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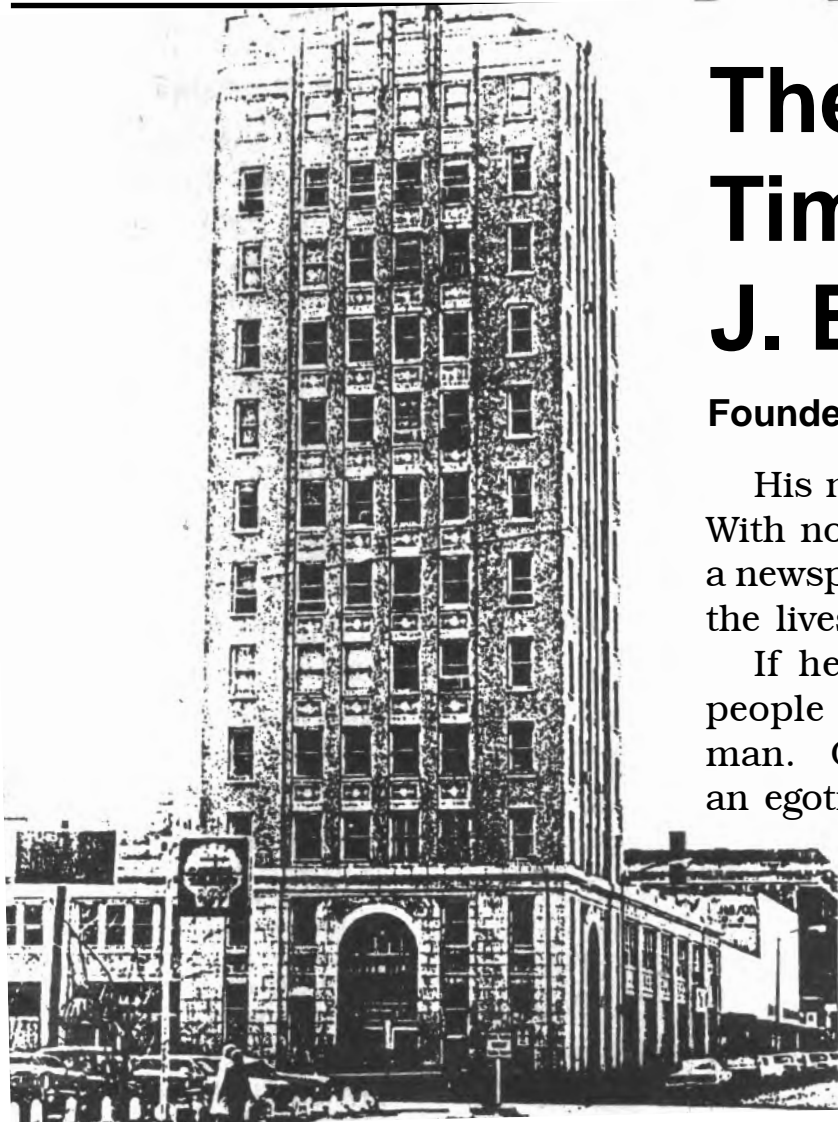
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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



The Life and Times of J. Emory Pierce

Founder of the Huntsville Times

His name was Jacob Emory Pierce. With nothing but a dream he founded a newspaper that would forever change the lives of thousands of people.

If he had been alive today, many people would have called him a con man. Others would have called him an egotistical eccentric.

He was all of these things. You either loved him or hated him. He was a newspaper man who lived by his own rules.

Also in this issue: Revival at Rice's Chapel

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Domie Lewter
Mac Lewter

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The Life and Times of J. Emory Pierce

His name was Jacob Emory Pierce. With nothing but a dream he founded a newspaper that would forever change the lives of thousands of people.

If he had been alive today, many people would have called him a con man. Others would have called him an egotistical eccentric.

He was all of these things.

He was a newspaper man.

Emory Pierce was a vindictive man, and shrewd. He was controversial around the turn of the century, and still is, in some circles. There was one thing for sure, and disputed by none - nobody messed with Emory Pierce.

