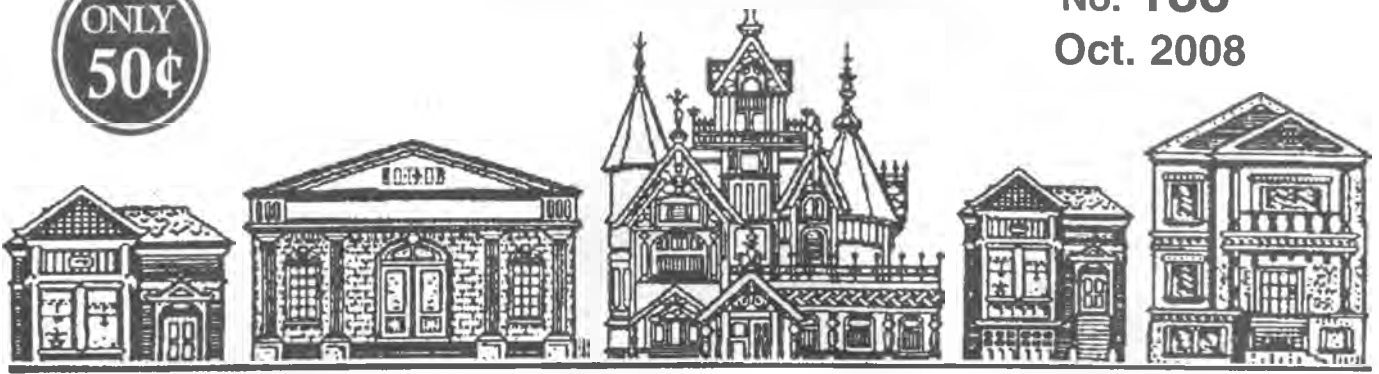


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# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## When Dreams Become Nightmares

The only good thing about a nightmare is that you eventually wake up. For Marie, however, the nightmare was a never-ending trauma.

Two days later she walked out of her house once again to the sight of two flat tires. For the first time in her life she felt totally helpless. She felt like screaming but no sound would come. Tears flooded her face, and her body convulsed in spasms of rage. She wanted to lash out at someone but her enemies were invisible.

Also in this issue: The President's Sister

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*Domie Lewter*

*Mae Lewter*

# When Dreams Become Nightmares

Huntsville, in 1960, had all the appearances of a boom town. As the space program started to become a reality the city's population had grown from 20,000 to over 70,000 in the past decade. Cotton fields were being transformed into subdivisions and office complexes set up in abandoned cotton mills. Each passing day saw more people flocking to Huntsville in search of jobs, homes and their own personal slice of the great American dream.

For one young woman, however, the great American dream was about to turn into a horrible nightmare.

Twenty-six year old Marie Edwards was working for a defense company in New York when she was offered the opportunity to transfer to Huntsville. At first the thought terrified her; she had never been more than a hundred miles from New York and all she knew about Alabama was what she had read in newspapers and books.

When she spoke to friends about the potential move they all

had the same reaction; "You're crazy, only mad Nazi scientists and hillbillies live there." One friend was so concerned that he warned her not to tell anyone where she was from. "I have read that the Ku Klux Klan tars and feathers anyone they think is a Northerner."

Despite the misgivings of her friends Marie accepted the job. She later said, "I fell in love with Huntsville the first night I drove across the mountain into Huntsville. Spread out below me were so many twinkling lights framed by the mountains and a bright full moon hovered over the city. It was one of the most beautiful scenes I had ever experienced."

Marie quickly settled into her new job and spent every spare moment exploring Huntsville. She was astonished, and delighted, with almost everything. Complete strangers would wave at her from their front porches as she drove by. When she forgot her change at a grocery store, an employee chased her down the street to give it to her. Her most enduring memory of the time were the nick names that every Southerner seemed to have. Everywhere she went there was a Bubba, Sissy or Uncle. The first time someone addressed her as "Missy" she sent postcards to her friends in New York, signed with her new nick name.



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Marie decided to purchase her own home and after looking at houses for months she finally decided on a small brick rancher in a new subdivision known as Meadow Hills. With a down payment of only \$200 she could easily afford the payments of \$135 a month. Marie loved her new home. She, and everyone she knew in New York, had always lived in apartments and now, with a five room house and her own yard, she truly felt part of the American dream.

Most of the homes were without air conditioners and during the hot part of the summer many people practically lived on their front porches to escape the sweltering heat. It also made it easier to know your neighbors. On the right side of Marie's home lived an elderly couple who had moved in the previous year. The husband worked at the Arsenal and his wife, who suffered from crippling arthritis, spent almost every waking hour on the porch drinking ice tea and working crossword puzzles.

Her neighbor on the other side was a retired sergeant who had been one of the first people to move into the new subdivision. Every day, at 12:00 on the dot, he would carry a large cooler to the front yard and sit under a withered, straggly tree drinking beer. He would throw the empty cans in the general direction of his car-

port but missed often enough so that his yard gradually took on the appearance of a Budweiser recycling plant. Somehow his name, Bubba, seemed almost comically appropriate.

Marie was still in the process of moving when Bubba walked over and introduced himself. After talking for a few minutes Bubba came to the point of his visit. "Are you married?" "Do you have a boy friend?"

When he received a no to all of his questions, Bubba paused as if sizing her up, while opening another beer. After taking a long swallow he wiped his mouth with his shirt sleeve and said, "We ought to get together sometime. You're going to need a man and you could do a lot worse than me."

Marie had to quickly turn her head and bite her tongue to keep from laughing. Not only was Bubba old enough to be her father, he was more than twice her weight and at least a foot taller. Still, she thought, it was kind of sweet in an old-fashioned sort of way.

Finally she regained her composure enough to explain that she was not interested in dating anyone; her job kept her busy most of the time.

She was living the great American dream, but dreams often have a way of becoming terrifying nightmares.

It all started innocently

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enough. Less than a week after starting her new job, Marie went out one morning and discovered two flat tires on her car. By the time she called a garage and they sent someone out, almost half the morning had passed. When she finally got to work and explained to her manager what had happened he just laughed, saying, "Things happen."

Two days later the same thing happened. Two flat tires, two hours waiting for the garage and three hours late for work. Again, her manager was sympathetic, saying that maybe she should think about buying a new set of tires.

That afternoon she stopped by the garage to purchase new tires. The manager, after listening to her for a few moments, reached in a drawer and pulled out a handful of roofing nails. "Ma'am," he said, "You don't need new tires. You need a big dog because someone is trying to do a number on you."

Marie was shocked. She could not imagine anyone purposely trying to harm her. Surely, she thought, "It's just a coincidence."

Unfortunately, it was not. Over the next month the same scenario repeated itself another five or six times, each time making her hours late for work. It had gotten to the point where she could sense her co-workers whispering about her and her once sympathetic manager had become cold and distant. Several

times she had arrived late at work to discover that someone had placed newspaper ads about tires on her desk. Cartoons about flat tires began appearing on the bulletin board. It was apparent that no one believed the flat tire stories any more.

One morning, after Marie had once again arrived at work two hours late, her manager summoned her to his office. He had her personnel files spread open on his desk. After clearing his throat a few times, he announced the reason for the meeting. "Marie, you are a good worker but we can not put up with our employees being habitually late. If you have personal problems, you need to get them straightened out. In the meantime I have to place you on notice. If this continues, we will have no choice but to terminate you."

Marie set there silently. She had been expecting it and could not blame her manager. All she could do was promise to try and be on time.

The only good thing about a nightmare is that you eventually wake up. For Marie, however, the nightmare was a never-ending trauma. Two days later she walked out of her house once again to the sight of two flat tires. For the first time in her life she felt totally helpless. She felt like screaming but no sound would come. Tears flooded her face and her body convulsed in spasms of rage. She wanted to lash out at someone but her enemies were

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invisible.

She was just about to turn and go back into the house when her neighbor, Bubba, appeared. After looking at the flat tires and slowly shaking his head he asked if she needed a lift to work. Marie hesitated; he had offered to drive her several times in the past but she had always declined. Reluctantly, knowing her job was in jeopardy, she accepted his offer.

Almost as soon as she got in the car she regretted her decision. All Bubba could talk about, between swallows from a Budweiser can, was how they should get together and how he could take care of her. What was normally a twenty minute drive seemed to take an eternity.

That afternoon, when she got off from work, Bubba was waiting to give her a lift although first he insisted they stop at a bar for a few more beers. Everyone seemed to know Bubba and seemed surprised that he was accompanied by a woman. One man, apparently a friend, came over to talk and after giving Marie a long, lewd look, commented to Bubba, "You got you a young one

this time."

Using the excuse of a splitting headache, she finally persuaded him to drive her home. "Never again," she thought. "I will walk if I have to!"

On the way home Bubba pointed out a group of teenagers standing on a corner a few blocks from her home. "There's your problem," he said. "They are always in some kind of trouble and get their kicks from terrorizing people.

"Why?" asked Marie. "Why would they want to do anything to me?"

Bubba shrugged. "Maybe they just don't like you."

That evening Marie called the police. The officer who responded listened carefully while making notes. "Ma'am," he said after closing his notebook, "there's not much I can do without proof, but if you want me to, I'll talk to those kids. Maybe I can scare them."

That night her garbage cans were overturned and her yard rolled with toilet paper.

The next morning her tires were flat again. Once again Bubba was there offering to give her a ride and, despite her earlier

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promise to herself, she agreed. That afternoon was a repeat of the previous day at the bar except this time Bubba insisted on her dancing with him. After what seemed like hours she finally managed to talk Bubba into bringing her home.

Two days later her tires were flat again and her garbage cans overturned. Again, Bubba offered to give her a ride. This time Marie declined, saying she would call the garage again. Hours later, after the service man had fixed the flats, he showed her a handful of roofing nails saying, "You could open up your own roofing company!"

When she got to work that morning, three hours late, she knew what was coming. In a matter of minutes she was summoned to her manager's office. This time, instead of saying anything, he simply looked at her for a long moment before finally asking, "What do you have to say?"

In spite of everything that had happened Marie had always tried to maintain her composure, never complaining or sharing her personal life with people she worked with. Suddenly, however, she broke down in tears while trying to explain what had been happening to her. When she finally completed her story she looked at him and asked, "I know you don't believe it."

"I believe you," he said. "I believe every word of it. Let me think about this for a while."

That afternoon she was once again summoned to her manager's office. Sitting in a chair was Tom Little, a manager in the quality assurance division. Tom was a legend in the company. During WWII he had escaped from a Japanese prison camp and, with a broken arm and a gunshot wound, had walked over two hundred miles back to the Allied lines.

Her manager explained the

reason for the meeting. "I've been telling Tom a little about your problem. I'm going to leave you two alone and I want you to tell him everything you told me."

For the next several hours Marie went over her story again, only pausing when Tom asked questions. He had her describe her neighbors, the teenagers who hung around the corner, the places she shopped and even the service man who was making a career out of fixing her flat tires. At the end of the session he announced that he would talk to the teenagers and in the meantime she could ride to work with him every day. It would not be a problem, he explained, as it was not far out of his way.

