only son of a hard-working and religious couple. He was raised in the cotton fields and the mountains; picking cotton for two cents a pound and working in a sawmill for three dollars a day.

In 1942 he was drafted and sent to England with the Army Air Corps. He talked about seeing airplanes returning from Germany, all shot up and with dead and wounded crew inside. You could tell he didn't like to talk about it.

He was later sent to Germany where he served as a guard at a POW camp. Years later he would be tormented by horrible nightmares of what he had seen.

He didn't like to talk about that, either.

He came home in 1946 and married his sweetheart, Margaret Frazier. A few years later they

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Eugene H. Scott, Jr., D.D.S. (256) 533-0434
401 Lowell Drive #17 Huntsville, Alabama 35801

No representation is made about the quality of dental services to be performed is greater than the quality of dental services performed by other dentists.

purchased a piece of land and built a home only a few hundred yards from where he was born. The house cost almost three thousand dollars.

He raised a garden and two daughters there, although he used to chuckle and say raising the garden was easier.

If J.B. Tucker was the Mayor, then Bobby Bragg's store was the community seat of government. It was a place where politicians would campaign while drinking Double Cola and where you would vote at election time.

J.B. was a die-hard Democrat and his wife was a staunch Republican. At every election they would both walk down the hill to the store and nullify each other's vote.

Politics were not discussed very often in their home.

In 1946 his brother-in-law helped him to get a job on the Arsenal. Although he continued working there until his retirement, his heart was always in Hurricane Creek. On his off days he could always be seen helping a neighbor in the fields, working in his garden or cutting wood.

Once when he was asked where he thought the Garden of Eden was located, he paused in thought for a long moment before replying; "It's right here on the Creek. Where else would it be?"

Retirement was good to him. He lived the life we all should wish for. He had his tomato plants, the fishing lake was only

a few miles distant and he had a chair in the front yard where he would sit for hours whittling on a piece of wood and waving at neighbors who passed by.

He didn't worry much about what happened on the other side of the world. Everything he wanted, his family, friends and church were within a few miles of home.

A football or basketball game was all the excitement he wanted.

Whenever the church doors were open you always knew he would be sitting in his regular seat on the right hand side of room, three rows back.

And when the singing began, his rich baritone voice would fill the room. He didn't have to look at the song book; he knew them all by heart.

Somehow it was appropriate when the funeral service for the Mayor was closed with a song. Looking around the room you would have seen many people with their eyes closed. They were all thinking the same thing.

"We can still hear him leading the choir."

Weak and Weary

A young beau, at his sister's evening party, began to sing "Why am I so Weak and Weary?" when a little brother brought the performance to a close by yelling out, "Aunt Mary says it's because you come home so late and drunk almost every night!"

From 1870 Newspaper

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President

Lewter's Hardware Store



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

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

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

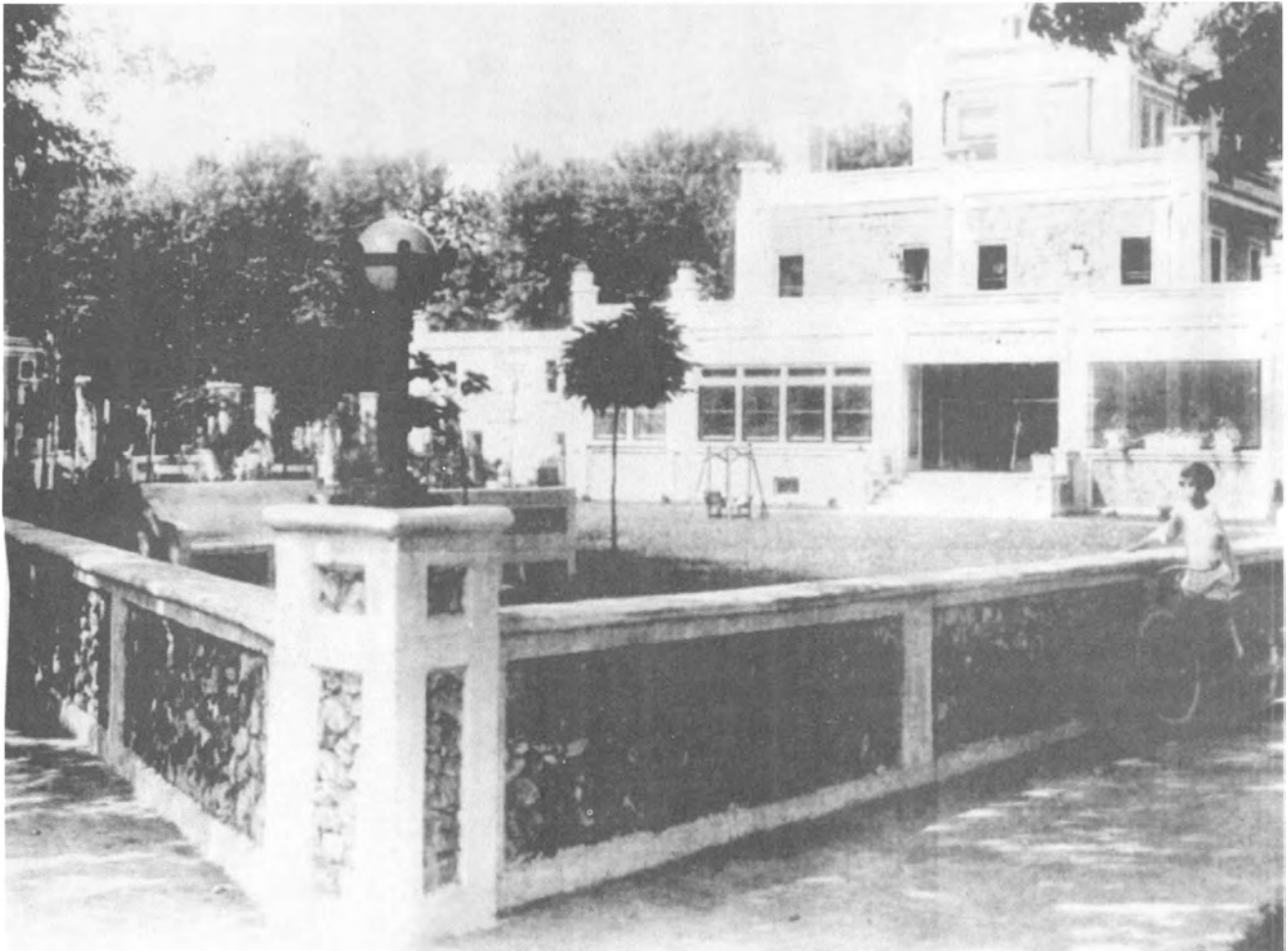
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When life was simple...



A local landmark in 1923 was the home of J. Emory Pierce, located on the corner of Andrew Jackson Way and Holmes Avenue. Most people called it "Pierce's Castle." Sugar sold for 6 cents a pound and service with Bell Telephone was only \$3.20 per month. A new Buick would cost you \$1,500, but you could buy a Durant for only \$590.

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

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