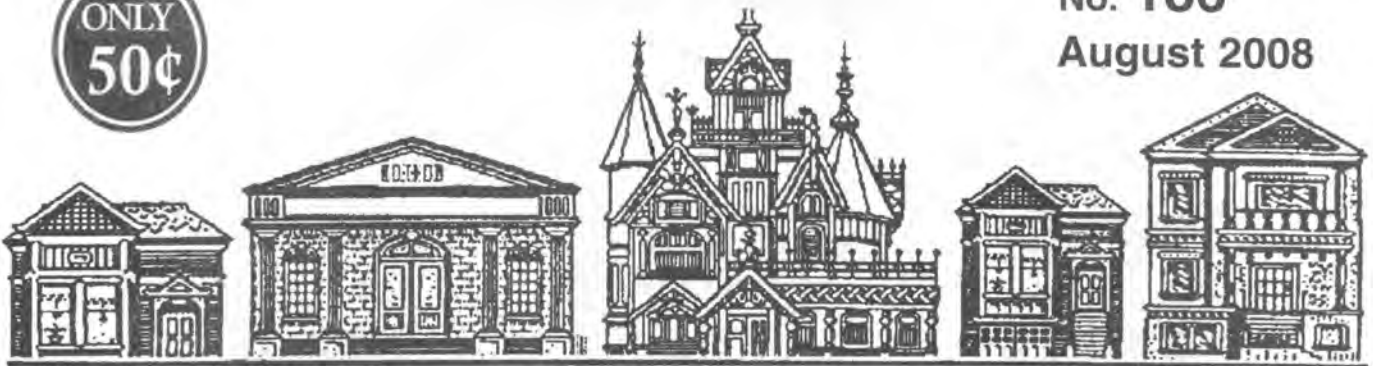


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No. 186
August 2008



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

The Great Land Fraud



In 1789, the state of Georgia was in desperate need of money and offered to sell some of its "western lands," of which the Tennessee Valley was a part.

Zachariah Cox immediately offered Georgia the sum of 1 1/2 cents per acre for 3,550,000 acres.

To everyone's surprise, Georgia accepted the offer, thereby selling almost all of North Alabama, including the future sites of Madison County and Huntsville, for less than \$55,000 - to be paid in installments.

Also in this issue: Remembering Booger Town

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The Great Land Fraud

In the 1700s no one was sure who owned the Tennessee Valley, or the "Big Bend" as it was more commonly known. Georgia claimed title by virtue of a British grant which gave it all the land "from sea to sea," while South Carolina claimed it as part of its original territory. Spain had claimed ownership for almost a hundred years.

The Indians, the Valley's only inhabitants, defied everyone's claims and threatened to kill anyone who encroached upon their property.

Although everyone had heard tales of the fertile lands and rich wilderness in the Big Bend country, it seemed as if no one had actually visited the area. Even in a land known for its pioneer spirit, few people were willing to risk their lives to settle a territory where they might never be able to claim title.

In 1783 William Blount, later governor of Tennessee, along with John Sevier and Colonel John Donelson, led a party of settlers from Knoxville to the area around Muscle Shoals. Their questionable title had been purchased from a minor Cherokee chief who had no

authority to sell it, and who was later killed.

Seeking to obtain the support of Georgia in their enterprise, the settlers promised to organize and settle a county to be named "Houston," and to declare it part of the state of Georgia.

The Georgia legislature was not impressed, however. If they supported these colonists they would have to send militia to help protect the lands from the Indians. Said one legislator who was later quoted, "It's dust that's much too expensive."

The colonists, rebuffed by the state of Georgia, next turned toward Spain for an alliance. But before negotiations could be opened, Cherokee Indians forced the settlers to abandon the colony.

One of the colonists was a young man by the name of Zachariah Cox, a surveyor from South Carolina. For years Zachariah had heard stories of the Tennessee Valley and when Blount organized his expedition he was one of the first people to sign up.

When the expedition was forced from the Valley, Cox stayed behind. He had a naturally inquisitive mind and was fascinated by the rich territory which no one had yet settled.

For months, with little but a knapsack and a rifle, he wan-



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dered the Tennessee Valley charting out imaginary townships and roads.

When Zachariah finally returned to Knoxville, he was a man possessed. Everywhere he went he preached the virtues of a land he called, "The unredeemed paradise."

In 1789 the state of Georgia was in desperate need of money and offered to sell some of its "western lands," of which the Tennessee Valley was a part. Land sales in the past had attracted people who bought from 1,000 to 10,000 acres of land.

Zachariah, who by this time had been able to interest a small group of investors, surprised everyone when he immediately offered Georgia the sum of 1 1/2c per acre for 3,550,000 acres.

To everyone's surprise, Georgia accepted the offer, thereby selling almost all of North Alabama for less than \$55,000--to be paid in installments.

Though Zachariah was now legally one of the largest land owners in America, the land was valueless unless it could be settled and he could sell part of it to pay the note. In 1790, he led a party of would-be settlers back to the Tennessee Valley in an attempt to colonize the area.

Upon hearing news of Cox's expedition, the Spanish governor of Louisiana promptly notified George Washington that Spain

was going to erect a fort at the Big Bend to protect Spanish interests in the land. Washington, upon hearing the news and fearful of a war with Spain, ordered Cox to abandon the settlement.

Washington's orders infuriated Cox who had already invested everything he owned in the project. "If the Federal Government won't protect us," he reasoned, "we'll find someone who will."

Cox immediately set about negotiating a treaty whereby Spain would recognize his rights and the Valley would become a Spanish domain. Unfortunately, he would have done better to negotiate with the Indians, because Chief Alexander McGillivray soon appeared on the scene, accompanied by a large and angry war party demanding that Cox abandon his settlement.

Deciding that discretion was the better part of valor, Cox returned once again to Knoxville where he immediately recruited a band of 40 armed men. All the recruits were promised grants of 5,000 acres each if they would help defend his title.

Several months later, in

"I can't reach my license unless you hold my beer."

What you DON'T want to say to a cop who pulled you over

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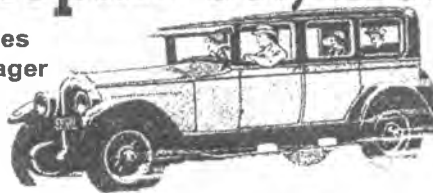
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January of 1791, Cox once again returned to the Big Bend. His earlier expedition had already sparked much debate in Washington, D.C., and upon hearing of this expedition the Secretary of War issued a proclamation forbidding Cox to enter any Indian lands.

Of more concern to Cox, however, was the warning that the Secretary of War would allow the Indians to attack any trespassers.

Upon arriving in the Valley, Cox immediately set his party to work building a strong house. Once again, however, his plans were thwarted by the Cherokees. This time they were represented by Chief Glass, who warned that all the settlers would be put to death unless they left immediately.

Returning to Knoxville, Cox was arrested by federal authorities on charges of trespassing on Indian lands. The case instantly became front page news all across the country. Boston newspapers, taking note of the immense amount of land involved, dubbed him "King Zachariah," and compared his holdings with those of European Royalty.

Cox's defense was simple-- he owned the land and therefore he could not be charged with trespassing on his own land. The Knoxville grand jury refused to indict him and dismissed the federal government's case.

The fact that the federal government brought charges against Cox was the very best possible

thing that could have happened to Cox. It brought him publicity, and most importantly, the Grand Jury's refusal to indict him gave him recognition of his legal ownership of the Tennessee Valley.

Soon investors from Boston, New York and Rhode Island were beating a path to Zachariah's door, begging to invest in his enterprise. With their backing, land offices were opened and agents were hired to handle the onslaught of people clamoring to buy land. For a while it looked as if Zachariah would not only be one of the largest landowners in America, but also one of the richest.

Unfortunately, there was a dark cloud looming on the horizon. At that time, "specie" (quite literally IOU's) was a common form of paying debts. The state of Georgia, however, was having trouble getting its creditors to accept their paper. In a sudden move that surprised everyone, Georgia passed legislation that required all debts for land be paid in bullion.

For Cox and his investors this was impossible. There just was not that much bullion available to finish paying for the land. When time for the next

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installment arrived and Cox was unable to pay it, Georgia rescinded the sale -- once again taking possession of the Tennessee Valley.

Cox immediately protested, only to be told, "There's only one law in Georgia, and that's the majority vote of the state legislature."

For all appearances this spelled the end for "King Zachariah" and his visions of a private empire. Where he had once been a national figure, he was now a national laughing stock. His friends deserted him, his creditors hounded him daily and the only comfort he found was in the solace of a whiskey bottle. Within months he had been reduced to a pathetic and lonely figure.

To say that Cox was bitter would be a gross understatement. For over ten years he had been obsessed with the Tennessee Val-

ley and he was determined to own it once again. He began a correspondence with his old investors, who in turn provided him with new names who would help him launch the most diabolical scheme ever perpetuated in America, later to become known as the "Great Yazoo Land Fraud."

In a meeting with his cohorts in Boston, he spelled out his plan: "There is only one law in Georgia," he explained, "and that is the majority vote of the legislature. And we are going to buy them."

Agents were hired to identify every Georgia politician and to probe them for their weaknesses. When one legislator was found to be deeply in debt, his bills were paid by Cox's band. Another legislator was given a gift of seven slaves. Cox's agents became a common sight in the Statehouse, doling out money and granting favors.

In 1795 Cox made his move. A bill was introduced in the Georgia Statehouse authorizing her to once again sell off her western lands. With Cox and his cohorts keeping careful tab on

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how everyone voted, only one person voted "no."

"King Zachariah" was once again the owner of the Tennessee Valley, though this time with partners, and at the price of 2 1/2c per acre. News of the sale created a great uproar in the Cherokee Indian Nation. Even George Washington took the unprecedented step of sending a warning to Congress, stating that Georgia's sale of the land could lead to war.

Where earlier Cox had been "a champion of the people," he was now despised as a manipulator. As people began to realize to what extent Georgia's politicians had been bribed, effigies of Cox were burned and his name became synonymous with everything that was evil.

Cox had already become an eccentric recluse and probably could have cared less about public opinion. Dressed in cast off clothing and oftentimes unshaven, he spent his days and nights poring over old land maps and plotting imaginary townships. The jewel of his imaginary empire was to be a city named Elk -- a city where his enemies would be forbidden and where he would reign supreme.

Less than a year later, public indignation forced Georgia to repeal the land sale. In a startling move, the Legislature ordered that all references of the land sale be removed from public record and all other records dealing with it be burned in front of the Statehouse at a public bonfire.

Burning the records probably appealed to most of the legislators as they had each received around 50,000 acres as a bribe.

Ironically, though Georgia rescinded the sale, it made no provision to repay Cox for the land he had already paid for.

Cox immediately went to court, declaring that the sale had been made in good faith and

"Georgia had no right to rescind it." Georgia's courts refused to rule on it, however, probably because some of the judges were guilty of taking bribes as well.

There is no doubt that Cox felt he was justified in bribing the politicians. In his mind he was simply taking back something they had taken from him. And in his mind he still owned the Tennessee Valley.

Though Cox advertised extensively and toured the country promoting his land in North Alabama, there were few takers because no one wanted to risk their money on such dubious title. He even offered a free town lot in the new city of Elk, which existed in his mind only, to everyone who purchased 1,000 acres of land.

Zachariah received another setback in 1798 when Georgia



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ceded the land to the federal government. Now he was faced with the awesome task of suing the United States of America in order to reclaim his land.

He soon became a familiar figure in the halls of Congress, begging people to listen to him. Though he had once bribed almost every politician in the state of Georgia, now he found all doors closed to him.

One of the few who would even listen to him was a young Congressman by the name of John Marshall, who would later become Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Marshall believed that Georgia was wrong in rescinding the sale and at the very least the purchasers should be reimbursed. Though he introduced a bill in Congress supporting the idea, it was soundly defeated.

