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No. 181
March 2008



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



No Place For A Hero

Napoleon once said that heroic conditions make heroic men. If that statement is true, then there were many such heroes during those first days when the outcome of the war lay in the hands of a few unshaven, frostbitten infantrymen. Thoughts of Christmas, and of going home, were pushed aside as war weary men once again rose to their duty.

One of those men was Staff Sergeant Paul Bolden.

Also in this issue: The Wildlife Protection and Research Control Board

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No Place For A Hero

There was nothing about the young soldier that could have been considered extraordinary. On the contrary he was quiet, almost bashful and his slow, Southern drawl belied the shyness of a country boy who felt ill at ease wearing the stripes of a staff sergeant.

Even as a young boy, Paul Bolden never doubted that one day he would be called upon to serve his country. The child of sharecropper parents, he had been raised as a son of the South, where duty and honor was a birthright and heritage. Regardless of how rich or how poor, it was something you believed in.

When Bolden was called up in the draft at the beginning of World War II, he never questioned his obligation. With his occupation as a farmer he could have easily received a deferment. Many other young men in Madison County, fearful of receiving draft notices, had already decided that following the wrong end of a mule was preferable to carrying a rifle and slogging through mud in some far away country.

Instead, on the designated day,

Bolden rose before daylight and after kissing his mother good-bye and carrying the lunch she had packed for him in a tin pail, began the long walk to town.

Paul Bolden was later described by his superiors as a "natural soldier." Coming from a large family, he easily fit into the Army's regimentation and his quiet and unquestioning manner made him popular with his fellow soldiers. Years of hunting squirrels and rabbits around Hobbs Island had made him as comfortable with weapons as were the clothes on his back.

When the Allies launched the invasion of Europe in 1944, there was instant jubilation in the free world. People everywhere predicted the war would be over by Christmas. The Huntsville newspaper confidently predicted, "The struggle is won; all that is left is the mopping up!"

For the soldiers landing on the beaches of France however, the war had just begun. The next six months would be an unending horror of close-up combat, the kind that only riflemen can ever experience. Mud, fatigue and death became daily companions while the shadow of fear hung over every battlefield like a dark shadowy fog.

"I was afraid the first day in combat," Bolden later recalled,



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"and I was afraid up to the last minute of the last day."

The 30th Infantry Division, of which Bolden was a member, fought its way across France, from hedgerow to hedgerow and from village to village, meeting a strong and determined German resistance at every point. Oftentimes progress would be measured in feet, rather than miles, and marked by bodies rather than milestones.

Though Bolden had taken much teasing about his rural background (his nickname was Alabama), the other soldiers soon learned to depend on the cool judgement of the "country boy." While many other sergeants led by ordering, Bolden led by example; frequently exposing himself to danger rather than asking his men to take the risk.

By anyone's standards, Staff Sergeant Paul Bolden was the embodiment of a fighting man.

In a small village in France he won the Bronze Star for Valor. A short time later, in another nameless village, he was awarded another Bronze Star. Another village and another battle won him the Silver Star, followed soon afterwards by two more Bronze Stars for Valor.

As the German Armies retreated from France, there was a sense everywhere that the war was winding down. Thoughts of

the next day's combat were replaced with visions of going home. Even the Huntsville newspaper, while still carrying the war news, was devoting more space to the events that would follow the surrender.

In December of 1944, Bolden and his squad were encamped in Pitit Coe, Belgium, a seemingly safe place where they could realistically expect to gain a much-needed rest before embarking on the final push into Germany. Unbeknownst to them, however, the German High Command had other plans for the small hamlet.

With much of Europe already in the hands of the Allies, and Germany's future hanging by a thread, Hitler decided on a bold gamble to regain the lost territory and stop the Allies' advance. The offensive would become known as the Battle of the Bulge and Petit Coe was destined to become ground zero.

The German army cut a swath of destruction through the allied forces that was unparalleled in modern military history. Within hours, soldiers who thought they were far behind

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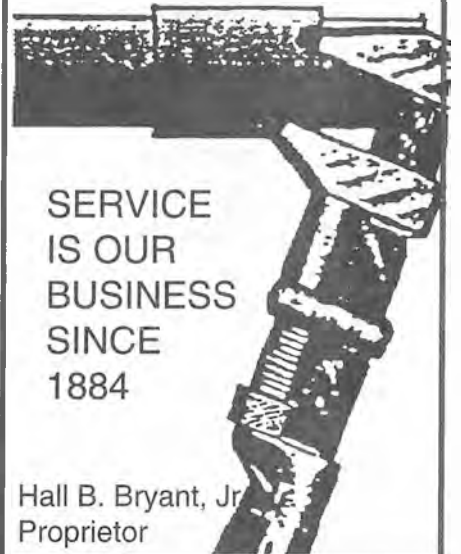
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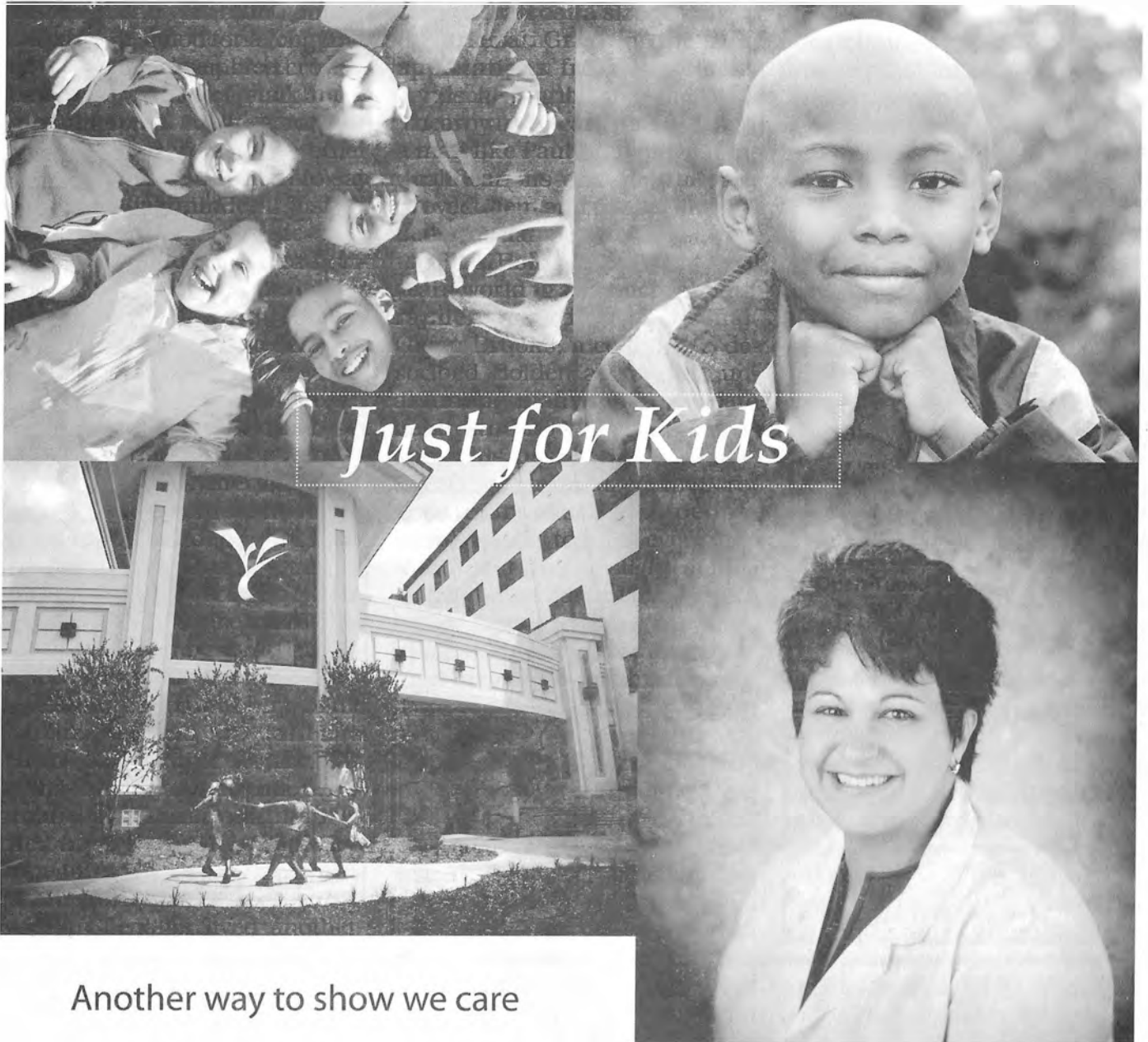
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enemy lines found themselves captives of the fast moving SS and Panzer troops. Whole companies and divisions were completely surrounded and cut off. Adding to the disarray was the freezing weather and blizzard conditions described by many as one of the worst winters in history.

Napoleon once said that heroic conditions make heroic men. If that statement is true, then there were many such heroes during those first days when the outcome of the war lay in the hands of a few unshaven, frost-bitten infantrymen. Thoughts of Christmas, and of going home, were pushed aside as war-weary men once again rose to their duty.

One of those men was Staff Sergeant Paul Bolden, who on December 23 was pinned down in a muddy ditch by withering fire from a nearby farm house. His company had already taken many casualties from the house, and was being pounded by heavy mortar and tank fire. To remain in the ditch meant certain death, but to move was just as deadly.

Perhaps the best way to describe what happened next is to quote directly from Bolden's service record the action for which he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

"He voluntarily attacked a formidable enemy strong point in Petit Coe, Belgium, on 23 December, 1944, when his company was pinned down by extremely heavy automatic and

small arms fire coming from a house two-hundred yards to the front. Mortar and tank artillery shells pounded the unit, when Staff Sgt. Bolden and a comrade, on their own initiative, moved forward into a hail of bullets to eliminate the ever-increasing fire from the German position. Crawling ahead to close with what they knew was a powerfully armed, vastly superior force, the pair reached the house and took up assault positions; S/Sgt. Bolden under a window, his comrade across the street where he could deliver covering fire.

In rapid succession, S/Sgt. Bolden hurled a fragmentation grenade and a white phosphorous grenade into the building. Then, fully realizing that he faced tremendous odds, rushed to the door, threw it open and fired into thirty-five SS troopers who were trying to reorganize themselves after the havoc wrought by the grenades.

Twenty Germans died under fire of his sub-machine gun before he was struck in the shoulder, chest, and stomach by part of a burst which killed his comrade across the street. He withdrew from the house, waiting for the surviving Germans to come out and surrender. When none appeared in the doorway, he summoned his ebbing strength, overcame the extreme pain he suffered and boldly walked back into the house, firing as he went.

He had killed the remaining fifteen enemy soldiers when his



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ammunition ran out. S/Sgt. Bolden's heroic advance against great odds, his fearless assault, and his magnificent display of courage in reentering the building where he had been severely wounded, cleared the path for his company and insured the success of its mission."

When the rest of the platoon advanced on the position, they discovered Bolden lying in a bloody and crumpled heap, a machine gun still clutched tightly in his hands. Inside the wrecked house were the bodies of 35 dead SS men.

A medic was quickly summoned and Bolden was transported to a field hospital. The harried doctors, after examining his wounds and failing to get a pulse, shook their heads and motioned for the orderlies to move the body into the next room where a makeshift morgue had been set up.

Several hours later while orderlies were placing another body in the room, one of them thought he saw a movement from Bolden. After carefully watching the body for a few moments, he hurriedly summoned

the doctors who confirmed that Bolden was still alive.

Years later Bolden would confide to a friend that he still suffered from nightmares about being left for dead.

Staff Sergeant Paul Bolden returned to a Huntsville that was already trying to put the war behind it and move ahead to the future. Times were changing rapidly and there wasn't much need for heroes any more.

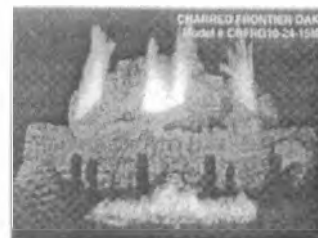
"Yeah, they had a parade," one old-timer remembered, "and all the politicians made speeches and shook his hand and had their picture taken with him. But when the music died down most people just forgot about him.

"Later on, Paul must have traveled every road in this county trying to get a job, but he just wasn't qualified for anything. Oh, people were glad to pat him on the back and offer to buy him a drink, but there just weren't that many jobs for a person whose only skill was killing people."

Bolden and his wife Violet were invited to a special White House ceremony where President Truman personally awarded him

the Medal of Honor. After placing the ribbon around Paul's neck, the President stared at it for a long moment before finally saying, "I would rather have this medal than be President of the United States."

