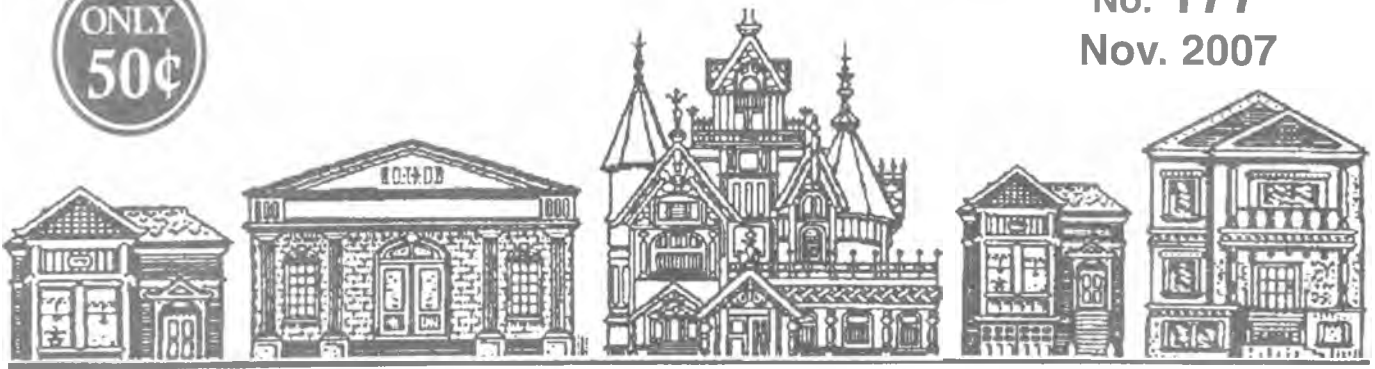


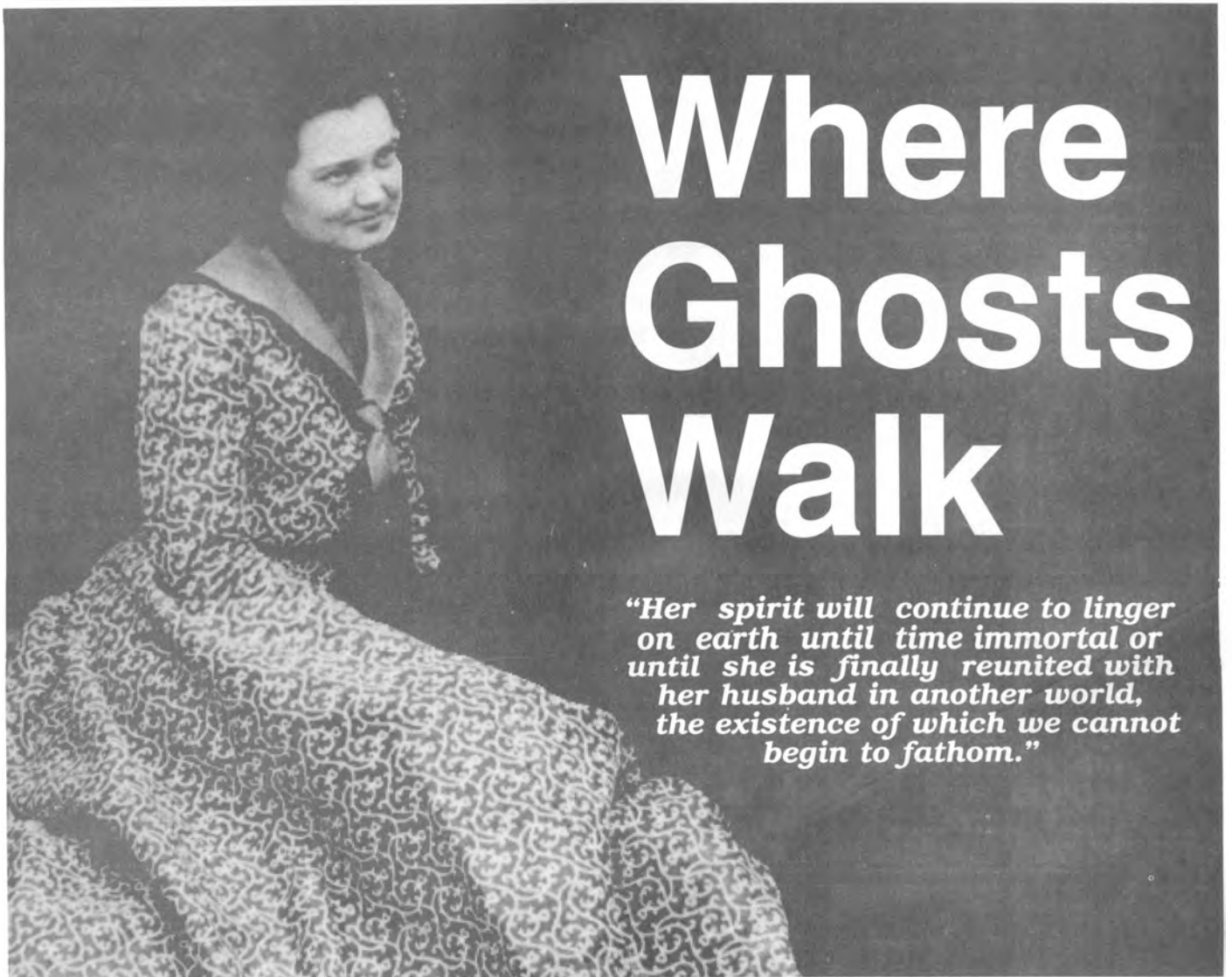
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Where Ghosts Walk

Anne Lowry stared at the note, hardly daring to believe the words she was reading. "I'm going to try to come to you, Douglas."

Her face flushed as she thought about the last time she had seen her husband. It had been almost two years earlier, in 1862, and they had been married for only a month when he came home one day and announced he had joined the army. She remembered how she had cried, begging him not to go, and how he had laughed, saying the Yankees would be whipped before Christmas. She remembered how he had leaned down from his horse and kissed her for the last time before leaving to join his unit.

They had lived near the small town of Winchester, Tennessee at the time and for a while after Douglas left it was easy to forget there was a bitter war raging. Time seemed to crawl as Anne tended the farm and waited patiently for letters from her hus-

band. Christmas came and went and the war dragged on.

Slowly, however, the conflict grew closer to home. At first it was just partisan bands, both Union and Confederate, who would appear suddenly at the front gate asking for food. Then, as the Union troops began their advance toward the Tennessee Valley, the countryside became overrun with irregulars, deserters and all the other flotsam of war.

The chickens were the first to go, followed by the pigs and cattle. The barn was burned and the corn crib looted. Next to go were Douglas' two slaves, Jim and Bo, who simply disappeared one day leaving the plow still hitched to the mule in the field. Anne was not really surprised. Slaves everywhere were walking off the farms and flocking to the Union lines in search of freedom.

That left only Anne and Aunt Missy to run the farm. Aunt Missy was a very large woman who probably weighed 250 or 275 pounds, with ebony black skin. She had belonged to Anne's father and had raised her since she was a baby. Although Aunt Missy was a slave, she was quick to point out that it was "her" farm, "her" mule and even Anne belonged to "her."

As if to back up her point, Aunt Missy carried an ancient muzzle loading pistol in her apron. It was against the law for



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a slave to own a gun but no one wanted to argue with Aunt Missy.

By the summer of 1864 conditions had gotten to the point where Anne and Aunt Missy were forced to take turns sitting up at night trying to guard the house. After one particularly harrowing night when a group of irregulars, frustrated in their search for loot, set the house on fire, Aunt Missy realized it was just a matter of time before they would be burned out.

Early the next morning Aunt Missy walked to the nearby mountains where she had hidden a mule. After hitching it to a wagon she returned to the house and told Anne that they were leaving. Anne protested, saying she wanted to stay and wait for her husband to come home, but Aunt Missy wisely pointed out that the farm was no place for a lone woman with no man to protect her.

Aunt Missy had decided they were going to Huntsville, where Anne had family. Anne's second cousin, John Tate Lowry, was a successful businessman who owned a large home where Anne and Aunt Missy could seek refuge. Also, Huntsville was occupied by Regular Army Union soldiers who, Aunt Missy hoped, would be less tolerant of the looting and mayhem they were escaping from.

Although it had been years since she had visited her relatives, Anne still felt a surge of pride as they turned the horse and wagon off Meridian Pike and onto the long drive leading to the Lowry House. Her great uncle had originally purchased the land in 1809 and had settled in a log cabin. As the family and plantation grew more prosperous they had torn down the cabin and built a large two story home on the site in 1850. The plantation had grown into a self sufficient community with barns, blacksmith shops, slave cabins, carriage houses and smoke houses, with large fields of cotton and wheat radiating out from around them.

The homecoming was joyful but tinged with sadness as Elizabeth, John Tate's mother, filled them in on the current state of affairs in Huntsville. Her husband and two nephews had fled south, across the river, to keep from taking the hated Union oath. She had decided to stay on the plantation with her son John Tate and her grandson Samuel, but with each passing day it was becoming harder to survive. The slaves had mostly fled and there were none to work the fields and gardens. Merchants in town were demanding greenbacks for supplies and Elizabeth, like thousands of other Southern women, was

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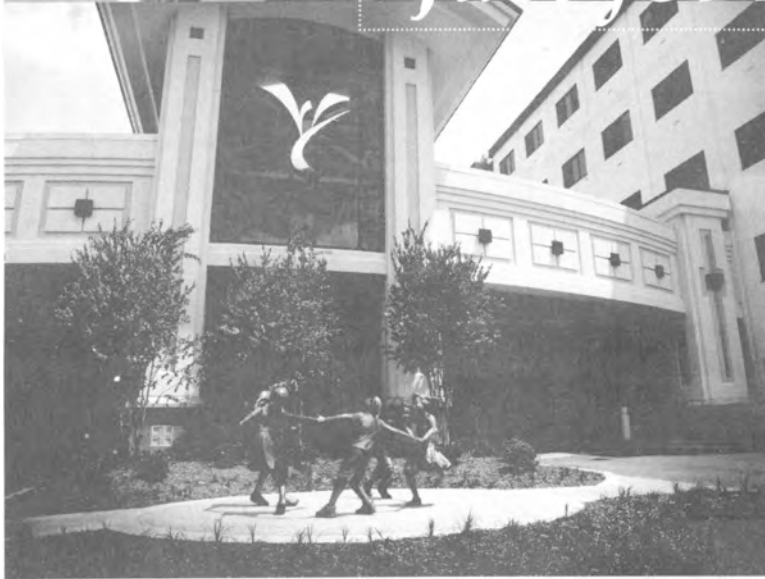
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forced to barter for whatever food was available. The only bright ray of sunshine was that the Union army was finally able to stop the wanton looting that had plagued Huntsville for months.

Despite the hardships, Anne and Aunt Missy were relieved to have found a refuge. Anne was installed in an upstairs bedroom and Aunt Missy, in a manner reminiscent of a latter day drill sergeant, took control of "her" plantation and "her" family. After taking stock of the meagre food supplies she turned her attention to the rear of the house where a group of ex-slaves had gathered waiting for their evening meal. In her normal curt manner she asked the men what kind of work they did on the plantation.

"Oh, we don't have to work no more," one of them replied. "We're free now!"

Aunt Missy paused a moment before finally replying. "No work - no food. If you ain't going to work then get off this place!"

As she began to walk away, some of the men began muttering threats, saying she had no right to order them around. Suddenly turning around, she pulled the ancient pistol from her apron and repeated her previous warning. "If you ain't going to work then get off this place!"

Within a few minutes most had wisely decided to leave. The remaining ones were put to work

plowing a patch of land. "At least we'll have turnip greens to eat this winter," she thought.

Days, weeks and months passed and life settled into a pattern. Elizabeth and Anne would walk to town every few days trying to find supplies they could purchase or barter for. About once a week Aunt Missy would hitch the mule to the wagon and disappear into the countryside. Oftentimes she would return with a few chickens or maybe a couple bushels of corn. When asked how she acquired them, Aunt Missy would reply, "Honey, don't ask no questions. Just eat."

The worst part for Anne was the waiting. She lived for the few letters from her husband that would occasionally be smuggled through the lines. She learned he was at Chattanooga and had taken part in a great battle. She heard he was in Georgia and had been captured after being wounded. And then, late one evening, a paroled soldier knocked at the door with the news that Douglas had escaped, leaping off a train near South Pittsburgh, Tennessee. Before he had jumped he had given the soldier a note to give to Anne.

"I'm going to try to come to you, Douglas."

For the first time in almost two years Anne was bubbling with happiness. A hundred times a day she would rush to the front window, looking hopefully down the long drive, praying

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she would see her husband.

Several weeks later, toward the end of November, rumors began spreading about the Union army leaving Huntsville. A large Confederate force was supposed to be threatening the city and the Union forces had decided to retreat. At first everybody discounted the stories but within hours it appeared to be true. Anne, Elizabeth and Aunt Missy stood on the front porch of the Lowry house watching the army and its sympathizers fleeing Huntsville. What had at first been just a few wagons or a couple stray units quickly turned into an unruly mob as Meridian Pike became choked with shouting and cursing teamsters and soldiers.

Occasionally small groups would break away from the congestion and make their way up the drive where they would demand food, jewelry, or money. Most would leave after they were told there was nothing of value in the house but a few were more persistent and had to deal with Aunt Missy who would angrily order them off the property. Several times, when all else failed,

she was forced to threaten them with her ancient pistol.

Late that evening they were visited by a friend from town who warned them they had to flee. The retreating army had turned into a unruly mob and no one was safe. They were burning and looting at will and a house full of women would be a prime target. As if to emphasize his point, he motioned toward town. Even from a mile away they could see the flames from Greene Academy which had been set on fire. Other smaller fires dotted the horizon.