The lawsuits dragged on for years. In the meantime settlers began moving into the area. John Hunt settled at the Big Spring and the city of Huntsville became a mecca for new pioneers,

who were all clamoring for land.

Cox was powerless to stop the migration. Though his lawsuit was still tied up in court, the federal government opened up a land office and began selling the property claimed by Zachariah.

However dubious Zachariah's claims were, there were a few people who were willing to take the chance. In 1808, with Huntsville already becoming a modest town, Martin Beatty purchased 1,000 acres from Cox for the price of \$1,000. The transaction was duly recorded in the Huntsville Land Office.

Incidentally, that 1,000 acres consisted of the whole town of Huntsville.

Zachariah Cox was, for all practical purposes, finished. All the lower courts had ruled against him and now his only recourse was the U.S. Supreme Court

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which no one expected to rule in his favor. He was deeply in debt, had few friends left and was in ill health. His whole existence was reduced to staying in cheap boarding houses and writing letters to anyone who might listen to his claim. Worst of all was the fact that the Tennessee Valley, for which he had fought all of his life, was now filling up with settlers.

He realized that once people settled in on "his" land, they would never give it up.

In 1809, in a ruling that shocked the whole country to its very foundation, the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Marshall ruled that the sale of land by Georgia to Zachariah Cox was legal and that the state of Georgia had no right to rescind the sale.

Once again, for the third time, Zachariah "King" Cox owned the city of Huntsville, as well as the rest of the Tennessee Valley.


His victory, however, was hollow. Though the Court ruled in

Cox's favor, it gave no means to implement the decision. To evict the people who had already moved into the Valley would have started a civil war. So federal authorities did nothing.

Realizing that at some point in the future the federal government would have to reimburse people who had bought land from Cox,

a small group of Huntsville residents (known as the Georgia Gang) began buying up the titles. Often these claims went for pennies on the dollar.

Zachariah Cox, although vindicated by the Supreme Court, had lost the battle. Much of the land he owned on paper had been traded for legal expenses and



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other debts.

By 1814 Zachariah Cox, who had once owned 3,500,000 acres of land in North Alabama, had lost title to practically everything he had ever owned. Unbelievable as it may sound, he had given much of the land away to cover his personal expenses -- 10,000 acres for a night's room and board-- 5,000 acres for a haircut.

That same year Congress passed a law to reimburse people who had purchased the Georgia land by issuing script. This script was to be used by its holders to purchase new land from the federal government, who would then have a clear title.

Many members of the "Georgia Gang" who had been quietly buying up Cox's titles for years now became the holders of immense amounts of this script.

These people, who had once condemned Cox as a "master manipulator," then let their plantations (for which they had paid as much as thirty dollars an acre) be foreclosed on by the federal government. They then bought them back with the script.

Zachariah Cox died a pauper.

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Seen in recent church bulletin

Finishing the Job

An Alabamian who had been employed in a cemetery some time since went to Washington to draw his pay.

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"Yes," said he.

"What command were you in?"

"In General Fitzhugh Lee's command," said he.

"And you have the audacity to apply at a Federal cemetery for work when you were in the rebel army?"

"Yes," replied the Alabamian. "I helped to kill them and I think I have a right to help bury them".

from 1909 newspaper

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- Gerald Gentry canceled plans to marry Delsie Rodgers when it was discovered they were double first cousins.



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Legends from the Grave

by John Crow

If you look at any tourist information on Huntsville, Alabama, there is always reference to the beautiful Maple Hill Cemetery. The literature will usually refer to the beauty of the dogwood trees in full spring bloom, or perhaps the fact that five former Alabama governors are buried there, or maybe tell of the section where the Confederate soldiers are laid to rest.

What it won't tell you are the many legends associated with the cemetery.

Now my archaic but trustworthy Webster's Dictionary defines, for our purposes anyway, a legend as being a story of some wonderful event, handed down for generations among people and popularly believed to have a historical basis, although not verifiable: distinguished from a myth. What follows is a humble effort on my part to relate to you a few of the legends surrounding Maple Hill Cemetery, and then go one step beyond and provide the historical basis for the legend.

When the night is strangely still, and the quiet is not even broken by a cricket's chirp or a night breeze rustling, a haunting sound comes from a lonely mausoleum. It is the whispered creak, creak, of a rocking chair rocking. It is the young ghost of Mary

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Chambers Bibb, tragically poisoned in the full bloom of her youth, and buried upright in her rocking chair by her grief-stricken husband, where she rocks the years away ... rocking ... back and forth ... rocking.

In the early 1830s two pretty cousins were always at the center of the many prominent social gatherings in Huntsville. It seemed that wherever the girls were you would also find the dashing Bibb brothers, the sons of Alabama's second governor, who would come to the parties by carriage from their family estate at Belle Mina.

It wasn't too long before gossip had it that the two couples were smitten and a double wedding seemed to be in the offing. This was confirmed when it was learned that the girls were having wedding gowns specially designed and made in Paris, France.

Whenever the stage coach would arrive there would be the girls, eager to check the baggage for any package addressed to them. But alas, there would be no gowns, for Paris had run out of the proper fabric. Finally, in early 1835, a parcel did arrive, but it contained only one gown. It was decided that Mary Chambers would proceed with her wedding plans to William Bibb and the wedding was then scheduled for February 26, 1835.

Oh, gentle reader, I hesitate to put to paper what follows next, for in steps a grim and sinister Fate. It seems, as is common with young people, that the excitement and anticipation of the coming event created a "pimply" situation on the young girls' complexions.

"There's a dollar in my purse - get 5 gallons of gas when you go into town."

What you don't hear anymore

Their faithful and dutiful "Mammy" had a remedy for such situations. She took from a cabinet a bottle of "salts" and Mary Chambers volunteered to take the first spoonful. After taking that tragic first swallow, Mary grasped her young throat and in gasping breath rasped out, "I've been poisoned!"

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

The shocked, heartbroken William Bibb made the honorable and loving decision to proceed with the wedding plans. Exactly three months after the wedding, Mary Chambers passed away. The sorrowful, heartbroken William Bibb erected for the remains of his beloved wife the city's first mausoleum.

This new structure in the cemetery was a rather startling sight for the citizens of Huntsville. They had never seen a "grave above the ground" before.



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For the bewildered townspeople there could only be one explanation. Poor melancholy William had entombed his wife in her rocking chair.

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

No luck at All

from 1888 newspaper

Thos. Whitely, the Louisville & Nashville brakeman who was hurt last Sunday by falling from a moving freight train near Decatur, was out again yesterday.

His experience lately has been quite varied. He is a youth about 20 years old, and has been employed for some time by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company. About six weeks ago, as the train he was on was crossing the river, he was knocked from the side of the caboose as he was climbing up the ladder. He fell into the water and swam to shore, where he fell insensible. The train stopped and took him to Huntsville, where he remained lingering between life and death for three weeks. He was then taken to the Nashville infirmary and had just recovered and gone to work where he fell from the car at Cunningham, bruised and cut his head and sprained his knee.

He is now walking with a hickory stick, and will be ready for another accident in a few days.

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Hunt Family Letters

Feb. 13th, 1896
Miss Jennie R. Powell
Rogersville, Tenn.

Dear Cousin: Our cousin, Wm. R. Larkin of Larkinsville, Ala., was down the other day, told me of your letter which he sent to George Clayton Hunt for us to read and requested us to write to you. I heartily commend your undertaking and will be more than glad to aid you in any way in my power. I don't know that I am able, or shall be, to give you any information as to our ancestry as those who could have given me the information died before I was old enough to realize and appreciate its possible value and real interest.

While equally as proud of my Hunt blood, I have always felt pleased when told I was the Powell in our family. I am very much like my sainted Mother in all respects, though my most intimate friends tell me I have the will power and temper of my father. Well, it's a good mixture. I am a native of Franklin

County, Tenn., where my mother was born and reared and died. She was Priscilla J. Powell. Her father was Benjamin Powell, a merchant for many years at Winchester, Tenn., who came from near Philadelphia, Penn., so my mother told me. After coming South, he married Ellen Rutledge. All their children are dead unless Uncle Joe Powell is living who went to La., early in life. Some 20 years ago I had a letter from one of his sons, but have not since heard from them.

I was named for my maternal grandfather. My father is George W. Hunt, in his 83rd year and still a very active man barring a sore on his face from which he has been annoyed many years.

My great-grandfather, John

Hunt, was the founder of this City and for whom it took its name. Uncle Wm. Larkin, a brother of Cousin Billie's father, David, often has told me when I was a mere child of living here with him when he built the first log cabin above the Big Spring and of his cultivating a crop or two of Irish potatoes just below it. My office, where I now write, is above that spring east, whose music, as it rolls over the dam, I hear most of the year and from the rear door look out and see where once was that "tater patch." I have often regretted and un-regretted coming here.

In Nov. 1882, my father married Mrs. Tulliola McCalley whom he had known in his early life when he lived here and run

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the old Huntsville Bell Tavern for Woods & Yeatman of Nashville, Tenn. My stepmother is a most excellent woman in comfortable circumstances and took a great fancy to me - alone because she couldn't help it - and would have me to locate here to practice my profession. I had enjoyed a fine practice at Winchester for the previous ten years. Having heard of Huntsville, its wealth and culture, I decided to stay here - alone on the strength of its prestige, and "durn me, if I ever struck a"deader" town. I didn't have a dollar, not a book, and my mother never seemed - and has not yet realized that made any difference.

She was like the fellow who came into my office a few years ago, after hearing me make a "celebrated" speech in a criminal case, and said, "Why in thunder haven't you been practicing law since you came here?" I replied, "I have been trying to make money to buy me a library." "Damn it," he says, "you don't need any books, a man who can talk like you. I never heard such a speech."

Cousin Billie Larkin happened to be in town that day, and in hunting a man he wanted to see, wandered up in the courthouse and heard me. He is one of the "Old Guard" who is proud of and loves his kin. If I have aroused your curiosity, you can get him to tell you about the speech.

To go back: after practicing law a year or so my partner, Paul Jones, died of consumption. On his deathbed he said, "Hunt, next to my family, my greatest upset in dying is that I can't live a year or two longer so as to leave you in a fine practice."

In 1884 I bought an interest in a weekly paper, The Mercury,

and took sole editorial charge advocating protection, more railroads, turnpikes & diversified farming. I was at the inauguration of the branch railroad which came in from Nashville and got it built.

In 1885 Aug. - I turned my paper into a daily— established it - and in 1887, bankrupt in purse & health, retired. Then Col. J. F. O'Shaughnessy of N.Y., who was the chief spirit of the North Ala. Improvement Co., took me in to assist his Genl. Manager, Capt. S. H. Buck, who resigned the P.O. of New Orleans to take the position here. That enabled me to rest and regain my health.


I have gone back to my first love - the law - though as a diversion. I represent about 12 foreign papers in correspondence from here, and If you read the Chattanooga Times you will see my "work."

I was born and reared on a farm and am proud of it. Have done all kinds of work on a farm. Although my father had plenty, at 9 years of age I was making shoes and for 8 years made all our family used - finally had a full set of tools - gave them to one of the negroes and all I have now to point to my childhood genius and glory is a pair of Morocco slippers I made for my youngest brother, George

Rutledge Hunt, when I was 14 yrs. of age and he 5. For this heirloom, I am indebted to my sister who preserved them.

She has three very lovely and interesting children and lives with us. Her name is Adaline Bradford Hunt Nelson-- named for her Aunt Adaline Powell who married Col.

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Joe Bradford of this State, a very wealthy man when the war broke out.

He equipped a Company and went to the front. He had a daughter, Lavinia, a very brilliant woman, who married Col. Chilton who was killed during the war. A brother, John Bradford, was killed at Battle of Seven Pines, Va. Mr. Nelson is a partner in the "Alcorn Woolen Mills," Corinth, Miss. Three of us are dead-- Ellen, Margaret, & David Hunt.