"I also want you to buy a gun," he said. "We have no idea who we are dealing with or what they will do."



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That evening Marie went to J.C. Penny's and looked at guns. Finally, deciding that she would be scared to shoot one, she compromised and purchased a baseball bat. The next day she also got a small, but very loud dog which she named Lucky.

Lucky quickly proved his worth by barking every time he heard a strange noise during the night. Almost as suddenly as it had begun, the vandalism stopped. Marie continued to ride back and forth to work with Tom Little though, just in case. When almost a month had passed with no incidents, she decided to start driving her own car to work again.

The following week she was wakened one night by Lucky's loud barking. She quickly grabbed her baseball bat and turned the outside lights on. Whatever, or whoever it was had already fled.

The next morning her tires were flat again. She started riding with Tom Little again.

Two nights later she was wak-

ened by the sound of breaking glass. When she turned the lights on she was shocked to see most of her front windows broken. Some were just shards of jagged glass while others had tiny holes in the glass.

When Tom stopped to pick her up that morning he surveyed the damage. "BB gun," he said. "This is not a bunch of kids. It's some sick person with a BB gun who is trying to control you."

Marie told him that she was not going to work that day; she had to many decisions to make. After he left she sat at the kitchen table for hours reviewing her options. It would do no good to call the police - they had already been to her house dozens of times. She briefly thought about moving but quickly realized that whoever it was would probably find her new address in Huntsville.

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Finally, with all other options ruled out, she knew she had but one choice. Quit her job and move back to New York. As the decision began to crystallize in her mind she was suddenly overcome by a feeling of complete sadness and hopelessness.

Suddenly Lucky's barking alerted her to the mailman. As she went to the door to get the mail Lucky darted between her feet and ran outside. Marie ran after him but every time she got close he would begin running again, almost as if playing a game. Finally she managed to get the dog cornered in Bubba's carport. As she reached down to pick him up she noticed the utility door standing partly open.

Her attention was suddenly riveted by a cardboard box of nails - roofing nails. A few feet away, leaning in a corner, was a BB gun. As Marie slowly reached down for a handful of the nails she felt her face begin to redden with anger

as she examined them closely.

Turning to take Lucky home, she noticed Bubba sitting in his customary place in the front yard drinking beer. He had apparently not seen her.

Suddenly she felt a sense of power she had never in her life experienced before. Quickly taking Lucky home, she grabbed her baseball bat and walked over to where Bubba was sitting.


"I have got something to show you," she said as she opened her

hand to reveal a bunch of roofing nails.

Bubba's face instantly turned to the open utility room door. That was enough for Marie.

She had lain in bed many nights and imagined how she would protect herself with a bat if she had to. Aim for the knees first to disable the attacker.

Swinging the bat with every ounce of her strength, she aimed for Bubba's kneecap. He collapsed on the ground, screaming,

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with his arms flailing in every direction. Slowly and methodically Marie continued the beating, aiming for the legs, head, arms and shoulders. By this time neighbors all up and down the street had gathered in front of the house to watch.

When she paused to catch her breath, Bubba began crawling to his front door. She let him go. With an almost demonic look in her eyes she began attacking the windows, not stopping until every one of them was broken.

Next she turned her attention to his car. Within minutes the headlights, taillights and windows were nothing but piles of broken glass.

When Marie finally paused to survey the damage, a slow, wide smile spread across her face. Turning to the astonished neighbors she said, "Isn't it a beautiful day?"

About a half hour later a strange car pulled into Bubba's driveway and two men helped him into the back seat. He never returned. The next week a "For Sale" sign was in front of the house.

The police questioned some of the neighbors briefly but apparently decided to drop the whole matter. "I would have done the same thing," one of the officers was heard muttering.

The officer explained to Marie that Bubba had probably thought that she would seek his help with the harassment, making her totally dependent upon him.

Marie is retired today. She lives in a quiet, peaceful neighborhood in south Huntsville. She still has a dog, and keeps her baseball bat in a corner of her bedroom.



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# The Southern Cotton Oil Mill

By Theresa Hanvey Fallwell

A thunderous explosion on December 27, 1953, rattled the windows of our home on Virginia Blvd. and obliterated the post-Christmas reverie that we had been enjoying. The noise brought my entire family, as well as the neighbors, running outside late that cold evening. Something huge had blown up and it was close.

Looking southwest from our home we saw a brilliant orange glow that lit up the entire north end of town, visible, I am sure, for many miles. My dad, T. R. Hanvey, immediately suspected that his worksite, the Southern Cotton Oil Mill, was the likely source of the fire. We jumped into our car and sped down Oakwood Street toward Church Street. As we arrived, four fire trucks and about 30 firemen were already on the scene laying hoses.

Dad stopped the car in front of the Mill office and ran head long through a horde of on-lookers onto the Mill property. Fire Chief Massey Toland caught him by the arm and they talked loudly for a few seconds before Dad and a fireman continued running to the back, right side of the property.

Dad knew that one building, the old brick boiler room, was a major threat to the safety of the area because it was connected to the press room and only fifty feet from the fire. Adjacent to the boiler room were two huge storage tanks filled to capacity with the season's cottonseed oil awaiting shipment. My dad and the Chief understood the potential ramifications to the surrounding neighborhood if fire reached those tanks, either

through a wind shift or if the valves and pipelines containing the oil were not closed. These pipelines would funnel fire directly to those storage tanks. My dad and the fireman successfully closed the oil valves, and fortunately, neither the tanks nor the boiler room exploded.

The fire was huge with flames leaping over a hundred feet in the air threatening all six large structures on the compound. Firemen used 4500 feet of hose and fought the fire for more than two hours before bringing the flames under control. In addition to the firemen's efforts, many people who lived nearby yielded themselves to the firemen's directions in handling hoses because the cotton products with their oils produced recurring hot spots over this three and a half acre area. Small homes around the perimeter of the Mill were doused with water as the sparks flew onto roofs.

The Redstone Arsenal Fire Department shifted their coverage to the city as the Huntsville Department spent all local resources on this fire. Luck was also a player that night as a major shift in wind direction moved the fire away from the storage tanks.

The cause of the fire was never determined, but the origin seemed to be in the press

room where eight hydraulic presses squeezed cotton seed into meal and oil.

The plant was idle for the Christmas holidays, and of the nearly 60 employees, only Ellie Minor, the night watchman, was on duty. He reported that he heard a blast and saw flames leaping from the press room. From there

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the fire spread to the adjoining buildings and two box cars which were located on a spur line that served the Mill. The fire was so hot that one of the box cars melted. Estimates of the damage ran between a quarter and a half million dollars, even though the trademark, metal cotton seed storage houses, the frame warehouses, and the main office building were all spared.

In the morning paper, Philip Stolzer, manager, expressed the company's desire to rebuild a new, modern facility. He stated that rebuilding the old plant had been under consideration for some time. He further stated that this mill was termed a "low speed" plant that only processed about 250,000 tons of cottonseed yearly, and the remodeling would increase that capacity. He further stated that approximately 27,000 tons of product were saved so no shortage of cottonseed for spring planting was expected.

The Southern Cotton Oil Mill's history in Huntsville began in 1938. At that time, Madison

County, just like the rest of the country, was suffering from a terribly depressed economy. Huntsville's population was between 12,000 and 13,000 people.

Nearly 76% of Huntsville's agricultural cash income came from cotton and cottonseed products, and 75% of non farm income came from manufacturing cotton products. Less than 17 industrial plants, employing 140 people, were operating within the city limits in 1938 (Carroll, 1953). The economic climate was

right to capitalize on cotton products and with an available workforce in this location, the Southern Cotton Oil Mill of New Orleans established itself in Huntsville with the purchase of a small Alabama oil mill from R.G. Riley.

The old Alabama Mill was located on the Charleston and Memphis Railroad Depot property on Church Street (Record, 1978). The original roundhouse was utilized for seed storage and a press room, and the railroad ticket office became the Mill office. From this humble beginning, the South-

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ern Cotton Oil Mill grew significantly and became a major player in the economy of Huntsville, operating continuously from 1938 until around 1985.

During the long and prosperous history of the Southern Cotton Oil Mill, cotton was truly "King" in this area. The Mill utilized and capitalized on virtually every aspect of this agricultural commodity, long before social movements prompted our collective conscience to become more conservative of natural resources.

Products processed included lint, oil, meal, hulls, and, of course, seeds for planting. Cottonseed, shipped in from gins all over the area, usually required three processing runs to remove the tightly compacted, fuzzy lint. The first two runs resulted in products that were bailed like cotton and shipped to various mattress companies who contracted with the Mill. The third run resulted in a thin lint that was shipped to North

Carolina where it was used for casing hot dogs and sausages. The second product produced by the Mill was oil extracted from the cottonseed during the pressing process.

The oil was graded and used in cooking oil sold under the names of Wesson Oil and Snowdrift Shortening. The third product produced by the milling process was a thick, strong smelling meal that remained after the pressing of the oil. This very rich meal was mixed with crushed cotton hulls and sold for animal feed. Any residual hulls or meal were sold as fertilizer.

Following the fire, Archer-Daniels-Midland assumed ownership for a number of years. The demise of the Mill came under the banner of progress. Development of the I565 corridor, accompanied by the loosening hold of cotton on the area's economy, closed the chapter on this Huntsville business.

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Today, the old Southern Cotton Oil Mill site is just a memory, a patch of clover, a parking lot, and a few structures under the overpass on 1565 between Washington Street and Andrew Jackson Way exits.

Surveying that piece of unpretentious ground, it is hard to realize that such a vibrant, important part of Huntsville's economic past once thrived there.

## A Letter

March 5, 1864  
Dear Walter & Frank

Boys, I am gone from home and do not know when I can come home and depend on you Boys to make a living for Lou and the children. You must work well and make plenty of corn to feed every thing. Plant your corn early and work it well. Plough deep and close. Drop what corn you want to stand so you will not have to thin any.

Walter you and the boys must obey what Lou tells you. Be good Boys. Keep out of town and do not keep bad company and go to church every Sunday.

Frank, if you have 2 Plow Horses you must Plant 30 acres

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in corn and plant the best ground you get. Walter when you write send me 3 or 4 fish hooks so I can catch some fish. I can get lines. Cousin William is 6 miles from here. I see Brice one time.

Your father  
W.P. Nance

*Nance was captured near Huntsville on December 23, 1864 and sent to Camp Chase, Ohio where he died from pneumonia on March 18, 1865.*



**"To handle yourself, use your head. To handle others, use your heart."**

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Court News from 1923

- Charley Mills and Charley Cole were discharged on a charge of "Having a rooster fight" when it was shown that the boys put their roosters down to see if they would fight and being convinced that they were both tame they picked them up and stopped the fight.

- Thomas Clark and Charley Tuminello were fined ten dollars each for gaming.

- Maple Maddox and Odis Patterson were up on a charge of assault with a pistol and knife respectively and each drew a fine of \$25 when they pled guilty to the charge.

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# Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to **Bertha Dupree**, who was the first correct caller to guess the Photo of the Month. The beautiful little girl was **Lee Marshall**, of Channel 48 WAFF. Bertha is a homemaker and loves to sew and make quilts. Also - Bertha turned 90 years old on Sep. 8. Happy Birthday to you!