Elizabeth quickly made a decision to leave. As Aunt Missy began to gather extra clothing in a small bag Anne suddenly announced she was not leaving: she was going to wait for her husband. Despite their best efforts they were unable to convince her to leave.

Shaking her head, Aunt Missy finally decided the issue. "I'm staying too."

As soon as Elizabeth and the visitor left Aunt Missy began to gather buckets and pans, filling them with water in case of a fire. Next she turned her attention to

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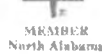
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the back door which she barricaded with pieces of heavy furniture. As she turned to leave the kitchen she noticed an ax standing in the corner which she carried to the front of the house and placed next to the door.

As Aunt Missy stood wondering what else she could do Anne asked, "Do you think it will stop them?"

"For about two minutes," Aunt Missy thought but didn't say. Instead she turned to Anne and wrapped her in her massive arms, saying "We're going to be fine, but I want you to stay in the house. If that bunch sees a young white woman all by herself we will both be finished."

Thus began a night of terror unimaginable for anyone today. As darkness began to sink over Huntsville more and more people crowded the roads trying to escape. Deserters, irregulars and camp followers swarmed the neighborhood, determined to steal anything they could and wreak havoc on the city they were fleeing from.

Aunt Missy stationed herself on the porch using every imaginable trick to keep the crowd at bay. Sometimes she would threaten, other times she would plead. A few times she claimed that Confederate soldiers were only a few hundred yards away.

Despite the best efforts of Aunt Missy, it was not enough. It started with a few drunken soldiers throwing rocks through the windows followed a few minutes later by the barns being set on fire.

One small group of men tried to force their way through the front door. Aunt Missy tried to threaten them with her pistol but it was useless - the gun had never worked since the day she found it years earlier.

Determined to stop the intruders, Aunt Missy grabbed the ax and began wildly swinging. A soldier began beating her in the head with his rifle. Anne, watching from inside the house, saw what was happening and ran outside. Screaming, shouting and in a blind rage she began beating and clawing at the soldiers trying to make them stop beating her Aunt Missy. A shot was fired and a second later Anne fell to the ground.

Something changed in those



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few moments. Perhaps it was the sight of a beautiful young woman lying lifeless under the evening's dew. Or perhaps it was the sight of a huge black woman clutching an ax in her hands, her head battered and bleeding and her body convulsing with sobs as she stood guard over her mistress' body. We don't know.

But for whatever reason the Lowry House escaped any further damage that night.

Anne was buried somewhere on the grounds of the plantation; the exact location is not known. Aunt Missy recovered and continued living with the Lowry family until her death a few years later.

The Union Army reoccupied Huntsville shortly afterwards and life returned to almost normal. After the war several attempts were made to try to rebuild the plantation to its former glory, but none were successful.

And there our story would have ended had it not been for the eerie legends associated with the

home.

Almost immediately after the war, rumors began to circulate in the neighborhood about alleged supernatural things occurring in the home. Lanterns would flicker in an upstairs window late at night but no one would be there. Footsteps were heard in an empty room. Sometimes a ghostly scream would pierce the night air but no one could tell where it came from.

Even more eerie was the shadowy form of a woman who would occasionally be seen watching from an upstairs window. Locals, familiar with the homes history, said it was Anne, still waiting and watching for her husband to come home.

Perhaps the strangest thing was the ax that kept appearing near the front door. Family members would carry it back to the

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wood shed, sometimes even placing a padlock on the door, but a few days or weeks later it would once again be back where Aunt Missy had placed it many years ago.

Over the years parts of the farm were sold off and the house became almost hidden by new residential and commercial developments around it. By the late 1900s the home had been largely forgotten, its once beautifully landscaped yard filled with rubble and the house sinking into decay. Some people still talked about the home's history but for most it was simply the haunted house.

In 1998 a local businessman, Louie Tippett, purchased the home. He had always been fascinated with the home's history and when it came on the market he jumped at the chance to preserve a part of Huntsville's history. By this time the house had deteriorated to the point where the city was talking about condemning it.

Perhaps it was because the

spirits of Anne and Aunt Missy were being disturbed, or maybe it was just coincidence, but for whatever reason the next few years proved harrowing for the people doing the renovation.

Construction workers told of power tools that would suddenly start running even though they were unplugged. Women's voices

would be heard from an upstairs bedroom but no one would be there.

One of the workers wore a replica of a Union soldier's cap to work one day. At lunch he went out to his truck to listen to the radio, leaving the cap lying on a work bench. Minutes later he heard loud crashing noises com-



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ing from the house. When he rushed to see what was happening he found all the work benches overturned, tools scattered all about the room and the Union cap lying in a corner crumpled and torn as if someone had purposely tried to destroy it.

The worker walked off the job, refusing to ever enter the house again.

Strangely, as the home slowly began to regain its former grandeur, the ghostly occurrences seemed to take on a more benign nature, almost as if the spirits approved of the work being done. There are still footsteps coming from nowhere and a shadowy figure can still occasionally be seen in the window, but if one listens carefully one might also hear the soothing voice of a young woman singing softly in some far-off dark corner of the house.

An ax still mysteriously appears next to the front door sometimes. After moving it dozens of times Tippet has chosen to just leave it in place.

Patrick Brooks, a well known researcher of supernatural phenomenon, recently spent time investigating the rumors surrounding the Lowry home. In his final report he wrote:

".... To deny the existence of the unknown is to deny the immortality of man. Whether this unknown factor is called spirits, ghosts or angels, it remains a fact that we have all, at some point in our lives, been

affected by something we can not explain.

.... When Anne Lowry died her greatest desire was to be with her husband. Perhaps her love was of a nature powerful enough to transcend a mortal death. If so, her spirit will continue to linger on earth until time immortal or until she is finally reunited with her husband in another world, the existence of which we cannot begin to fathom.

And until that time comes, Aunt Missy will always be there to protect her."



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News from 1923

- Out on the Meridian Pike last night, around 9 o'clock, a Negro driving a Buick Four, operating as a taxi, ran into a Ford car with a man and his family occupying the car and driving in the direction of New Market. Two wheels of the Ford were knocked off and one of the ladies was thrown to the ground, suffering several cuts about the face. The man was later arrested and placed in jail. The names of the parties could not be learned.

- Charlie Fears was arrested for public intoxication again. Enough said.

- While Mrs. Walter Beirne was driving along East Holmes street late Saturday afternoon, her car ran into a bay carriage containing a little one, but fortunately without harm to the child. Mrs. Beirne was so shocked that she is said to have fainted on the scene, but was soon revived. She offered every assistance to the child hit by her car before proceeding on her way.

- The Huntsville branch of the Ku Klux Klan is to hold a big open air meeting tonight at 9 o'clock on the football field, Big Spring branch, to which the public is given a cordial invitation to attend. The meeting is to be known as Public Naturalization and there will be a big parade of Klan members down Miller street to the swimming pool and other places.

The Klan announces it aim for 1923 as "A United States flag on, and a Bible in, every school."



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Telephones Come to Gurley, Alabama

By William Sibley

Life was simple in many parts of Alabama and in some parts of the United States in the late 1800s and the early 1900s, but the small railroad town of Gurley, Alabama, located in the extreme eastern Madison County was a very busy, progressive settlement.

About 1891, the town lost its high school, Gurley High School, also known as the Gurley Academy, to a fire that completely destroyed the building, leaving the high school students with no place to continue their secondary education. At least one pupil went to another state to continue her schooling.

In 1894, the Robert Donnell Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church opened a high school in Gurley in a beautiful building which was described as resembling a Victorian mansion. The school, Robert Donnell High School, was a forerunner of Madison County High School, and was a prep school where pupils were educated in English, Greek, Latin, History, Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Elocution, Psychology, and other subjects, including courses in bookkeeping. Graduates of the prep school could enter college at the sophomore level.

Dormitories for both boys and girls were built for the school but still could not accommodate all of the pupils who enrolled. Citizens of the town of Gurley took in boarding students so that nobody was turned away. Pupils from all across Madison County and many other parts of Alabama and some pupils from states adjacent to Alabama came to Gurley to go to high school. When graduation exercises were held at the high school, Gurley's two modern hotels were filled to capacity with visitors and families of the graduates. During the late 1800s and the early 1900s, Hotel Gurley listed its "New Arrivals" in the local newspaper,

THE GURLEY HERALD, giving the names of the guests and their hometowns. Guest registers showed that visitors from many parts of the United States came to Gurley and spent one or more nights in the popular hotel. Most of the guests came from Alabama and Tennessee, but some came from Virginia, Iowa, New York, Louisiana, Georgia, Ohio, and Michigan, as well as other places.


With so many people passing through Gurley, the town began to see a need for telephones in the early 1900s. The articles below will show how the telephone exchange came about in Gurley.

Gurley, Alabama, THE GURLEY HERALD, Feb. 27, 1902 In an article entitled "Local Telephones for Gurley," there was a report of a meeting of Gurley businessmen to consider "the creation of a local telephone line for our

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city." W. A. Sanford was elected president of the group, with J. W. Roberts serving as secretary of the meeting. Three people from the group, W. T. Roberts, C. W. Leftwich, and B. P. Phillips, were appointed as a committee "to confer with different telephone companies in regard to erecting an exchange."

The telephone committee went to work immediately and called on residents and business leaders of Gurley, informing them of how many steps they could save by having a phone installed and how quickly their messages could arrive by using long distance calling. Gurley was very serious about getting telephones as can be seen in the newspaper articles below.

Huntsville, Alabama, THE REPUBLICAN, "The Gurley Department," Mar. 21, 1903 "T. R. Hall, our hustling up-to-date hotel man, is making an improvement by placing a phone in his hotel in order to be able to inform his guests as to the trains that

come in at night, the depot being closed up, and his connections place him so that he can call up Stevenson and find out how the trains are."

From the same newspaper, same date (3-21-1903) "Gurley is to have a Telephone Exchange. Dr. E. O. Williamson and Ed Leftwich are heading the enterprise and have gotten most of the material on the ground. They will connect with the American Bell long distance at this place."

Five day after the article above appeared in THE GURLEY HERALD, the same newspaper printed in its Mar. 26, 1903 edition, "The telephone exchange for Gurley is a sure thing." The article also indicated that the necessary supplies for the exchange had arrived and expressed the hopes that "the exchange would be in operation at a very early date ... and would be a great benefit to the town."

Less than five months after the article above appeared in THE GURLEY HERALD, the same



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newspaper printed the "Call Card," which was a telephone directory that listed the names and numbers of forty-four subscribers. Each number was a single- or double-digit number. The exchange was growing and reported in THE GURLEY HERALD, Oct. 22, 1903, "Gurley now has 55 telephones."

Jan. 21, 1904 THE GURLEY HERALD printed a directory of sixty-six subscribers' names. A few of the numbers were left out, but it is thought that they were not "unlisted numbers," but it was probably due to the newspaper not knowing the number (s). Among the subscribers were 3 medical doctors, 3 saloons, a mill (probably grist mill), several grocery stores, a hardware store, a college (Robert Donnell High School), a livery stable, a hotel, a bank, a handle factory, a roller mill, the southern depot, and many residents' numbers.

Since there were several parties on the same line, some confusion among the callers had to be addressed. It appears that people did not know which "ring" to answer. The rings of the phone were listed as R for ring, Lg for long, sht for short, etc. Also, some of the citizens apparently did not know how to make a call and how to hang up a phone properly after completing their conversation(s).

T. E. Leftwich wrote some instructions to exchange subscribers in the 1904 directory, which said in part, "...Call by number only. To call the central office, give the bell one sharp turn, and then take the hand telephone from the hook, place firmly against the ear and listen for the operator, who will answer..." "Give the operator the number of the party to whom you wish to speak. The operator will put the call through and inform you if the line is in use ... After completing your conversation ... return the hand telephone to the hook, giving the bell one sharp turn to notify the operator that you have completed your conversation..."

THE REPUBLICAN, "The Gurley Department," Feb. 16, 1904: "Miss Estelle Honey is the new 'hello girl' and we would like any system of telephones to get a nicer girl."

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Why Is It Named That?

by Dex Nilsson

It's football season, and many local games take place at these two facilities.

Goldsmith-Schiffman Field

Huntsville High School used to be in the northeast part of the city in the building at Randolph and White Streets that is now the Annie C. Merts Center serving the board of education. It was only a five-block march for the school band to reach the city's newest football field. That was back in the 1930s.

Goldsmith-Schiffman Field opened in 1934. It was the site of the city's first night game. The land had been donated to Huntsville by Oscar, son Lawrence, and Annie Goldsmith, and Robert and wife Elsie Schiffman, in memory of their wives and mothers. It was donated specifically for an athletic field.

Milton Frank Stadium

Milton Frank, originally from Nashville, starred on the football team at the University of Tennessee. Immediately after graduating in 1934, he came to Huntsville as teacher and football coach at Huntsville High School. He held those positions for twelve years. In 1946 Coach Frank, as he was known, left to become co-owner of Rose Jewelry Company; he was also vice-president of a jewelry business in Mobile. The change gave Frank

time to be active in civic affairs. He became president of the Shriners and the Optimist Club, board member of Christmas Charities and the Huntsville Industrial Expansion Committee, and for five years a director of the Boys Club - to name a few. Coach Frank died in 1967 at age 56. A few weeks before his death, the state legislature voted to change the name of Huntsville Stadium to Milton Frank Stadium.

Taken from Dex's book "Why Is It Named That?" which contains stories of 250 places in Huntsville and Madison County. Copies are available at Shaver's

Books in the Railroad Station Antique Mall, Harrison Brothers Hardware Store, and the Senior Center Gift Shop.