Our Hunt kin were the founders of Huntsville, Texas; Missouri, Ala., Hunt Co., Texas. I have gotten to talking to you and telling you all I know of our people, simply to let you know about us as we are and have been, only for your personal information and not for any publication.

I must stop. Come to see us. We will be glad to see you and will try to make it pleasant for you. Geo. and I are "old" bachelors, but I hope the ... (illegible word) of redemption will yet save us. Now, I

mean what I say-- come to see us. Will be glad to hear from you. Love to all the kin.

Ben P. Hunt

"While at the circus last week, a tiger urinated on my ear, which caused a severe ear infection."

Recent excuse for not coming in to work

The Scholar

W G. Maloney, a young man arrested today for riding trains, claimed in the police court this morning that he was making a study of the under-world and became a hobo in order to get a closer view.

Mayor Smith imposed a 20 day sentence on him and informed him that he would be given every opportunity to make a study of hoboes and members of the chain gang.

from 1913 newspaper

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Tips from Liz

* If you have painful arthritis, go out and buy flaxseed. You can find it at any grocery store, in the health section. I had pain in my thumb for years, and when I started eating about 2 tablespoons of flaxseed a day, the pain completely disappeared. You can sprinkle it on cereal, soups, sandwiches, etc. and it tastes good and nutty! And no more pain!

* Always keep several get-well cards lined up on your mantel - when unexpected visitors come by they will think you've been sick and unable to clean.

* Use your pizza stone to bake cookies - they will be much softer.

* To kill unwanted grass, just pour a little Heinz vinegar (white) in crevices and between bricks.

* Cascade is great for getting wine stains out of white clothes.

* For you coffee lovers, to make regular coffee stronger and more flavorful, just add a tea-

spoonful of instant coffee to your regular cup. This makes great iced coffee as well.

* To get those mineral deposits out of your steam iron, just fill the water compartment with white vinegar, then steam iron a soft rag until the vinegar level drops to low-- fill up with water and do it again. Your iron will be like new!

* This one from Annelie Owens, when you leave eyeglasses in your car when you shop, be sure and take them out of the sun. The magnification might possibly cause a fire if the sun's rays hit them just right. This can apply to your home as well.

* If you use your tap water for drinking, only drink from the cold water side. The warm water allows more lead particles to come through.

* Be sure and store your nuts in the fridge or freezer - they can get rancid quickly if left at room temperature.

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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to the winner of last month's Photo of the Month award! **Sandra Majors** was the first caller to correctly identify the photo as that of **Richard Gipson**, who is running to replace **Glenn Watson** as District 5 Councilman. Sandra said she attended the old Butler High School with Richard, and that she and her husband **Audy** were raised in Dallas Mill Village.

Michael Sylvester wants to wish his sweet wife **Lindsay** a Happy August Birthday! Also, they have a wedding anniversary coming up (their 5th) on Aug. 30.

For those who didn't know where **Shaver's Books** has moved, they are now located on the 2nd floor of Railroad Station Antiques, located across the street from the Railroad Depot downtown. John still has those hard-to-find local books you won't find anywhere else.

We are so proud of **Rebekah McKinney**, who is a partner with law firm **Watson, Jimmerson, Martin, McKinney, Helms & Artrip**. She was recently sworn in as secretary of the Alabama Asso. for Justice, formerly Alabama Trial lawyers Asso., and is in line

to become their first female president.

The **Madison County High School class of '63** had its 45th reunion mid-July, at the home of **Charles and Sue (Frazier) Flanders** in Huntsville. Fourteen of the original class members and several spouses attended the important affair.

We were so sorry to hear of the passing of **Nancy Weston** on June 29. She was the founder of Weston Agency and supporter of the arts for many years. We send our condolences to her sister **Jan**, brother **Bud** and the many other family and friends.

The **Historic Lowry House** just added another award - they were recently presented with the Huntsville Beautification Award. If you drive by their location you will see why

Happy Birthday to that handsome **Tom Crain** of the Coffee Tree. He looks better every year when that birthday rolls around!

Speaking of **The Coffee Tree**,

Kitty Dawson and **Tom** are hosting 3 musical benefits for **B. D. Chase**, who died unexpectedly at the young age of 61. He was the talented country comedy song writer who coordinated the Songwriters Open Mike night at the Coffee Tree every weekend, and who was loved by everyone he knew. He had a cousin here, along with his friends at the Coffee Tree. The benefits will be held on Aug. 9, (8 p.m.) and Aug. 17 & 24 (1 p.m. til) at the Coffee Tree, at the corner of Bailey Cove Rd. and Weatherly Rd.

Put September 6 on your calendar - that is the date for the annual **Trade Day on the Square**, in downtown Huntsville, where you can pick up everything from free **back issues** of "**Old Huntsville**" magazine to flowers, paintings, honey, homemade jellies, etc. Lots of entertainment and food for all, from 8am to 5pm.

We keep hearing rumors that with the school consolidation, **East Clinton School** may close, but we also hear there may be

Photo of The Month

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

Call (256) 534-0502

Hint: This little boy used to be a news reporter, but now he is only on TV every other Thursday night.



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some good news with it. Many are talking about the possibility of a beautiful park for the community to enjoy, possibly being built there if the school is no longer used.

I saw **Wade Russell** (previous owner of **Star Market**) at the bank recently and I promise he looks as young now as he did when I went to Auburn University with him, a few years ago! (WAR EAGLE!)

A recent Monday night **Concert in the Park** at Big Spring park was packed with people, and the weather was just perfect. It was great to see **Buck** and **Janet Watson** there with their family. You should have seen Janet rocking out to the music with her sweet grandsons!

For those of you who are new to Huntsville, the **Concerts in the Park** take place every Monday evening starting at 6:30 and are packed with people bringing dogs and cats, along with children & grandchildren and blankets & food & coolers. It is always fun!

On September 6 in Hazel Green, **Ole Dad's BBQ** will be hosting a Poker Run and Community Benefit for Muscular Distrophy. It will take place starting at 9am at Carter's Cotton Gin. For more information call **Rosemary Leatherwood** at (256) 828-8777. The event will feature a motorcycle run, live bands and door prizes.

I met the sweetest guy recently - **Daniel White** lives in Harvest and works at Home Away From Home adult care, on Andrew Jackson Way. He's really proud of his mom **Glenda Taylor**, as well as **Amos** and **Alicia Taylor** of Chicago, his grandparents. His little brother **Chris Elliott** lives in New Jersey. Along with Daniel, I met **Felicia McCrary**, who's husband **Dewaun** is a land surveyor. They are parents to 2 year old twins **Kevin & Calvin Parker**, and **Carlos Parker**, who's 4.

Happy Birthday to pretty

Felicia Sutherlin, who's proud Mom is **Cheryl Tribble**, our good friend in Woodstock.

George and Dottie Redmond have lived in Huntsville for 17 years and just love it here. George is a Christian illusionist, and Dottie is a children's book author. They are really proud of son **Neal** whose wife **Deborah** works as a nurse at Huntsville Hospital. Neal and Deborah are parents of **Kristin**, who will begin working on her Masters at Johns Hopkins University in the fall, and daughter **Melissa**, who just completed her first year at Auburn University.

I really enjoy any time I can speak with **Harold Jackson**, who has been associated with the Lion's Club for many years and who works very hard for the club. The club, with Historic Huntsville Foundation, helps to host the annual **Trade Day around the Square**, that thousands of folks attend every September (Sep. 6 this year).

If you recall, a lady called asking us whatever happened to the black & white cow that stood sentinel over the **Meadow Gold Dairies** on Clinton Street for years. Meadow Gold closed their operations and the cow disappeared. **J. D. Clay** called us and told us that the cow is now in the barnyard behind Constitution Hall Village downtown. Then we heard from **Opal Parker** that the cow

may be at the Purity plant in Madison. Any more info from readers?

Opal's mom **Lizzie Ricketts** will be 104 on her January birthday! Lizzie worked at Lincoln Mills for 20 years in the Battery room, and raised 4 little girls alone because her husband died at a very early age. **Opal** and husband **Ben** are really proud of Lizzie.

Have a GREAT August, and watch over your older neighbors.

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Salad Topping

- 2 c. old fashioned oats
- 1/2 c. butter, melted
- 1/3 c. Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/3 c. wheat germ
- 1 t. oregano, dried
- 1/2 t. thyme, dried
- 1/2 t. seasoned salt

Mix all ingredients in a bowl. Spread onto ungreased 15x10x1" baking pan and bake at 350 for 15-18 minutes. Cool well and store in an airtight container.

Fried Brown Rice

- 1/2 green pepper, minced
 - 1 t. butter
 - 2 eggs
 - 4 c. brown rice, cooked
 - 2 T. soy sauce
- Saute green pepper in

skillet with butter. Add eggs and stir til scrambled and set. Add rice and soy sauce, heat through.

Red Beans and Rice

- 1 c. white rice
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 15-oz. cans dark red kidney beans, or 4 c. cooked kidney beans
- 2 15-oz. cans diced tomatoes
- 1 t. garlic powder
- 1 t. oregano
- 1 t. basil
- Salt to taste
- Grated Cheddar cheese

Prepare rice. In skillet with a cover, saute the onion til limp. Add remaining ingredients and cook over medium heat til bubbly, stirring occasionally. Cover, lower heat and simmer 15 minutes. Serve beans over rice, topped with grated cheddar cheese.

Applesauce

- 5 lbs. apples, peeled, cored and chopped
 - 2 c. water
 - 1 1/2 c. sugar & vanilla extract
- Mix all in a saucepan and boil til apples are tender. Add vanilla at the last. Serve warm or chilled.

Roasted Sunflower Seeds

- 2 c. hulled sunflower seeds
- 1 T. butter
- 1 t. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 t. salt
- Garlic powder to taste
- Onion powder to taste

Mix all until blended. Place a thin layer on a buttered cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Seeds are done when they are lightly browned and crunchy.

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1/3 c. popcorn

Heat oil in large covered pan. Place 3 kernels popcorn in the pan. When the kernels pop, pour in the remaining and reduce heat to medium. Cover and shake til popping slows to 3 pops every 3-4 seconds. Remove from pan and season as follows:

BBQ Popcorn:

2 t. dried parsley

2 t. paprika

1/2 t. hickory smoke salt

1/2 t. onion powder

1/2 t. garlic powder

Mix and pour over popcorn.

Kettle Corn:

1/2 c. popcorn

Vegetable oil

3 T. white sugar

Heat oil in pan til hot, add popcorn and sprinkle all of the sugar over it. Cover and shake continuously til popped.

Spicy Popcorn:

1 t. paprika

1/2 t. crushed red pepper

1/2 t. ground cumin

1/3 c. Parmesan cheese

1/4 c. butter, melted

Mix together and pour over hot popcorn.

Sweet Potato Chips

2 medium sweet potatoes

2 T. olive oil

Salt and pepper to taste

Paprika

Preheat your oven to 450 degrees. Peel sweet potatoes and slice as thinly as possible. Toss with the olive oil and spread in a thin layer on a buttered cookie sheet. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Bake for about 20 minutes and potatoes are crispy. Serve hot.

Cheesy Cauliflower

1 large head cauliflower

Topping:

1/2 c. mayonnaise

3 t. onion, finely chopped

2 t. mustard

1 c. cheddar cheese, grated

Wash cauliflower but don't dry. Cut into bite-size pieces and place in a casserole dish.

Cover with plastic wrap and microwave 8-9 minutes and the cauliflower is tender. Combine mayonnaise, onion and mustard, spoon over the cauliflower. Sprinkle cheese over all and microwave 1 minute and the cheese is melted.