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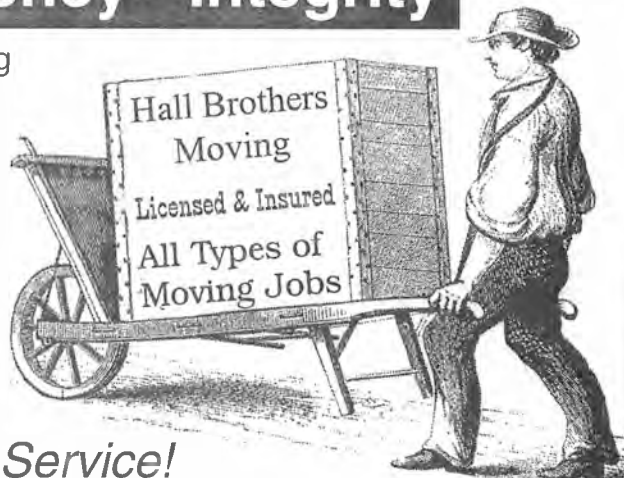
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Bolden had always been extremely shy and now the events of the war, combined with winning the Medal of Honor, seemed to make him draw further into himself. Unable to find a job, he returned to sharecropping in an attempt to earn a living. He refused to talk about the war, or the medal.

This created even more problems for Bolden, as only a person raised in the strict social structure of a small Southern town could realize. People he had known for years, other sharecroppers, now shunned him saying that being famous made him "uppity." On the other hand, many people went out of their way to criticize Bolden, saying "you would expect a Medal of Honor winner to make something out of his life besides being a sharecropper."

There was no longer a place for a hero in his own home town.

Frustrated, Bolden followed the path of thousands of other people from North Alabama who went to Chicago to work in the factories. Even there, he could not find the anonymity he craved. Invariably, a co-worker, or a neighbor would ask, "Aren't you the same Bolden who...."

The next question would always be, "What are you doing working here?"

The truth is that Bolden probably could have capitalized on his medal if he had so desired.

"There were always people with some kind of scheme, wanting him to do this or that," a friend

remembered, "but they didn't really want Paul. They just wanted to use his medal to make money and Paul didn't feel right about it."

As war clouds gathered in Korea, Bolden, despite being forty percent disabled, talked the War Department into letting him reenlist. Possibly, he felt he was returning to the one job he was good at. Years later, when asked about his decision to return to the military, he simply said, "There was a war going on."

If he had hopes of returning to the military as a warrior, his hopes were soon dashed when the War Department decided to use him for publicity purposes. At one point he was called on to give a speech. Reluctantly, he rose



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from his chair and after going to the podium, stood for a long time looking at the assembled crowd.

"They told me I can talk about anything I want to," he said, "but after listening to all these other people, I don't have much to say so if you don't mind, I'll just sit back down."

Though the military authorities were mortified, the crowd loved the bashful young country boy who didn't mind telling the truth. It was, however, the end of his speaking career.

After spending another six years in the military, Bolden returned to Huntsville. Again he was cursed in his efforts to locate a job. Though Redstone Arsenal was beginning to build up and there was a shortage of workers, no one had an interest in hiring a warrior with no peacetime skills.

"Paul applied at every office on the Arsenal," recalled a friend, "but people would look at his education and his background and that would be it. I tried to get Paul to tell them who he was, and about the medal, but he wouldn't do it. Said it wouldn't be right."

Fortunately, there were still a few people who believed in heroes. When a Colonel, a grizzled old World War II veteran, heard about Bolden being turned down for a job, he immediately demanded to know why.

"He wasn't qualified," replied the personnel clerk, "and, besides, all these other applications are in front of his."

"Not any more!" Yelled the Colonel in a voice loud enough to

be heard across a sizable part of the Arsenal. Grabbing the other applications from the clerk's hands, he angrily threw them into a nearby trash can. "You don't ask a man like Paul Bolden what his qualifications are. He's already proved them and people like you better be damn grateful!"

Paul Bolden spent his final years working as a microphotographer at Redstone Arsenal. Glenn Brooks, a co-worker, described Bolden as a quiet, unassuming man who refused to be drawn into any conversation about his past.

"It always amazed me," recalled Brooks, "how people worked next to him every day without having the slightest idea he had been awarded the nation's highest honor."

Occasionally there would be a brief item about him in the

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papers, such as when President Kennedy honored him at the White House. For the most part, however, Bolden tried to remain in the background, refusing to even give interviews.

One of the few people he felt comfortable with was Audie Murphy, a movie star and also a winner of the Medal of Honor. They would often visit one another, spending hours talking about almost everything... except the war. Perhaps there were some things heroes did not need to talk about.

Many people who knew him said that the older he got, the more the war preyed on his mind. His wounds began bothering him again and every pain brought back memories of a cold wintry day in Petit-Coo, Belgium.

Sometimes, seeking relief

from the memories that were haunting him, he would take refuge in the dark corner of a bar where he would sit silently for hours, not talking to anyone, waiting for the alcohol to numb his senses and the memories.

Ed Norton, an old time Huntsville policeman, remembered talking to Bolden one night

in a bar. "He wasn't the kind of man to talk much, but I kept at him to tell me what happened. Finally, after several drinks, he looked at me; I still remember the pain on his face that night."

"I didn't deserve the Medal of Honor," Bolden said in a low whisper. "Those boys that died, they were the heroes."



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Paul Bolden died in May of 1979. Shortly before his death, in a reflective mood, he told his wife that he, and people like him, would soon be forgotten. "People will go on to other things," he said, "and there will be no place for old soldiers like me."

He was right. Two Purple Hearts, four Bronze Stars for Valor, a Silver Star and the Congressional Medal of Honor, and few people in his hometown even remember his name.



"A government that robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul."

George Bernard Shaw

Merrimack Mill Info Needed

I found this bit of information in an old book and wonder if any of your readers can offer more info:

"1905 at Merrimack Mill,

The deaths of Margaret and Clem Casteel, 125 Pike St., Huntsville, July 28, 1905.

Floyd Casteel and C. V. Casteel, 125 Pike St., died Sep. 20, 1905.

Christina Jet died Sep. 20, 1905, Merrimack, One Pike Street 125."

If you have info please email me at wicomp@whidbey.net

Busy Session Held by City Council Last Night

from 1906 Newspaper

- Mayor Smith stated that on the advice of John Wesley, a paving expert, the entire cost of the paving will be passed on to the property owners. The paving ordinance was changed effective immediately.

- Permission was granted the owners of the little frame building on Washington Street occupied by the Davis Tin Shop for roofing the building with tin.

- The members of the Fire Department will be allowed vacation for the summer.

- By a vote of the council, water meters will be placed on the pipe furnishing water to the livery stables.

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2008 MEMORIAL PKWY SW



The Hanging of Mills Jenkins

by Evelyn Hayden Hodge

Mills Jenkins was born 13 January, 1805 in Bertie County, North Carolina. He came with his parents, brothers, and sister to Madison County in the early 1800s and settled in what is now known as Big Cove. Mills Jenkins grew up to be a respected citizen and a prosperous farmer.

During the Civil War, cotton was such a necessary commodity that buyers paid for it in gold. Also during the war there was a group of men in Madison County known as scalawags, who had pledged allegiance to the Union only so they could prey on their neighbors. They would hang around the cotton market and make mental notes of who sold cotton that day. Then that night they would call on them and rob them of their money.

Mills Jenkins took a wagon load of cotton to Huntsville to sell, and he too was paid in gold. He had heard about the scalawags and how they took peoples' money, so he was determined that they would not get his.

After he arrived home that afternoon, he took his daughter with him out to the pasture gate. There he



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lifted a piece of timber, which he had buried between the gateposts. He put his gold coins in the trench and replaced the timber on top of them. He told his daughter that if anything should happen to him she would know where the money was.

Just as he had suspected, along in the night, he heard "Hello, Hello." Mills pulled on his clothes and went outside. There they were - masked and on horseback. They told him they wanted his gold. He told them that he wasn't going to give it to them. They insisted, and he still refused. They threatened him, but he stood firm.

When the scalawags realized Jenkins was not going to talk they took him out to the pasture through the very gate where he had hidden his gold. There, after trying again to make him talk, they hanged him from a tree. When they thought he was dead, they cut him down and left him lying.

Sometime later, the dew and the cool night air helped to revive him. After he regained consciousness and made it back to the house he told his family what had happened. Though he assured them that he was all right, he decided to spend the rest of the night under the hay in the barn, just in case they came back looking for him. He later said that he recognized some of the men by their voices but he never sought revenge.

Mills Jenkins lived another twelve years until his death at age 70. His hanging was just another cruel incident in a war where neighbors fought neighbors.

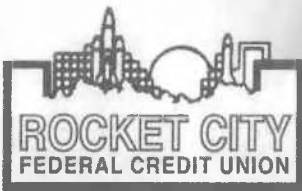
"If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them."

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The Lady Was a Prisoner

by Dick Turpin

It was January 1865, and the bloody War Between the States seemed to be finally to be drawing to a close. In Virginia, Lee's outnumbered army was dug in at Petersburg in a last ditch defense of Richmond.

Meanwhile, Sherman's vanguard army was pillaging its way through the Carolina's, with little the South could do to stop him. Here in Huntsville, the real fighting seemed far away. However, the bold partisan cavalry of Colonel Lemuel Mead continued to inform the Yankees they still weren't welcome in North Alabama.

The last day of 1864, Mead's partisans had captured the entire Company G of the 18th Wisconsin Infantry and burned the railroad bridge at Paint Rock. Now, only weeks later, Yankee tempers were boiling hot again. Why, those damned Rebels had captured and burned two Union wagon trains in two days!

But vengeance was now at hand, thought Union Lieutenant Colonel Bedan B. McDanald, Commander of the veteran 101st Ohio Infantry, McDanald had learned his lessons under the ruthless Sherman.

Recently arrived in Huntsville, the 101st had promptly suffered the indignity of having their own forage wagons captured by Mead. McDanald felt he was just the man to teach these Alabamians a lesson they would never forget.

On the evening of January 17, 1865, McDanald led a detachment of his foot soldiers down Big Cove Road. Many of

the Ohio soldiers grumbled, but their colonel told them to keep quiet. "You'll have plenty of time to sleep after you've caught those thieving Rebels," he said. Scouting for the 101st were 25 men from the 15th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Their local guide was the hated turncoat Ben Harris, a cold blooded killer. Harris and McDanald must have gotten along well together.

The 101st Ohio spent the night in Big Cove. The next morning they crossed swollen Flint River on rafts and set off after their prey.

McDanald did succeed in capturing three or four of Mead's men. Mostly, however, he merely burned houses and turned women and children out into the bitter cold. "They can go North if they wish," he said with a shrug. "If not, let them go South and the Confeds can take care of them."

Most of these victims were left to fend for themselves, but one woman was carried back to



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Huntsville by Colonel McDanald. Her name was Mrs. Mary E. Johnston, a young mother with an infant daughter only three months old. The woman's crime? Well, her husband was Major Milus "Bushwhacker" Johnston, Mead's second in command. "The colonel proceeded to arrest Mrs. Johnston," her husband later wrote, "tearing her infant from her breast and forcing her to leave it at home, which was then nothing more than the woods. He then placed her in the saddle and made her ride horseback twenty-three miles through the roughest weather of that winter."

McDanald had a precedent for making war on women, since his old commander Sherman had arrested all the female employees at the cloth factory in Roswell, Georgia. Sherman sent the women all the way to Ohio and abandoned them there, reportedly after his men had had their fun with them.

But people in Huntsville were outraged. Even many of McDanald's men were disgusted by his action.

Mary Johnston was imprisoned in the old Huntsville Hotel, with Colonel McDanald paying the expenses. The heart-broken woman sat alone in her room, pinning for her infant and praying for deliverance. Her husband was furious when he heard of her fate.

Still, there was little he could do. McDanald was heard to remark, "If anything can bring her husband to her senses, this should."

"Bushwhacker" Johnston's reaction was the opposite of what McDanald expected. Johnston gathered his men and made plans to raid Huntsville and free his wife. "We were determined to go in by night and slip those pickets, enter the prisoner's room and take her out, or die in the at-

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tempt." Another of Mead's officers, Captain Robert Welch, even sent a chilling note to the Yankees.

"I have 35 prisoners," he said, "and I will hang every one of them unless Mrs. Johnston is released!"

Fortunately, cooler heads prevailed and bloodshed did not come to Huntsville. Lieutenant Colonel John W. Horner was the provost marshal, and he was appalled by McDanald's conduct. More than anything, he was offended by McDanald's usurping of his own authority. Homer was the one entrusted with making arrests, not McDanald.

Dr. Thomas Wright of Paint Rock happened to be in the provost marshal's office, when he heard Horner say, "If I knew how to get Mrs. Johnston home I would release her." Wright was an old friend of Mrs. Johnston, and he immediately offered to help.

Horner wrote out a pass and Mrs. Johnston was soon on her way a home.