Natural Attire

A certain young miss was arrested last night for riding a horse along Meridian Street clothed only in her natural attire. This was obviously connected to the hi-jinks surrounding this year's graduation class of Huntsville High School. Her father is not pleased.

from 1924 newspaper

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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 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.

The police of the city were soon present and they had, I am told, a general row, but as good luck would have it none of them were hurt at all and Lump Davis was also in the crowd and it is a pity for him and our company and those that he is connected with that he was in the frolic.

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. But I did.

E.D. Treadwell



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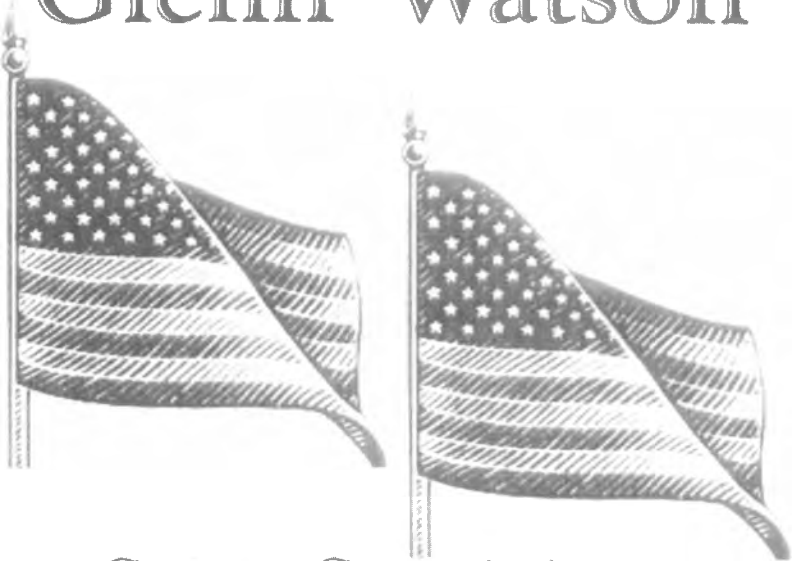
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Bobby Bowden, Fla. State

The Youngest Confederate Soldier

On April 23, 1898, according to an article that appeared in the Huntsville Mercury newspaper, William Eugene Clutts filed a request for pension at the Madison County Court House. Written boldly on the front of the application was "Youngest Soldier in War From Alabama."

According to the records, Clutts was born July 16, 1848 and enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of twelve years and six months.

On November 15, 1861 William Clutts and his father James made the short trip to Huntsville where they both enlisted in Company K of the 49th Alabama Infantry. Just why his

father allowed him to enlist at such a young age is unknown. Possibly there was no one left at home to take care of him so his father simply decided it was a way to keep the family together. In early 1862 the unit was organized in Nashville and first came under fire at Shiloh on April 6-7 where the units suffered heavy casualties. They went on to Vicksburg in 1862 where Clutts' father died on July 1, 1862.

Whether he died of wounds or sickness is not known. After helping bury his father, young Clutts

stayed with the regiment when it moved to Baton Rouge in August and Port Hudson in the winter of 1862-63.

In January of 1863 officers of the regiment apparently became aware of Clutts' age as he was discharged for being underage. Two weeks later the unit was captured near Port Hudson, Louisiana.

Clutts returned to Huntsville where he stayed until the winter of 1864 when he once again joined the Confederate service, this time with the 5th Alabama

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Cavalry. Possibly, because of the dire straits the Confederacy was in, no one questioned his age.

After the war Clutts returned to Madison County where he became a farmer. On his pension application in 1898 he listed his worldly goods as one mule, one cow and two hogs. The authorities, probably noting Clutts' age at enlistment, rejected the pension.

On October 22, 1914 another pension application was filed and a witness, L.F. Pike, swore that Clutts had been captured with the regiment at Port Hudson, Louisiana and that Clutts was discharged for being underage.

He also offered evidence that Clutts, after returning home, joined the 5th Alabama Cavalry in November, 1864 and later surrendered with the Regiment at Danville, Alabama. Another veteran, A.T. Williams, filed a similar sworn statement backing

Clutts' claim.

After lengthy delays, the pension was granted. When Clutts died in 1923 his widow filed for a widow's pension which was also granted.

Can William Clutts be the youngest Confederate Veteran? Another claimant, Warren F. Dent, swore he was a courier during the war, serving under his brother. While he may have delivered messages, his date of birth, March 23, 1855, makes it highly unlikely that he ever bore arms. Another contender, Charles Carter Hay, based his claim on the fact that he drilled while he was an 11 year-old Cadet at Glennville Military Academy.

If the records are correct, William Eugene Clutts, of Madison County, was in fact the youngest Confederate soldier, a fact long ignored by Civil War historians.



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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to the winner of the Photo of the Month for October! **Pat Roberson** was the first to call with a correct guess - the young man who "has been standing behind a chair for over 40 years" was **Harris Roberts**, who works with **Floyd Hardin** at Jackson Way Styling Salon. Pat is a retired factory worker and volunteers at Mt. View Baptist Church.

We were so proud to welcome the **128th Military Police Company** back to Huntsville after a year in Iraq. Crowds packed the street from Copeland's Restaurant to the Armory. The 130 members were in training at Camp Shelby since the summer of 2006, and left there to go to Iraq.

Martin and **Eddress Burke** recently celebrated 60 years of married bliss, at a party at Redstone Village where they live. Congratulations to you both!

Rob Walker, of AXA Advisors, just had a birthday and celebrated with sweet wife **Kay**. Their daughter **Sarah Walker** just came home for a visit during fall break. Sarah is attending the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

We had the chance to talk

with **Deborah Shaffer** recently, who works at Macaroni Grille. She made our evening one of the most enjoyable nights out we've had recently.

It was so good to hear from **Dee Presley** (Elvis Presley's stepmom, who married Vernon) recently. She's a fascinating lady and has so many great stories to tell. She wants to say hello to all her friends in Huntsville!

Pretty **Faith Sutherlin** had a 15th birthday recently! Her mom is **Felicia Sutherlin**, and proud grandma is **Cheryl Tribble**, of Woodstock.

For all you Civil War buffs out there, we just heard that there is a Civil War dinner theater in Tennessee, that is packing in the crowds. It's called **Buttonwillow Church Civil War Dinner Theater** and is located in Whitwell, Tn. which is about 90 miles from Huntsville. People just love it.

Don't forget to attend the **Veteran's Day Parade** downtown - be sure and note that this year

it's on Nov. 12 instead of the 11th.

It starts at 11 am but be sure to get there early to get a good place to watch.

We were so very sad to hear of the death of a little 15-month old child. **Tommy Stubbs**, son of **Dr. Joseph and Emily Stubbs**, had the most beautiful smile and was very much loved. We send our deepest sympathies to the family.

Lee Ann Lancaster celebrated her birthday in style at Lee Ann's off Church street recently. She sure doesn't look any older, and the crowds were rocking!

Berns Miller is working tirelessly to save the old local cemeteries from extinction, and now we hear that **Roger Jones**, Madison County Commissioner, is working hard to get the Cemetery Rehabilitation authority passed. Making the effort for the old cemeteries is definitely the right thing to do.

Our good friend **Scottie Brier**, who used to live in Huntsville and

Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This handsome boy loves antiques and the theater.



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is now relegated to icy winters in yankee-land, wrote us recently to tell us how lucky we all are to live here in Huntsville! The fact that our city is so clean is one thing that our visitors are so impressed with, and our **Mayor Loretta Spencer** and her **Green Team** can take the credit for that.

The **Furniture Factory** celebrated 6 years at its current location on Meridian Street with a weeklong series of events. As many of you may remember, **Jay's Lounge** was in that location previous to Furniture Factory, for many years. With this great weather, the outdoor patio stays packed.

Happy Birthday to **Stefanie Troup!** She's the best daughter a mom could ever wish for.

It's hard to believe that H.C. Blake has been in business for 123 years! Congratulations to **Hall Bryant** and his great team!

Shopping at Costco recently I ran into **Janet Watson**, who was with a gorgeous little girl named **Annabelle**, her granddaughter. They were having a girl's day out. Annabelle's sister is **Janet**, 2. Proud mom is **Cornelia Watson**, and grandpa is **Buck Watson**. Janet and Buck have 13 grandkids - and love each and every one of them.

We were very sorry to hear that **Richard Smith** had passed away. We send our condolences to his many friends and dear wife **Nancy**.

Congratulations to **Amanda Stolz**, who just announced her engagement to **Joshua Dempsey** - no date has been set. Amanda is the pretty daughter of **Peggy Stolz** of Hazel Green. **Denise** and **David Dempsey** are Joshua's parents, and live in Toney.

A birthday party was held recently for the sweetest little boy at his Granny & PawPaw's (**Rosemary & Bill Leatherwood**, of Ole Dad's Barbeque) home in

Meridianville. **'Lil Billy Leatherwood IV** turned 3, and celebrated with parents **Billy & Missy** and many friends.

A big welcome to **Brenda Delancey** who just moved here 4 months ago from the Gulfport, Miss. area. Brenda works as a Family Service Coordinator at Valhalla, and we're happy she's here!

It was great to meet with **Irene Cotten Charles**, who has worked at the Huntsville Madison County Public library almost 30 years now. Her sweet mother-in-law **Helen Seitz Charles** lives in Redstone Village and just loves Huntsville's history!

A birthday party for **Wade Hays** was celebrated at Haysland with mom **Donna Hays** of Furniture Factory), **John Hays** and many friends and family. Wade's sweet sister **Rene** even traveled in from Aspen, Colorado to celebrate the event! Happy Birthday Wade!

It was great to meet **Joyce Gray** recently. She and husband **Jim Gray** are expecting their first granddaughter in January. Happy parents-to-be are **Clark & Kelli Gray**, who live in Birmingham.

Have a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving and remember to think about our soldiers overseas who are fighting for us here in the States.



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Hot & Spicy

2 lb. smoked sausage
2 lrg. red peppers, chopped
1 bottle prepared barbecue sauce

Boil the sausage til hot, punch hole in skin. While still warm, cut the sausage into one-inch pieces. Place them in a frying pan with 2 tablespoons vegetable oil and fry for 2 minutes. Add peppers and cook for another 2 minutes, stirring often. Remove to glass bowl, pour warmed barbeque sauce over all.

Serve with toothpicks - these won't last!

Parmesan-Pimiento Dip

1 c. mayonnaise
1 c. Parmesan cheese
1/2 c. ripe olives, chopped
4 oz. jar pimientos, chopped

2 cloves garlic, minced
Combine all ingredients in a baking dish. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes. Serve with crackers or chips.

Fried Cucumbers - Old Recipe

Peel the cucumbers, then cut them in strips lengthwise very thin. Coat strips in meal and salt. Fry until tender. Sprinkle with melted butter and pepper, and serve very hot.

Spicy Hoppin' John

1 lb. black-eyed peas, dry
1/2 lb. bacon, diced
2 medium onions, chopped
1 t. garlic powder
3 stalks celery, chopped
2 c. water
2 t. salt
1/2 t. Tabasco sauce

2 c. rice, uncooked

Cook black-eyed peas and season as directed. In large skillet, fry bacon crisp over low heat. Drain off most of the grease. To that add onions, garlic powder and celery, cook over moderate heat til soft but not brown.

Add the cooked peas, water, salt and Tabasco. Bring mixture to a boil, cover and reduce heat. Simmer for 30 minutes.

Stir in the rice and cook til rice is tender and liquid is absorbed. (Add more water if needed. Check for seasoning and add more if needed.)

Cabbage with Sausages (Old Recipe)

Boil cabbage in salted water, fry a pound of sausage, put all in a deep dish and cover with the cabbage. Top with 4 teaspoons of butter and sprinkle with pepper.

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Savory Glazed Ham

- 1 5-lb. ham
- 1/2 c. firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 1/2 t. ground cloves
- 1/2 t. ground ginger
- 1/2 c. lemon juice

Place ham in a shallow baking dish, and begin cooking it according to the instructions on the package. In a small saucepan combine the brown sugar, cornstarch, cloves and ginger. Add the lemon juice and heat, stirring constantly, til thickened.

Spoon the glaze over the ham during the last 30 minutes of heating time.

Phyllis' Hush Puppies

- 1/2 c. corn meal
 - 1/2 c. buttermilk
 - 2 onions, chopped
 - 1/2 c. flour
 - 1 t. garlic salt
- Mix all together and place in fridge for 4 hours. Drop by spoonfuls into hot cooking oil til browned.

Apple Crisp

- 4 medium Granny Smith apples, peeled and sliced
- 1 c. dried apricots, chopped
- 3/4 c. plain flour
- 3/4 c. brown sugar, packed
- 1/3 c. chopped pecans
- 3 T. butter, softened
- Whipping cream

Place apple slices in a buttered square pan, 8x8x2". Mix remaining ingredients, except for the whipping cream, and sprinkle the mixture over the apples and apricots. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 40 minutes til crisp, serve warm with whipping cream.

Buttermilk Pie

- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. buttermilk
- 1/3 c. Bisquick
- 6 T. butter, melted
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 3 eggs

Blend all ingredients in a bowl with electric mixer. Pour mixture into buttered 9" pie pan and bake for 50 minutes at 350 degrees. A toothpick inserted in pie should come out clean. Cool for 5 minutes. This is good served with a liquor like Grand Marnier.