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Huntsville Happenings in 1907

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

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

- The bursting of a water main leading from the city pumping station to the standpipe caused

no end of trouble Saturday and Sunday. A leak was found in front of the Schiffman Building on the southeast corner of the square early Saturday morning and a force of men set to work to dig down and make the necessary repair.

The job was bigger than they thought it to be. When the hard crust of the macadamized street was removed, the escaping water burst forth and flooded the street.

The flood washed out a large vegetable bed, then continued down the gutter and, being unable to get in the storm sewer at Randolph street, passed on down to Clinton and flooded that corner. Damage was reported as a result of the flood.



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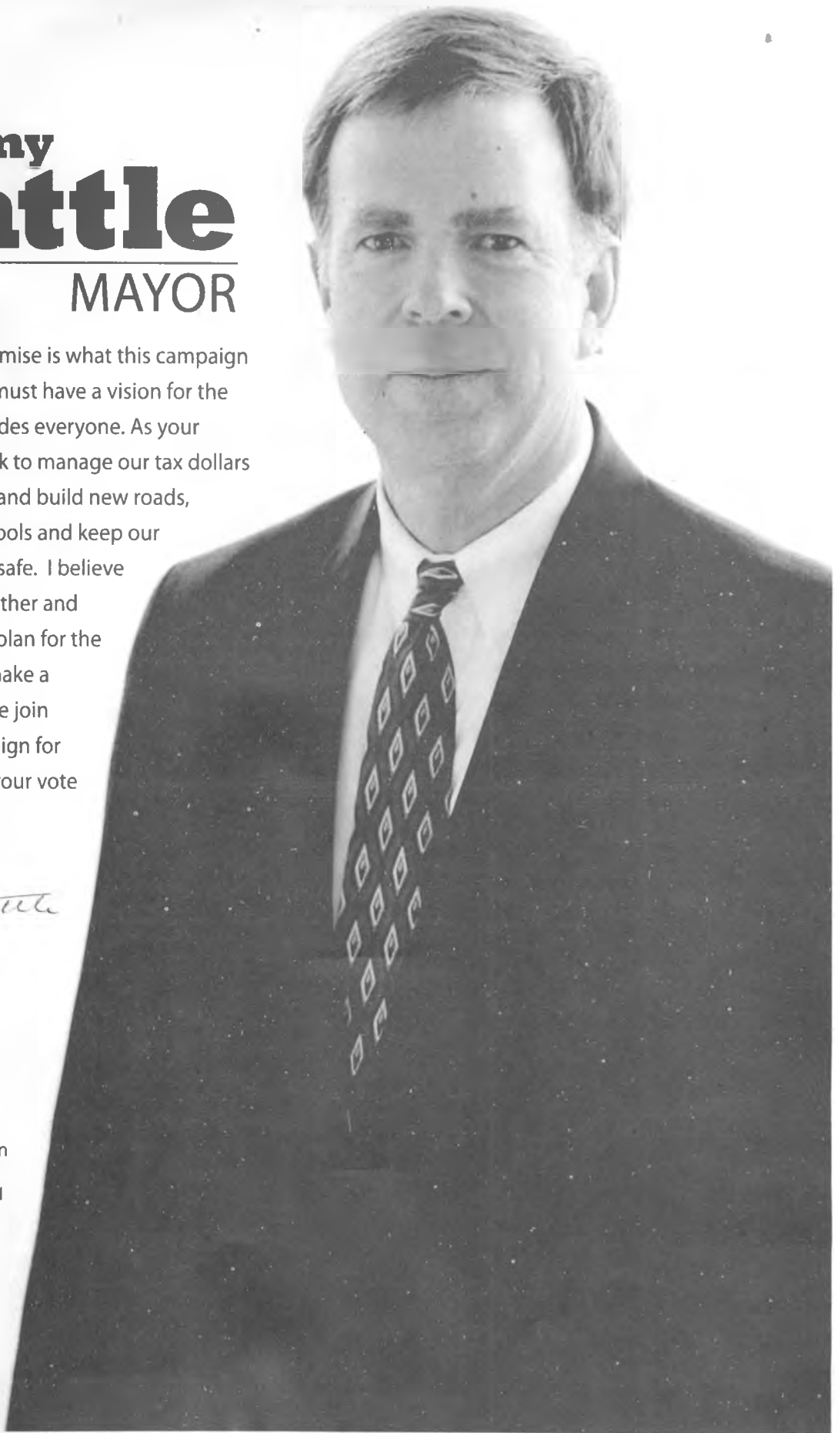
Tommy Battle

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"Huntsville's promise is what this campaign is all about. We must have a vision for the future that includes everyone. As your mayor, I will work to manage our tax dollars wisely, improve and build new roads, support our schools and keep our neighborhoods safe. I believe by working together and building a solid plan for the future, we can make a difference. Please join me in my campaign for mayor. I ask for your vote on August 26th."

Tommy Battle

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Venus Warriors Slug It Out

Mary Herben and Mable Brown, daughters of prominent residents of Scottsboro, fought a prizefight in a 16 foot ring pitched in an old barn on the outskirts of that town at three o'clock Sunday morning.

The cause of the fight was rivalry for the attentions of a young man named George Woodward.

Thirty-eight rounds were fought, in which both girls were severely punished, but neither had the advantage, and the contest was declared a draw.

The combatants were stripped to the waist, and every part of their bodies exposed to view bore the traces of punishment. The referee and seconds were all females, friends of the principals.

Lively wagering was done by the many spectators, most of whom were men.

Woodward has since declared that he will have nothing to do with either of the girls, most likely for fear of his well being and continued good health.

from 1890 newspaper

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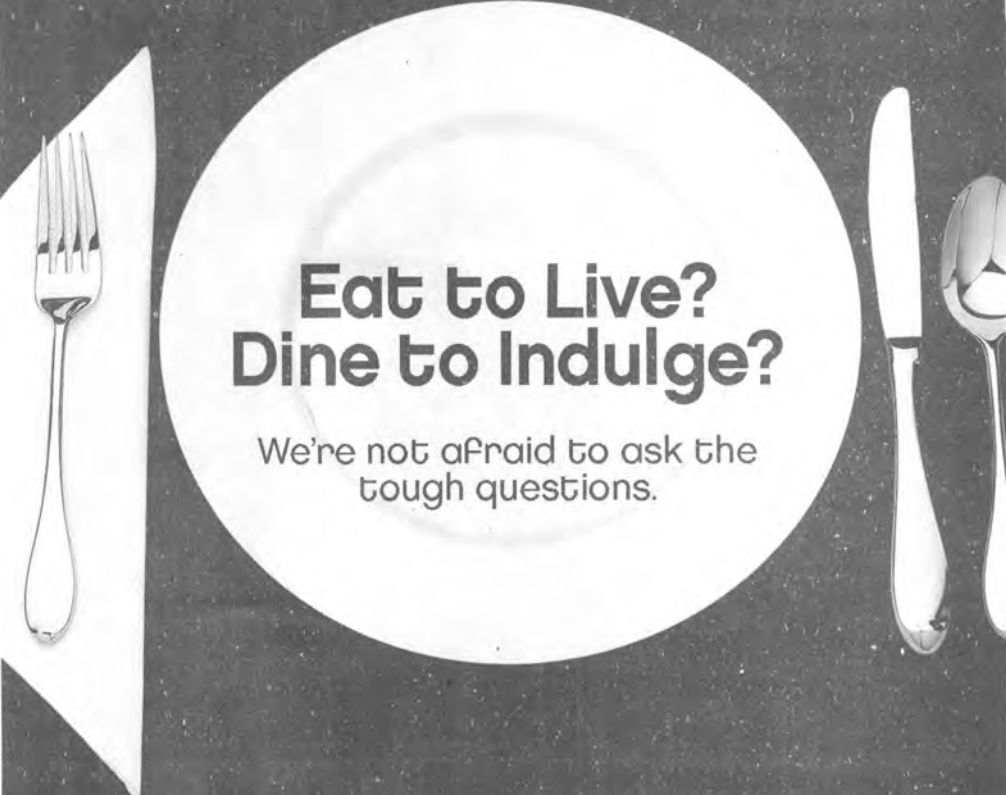
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Remembering Booger Town

by **Garland Derting**

Not far from the hum of Rocket City's buzzing traffic, a few acres of prime land is the sight of a quiet and lovely apartment complex. Located just west and north of Bob Wallace Avenue and Triana Boulevard, it is a far cry from what it was.

There are very few old times that history shied away from. This cotton mill village didn't deserve one letter that spelled its name— Booger Town, because the name was signed, sealed and branded by a bunch of pack rats that drug in after the mill closed. But come to think of it, the name fit these varmints like a glove.

Let's think about a name. A name can affect the lives of people from all walks of life. The name Booger Town is a good example. The name bewildered the brightest and puzzled new people that made Huntsville their home, and brought amazement to the curious. The name Booger Town did something sinister for the village. It put a weight on the good people's shoulders and hung out a welcome sign for trouble.

My Dad and mother had a good reason for moving into this cotton mill village. My family needed to eat and the cotton mill provided our needs for a hard day's work. This was in the twenties. Booger Town had decent hard working people. The village was one big happy family.

Whenever someone was in need the word got out. A cup of flour, sugar, potatoes, lard— what little the others had would find its way to the needy's front door. If one of the family had a cough, Vick's salve would be sent to their house.

The real name of the cotton mill village was the Old Nitten Mill. The village was a place of survival. Hard times was the name of the game.

But bad times wasn't as harsh to people in those days, because people weren't acquainted to what modern days had to offer, so desires and wants didn't burden the hearts of people. Everybody knew each other by first name. The mill was running full blast. Things were peaceful even though people were a little ill. There was peace in the village but things were going to change. The strain of life's burden would slowly pull a man down. Most families were large. The average family numbered from four to eight.

Coming from a young boy's thoughts I would say there were from forty to fifty houses. Each

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house had four rooms for each family to occupy. Four kids, six kids— it didn't matter.


Don't get me wrong— Booger Town had its own luxuries. By the grace of a woman preacher, who got the village folk to dig deep for pocket change and some folding money, she managed to buy a large tent— it was our church no matter what kind of material it was made of. The prayers got out and the blessings got in— and Booger Town had its own cemetery.

Being a young boy I can't remember any burials in the small unkempt plot— and it was said that no permission was required to bury a loved one there. But beyond any doubt it was a cemetery all right. Because I remember the remains had to be moved to another place. The people that built apartments there had to locate the next of kin to remove the bodies. And the talk was then that some of the bodies could have been overlooked. Because some of the people had

seen and heard strong sights and movements.

In 1929 a slow and killing kind of ghost hit all over our great land. It was the Great Depression, and so help me I will never figure out why people called it Great. It took a depression to bring silence to that hum of the cotton mill. It took a while for the truth to soak into the heads of the working people. If a cotton mill shut its gates, what else was waiting in the future? Not only was Booger Town going to face pain and hunger, the village was turning into violence and darkness. Empty houses were plentiful. Most folks that were there had kinfolk living in the country. They left the village to plow, plant and survive. So Booger Town was wide open for the undesirables.

The empty houses were occupied by what the old folks called carpetbaggers. The good folks had to hold their ground against the no good



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that tried to take over. It wasn't long until all the mill house windows were broken out. And when a house became empty it would eventually be torn down.