Yet Colonel McDanald was still not out of the picture. When he saw Mrs. Johnston on the street, he stopped her. With unbelievable arrogance, he proceeded to tear up Colonel Horner's pass and throw the pieces in Doctor Wright's face!

"Mrs. Johnston is not the Army's prisoner," he said with a sneer. "She is my prisoner."

The terrified young mother was marched right back to the hotel and locked up.

Dr. Wright hurried to the provost marshal's office and told Colonel Horner what happened. Now it was Horner's turn to become furious. His face turned red and the veins stood out in his neck.

Horner quickly wrote out another pass and handed it to the doctor. "Here," he said through clenched teeth. "Take this pass and if that fellow bothers you again, I'll teach him a lesson he'll never forget."

This time McDanald realized he had met his match. He pretended not to notice Mrs. Johnston as she walked by, though bystanders noticed his

fists were clenched.

"This was a happier ending of the matter than at one time could have been expected," wrote "Bushwhacker" Johnston.

Simply as a footnote, perhaps Justice does work in its own cruel way. For Colonel McDanald returned to Ohio after the war and married his own sweetheart. Just three years later, his own young wife was taken from him by death. He never remarried.



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The Music Years

by R. V. Strickland

When I went to work at the U.S. Post Office in 1958 it was at that time I met Malcolm Miller. The two of us learned about our common love for hillbilly music, as it was called in those years. Malcolm had traveled the same path as I in our early years.

I don't think there was a musician in Huntsville who did not play music for Monte Sano Crowder. Malcolm's children attended Madison Academy, and one day he came to me and asked me to help him put on a show for the school, and help them raise badly needed money, I agreed.

Our first show was quite a hit and we did several more at Madison Academy. The members of our band were Malcolm Miller, singer and bass; Rudy Strickland, singer and guitar; Margie Rosenblum, piano; and Williard Whittaker, singer and fiddle;

Tommy Miller, singer and guitar. We had two young boys ages 11 and 12 - Bennie Wilbourn, guitar and singer and Eddie Dale Lones, electric guitar.

Word spread about our show and other schools started contacting us to help them also, and we did. I would add that we never charged for our performance (if so the school probably would have lost money).

We had a lot of fun doing these shows, on one occasion we were at Ridgcrest school and Malcolm was dressed in a manner that I

cannot express here but I will try. He was wearing long-handle underwear, a top hat, polo shirt, a necktie and boots. He was a real sight to behold.

While we were on stage performing, some young boys went to the dressing room and took Malcolm's pants. When we discovered they were missing Malcolm took off hunting for the boys who took them and it was something to see him running up and down that parking lot, dressed as he was, searching for his pants.

Mr. Dubose, long time and

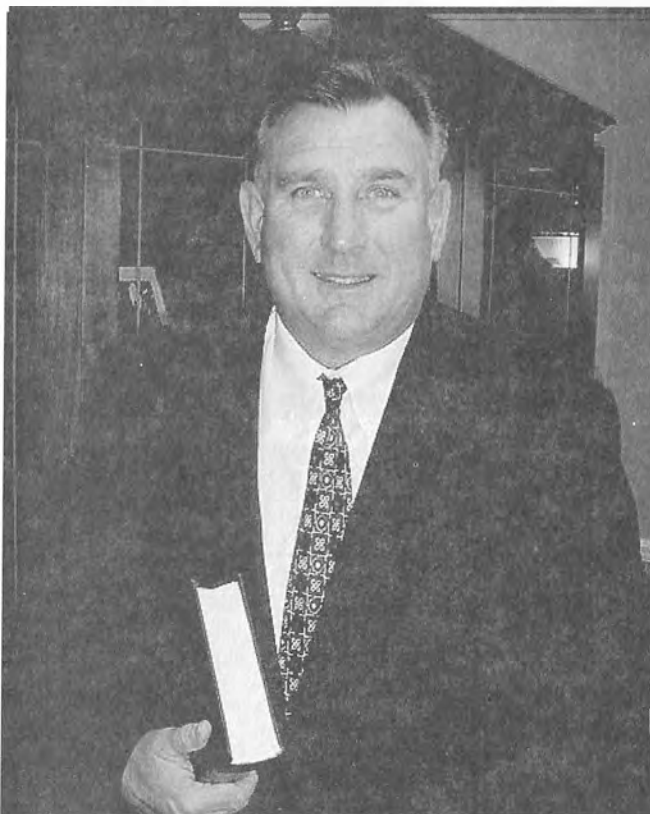
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well respected teacher and School Principal, found the boys and returned Malcolm's pants.

On another occasion we did a show for Riverton School and were on the way home. That night we were experiencing a terrible rainstorm. Malcolm and I were on the way home driving down North Parkway as we approached the intersection of Parkway and Oakwood, the light changed and Malcolm slammed on the brakes!

At that time the car started spinning around and around, I don't know how many times, but it finally stopped and Malcolm looked at a car along side of us and said, "Look, they are pointing at us, they must think that we are a couple of drunks." We still laugh about that today.

One final word on this, Malcolm has always enjoyed performing and he did what I would call amazing: he would play four, that is four, musical instruments at one time.

1892 News from New Hope

New Hope is still in existence, even though you have not heard from us in a while. Our little town is unusually quiet, with little to talk about except the railroad. The surveyors on the Gurley & Paint Rock Valley Railroad are now surveying their road near here.

Something like the scarlet fever is raging in our midst. A great many children are down with it.

Mr. W. P. Brazelton has again broken his leg, this being the third time. It will surely have to be taken off this time. Drs. Hinds and Johnson are with him.

The beautiful and bewitching Miss Frank James is spending a week or two here. We think there will be some very long faces when she leaves.

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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to **Sam Keith**, who guessed the Photo of the Month for February. The young man in the picture was **Lt. Col. Charles F. Owens**, who lives with his wife **Annelie** (a retired medical doctor) at Redstone Village. Sam worked for years at SCI, many of those as a supervisor, and is now retired, but says he is busier than ever!

It was good talking with **George Parson** lately. His son **Wayne Ray** wrote of his memories of Joe Bradley School recently. George and his sweet wife **Zelma** are very proud of Wayne. George worked in XRay at Thiokol Chemical Corp. for 37 years and knows many retired employees still here.

Doris Hunter wants to send greetings to her good friend **Irene Asakawa**, who lives in Oregon. I'll bet Irene would love to be living in Huntsville this time of year!

A special Happy Birthday to **Jerri Smith**, of Huntsville. Her dear sister **Kathy Ogle** thinks the world of her. Kathy works in the office of **Dr. Ralph De Jarnatte** and loves it there. Also, she and her husband **Frank** just celebrated their 38th anniversary.

That's amazing by itself, because Kathy looks like she's about 40!

Scottie Brier is a grandpa! He lives now in co-o-o-l-l-i-d Pennsylvania but used to live in Huntsville, and wishes every day he was back here. While here Scottie taught Advanced Missile systems on the Arsenal, back in the 80's. His first grandson is named **Joey Brier**, proud parents are **Joseph** and **Nicole Brier**. Scottie moved north to take care of his 90-year-old mom **Jane**, who now lives in New York with Scottie's sister **Deidre Zehner**.

Pretty **Jane Tippett** was looking great recently as a model for Etcetra Clothing's spring collection, held at the Cherokee Ridge Clubhouse.

It was good catching up with **Joe Walker** recently, of Southern Sealing and Striping. If you see a stripe on any road/parking lot - chances are **Joe** and **Jeff Walker** put it there! Joe's just a sweetheart.

Not many people know that

Dallas Mill Deli owner **Curtis Parcus** took up a collection for the family of **Eric Freeman**, our police officer who was killed in south Huntsville recently. All the money collected went to the family. Curtis and his wife **Becky**, along with their employees, are just the best.

While at **Lee Ann's** restaurant last month we met a gentleman by the name of **Gordon Little**. He was really an interesting guy and brought in his gray poodle **Rambo** to socialize with the patrons.

So many people had business dealings with **Wayland Cooley**, and it was such a sad day when we learned that he had died, at age 92. Wayland was a coach, a teacher, principal, school administrator and was perhaps best known as the **Madison County Tax Assessor**. He was admired by many people who will miss him very much.

The Huntsville Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution recently held its An-

Photo of The Month

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Hint: When this little boy is not playing with his trains he is probably in the kitchen.



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nual American History Awards Luncheon, where they honored local school students and city citizens who have contributed to Huntsville's rich history.

High school winners of the Good Citizens Awards were **Morgan Atchley, Erik Mayhan, Jerelisa Leslie** and **Deborah O'Quinn**. The junior Poetry award winner was **Andrew Sprinkle**, and the grade school essay winners were **Mallory Payne, Logan Baker, Madeline Bevell**, and **Katie Kosan**.

In addition, the Public Relations, Motion Picture, Radio/Television awards went to **WAFF-TV** for the coverage and sponsorship of the Honor Flight; **The Huntsville Times** received its Outstanding Patriotic Award for coverage and sponsorship of the Honor Flights. **Joe Fitzgerald** received the Community Service award, accepted by his wife **Patty**.

Finally, **Deborah Cole Shumate**, history teacher at Sparkman Middle School, received the American History Teacher award for this year. Congratulations to all of the winners!

We know we're all going to die one of these days, but when a young person dies, it is really very tragic. Recently **Lauren Nichole Eddleman** died as a result of a horrific car accident; she was the daughter of **Alisha** and **Harold Fennimore** and **Rod Eddleman**, all of Grant. We send our deepest sympathy to the many friends and family that Lauren leaves behind.

Our good friends **Ron** and **Barb Eyestone** are hosting Barb's mom **Ruth Hursh** for a couple of weeks. Ron has been thrilled to just stay home and act as host for the past couple of weeks and has done a great job!

Happy belated birthday to our friend **Phyllis Rogers**, who works at Agilent here in Huntsville and recently celebrated an early February birthday.

Beautiful **Alicia Stolz**, of Hazel Green, just turned 18 and is very happy that she can vote now! A special happy birthday to you.

Brandon Owens, who lives in Arizona, has a March birthday and will be celebrating in Tucson with his wife **Susan**. Susan is the daughter of **Ed** and **Ann Trentham**, of Huntsville. The Trenthams' son **Steve** and his wife **Michelle** are expecting a baby this spring. This will be the first grandchild for the Trenthams, and they are thrilled!

Gail Gallagher and **Ron Marlar** celebrated their wedding recently at the historic **Lowry House**. The reception, also held there, was attended by many friends & family, and catered by **Bubba's Catering**.

We saw **Glenn Watson** recently, he sure is a busy man. Every time we see him he is shaking hands and campaigning for the County Commissioner spot this June.

Also, seen at a City Planning meeting recently was **Mark Russell**, who lives in Old Town. There is talk of a controversial 6-story parking garage and rental complex going up at the corner of Lincoln and Holmes avenue, very close to the Old Town homes. The project has garnered lots of attention from the homeowners and should prove to be interesting. Keep tuned in for more updates.

Our friend **Ray Weinberg**, of the Golden K Kiwanis, recently had knee surgery and is doing fine!

Happy birthday to that handsome **Neil Cocker**, also member of the Golden K's. He is such a youngster!

That's it for this month, take care and remember how lucky we are to live in Huntsville, Alabama!

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Stef Troup's Favorites

Stefanie Troup loves cooking for her family, and these are a few of her favorites.

Squash Casserole

- 1/2 large onion, chopped
- 2 T. butter
- 3 c. cooked yellow squash, drained with all water squeezed out
- 1 c. crushed Ritz crackers, with additional for topping
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/4 t. garlic powder
- 1/4 t. pepper
- 1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Saute onion in butter for 5 minutes. Remove from pan and mix all ingredients together in large bowl. Pour into buttered casserole dish and top with remaining Ritz crackers crushed. Bake for 30 minutes.

Curried Honey Mustard Chicken

1 1/2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into bite-sized pieces

- 1 1/2 T. butter
- 1 1/2 T. olive oil
- 1/2 c. honey
- 1/4 c. mustard
- 1 t. curry powder
- Salt & pepper to taste

Heat butter and oil in skillet. Add chicken and cook til well browned. Remove chicken, add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil.

Add chicken back to pan, bring to boil again, reduce heat and let simmer covered for 30 minutes. Remove cover for the last 10 minutes to thicken sauce. Delicious served over rice. You can double the honey mustard sauce to have extra to serve.

Roasted Asparagus with Horseradish Sauce

- 2 bunches fresh asparagus
- 1/8 c. olive oil
- Kosher salt and fresh cracked pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Trim and wash asparagus and place on cookie sheet in one layer. Drizzle with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Bake for 10 minutes and asparagus is crisp-tender. Serve with horseradish sauce for dipping.

Creamy Horseradish Sauce

- 2 T. prepared horseradish
- 1 T. cider vinegar
- 1 t. dry mustard
- 3 T. mayonnaise
- 1/8 t. ground red pepper
- 1/2 c. sour cream

In a small bowl whisk together all ingredients, put in fridge for at least 20 minutes.