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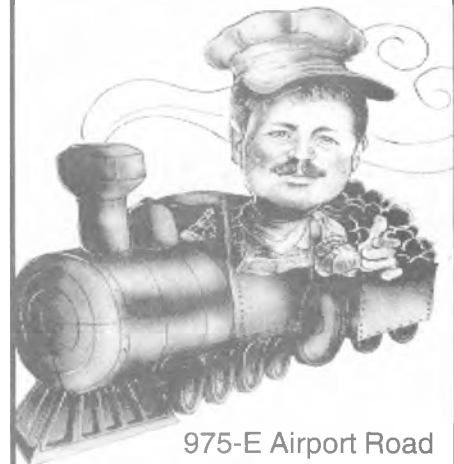
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Growing Up on Green Mountain

by Joe (Boots) White

We moved to Green Mountain in the mid-forties. The only road that a motor vehicle could travel was the Farley Side West. We had all the hills and flats named on the side of the mountain. I remember when we moved up there it had been raining and we got stuck twice on McCary Hill which was half way up the mountain. It took us all evening to get to the place that we had bought.

At the time, there were only dirt roads and no electricity. The people that I remember that lived on the mountain when we first moved there were the Bells, Cowans, Castells, Bakers, Ike White, Emmett White, and the Fears.

Shortly there after the Stevens, Owens, Sloans, and others moved there. (Forgive me if I missed anyone.)

We went to the nature trail on the mountain this past May for the White family reunion, and I tried to let my mind wander back to sixty-three years ago when we first moved there. It was hard with all the beautiful houses and paved roads.

At the head of the lake on the nature trail was a spring of water where our family and Uncle Emmett got our drinking water. We washed our clothes there in spring and summer. We went to Farley School and we paid my uncle Duke Cowan ten cents a day to

ride in an old truck with a canvas over the back which was dry in the rain but cold in the winter.

Later on, my brother John and the Fears boys, Wayne and Jim, walked off the mountain on the Owens crossroads side. We would catch the bus at the moun-



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tain. In the evenings, we would stop to eat muscadines, black berries, wild apricots, hickory nuts. Then, we would go home around dark.

I wonder if the people that live on Green mountain know where all the caves are located. Do they know where Alum Cave and Alum Cave Bluff are located? The Hobbs boy, who was accused of killing the Fleming lady used a small cave just to the right of Alum Cave Bluff to stay while the police were searching for him.

The only doctor that I ever saw on Green Mountain was Doc Carpenter. He was a wonderful man. He was the one who got the road built up there.

Most of my memories come back to me when I turn the thermostat up or down, put clothes in the washer or dryer, turn the water on, or when it rains and I see there are no leaks in the ceiling, when I get a cut and there is no kerosene, or when I get cold, there is no hot mustard roll.

I collected rattlesnake rattlers when I was growing up on that mountain; I had a whole soapbox full of them. Getting them, we had many close calls but no bites.

The thing that I really miss the most is the love our family had for each other. I can say a lot more about Green Mountain, but I don't want to bore you. How did we survive? I just guess that God took care of us.

"In Alabama, an atheist is someone who doesn't believe in Bear Bryant."

Wally Butts / Georgia

Colored Men Drafted

from 1918 newspaper

The Madison County draft board is preparing to send one hundred colored men to army training camps next Sunday. Fifty-nine Negro boys were sent away last Saturday.

Seventy young men who have arrived at the age of 21 years since June 5, 1918, registered Saturday and they will be called in for examination in a few days. They are needed in the first class to which most of the physically fit will be immediately assigned.

The board has only 13 men remaining in the first class, whites, and they are going away with the next contingent of fifty nine men who will be sent from here September 3 to 6.

Probably all the June registrants will be off during the month of September as several calls are expected.

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The Miracle Worker

In the late fall of 1958, a strange caravan pulled into Huntsville. After erecting a large tent on an empty lot near Washington and Pratt Avenue they immediately began passing out handbills throughout town.

"Religious Revival," the handbill read, "Come see the sick healed and miracles performed before your eyes."

Traveling revivals were nothing new to Huntsville. Almost yearly, miracle workers or religious healers would appear in town to stage week long revivals promising to heal the bodies and save the souls.

This revival troupe, however, was different. Just how different soon became apparent when Huntsville got a good look at the newest miracle worker.

A tall man, slim with dark hair, Preacher Ramone was clad in a stylish suit, crafted from light burgundy satin, heavily inlaid with gold brocade. According to the hand bills handed out, he was known all across the country for his miraculous healings and there were also testimonials from people claiming to have witnessed the events.

He was just different enough to stir the curiosity of Huntsville's natives. The first night there were maybe 15 or 20 people scattered throughout the large tent, waiting to be healed, saved, or amused.

The revival opened with Preacher Ramone giving a passionate plea to the faithful. After working himself to a feverish pitch, he motioned to his helpers waiting in the wings. Slowly, with a chorus of singers clad in bright red costumes singing softly in the background, the helpers rolled a coffin onto the stage.

Just as the choir finished, and with everyone in the audience waiting to see what would happen next, Preacher Ramone raised the lid of the coffin to reveal a body.

"Folks," he cried out. "I promised you a miracle and I am going to show you one! We're gonna pray over this body for 7 days and 7 nights and on the 7th night the body will rise from the dead."

Needless to say, the next night the tent was almost full of expectant and curious people staring at the body lying on stage.

Of course, Preacher Ramone did not neglect to take contributions. Every few minutes a plate would be passed, with the preacher exhorting the people to help him continue in his work.

The tent was full on the third night, and overflowing by the fifth. On the sixth night, police

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had to be called to help with traffic control. The plates that had been passed around the first nights were now replaced with dishpans, then buckets, and even they were not large enough to hold the money donated by the thousands of people who were now showing up each night.

Photographs of the coffin, with the body, were sold for \$2 apiece, and for an extra donation, one could actually go up on stage and place their hands on the coffin. For another \$1 the people could have their picture taken with Preacher Ramone, in all of his burgundy glory.

Early on the morning of the seventh day, people began flocking to town from points all over North Alabama. Eagerly they gathered in the field around the tent, waiting, and talking about the miracle scheduled to happen that night. By 5 o'clock in the evening the crowd waiting was estimated to be over 4,000 people.

And they waited.

Finally, around 8:00 p.m., a small delegation took it upon themselves to enter the tent to see what was holding up the revival. The chairs were still in place, the coffin still sitting on the stage, propped in an upright position ... but the body was gone!

So was the choir, Preacher Ramone and thousands of dollars that had once belonged to Huntsville's citizens.

The following week, a creditor from Louisville, Kentucky, showed up with a court order to repossess the tent.



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**Heart-Rending Account
Details Cruelty Of Huntsville,
Alabama Judge**

**Reprinted from an 1843
manuscript**

I have lately been introduced to a very intelligent and interesting young man, whose mother was a full-blooded Cherokee. He showed me an interesting letter from her, and several from his sisters; one of which brought tidings of his mother's death, and enclosed a lock of her hair, fine, black, and glossy, and beautifully braided. He kept it very carefully, in several envelopes of paper. His name is James Fisher. He has suffered shameful treatment from the people in Alabama, and was thereby induced to seek warmer hearts in a colder climate. He told me his story, with liberty to publish it when I was sure that he was safe in another land. Here it is, as he told it to me.

I was born in Nashville, Tenn. October, 1817. My mother's name was Maly Davis. Though an un-mixed Cherokee Indian, she was kept in slavery all her life. My father's name was Thomas Fisher. He fled from bondage when I was a small child. They pursued, but never caught him. My mother was a very industrious woman. By washing and ironing, she earned money enough to buy herself for \$800.

After my mother had bought herself and sister Ellen, there was a suit brought in favor of some of

the others, who had been taken with her; and they were proved to be Indians, and set at liberty. My mother consulted a lawyer, named Grundy, to know if her children could not likewise be proved free. He told her it would cost more

"The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has.

Will Rogers

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money to carry on the suit, than it would to buy the whole of them. This discouraged her, and she gave it up. When I was in my fifteenth year, the widow Stump sold me to a man who kept a boardinghouse in New Orleans, by the name of Shawl. He paid \$500 for me, and I lived with him, as a house-servant, for four years. He was a drinking man, and when he was into the liquor, abused me.

Parts of the manuscript describing his first escape attempt are missing. The story takes up again after he was captured and was awaiting his fate in Nashville.

In the midst of this, my old master, Mr. Shawl, came to Nashville with an execution to be served on me, as Mr. Gamble's property, to satisfy some old judgement or claim. But he lost his suit, because Judge Lane, of Huntsville, had a mortgage on me, and came to Nashville to secure me. There was quite a

squabble among them, who should have me; and all this time, mother was trying with all her might to buy me. At last, I was very unwillingly obliged to go to Huntsville with Judge Lane, as house servant, coachman, etc. The judge promised to use me well, and let me visit my mother once a year.

However, I had serious doubts whether my poor old mother would ever be able to comply with the rigid terms Judge Lane exacted. I therefore thought it wise to learn to write, in case opportunity should offer to write myself a pass. I copied every scrap of writing I could find, and thus learned to write a tolerable hand before I knew what the words were that I was copying. At last, I met with an old man, who, for the sake of money to buy whisky, agreed to teach me the writing alphabet, and set me copying. I spent a good deal of time trying to improve myself, secretly, of course. One day, my mistress happened

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to come into my room, when my materials were about, and she told her father (old Capt. Davis) that I was learning to write.

He replied, that if I belonged to him, he would cut my right hand off. After that, he sometimes talked to me an hour at a time, to convince me that I was better off than I should be if I was free. He said slaves were better off than their masters, much better off than the free colored people, and vastly better off than they would have been if still in the wilds of Africa; because there they fought, killed, and ate each other.

"But here," said he, "masters are bound by law to provide well for you, will be punished if they do not do it." He told me that the reason why they murdered and devoured one another in Africa was because there were no white people there to make them behave themselves.

Judge Lane was circuit judge of several of the counties where he lived and was what would be called a kind master; but he did not let me know that she had written several letters to him, trying to buy me.

Though forbidden by law from learning how to read and write, letters from and to slaves were common. Normally a slave would pay a white person to write the letter and the person receiving it would pay to have it read

I will give an extract from the last letter my dear mother ever wrote to me.

The reader can imagine that some pangs shot through my heart, on hearing it. "Dear Son, I am very sorry to learn from Judge Lane's letter, which I re-

ceived yesterday that it is impossible for me to free you, under any circumstances whatever, unless I can comply with paying the full amount of money that he must have for you, and that all down. He also informs me that he could not do without you, and would not hire you out under any circumstances."

When I spoke to Judge Lane about it, he asked me if I was dissatisfied living with him. I told him I would as soon live with him in the condition of a slave, as with anybody.

"If you had your freedom, you would not be so well off as you think," said he. "I have all the trouble of thinking for myself and all the rest of you."

I told him I greatly wished to relieve him from the task of thinking for me, and I should

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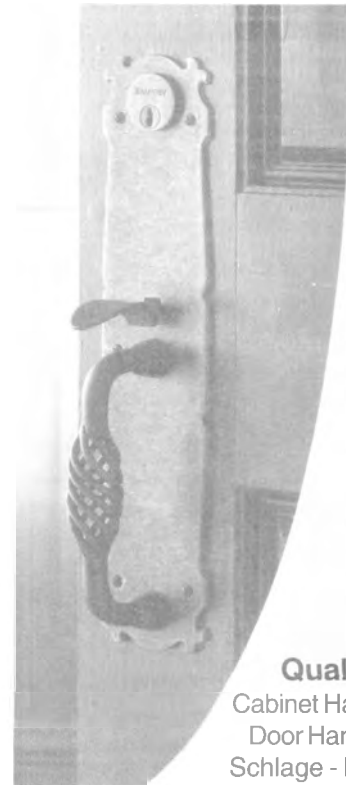
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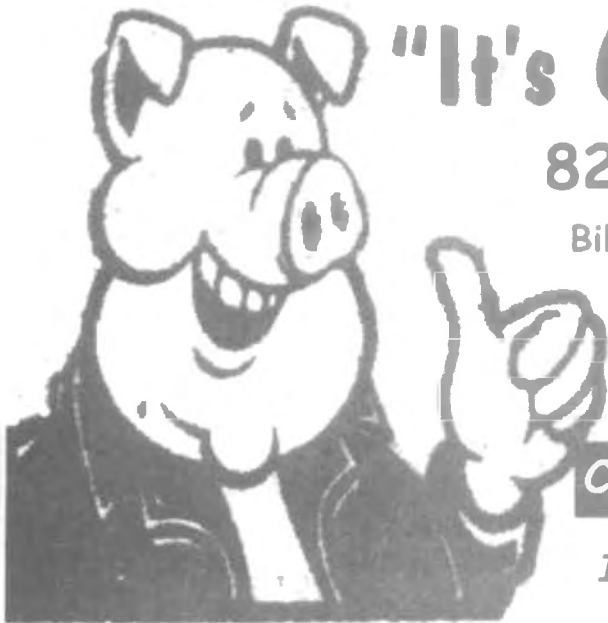
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much prefer to think for myself. He smiled, and said I was a fool.

Twelve days after this, my master had occasion to go to Mobile. When he started, he charged me to mind whatever Miss Lane told me.

My mistress was naturally irritable, and crabby and before master had been gone three days, she ordered her brother, Nicholas Davis, to give me a flogging. He came into the kitchen, and struck me on the arm with the edge of a heavy board. In a sudden flash of anger I snatched it out of his hand, pushed him against the wall and choked him a little. He ran and told his sister I had nearly killed him.

She sent a servant to tell old Captain Davis, her father, that he must come the next morning to give me a flogging. The old Captain had often expressed a wish for a chance to give me a good thrashing.

He was noted by his severity to servants. It was said that he had killed a man named Reuben, and a girl named Rachel by excessive beating. He had lately struck, with a heavy club, a poor old man who used to tend him when he was a baby. He had a big whip and made a point to conquer or kill everyone he undertook to flog. I was not willing to fall into the hands of this old tyrant.