The publisher of one of Huntsville's early newspapers learned that lesson the hard way in 1909. Exact details have been lost with the passage of time, but it appears that the publisher

made the mistake of writing an editorial with which Pierce disagreed. It had to do with whether livestock should be permitted inside the town limits. When Pierce, whose parents owned a small dairy on Meridian Street, showed up at the newspaper office to voice his displeasure, the publisher, instead of trying to placate him, added insult to injury by giving him the bum's rush out the front door.

A second such article, even more strongly worded, appeared in print the following week. To say that Emory Pierce was angry would be an understatement. The whole matter was a small thing, the kind of thing that most people would have forgotten in a few days. But Pierce was not like most people. During the next several months he tried many ways to heap revenge on the publisher.

I.E. Bradshaw recalled hearing his father tell the story:

"Everybody in Huntsville watched the feud. The arguing went on for most of the summer and then all of a sudden Pierce stopped his efforts. This kind'a dumbfounded everybody cause that wasn't in character with him. What nobody knew was that Pierce had lined up a couple of investors and was going to open his own newspaper. It's hard for people today to understand, but

"Cats are absolute individuals, with their own ideas about everything, including the people they own."

John Digman



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Pierce could talk the horns off a billy goat.

"He would say, 'Boys, y'all put the money up and I'll be your partner. Together we'll get rich!

"Well, it seemed like a good deal. Pierce would be the working partner and these other boys would pay the bills. He figured their finances would be in the black in a few months. They rented this building down there on Washington Street, right up from the old Yarborough Hotel, bought a press and hung out a sign. A couple of weeks later he came out with his first issue."

That was the start of the *Huntsville Daily Times*.

"Everyone was excited about the newspaper and thought Pierce had forgotten about his feud with the other publisher. They should have known better.

"Pierce didn't have any advertising salesmen, so he did it all himself. You have to remember that all the businesses in town were used to advertising with the other paper.

"My father told me that Pierce called on every business in town and offered free ads if they would not run in the other paper. Sure enough, it didn't take long before the *Times* was jammed full of advertisers and the other paper was hurting finan-

cially. They had also learned not to mess with Emory Pierce. The bad thing about this whole thing was that the *Times* was in a bad financial way, too. All the ads were free and no money was coming in. The investors called a meeting with Pierce and told him that they could not afford to put any more money into the paper.

"Pierce agreed to buy out his partners for a few pennies on the dollar, rather than let the paper fold."

The following week Emory Pierce became the founder, sole owner, and editor of the *Huntsville Daily Times*. He immediately stopped the free ad practice, after having almost bankrupted his competition.

Furthermore, he raised his ad rates far above those of his competitor. The new paper became an instant success and Pierce, despite his sixth-grade education, quickly became an effective editorial writer. He blended into the journalistic ilk perfectly, considering that worthwhile writers are an eccentric breed.

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George Washington

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He had always worn his hair longer than the norm for the era, so as it began to turn gray, he let it flow to shoulder length. He bought a black Stetson hat and it became his trademark.

Edmond Duffy, who went to work for the *Times* in 1924, recalled going to work each morning and seeing Pierce walking down Holmes Avenue.

"There used to be a streetcar line running down the middle of Holmes and sometimes Pierce, wearing his ten-gallon hat and swinging his cane, would purposely walk in the middle of the track. The streetcar conductor would have to almost stop the car and ring the bell furiously before Pierce would step out of the way. This went on for several months and finally one morning Pierce, in an agitated mood, turned to the exasperated conductor and said, "Would you stop ringing that damn bell! If I'm not moving fast enough you can get out and walk too!"

"When I first went to work there they were still on Washington Street. Huntsville was just starting to build up at that time and it was his dream to have the tallest building in town. He bought land for a new building and had already dug the basement when his financial backers changed their minds. That big hole in the ground was there for several years and everybody called it 'Pierce's folly.' He finally went to Nashville to find new funding for the building.

"Anyway, he got the money and they started construction. Things were going along real good with Pierce boasting to everyone he met that he would soon have his office on the top floor of the tallest building in town.

"The construction was almost finished when a major bombshell hit, taking the wind out of his sails. Another skyscraper was under construction, the Russel Erskine Hotel. Plans called for it to be the same height as the new *Times* building.