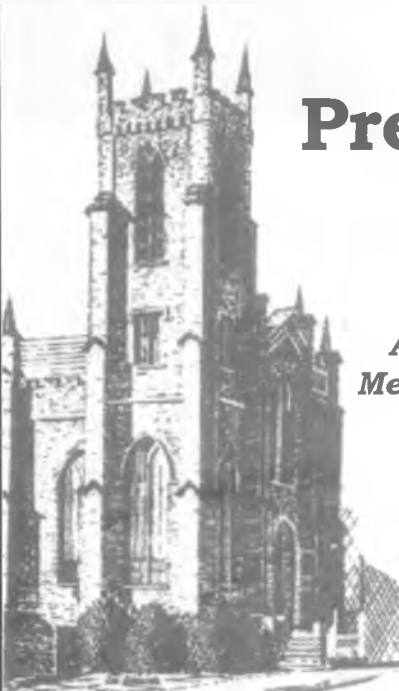
There's an old saying— there's a little good in everyone. But when it came to survival all good turns to bad. Like the time I was coming from the store with a few slices of bologna for my dad's lunch. Two guys grabbed the sack and as I looked back they were fighting over it. These self-surviving men were mean to the core. But the more you watched them the crazier they became. Like the guy that went from house to house with a ham bone on a string. He would tell the lady cooking beans; I will dip my ham bone in your beans for a nickel. But two dips will be a dime.

If you have a desire to ride over to Booger Town, head to the old Center Theatre and go to Black's on Ninth Avenue, but don't expect to hear the roar of the old cotton gin or to see long lines of wagons loaded with cotton. You will hear the noise of half drunks standing out in the open and see them passing wine bottles from one to another.

Back then, it didn't have to be drunks to give you a hard time. I remember what ice we got in Booger Town was delivered by a flat bed truck. It was brought from the ice plant down town. Sometimes we had an iceman that didn't mind us getting the small chips of ice that fell as he chipped a small piece from the five hundred-pound chunk. For a dime Mom could get enough to last twenty-four hours, if it was put in a tub and covered.

On one hot August day the iceman, Mr. Grunch seemed upset. As my friend Soupy reached for a chip of ice, like a streak the ice pick went through Soupy's hand and pinned it to the wooden truck bed. As old Grunch pulled it out of Soupy's hand he had a pleased gleam in his eye. Later we heard Mr. Grunch fell in a ditch and broke his leg. His house and truck burned putting him out of business, probably a blessing, wouldn't you say?

My dad didn't depend on the mill job altogether to make ends meet. He made a few extra bucks trading. He kept around an old mule, a goat and a



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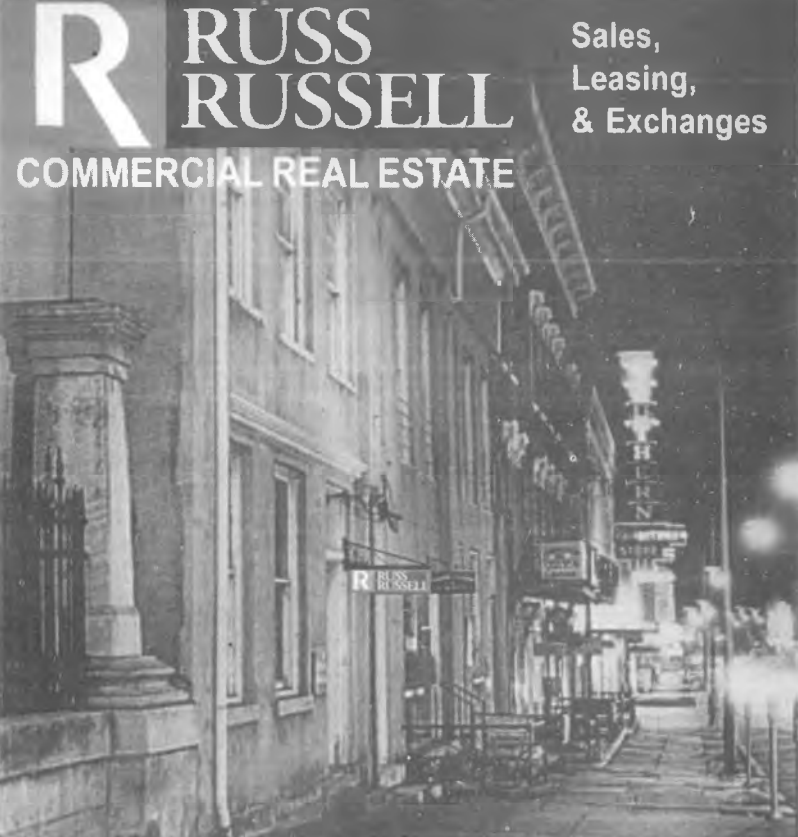
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rundown T Model Ford. He had all kinds of odds and ends laying around for a person to trip on. Dad always tried to raise a hog to feed his family. Neighbors would help to slaughter and prepare the fresh meat and when the Depression hit it was a full-time job guarding anything that was eatable or valuable at any price.

We always had a few chickens for fresh eggs. And maybe if we were lucky, Mom would surprise the family with chicken and dumplings for dinner. But to get fresh eggs you had to be ready for the cackle of the hen, and grab the eggs before they hit the nest. If you weren't watchful a hungry hand would grab it and hit the back alley.

I was just a lad when my family moved from Elora, Tennessee to the Nitten Mill village. But I learned quick that a switchblade knife and brass

nucks weren't boy's toys.

Every day more and more friends were moving from Booger Town. Dad knew it was time to be getting ready to leave the old run down place. It was in the thirties and we were just kids. But we knew what was going on.

One day Dad got an extra pair of pants and shirts. We watched as Mom put a few biscuits and fat back in a brown bag. As Dad kissed us all good-bye, I heard Mom ask where he was going. Softly he said, I will write when I get there. In four weeks a letter came. Mom quickly read the one page. Something fell from the letter and Mom smiled as she picked it up. It was a five-dollar bill. I will never forget her words. "Thank the good Lord for that man. And this here money."

As the old saying goes, time sure slips away. Because in no time my Dad walked in the front


door, hugged everyone and with a look of achievement, he quickly locked the doors, ordered us all to the kitchen and emptied his pocket on the table. It was more money than our eyes and mind thought existed. Dad said that's the foundation of a house— and the freedom of Booger Town.

Dad had been working in a Detroit car factory. The year was 1941. The Japs had pulled their sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. No more cars would be made until '46. The end of the war.

Just three blocks from Booger Town, Dad bought a lot to build our house on. He got it for two

"A balanced diet is a sausage and biscuit in each hand."

Jenny Logan, Athens



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hundred dollars. That was when things started sky rocketing. Our government bought 35,000 acres of land from dozens of farmers. Redstone Arsenal sits there now, just six miles from old Booger town. Boy what time can do.

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, never in history has any country put a fighting force together so fast. The Huntsville arsenal seemed to have grown out of the ground overnight.

But something seemed strange. It took a while for me to grasp what was wrong. Then it hit me - the men were scarce - they were joining all parts of the service. So the women who were only used to having babies and making lye soap were slipping on pairs of coveralls and going to work on the assembly lines at Redstone Arsenal. The women were turning out bombs so fast the arsenal was named the bullet plant.

They had three shifts— 24 hours a day. Bombs were rolling out like marbles. Every thing was rationed from sugar to gas, and even building material.

My Dad went to work as a painter and being the talker he was, he met this man who would come in handy. The man had a brother who owned a sawmill in Paint Rock Valley. He traded the man for enough rough saw mill lumber to almost build our house. I was young and Booger Town strong. So Dad hired a carpenter and I was put through the mill. It wasn't long until our family would say "so long" to Booger Town. A few roughnecks said they were staying no matter what.

After moving I would always go back. I watched as bulldozers destroyed and dumped truck-loads of what used to be Booger Town. Some of the down and dirty stayed until the last moment and had to be dragged out screaming and fighting. As I watched through the dust from destruction of falling shacks, I remembered the neat rows of houses and ladies planting pretty flowers— I seem

A diplomatic husband to his wife, "How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you never look any older?"

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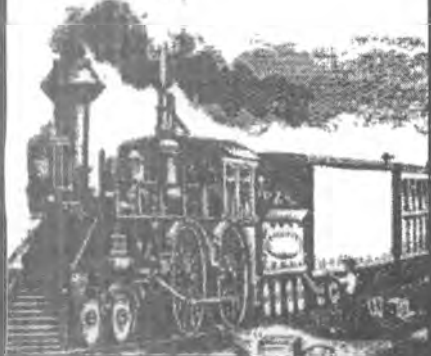
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to hear my mother bidding Dad good-bye as he walked through the cotton mill gates.

But the home we built is only five blocks from that lovely apartment complex. My sister owns the old home place today.

I'm sure I have removed some of the mystery around Booger Town, but maybe I have helped the curious to know more about it. If you come from a large city you have seen everything that Booger Town had to offer. But maybe in a more civilized way—the expert burglars, bootleggers, gamblers and muggers didn't wait for night fall, I could go on and on.

About the dark corners—like the time one of the big-time gamblers staggered into a card game and said deal me in—they shot him six times, then threw him into a hog pen to be devoured.

As long as there's people, there will be a Booger Town. And every person's story is different. But you can bet your peg leg it won't hold a light to the Booger Town that we survived in and still look back at with a tear for the good and bad.

The most foolhardy way to disagree with your wife is out loud."

Gerald Smithers, married

A Letter

April 26, 1895

Dear Libby,

I wrote a little last night, will try to add a little noontime. The boys are complaining a some now about not getting any money. Hope we will hear from Charlie tonight, will tell you if we do. I do not like to take your money for myself, my little girl. Yes I can meet you in Boise if you want me to but do you think we can stand the extra expense it will (be) an additional \$2.50 at the Hotel beside \$1.00 for dinner two days providing I would walk both ways and if I road one way it would be \$7.00 both ways. \$10.00 with your fare added to the above then all baggage over 40 lbs. costs two cents per lb., so you can see what it will cost.

Night. It has been raining a little the first for some time. Just showers and is quite hot through the day but cool at night. Now if this falls through we could get work in Chicago that we could live on all right. Anything to make a good honest living. Mother says Sue has a baby that is the reason she got her breath so harde. What was it that was broken. I do not think you will not kneed a smaller trunk, you can bring that much with you and send the rest by

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freight just as you please. If we have to build we can put up a shell large enough to put up a partition of cheap, calico and make it do until we find out wheather the mine will pay or not.

I do not like to invest very much in a house as it is not worth one cent when you leave it. As no one would buy it and it is just that much lost.

I will not get to write enough in this but will try and write some more in a day or two again. Yes I will tell you when ever I feel bad or any thing goes wrong did you think I would not.

I am in a hurry to night as the P Master wants all our letters mailed at the burg. They have to have so many letters to cancel or it seases to be an office and at present the number is getting small. I have been just handing them to the stage driver in the morning as he goes by.

If the office is changed I will have to walk 3 mi. to get our mail. Yes you can not come to quick to suit me. Although I have no place to take you and board is only \$6.00 per week. And just common at that. Will have to close for this time will love you hugely when you get out here don't you forget it. Good by with love to you and Ernest and you.

From the old boy Geo.



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Seeking members of family. My mother belonged to Mr. Grant Hughes of Franklin, Tenn. Her name was Rose and she was a cook for the quarters. I was sold to Mr. Thomas Perry of Morgan County, Ala., in 1854 and have heard nothing of my family since.

I can be contacted by writing Jasper Davis at Corinth, Miss.

from 1869 newspaper

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The Last Soldier

John A. Steger was born on December 7, 1845, the son of Kennon H. Steger. The elder Steger had moved from Virginia and settled in Ryland, a few miles north of Huntsville, where he became a prosperous farmer.

When Alabama seceded from the Union in 1861, John, like all young men everywhere, was anxious to enlist. He was attending school in Ryland at the time and his father reminded him that fifteen was too young to go off and be a soldier. The war became a reality early the next year when General Mitchel and his hated Yankee troops invaded Madison County, burning, looting and terrorizing at will.

These were dangerous times. The Yankees automatically suspected any young man as being a rebel, while the Confederates assumed any young Southern man not in uniform was a deserter, or even worse, a traitor.

On May 24, 1863, John Steger was sworn in as a private in the Confederate States of America army. He had heard of Confederate forces camped at Brownsboro, and after receiving permission from his father, quickly made his way to join them.