We are proud of all our **city workers** but I'm especially proud of the folks who work hard picking up all the tree limbs, clippings, leaves, etc. It sure keeps our city beautiful, & newcomers notice it!

We were very sorry to hear about the passing of **Garland Derting** in late August. He wrote many Letters to the Editor in the Times, and wrote stories for us as well. We send our deepest condolences to his son **Ron** and granddaughters **Sonia Parker** and **Candace Sanderson**, other family members and many friends he leaves.

We want to send out a special hello to our friend **Mitch Howie**, an attorney on North Side Square. **Mitch** and his sweet wife **Debra** are some of the nicest people you'll ever meet.

We were talking with **Henry White** recently, and he told me he had recently taken his grandkids

to Big Spring park, to have their pictures taken with the cement lion there. That is a tradition that has been in many Huntsville families for the past 50 years - Henry has pictures of himself as a little boy, in front of that same lion! We hope that new families continue that tradition!

I can't believe **Rebecca's** in 5 Points has been in business 19 years! That is amazing! **Rebecca Temple** is the proud owner.

**Trade Day** started out as a cloudy day but turned out great, weather-wise. We talked with **Ellen Holder** there, who wants to say hi to **Kathy Cotney**. Kathy is the mom of **Tamra Holder**, who is married to **John W. Holder**. Ellen is John's Mom! Tamra and John live in Decatur and have one daughter, **Noelle**, who will be 13 in October.

**Jay Spaulding** sends a shout-out to his buddy **Ron Eyestone**.

Also at Trade Day were some great-looking **Red Hat Ladies!** **Cathy Dawson** was one of them

and was looking good!

It was great to see **Joyce Robinson**, whom we've known for many years. Joyce worked for 14 years for the city of Huntsville, is still a gorgeous lady and is retired now.

At a Redstone Village meeting recently **Mary Jane Kaylor** and **General Grayson Tate** discussed plans for the upcoming **Veteran's Memorial Park** on Monroe & Jefferson. It is going to be just spectacular, and we look forward to the progress there.

**Betty Sue Lewis** worked for Sterchi's downtown for years. Many residents remember Sterchi's. Her sweet sister is **Lucy Miller** of Harvest, and other sister is **Shirley Prince**.

**Beirne Williams** is such an interesting guy to talk with - he says he wants to send peace and love to all his friends!

**Charles** from **Lube To You** came to our home recently to wax & detail our truck and did an amazing job - it looks like new!

Those lovebirds **Hank** and **Judy Miller** just celebrated their

## Photo of The Month

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

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56th anniversary in September. Congratulations to you two!

Grandparents Day was celebrated at **Weatherly Elementary School**. Two of the energetic kids celebrating were **Hannah Troup**, whose 3rd grade teacher is **Ms. Bougher**, and **Evan Troup**, who's in Kindergarten and teacher is **Mrs. Thompson**.

**Shirley Jones** of Prospect, Tenn. came to Huntsville Hospital a few months ago for her hip replacement and is doing great - a special hello to Shirley!

I met up with **Stan Wells** of Huntsville Glass recently and it was interesting to find out that his company had replaced all the original glass in the old Clemons home that is just west of the **Children's Advocacy Center**. I wish they could have found the vandals who broke out those windows. Anyway, they had to be historically correct when they were replaced, and they were. Stan's daughter **Doree** works there everyday and is just a really knowledgeable person.

We heard that **John D. Brown** recently remarried. Congratulations to John and his bride!

**Sam Zehman**, of the Golden K Kiwanis, recently took an exciting trip to Rome, via Ft. Lauderdale. While in the Bahamas, he was snorkling and saw a shark! Luckily, he made it back into the boat before the shark got him!

Pretty **Amanda Stolz** hosted an open house at her new apartment in Decatur. She made all the delicious appetizers and visited with about 50 people that day!

In a nailbiter of a basketball game recently, during a Class 6A showdown, **Bob Jones' Lady Patriots** clinched victory over No. 3 ranked **Grissom High School**. Proud Bob Jones coach **Laura Burke** was so proud of the effort her team exhibited, and said "They showed a lot of heart."

We had the best hot dogs recently, on the West Side of downtown square. **Fincher's Franks** owner has an outdoor stand set up there each day, and he will load them up with whatever you want! You've got to try them!

We were very sorry to hear that **Bill Drake's** older brother, **Joe Drake** of Birmingham, had died recently. Joe was just 79. We send our sympathy to **Bill** and **Linda Drake**, and their family & friends.

Family Services Center is hosting a fun **Harvest Moon Winefest** and Auction on October 23, at the Huntsville Country Club. Proceeds go to the many services provided. Call 551-1610 for more info.

**Sarah Faircloth** sends her love to her sweet husband, **Jim Faircloth**, who will soon have some surgery.

**Telette Van Valkenburgh Kellar** from Shelbyville, Tn. called recently to tell us that the **Wilfred Van Valkenburgh** family had a reunion and celebrated their father's 100th birthday. Although Wilfred passed away in 1968, the family got together at the family home in Huntsville on Locust Ave. to celebrate. Some of the participants were **Wilfred Van Valkenburgh IV** and son **Joshua**, **Nancy Grayson Van Valkenburgh** and husband, **Darryl Holder**, **Donna Kellar Gomez**, **Emily Van Valkenburgh** and **Telette**. Everyone had fun!

Happy birthday recently to that handsome **Darryl Goldman**, who is interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church on Gates Ave. in downtown Huntsville. He's a sweetheart!

**Diane Owens**, recently retired from Civil Service on the arsenal, has an October birthday and we sure hope her hubby **Ken** does something special for her!

Have a wonderful October and remember to vote!

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# United Methodist Women's "Open Doors"

## Sausage Loaf

- 1 long loaf French bread
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1 pound pork sausage, browned and drained
- 8 ounces sliced Monterey Jack cheese

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Split bread loaf lengthwise with an electric knife, so that you have a top and a bottom. Pull bread out of top and bottom (hollow out the loaf). Put bread pieces in a bowl.

Beat eggs and milk together. Brown and drain sausage. Combine egg mixture, sausage, and bread pieces. Spoon mixture evenly into bottom of bread. Bake 15 minutes. Remove from oven and top with cheese. Place top portion of bread over cheese. Bake 5 minutes. Remove from oven and slice.

## Buffalo Chicken Dip

- 4 chicken breasts, skinned and boned
- 2 T. hot pepper sauce
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 c. prepared ranch dressing
- 2 c. grated Cheddar cheese

Cook and cool chicken and cut into chunks. Pour hot sauce over chicken and refrigerate for several hours. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix together cream cheese, ranch dressing, Cheddar cheese, and chicken.

Pour into a shallow baking dish and bake 20 to 30 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Mixture may also be cooked in a slow cooker on low about 4 hours. Serve with sturdy chips, such as large corn chips or tortilla chips.

## Chocolate Chip Dip

- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, room temperature
- 1 c. confectioners' sugar
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 c. mini chocolate chips

Mix cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla until smooth. Fold in chocolate chips. Refrigerate in a plastic container until ready to serve. Serve with chocolate graham cracker sticks for dipping. Great dip for kids!

## Broccoli-Cheese Cornbread

- 4 eggs
- 1 (8.5 ounce) box cornmeal mix
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/2 c. butter, melted
- 2 c. shredded Cheddar cheese

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1(10 ounce) package frozen broccoli, thawed and patted dry  
 1 onion, chopped  
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Whip eggs well and stir in corn-meal mix, milk, butter, cheese, broccoli, and onion. Pour into a 9x13-inch glass dish. Bake 35 minutes or until light brown, and inserted toothpick comes out clean. Cut into 2-inch squares.

## Apple Pie

Pastry for double crust for 10-inch pie  
 1/4 c. all-purpose flour  
 3/4 c. sugar  
 1/2 t. cinnamon  
 6 c. peeled and sliced Granny Smith apples  
 1 T. butter  
 Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place bottom pastry in pie plate. Mix flour, sugar, and cinnamon. Combine with apples and put in pie crust. Dot with butter. Moisten edges of bottom crust and add top crust. Fold edge under bottom crust and crinkle. Slit center of pie for steam to escape. Bake 50 minutes.

## Pumpkin Crisp

1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin  
 1 c. evaporated milk

1 c. sugar  
 1 t. vanilla extract  
 1/2 t. ground cinnamon  
 1 box yellow butter cake mix  
 1 c. chopped pecans  
 1 c. butter, melted  
 Whipped cream

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Stir together pumpkin, milk, sugar, vanilla, and cinnamon. Pour into a 9x13-inch casserole dish. Sprinkle cake mix evenly over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle pecans over cake mix. Drizzle with melted butter.

Bake 1 hour or until golden. Let stand 10 minutes. Serve warm with whipped cream. Sprinkle with ground nutmeg.

## Cinnamon Ice Cream

1/2 gallon premium vanilla ice cream, softened  
 1 T. ground cinnamon  
 3 T. sugar  
 Place ice cream in large bowl of mixer. Add cinnamon and sugar and mix well at low speed. Do not over mix. Refreeze.

*Recipes taken from the United Methodist Women's new 276-page cookbook, "Open Doors", full of history and wonderful recipes. Historical text by Nancy Van Valkenburgh, photos by Terry Lewis. Call (256) 539-5738 for ordering info - great gift idea!*



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## Watching TV Without a Station

by Telette Van Valkenburgh Kollar

In about 1949, Dad (Wilfred Van Valkenburgh) was running photostats and blueprints at his office on West Side Square ("Cotton Block"). On South Side Square, Willy Neal had an appliance store, and a TV set was in the window.

There was no picture because there was no station for miles around - only then in Birmingham, Nashville, or Atlanta. Undaunted, Dad ordered and built a TV set from a Hallicrafters kit. That included all of the parts to make the set, but there was no case or antenna. He made a couple of trips to Birmingham and one to Atlanta to check to see if it worked; and it did.

In the meantime, he put the TV set up in his office overlooking the courthouse, and we would spend many evenings up there looking at "snow" and lines on the screen. On one particularly hot summer evening, the family was seated in front of the TV, and Dad was having a smoke down on the street. An airplane flew over, and some video waves bounced into our TV set.

For an instant, in the haze, we could see the outline of a man on camera, and we yelled down to Dad. There were about 35 steep steps from the street to the office, and he turned a bright crimson trying to get up them but by then it was back to snow and lines again.

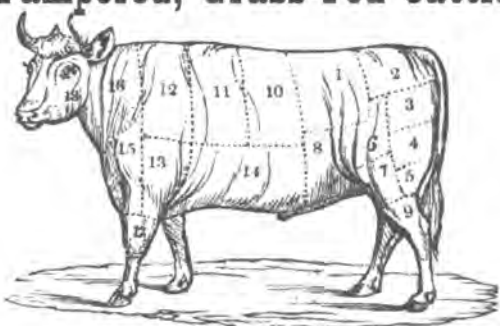
Whatever new invention it might be, though, Wilfred always wanted to "...be the first kid on the block" to have it. While he appreciated the past, he was obsessed with the future and all of what he supposed that technology might be able to provide for us. As it turned out, he was not only in the right place but at the right time when so much scientific development was happening.