"Pierce was livid. Angrily he ordered the workmen to add another floor on his building. The elevator shaft was already in place and couldn't accommodate the extra floor, so a stairway provided the only access to the top floor. The *Times* Building was finally completed and, true to his boast, Pierce had his office on the top floor of the tallest building between Nashville and Birmingham.

"Unfortunately, big bills come with big buildings and they kept coming in every month. Advertising revenue was down and expenses were up. Everyone knew Pierce was having trouble financially but he refused to admit it to himself

"My luck is so bad that I bought a cemetery, people would stop dying."

Rodney Dangerfield

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"Pierce was a tyrant to his employees. We used to get paid every Saturday morning," said Duffy. "One such payday morning we were all waiting when Pierce walked in. 'Boys,' he said, 'I'm going to do you a favor. If I pay you today, all you are going to do is spend it ... so I'm not going to pay you today.'

"He abruptly turned and walked out. We were speechless! Of course, we eventually got our money, but after that we lived in fear from week to week."

But even with this type of tactic, Pierce still could not generate enough revenue to pay all the bills that piled up. Within a few years his business bit the dust.

With the foreclosure of *The Times*, Pierce lost everything. Although everyone agreed that he was an eccentric, egotistical character, he was also an exceptional newspaperman and had become a prolific writer.

Too proud to remain in Huntsville, he moved to Memphis where he started a small regional paper called the *Tennessee Valley Booster*.

The whole nation was in the

throes of the Great Depression and newspaper revenues were hit hardest of all. With Pierce's small quarterly paper floundering, there was no way he could compete against the big dailies for the few advertising dollars available.

Ever the consummate salesman, Pierce decided to create his own market. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt had already announced the TVA program. To the small farmers it was seen as a salvation. Pierce, instead of calling on businesses for advertising, called on these small farmers.

Pierce was a sharp dresser and an eloquent speaker. Calling on a farmer he would spend a few minutes talking about hogs, weather, or whatever. Eventually the conversation would always turn to the TVA and invariably the farmer would begin praising it.

This was Pierce's cue.

"Friend," he would say, cleverly choosing his words and their timing. "This is your lucky day. I am here to make sure you get your shares of *Tennessee Valley ... Authority* has been given to me by the state of Tennessee



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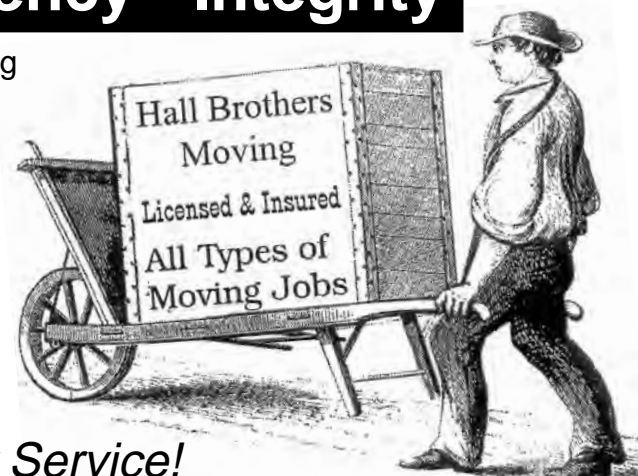
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The farmers, illiterate for the most part, would gladly shell out their savings for what they thought were shares in the TVA project. What they got in reality was advertising in the *Tennessee Valley Booster*

It wasn't long before Pierce's new-found prosperity attracted the attention of a young ad salesman with the *Memphis Appeal* "How," he wondered, "can Pierce be selling so much advertising." The young salesman got several copies of Pierce's paper and decided to call on the accounts and try to sell them advertising himself

"Advertising?" the farmers angrily spat. "We ain't bought no advertising. We bought stock in TVA!"