The group he joined was Company G of Colonel William A. Johnson's 4th Cavalry Regiment, which was then passing through Madison County after a raid into Tennessee. Johnson's regiment served in the brigade of General Philip Dale Roddy, the famous "Defender of North Alabama."

Steger's army life was filled with adventure, and the teenage soldier quickly rose through the ranks to sergeant. He served mainly in North Alabama and Mississippi, though he also saw combat in Tennessee and Georgia.

His closest call came on June 10, 1864, at the battle of Brice's Crossroads, Mississippi. Roddy's men had ridden all day in the hot sun to reach the battlefield, but General Forrest ordered them into action almost immediately. When

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the cavalry dismounted, the soldiers counted off and every fourth man was assigned as a horse holder. Steger was fortunate enough to be so designated. However, he traded places with another and charged with his comrades. As the Alabamians were driving back the Yankees, a bullet struck Steger's cartridge box and cut the strap holding it to his side. A fraction of an inch closer and it would have seriously injured him.

Another of Steger's encounters took place quite close to home. In the fall of 1863, Roddy's horsemen had been sent to North Georgia. When they returned to Alabama, they found the Yankees in force at New Market. Steger and several others were sent to scout. Unfortunately, they were cut off by the enemy for several days. Steger suggested the men head for his father's house near Ryland. They reached the house late in the afternoon. Steger was about to approach the house when he was stopped by one of the family's servants. The old black woman warned him that four Yankees were already there. Steger and his companions waited until early morning, then they surprised the sleeping Yankees and captured them, without firing a shot.

After General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, word was slow to reach the scattered remnants of the Confederate army still struggling in North Alabama. It was more than a month later, May 17, 1865, when General Roddy finally surrendered at Pond Springs (now Wheeler, Alabama).

For John Steger, like hundreds of thousands

of other men, there was nothing else left to do except begin the long walk back home. Returning to Huntsville, he found a land that was completely devastated, with people starving and no way to earn a living.

Luckily, parts of his father's farm were still intact, and he was able to return to farming.



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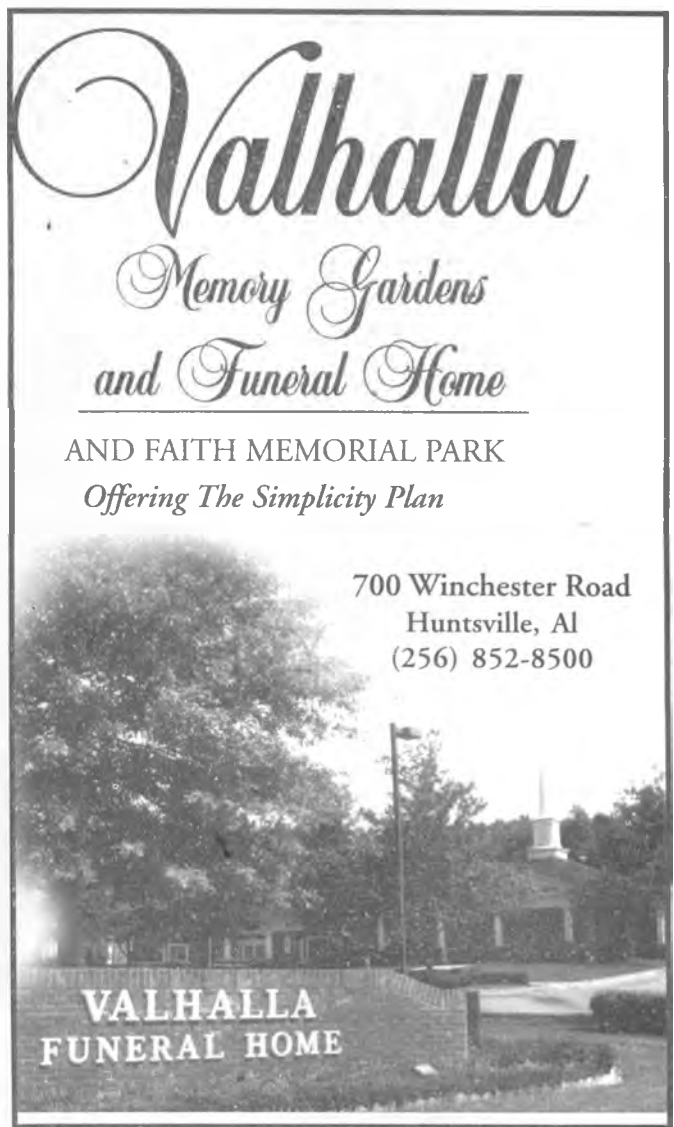
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On January 19, 1870, he married Mary Simpson and with both of them working in the fields, they were able to rebuild the rest of the farm.

When the United States went to war with Spain in 1898, there were reservations in parts of the South about putting on a Yankee uniform and fighting a Yankee war.

Most people were content to sit back and see what would happen, but when General Joe Wheeler and General Fitzhugh Lee (late of the Confederate army) joined the hostilities, the mood changed in a hurry. Young men everywhere joined in droves.

When John tried to enlist, he was told that he was too old. There were no openings for 53 year-old soldiers. Disappointed, he returned home and sent his two sons in his place.

Around the turn of the century, Steger became active in veteran's affairs. He served several times as commander of the Egbert J. Jones Camp, United Confederate Veterans, in Huntsville.

Later he was elected Com-

"It seems like the youngest one always gets into trouble even if he didn't do it."

Evan Troup, age 5

mander of the Third Alabama Brigade and was often called by his honorary title of General, which went with the position.

Too old to serve in another war, John was forced to fight the war sitting on a bench outside the old courthouse, swapping wartime stories with his comrades.

Time began to pass by quickly. When automobiles became popular on Huntsville's muddy streets, John Steger was already too old to obtain a driver's license. The first war came and went with its bloody trench warfare and deadly machine-gun nests. Every year would see fewer of John's comrades returning to share the bench and swap stories with him.

Prohibition was voted in, and then out. Our country was in the midst of the Depression when a group of men went to visit John and give him the news.

A friend of John's had died and now he was the only surviving Confederate soldier in Madison County. It became harder for people to get him to talk about his service in the Confederacy.

When war with Japan was declared in 1941, John Steger raised an American flag in his front yard. Every day, morning and night, it was raised and low-



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ered for the duration of the war.

At the age of 99, no longer able to take care of himself, he was forced to move in with his daughter in Birmingham. Shortly before his 100th birthday, he returned to Huntsville one last time, by airplane. Years before, he had walked much of the same route, as a defeated soldier.

On Saturday morning, February 28, 1948, John Alexander Steger died. While the rest of the world worried about the Iron Curtain and atomic bombs, a few people gathered at Shiloh Church in Ryland to pay their respects.

Among the people gathered that day were veterans from the Second War, the First War, and the Spanish-American War. There were none from the Civil War.

John Steger was the last Confederate soldier.



The closest some people come to a 4.0 in school is their blood alcohol content.

1907 Court News

- Mary White, Ret Wales and Jenny Humphrey were fined \$100 each with the option of working out the fines at the rate of 50 cents the day.

- Charlie Mason, a young man who was caught in the house was fined \$100.

- Mary Davison, an inmate of the house, was given 24 hours in which to get out of the city and

unless she is gone by that time she must pay a fine of \$100 or begin a term of 209 days labor.

- Dave Pointer was fined \$5 for using profane language in the presence of females. Lacy Clemens was fined \$5 for leaving a team unhitched. R. Dervis, drunk and disorderly, was fined \$20. F. L. Oates, drunk, was fined \$10.

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A Soldier's Diary

Some of the incidents of the Civil War are extremely touching. We have before us the diary of a young soldier of Huntsville, Alabama, who was killed at Bull Run. His diary was taken from his pocket by a member of the New York Seventy-first Regiment.

His name was George T. Anderson, and we learn from his posthumous record that on the 20th of April, with his brother Stephen, he left home with a company of volunteers. He describes the parting with home and family and friends and admits that he "hated to leave most awfully," but justifies himself by stating that his country was in danger and needed him.

He mentions all that transpired the next day at Dalton, Georgia and tells us that the regiment to which his company was attached elected E. J. Jones, of Huntsville, Colonel and E. M. Law, Lieutenant colonel. May 5, he "woke up in Jonesborough, Tennessee, about sunrise, saw lots of beautiful women, received a bouquet from a very nice girl with a soul-stirring inscription in it." This incident reminded him of home and his sister Pauline.

On May 8, he "wrote home for the seventh or eighth time, and was mustered into the service



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of the Confederate States." Now the reality of his situation opened to him. He "felt homesick," he says, "because he could not hear from home." At length he has two letters from home. He has passed through Lynchburg, and in due time reached Harper's Ferry. Here is his account of his first Sabbath at the Ferry:

"Sunday, May 10-- What a cold day for the 10th of May, everybody is acting as if it were Monday, all firing guns, cooking, playing cards, etc; had a dress parade with Col. Jackson inspecting us. He is a large, fat old fellow; looks very much like an old Virginia farmer. Returned to camp, prepared and ate a scanty dinner. Had Episcopal service, and then a good old-fashioned sermon from our Pastor Chadrick. Oh, how I love to listen to him. Wrote a letter home; had another dress parade

in the evening; rained all night."

This is not a bad fellow. All through his diary we find evidences of goodness. On another occasion we find that he has "finished the last chapter of the Acts," and he has done a little reading of the Testament.

On May 2 he received two letters from his sister Caroline, and replied to them next day. We have full view of this lad, for his

records of himself now and then that he "feels very bad and unwell." He was devastated when his brother Stephen is attacked with what appeared to be a fever.

"May 29-- I woke up and found it raining; Stephen has fever; cold day; drilled one hour, and I am now waiting for my breakfast. Stephen took the measles today-- I moved him to a private house and stayed with

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him at night; ate my supper with Mrs. Jordan; I intend to eat there all the time that she stays, if possible. Two companies of Virginians ordered off this evening for a fight somewhere."

We have him afterward in various moods. He is himself sick occasionally; but what with letters from home and the prospect of a fight and the recovery of Stephen, he becomes more cheerful.

"June 19-- Received a box of cake and a pistol from home, with more letters; glad to get them at any time."

The regiment is withdrawn from Harper's Ferry. What follows will help to show at what time the reinforcements reached Manassas Junction.

"Sunday, July 7-- We were ordered to fall back to our old position near Winchester; some of the men thought it was a retreat and began to grumble; the general ordered a note to be read to his command, in explanation of his conduct; we started in an awful hot day; I fell

out of the ranks, went off the road some distance, and got a splendid dinner from an old lady and two young ones-- splendid milk, butter and bread, and I did ample justice to it; she upbraided us for leaving her to the mercy of the Yankees. I straggled into camp at sunset, completely exhausted, and went off to bed without supper.

"July 10-- received a letter from home, all's well; have struck our tents and are lying around here waiting for orders; don't know what it means; a huge columbia came up a few moments since to be placed upon this hill; that looks as if we are going to fight here; the militia and prisoners are

engaged in throwing up breast-works and planting cannon for the defense of this place; the Yankees are advancing and seem determined to make an effort to drive us out from here, but I think they will fail. They outnumber us, but they can't outfight us; received orders to strike tents this evening, which we did, but a rain coming up. We pitched them again for shelter; expected all day for enemy to advance upon us.

"July 11-- Struck tents again this morning at daylight. I suppose it is meant to deceive the enemy as to our force, etc. Drilled two and a half hours on battalion drill.