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# Two Shiny Walnuts

by Austin Miller

Lucy McCay Currier was my paternal grandmother's sister and my great aunt. They were less than two years apart in age and very close all their lives. As young women they helped their parents run the Toll Gate up to Monte Sano. There is an old photograph of the gate keeper's house that I have seen in several books about Old Huntsville. The photo shows a young lady standing on the porch. Although we can't be certain, it is very likely that the girl in the picture is either Aunt Lucy or my Grandmother. I was told that Aunt Lucy gave me my middle name.

As the story goes, there was a boy in the neighborhood named Leroy who routinely wouldn't come home when his Mama called. After several failed calls she would get exasperated and yell out loudly; "Leroy if you don't come home right now, I am going to box your jaws!" That's where Aunt Lucy got my middle name. I have never known for sure if she liked the name Leroy or came up with it as a joke. I fully suspect that the latter was true.

Aunt Lucy was married twice. She was divorced from her first husband whom she married when she was about fifteen. There was a daughter born from the marriage and one of her granddaughters as well as several great grandchildren still live in the Huntsville area. Her second husband died in 1935 from blood poisoning after sustaining an injury while working on the construction of Guntersville Dam.

Aunt Lucy was not one to stay home and grieve the rest of her life. She became very active in the community and was well known all over town. She was one of the first people in the city to have a car and possibly the first woman driver in Huntsville. She drove the streets of Huntsville for about fifty years.

After her husband died she had many suitors but was not interested in any kind of permanent arrangement. One of her



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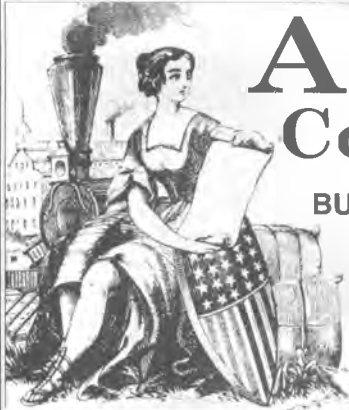
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often-repeated statements was that she had never seen a man that she would trade her pistol and pension for!

She clearly marched to her own drummer. In addition to possibly being the first woman driver in town, she may have also been the first woman in Huntsville to get a tattoo. We don't know what it meant, but she had a star tattooed on her ankle. Tattoos may be common on women now, but in her day they were unheard of, especially in Huntsville, Alabama.

When I was a child I had several black walnuts that I had played with until they were worn thin and shiny. One day she was visiting with us and made a big deal about how pretty and shiny they were. When she got ready to leave, I insisted that she take some home and plant them in her yard. With great fanfare about what fine trees they would grow into one day, she took two home.

Her house was a small green bungalow at the corner of Wells Avenue and Goldsmith Street. I don't know how long she lived there, but it was many, many years. Even though there was no thought in her mind that those two old shiny walnuts would ever come up, she dug two little holes next to the property line on the north side of her house and planted them as promised.

In the summer of 1969, I went to see her at Huntsville Hospital. Her room was full of visitors and she told them about planting those two shiny walnuts, a story

I had heard her tell all my life. It was the last time I would hear it, because she died two days later.

I drove by the old place a few days ago to see if anything looked familiar, it didn't. Her old house was torn down years ago and in its place stands a spacious modern brick house. But on the north side of the building next to the property line stands two large walnut trees that tower above the house on Aunt Lucy's old lot and another brick house on the adjacent lot.


Aunt Lucy always said it was a miracle that the walnuts came up and grew. It is also a miracle that they survived all these years sandwiched in a space about ten or fifteen feet wide between two large brick houses. To me, they are more than two huge walnut trees that came up and survived more than 60 years against all odds. They are a living monument to a true daughter of Huntsville, a fine Aunt and a lady who was way ahead of her time.



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## Deer To Go

from 1914 newspaper

County officials today announced that they would no longer permit deer in the court house yard. The announcement was met with hoots of derision by people who have grown attached to the little pet deer.

Supporters of the deer have vowed to go to court to prevent the county from removing the animals.

## New Speed Limit

from 1916 newspaper

The Huntsville city officials moved the city into a new era last night when they approved raising the automobile speed limits from 10 miles an hour to 15.

Despite protests from people who claimed the increase will result in total mayhem on Huntsville's streets, the measure was approved unanimously.

## The Will

In 1899 Miss Mollie Teal died & willed her home to the city. She stipulated in her will that in order for the city to acquire title to the property it had to be used for the benefit of the public.

Also, according to legend, she insisted a sign be left in place above the front door. The sign read "Welcome Back."

The various city officials were aghast at the idea of using it for office space. Finally, with time running out, they persuaded a local charity to use it for a hospital.

This was the beginning of Huntsville Hospital.

Miss Mollie Teal was a Madam, and her property was a bordello.

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# Old Huntsville Trivia

**1808** Madison County is formed. There are 2,555 people living in the County at the time.

**1815** Dr. William H. Glasgow founds the town of Manchester about half mile above the three forks of Flint River. The town later becomes a ghost town as people move away. Today it's cotton fields.

**1817** The first church in Huntsville is built. No records exist as to what denomination it was.

**1817** Physicians gather at Talbots Inn on the East Side of the Square to discuss an outbreak of smallpox.

Among measures talked about was the proposal to place armed guards on roads leading into town to prohibit strangers from bringing the disease to Huntsville.

**1821** A mail robbery in Madison county, the first on record, occurs when the carrier to Bennett's store is robbed. Among the items stolen were the carrier's shoes.

**1876** New rates are posted for city supplied water. The rates were \$1 for a family of less than 3, and \$8 for a family of 3 to 5.

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*Joe Smiley, Arab*

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# Court News From 1875

\* Three residents of Huntsville did not fare too well at the last court held here. G. L. Davis and H. L. Brown became entangled over a two dollar note that Davis was said to have lost on a horse racing bet, and which Albert Jolly had won. The entanglement cost them twenty dollars each, with the police being called.

\* Wm. Humphrey assaulted and attempted to batter Robt. West, for which he paid five dollars and costs.

\* Miss Ida Springfield made a slingshot of one of her stockings, putting a rock in it. With this dangerous weapon she went for Miss Maggie May and paid three dollars for the experience.

\* John Bacon was found innocent of assaulting T. D. Russell with a baked chicken at a local hotel. Observers say Russell was intoxicated at the time and demanded immediate service from the hotel staff. Bacon, a young waiter, obliged him.

\* Joseph Hopkins has filed suit against his two neighbors, saying their actions have made it impossible for him to farm his property. Both neighbors were, at various times, married to the same Mrs. Hopkins and apparently have gotten in the habit of visiting her whenever her husband is in the fields working.

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# Robert Donnell High School

by William Sibley

Gurley is a small town that is located in extreme eastern Madison County, Alabama. The village was the home of some very progressive people in the late 1800s and the early 1900s and was the home to two modern hotels, a bank, several industries, several private schools, a public high school, several fraternal groups and literary societies, several churches, etc.

In 1885, twenty-five men

from Gurley filed papers in the probate judge's office of Madison County, seeking to have a normal school built in their town. Those men bought shares in the proposed project and stated that they wanted a school to be known as The Gurley Normal School Academy, "a school that would be incorporated legally and properly in accordance with the laws of Alabama regulating such matters." Captain Frank B. Gurley, a very popular veteran of the Civil War, held the highest number of shares in the planned project.

Although the normal school project never materialized, those twenty-five men showed

that Gurley had some very intelligent citizens who saw the need for a post secondary school.

In 1891, the Gurley Academy/Gurley High School burned to the ground, leaving the high school students with no place to continue their secondary education. At least one female student moved temporarily to Florida to continue her schooling.

Things were looking bad for the high school pupils until officials of the Robert Donnell Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church announced plans to construct a high school within the boundaries of the presbytery, a school that would provide "a first-class high school



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education for its pupils."

Several towns within the presbytery let it be known that they wanted the school to be in their town, but the final decision lay between Gurley and Maysville, two small towns separated by only a few miles. Gurley was the winner.

The new brick school was a handsome structure that was described by citizens as resembling a Victorian mansion. The school was opened for classes in 1894 and was the envy of pupils from a wide radius of Gurley. The school was coeducational and had separate dormitories for boys and girls, but the idea of being coeducational did not meet with the approval of everyone and some citizens let it be known that they were not satisfied that boys and girls would be attending classes together.

Robert Donnell was a minister from North Carolina who had preached in the Big Spring area of Huntsville between 1805 and 1810, and officials of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church had honored his memory by naming a presbytery for him. In 1894, a new school was named for the minister and the presbytery which had his name.

The first commencement was held in 1895, but there was no senior in the class. The first graduating senior was Miss Earnestine Hall (Mrs. John Bogenshott) in 1896. She was the niece of Captain Frank B. Gurley.

Prof. J. L. Ruffin was the first principal at RDHS, followed by Profs. Walker, Conder, Mrs. Wall, Cunningham, Wyatt, and Broughton. Four members of the Walker family of Plevna, Alabama served as teachers and/or officials of the school. They were Herbert, W. F., T. E., and E. F. Walker.

The curriculum that was offered showed that the school was a first-class preparatory school. Classes consisted of four years of Latin, three years of Greek, math through spherical geometry, psychology, art, music, elocution; geography, bookkeeping, English Grammar, etc.

Fees were charged for the following departments: primary, intermediate, high school, and collegiate divisions. The fees got progressively higher from the primary department to the collegiate department.

Two things that occurred at RDHS in 1899 that were long remembered were 1) The male students were required to wear uniforms and 2) Willard Barritt, a student, wrote a school song that served as a fight song and an alma mater.

In many writings and in correspondence letters, the

school was called The College because the students could enter most colleges and universities at the sophomore level or higher after graduating at RDHS.

Although the school had dormitories for both boys and girls, many of the pupils boarded in pri-



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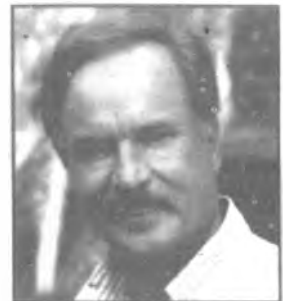
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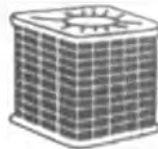
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vate homes in Gurley. Bachelor Boys Dormitory was very popular because many ministerial pupils lived in that dormitory.

Also there were boys seeking a future in other areas such as teaching, business leaders, etc. living in the same dormitory. Many girls of Gurley were teased about passing by the dormitory after school hours, perhaps trying to get the attention of the young men.

Robert Donnell High School officials stressed to their pupils that they should be good orators, good debaters, and good athletes. There were good teams of each of these areas at RDHS.

In 1904, Gurley played 3 school teams in football and the same 3 teams in baseball. Those teams were Sim's Training School of Huntsville, Morgan School of Fayetteville, and Gordon School of Decatur. RDHS usually played these schools 3 times per season in both football and baseball. The community baseball games were held with Gurley, Hazel Green, Larkinsville, Flat Rock, Limrock, New Hope, Princeton, and other communities of Madison and Jackson Counties.