He was sent for on Sunday morning and as soon as I got my kitchen work done that day, I set myself to writing passes, till I got one that suited me. It was a permission to go to Nashville and stay two weeks, signed with my mistress' name. In the evening I went to the stage office, and asked the landlord if I could take passage to Nashville the next morning. He de-

manded my pass. I showed it, telling him that mistress was not much used to writing for the servants, and she wished him to look at it, and see if it was correct, if not, he would please to send it back again, and she would alter it as he said; but that mistress wanted him to write her a few lines about it.



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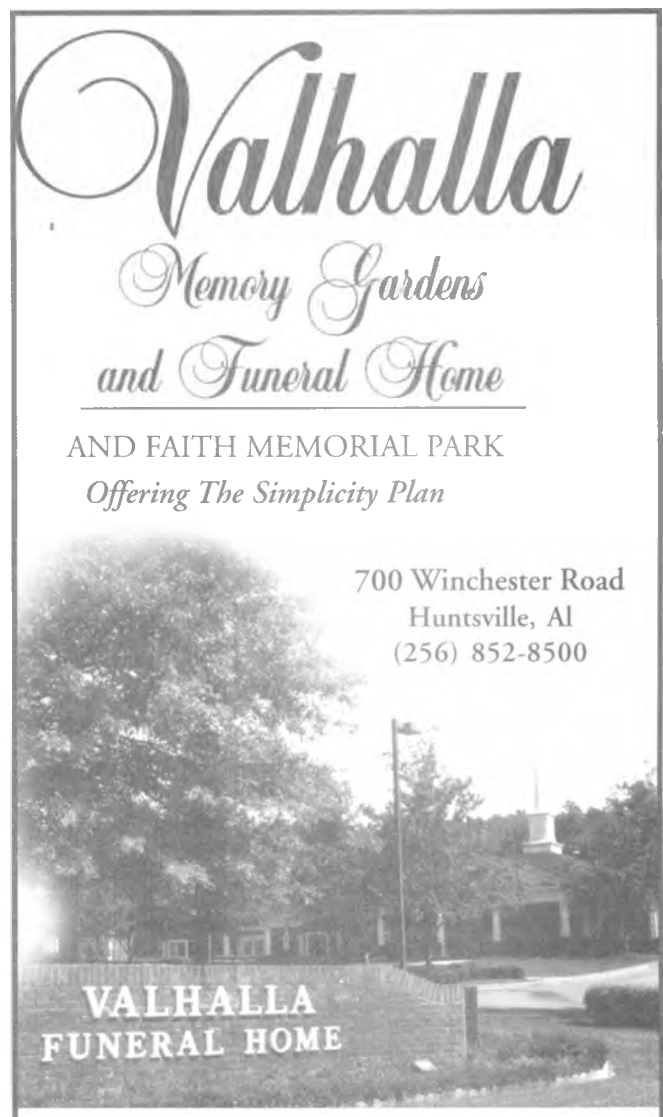
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He wrote accordingly and I went back to my room, read the note, and burned it. I then went back to the tavern, and paid my passage to Nashville the next morning, I rose before anybody was astir, carried my trunk to the stage office, and hurried back to prepare breakfast for the family. I had just sent it in, when I heard the stage horn I ran up to the tavern, and toward the stage just starting to come to the house for me. I jumped in, and in four days was safely landed in Nashville.

Judge Lane still holds an Indian woman, with her six children, as slaves. She is of the Creek nation, and her name is Susan. He bought her from Mr. Tanner of Athens.

When I first went to live with the judge, Mrs. Lane used to be often teasing him to buy Susan for her, but he replied that Mr. Tanner had not a good bill of sale; she was a full-blooded Creek Indian, and that if a suit at law should ever be brought, she would be set free.

However, Mrs. Lane at last persuaded him to buy Susan on condition that Mr. Tanner should refund the money if she was ever declared free. He paid \$2,500 for her and her six children. When the Creek Indians were removed to Arkansas, by order of the government, they went past the house

where we lived. Susan went out, with some of the other servants, to look at them. The moment they looked at her, they knew she belonged to their tribe. They stopped, and gathered round her, and made signals for her to go with them. She could not understand their language; but they pointed to her and her children, and then at their women and children, and then along the road they were traveling. They took one of her children and carried it some distance, and we had trouble to get it away from them. Susan would have gone with her tribe, but Judge Lane stood by all the time.

I have often heard her tell how she came to be a slave. A blacksmith by the name of Taylor went among the Creek Nation to work at his trade. Susan's mother, a poor woman, gave her to the blacksmith's wife to raise when she was a little girl: and she became much attached to the family, that when they left the tribe, she went with them.

She says that Mrs. Taylor always told her she would be free when she was a woman but before that time arrived, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor died and their son sold Susan and she has been a slave ever since.





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Huntsville and the State Bird

by Richard Modlin

Recently, I found a book titled *Birds and Flowers of the Fifty States: A Collection of United States Commemorative Stamps*. Published by the U. S. Postal Service in 1982, the book celebrates the issuance of a plate of first class stamps that honor our country's state birds and flowers. Not only is this publication full of beautifully colored pictures, but it also provides a wealth of interesting statistics. For example, the most commemorated bird in our country is, not surprisingly, the bright red northern cardinal.

My mother wouldn't have selected the cardinal. In her mind, this bird was an omen of bad weather. She would shoo it away, when it came around our house. But cardinals are honored by the states of Illinois, Indiana,

Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and, you guessed it, the state in which my mom lived, Ohio.

I also learned that the eastern meadowlark and northern mockingbird are the second and third most celebrated birds.

State birds were selected in a variety of ways, voted upon, and officially designated by the state's legislative body. Most of the time the birds chosen were common and endemic to the state. Some states selected an unusual species that symbolized the state in some special way.

So what was Huntsville's role in immortalizing the common flicker or, more locally known as the yellowhammer, as Alabama's state bird?

As the story goes, when a fresh cavalry unit from Huntsville rode into Hopkinsville, Kentucky, they were wearing new uniforms decorated with bits of bright yellow cloth on their shirtsleeves, collars, and coat-tails. As they passed the battle-weary Soldiers of Company A who were dressed in worn, faded uniforms, Will Arnett, a humorist and writer following

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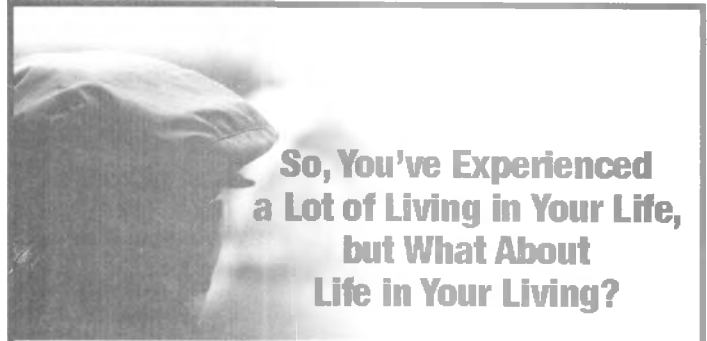
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the Confederate troops cried out, "Yellerhammer, Yellerhammer, flicker, flicker!" The exhausted soldiers cheered and laughed. They celebrated with the new arrivals until the battle at Hopkinstown began again.

The name Yellowhammer stuck, and Huntsville's soldiers came to be known as "Yellowhammers." As the war continued, the nickname spread to all the troops from Alabama. So any Alabamian who fought in the War Between the States became known as a Yellowhammer.

Will Arnett's perception of the flicker's gray-colored body with its yellow patches aptly fit the Huntsville-modified Confederate uniform. Will said the black polka dots on the yellowhammer's breast looked like shots to soldiers' chests and the black or red bandana around the bird's neck resembled dressings covering a battle wound.

After the war, the Confederate Veterans in Alabama proudly continued Will Arnett's metaphor by wearing yellowhammer feathers in their caps and lapels at reunions. In 1927 a bill was introduced in the Alabama State Legislature to designate the yellow-shafted flicker to commemorate the state and its men who fought in the War Between the States. The Governor signed the bill in the same year.



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News from 1923

- During the heavy electrical storm of Wednesday night, a barn belonging to James Cryce of New Hope, was struck by lightning and destroyed together with all the contents, consisting of foodstuffs and farm machinery. The damage will reach approximately \$2,500 with no insurance.

- Accustomed to every type of theft, city detectives are quietly studying clues leading to possible identification of the person who Wednesday night took the pet gold fish of Mrs. M. Marion from the front porch of her home in West Huntsville.

- While standing over her stove Thursday afternoon a

bolt of lightning entered the home of Mrs. Alex Bryan, severely shocking her. She will recover. The lightning is supposed to have entered the kitchen over an electric wire.

- Sheriff Lane yesterday brought in from the vicinity of

New Market a man docketed under the name of J. M. Davis, charged with illicit distilling. Richards was placed in the county jail for a later hearing. He is assumed to be the person responsible for three deaths from poisonous white lightning.

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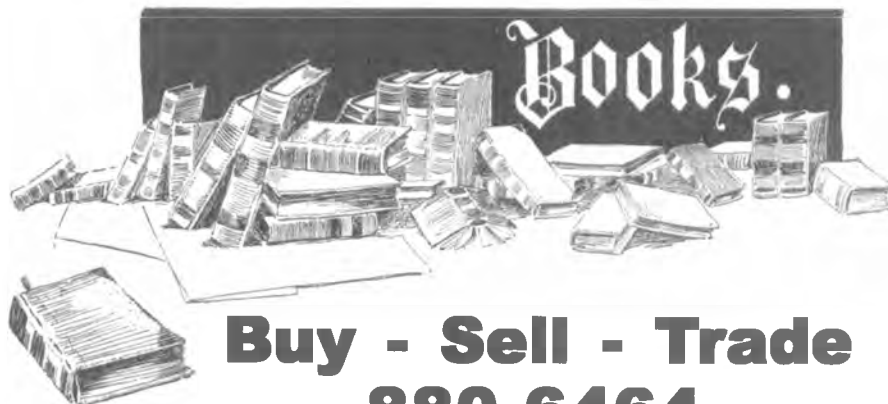
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Hubert Mitchell, a native of Hartselle, saw the huge demand and small supply of automobiles in the United States. With longtime Studebaker auto executive George Keller, Mitchell planned to build thousands of cars in Huntsville. Only a cruel twist of fate kept Mitchell from realizing his dream of making Huntsville a major manufacturer in the automobile industry.

George Keller had come to Alabama from California where he had helped develop the "Bobbie-Kar." Mitchell recognized the opportunity to market a car around a big name in the auto industry, and joined with Keller, naming the product after him. Thus was the Keller born.

Redstone Arsenal supplied an abandoned airplane hanger, Mitchell supplied the start-up capital and production began on Huntsville's first and last home-grown car.

Keller soon sold almost half of the \$5 million stock offerings, sold dealership franchises to 1,600 businesses across the country and was one day away from receiving essential financial backing from a major financial institution.

Mitchell's dream was on the brink of coming true. Plans called for 16,000 cars to be produced in the first year and 72,000 cars a year after that.

Unfortunately, cruel fate dashed all hopes of Huntsville's future as an automobile giant.

On October 4, 1949, the night before Mitchell and Keller were to secure financing for their enterprise, George Keller died of a massive heart attack in New York City. He was only 56 years old.

Immediately, the stock was pulled from sale and the financial backers refused to invest in the Keller without a big name at the helm. Despite the fact that the Keller was, by now, well on its way to becoming a huge success, the fiscal conservatives felt that it was much too risky to invest in people who had never produced cars and who didn't have a "reputation."

Only 25 Keller cars were manufactured on Redstone Arsenal before the enterprise was forced to shut down due to lack of funding. Huntsville's dream of becoming the "Motor City" of the South was dead.

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from 1919 newspaper

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The time is then sent to Mr. Crawford who, by timing their arrival in Atlanta, is able to make his selections for the Los Angeles show. It is said that Mr. Crawford has between two and three hundred of these Homing pigeons from which he will make his selections for speed and endurance. The distance from Huntsville to Atlanta is about 300 miles and the birds usually make the trip in three hours.

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from 1897 newspaper

Mr. J.J. Harley, who resides at Adams Avenue, has reported to the police the loss of a wallet containing \$7,000. He claims that the wallet was left on a table in the front room and a thief entered the home and escaped with the loot.