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Garlic Lime Chicken

1/2 t. each salt & pepper
 1/8 t. cayenne pepper
 1 t. garlic powder
 1/2 t. onion powder
 1/2 t. dried thyme
 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
 1 1/2 T. butter
 1 1/2 T. olive oil
 1/3 c. chicken broth
 3 T. lime juice

In a bowl mix together the first 5 ingredients. Rub mixture on both sides of the chicken breasts.

In a skillet, heat your butter and oil, add the chicken and saute til golden brown, about 5 minutes on each side.

Remove chicken and add lime juice and chicken broth to the pan, whisking up the browned bits off the bottom of the pan. Keep cooking til sauce has reduced slightly.

Add chicken back to the pan to thoroughly coat, then serve hot.

Low-Fat Three-Cheese Chicken Penne

1 t. olive oil
 Cooking spray
 3 c. thinly sliced mushrooms

1 c. chopped onion
 1 c., chopped red bell pepper
 1 T. chopped fresh oregano (or 2 t. dried)
 1/4 t. freshly ground black pepper
 1 16-oz. carton 2% low-fat cottage cheese
 4 c. hot cooked penne pasta
 2 c. chopped cooked chicken breast
 1 c. shredded reduced-fat sharp cheddar cheese, divided
 1/2 c. grated fresh Parmesan cheese, divided
 1/2 c. 2% reduced-fat milk
 1 10-oz. can low fat, low sodium cream of chicken soup, undiluted

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Heat olive oil in a large nonstick skillet coated with cooking spray over medium-high heat. Add mushrooms, onion and bell pepper, saute 4 minutes til tender.

Add oregano and pepper and mix in the cottage cheese.

In a large bowl add the chicken, pasta, cottage cheese mixture, cheddar cheese, Parmesan cheese, milk and soup, mix well.

Pour all into a 9x13" greased baking dish, sprinkle with 1/4 cup each of the cheeses. Bake for 25 minutes and top is lightly browned. This is good served with a crisp green salad.



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Slavery in Antebellum Huntsville

by Edward C. Betts
(Written in 1909)

As we have previously observed, the slave population of the town and county grew with marked rapidity. This is explained by the fact that great numbers of slaves were brought into the county and sold in the open market, especially during the early part of this period. Many of these slaves had some degree of manual and domestic training; many more were merely plantation hands; seldom, if ever, having come in touch with the civilizing and uplifting influences attendant upon service about the home of the master. The former class longed to return to the haunts of their childhood, and mingle again among their companions "back on the old plantation." Those of the latter class, many of whom very probably were neither born nor reared in slavery but were sold into servitude, chafed under the restraints of regular labor among companions, who in some instances could neither understand, nor be understood by them. By this time, the menace of the Indians to the fugitive

slaves, was largely a thing of the past; they having withdrawn from this part of the country, except in rare instances.

No source of information is more reliable and enlightening than records contemporaneous with the matter under consideration. None such is more comprehensive than a newspaper file of the times. It is to this latter source that the author has turned in an effort to grasp the spirit of the times and its attitude toward slavery as an institution.

Throughout the first fifteen years of this period, the local papers carried many advertisements for "runaway slaves," similar to the few here quoted:

"\$100 REWARD."

"*Ran away from the subscriber, Oct. 1. 1819, an African negro man, named "Jack ;" 33 years old, speaks bad English, but may be understood.*"

"*William Whitesides.*"

"\$150 REWARD."

"*Three negro fellows. Will probably return to Virginia, from whence they came.*"

"RAN AWAY"

"*Negro man named "Bob;" will probably make for the Cherokee or Choctaw Tribes.*"

Each of these advertisements and others similar thereto, was accompanied by the rude cut of a negro, male or female, as the

case was, in a fleeing posture; and in some instances by more elaborate cuts depicting the fugitive with a stick across the right shoulder, on the end of

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Blount Hospitality House

610 Madison Street
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www.blounthospitalityhouse.org

Member of the National Association of
 Hospital Hospitality Houses, Inc.

The Blount Hospitality House offers comfort and compassion for families of patients receiving care from one of Huntsville's medical facilities.

The House opened in 1980 as The Hospital Hospitality House of Huntsville, Inc. The present House, now called Blount Hospitality House, was named after Bernice Blount and completed in April, 1998. The House provides lodging for those who have family members recovering from trauma, receiving cancer treatment, or have unexpectedly found themselves in need of medical care.



Those who wish to stay at the House must live at least 40 miles away from the Huntsville area and must first be referred by a hospital social worker or head nurse. Guests are welcome to stay up to 21 days. At that time, the patient and family may be evaluated for a longer stay. Currently, children 12 and under are not permitted to stay, unless the child is the patient. Exceptions can be made by the executive director on a one-night basis.

Located one block north of Huntsville Hospital, Blount House offers a comfortable room at a reasonable rate. Guests also have access to a full kitchen, living room, laundry facilities, internet, and a great front porch to swing worries away.

Since 30 percent of Crestwood Hospital's patients and 38 percent of Huntsville Hospital's patients are from outside Madison County, family members often travel long distances to be with a loved one. The House can take away some of the worry and anxiety that comes along with a sick patient.

Contributions keep our doors open and help us to maintain affordable lodging. To donate to Blount House or sponsor a family, please contact the executive director at 256-534-7014.



This page sponsored by

The Golden K Kiwanis

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which was carried a small bundle tied up in a bandana handkerchief.

The most striking feature of these advertisements is the total absence of any description of the escape, whereby he or she might be recognized. None was needed and none was given. This for the very sufficient reason that, throughout the entire South where slavery existed, a more or less competent and comprehensive patrol system was maintained. No slave was permitted off the premises of the master, and only in rare instances out of his slave quarters, without a special permit. Free negroes were scarce, and usually well known.

Hence - we see the matter of capturing a fugitive slave resolved itself into the simple office on the part of the patrol to take up any negro seen upon the highway, day or night, unattended by some person in authority. Nor was it an easy matter for a runaway to travel across country; since, in doing so he almost invariably came in contact with some slave overseer, or owner, to whom he was unknown; whereupon he was promptly arrested.

To the escapee, the difficulty in getting food was no inconsiderable obstacle. To obtain it he was almost necessarily compelled to approach some white man, or his habitation. There were few, if any, negro homes about the country. The tendency, if any there was, to assist an escapee was discouraged and effectually checked by the laws of the land, which made it a crime

to aid or abet a fugitive slave. These, and other statutes of a similar character, effected to make of every citizen, more or less, a member of this patrol force.

If, perchance, the slave arrested was a fugitive, he was returned to his master, who administered appropriate punishment. If not a fugitive but merely a prowler without permission, which was rarely granted, he was taken back to his quarters, where he received commensurate

correction at the hands of the overseer or master.

The summary manner in which the slave larcenist was dealt with is portrayed in the following terse news item appearing in the Alabama Republican, of September 22, 1820:

"Collins, convicted of negro stealing, has been sentenced to be executed on the first Friday in December."

In addition to the sale of negroes brought into the county, the local market was kept pretty active through the desultory sell-



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ing of slaves, in small numbers, by the citizens: not as slave traders, however, but merely the buying and selling in ordinary business intercourse as of any other chattel.

The advertisements of slaves offered for sale go more into descriptive detail than do those offering rewards for fugitives; at least as to the good points of the subject; as appears from the following taken from the numerous instances found in the newspapers of that day:

"FOR SALE"

Two likely negro boys, from twelve to fourteen years old. Also a woman, age about thirty-five, a trusty servant, good cook, washer and ironer. For terms apply to:

A. D. Veitch."

By the end of 1835 conditions seem to have changed. The papers of this period rarely carried advertisements of escapes. Striking in comparison, notices of sales were likewise infrequent.

During the year of 1830, the sentiment rapidly forming at the North for the abolition of the institution of slavery was spreading and had become a matter of interest and concern to our people. Societies were being formed throughout the East for the promotion of the cause.

Chief among these was the "American Colonization Society."

The ostensible and avowed purpose of all these abolition societies was to liberate slaves, not at an economic loss

to the South, but gradually and systematically. Slaves so freed were to be transported to Africa, and there colonized under a government of their own establishment. Toward these ends the South was not hostile.

Strange to say, as early as 1830, Huntsville papers began the publication of matter condemnatory of slavery. True enough, editorials to this effect were rare, yet not infrequently in the news columns were to be found lengthy items about the work of these societies. In the

Southern Advocate of May 1, 1830, there appeared two ponderous articles, copied from the Washington Spectator: one of which applauded the proposed "good work" of the American Society, stating at length its proclaimed purposes; the other similar in its tendencies, though not so general, exclaiming praises for LaGrange, Franklin County, Ala., where a chapter of the parent society had been formed. From this day forward, articles endorsing the work of the society and lauding the

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movement appeared from time to time, and not infrequently in the local papers. Most of these items, however, were extracts from foreign papers.

In 1832 an auxiliary of American Colonization Society was organized at Huntsville: the meetings being held in the Presbyterian Church. Memberships in this society were held by some of Huntsville's most prominent men; a goodly number of her citizens were counted among its sympathizers and attended its meetings. The officers of this branch were: M. S. Watkins, president; Thos. Fearn, W. I. Adair, A. G. Vaughan, A. F. Hopkins, vice-presidents; C. P. Clifton, secretary; John Martin, treasurer; R. L. Fearn, D. M. Wharton, E. Pickett, J. G. Birney and S. D. Morgan, managers.

Regular orthodox "abolition" speeches were the order of the day when this society met. Its members were unstinted in their accusations against the institution of slavery, as one of "injustice and cruelty." The public expressions of E. R. Wallace and James G. Birney were characterized by vindictive denunciation of the whole system.

A kindly spirit of indulgence, even sympathetic attention, was accorded the abolition movement and its supporters in Huntsville and generally throughout the whole South. Not until it became evident that the aims of these societies were ulterior to those proclaimed for them, did this attitude change.

This difference in sentiment was brought about by a realization of the fact that the paramount object of these societies was not the colonization of the slave, but his liberation by force, by aiding him to escape or inciting him to rebellion. Probably, this altered condition of the public thought was aroused by the approach of the threatening storm at an earlier date in Huntsville than anywhere else in the South.

A more local cause was to be found at Huntsville, in the person of James G. Birney, the arch "agitator" and uncompromising "dictator" of the whole wretched business. Birney later became the first candidate for the presidency of the United States on the abolition ticket.

By 1833, Birney had become an out-and-out

advocate of the total and immediate abolition of slavery. Having already responded by accepting a commission from the American Colonization Society as its "General Agent for the States of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas Territory," he dallied, however, sufficiently long to reweld the shackles upon his numerous slaves, by selling them into continued servitude.

On May 21, 1833 he commenced the publication of a series of fifteen letters to the public, through the columns of the Southern Advocate, for the avowed purpose of "explaining the aims

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and intentions of the American Colonization Society."

It is to these latter letters, that the future student of history must and will turn with an acute interest, in order that "The Life and Times of James G. Birney" may be understood and interpreted amid the proper lights and shadows. The known existence of these other letters is of more than ordinary concern to Huntsville; for thereby she is furnished unimpeachable evidence with which to combat the maligning statements made about her and her people in that colossal misrepresentation of fact, "The Life and Times of James G. Birney."

To one who has searched the files of all of Huntsville's news-

papers of those times, and found account of only one "drinking and shooting brawl," or chronicle of murderous or disorderly conduct, (not to mention having read all and particularly the fifteenth of Birney's letters, which latter one is unmistakable in its admissions), it comes as a great surprise that the son of this man, in writing of his "Life and Times," should seek to create the belief that his father left Huntsville because moral conditions were so depraved, and shooting and drinking brawls so frequent that one's life was not safe there.

The first of these letters appearing, as we have observed, on the 21st day of May, 1833, was mild and gentle in its approach to the subject discussed, and was little more than an introduction of those to follow. The second informed the public that the "Society seeks support by the exhibition of facts through the press, auxiliary societies, and authorized agents," that

"The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is the taxidermist leaves the skin."

Mark Twain

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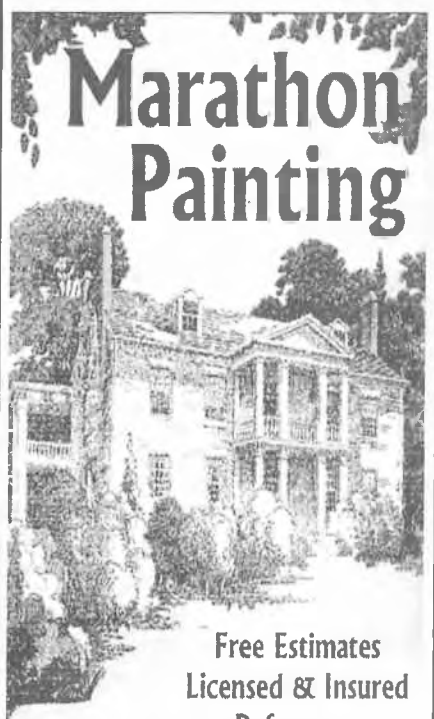
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unanimity was not to be expected, suggesting the temper with which the investigation should be conducted. "Objection in the South that the colonization plan originated in the free states," "Sentiment of distinguished gentlemen at the North," "Objects of the abolitionists examined," were the subjects considered in the third, fourth and fifth installments, respectively; while the sixth and seventh were continuations of the fifth; the remaining eight, by degrees contained more of bile and less of balm.