RDHS's football team members were called The College Eleven and consisted of Stegall, McLemore, Hutchens, Martin, Skelton, Allison, Taylor, Flynt, Roberts, Blankenship, and Hereford. The first names of these players were not given.

In 1905 The Ideal Entertainment Company performed "one of their high-classed musical caricatures and pictorial entertainments" at Robert Donnell High School. This performance brought a large crowd to the school and was a "first" for the school.

The Oratorical Team of RDHS competed with the "State School of Huntsville in 1907. Both groups were given high marks for their performance. Team members of the RDHS group were Hosmer Esslinger, Ollie Haislip, Virgil Roach, Harry Williamson, and Denton Given.

On January 8, 1908, the last classes were held at RDHS. The last graduating senior was Denton Given.

RDHS, which began in 1894 and ended in 1908, had achieved its purpose, which was to provide "a firstclass high school education" for its pupils. Its graduates became professors, teachers, lawyers, physicians, ministers, business owners and

leaders, elected officials, etc.

Governor B. B. Comer, known as Alabama's Education Governor, was instrumental in getting a comprehensive high school built in each of Alabama's counties. Robert Donnell High School became the property of the state of Alabama and the county of Madison and became Madison County High School. It is thought to be the first County High School in Alabama.

Nobody has shown proof to the citizens of Gurley that any County High School in Alabama began before Sept. 4, 1908, the day classes began at MCHS.



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# The Battle of Madison

Headquarters  
Thirteenth Illinois Infantry,  
Madison Station,  
May 19, 1864

CAPTAIN: I would respectfully submit the following report of the attack made on this post by a force of the enemy, under command of Colonel Patterson, consisting of two regiments of mounted infantry and a battery of four 12-pounder howitzers, the entire force numbering about 1,000 men.

The attack was made at 8:30 a.m. on the Triana Road, on which two of their field pieces were placed in position, the remaining two pieces having crossed the railroad, together with a portion of the enemy's command. They, however, did not get into position, as the attack was precipitated by the enemy's being discovered by a forage train, which was just starting out.

As soon as discovered, the enemy opened fire from their two pieces on the Triana Road, having previously sent detachments to each one of my picket posts, five in number, guided by some citizens who seemed to know the exact locality of each, encircling them and capturing them entire. On the first alarm my command was quickly formed in line, excepting three companies, who occupied the stockade in the rear of the depot building and behind some cotton bales. Two companies were thrown out as skirmishers, but the enemy appearing in such a large force in their front, I ordered them to fall back to the main column.

In the meantime the stockade was rendered untenable by the rapid fire from the artillery, so that the three companies were compelled to fall back behind the railroad embankment, where I at length formed my entire command, being satisfied that we were outnumbered nearly four to one, and having nothing to resist their artillery, it would be impossible to hold the town; my command the

entire time keeping up a rapid and incessant fire, killing three and wounding 15 of the enemy. At this time the Rebel force appeared on both flanks and in my rear, which made it necessary to fall back still farther, which I did, in the direction of the water-tank toward Huntsville, dispersing the enemy in my rear by a few well-directed volleys.

On arriving at within a half-mile of the water tank, I reformed my line, and after a short rest, again advanced toward Madison Station with a strong line of skirmishers, well-extended on either side of the railroad. The skirmishers

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drove the rear guard of the enemy from town, the main force having departed after burning the depot buildings and about 70 bales of cotton. My camp equipage was also burned; it, however, consisting of only a small number of tents, which were scarcely serviceable. The men, also, have lost all of their extra clothing and blankets. The damage to the railroad was slight and readily repaired.


As soon as the attack was made, the wagon train, consisting of eight six-mule teams and three two-horse ambulances, were ordered on the Huntsville road, but were intercepted and captured, together with a small train guard and the teamsters.

At about 12 p.m. reinforcements arrived, consisting of the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, Colonel Heath, 120 men, and the Fifty-Ninth Indiana Infantry, lieutenant-Colonel Scott, and 220 men. These, together with 100 men from my regiment, moved after the enemy as rapidly as possible in a driving rain. Colonel Heath's cavalry

came up with the rear guard of the enemy early in the afternoon, and kept up a constant harassing fire, but his force was too small to make a forcible attack.

The infantry came up just before sundown, the Fifty-Ninth Indiana deploying as skirmishers and driving the enemy before them to the bank of the river, but night coming on and finding that the transportation and prisoners were all across the river, our men fatigued, and ammunition almost exhausted, it was considered best by the commanding officers to withdraw our forces. They were consequently marched back to Madison, a distance of twelve miles from Fletcher's Ferry.

From reliable sources I learn that the enemy's loss at the ferry was 15 killed and 40 wounded. This estimate, I am positive, is not placed too high, which would make their entire loss 18 killed and 55 wounded. Of the number of prisoners from my regiment I have not



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been able to learn how many were wounded. I have but one man wounded with the regiment.

Liet. C. L. White,  
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.,  
Third Div., 15th Army Corps

## A Strange Marriage

*from 1878 newspaper*

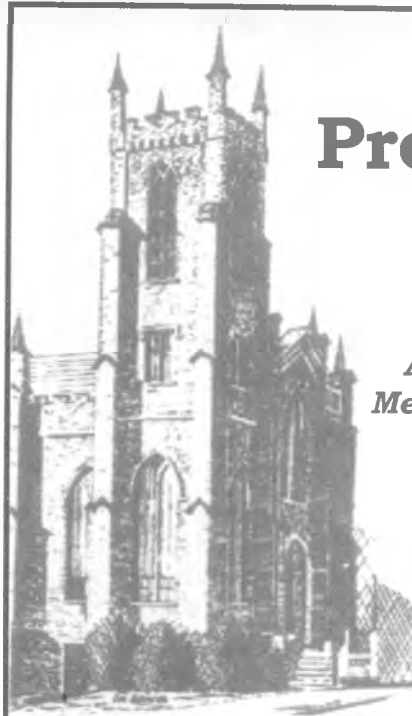
Marancy Hughes, of this town, was married in September last to a person who was known as Samuel M. Pollard. Her relatives opposed the match, but she eloped and was married without their knowledge. A short time after their marriage, Pollard confessed to her that he was really a woman; that she had had trouble with her relatives in the East; had lost her property and assumed the disguise of a man for the reason that avenues for making money would be open to her in the character which would be closed to her as a woman.

Pollard has never given her any particular reason for doing her this great wrong, but is believed to have been actuated by foolish pride in appearing in the character of a married man. The victim was ashamed to acknowledge that she had been so imposed upon and shrunk from admitting the truth.

Pollard, without actually threatening her life, repeatedly intimated that it would be bad for Marancy if she exposed her, and she kept silence until a fortnight ago, when her aunt got a perception of the fact and questioned her closely, and she related to her the whole story.

The victim says that the woman's real name is Sarah M. Pollard, and that her trunk is filled with feminine apparel. A complaint was filed yesterday by J.C. Howerton, accusing Pollard of perjury in swearing when he took out the marriage license that he was a male.

**By the time a man can afford to lose his golf balls, he is too old to hit one that far.**



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# Conscription in the Confederacy

*Excerpted from "Civil War and Reconstruction in Alabama" by Walter Fleming. Published in 1901.*

Few good soldiers were obtained by conscription, and the system, as it was organized in Alabama, did more harm than good to the Confederacy. The passage of the first law, however, had one good effect.

During the winter of 1861-1862, there had been a reaction from the enthusiastic war feeling of the previous summer. Those who thought it would be only a matter of weeks to overrun the North now saw their mistake. Many of the people saw no need of more fighting, and hence did not volunteer.

Thousands left the army and went home. A measure like the enrollment act was necessary to make the people realize the actual situation.

Upon the passage of the law all the loyal population liable to service made preparations to enlist before being conscripted, which was deemed a disgrace, and the close of the year 1862 saw practically all of them in the army. Those who entered after 1862 were boys and old men.

Great dissatisfaction was expressed among the people at the enrolment law. Conscription being considered disgraceful, many who would have been glad for various good reasons to remain at home a few months longer went at once into service to escape conscription.

While the conscript law secured few, if any,

good soldiers who would not have joined the army without it, it certainly served as a reminder to the people that all were needed, and as a stimulus to volunteering.

After the passage of the enrollment laws, every man with excessive regard for the integrity of his person and for his comfort began to secure exemption from service. In north Alabama men of little

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courage and patriotism lost confidence after the invasions of the Federals, and resorted to every expedient to escape conscription. Strange and terrible diseases were developed, and in all sections of the state health began to break down.

It was the day of certificates, - for old age, rheumatism, fits, blindness, and various physical disabilities. Various other pretexts were given for staying away from the army, while some men hid out in the woods. The governor asked the people to drive such persons to their duty.

There was never so much skilled labor in the South as now. Harness making, shoe making, charcoal burning, carpentering - all these and numerous other occupations supposed to be in support of the cause secured exemption.

Running a tanyard was a favorite way of escaping service. A pit was dug in the corner of the back yard, a few hides secured, carefully preserved, and never finished, for more hides might not be available, then the

tanner would be no longer exempt.

A report dated April, 1864, gives the number of exempts in Alabama as 8,835 to January, 1864. A month later, all exemptions were revoked. In February, 1865, a report placed the total number exempted by law and order in Alabama at 10,218, of whom 3,933 were exempted by medical boards.

Very few of the slaveholders and wealthy men tried to escape service; but when one did, he attracted more attention and called forth sterner denunciation than ten poor men in similar cases would have done. In fact, few able-bodied men tried to secure exemption under the "twenty-negro law." It would have been better for the Confederacy if more planters had stayed at home to direct the production of supplies, and the fact was recognized in 1864, when a "fifteen-negro law" was passed by the Congress, and other exemptions of planters and overseers were encouraged.

There is no doubt that those who desired to remain quietly at home - to be neutral, so to speak - found it hard to evade

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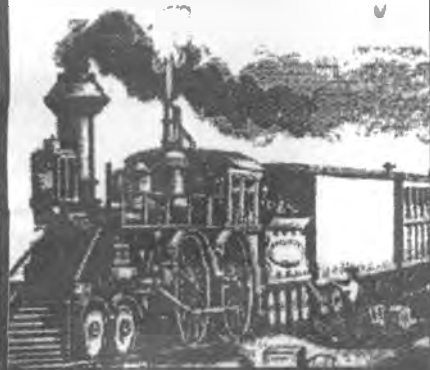
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the conscript officers. One of these declared that the enrolling officers "burned the woods and sifted the ashes for conscripts." Another who had been caught in the sifting process deserted to the enemy at Huntsville. He was asked, "Do they conscript over the river?"

"Hell, stranger, I should think they do; they take every man who has not been dead more than two days."

But the "hill-billy" and "sand-mountain" conscripts were of no service when captured; there were not enough soldiers in the state to keep them in their regiments. In one example the Third Alabama Regiment of Reserves ran away almost in a body.

Thus the best men went into the army, many of them never to return, and a class of people the country could well have spared survived to assist a second time in the ruin of their country in the darker days of Reconstruction.