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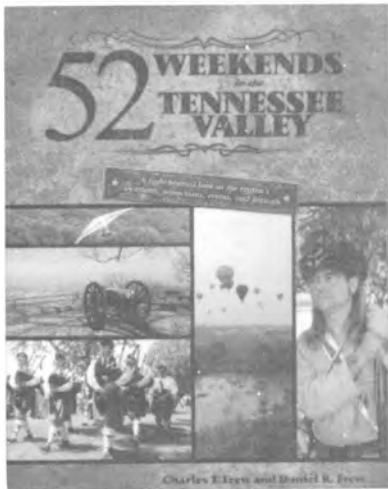
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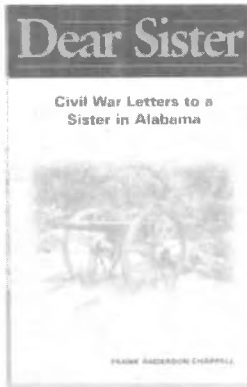
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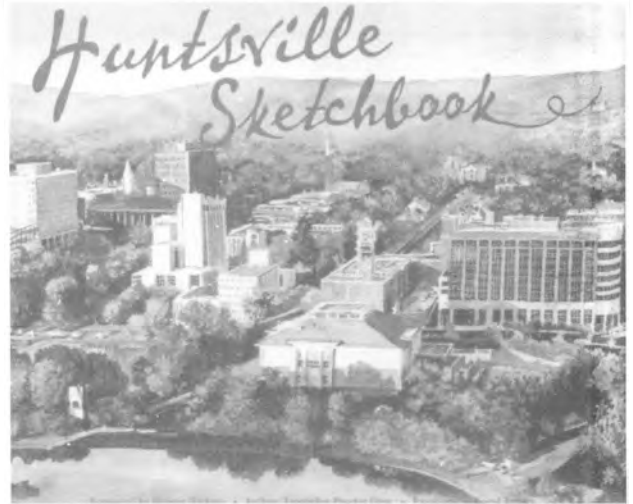
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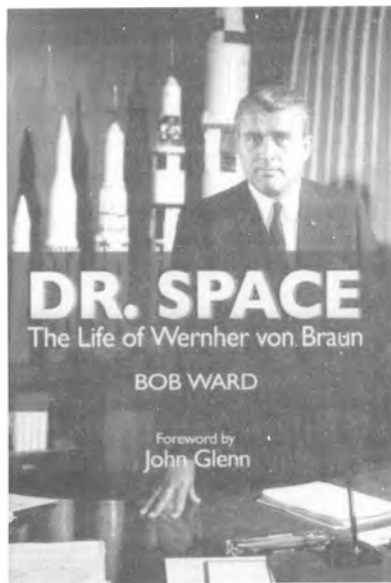
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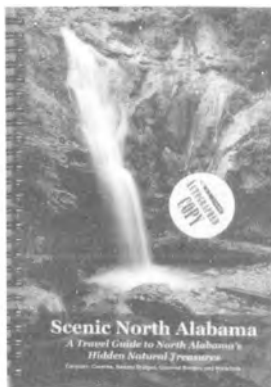
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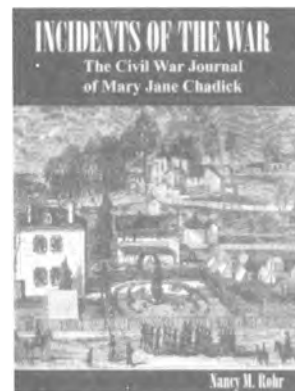
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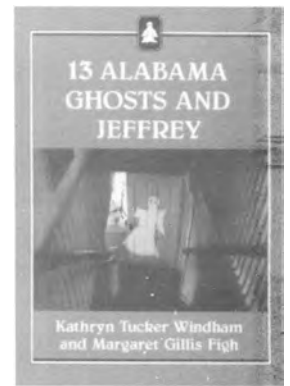
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Willie Handy

Teaching school was just about the worst job he could imagine. Confined in a classroom for eight hours a day, it seemed to spell the end to his musical aspirations

But for Willie Handy, it was a job. At least it put food on the table.

Born in 1873 as the son of a Methodist preacher, Willie decided at a young age he wanted to be a musician. But his family, all stalwart hell-fire and brimstone, God-fearing people, thought a musician was nothing but a blatant sinner in disguise.

In an effort to pacify his father who wanted him to become a minister, Willie agreed to finish school and take the examination to become a schoolteacher.

After graduation, however, he found the job opportunities in Birmingham to be much more profitable. He soon landed a job at one of the iron mills working as a laborer, making more money than he could ever expect to make as a teacher.

Willie had not lost his desire to be a musician, though. He quickly became friends with most

of the black musicians in Birmingham and it was not long before he had formed his own group and was playing around town at night while still working in the mills during the day.

One of the first gigs he had in Birmingham, according to leg-

end, was playing in a notorious dive. The owner, after listening to the audition, asked what the group's name was.

"Don't have one." Willie replied.

"Well, what's your name?" "Willie."



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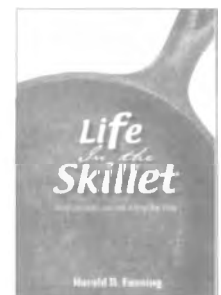
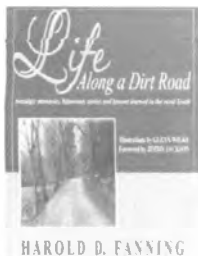
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"Sounds like a damn Uncle Tom name to me. What's your whole name?"

"William Christopher."

"Hell, that's even worse! We'll just call you by your initials."

W.C. Handy soon tired of Birmingham, though, and moved to Huntsville where he got a job teaching at Alabama A&M as a music instructor. Among his many duties as an instructor, Handy was also responsible for organizing recitals for his students.

Unfortunately, the headmaster at A&M believed that classical music was the only music that should be performed. He even insisted on personally approving the programs for every recital.

For his first recital Handy chose a piece, written by an obscure song-writer, he said, entitled, "La' Overture Toussaint." With a name like that, it was no trouble getting the headmaster to approve it. Handy diligently rehearsed the students, who were by this time enraptured with the new musical composition.

The day of the concert arrived

and it was an instant success. Even the staid headmaster was seen sitting in the front row tapping his foot to the music.

W.C. Handy's career as an instructor did not last long. He was still determined to make his mark as a musician. After leaving Huntsville he moved to Memphis where he wrote the all-time classic, "Memphis Blues," which he sold for \$100.

Still a poor man, he then ended up in St. Louis, and after being forced to sleep in alleys and pool rooms, composed the song "Saint Louis Blues," a song that made him wealthy and famous and earned him the title of "Father of the Blues."

Ironically, he was to become best known for the piece he had composed while teaching at A&M - after he changed its name to "My Ragtime Baby."

"I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage."

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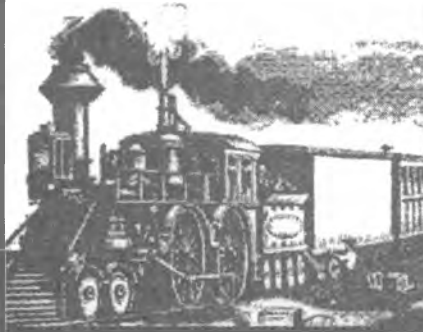
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“It’s Lifting Off!”

by Bill Wilson

In the early sixties, a disarmed and motorless V1 Rocket stood like a sentinel on a concrete pad in front of the former Army Auditorium on Redstone Arsenal. During this exciting and hectic decade, NASA was established and staffed with core personnel from the Army Ballistic Missile Agency.

However, for a certain anonymous someone in the contractor group, the lone V1 shell stationed in front of the auditorium posed an irresistible temptation for a practical joke. Of course, in today’s hyper-secure military environments, such an escapade as the V1 caper described below would simply not be possible at all.

Anon, and two of his cohorts, decided to "arm" the missile with several railroad flares and a home-made timer set to go off at 7:30 just after dark. To any casual observer, it would look like the missile was in the first stage of liftoff. What would

happen after that was anybody's guess.

On the appointed evening, after setting the crude timer switch constructed from batteries and an old watch, the trio set out cross-country to a nearby hill to watch the unfolding drama with binoculars.

Around 7:30 as expected, the V1 exhaust suddenly lit up with a fiery red glow sending brilliant cascades of sparks onto the con-

crete pad below. The result was instant chaos.

In the ensuing response, fire trucks and every available MP vehicle on the arsenal was scrambled and converged on the Auditorium.

The Arsenal switchboard lit up like a Christmas tree. Urgent calls were placed to Dr. Von Braun and members of his staff—all of which elicited the same general response. The following dia-



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Courtesy of Mark Fortson, REMAX - Huntsville

logue is a representative recreation of several of the ensuing conversations:

"Hello, this the Duty Officer at Redstone Arsenal. I have an urgent problem with the V1 missile in front of the Auditorium. It has ignited and is lifting off. Is it armed?"

"Armed? Nein... it has no motor either... it can't lift off... it is just the shell of a missile for display only. There must be a mistake."

"Shell, Hell! ..It's fixing to lift off! I'm hanging out the window right now with the phone in my hand and I'm looking straight at it. It's shooting fire in all directions. It's gonna go up any minute!!"

"Mein Gott, zat is impossible!"

"Then, Sir, I am a first-hand witness to the impossible!"

Meanwhile, in spite of its ominous startup, the rogue missile stayed firmly rooted to terra firma. The firemen gradually edged closer and closer to the flaming rocket and announced that there was some kind of red fire in the exhaust. Then, after an even better look, they said the fire looked and smelled like railroad flares.

As the anxious crowd watched, the flares burned out one by one and the missile never budged. The crisis was over.

The MP's were ordered to fan out and look for the culprits. But it was already too late. The trio had slipped away cross-country to an awaiting vehicle parked just outside the Arsenal.

In an ironic touch, the MP's picked up and later released a hapless railroad worker walking down the Arsenal railroad tracks with guess what - an armload of railroad flares.

I have never learned who the two other members of the trio were. I suspect that Anon, who was indeed my co-worker friend

- as well as a very able mathematician from Texas nicknamed Cactus Jack who has long since departed this world. He simply knew too many of the details of the V1 caper, but he never admitted that he was party to that episode nor would he identify the other two.

However, because there are so many other outrageous legends surrounding the life of the late Cactus Jack, I remain thoroughly convinced that he was, at a minimum, part of the V1 caper and may have very well been the ringleader himself.

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News From the Year 1948

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Truman Elected

Confounding the prophets, President Truman has won a full term in the White House, defeating the Republican favorite, Thomas E. Dewey. The Truman victory was one of the major upsets in American political history.

Throughout the night, the Truman political fortunes waxed and waned. While leading at all times in the popular vote, the president trailed at times in the essential electoral vote until just before dawn today when he picked up Illinois.

Aside from President Truman himself, few political forecasters of either party believed that he would win. His own Democratic Party had been badly splintered by Southern insurgents who broke off to create the States' Rights Party in protest of the president's efforts in Mississippi. While the new party failed to win a substantial

vote, it did siphon off traditional Southern Democratic support. Adding to the dilemma of the Democratic ticket was the existence of still another splinter party, the Progressives, whose presidential candidate was Henry Wallace, a former Vice President under the late President Roosevelt.

Many newspapers ran front page stories declaring Dewey the winner before balloting had ended.

Tojo to Hang

Hikedi Tojo, the man who vowed to establish "a new order in Asia," was sentenced to hang by an international tribunal today. Through assassinations and staged incidents, Tojo and his generals whipped Japan into a militaristic fervor and plunged the country into WWII, predicting

that democracies such as the United States were soft and lacked the will to fight back.

Court Orders Oklahoma School to Accept Negro

In a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has ordered the state of Oklahoma to admit a Negro to the University of Oklahoma Law School. The court cited a citizen's constitutional right to equal protection under the law. The state must carry out the court's order "forthwith." The winner in the case is 28 year-old Ada Lois Sipuel. By law, the state could build a separate institution for her, but as one Justice said, as sole student she would "not receive much of a law education."

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Gandhi Dead

Mohandas K. Gandhi, the spiritual leader of Indian independence, has been shot and killed by a Hindu extremist. The 78 year old Gandhi, the Mahatma or Great Teacher to his followers, was shot at point-blank range as he was walking through a garden to a pergola, where he was to deliver his daily prayer. He died 20 minutes later.

The assassin, who had stepped out from a crowd awaiting the prayer meeting, was immediately seized by onlookers. He was identified as Nathuran Vinayak Godse, a 36 year-old Hindu of the Mahratta tribes in Poona which have been the center of resistance to the Gandhi message of communal and religious tolerance.

The death of Gandhi, who for more than 20 years defied British rule with his program of civil disobedience, stunned the newly independent nation that he helped create. In a radio speech to the nation announcing the death, Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, his voice quivering with grief, said, "Gandhi has gone out of our lives and there is darkness everywhere.

Two Auto Makers Grant Wage Hikes

A 17-day strike against Chrysler Corporation ended tonight when the company granted workers a flat wage increase of 13 cents an hour. While the wage hike is two cents an hour more than that granted three days ago to employees of General Motors, the Chrysler settlement, unlike the General Motors pact, is not tied to a cost-of-living formula. The wage boost at Chrysler will increase basic pay to \$1.63 an hour; at General Motors, basic pay will amount to \$1.61 an hour.

Israel Rejected for U.N. Membership

Israel's bid for U.N. membership has been rejected by the Security Council because of the abstention of France and Canada. The vote was five in favor (the U.S., Soviet Union, Argentina, Columbia and the Ukraine), one opposed (Syria) and five abstained (which included Britain, China and Belgium.)