Their author finally dealt rudely and not impersonally with the South and its institutions, until the fifteenth was reached on August 20, 1833. In this he reveals that he had many more such to publish, but at the request of Huntsville's citizens he would discontinue the discussion.

Birney, having become generally obnoxious, tied himself to more congenial climes - by invitation. "Wisely he sought some other shore, where those who knew him less might praise him more."

Accordingly, in the early part of 1834, Mr. Birney took his departure for the North, where he became a leader of thought and action concerning the abolition of slavery. With these sentiments in mind, he became the first candidate to ever run for the office of President of the United States on the Abolitionist platform.

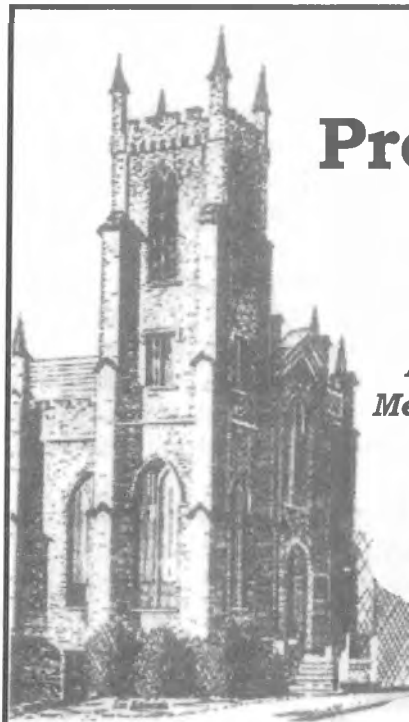
While a resident of Huntsville, Mr. Birney occupied a brick house situated on the north side of East Holmes street, opposite its intersection with North Lincoln street.



Large Snake Killed

from 1909 newspaper

One of the largest rattlesnakes ever seen in this country was killed yesterday afternoon on Monte Sano. The snake measured 9 feet in length and was 15 inches around the body. Its head was 4 inches wide and it carried 16 rattles.



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	1960 Sm.date	34.95	N/A
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	1975-S	13.95	9.95
	1976-S	12.75	10.95
	1976-S 3 Pc. Silver	\$19.95	14.95
	1977-S	10.95	8.95
	1978-S	11.50	8.50
	1979-S	10.95	8.50
	1980-S	9.95	8.50
	1981-S	9.95	15.95
	1982-S	7.00	not issued
	1983-S	8.95	not issued
	1984-S	8.95	8.95
	1985-S	7.00	8.50
	1986-S	9.95	14.95
	1987-S	8.95	9.95
	1988-S to 90-S	8.95 Ea.	8.50 Ea.
	1991-S	15.95	8.95
	1992-S	8.95 Silver \$19	8.95
	1993-S	15.95 Silver \$34.95	8.95
	1994-S	14.95 Silver \$42.50	8.95
	1995-S	36.50 Silver \$86.50	16.50
	1996-S	18.95 Silver \$45.95	26.95
	1997-S	29.95 Silver \$64.95	20.95
	1998-S	20.50 Silver \$32.00	9.00
	1999-S	69.50 Silver \$300.00	24.95
	2000-S	19.95 Silver \$35.95	13.50
	2001-S	99.50 Silver \$145.00	19.95
	2002-S	33.95 Silver \$62.50	18.95
	2003-S	29.50 Silver \$35.95	26.95
	2004-S	39.95 Silver \$40.95	67.95
	2005-S	23.95 Silver \$40.95	16.95
	2006-S	29.50 Silver \$39.50	19.95
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All prices subject to change with market!
 The precious metals markets are currently strong due to economic uncertainty and show no signs of weakening.

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Heard on the Street in 1888

- The quarries on Monte Sano are furnishing the finest gray limestone rock, not only in quality but size, that could be found anywhere in this country. The Monte Sano Railway has a large amount of stone on the grounds at the plant and are keeping plenty of material for the masons to pursue their work on the foundation. Laborers are employed under the superintendency of Mr. Henry P. Turner, in ditching work.

- Mr. E. B. Miller has sold his newspaper, The Independent, to Mr. Munger and will move out to Shelta Caverns, where he will engage in agricultural pursuits.

- The colored citizens living on Howe Street, off Meridian Road, were made painfully aware that some more than usual elemental trouble was in progress, when the water entered their homes and the furniture be-

gan to float around the rooms. It was a terrible dilemma to be placed in, to face the blinding storm outside or remain indoors and perchance perish if the angry waters continued to rise. The cause of the high water was the narrow state of the bridge under Meridian Street, which could not accommodate the raging flood, but held it in check until a lake of backwater was formed, and this found its way back into the houses.

The wooden bridge over Clinton Street was entirely swept away, and before daylight dawned, we expect the timbers that formed the bridge were drifting down the Tennessee River near Triana or somewhere else.

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The Family Recipe

Warning: These recipes are presented for amusement and historical purposes only.

Original Corn Whiskey;

- 50 lb. Corn, whole kernel
- 50 gal. water
- 10 cups Yeast

Place the corn in a feed sack and buried in the warm moist center of a manure or compost pile for about ten days. When the sprouts are about a quarter inch long, the corn is fully "modified" or malted. Wash the corn in a tub, rubbing the shoots and roots off in the process, then skim them off. Place the grain in an open wooden barrel, mash it with a pole, add five gallons of boiling water and when the mash cools down, add the yeast and let it sit and ferment. Some people may cover the vat with plastic to slow the evaporation. Fermentation will normally take between 3 to 7 days depending on the temperature.

First Run

Place the mash in the still pot. Gradually heat the mash and expect the first condensate to begin dripping in the receiver in about an hour between 170 F and 180 F. Collect all that

comes over on this first run. About 2 hours later when 205 F is reached, stop collecting. You should have about 12 gallons of distillate that will be about 40 to 60% and by-products (80-120 proof). Throw away the residue in the pot, rinse it out and flush out any solids that may have boiled over into your tubing.

Caution: Too high heat will cause the mash to boil over through the tubing, clouding the distillate and possibly clogging the tubing. The more slowly you heat, the less impurities will be in the finished product.

Second Run

Gradually heat the first run distillate in the pot and begin collecting the condensate in the

receiver between 160 F and 180 F In about an hour, when 204 F is reached, stop collecting. You should have about 10 gallons of 70% alcohol plus by-products. Discard the residue from the pot as before.

Third Run:

Gradually heat the second run in the pot. Action is fast. The temperature moves rapidly to about 170 F. Discard whatever distillate comes over before 170 F or that which comes over before the trickle steadies into a solid stream. Stop collecting at about 184 F in about 45 minutes. You should have about five gallons of about 85% alcohol.

Throw away any residue in the pot.



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The Watercress Capital of the World

Almost lost and forgotten in our city's history is the fact that Huntsville at one time claimed the crown as "The Watercress Capital of the World."

Watercress cultivation began in New Market in 1907 when Foster DeWitt visited the area and became intrigued by the "wild" watercress growing along the banks of streams. This was one of the few places in the country where an abundance of fresh spring-water and limestone, combined with moderate winter temperatures, caused watercress to grow wild.

DeWitt had spent much of his early life in Great Britain and while there was exposed to the plant.

Greenstuff in Great Britain was hard to come by in the winter months and watercress was one of the few plants available year-round. According to legend, an English officer started the custom of having watercress served in salads and within a few years it became a staple in every household. New York and Baltimore restaurants began serving watercress in salads in the early 1800s, but the cost of importing it from Great Britain was too prohibitive for it to become a widely used commodity in this country.

Foster hired local labor to dam a small stream on the land he had rented, creating a series of shallow ponds, much like rice paddies. By experimenting with water levels he found that a level of six inches was the most favorable for cultivation. In cold weather the water would be raised, with the constant temperature of the water protecting

the plants from damage.

Where at first the local populace had been skeptical about the whole idea, they soon became enthusiastic supporters as orders for the watercress began pouring in from Northern restaurants. Within a few short years Madison County became the major supplier to the world's markets.

Colder winters and the expense of shipping were cited as the two primary reasons the business declined here in Huntsville. With the advent of air freight the railroads discontinued most of their express freight trains. Watercress became too expensive to ship by air and too perishable to ship by regular freight train.



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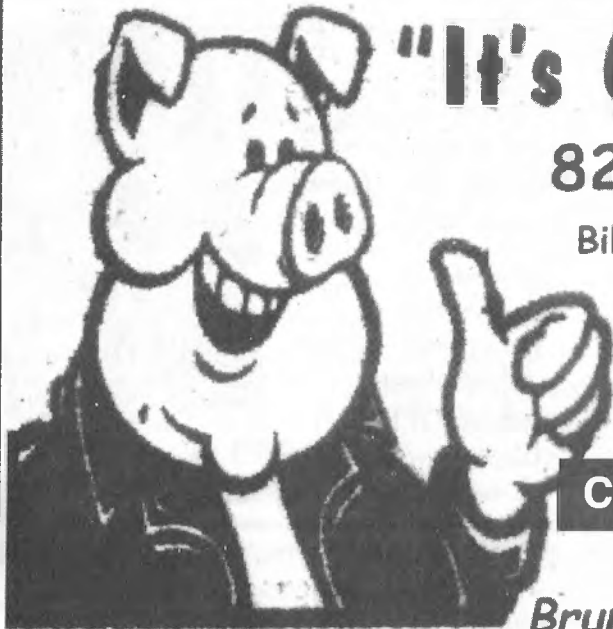
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- Rib Sandwich
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- and much more!!!



Give your wife a break from the kitchen tonight! Order OLE DAD'S BAR-B-Q.

We Sell BAR-B-Q by The Pound!

**14163 Highway 231/431 North
Located in the beautiful city of Hazel Green**

Trapping in Madison County

by E.N. Woodcock

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

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

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

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

other was raised which contained many fish of different kinds, such as yellow cat, channel cat, buffalo, pickerel, pike, carp, suckers, black bass (called trout in the South) and many other kinds. These fish ran in weight all the way from one-fourth pound up to twenty pounds each, and occasionally a buffalo or yellow catfish much



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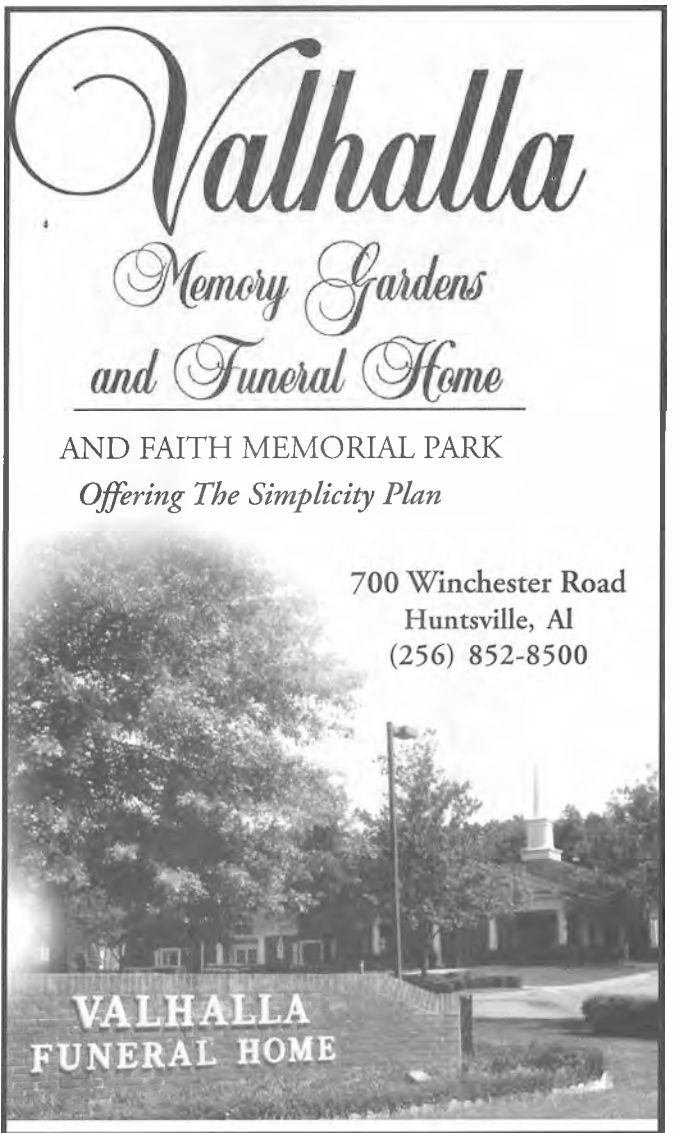
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larger. Mr. Ford informed me that often on trot lines they got sturgeon, weighing more than one hundred pounds.