It is interesting to notice the fate of the conscript officers when captured by the Federals. Bradford Hambrick was tried by a military commission in Nashville, Tennessee, in January, 1864, charged with being a Confederate conscript officer and with forcing "peaceable citizens of the United States" in Madison County, Alabama, to en-

ter the Confederate army.

He was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor for one year, and to pay a fine of \$2,000 or serve an additional imprisonment of 1,000 days.

## News from 1875

- Runaway from my residence about 3 miles northwest of Huntsville, during my absence on the 9th., James Carter, a bound boy about fifteen years of age escaped. Said boy when leaving had on a black sack cloth coat and gray jeans pantaloons. Description: rather small for his age, fair skin, round face, blue eyes, rather low forehead, and very black thick hair. I forewarn any man from harboring him. Contact Thomas Hewlett at this paper

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# Life in Killingsworth Cove

by John F. Broyles

An annual event in Killingsworth Cove was sorghum-making time. What made it interesting was the unearthly, one-of-a-kind type machine used in those days to extract the juice from the cane. It took a lot of serious thinking and head-scratching to ever figure out a way to build a machine like the early sorghum mill. But after it was all figured out and built, folks probably said, "Why sure. That's the only way it could be."

It was fun to watch sorghum making in operation. But the machines were not ready to operate when first purchased. Three main parts did not come with the machine.

First, you had to build a platform base to bolt the machine onto it that would hold it about five feet above the ground.

Next, you had to go out and find a pole about twenty feet long and bolt it onto the top of the

mill. If done as directed, that would leave the pole sticking straight out from the mill horizontal to the ground.

Third, the mill had no engine. It was designed to be powered by one willing mule, hitched to the farthest end of the pole. He then walked around the mill in circles. And while the instructions did not mention it, a ten or twelve-year-old boy had to walk around the circle, too, in the mule's tracks, with a stick

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in his hand with which to gently tap the mule to remind him it was not quitting time until quitting time.

Nobody had to guide the mule to make him walk in a circle. That's the only way he could go, due to a length of plow line running from the other end of the pole to the mule's bridle. The mule had no say-so whatever about which direction he would go. He went the way the rope pulled him. The mule pulled one end of the pole; the other end of the pole pulled the mule.

The cane was poked, one stalk at a time, into heavy rollers inside the mill. Something like a clothes wringer. The juice went into a barrel. The rest of the mashed-up stalks went on out and fell on the ground. Which required somebody to tote it away, before the accumulation covered up the entire operation. The man poking in the cane had to be quite short, or else keep seated all the time so the overhead pole wouldn't conk his head every time it came around. Which was about every nineteen seconds or so.

Two men took juice from the barrel to keep the correct amount in a large cooking pan with a wood burning fire beneath.

All together, it kept several individuals busy making molasses. But of the two men doing the cooking, one was a time-tested, expert molasses cooker. The man helping him was the cook's own choice of helper. Nobody took his sorghum cane to amateurs. But the individual most responsible for keeping the whole mill running was the ten or twelve year-old boy following the mule.

A few families in the Cove had telephones. We were fortunate to have one. Otherwise mother would have run herself ragged trying to keep track of her children. We had no reason to run away, or any notions of doing so. We just had a wide choice of things to do and places to go.

We seldom strayed more than a mile from home. Luckily, our favorite place to visit was the store. Or the blacksmith shop. Since the road all the way down to the store was visible from our front porch, mother could, when one of us came up missing, look down the road and find us. She could go to the wall telephone and crank up the store's number of rings and say:

"Ed, Francis is on the way down there"—or Evelyn or whoever. "Turn them around and head

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them back this way.”

Sometimes we'd be in the blacksmith shop watching Mr. Hawkins shoe a mule. Anyway, it was not much trouble to round us up via the telephone.

Francis was worse than any of us about running away. He was so clever at it that he could have grown up to be a successful jail breaker. But he didn't. He turned out to be a preacher.

But when he was little, he was bad about slipping off and traipsing all over the cove. Mother had to call up Ed lots of times to go out and look for Francis. When he would wander out into somebody's cornfield, with corn head-high, it took a lot of looking to find him. Especially when he lay down and went to sleep like he did sometimes. He had pretty well outgrown that kind of behavior by the time I came along. But I heard Mother and Father tell about some of Francis's expeditions.

I remember walking around the fields and woods with Francis after we were both older. Instead of having conversations with each other, he would often recite speeches he'd made up. That, no doubt, was the early stages of his becoming a minister.

I didn't know it at the time, but I was serving as his congregation - his sounding board. I never objected to anything he said in his speeches, so he probably figured he was coming along great at oratory. Anyway, looking back now, I must have helped Francis prepare himself for the ministry.

Speaking of the telephone - it and the newspaper were the only means of circulating news and gossip around the countryside back then. No radio. No television. No quick way to hear and pass on astonishing and exciting information except on the telephone. Actually, it was a pretty fast system.



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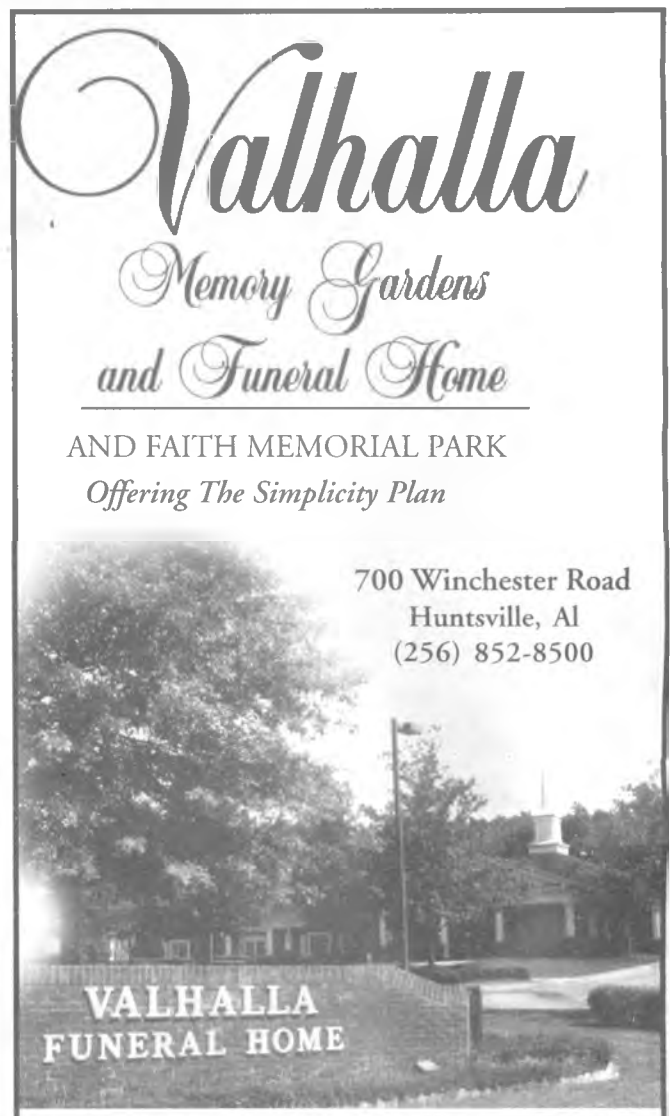
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One person could call another person. Five minutes later, everybody in the community knew what was said and who said it. The telephone turned out to be handy for lots of things.

Sometimes a person would want to have a friendly conversation with a neighbor friend. She'd go to the phone on the wall, turn the crank handle on the side to ring the correct number of rings to get that person. Then she would take the receiver down, slap it to her ear and wait for an answering "hello."

Meanwhile, if the caller began to hear clicking sounds coming through her receiver, she knew others with phones were coming in on the line, eagerly anticipating the pleasure of silently listening to a conversation they were not supposed to hear, which sometimes was the most interesting.

After several clicks, the caller realized she had a listening audience in addition to her callee. Which is all right. It gave her a chance to re-word her message accordingly. Sometimes one speaks one way to an audience, another way to an individual friend - depending, sometimes, on who the friend is.

But sometimes party lines served a very good service. I know there were times when Mother

was talking on the phone to someone when someone else broke in on the line opening up an entirely new topic of conversation, like, "Miss Effie, if your Francis happens to come up missing, I saw him about twenty minutes ago, walking across our lower pasture heading in a northeasterly direction." Mother was always appreciative of any clues as to where Francis was at any time.

Of course we were not restricted to local calls, although that's the kind we made mostly. But Mother had a half dozen sisters scattered around a radius of thirty or forty miles. They all had phones and lots of conversation. But long distance calls from the cove to some place twenty-five miles away were not usually satisfactory.

About the longest calls ever made over our telephone were when Bill Lee came to borrow our phone to call the "dispensary" in Chattanooga to order his whiskey.

I remember how loud he had to holler every time he called them. That was over a hundred miles! Almost unbelievable, being able to holler that loud on a phone.



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# A Letter

1864 Nashville newspaper

From Huntsville, Alabama  
March 5, 1864

A few notes from this department of the army may be interesting to your numerous readers.

This town of Huntsville is truly the gem of the Southern Confederacy. It is a most charming and delightful place. It is beautifully situated in the centre of a rich and enterprising population. Notwithstanding the horrors of war, it is still imposing and attractive.

And now what of our present camp? It is one of the finest, in all respects, which we have ever occupied. The water is excellent and abundant.

Two regiments of the brigade are encamped on the slope of a large field, almost clear of timber, and beautiful for situation. The sanitary condition of the troops is all that we can desire.

The birth of the Father of his Country was celebrated by appropriate ceremonies in the beautiful rooms of the Huntsville Hotel. Though the design of the celebration was unknown a few days before, still the occasion was full of interest and enthusiasm. Peals of bells ushered in the morning, salvos of cannon resounded at

noon. And the bands discoursed patriotic airs.

The contrabands are collecting here by the hundreds. Much has been said as to their future. Our land cannot do without them.

A detachment of the 15th Ten-

nessee Colored Infantry arrived today. They are a splendid set of fellows, and their soldier bearing won the admiration of all.

We don't know how long we will be in this garden of Eden but it truly a wonderful place.

Lt. J. Cobb

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# Tips from Liz

\* For those of you who suffer from leg cramps at night, do we have the remedy for you! Those who have tried this, swear it works. Just buy a bar of soap like Zest, Dial, Tone, etc. (with no added softeners in it, like Dove has) and take it to bed with you. Place it under the bottom sheet of your bed, close to your legs. That's it. There's no medical reason we know of, as to why it works, but it does. (Thanks to Diane Owens for this gem).

\* We all need to drink more liquid. I just take a huge insulated glass, fill with ice, then pour in a mixture of tea, unsweetened juice, cranberry juice, Crystal lite lemonade, etc. - whatever I have handy. Whenever I walk by the glass I take a huge sip. It stays cold all day and tastes great!

\* A scratch on a watch crystal can be removed by gently rubbing it with a dab of toothpaste.

\*When using several card tables for a party, bind the adjoining legs tightly together with heavy rubber bands.