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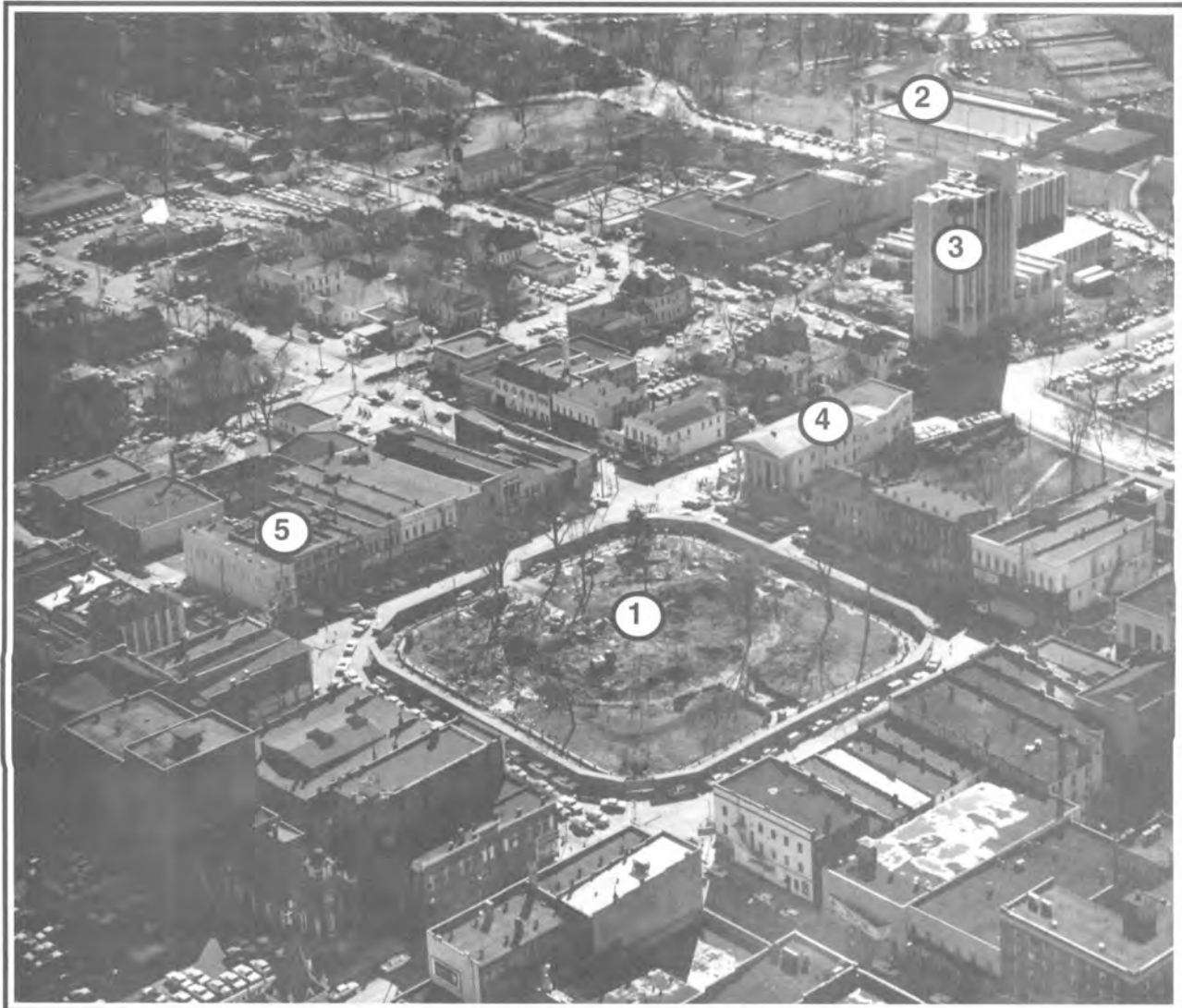
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The Old Courthouse

by Jack Harwell

Let's take a walk through Old Huntsville and see how the town used to look. Its just possible we might see and learn some things we have missed heretofore. After all, our town has been around for over 180 years, so there's a lot to know.

A good place to start would be the courthouse square. It is, after all, the center of town, and just a very short distance from Big Spring, site of John Hunts pioneer cabin. You've been by the courthouse many times, but you may not have considered the history behind this old site. We'll see some of that history now as we tour the Old Town.

The town was first surveyed in 1810 on *the rise above the Big Spring*. It was planned as twenty blocks - five blocks long, four blocks wide. Each block enclosed three acres. In order to accommodate the spring within a single block, the streets were angled 34 degrees off true north. That's why, if you look at a map, the north-south streets such as Washington and Jefferson due not run precisely north and south.

The town planners designated the block just east of the spring as the public square. It was centrally located, and contained an elevated rocky knoll which made it slightly higher than the surrounding blocks. At that time (1810) the town was still known as Twickenham, in deference to the wishes of LeRoy Pope. On July 5 of that year, a commission designated Twickenham as the seat of Madison County. Immediately, plans were made to erect some sort of governmental

structure on the public square.

Twickenham, of course, was never a popular name, and the sentiment was to name the town in honor of its first settler, John Hunt. By an act of the territorial legislature, Twickenham officially became Huntsville on November 25, 1811. In that same month, the first courthouse was opened on the square.

Compared to later courthouse buildings, the first one was a modest affair. It was a two-story brick structure, and occupied only a part of the square. The lower floor housed the offices of the courts and county officials. At the north-west corner of the square stood a small jail, with a public pillory. No photographs exist of any of this, and for a long time no one had any clue as to what the first courthouse

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looked like, beyond written accounts. However, more recent research, such as that done by James Record and Frances Roberts, provide a more detailed description of this early structure.

Unassuming though it may have been, the first Madison County Courthouse played a starring role in the early history of our state. Although the state constitutional convention was held one block south, the first meeting of the state House of Representatives took place on the ground floor of the courthouse on November 7, 1819. Two days later, William Wyatt Bibb was sworn in as the first governor of Alabama there at the courthouse.

The first courthouse did not have a long history. The town quickly outgrew the quaint brick structure. By 1830 the population of Huntsville had grown to 2,000, and the town now extended a quarter mile from the square. The original 60 acres had grown to 160. Further, the courthouse was becoming rundown, and the adjoining jail was in even worse shape. A letter sent to county officials in 1825 by Robert Caruthers, the jailor, and John McBroom, the sheriff, complained

that the jail had become so dilapidated that it was becoming difficult to hold prisoners there. In addition, the roof leaked, and the walls and floors were becoming rotten. At the time, the county was deeply in debt and could do nothing. But such conditions as the sheriff and jailor had described would have to be remedied.

The county enlisted the services of one George Steele, an architect from Virginia whose work in Huntsville would long outlast its maker. Thanks to a new courthouse tax passed by the legislature in 1835, the county now found itself in a position to afford a new structure. Steele drew up the plans for the new courthouse, and local builders William Wilson and James Mitchell were awarded the

construction contract. Ground was broken in July 1836.

The second Madison County courthouse would be a much grander work than the first. The foundation was of blue limestone quarried on Russell Hill just west of the town. White limestone for the exterior came from Monte Sano. Before construction began, the entire square was graded level, and the material from this job was used to pave the surrounding streets. So massive was the finished building that consideration had to be given, in laying the foundation, to the large caverns below. A stone wall with rounded corners, set back fourteen feet from the street, surrounded the courthouse, as did an iron fence, which would become very popular as a hitching post.

"If Mom says "No", she means 'No.'" If Dad says "No," it means "Maybe."

Hannah Troup, 7

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The courthouse contained a full basement, and was topped off by a dome.

The second courthouse was completed in 1838 at a cost of \$52,000. It was considered so outstanding in design and construction that it was featured in the book *Lost America*, by Constance Greiff (published 1971), which lists some of the more interesting examples of early American architecture which, unfortunately, have not survived to the present.

This building would stand for 75 years, longer than any other Madison County courthouse (so far). It saw the city through the Civil War and the Industrial expansion of the 1890s. Except for the addition of a clock in 1849, its appearance was little changed during that time. The courthouse grounds were the scene of many a social gathering during the second half of the nineteenth century.

There were other things going on, too. In November 1898 a group of soldiers, being held in

the basement for public drunkenness, set fire to some papers in a file room. The fire blazed unchecked until noticed by passersby, who notified authorities. The courthouse was saved, but many valuable and irreplaceable records were consumed in the blaze.

One notable change to the courthouse grounds was the placement of the Confederate Soldier statue, which took place on November 21, 1905. It was a grand occasion, attended by the governor, William D. Jelks. Thirteen young ladies, representing the southern states, each laid a wreath at the stone soldier's feet. The local United Daughters of the Confederacy had raised \$2,500 for the statue from rummage sales, teas, and afternoon parties. The statue was chiseled from Vermont granite by

Oscar Hummel; Jim Mott Robinson of Hazel Green served as the model. Much of this work was done in temporary sheds on the cur-

During the Great Depression, very few people had eating disorders. Most were just happy to have something to eat.



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rent site of the parking lot used by the Church of the Visitation.

A mass meeting was held on the date February 15, 1913, to study the question of replacing the courthouse. The sentiments expressed at that meeting would be echoed when the issue came up again fifty years later. Some wanted a new courthouse, some said the old one should be repaired, and others wanted a new building at a different site, so the old building could be preserved for posterity. The decision was made to remodel, but the renovation process had scarcely begun when it became apparent that the old building was beyond repair. The county would have to replace the courthouse.

The third courthouse was not dissimilar to its predecessor. It would also be built of stone, with large columns all around. The clock from the old courthouse would be installed in the new one. Construction proceeded mostly without incident, except for one accident in March of 1914. A cog wheel from a hoist being used to place one of the stone columns on the north side broke loose and flew across the street, doing some damage to businesses there. Two workmen were injured. The last scaffolds were torn down on May 29, 1914, and the courthouse was complete.

But there was still one item to be tended to before Huntsville could release its hold on the nineteenth century. For years, the iron fence around the courthouse had been a source of controversy. It was used to hitch horses, and local doctors complained that the resulting animal waste created an unsanitary condition. Petitions were brought to remove the fence, but these were opposed by downtown merchants, who feared a loss of trade if customers who went shopping on horseback were discouraged from entering the city. A law was passed making it illegal to hitch animals to the fence, but this was later repealed.

For more than thirty years, the courthouse fence was a source of contention. The Civic League hoped the fence would be removed during construction of the new courthouse. In 1914, and suggested a fountain and shed in its place. But the fence stayed.

Finally, people began to real-

"Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She is not my friend anymore."

Kylie, Age 6, writing a school paper about the sea

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ize the health problems created by piles of manure in the downtown streets - typhus was a recurring problem in the last century, and Huntsville had suffered an epidemic in 1898.

In September 1921, the fence was ordered removed. The order came from Dr. Carl Grote, the first county health officer. The existence of such an office was indication of the changing attitudes of the times.

There we will leave our tour of the courthouse square. The third courthouse, sans fence, would serve the county through two world wars, the Great Depression, right up to the beginnings of the Space Age. On the night that a Huntsville-built Jupiter C missile launched Americas first satellite, Explorer 1, there was an impromptu parade around the courthouse by joyous citizens, on foot and in horn-honking automobiles.

It is this 1914-era courthouse that the longtime residents of Huntsville remember from their youth. It graced a typical small,

quiet Southern town, but in the end was overtaken by events. If you can remember this old building, now nearly three decades de-

parted, you can remember a different Huntsville, one that was perhaps closer to its roots than it would ever be again.

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The Death of a Traitor

by Austin Miller

Mandy Vasser Tipton, my great grandmother, was born and lived her early years in Killingsworth Cove. In 1862, her father Edom Vasser was in the Confederate Army.

When Mandy was six weeks old, Edom's outfit was camped close enough for him to come home for a visit. As related by stories handed down, he was advised against this by his fellow soldiers because of the danger of being discovered by the Yankees. But he had a new baby daughter that he had never seen and he was willing to take the risk.

There is no record of how long he stayed but one night while he was eating supper, the Yankees slipped up to his house and shot him dead through the kitchen window. This happened with his wife and children looking on. Mandy was only a few feet away in her crib.

Edom could have been spotted by the enemy soldiers but it is more likely that he was turned in by a neighbor. In any war, there are always a few who turn against their own and collaborate with the enemy.

The demise of one Scalawag, Shed Golden, who lived at nearby Hurricane Creek is well documented. Shed was one of the traitors who reported to the Yankees when confederate soldiers visited their families.

We have no way of knowing if Shed was the one who reported Edom. But we do know that Shed's treachery was discovered and the bushwhackers shot him and threw him in a sinkhole. The buzzards soon found him and so did the Yankees. They made everyone in the cove attend the funeral at gunpoint.

They also made them erect a big tombstone and inscribe it with words proclaiming Shed as a fine patriot and Union Man. The Tombstone stands to this day in Bragg Cemetery and is still the tallest tombstone in the cemetery.

Mandy spent almost ten years of her childhood under Yankee occupation and the reconstruction years that followed. Circa 1880, she married Calvin Tipton and they had eight children. One of these, Hettie Tipton Mefford, was my grandmother.

Mandy and Calvin bought a

farm in Ryland where Mandy lived until she died in 1939. Most of the land is still in the Tipton family.

Calvin died in 1918 during the great Spanish Flu pandemic. They are buried in Ryland cemetery. Numerous descendants of Calvin and Mandy still live in Madison County, many of them in Ryland.

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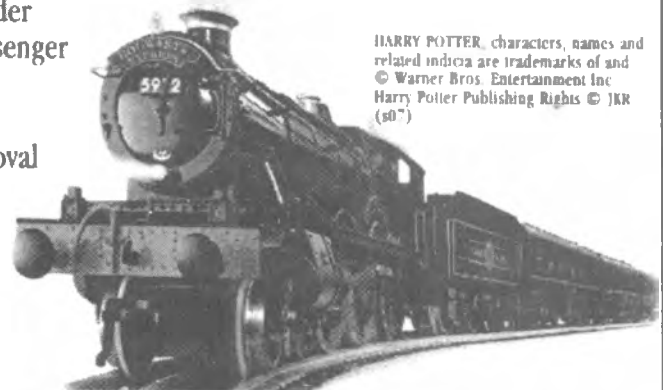
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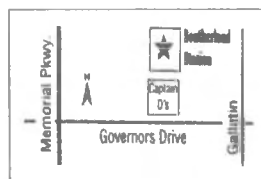
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"Dear God: In school they told us what You do. Who does it when you are on vacation?"

Kid's note to God



One Day in 1937

by Harold Fanning

My father, Horace Fanning, could never be accused of having idle hands. He worked for the same company for over thirty years, and upon retirement worked even harder at staying busy and productive. My dad's woodworking projects grace the walls of my home, a testimony to Daddy's passion for detail and craftsmanship. He also made it his purpose to live a healthy lifestyle, eating a balanced diet and running five miles every day... despite the weather!

I often think about the man my dad became and wonder how he did it. Daddy's childhood was tragic to say the least... a result of one decision made by my grandfather that would forever affect the lives of the Fanning family for generations to come....