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

I will not give my views of the country and conditions in northern Alabama - it would not look well; it is sufficient to say that the greater part of the land is owned in large tracts by a few men and leased out at from \$3.00 to \$10.00 per acre. Corn and cotton are the main crops.

Any land lying above the overflowing sections requires heavy fertilizing in order to make a

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

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

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

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

As to game in north Alabama, there is but little large game to be found. In the extreme



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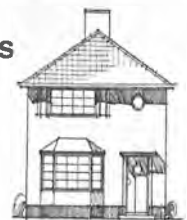
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northern part of Madison county, well up to the Tennessee line, there are a few deer and wild hogs; it was said that there were some bear, also plenty of wild turkeys. There were plenty of ducks, and a good many quail.

Each family keeps from one to three dogs, which are out searching for food all the time. These people never think of feeding their dogs.

Nearly every night these colored people are out hunting in droves of five or six, and with six or eight dogs, they think it no more of a crime to steal a trap, and anything found in the trap, than they would consider it a crime to eat a baked possum.

A trapper must keep a good lookout when setting his traps to see that there is no one anywhere in sight. If there is, you may expect that that particular trap will be missing the next time you come that way.

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

Then you will again look carefully to see that no one is around, and will proceed to make the set, provided that yourself is the only human being in sight, stopping your work often to look about you.

Do not think that this caution is not necessary, for it sure is. The writer had nine traps taken at one time within an hour after he had been over the line.

We went into our first camp, I think, on the 5th of November, at a place called Blackwell's Pond or Blackwell's bottom (Blake bottom?), I am not sure which. The first day after we got to camp,

Mr. Ford went out and put out a few traps, while I stayed in camp and fixed up things.

The next morning we had one mink and one coon in the nine traps. I think Mr. Ford brought in four rats and had one coon foot. That evening Mr. Ford went home to raise his nets, and when he came back he brought in two mink; I got two coon.

Mr. Ford went home again and made arrangements for a team to come in and move us out to "pastures new."

While there was considerable fur to be found in the vicinity of

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Camp No. 2, it was a hard place to camp, owing to the scarcity of camp wood and the inconvenience of getting water, so we moved on to Beaver Dam creek in Limestone county, where we were in hopes of finding a few beaver and quite a plenty of mink and coon.

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

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

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

A friend was bird hunting with Bear Bryant when the Bear took a shot. The bird kept flying. Bryant said to his friend, "That's something you don't see everyday - a dead bird flying."



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Old Huntsville Trivia

1810 - First Courts of Law established in Huntsville.

1813 - Andrew Jackson and Davy Crockett camped at the intersection of Lincoln and Holmes on the way to fight the battle of Horse Shoe Bend.

1862 - Huntsville is occupied by Yankee troops. Many of the troops were German and could not speak English.

1865 - Remaining Confederate Troops surrendered at Cold Springs atop Monte Sano. This marked the end of the Civil War for Huntsville.

1868 - A judge from Athens was shot when 1,500 members of the Ku Klux Klan broke up a meeting of former slaves and radical Republicans.

1883 - Frank James, the

brother of Jesse James, was acquitted of robbing a federal payroll (and no, the James brothers did not commit any robberies in Huntsville).

1892 - First long distance phone call was made from Huntsville. The telephone direc-

tory had 32 names listed.

1893 - A circus elephant died while performing here. The remains were hitched to a double team of mules and dragged to an empty lot in the 500 block of East Clinton Avenue where it was buried.

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The Calhoun House

by Stefanie Troup

In 1833 Judge William Smith hired William and Thomas Brandon to build a house for him. This home would become one of the largest in the southeast, spreading over 12,000 square feet, and housing one of the most extensive art collections in the state.

The initial purchase to begin the building of the home was an order of one million bricks. Construction began and progressed slowly because Judge Smith was not easily pleased. The building went on for seven years. In 1840 Judge Smith died, never seeing the completion of the house. His grandson-in-law, Meredith Calhoun, as executor of the Judge's will, supervised the completion of the house.

The house faced Eustis St.

and included a five-foot brick wall surrounding the entire block of what is now Lincoln, Eustis, Randolph, and Greene Streets. The 12,000 square foot house sitting within the brick wall was formidable and imposing with three stories, seven windows across the facade, and a gleaming copper roof.

Meredith Calhoun, his wife Mary, their three boys, and the Judge's widow and Mary's grandmother, Margaret Smith, lived in the house. In 1842, Margaret died, and shortly afterwards the Calhoun's eldest son, Willie, experienced a crippling spinal injury. But possibly the most tragic event for the Calhoun family during these years was the death of their middle son, John, at the age of four.

Grief-stricken, the Calhouns decided to travel abroad to seek medical care for their son Willie in France, but it was hinted that Mrs. Calhoun herself was so distraught and ill that she required medical care as well.

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While the Calhouns lived in Europe, the palatial house stood empty for years and was maintained by a staff of servants. The interior was filled with the Calhouns' art collection that they had amassed during their travels. It was considered by many to be the largest and finest private collection in the South at the time.

During the years that the great house stood empty, a friend and neighbor of the Calhouns, Mary Lewis, commented that the house "...looks sad...flourishing with mellowness over its sad history."

The house was very attractive to occupying troops during the Civil War. Unruly prisoners were kept in the underground kitchen behind barred windows. Other parts of the house were used as a hospital and the rooms were crowded with beds, not only for battle wounds, but for the many soldiers who were stricken with measles. In 1867 the house served as military headquarters.

The house was rented in 1874 and used as a dance studio, and in 1876 it became the offices of the U.S. Circuit Court for the Northern District of Alabama.

The most illustrious event in the Calhoun House's history was the trial of Frank James

in 1884 for a payroll robbery three years earlier. Huge crowds came from far and wide to witness the trial or just to be near the excitement. James was quite a celebrity and when he was acquitted, the sympathetic crowds cheered.

The house, the remaining art collection, and the entire block were sold to Milton Humes in 1887.

From 1895 - 1898 the Calhoun House served as the location for a boy's school, the Huntsville Academy.

In 1907 a fire struck the house, and the burned out building remained an empty eyesore close to the heart of downtown Huntsville, until 1909 when it was sold to L.C. Sugg for \$10,800. This is the house that cost Judge Smith over \$75,000 to build in the 1830's.

In May of 1911 after another fire, the Calhoun House was demolished. Today there is nothing to remind one of it's past glories and drama except for the historic marker at the location, which describes the trial of Frank James that took place there.

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Sam Keith

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The Sad Death of a Young Father

by William Sibley

On January 20, 1876, two Huntsville, Alabama newspapers, THE HUNTSVILLE INDEPENDENT and THE WEEKLY ADVOCATE, printed stories about the sad death of a young man whose badly decomposed body was discovered on a Sunday morning in a deep ravine on Monte-Sano Mountain.

THE WEEKLY ADVOCATE's story was entitled "The Monte-Sano Mystery" and THE HUNTSVILLE INDEPENDENT's story was entitled "Found Dead."

A Mr. Wells (no first name given) saw a dog with a human foot and leg in its mouth. Afterward, the body of a young man was discovered and one of the newspapers reported, "Rumor was rife Sunday morning when information reached the city that a man had been found dead in one of the numerous ravines running down from the top of the mountain."

Several men were speculating about the cause of death and it was the opinion of most of them that the man was the victim of suicide or murder. According to a coroner's report, they were wrong.

Coroner Franks

(no first name given) held an inquest and "...the jury of inquest found no marks of violence upon the body, therefore it is supposed he died a natural death."

The young dead man was identified as Clinton Graham and the coroner released the following information: he died of a chronic disease and he had been dead for about forty days before his body was found.

Clinton Graham, whose home

was located about six miles southwest of Huntsville, had formerly worked on the Moore plantation and "...had started up the mountain to Mr. Moore's (no first name given) plantation. Mr. Graham had been suffering from ague for quite some time and "...was reduced in flesh, weak, and almost unable to walk."

An unidentified gentleman, "...who happened to be walking up the mountain," assisted Mr. Gra-

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ham, helping him reach the top of the mountain. Darkness was falling and Mr. Graham decided to spend the night on top of the mountain.

It was reported that on the following morning before day-break, Mr. Graham "...set out to go down the mountain to Mr. Moore's plantation. He lost his way and sank down and died within a stone's throw of friendly shelter." It is not clear whether Mr. Graham walked into the ravine or fell into the ravine, but the coroner's report found no "marks of violence" on the body.

THE HUNTSVILLE INDEPENDENT reported that "hogs or dogs" had fed upon the lower limbs of the body and "...his body was found in a deep ravine that leads to Mr. Moore's place."

This writer has tried to find out who "Mr. Moore" was and has come up with the two following possibilities: Andrew Jackson Moore, Sr. married Margaret Catherine Hodges in 1845 and John C. Moore married Amanda Sadler in 1859. Both couples had farms in the Dug Hill area of Big Cove community, which was usually called Haden at the time. Both farms were located at the foot of Monte Sano Mountain. Both couples reared families in Big Cove during the 1800s and both couples have descendents living today in Big Cove, Gurley, Huntsville, and other nearby locations.

The MADISON COUNTY MARRIAGE BOOK NO. 6, page 482, shows that Clinton Graham married Odella Roach on Feb. 17, 1873.

THE WEEKLY ADVOCATE reported, "The deceased was about 25 years of age and leaves behind a wife and small child to lament his tragic and untimely death."



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Ran away from the subscriber within seventeen miles north of Huntsville on the Meridian road on the 4th July, a negro girl named Sally, speaks English and the French language, twenty years of age, 5 feet 4 inches high, of a yellow complexion, full face and a pleasing countenance, had on when she went away a white cotton frock.

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Preserving Huntsville's Past - Building Huntsville's Future

Old Fuzzy

by Malcolm Miller

My good friend Avon Everett's two daughters, Joyce and Carolyn, along with granddaughter Lauren have opened up a restaurant in the old Ryland store building; the name of the place is "Laurens" named after the granddaughter. Some of us are now calling the place "The Ryland Cracker Barrel".

The reason I mention this is it ties in with the story I want to relate. You see there is a wall in the store covered with pictures of many Ryland residents most of whom have passed on. Among those pictures there is one of me and Old Fuzzy taken when I was maybe eight years old.

Old Fuzzy was my dog given to me when I was born by a family friend and for the first fourteen years of my life we were inseparable.

You see growing up in the nineteen thirties, as I did, life was

hard all around. There was no money for toys and things to play with but I always had Old Fuzzy, incidentally his real name was Shep but he was always Old Fuzzy to me.

When I was too small to work in the fields I spent many happy hours playing with him. I would pretend he was a mule and have him pulling a make-believe plow or pretending we were battling lions or tigers.

When I got big enough to venture to the creek he was always there looking for snakes. He hated rattle snakes and I dare say he killed dozens of them during his life time. He would dart in and out until the snake struck then he would grab the snake and start shaking and wouldn't stop until there was only pieces of the snake left.

During those hard times possum hunting was very popular and Old Fuzzy was the best possum dog in the community. I wasn't big enough to go along but many nights during late fall when the persimmons were ripe some of my older brothers and their friends would head for the mountain and bring back a fat

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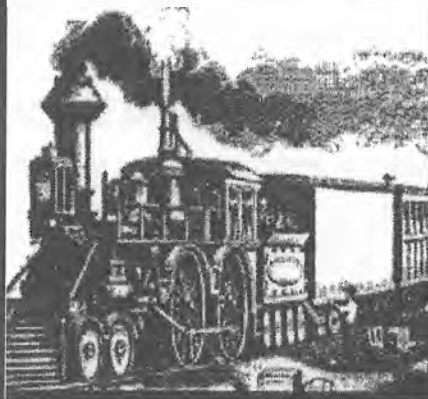
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possum or two.

I can still remember my Mama putting a big possum on the table surrounded by sweet potatoes. I don't think I could eat one now days but back then the only way you got fresh meat was by catching a possum, killing a chicken, a squirrel, a rabbit or even a ground hog.

Of course, we had fresh pork once a year usually in the middle of November when we killed hogs so you see possum hunting back then was a popular sport and also provided much needed food for our large family of seven boys and Mama and Daddy.

I have heard folks say you shouldn't give a child a dog or cat because when something happens to the pet the child would be upset but I believe that having a pet and eventually losing it helps prepare a person for things to come. In my eighty years I have lost my parents, five brothers and most of the friends that I grew up with.