\* If you are camping out and your tent springs a leak, just put a glop of petroleum jelly over it and no more water!

\* Ask your favorite ABC liquor store for their empty liquor boxes - they are sturdy with cardboard inserts and are perfect for

storing vases, Christmas ornaments or packing shoes.

\* Soak your fingers for a minute or so in cold soapy water to remove rings from swollen fingers.

\* Add a teaspoon of water when frying ground beef - it will help pull the grease away from the meat while cooking.

\* Grab your hairspray when trying to get rid of flies, wasps, spiders, etc. It makes them stiff

and they can't move.

\* Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.

\* Colgate toothpaste makes an excellent salve for burns.

\* When your dog gets wet and has that "dog smell" just rub him down with a couple of sheets of Bounce - he'll smell great!

\* Remove a splinter by applying Elmer's glue, let dry & pull.

\* A few drops of Listerine will help disinfect a broken blister.

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# News From the Year 1948

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Babe Ruth Dead

The Sultan of Swat, dead, but he did not forget his faithful subjects. Babe Ruth left the bulk of his estate to his widow, but he remembered "the kids of America," the millions who idolized the famous home-run hitter as he dominated baseball for two decades.

Ruth's will provided for a gift of ten percent of his estate to the Babe Ruth Foundation. The foundation is "organized under the membership corporation laws of the state of New York and dedicated to the interest of the kids of America."

The will was dated August 9, one week before Ruth died of cancer. The noted slugger was 53 when he died after a two-year battle with the disease that repeatedly sent him back to hospitals.

The mighty Ruth, whose portly figure rounding the bases was a familiar sight to baseball

fans, had wasted away and the once-black hair seen so often when he doffed his cap had turned to gray.

Within hours of his death, 15,000 messages were received by the hospital. They included tributes from President Truman and Cardinal Spellman.

George Herman "Babe" Ruth hit a record 60 home runs in a season in 1927, his eighth year with the Yankees. And he hit a record 714 career homers.

He broke into the majors with Baltimore in 1914 and was sold that same year to the Providence farm of Boston.

As a Boston hurler, he tossed a record 29 consecutive scoreless innings in a World Series.

In June, leaning on his bat, Ruth said farewell in "the house that he built."

Thousands of fans cheered as he walked off the ballfield for the last time.

### Draft Act is Signed

A draft act requiring men from 19 through 25 to serve in the military was signed into law today by President Truman.

Registration will begin within six weeks and in the first year, between 200,000 and 225,000 men will be called to duty for 21-month stints.

Since those already in the National Guard and other reserve units are exempt from the draft, the ranks of the civilian reserves have swelled rapidly in recent months.

Reserve service requires weekly drills and two weeks a year in camp. All efforts will be made to allow reservists to serve in their home towns.

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## New York Subway Fare is Doubled to Ten Cents

Last night, New York lost the distinction of being the only large city that clung to the once universal nickel fare on its rapid transit lines, a fare that has prevailed since the city's first subway opened on October 27, 1904.

Noisily but cheerfully, New Yorkers began paying the new rates at 12:01 a.m., namely ten cents for a ride and 12 cents for a combination ride. School children have a system of reduced fares.

## Airlift sets Supply Record to Berlin

The Allied airlift into Berlin set a new record today by flying in 7,000 tons of supplies in defiance of the three-month-old Russian blockade. Despite fog, high winds and rain, American and British planes made 895 flights into Berlin over a 24-hour period, carrying food and fuel for the Allied sectors in the jointly occupied city.

## Republicans Nominate Dewey and Warren

Republicans have chosen New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey as their presidential candidate and Governor Earl Warren of California as his vice-presidential running mate. In framing what could be called a "Tale of Two Coasts," Republicans meeting in Philadelphia hope to wrest control of the White House this fall from the Democrats, who have reigned since the days of Herbert Hoover.

## Army Segregation Ended by President

President Truman has ordered an end to discrimination in the armed forces "as rapidly as possible."

Men in uniform, he said, should have "equality of treatment and opportunity" regardless of race, color, religion or national origin.

The order is expected to stir up bitter opposition in the racially explosive Deep South as well as within his own Democratic Party.

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# The President's Sister

In the late fall of 1823 a small handful of mourners followed a horse-drawn wagon carrying a simple wooden coffin as it made its way from a boarding house in downtown Huntsville to the Maple Hill Cemetery.

If a eulogy was given, it was probably a short one for few people in Huntsville knew her. She had been a recluse, spending much of her time in bed sick, or perhaps sitting in a darkened room of the boarding house remembering a time when she was the confidante of this country's greatest leaders.

At the conclusion of the short funeral service the family returned to town, leaving behind only the scar of a newly filled grave to remind people of the passing of a loved one. Within a few years grass began to cover the site, and a few years later the marker, if there ever was one, disappeared. People who knew her died or moved away and the Huntsville newspapers of the day ignored her presence. By the time historians began to write Huntsville's early history she had been forgotten.

Ironically, the only mention of her presence in Huntsville was a short obituary that appeared in an 1823 Washington D.C., newspaper

which stated that Frances Taylor Madison Rose, sister of President James Madison, had died in Huntsville, Alabama.

Frances Madison was born in 1774, the youngest of ten children born to a wealthy and influential family in Orange County, Virginia. The family estate, Montpelier, was considered to be one of the finest plantations of the day. It consisted of over ten thousand acres with hundreds of slaves working the fields and taking care of the house. The estate

was virtually a self contained community with its own grist mill, wheelwrights, black smith and wagon maker. Numerous cousins lived nearby giving the estate a sense of being a small town. One of her cousins, Zachary Taylor, would later become the twelfth president of the United States.

Fanny, as Frances was called, was raised as virtually an only child. Her siblings were all older than her, with James, her eldest brother, being 23 years old when she was



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born. At an early age she earned the reputation of being an outspoken tomboy, often forsaking her dolls and parlor games to explore the estate in company of one of the numerous slaves.

While growing up Fanny was immersed in the political future of the new country. Her brother James had entered politics the same year she was born and was a member of the Virginia Convention and the Continental Congress. James Madison was widely regarded as the intellectual shining star of the newly-founded government.

Fanny assumed the chores of hostess while still a young girl. Her mother was regularly incapacitated with the lingering effects of malaria. Fanny often assumed the duties of entertaining guests, of which there were many. As James Madison became more well known in political circles, Montpelier was often overrun with guests, some of whom stayed for weeks at a time discussing the future of the country.

For a young girl, these were heady times. Thomas Jefferson, John Hancock and James Monroe would often sit at the dinner table with her while discussing the Declaration of Independence. Aaron Burr fascinated her with his rakish devil-may-care attitude. Henry Clay practiced his oratory while pacing in the living room and Benjamin Franklin reminded her of a kindly grand father figure who always had time to answer her questions.

Education for a young lady at that time was practically nonexistent. Girls were ex-

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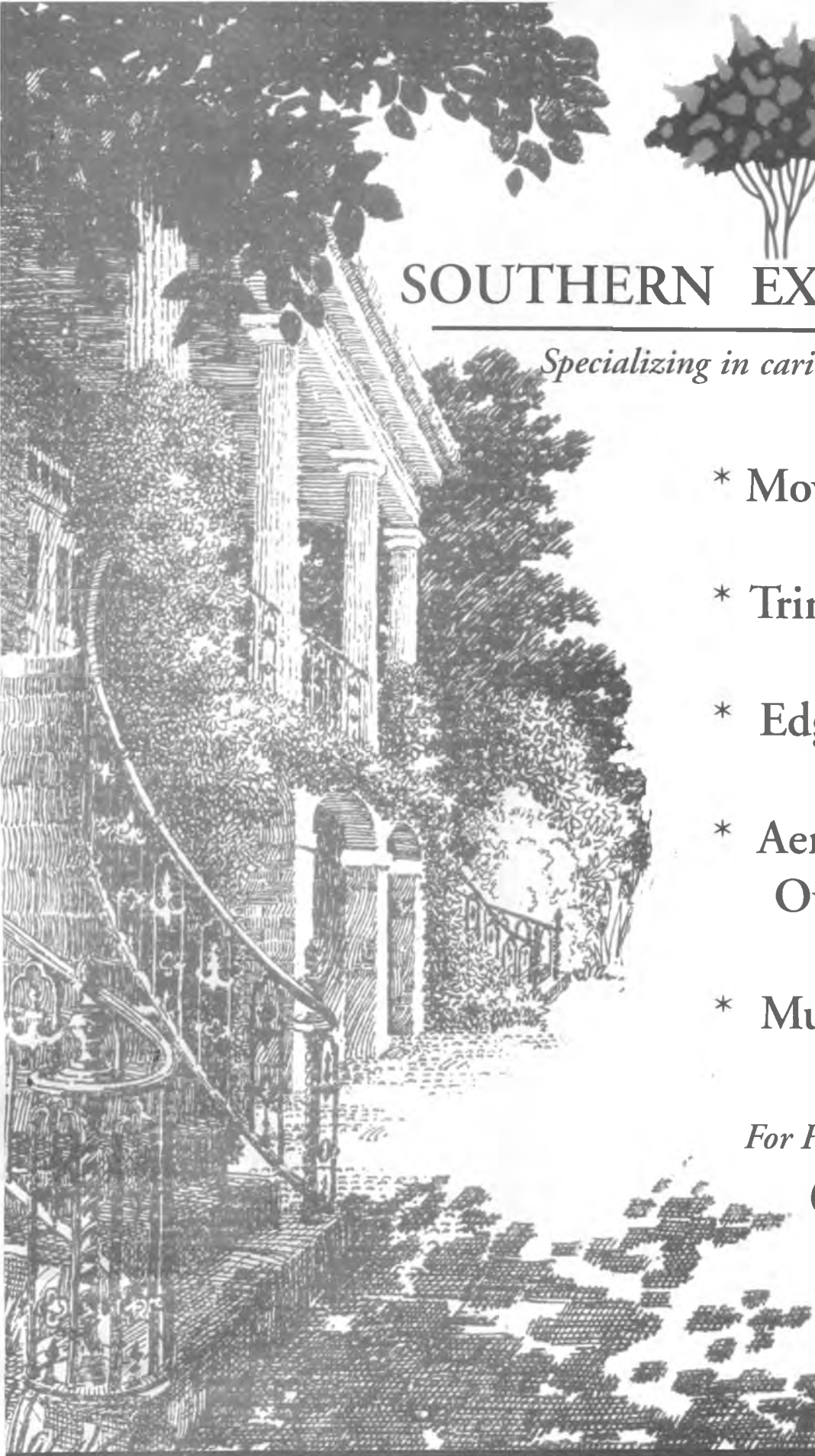
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pected to take care of the house and obey their husbands. Education was something for boys and not to be wasted on girls. James Madison, however, assumed the role of tutor for his youngest sister. While visiting Montpelier during breaks of Congress he would patiently instruct her in the same subjects he was taught while a student at Princeton College. With a lack of text books the lessons often consisted of political essays, which they would discuss, and argue about, passionately.

While James Madison was serving in the Philadelphia Congress, Fanny often stayed with him, taking on the role of hostess for her bachelor brother. There she became lifelong friends with George Washington, and entertained Patrick Henry and Alexander Hamilton while becoming the belle of Philadelphia's

social set.