The next day Emory Pierce, the former *Huntsville Daily Times* publisher, was a resident of the Memphis jail. A top floor cell, ironically. He had become fairly affluent by this time, so it came as a shock to everyone when he refused to post a mere thousand dollar bond in order to gain release. "I have committed no crime," he announced, "and I refuse to refute that fact by posting bail. I will stay in jail until I am tried." After ordering that his typewriter be brought to him, he settled down in his new home for the next few months. Strange as it may seem, he continued to sell "advertising" and publish the paper from his jail cell.

When his case was finally called, the courtroom was packed with angry farmers, re-

porters, and salesmen. The first person to be called was the young trouble-making salesman, who related his findings. Next, the prosecutor asked one of the farmers:

"Did you buy what you thought was stock in TVA?"

"Yes sir."

"Can you identify the man who sold you this stock?"

"Yes sir," he said, pointing at Emory Pierce.

"May I see the stock certificate?"

The farmer reached into a pocket of his overalls and pulled out a crumpled piece of paper. "Your Honor," the lawyer said triumphantly, "I would like to enter this into..."

He froze in mid-sentence as he stared at the crumpled certificate. The judge, sensing that something was wrong, asked to



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Neil Cocker



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see the paper. The judge slowly put his glasses on, and smoothing the paper in front of him, began to read. The certificate was an expensive, beautifully engraved piece of work. But, it was also a receipt for one month of advertising in the *Tennessee Valley Booster*

The case was dismissed and Pierce never explained why he chose to spend the summer in jail. Not long afterwards, Emory Pierce died of a heart attack in Tupelo, Ms.. According to James Dewitt, "Pierce just wasn't the same after he lost the *Huntsville Times*."

"One of his proudest possessions," Dewitt said, "was an old calling card that read: *Jacob Emory Pierce, Publisher, Huntsville Daily Times.*"



A Scholarly Vagabond

W. G. Maloney, a young man arrested today for riding trains contrary to the law, claimed in the police court this morning that he was making a study of the underworld and became a hobo in order to get a closer view as to their life-styles and habits.

Mayor Smith informed him that he would be given every opportunity to make a close up study of hoboes and other members of the chain gang while he served thirty days in the county lock up.

From 1913 newspaper

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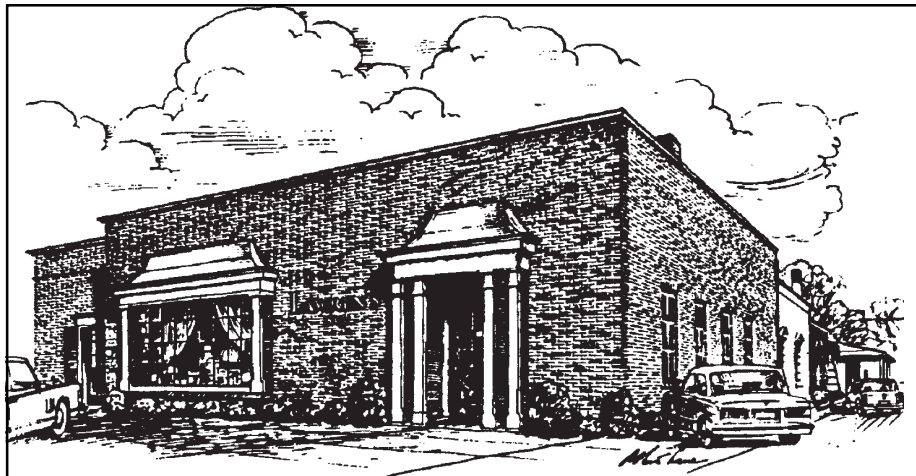


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The Community Store

by Malcolm Miller

When I was a very small boy my Mama would sometimes walk to the train depot in Ryland and flag the train down to go see her Mother who lived on what is now called Toll Gate Road in Huntsville. At that time the road was called Monte Sano Pike. Since I was too young to work in the fields Mama would always take me with her. When we got off the train we would walk the several miles to Mama Kate's house, that's what I called my Grand Mother.

What a thrill this trip always was. We would stay two or three days visiting Mama Kate and my Aunt Lucy Currier, Mama's sister, who lived just down the hill on Wells Avenue. One thing that still sticks out in my mind is the trips down the hill to Miss Pinky Gormley's little store. She had a small store in one room in the front of her house and there was a door bell on the front door and when you rang the bell she would come and open the door into what seemed to me at the time a magical place. There was the sweet smell of all kinds of candy, cookies,

chewing gum, coffee and spices. Also a little further down the street there were two more stores - Mrs. Ruby Ballard's and Mrs. Porter's.