As I grew up Old Fuzzy grew old and slowly lost his ability to get around, then one day in the fall of nineteen forty one when I came home from school I

was told that Old Fuzzy was laying in the edge of the cotton field dying.

I went out to where he lay and placed a coat over him until late that night. The next morning he was dead.

I guess not many people

remember the great singer Red Foley. His greatest hit in my mind was the classic song "Old Shep". The last line of the song says: "If there is a heaven where good doggies go, Old Shep has a wonderful home." That certainly holds true for Old Fuzzy.

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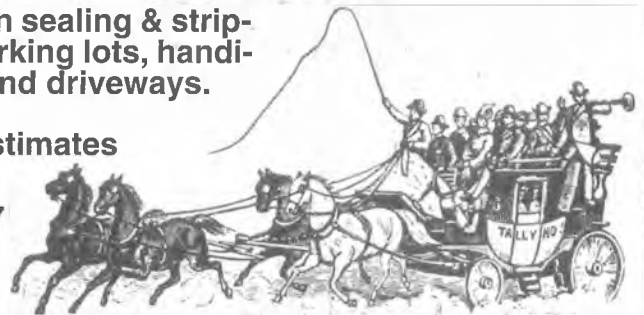
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News From Huntsville and Around The World

Hitler Sentenced to Five Years

Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader in Germany, was sentenced today to five years in prison for his abortive putsch in a Munich beer hall last November. But the lenient judges also decreed that Hitler would be eligible for parole in six months. Most of the 60 journalists who covered the trial agreed that the sentence was a mere slap on the wrist. Their stories also transformed Hitler into a national hero and put his name on the front pages of papers all over the world.

Hitler was protected by the Bavarian Minister of Justice during the trial, and the judges allowed him to interrupt frequently and cross-examine witnesses at will. Hitler invoked the name of Wagner, he portrayed himself as the spirit of German nationalism and the enemy of Marxism and he vowed that prison would not destroy his will.

"You may pronounce us

guilty a thousand times over," Hitler said, "but the goddess of the eternal court of history will tear to tatters the brief of the state prosecutor and the sentence of this court."

"Ma" Ferguson 1st Woman Governor

Miriam "Ma" Ferguson was elected Governor of Texas today. She is the first woman governor ever elected in the United States. Once the first lady of Texas, Mrs. Ferguson, a Democrat, ran for office to vindicate her husband, James F. Ferguson, who was impeached as Governor of Texas in 1917 on charges of diverting state funds to personal uses. Mrs. Ferguson, an outspoken foe of the Ku Klux Klan, won her nickname when she campaigned across the state this year on the slogan of "Me for Ma."

Coolidge Wins Big

President Calvin Coolidge swept aside all opponents today to win a new four-year lease on the White House.

The taciturn Republican scored a major victory despite the growing Teapot Dome oil scandal, a legacy of the previous Harding administration.

To fill the now vacant office of Vice President, which Coolidge once held, the nation chose Coolidge's running mate, Charles G. Dawes, who has served in several Republican administrations, most recently as an American expert on the Reparations Commission dealing with the German economy.

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Tennessee Bans Teaching Evolution

A bill banning the teaching of evolution in schools was signed into law today by Tennessee Governor Austin Peay, who said "the very integrity of the Bible in its statement of man's divine creation is denied by any theory that man descended or has ascended from any lower order of animals."

The bill makes it a crime for a teacher in any state-supported public school or college to teach any theory that contradicts the Bible's account of man's creation. Peay called the bill "a distinct protest against an irreligious tendency to exalt so-called science and deny the Bible."

Plans to challenge the bill are being made by opponents, who have denounced it as a violation of the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

"Show me a good and gracious loser, and I'll show you a failure."

Knute Rockne / Notre Dame

Blood Poisoning kills Coolidge Boy

This evening Calvin Coolidge bid a final farewell to his son Calvin, Jr. Not since Abraham Lincoln lost young William Wallace has a President seen his son die.

Sixteen-year-old Calvin, Jr. had contracted septicemia, for which, in its advanced stages, there is no cure.

A week ago, a healthy Calvin, Jr. cut his foot playing tennis. After two days, he complained of severe pain in the lower abdomen.

Suspecting appendicitis, doctors operated. Inflammation of the bone marrow was detected, and the truth was realized. Oxygen was administered, but there was no real hope of recovery.

The president, his wife and their older son, John, never experienced a tragedy of this kind.

Public servants and private citizens have wired their condolences. The president has canceled a trip scheduled for San Francisco.

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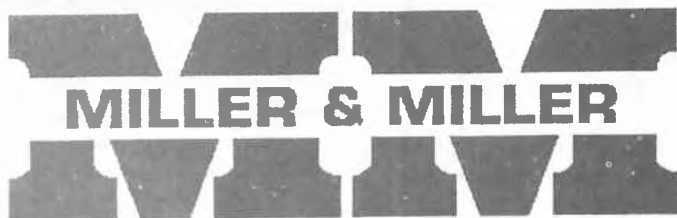
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The Wildlife Protection and Research Control Board

O.T. Frazier, the night jailor at the Madison County Jail, cautiously eyed the three prisoners standing before his desk. They had been picked up earlier in the evening for disturbing the peace at a local nightspot. When arrested, the prisoners refused to give their names or any other information that might help Frazier identify them. For Huntsville, in 1960 where everybody knew everybody, this in itself was an oddity.

Frazier gave the order for the deputy, Ed Norton, to search them. A careful examination of their pockets revealed nothing about who they were or where they were from. Their billfolds were empty except for a small amount of currency. Reluctantly, Frazier picked up the phone and dialed the home phone number of L. D. Walls, the Sheriff of Madison County.

Walls, mildly annoyed at being disturbed so late at night, listened as Frazier told of the arrest of the three strangers. At the end of the summation, Walls said, "Book them under John

Doe's. Is there anything else?"

Frazier, choosing his words carefully, replied, "Sheriff, I think these are the men we were talking about yesterday."

Without waiting to hear anything else, Walls told Frazier to put them in the drunk tank, he'd

be there in a few minutes. As Walls quickly got dressed he pondered the curious events of the last several weeks. For some time he had been hearing rumors of the strangers approaching people and offering them jobs for some type of military operation. A few days ear-

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

lier while eating breakfast at a local greasy spoon, Leon Franks, an employee at Redstone Arsenal, approached him and told of being propositioned by the same men. One evening after work, he had walked to his car and found the strangers waiting for him. They appeared to know all about him and asked if he would be interested in working on a project vital to national security. At first Franks was intrigued but when the men refused to give any details, or even their names, he sensed something was wrong and cut the conversation short.

As Franks told the story, the sheriff watched him carefully trying to gauge his credibility. Franks was a twenty-year veteran of the Armed forces, having seen action in both WWII and the Korean War. He was highly decorated and well-known for his expertise as a small arms specialist.

Walls pondered the possibilities of the prisoners' identities. Even though the Civil Rights movement was beginning to take hold in the South, so far Huntsville had been quiet. While it was possible they could be Ku Kluxers, he didn't think so; he had too many informers in the Klan. Another possibility was the Northern agitators who were making a nuisance of themselves throughout the South but that didn't sound right either; so far they had all been peaceful. "Whatever," Walls decided, "I will soon get to the bottom of this."

The prisoners were still standing in front of the desk when Walls entered the office. They had been joined by another stranger who appeared to be the spokesman for the group. Almost immediately the stranger, without identifying himself, ordered Walls to send his deputy out of the room so they could talk in private.

Infuriated that a stranger would have the audacity to order him around in his own jail, Walls motioned for Frazier to remain seated. Turning to the stranger, he then de-

manded to know "What in the hell is going on!"

Instead of answering, the stranger picked up the telephone and dialed a number. Mumbling a few words into the phone he handed it to the sheriff. The conversation was brief, lasting less than a minute with Walls saying nothing, just listening. After hanging the phone up he looked at the strangers for a long time as if he was having trouble deciding what to do. Finally he told the strangers they were free to go.

After the strangers had left, Frazier and Norton both asked what was going on. "I'm not sure," replied the sheriff. "Some kind of official government business."

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Almost as an afterthought he added, "But I'm going to find out!"

A short time later at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia a top-secret discussion was held. Though much of the minutes are still classified, one can be assured that much of it had to do with "those damn red neck officials in Alabama who are screwing up the Cuban operation."

When Castro first came to power it had been hoped he would steer Cuba toward democracy. Instead he openly embraced Russia and the Communist Party which put him on a collision course with the powers in Washington who were terrified of having a Communist country only ninety miles from Florida. At high level meetings between the CIA, the Pentagon and President Eisenhower, it was decided to overthrow Castro under the auspices of a Cuban revolution, supposedly engineered by right wing Cuban exiles.

At first it was decided that the CIA would recruit retired military personnel who would then train small groups of Cuban exiles. After the initial training the recruits would come together at some predetermined point where the CIA would supply them with weapons and guidance for an invasion of Cuba.

Alabama was a prime recruiting area for the CIA. Not only did the state have a large number of retired military personnel, but its citizens were known to be fiercely patriotic.

Unfortunately, things went wrong almost from the beginning. Instead of using CIA personnel to enlist people, the agency, in an attempt to maintain "deniability," used contract agents, many of whom were unqualified and had little if

any experience.

Many recruiting sessions consisted of telling the potential recruit, "we can't tell you what it is about, or what you will be doing, or who you will be working for or even where you are going but we need you and, no, the United States government is not involved!"

In one fiasco, agents rented two rooms at a hotel in Decatur, complete with a stash of firearms and military training manuals, to interview potential recruits and judge their experience. Local law enforcement officials, after hearing of the guns, decided a gang was about to pull an armed robbery and planned a raid. Only quick intervention by top government officials prevented what could have been a public relations nightmare.

Needless to say, under these conditions, the agency was not very successful at building their "private army." Even worse, the whole affair had become almost common knowledge. Law enforcement officials from Decatur, Anniston and Birmingham were all demanding answers.

In Huntsville, Sheriff L.D. Walls was also trying to find answers. He called the State Attorney General's office and they told him to call the United States Attorney General's office. They, in reply, suggested he contact the State Department who in turn referred him back to the State Attorney General's office. Most people would have given up at that point but Walls was not a man to be pushed aside easily. Each reply only made him more determined to find out the truth.

The CIA knew it had a real problem on its hands. After much consultation it was decided to change direction and approach Governor Albert Patterson about using the Alabama National Guard to train the Cubans and provide support. There was already a precedent for it - in the late 50's select

members of the Alabama National Guard had been used for clandestine missions in South Vietnam, when officially there was no U.S. military presence in the country.

From all appearances this seemed to be the perfect solution. Gov. Patterson had served as a young Lieutenant on Eisenhower's staff during WWII and had acquired a reputation as a crime buster when he broke up the racketeers in Phoenix City. In addition, the Alabama Air National Guard was the only unit in the country still flying the B-26 bombers - the same type used by the Cuban Air Force. These bombers were important if the world was to believe it was a Cuban uprising.

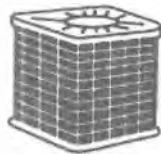
In the late fall of 1960, Gov. Patterson met with Brig. General Doster who asked to "bor-

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row the Alabama National Guard for an undisclosed purpose in the national interest." Patterson was well aware of the "Need to know policy" of the CIA and asked but one question.

After being assured of the President's knowledge and approval, Patterson gave his consent.

Almost overnight, once the Alabama National Guard became involved, the whole project took on a professional tone. Selected guardsmen were released from duty, given new identities and sent to a top-secret base in Florida. From there many of them were transported, with false passports, to a secret base in Nicaragua that would serve as the staging area for the invasion. Other members of the guard traveled to Washington where they worked with the CIA in the planning.

Wives were given a post office number in New York where they could write to their husbands. Guardsmen were instructed in cover stories to explain their being away from their jobs and families. "We weren't supposed to know anything about it," said one wife, "but of course we all did."

"In a way it was almost like being back home," recalled one of the recruits. "Almost all of the men there were from Alabama. The others were mostly spooks (CIA) and we didn't have much to do with them. I think all of us felt uncomfortable with all the cloak and dagger stuff, but \$750.00 a month was a lot of money in 1960."

In the late fall of 1960, General Doster, who was acting as a liaison between the men in Nicaragua and the CIA, stopped by to pay a courtesy call to Gov. Patterson. As he started to leave he made the cryptic remark that "in a few months you will read all about what we are doing and

the overthrow of Cuba."

Although Patterson had never been formally briefed, he had apparently heard rumors that gave him a good idea of the invasion plans. This placed Patterson in an awkward position. Though he was fanatically loyal to President Eisenhower, he was supporting J.F. Kennedy in the up-

coming elections. He realized that if the invasion occurred before the election, the Republican nominee, Richard Nixon, would probably be swept into office as a result.