The young country named the United States of America had been victorious on the battlefield but now another crisis loomed. James Madison realized that no nation could survive for long without strict guidelines for its government and citizens. This was a problem that would perplex him for years.

During this time Madison would often retire to Montpelier with his collection of books to ponder what form of government would be best. Many times, wracked by excruciating headaches, he would lie on the couch while Fanny read discourses from books on governmental studies.

According to a family historian, Fanny would argue passionately for her views on what the government should be. One of her strongest beliefs was a separation of Church and State, a view that her brother agreed with but was considered almost

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heretical in those days. One battle she lost, however, was equal rights for women, an idea considered outrageous even by her brother.

Many of their ideas would later be incorporated into The Bill of Rights and the Constitution.

One of Fanny's many friends was Dolly Payne, an attractive young widow who had been raised as a Quaker and was also a cousin of Martha Washington. James Madison was courting Dolly but she was unable to decide whether to accept his proposal of marriage. According to a family legend, Fanny and Dolly were visiting Martha at Mt. Vernon when the subject of the proposed marriage came up. Suddenly, George Washington entered the room and began a lengthy impassioned discourse on the merits of James Madison as a potential husband. Faced with such insurmountable odds Dolly quickly agreed to the proposed

wedding. Later she discovered that the Madisons, brother and sister, had enlisted the aid of the venerable Washington leader as a match maker.

Fanny was by all accounts considered an attractive and intelligent young lady and most people assumed that with her connections she would marry into politics. In 1800, however, she

announced her intentions to marry a local doctor, Robert H. Rose, a somewhat rakish individual with a penchant for speculative endeavors. Although he was well educated and came from a well known family, he brought little money to the marriage. Fortunately Fanny's father made the couple a gift of an adjoining plantation.

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In this same year her father died leaving James Madison as his executor. The Madison family was about to become heir to a problem that plagued many early families. With over fifty cousins living within a few miles, it was impossible to divide the estate in a manner satisfactory to everyone. With Fanny supporting him, James Madison filed a suit against all the members of the family in an attempt to bring about a timely settlement. In the end a settlement was reached but many of the family remained bitter. Fanny and her husband, in addition to the plantation of Litchfield, were awarded claims to thousands of acres of raw untamed lands in Kentucky and western Virginia.

Married life for the young Fanny Madison Rose was totally different from anything she had known before. Where she had always been fascinated by politics, vocal in her beliefs, and somewhat of a society lady, she was now faced with the traditional role

of housewife, and of having another baby every year.

Managing the plantation also fell upon her as her husband was away much of the time pursuing hapless business ventures. He invested heavily in a Philadelphia business that exported tobacco to Europe, only to see the bottom fall out of tobacco prices. Another venture was a proposed canal near New York that had to be abandoned once it was realized the surveys were faulty. Along with two cousins he traveled to Kentucky several times to promote various land development schemes with Fanny's inherited lands but

again was thwarted when the titles proved defective. Each time he would return to Orange County where he would practice medicine until another scheme came along.

All of these ventures proved a heavy weight to the family fortunes, burdening the plantation with more debt each year. However, Robert Rose had become known as "Madison's brother in law" and there was always someone else willing to extend credit or get his support for another scheme. On the other hand, Fanny, who had once been the Belle of the Ball, as well as a budding intellectual, was consigned to the

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role of dutiful wife, subservient to her husband's wishes. Probably even more humiliating was the fact that once she was married, she was not expected to have any opinions, even though people constantly sought her husband's ear for the mere fact he was married to James Madison's sister.

Fanny Madison had gone from being a person in her own right to being "the wife of Madison's brother-in-law."

In 1808 James Madison was elected President. Fanny traveled to Washington to see her brother inaugurated and even though she was pregnant again, insisted on attending several of the balls. Her visits to the White House, where she would often stay for extended periods, must have reminded her of her youth. Once again she was in the company of the men who had helped shape the destiny of our country. Her vivacious charm and spirited intellect made her a highly desired dinner guest with political luminaries such as Jefferson, Monroe and John Quincy Adams.

However stimulating Washington was, Fanny was always faced with reality once she arrived home. The plantation was getting deeper in debt and prospects for relief looked grim. Even James, the brother she had turned to so often in the past, could not help even though he was now the President. Failed crops and the expenses of a political career had practically wiped out his fortune.

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riage was the relationship between her husband and the President. At the outbreak of war with Great Britain, Robert Rose had lobbied for a position in the government and even though Madison had appointed eleven of his own kin to various posts, he had refused to help Rose.

In 1813 Robert Rose left his wife to tend to the family and finances alone, and in the company of several others traveled to New Orleans. He claimed to have served as a surgeon with the army but later applications for land grants, based on his service, were turned down three different times by Congress. Most likely he had been involved in cotton speculation.

When James Madison left office in 1817 he went back to a much different Montpelier. His estates, as well as his family's, were on the point of bankruptcy. Worn out land, bad investments, spiraling expenses and heavy debts all combined to spell the end to the Madison estates. The vast plantations had literally become little more than breeding farms for slaves to be shipped

south, often providing the only source of income to the family.

Meanwhile, Robert Rose had heard about the great fortunes being made by land speculators in Northern Alabama. Some land, purchased for as little as fifteen dollars an acre, was being immediately resold for hundreds of dollars. Rose assembled a group of investors who agreed to invest in shares of the Cypress Land Company, a company involved in land development near

Florence. Many prominent people such as Andrew Jackson and James Monroe had also purchased stock in the company so it appeared to be a safe venture.

One can imagine the heart-ache Fanny must have felt when she learned that she would have

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to give up her home and family to move to the wilderness of Alabama. Doubtful of the educational facilities in the new territory, Fanny had made arrangements for two of her sons to attend school in Kentucky. After selling almost everything of value to pay the accumulated debts, the family loaded a few possessions in several wagons, and accompanied by a good number of slaves, began the long trek southward.

It was decided that Fanny, her daughter Nellie and her youngest son, James Madison Rose, would stay in Huntsville with the Newman family. The Newman family had been neighbors of the Roses in Virginia and Fanny's oldest son Hugh would later marry one of the Newman daughters. Robert and the other boys would go on to Florence to cash in on the land boon and begin building a house for the family.

With her husband gone for much of the time, Fanny began to build a life of her own. Her son, James Madison, had always been her favorite and had inherited his mother's interest in politics. He adapted well to the Alabama wilderness, making friends easily and while still a youth would disappear for days at a time on hunting trips. One of his friends and hunting companions was Davy Crockett who would later have a deciding influence on his life.

Her daughter Nellie, said to have been an exceptionally attractive lady, soon caught the eye of a suitor, Captain John Newman, the son of the family they were staying with. For propriety's sake, Fanny decided to move to a nearby boarding house.

Robert Roses' speculation in the Cypress Land Company proved to be as unsuccessful as all of his other ventures. Rather than making a profit he managed to squander most of what remained of the family fortune. The family was reduced to living off the rental of the few slaves they had brought from Virginia.

Robert Rose, like so many others who had lost their fortunes, began to seek so-

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lace with alcohol. He spent much of his time in bars regaling listeners with stories of times gone by. In 1820 he ran for public office but was easily defeated by the "Georgia Gang," led by LeRoy Pope, who had been adamantly opposed to many of President Madison's policies. It is believed that Rose practiced medicine occasionally during this time.

In 1822 Robert Rose announced to his family that they were moving to Giles County, Tennessee. A group of investors, hoping to capitalize on his connection with the ex-president, had offered him a farm in an attempt to lure other people into buying nearby land.

Fanny's husband and sons thrived on the new adventure. It was rugged, untamed wilderness with the closest neighbors miles away. Bears, deer and other types of wild game were abundant and the boys easily adjusted to the frontier life.

For Fanny, however, it was a different story. Her husband disappeared for days at a time practicing medicine and drinking with his friends, leaving her and her daughter alone in the rough log cabin they called home. Even worse, Fanny was suffering the lingering effects of malaria and was often bedridden for days at a time.

One has to wonder what went through her mind as she lay in her sick bed. Did she remember the times when she visited George Washington at Mt. Vernon or did she think about her life in Virginia when she dressed in the finest gowns and kept company with famous people like Thomas Jefferson and Junes Monroe. Her family

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fortunes were gone, her once fine dresses had become tattered cleaning rags. The only thing Fanny had left of value was her pride.

After living in Giles County for only a few months, Fanny announced to her husband that she was leaving him. Possibly she was concerned for her daughter's future, or more likely, she was fed up with her husband's empty promises.

Accompanied by her daughter Nellie, she returned to Huntsville where she lived in a boarding house. Life could not have been pleasant for her. For a woman to leave her husband was almost unheard of at the time and doubtless the community looked on her as a scorned woman, and all the memories in the world could not change that.

Family accounts say that she was a recluse with few friends and hardly ever left her room.

Fanny Madison Rose died in the fall of 1823. She was buried in Maple Hill Cemetery. No one knows if her family was at the funeral. If there ever was a

headstone, it disappeared with the passage of time.

Her daughter Nellie married John Newman the following year and eventually most of their family moved to California. Robert Rose and three of their sons moved around almost continuously until the early 1830s when they settled on a farm near Memphis, Tennessee. He died in 1833.

James Madison Rose, Fanny's youngest son, stayed with his father. In 1835, while taking a shipment of cotton to market in New Orleans he learned that his close friend, Davy Crockett, had gone to Texas to help fight for independence. James left to join his friend in Texas and in March of 1836 they both died at the Alamo.

President James Madison

lived until 1836. His estates were practically worthless at his death and Dolly Madison lived as a virtual pauper in Washington D.C., until Congress purchased her husband's papers for the National Archives. She died in 1849.

*A special thanks to Catherine Rose of the Rose Family Association, Jane Reynolds of Chicago, Ill., David Madison Kent of Salt Lake City, Utah and Nancy Hardin of Nashville Tn. who generously shared their research with Old Huntsville.*

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# Sexy Costumes



# Pleasures

ONE STOP ROMANCE SHOP

We Offer the largest collection of the sexiest Costumes at the lowest prices... Guaranteed !

**Hookah Halloween PARTY!! 10/30/08**

**Wear your costume for a FREE Hookah Rental and \$1 Beers**

4925 University Dr.  
(next to Chili's)  
Huntsville, AL  
256-830-0069

1711 Central Pkwy.  
(corner of 14th & Central)  
Decatur, AL  
256-584-0069



# When life was simple...



During the early 1960's Huntsville experienced an unprecedented growth as thousands of people moved here, but the Courthouse Square still retained the charm of a small town where people shopped and met friends for dinner or a movie. Wagons pulled by mules were still a common sight on many of Huntsville's streets, while just a few miles away teams of scientists and engineers were working on highly classified projects that would ultimately send men to the moon.

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

*"Old Tyme Friendly Service"*



717 Pratt Ave. NE  
Open 8 AM - 10PM - 7 days a week  
(256) 539-7443

\* One Hour Photo \*  
US Gov't. Post Office  
UPS Shipping

Located in Historic Five Points