Back in those days and even into the forties and fifties there were neighborhood stores throughout all Huntsville. You see very few people back then owned cars so you either walked to the nearest community store with your grocery list or if you had a phone you could call in your order and they would deliver it. Some of the stores hired boys on bicycles with a small wheel in front and a large basket to deliver the groceries.

Over the early years when my children were young I traded with several different neighborhood stores, where I had charge accounts. You see I was working at the local shoe factory and times were often very hard, many times I was unable to pay off my bill at the end of the week. One store owner who stayed with me through some rough times was Shelby Taylor on Clinton Street. I ran up some pretty big bills with him but he never failed to extend me more

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Glenda Huffstetler, Huntsville

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credit and I always eventually managed to pay him off.

In nineteen fifty five when I was being considered for a job at the post office, I listed Shelby Taylor as one of my references. Mr. Collier the postmaster told me later that Shelby Taylor's recommendation was all he needed to hire me.

With the coming of the big super markets finally the local neighborhood stores one at a time disappeared and along with them a way of life that was much slower and laid back. Incidentally it was a common practice with the community stores that when you paid your bill at the end of the week they would reward you with a free soft drink. I don't believe our many big supermarkets we have now would let us charge groceries or award us with a free soft drink when we paid our bill.

News from 1907

- Delsie Long, a young man from Marshall County, was arrested in the Whitesburg precinct yesterday and brought here to jail on a warrant charging bastardy.

A warrant for the young man's arrest was sworn out in Justice Grimmert's court by Miss

Daisy Blowers, a young girl of the Whitesburg community, who claims that the man promised to marry her sometime ago. Long is not 21, she claims, and his parents have refused to give their consent for him to marry her. She is said to be in a delicate situation and needing a husband in the worst manner.

- Lost - on the street between Walker Street and Huntsville Bank & Trust, Co., a star and crescent gold scarf pin with pearls. Gift from husband, now dead. Reward if returned to the Bank & Trust.

- I propose to open a private school for boys at my residence on East Holmes Street on Tuesday, the first day of October, 1907. I will teach whatever is necessary for entrance into the Sophomore class in any college in the state of Alabama. Baseball and football will be in my curriculum, my fee is \$5 per month per student, paid in advance. Charles O. Shepherd

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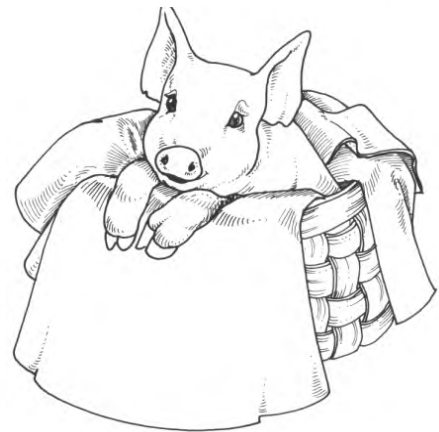
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Days of Slavery

The following interview was given by Cato Carter in 1938 as part of the Federal Writers Project. Carter was a slave on a plantation in North Alabama and his interview provides a rare glimpse into the everyday life of a slave.

I am a hundred and one years old, 'cause I was twenty-eight, going on twenty-nine, a man growed, when the breaking-up came. I'm pretty old, but my folks live that way.


Back in Alabama, Mis' Adeline Carter took me, when I was past my creepin' days, to live in the big house with the white folks. I had a room built on the house where I stayed, and they were always good to me, 'cause I was one of their blood. They never hit me a lick nor slapped me once, and they told me that they would never sell me away from them. They were the best quality white folks, and they lived in a big two-story house with a big hall that ran all the way through it.