After much soul searching Patterson contacted Stephen Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law, and told him he had to meet with Kennedy on important business.

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A short while later Patterson received a phone call and was told to fly to New York and check into the Barclay Hotel. Late that evening Kennedy showed up, and after being sworn to secrecy, was briefed by Patterson. By all accounts this was the first time Kennedy knew of the proposed invasion.

Before Kennedy left, Patterson gave him a paper bag with ten thousand dollars cash as contributions. "That was the way things were done then," said Patterson later.

Though most historians have given Kennedy's stellar performance in the debates as the reason for his victory over Nixon, few of them realized that Kennedy possessed knowledge that gave him a secret advantage. By the third debate Kennedy and Nixon were tied, with many observers giving Nixon a slight edge.

Suddenly, during the next debate, in response to an innocuous question, Kennedy dropped a bombshell by stating he supported armed intervention in Cuba. Nixon, in his capacity as vice-president, was well aware of the invasion plans, but because of the secrecy, was forced to act as if he opposed any armed intervention. To have done otherwise might have jeopardized the whole operation. Ironically, Nixon's position that night caused him to be labeled as being soft on Communism, a view that most Americans despised.

The information received from Patterson proved pivotal in swinging the presidential election to Kennedy.

While the country celebrated the election of a new president, Sheriff L.D. Walls was still trying to get an answer to his questions about the strangers. Phone calls were not returned and letters were seemingly ignored. Still, he persisted in his quest; after all, he was the sheriff of Madison County and if something was going on

here he wanted to know about it.

In the early spring of 1961 Kennedy gave the green light for the Bay of Pigs invasion.

"We spent most of the night before carrying the Cubans to the waiting ships and getting the aircraft readied," remembered one man. "Some of the boys had made plans to sneak aboard the ships with the Cubans but when the spooks heard about it they posted guards around the piers and searched the ships."

All the Cubans were excited about going home. They had been led to believe that when they landed on the beaches they would be supported with air strikes.

The landing was a fiasco.

The Alabama guardsmen in Nicaragua were supposed to only provide training and support but as the operation began to falter, it was evident to everyone that something

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else had to be done.

"We heard everything on our radios," recalled one guardsman. "They were being massacred on the beaches and kept calling, begging for air support." The Cuban pilots who were supposed to fly the B-26s refused to take off. It was a suicidal mission, they claimed.

Frantically, the guardsmen radioed Washington begging to be allowed to fly missions and provide support. Washington refused, giving orders that no airplanes were to be allowed to take off. Finally four members of the Alabama Air National Guard, unable to stand by helplessly while people were being slaughtered, ordered their planes made ready and took off for the short flight to Cuba. Three of the pilots were shot down and the fourth, pursued by Russian-made Cuban fighters, barely managed to make it to Miami. The government issued a statement saying the pilots lost were all Cuban nationals.

Without the promised air support from the United States government, the Bay of Pigs invasion

failed miserably. Now began the process of denial.

"We were still listening to the battle on our radios," recalled one Guardsman from Cullman, "when we got orders to leave. They didn't even give us time to pack. We left our clothes, equipment and everything else. We just stopped what we were doing at the time and boarded an airplane."

"All types of military hardware was left there - crates of army 45s, with no serial numbers, aircraft parked on the runway, radios - you name it - we just walked away from it."

After landing in Florida the guardsmen were searched for anything that might prove where they had been. The false identity papers and passports were confiscated.

"We were told to go home - this never happened. If anyone asked any questions we were to deny everything. I still remember the last thing they told me - the United States Government had nothing to do with this operation."

"The next morning I was back at my job in Cullman selling insurance. The whole thing seemed like a long nightmare, except I couldn't tell anybody about it."

The same day a spokesman for President Kennedy went on national television and declared "No American military personnel

were involved in the ill fated invasion."

A week later Sheriff L.D. Walls finally received a reply to his questions about the mysterious strangers. "... the men in question were employees of the Wildlife Protection and Research Control Board but have since been terminated."

There was not, and never had been, a Wildlife Protection and Research Control Board.



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On this 17th day of March, 1891, personally comes before me, a Notary Public for said county, Howard English, who, having been duly sworn, says he is an applicant for relief under the June 27 Act, Disability Pensions Claim No. 876791, late of the United States Infantry.

Applicant says that he is no longer able to provide for himself through meaningful work due to an injury received on July 21, 1879 and pleads that he be awarded the pension due him for his service in the United States Infantry.

Applicant says that his injury occurred in defense of the reputation and honor of the memories of his fallen comrades. Applicant says that on 21 of July, 1879 he was at the rail depot in Huntsville, Ala., where he was accosted by a group of unrepentant secessionists.

After Claimant had listened to numerous vile and slanderous utterings about the Union, and the citizens of the Union, he felt it his duty to defend the flag under which he had served.

During the altercation he was seized and physically thrown from the rail platform whereupon he received numerous broken bones and cuts.

Applicant says that he is without friends in Madison County willing to assume the care for him and he is ill afforded the expense of travel to Indiana from which he comes.

Signed, John Roberts

"Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?"

Linda Drake, Huntsville

The Price of Vengeance

from 1888 newspaper

On December 12, of the year last, my son was murdered by Leon Culpepper, late of this county.

I will trade my property consisting of one house, 24 acres with fresh water and 32 head of stock for the dead body of Culpepper. An additional \$1000.00 per carcass will be paid for the bodies of other parties involved, if accompanied by proof, Culpepper's body must be delivered to my home and be recognizable. All inquiries should be sent to Frank Sharp of Colbert County.

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News from 1899

- John Kenny was charged \$20 yesterday in court for beating his mule in front of the courthouse. He was arrested last month for beating his wife.

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

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

- Lem Johnson, of Knoxville, was arrested for picking pockets near the Post Office. Apparently he picked the wrong pocket as he is now in jail under the care of a physician.

- A son of Lira Elliot, of Lincoln Village, aged ten years, was ill for a year and although having a ravenous appetite, grew emaciated. His physician gave him some medicine that produced nausea and he was

shocked by the appearance of a snake which required all the doctor's force to draw from his mouth. It was striped and eighteen inches in length. The lad recovered and is better.

- Miss Myrtle Halloway, a resident of Knoxville, is visiting Huntsville with the goal of securing a husband.

So far suitors have been far and few between.

AUCTION

Sat. March 8 @ 4:00 pm

Antiques, Collectibles, Furniture & Glassware

B & W AUCTION - 356 CAPSHAW ROAD

MADISON, AL 35757 (256) 837-1559 OR (256) 837-8377

TONY FROM OHIO, ALONG WITH I-HAND..PICKED LOCAL ESTATE ITEMS! PARTIAL LIST: FASHION CALENDAR CLOCK, 253 PIECE SET OF ROYAL ALBERT BONE CHINA,, CHERRY 6 DRAWER J&P COATS SPOOL CABINET,, TIGER OAK CLAW FOOTED BOOKCASE W/ COLUMNS,, MAHOGANY DROPFRONT SECRETARY,, NEEDLEPOINT FOOTSTOOLS,, MAHOGANY GAME TABLES,, WALNUT 6 DRAWER J&P COATS SPOOL CABINET,, TRAMP ART FRAME,, CHERRY OCCASIONAL TABLE,, 2 ATWATER KENT DOME TOP RADIOS,, 8 DAY SETH THOMAS WEIGHT CLOCK,, 2 DRAWER MAHOGANY WORK TABLE,, EDISON CYLINDER PHONOGRAPH W/ HORN,, OAK STEPBACK CUPBOARD,, WALNUT VICTORIAN GLASS DOOR BOOKCASE,, VICTORIAN STYLE SOFA,, NICKEL SILVER CATHEDRAL SHOWCASE (CLAES LEHRBEUTER),, OAK CATHEDRAL SHOWCASE (CLAES LEHRBEUTER),, CHERRY FLOOR MODEL SHOWCASE (NASHVILLE SHOWCASE COMPANY),, OAK TABLE TOP SHOWCASE (JOS KNITTEL SHOWCASE COMPANY),, OAK WALKING CANE DISPLAY CASE,, 8' SLANT TOP OAK SHOWCASE,, CURVED TABLE TOP SHOWCASE,, NICKEL SILVER SLANT SHOWCASE (H KRUSE & COMPANY),, OAK 4 STACK BOOKCASE,, OAK POST OFFICE LETTER HOLDER (32 PIGEON HOLES),, PRIMITIVE CHILDS YOUTH CHAIR,, PAIR OF OAK FULL SIZE MANTELS,, PAIR OF MAHOGANY CORNER CABINETS,, OAK 2 DOOR LEADED GLASS BOOKCASE,, 2 OAK LARKIN DESKS,, 2 OAK CURVED CLASS CHINA CABINETS,, SPINET DESK,, 2 OAK ICE BOXES,, MAHOGANY PIER MIRROR,, SPOON CARVED VICTORIAN CENTER TABLE,, INLAID MAHOGANY 'NAPKIN FOLD' TABLE,, LEADED GLASS WINDOWS,, VICTORIAN LOVESEAT, VICTORIAN MARBLE TOP WASHSTAND,, 2 LANE CEDAR CHESTS,, 2 THREE STACK 'WETS' BOOKCASES,, IRON FENCING & GATES (SEVERAL STYLES),, OLD POCKET WATCHES (1 IN A GOLD CASE),, 59 PIECE 'EASTERLING' STERLING SILVER FLATWARE,, OAK BEVEL GLASS DOORS,, 3 PIECE CAST IRON ORNAMENTAL PATIO SET,, OLD BIBLE,, JACK DANIEL BOTTLE (SOLD BY C.C.BAXTER, CLINTON & JEFFERSON STS., HSV., AL),, HUNTSVILLE HOTEL BAR BOTTLE (W.E.EVERETT, NSV., AL),, OLD COCA COLA CLOCK,, AMBER FRUIT JARS,, 100+ COLLECTION OF OLD FRUIT JARS,, 2 OLD 'BALLY' PINBALL MACHINES,, ROSEVILLE POTTERY,, OLD MILK BOTTLES (CLOPTONS, WHITE OAK, MONTE SAY-MO),, OLD POSTCARDS,, DAZEY CHURNS,, FOSTORIA CAKE PLATE,, DEPRESSION GLASS,, PICTURE FRAMES & MIRRORS,, COLLECTIBLES,,,,,, MUCH, MUCH MORE for you to SEE!

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"Considering all the lint you get in your dryer, if you kept drying your clothes would they eventually just disappear?"

Fred Jacobs, Athens

Southwest Florida Homes for Less than Construction Cost!!

Have you ever thought about having a vacation or retirement home where the Winters are so mild that you can pursue your outdoor activities year-round? Now is the time to do just that. Southwest Florida, in particular, Cape Coral, Florida has a huge inventory of brand new homes that are unsold and never lived in due to the downturn in the housing market. Many are short sales (pre-foreclosure). Most of these homes are brand new and are owned by investors from out of state, many of which have never been seen by the investor.

There are brand new homes selling for as little as \$120,000. These are not inexpensive homes either. These are 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage with appliances, security system and in-ground irrigation systems. The homes I refer to are built between 2005 and 2008 and are built to the Miami-Dade hurricane code. For not much more you can have a pool.

Cape Coral has 400 miles of canals, both freshwater and saltwater. If you decide on a waterfront home you can fish from your backyard and catch a wide variety of fish. If you are a golfer, championship golf courses are in every direction and the winter is the most popular season.

If you are a fisherman, it is a fisherman's paradise. You are minutes from Boca Grande, the Tarpon Capital of the world. Also the beaches of Sanibel, Venice, Ft. Myers, Captiva and many more are close by. Lake Okeechobee is 60 miles away and a day trip for bass fishermen.

I am an old Huntsville resident, born in Huntsville Hospital (when it was a small brick building), graduated from Huntsville High School and still have many family members and friends that live in the area. I will exchange e-mails with MLS listings with pictures for you to review. Also, I will mail you maps and information on this area. I welcome the opportunity to talk with you and help you with your dream home.

Average Winter Temps are 83 (Nov.), 78 (Dec.), 77 (Jan.), 76 (Feb.) and 82 (Mar.)



Charles Sanders
Ph. (239) 898-9023

Web Site: www.SandersRealEstateTeam.com
email: charlessanders@kw.com.



When life was simple...



In 1953 the popular Pub Restaurant was located on Pratt Avenue at the present site of Propst Drugs. That same year the Reverend J. Otis King held a revival at the White Castle, an infamous honky tonk located at the intersection of Meridian Street and Winchester Road. Citizens were incensed at the newly installed parking meters around the courthouse square and Huntsville Hospital had become so crowded that beds were placed in hallways. Downtown merchants lobbied the city council to block the proposed Memorial Parkway.

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

“Old Tyme Friendly Service”



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* One Hour Photo *

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