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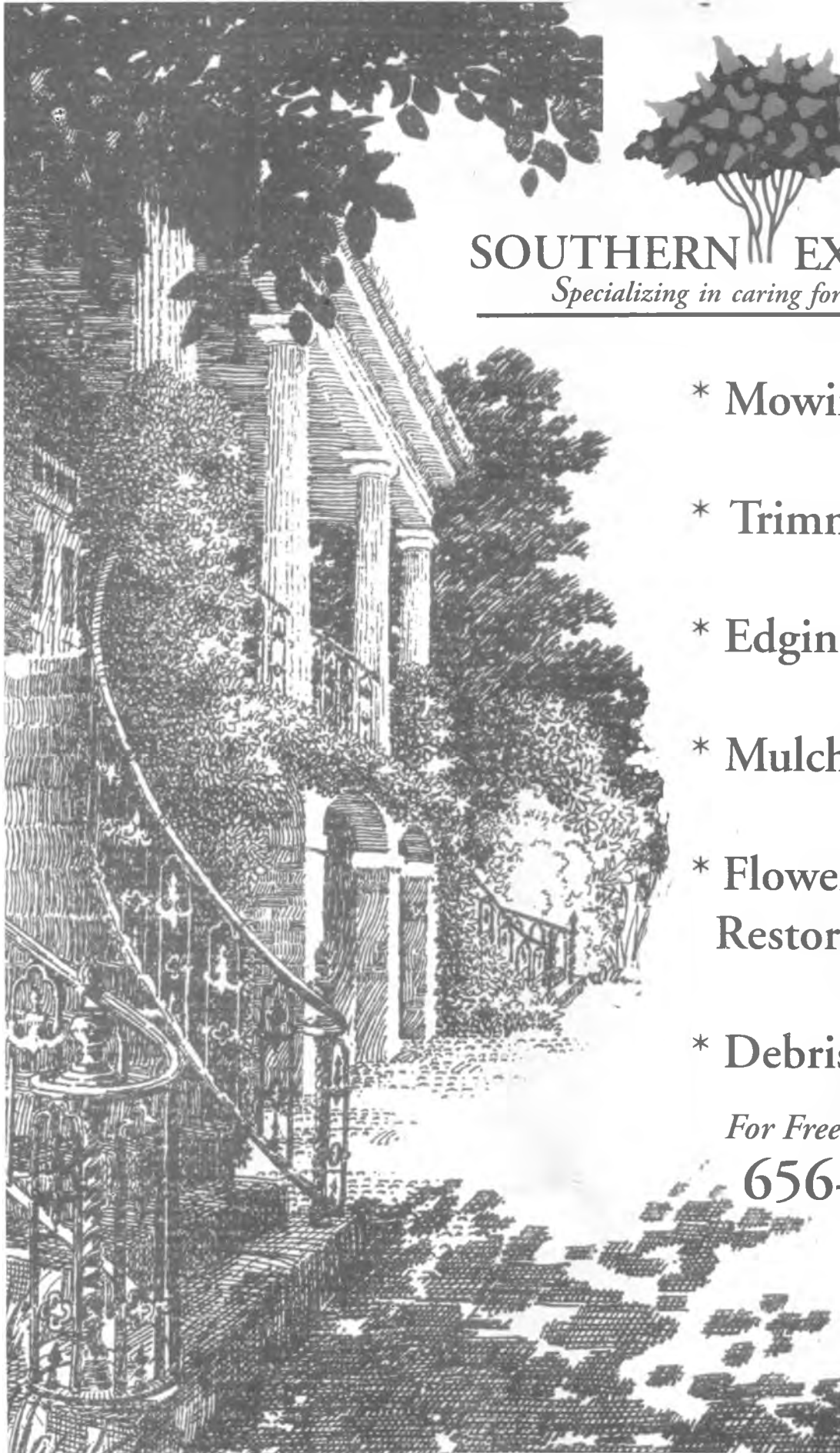
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"Sunday, July 14-- Read twenty psalms; helped draw provisions, cleaned up my pistol, loaded it and looked over a new paper; have now just completed writing a letter home; I wonder why the pastor did not preach.

"July 18-- received orders to strike tents and cook two day's provisions in preparation for a march; this was done and we lay around until evening before receiving orders, received them at last and went through Winchester, stopped in town until late, and bid farewell. I suppose for the last time, to Winchester, about 5 o'clock. At about six, we began marching all night, slept about two hours; found ourselves on the road at daylight, weary, but we rested awhile and then marched on the Shenandoah, rested there about five hours, waded the stream and pitched out again to the relief of Beauregard, who they said was pressed by overwhelming odds.

"We arrived at Piedmont Station about one hour after dark, completely worn out, went to sleep, but was aroused by a heavy rain in a few minutes, crept under a shelter of wheat, but got very wet, having left my coat in the wagon, dried myself, procured a shawl from Uncle Washington, and slept until after midnight. We were roused by orders to 'fall in' and did so.

"We crowded on board the cars for Manassas, where we ar-

rived about 10 o'clock a.m., of the 20th, rested awhile, bought some butter and prepared to eat, having done without food for two days, received orders to march again and said we were going right into the fight.

"We heard a good deal of bragging about the fight of the 17th, though it was not much of a fight. We moved about two miles and bivouacked in the woods, where some bread and meat soon reached us and we walked right into it like starved hounds eat, now and then all day; slept a little and slept well at night; got up a little after sunrise on the 21st, broiled my meat and ate it with some old crackers full of bugs; expecting orders to march every moment; will get them, I think, for it is Sunday, and we will fight, I suppose, before another week.

I've been thinking of Mama lately almost every day, and all she had to put up with, with me growing up and all and not giving her any peace."

George Anderson, Company I, Fourth Alabama.

This closed the diary, and a few hours later the writer lay a corpse upon the battlefield.



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"A man is on top of the Russel Erskine hotel and he's going to jump off the roof!" Within minutes all the citizens of downtown had heard the news. Eagerly, almost morbidly, they rushed to the scene of the impending tragedy. The street in front of the hotel became a mass of swirling humanity as crowds jostled for a better look. The year was 1942.

"Someone said he works at the Huntsville Arsenal and he just got a letter from his wife saying that she was leaving him."

This news, by some unidentified source, was quickly consumed and spread to the four winds by the crowds who were now grasping at every morsel of new information.

Suddenly the still night air was rent by the screeching sounds of police cars arriving on the scene. Emerging from their cars the policemen began pushing the crowds back with night sticks, trying to establish some sense of order.

"Be careful. He's got a gun," yelled some voice from out of the darkness.

The crowd ran scurrying for cover as the policemen quickly ducked behind the safety of their automobiles.

When a few minutes had passed with no shots being fired, the crowd, now emboldened by the latest developments,

began surging forward. The crowd now numbered in the hundreds and was growing larger by the minute.

Preserving your family history

One evening last week while taking a walk around our neighborhood, my sister and I passed one house that had put out their garbage and I was saddened to see on top of a box of discarded belongings were several old photographs, some still in their frames.

I thought of the shoe box of old photos I found when I went through my mother's belongings when she passed away many years ago. There were many I could not identify. I brought them out during a family reunion and asked her brother and sister to help me identify the pictures and we had a wonderful afternoon reminiscing and I got to know some family history. By putting the photos in an album with the stories that were shared I have preserved a part of our family that can be passed on and not left in an unidentifiable trash heap.

So, I would like to help you preserve your past. Do you have a shoe box of family history that needs to be identified and preserved?

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While the police were frantically working to regain control, the sounds of a woman screaming emerged above the noise of the mob. The crowd had inadvertently pushed her into a store front window, breaking the glass, and now she was running hysterically down the street with blood streaming down her face and arms. Before the police could reach her, another woman began screaming. This woman had been knocked down by the crowd jostling for a better look.

Sensing that something had to be done, and quickly, the brave men of the Huntsville Police Department drew their pistols and resolutely began making their way to the front entrance of the hotel where the unseen deranged man lay in wait.

There was no hesitation in the purposeful stride of our brave policemen on that cold day back in 1942. This was their town and this was their job. Someone had to take charge and they were the ones to do it.

Cautiously, with their guns drawn they took the elevator to the top floor. The men were silent, probably thinking of their loved ones, and of the danger that lay ahead.

History does not record the name of the first brave soul to exit onto the roof, ready to do battle with the fiend lurking in the shadows.

History does not even record the name of the man, who after receiving the dear John letter, tried to commit suicide.

For, you see ... it never happened.

Some person, who understandably later chose to remain silent, started the rumor and within minutes the whole town was caught up in a frenzied state of anticipation. Every rumor became fact and every fantasy became reality.

And the good people of Huntsville became the victims.

Huntsville in 1904

Ever wonder what Huntsville was like around the turn of the century? Below is a partial listing of businesses in Huntsville that were in operation in 1904:

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2 lime kilns, latest improved - 1 cabinet factory - 8 commercial printing offices - 1 business college - 3 bakeries - 1 foundry - 1 gas

company - 3 cold storage plants - 2 monument works - 1 cotton compress - 2 candy factories - 6 nurseries - 5 sash, door and blind companies - 1 stave factory.

11 cotton mills - 2 spoke and handle factories - 1 hoop and stave factory - 1 fiber and veneer factory - 1 roller factory to supply cotton mills - 1 mattress factory - 1 ice factory - 1 flouring mill - 1 broom factory - 2 machine shops - 3 brick-yards.

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Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

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2. *The Civil War Journal of Mary Jane Chadick; Huntsville during the Civil War*, by Nancy Rohr \$16.95
3. *When Spirits Walk: Ghosts of Hazel Green, Dallas Mill & more* by Jacque Gray Reeves \$15.95
4. *Why is it Named That?* 250 Place Names in Huntsville/Madison County (new edition with a few corrections) by Dex Nilsson \$13.95
5. *52 Weekends in the Tennessee Valley; weekend or one-day getaways* \$24.95
6. *True Tales of Old Madison County* by Virgil (Pat) Jones \$7.95
7. *Lily Flagg: Huntsville's Famous Cow* by Doris Gilbreath \$13.95
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Dear Brother

The following letter was apparently written in 1898 by James Dooley. A special thanks to Margaret Foster for allowing us to print it.

Dear brother,

I hope these words find you doing well. We finally got our uniforms and we left on the 18 last for Huntsville, Alabama where we are now. We are camped behind a big house that the men say used to belong to a governor.

So far there ain't much to do in camp cause we don't have no guns yet. We are supposed to get them next week. All we do now is march, sleep and do nothing. Jim H. is here with me and he got in a spite of trouble for fighting with some Indiana boys. He got extra guard duty but it don't bother him none.

There is a lot of meanness here with the soldiers fighting and drinking all the time. One of the saloons tried not to sell the men drink so the boys tore the place up good. John G. got cut up bad but nothing to bad.

There is a good many negro soldiers here but they are camped some place else. They

are a sight to see when they go strutting around town but the people here can't say nothing. No one wants to fight with them for they are fierce fighters and all carry knives.

The men say we are not going to be here long and then we will

go to Cuba. They can have it as far as I know. If I had known what this army life was I would have stayed home. I am supposed to be on feed detail but have it eluded every day. When they leave I go back to my tent and play checkers with the men.

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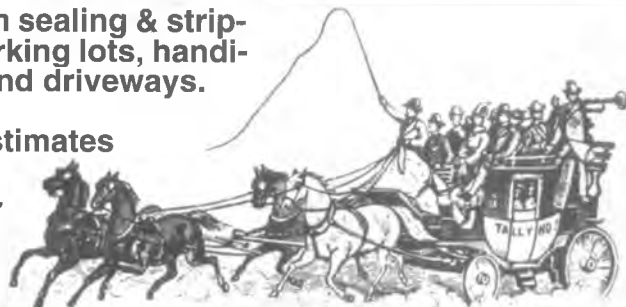
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There are some fair women here but they are sassy with all their fine ways and act like they are to good for common men. Jim H. tried to meet one but she wouldn't have it. The men here are not bad but they charge two times for everything and won't give you time of day unless you pay for it.

There is ahouse here but they charge to much so a common soldier can't afford them. About the only people who go there are officers and they have plenty of money. There is nothing else going on in Alabama to write about so brother I will close for now.