Life in the foothills of the Appalachian's during the 1920's was difficult to say the least. My grandfather, Grady (Buck) Fanning, along with his brother, Jim, made a meager income in the timber industry. Cutting timber was a long exhausting task that usually involved felling the trees using a two man cross-cut-saw. Once the trees were on the ground the limbs would be removed by use of a double-blade axe, leaving the tree trunk bare. The logs would then be dragged down the mountain by a team of mules where they would be loaded onto a wagon. This process consisted of hoisting up each log by nothing more than muscle and determination by a group of men using a series of pulleys and ropes. Teams of mules would then pull the logs to the local saw mills where they were converted into

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usable lumber. The process was long, the work extremely hard, not to mention the tremendous dangers of a serious accident.

The Depression may have been over, but you couldn't have convinced the residents living on Maxwell Mountain in Jackson County, Alabama of that fact. Meals were measured more by how skilled a hunter you were and mainly consisted of deer, squirrels, rabbits, possum, wild turkey and fish caught from the Paint Rock River down in the valley.

Being responsible for providing food for a wife and six kids, with another child on the way, had to be difficult. Coupled with the fact that just months prior my grandfather witnessed his own brother being crushed to death in a logging accident, had to drive him near the breaking point.

I never personally knew my grandmother, Emma Sue, but I've been told by many that she was a good woman whom was very devoted to her children. Her first born was a baby girl, Eva Lou, nicknamed "Evie," born February 28, 1923. Sadly, Evie succumbed to pneumonia and died on July 1, 1928 at five years of age. Her next child was a boy, Levoyed, born January 13, 1925. Elizabeth followed on November 29, 1926.

My dad Horace came along on September 5, 1929, and Jennie Mae was born on September 2, 1931. Little Jimmy was born in November, 1933 but died six months later on May 5, 1934 from complications with measles and pneumonia. Mary Frances was born on March 21, 1935.

But it was my grandmother's last pregnancy that would prove to be the most bizarre.

One summer afternoon in 1937 my grandmother, who was eight months pregnant at the time, began to prepare lunch for

my grandfather. All of her children, except for two-year old Frances, were at a neighbor's house playing.

Noticing that the water bucket was near empty, my grandmother decided to go down to the mountain stream located next to the

house and replenish the water supply. As she got to the stream she realized that she must wade out into the water in order to fill the bucket. As she neared the middle of the stream she instinctively stepped on a smooth rock that was covered over with moss

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and algae. Immediately she lost her footing resulting in her falling solidly on a rock. Upon impact, she immediately went into labor but was unable to get herself out of the water and back to the house.

With no one around to help, my grandmother was probably in the water for some time before my grandfather and my uncle Nelson finally found her. By this time my dad and his siblings arrived in time to see their mother being removed from the stream. My dad shared with me that the stream was running near solid red from the massive blood loss.

Neighbors came to assist and my grandmother continued in labor for nearly two days before she gave birth to a baby girl. Unfortunately, both my grandmother and her baby died on the morning of May 19, 1937.

The funeral was attended by many of the mountain residents. A preacher was summoned and a dual funeral was conducted. The baby girl was laid gently in her mother's arms as both were placed in the same coffin and buried under a tree not far from the house.

As the funeral concluded my grandfather made a decision that forever changed the course of our family's future. As the mourners were about to disband, my grandfather immediately began dispersing his remaining children to whoever would take them. Daddy's brother and

his two eldest sisters were given to one family. My dad was given to another - but the worst was when my dad shared with me a mental image that haunted him until his death.

Burned deep into his memory was watching as his father hand his two-year-old sister, Frances, up to a strange man on a horse. He testified that it was that image of his little sister looking back at him and crying as the man rode away that troubled him all his life.

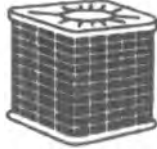
I was an adult with a family of my own before my dad found his brother and sisters. I remember

being in the room when they were reunited - an awkward sense of family and yet unfamiliarity filled that tiny room as they reflected on the years gone by.

My father, like his mother, met his own untimely death after a short battle with cancer on February 14, 1999.

I suppose in one way my dad's death allowed him to finally find the peace he had been searching for all those years. And yet, it was through my dad's death that his life finally began to make sense to me.

During those growing up years in North Alabama, there were so



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many times that I didn't understand my dad's reactions to certain circumstances.

However, during his final days my father relayed to me so much of the hardships he had to endure during his life and I came to realize that it was these difficulties that literally made him the man of principle that he was.

It is amazing how one event can totally transform a life. There is no doubt that the complexities of my father's personality were a result of the events of that fateful day in 1937.

News from 1875

- Someone broke into the smokehouse of John Giles and stole all the meat he had, except just enough for one day's rations for his family. Not long ago some villain killed one of Mr. Giles' cows, skinned her, took the hide and left the meat. The culprits will most likely meet their fate one night when they rob the wrong person.

- Huntsville was left in total darkness last night, because of the flooded condition of the gas works.

- Building lot for sale - one of the most desirable lots in the city, adjoining the City Brewery and one block from the Huntsville Hotel. 80 feet front by 190 back. Price \$700. Well fenced, good stable, fruit trees and grapes on the lot. Terms -1/2

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- Public Library - S. D. Cabaniss Jr. has supplied a need long felt in Huntsville - a public Library. It is an elegantly fitted up room in the rear portion of his book store, in Col. Hundley's new building, opposite the Huntsville Hotel.

- Halsey's Carriage shop, corner of Green Street and Meridianville Pike, has an elegant display of Phaetons, Rockaways, Spring Wagons and buggies.

- We hear of a couple living in Guntersville who have thirteen children, the oldest of whom is ten years old. Six pairs of twins are among the number, and all the thirteen are girls.

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Things Remembered

by David Dickson

As I drive around Huntsville there is rarely a block that I don't have some memory from the past.

I spent most of my preschool and early school days in the early to mid 50's with my Aunt Kay in Lincoln Village. During that time I made some lifelong friends such as "Duke" Dunson, Benny Wilbourn, Greg Coffey and others. We spent a lot of time shooting marbles and any other thing for entertainment.

I learned at this time that it was not a good thing to throw dead cats in the creek. That was as close as I would ever be to a lynch mob.

We would go to our neighbors, the Dunson's, and watch wrestling on TV, all the way from Nashville. It was as much fun watching Thurman Dunson and my Uncle Robert as it was watching the wrestling.

I want to visit Lincoln School one day and see my old classrooms. I still remember each room from each grade. My first and second grade classes were in the basement. So was the cafeteria where the smell of rolls baking would starve you to death.

Whatever happened to Patrol Boys? Ms. Chapman always had them perfectly in step. Of course she expected that of everyone. She was the teacher that everyone feared until she was their teacher, then you loved her.

Mr. Anderson, the principal, was a nice man until you crossed the line. He kept a small leather strap in his pocket. I never knew of him using it but knowing he had it was enough.

Across Meridian Street was the Dr. Pepper Bottling plant. Sometimes they would leave the side door open and we could watch them bottling. It was an amazing process for a young boy.

I had made the big time when I got to join the Boy's Club. The club was in a big old house with lots of room for activities. We had arts and crafts which I thought I did rather well at it until I saw the work later in life, no prizes there. There was a boxing ring in the basement that we used as a "rassing" ring.

My first experience with organized sports was at the Boy's Club. I got my first baseball uniform there, they put my name in the paper a couple of times and the coaches really cared that you learn and grow. This is why I still support the Club.

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My time at home with my parents could be very interesting as well. I have two mentally challenged older brothers and this was always a strain on my parents. They provided as best they could and searched for what was best for my brothers.

It was a blessing when an organization was formed that was the beginning of what is now The ARC on Washington St. The "School" had several homes over the years. They were at East Clinton School, West Huntsville YMCA and several other locations before finding the permanent home they have now. They have grown from a handful of children to opportunities for children and adult clients as well. They are partially funded by the United Way so remember them in your pledges as it is so worthwhile.

We lived near where Drake Technical College is today and there was a black family who lived next door to us at the time. There were several children in the family. They were the Williams and we were good friends and playmates. I wonder what happened to them.

Gregory was my age and we spent a lot of time playing outside during summer break from school. I never understood why he went to one school and I had to go to town to Lincoln. Later I learned of segregation and desegregation. This is an example of

something good causing problems. It caused a strain between black and white families that were living in harmony. Peer pressure and publicity caused us not knowing what to do and ended up splitting up friendships.

How about Saturday trips to town? Mama would shop, usually making me go with her and Daddy hung out around the Courthouse. He always found someone he knew and would usually end up at The James Steakhouse. Funny but I never saw a steak served there.

There was Wimpy's, City Cafe and so many other good places to eat. If I happened to be with Mama, we ate at W.T. Grants or the SnoWhite.

It was fun to hang out around the Courthouse. We would sit on the chains surrounding the building. I remember a man that was always there with his guitar playing for change.

I definitely remember that there were white water fountains and colored. I also remember driving down Church St. There seemed to be an air of excitement all of the time.

Every fall was an exciting time for car enthusiasts because the new cars hit the market at the

same time. Why did the industry get away from that? I always heard that the dealers would hide the new ones in the country and bring them in on show day. My Uncle Robert and I would ride around on Sunday looking in the windows at all of the dealers on Meridian Street. What excitement!

I have always loved Huntsville and brag about it every chance I get. It also makes me proud that most people who come to Huntsville never want to leave.



Prosperity is that wonderful time when we can get enough credit to live beyond our means.

Sally Medford

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Civil War News from Jackson County

*Huntsville Daily Confederate,
Feb. 13, 1864*

Recent advises from Jackson County, Ala., represent the terrible devastation through out the county, except where there are mountain defiles and fastnesses favorable for guerrilla operations.

We are told that Maj. Lemuel G. Mead is operating in that county with five companies, and with good effect -- that he, recently, captured and brought out 20 prisoners. He remains with his men in the county and subsists them there, at points, where it would be dangerous for the Yankees to travel and they are discreet enough not to attempt it.

There are three Tory companies there -- one raised in Jackson County, the Captain of which is Ephraim Latham, who deserted from the 50th Ala., about a year ago. The other two companies are from DeKalb County, Alabama.

The Yankees feel contempt for them and stigmatize them as the 1st. Alabama Tory Battalion. We are told that one of the miscreants -- Sample by name, not long since, went to the house of Elias

Barbour, a true Southerner, and beat Mrs. Barbour with a hickory withe, and only desisted when her daughter, heroically, seized an axe and drove him off.

We are, also, told that an old "Rebel" woman, living near Bellefonte, was struck by a Yankee with a stick on the back of her neck, breaking it.

The Courthouse and all of the block on the West side of the Square in Bellefonte have been burnt by the Yankees.

You know it's going to be a bad day when your Internet date turns out to be your ex-wife.

Jerry Johnson, Decatur

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Tips from Liz

* If you have a hard time finding your home door key on a keychain full of other keys, just use some bright red nail polish and paint each side of the key (not on the part that goes into the lock) and you'll save time!

* Tiredness collects on the insides of one's elbows and the backs of one's knees. Wake up your body by slapping both those areas.

* If you feel sluggish in the morning it may be your gallbladder. Try drinking 3 tablespoons of fresh lemon juice in half a glass of warm water, a half hour before breakfast - do this for a week and see if you feel better.

* Add radiance to your red hair right after you shampoo by pouring a cup of strong Red Zinger tea through your hair, leave it on for 5 minutes & rinse.

* It has been proven that people who eat 2 apples a day

have fewer headaches than those who don't eat the fruit.

* White grape juice is said to absorb the body's acid, which adds to arthritis & gout. Drink 1 glassful in the morning and one before dinner.

* Instant reviver for hot flashes - rush to the fridge and open both the freezer and fridge side. Stand as close to it as possible til you feel normal again.

* If you suffer a bruise, peel a banana, discard the fruit and place the inside of the peel against

the bruise and tape it down for the night. This really will help.


* Positive energy is inhaled through the right nostril. Put a piece of cotton in your left nostril and breathe through your right nostril for an hour. You will be revitalized!

* During a sinus attack, chew a one-inch square of honeycomb. After you swallow the honey, continue to chew the honeycomb for 10 minutes. It can help clear up the congestion and give you a spurt of energy, too!

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Why should assisted living care be licensed?



Chances are that long-term care insurance policies do not cover the costs of an unlicensed assisted living provider. Having a state license can mean adhering to a standard of care that others do not have to meet... like having a licensed nurse on staff 24-hours a day.

\$1,500 Reservation Deposit waived if moved in by December 31st, 2007.

Redstone Village is the area's only true Life Care community with an assisted living component licensed by the state. As a part of a Life Care community, all residents have access to a full continuum of care, including Skilled Nursing, if more advanced care is ever needed. Whether you're coming from home or the hospital, direct admission or respite care is available. Call 881-6088 for details.

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www.redstonevillage.org
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South on Memorial Pkwy., Left on Veterans Dr.
[2/10 of a mile past Hobbs Rd.]



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This Veteran's Day, stop for a moment
and think about what it means.
Then, the next time you see a Veteran,
tell him thanks.

The Golden K Kiwanis

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

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

When life was simple...



When William (Bill) Dean decided to build his own version of a Hot Rod in 1929, he used parts from three model T Fords and scrap metals salvaged from freight cars that were side tracked near his home. Tools consisted of a Ford wrench set, a hand-operated drill press, a hack saw, hammer and chisel. A small hand-operated air pump provided pressure to the gas tank to force gas to the motor. The propeller was hand-carved from a heart of pine timber. With no speedometer there was no way to measure its speed but it was reputed to be FAST! After many complaints (and threats) about flying rocks and dust clouds on country roads, Bill was persuaded to dispose of it.

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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