Your affectionate brother
down in Dixie,
James D.

In God We Trust

At the onslaught of the Civil War many people questioned the wisdom of their political leaders. The issue of fighting to win freedom for the slaves was controversial and many of the American public, both North and South, believed in the right to secede.

With thousands of young men being called to bear arms, no one was able to articulate to the mothers and fathers why

their sons might die on a distant battlefield. In short, much of the American public no longer trusted their leaders.

In 1861 an obscure preacher was attending a revival in New York when he was asked about his young son who had recently been called up.

The preacher, deeply saddened, replied with the words, "In God we trust."

The slogan caught on with the public. Somehow, the words made the sacrifices seem to have

a purpose.

When Treasury Salmon P. Chase, a religious man himself, heard of the slogan he was immensely moved. He sent a letter to the director of the Philadelphia mint asking that the words be placed on all new currency.

The simple words, "In God We Trust," helped win the war and in the process became part of this country's heritage.



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News From the Year 1951

News From Huntsville and Around The World

MacArthur Fired

President Truman has stripped General Douglas MacArthur of all his commands in the Far East, saying that he was acting with "deep regret" but had finally concluded that the general "is unable to give his wholehearted support" to the policies of the U.S. government and the United Nations.

The president immediately named Lt. General Matthew B. Ridgway to head the Far East commands, effective immediately.

General Ridgway has been commander of the Eighth Army in Korea and will be replaced in that post by Lt. General James Van Fleet.

The dramatic military reshuffling, while a surprise, had been building up to a climax for some time.

Just last Thursday a message was made public in which General MacArthur publicly chal-

lenged the president's foreign policy.

The general urged that the United States concentrate on Asia instead of Europe and use Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek's Formosa-based troops to open a second front on the mainland of China.

General MacArthur has been a man of many titles during the war in Korea. With his recall, he loses them all: Supreme Commander of U.N. Forces in Korea; Supreme Commander for Allied Powers, Japan; Commander-in-Chief, Far East; and Commanding General, U.S. Army, Far East.

In relieving the general of his commands, the president said "It is fundamental that military commanders must be governed by policies and directives issued to them in the manner provided by our laws."

MacArthur has made no public comment so far.

Eisenhower May Be Democrat

Harry Truman, President of the United States and head of the Democratic Party, has offered to sponsor the man who led Allied forces in Europe during the war as president of the United States.

General Eisenhower, to whom the offer was made, was flattered but has not made any public comment about Truman's offer, which is a virtual guarantee of nomination by the Democrats.

The Republicans are also expected to make an offer to the General.

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American Income up to \$1,436

Americans averaged an income of \$1,436 for each man, woman and child in 1950, the Commerce Department reports.

Total individual income payments were divided by the total population, which means that averages were pulled up by the large incomes of the very rich.

The figure represents a gain of \$116, or nine percent, over 1949 and represents the highest dollar total in history, though a rise in the tax burden cut down the net gain.

Federal, state and local taxes averaged \$360 during the year ending June 30, 1950. Average incomes ranged from \$698 in Mississippi to \$1,986 in the District of Columbia.

If the present trend continues, America will become the wealthiest nation in the history of this world.

The greatest worry however is that with so much money people will no longer be inclined to work.

No Bikinis at Wimbledon

A year ago, tennis player Gussie Moran shocked Wimbledon officials by sporting lace underwear beneath her sporting outfit. The ensemble, designed by Britain's Teddy Tingling, was in evidence each time she swung her racket. Today, Wimbledon Chairman Sir Louis Greig said he wants to see no more "bikini bathing dresses."

A proposal has been offered to allow officials to inspect underwear before each match but so far nothing has been decided.

Sugar Ray Brings Title Home

Sugar Ray Robinson knocked out Randy Turpin of England in the tenth round today and brought the world middleweight title back to the United States.

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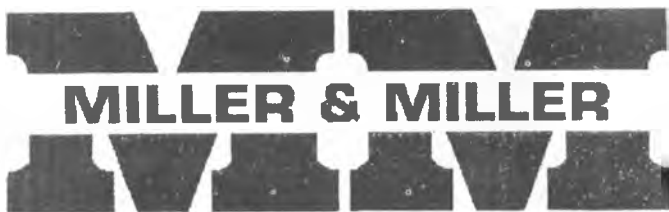
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Times Have Changed



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When the Circus Came to Town

by Judy Wills

In late October, 1916, Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, already billed as the "Greatest Show on Earth," came to Huntsville. P T. Barnum sought entertainers from all over the world and local people could hardly wait to see the circus freaks as well as the wild animals. This particular circus featured over 130 horses; performing horses as well as the wagon-pulling variety.

In those days, the circus parade was a major event. Howard Harbin, a retired Madison County employee who had seen the parade as a small child, recalled that the parade would stop every now and then to put on a small skit.

There had been great debate about whether the city of Huntsville should extend its corporate limits to include the site where the circus would be held. If the site had been inside the city limits, the city would have received \$150 plus a payment of \$75 for a permit to hold the parade.

Some of the citizens felt that the circus was a bad thing to have and could contribute to the decline of morality in Huntsville, but the mayor and council were in favor of having the circus inside the city limits so that the city, instead of the county, could benefit from the sale of a privilege license to the circus. Other local cities had derived as much as \$1,000 from a single visit from the circus. The opponents of extending the city limits were in the majority and the city lost the opportunity to receive a larger portion of the \$300 collected by the county.

Howard Harbin recalled that his family, who lived in Maysville, loaded into the wagon early in order to be in town before the parade started. In

1916, it was a two and a half hour trip to Huntsville by wagon. The Harbin family found a good spot to watch the parade on Washington Street. When the parade broke up, the Harbins joined the crowd that followed the menagerie to the circus site. As they neared the site, a great commotion broke out. Harbin and his family saw smoke coming up from a little rise, just ahead of the big top. They moved away from the crowd to a place behind a grove of trees.

Just at that moment, horses started galloping in panic from over the hill. More than 100 horses had been stabled in a tent just over the rise. They had been

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visited by scores of onlookers and horse fanciers. It isn't known exactly how the fire started, but most of the men were smoking cigars and apparently a discarded cigar butt was tossed into the hay. The weather had been very dry that month and it did not require much to start a fire.

With so many of the circus employees involved in the parade, there were not enough workers to put out the fire. The workers started cutting the horses loose, but the fire was spreading faster than they could release them. The tent caught fire and the screams of the horses were horrendous. Before the day was over, 27 of the most seriously injured horses were shot to death and in the end a total of 130 horses had died of burns or been shot.

The disposal of animals had always been a problem in the city. The carcasses were hauled to a site located at the corner of present day Owens and McClung, then the site of the pest house. This disposal was of a magnitude that had not been anticipated before. State law provided that carcasses be hauled to a site where the odor of burning them would not reach residences. This was not possible on the pest house land so the circus officials contracted a local man who claimed that he could bury them at the required two foot depth. The local contractor was paid \$100 for his efforts and started digging trenches.

The circus fire had been on Saturday and by the following Wednesday it was apparent that the job was too much for the man who had taken it on. Rather than allowing the matter to grow into a law suit instituted by angry residents, Judge Archie McDonnell and Mayor T. T. Terry went to the site and put to work every available truck and wagon they could procure. Eventually, all the dead horses had been hauled to the site and enough trenches had been dug to hold them.

It was not the sort of revenue-enhancing event that the city fathers had anticipated. The city and the county had to pay for almost all of the labor involved plus the hiring of the trucks and wagons.

Efforts were begun immediately to get the circus to pay for the disposal but it was not an easy task and it would be forty-nine years before Ringling Brothers, Barnum and Bailey would visit Huntsville again.

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our new choir practice."

In a Decatur church bulletin

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The Ship Yard

by Col. Don Steenburn

The headlines on the front pages screamed "Decatur's River front Debated," "Chip Mill Planned Along Waterfront," "Senator Wants More Time For Comments On Chip Mill Report," and "Commercial Development Still In Slump, Real Estate Agents Say."

A proud chapter in Decatur's history was on the block and the industrialists and the environmentalists were going at it hammer and tongs.

At stake were just a few weed-choked acres and some abandoned buildings that represented a real success story- Decatur's world contribution to shipping and shipbuilding.

As far back as 1886, Commodore Steven Decatur's hometown was known as a "Steamboat Town" and, in fact, as late as 1910 it boasted the only boat yard between Chattanooga, Tennessee and Paducah, Kentucky.

This original facility was known by the unlikely name of the "Boatyard of the American Oak Leather Company". This company used to manufacture an extract used in tanning leather. When the local chestnut trees were killed by the blight in 1887, this company was defunct.

In 1937 a branch of the Ingalls Steel and Iron Works began shipbuilding operations on the site. Today's industrial ghost town of weeds, rust and neglect are in sharp contrast to the bustling shipyard during World War II. Working 24 hours-a-day seven days a week, over 1,500 workers built over 3,000 barges, landing craft and "Liberty

Ships". In addition, a contract was also completed with the Dutch Government to build 15 cargo ships.

The new navigation channel on the Tennessee River, not yet completed at the time, was crowded with tows carrying military jeeps, trucks and ambulances. The ocean-going vessels constructed at Decatur were sent down river to the Gulf.

This local shipyard was known as one of the pioneers in the new techniques of building ships with welded hulls.

As late as 1968 the firm was engaged in large scale building and repairing of steel barges. In 1983 the shipyard was closed. Various attempts have been made to parcel the land for sale or development involving the

United States, Mexico, Japan, and Europe, all to no avail. One commercial Realtor commented, "While there's hope for one parcel, so far there has been no serious offers."

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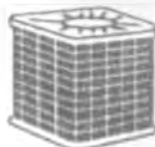


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Heard on the Street in 1974

- Local women doctors were interviewed for a special article commemorating the 125th anniversary of the graduation of the first woman ever to graduate from medical school.

The physicians who were interviewed for the very in-depth article were Dr. Ernestine Berg, an anesthesiologist; Dr. June Foley, a pediatrician; Dr. Annelie Owens and Dr. Irene Roan, both practicing occupational medicine at Redstone Arsenal; Dr. Melu Jean Quirante, a neonatologist; and Dr. Anne Wouters, a pediatrician.

- Dunnnavants is presenting their annual Bridal Show called "Wedding Belles" at Dunnnavant's Mall with catering by Mrs. A. L. Bradley, flowers by Alberts and photography by Bell Studios.

- Huntsville Country Club has resumed its very popular Friday night dinner dances, where steak will be served.

- Cruse and Jim Clark like to do their entertaining on Sundays. Today they are having their 4th in a series of Bloody Mary parties at noontime in their lovely home on Franklin Street. It will be a very informal, fun party with cheese dishes and crunchy goodies to go well with the Bloody Mary's.

- You will hear Dr. John and Dorothy Moorman say that happiness is a new granddaughter. Their daughter Anne Moorman Farrell, accompanied by her tiny daughter Mary Alice, visited the Moormans this week from Birmingham. Anne's husband Pete was here for a few days but had to leave to go back to work.

- Phi Mu alumnae will have their annual Casino Party next month at Huntsville Country club, with proceeds going to Project Hope.



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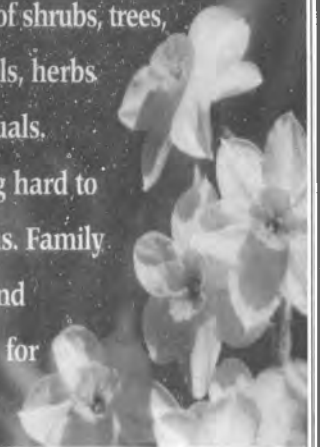
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Eggs were selling for 95 cents a dozen and Pickett Esslinger acquired the first television set in New Market. Oliver McPeters was elected Sheriff, although he did not hold the office long.

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