My mammy lived in a hewn-oak log cabin, in the quarters. There was a long row of cabins, some bigger than others on account of family size, 'cause my marster had over eighty head of slaves. Those little old cabins was cozy, 'cause we chinked them with mud, and they had stick chimneys daubed with mud mixed with hog hair. The beds were draw beds - wooden bedst'ds held together with ropes drawn tight to hold them and to put the mattresses on. We scalded moss and buried it for a while and stuffed it into ticking to make mattresses. Them beds slept good - better than the ones nowadays.

There was a good fireplace for cooking, and on Sundays the mistress would give the niggers a pint of flour and a chicken, for to cook a mess of vittles for themselves. Then, there was plenty of game for them to find for themselves.

Many is the time when I killed seventy-five or eighty squirrels out of one big beech. There was a lot of deer and bears and quails and every other kind of game, but when they run the Indians out of the country, the game just followed the Indians. Wherever the Indians left, the game all left with them, for some reason I dunno.

Our place was fifteen hundred acres in one block, and besides the crops of cotton, and corn we raised in the bottoms, we raised vegetables and sheep and beef. I couldn't hardly eat fresh beef, but mostly we dried beef on







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scaffolds we built. I used to tend the beef as we were drying it out. But best of anything to eat I liked a big fat coon, and I always liked honey. Some of the slaves had little garden patches they tended for their own use.

My grandmammy was a "juksie," because her mammy was black and her daddy was a Indian. That's what makes me so mixed up with Indian, African, and white blood. Sometimes it feels like I don't know what I am.

My marster used to give me a little money to buy me what I wanted. I always bought fine clothes. In the summer, when I was a little one, I wore lowerings, like the rest of the slaves. That was the things made from cotton sacking. Most of the boys wore shirttails until they were big yearling boys. When they bought me red russets shoes from the town, I cried and cried. I didn't want to wear no rawhide shoes. So they would take them back. They had a weakness for my crying. I did have plenty of fine clothes - good

woolen suits they would spin on the place, and doeskins and fine linens. I drove in the carriage with the white folks, and I was about the most dudish slave in those parts.

I used to tend to the nursling thread. When the slave women were confined with the babies having to suck and they were too little to take to the fields, the mammies had to spin. I would take them thread and bring it back to the house when it was spun. If they didn't spin seven or eight cuts a day, they would get a

whuppin'. It was considerable hard on a woman, when she had a fretting baby, but every morning, those babies had to be taken to the big house so that the white folks could see if they were dressed right. They was considerable money tied up in those little nigger young-uns.

They whupped the womens, and they whupped the mens. I used to work some in the tannery on the place, and we made their whips. They used to tie them down, or to a stob, and give them the whuppin's. Some of

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them it would take four men to whup them, but they got it.

Most of the ones I know had their marriage put in the Book after the breaking-up. Plenty I know had it put in the Book after they had grown chillun. When they got married on the places, mostly they just jumped over a broom, and that made them married. Sometimes, one of the white folks would read a little out of the Scriptures to them, and they felt more married.

When my marster and the other mens on the place went off to the War, he called me and said, "Cato, you is always been a 'sponsible man, and I leave you to look after the womens and the place. If I don't come back, I want you to always stay by Miss Adeline." I said, "Befo' God, I will, Mr. Ol." He said, "Then I can go away peaceable."

We thought, for a long time, the sojers had the Federals whupped to pieces, but they was

plenty bad times to go through.

The young mens in the grey uniforms used to pass so gay and singing in the big road. Their clothes was good, and they looked so fine, and we used to feed them the best we had on the place. Mis' Adeline would say, "Cato, they is our boys, and give them the best this place 'fords." We took out the hams and the wine, and we killed chickens for them. That was at first.

Then, the boys and mens in blue got to coming that way, and they was fine-looking mens, too, and Mis' Adeline would cry, and she would say, "Cato, they is just mens and boys, and we got to feed them." We had a pavilion built in the yard, like they had at picnics, and we fed the Federals on that. Three times, the Federals said to me, "We is going to take you with us." Mis' Adeline let into crying and say to the Yankee gentlemen, "Don't take

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Cato. Most of my help has run away to the North, and Cato is the only man I got by me now. If you take Cato, I just don't know what I will do."

I tell them that so long as I live I got to stay by Mis' Adeline, and that unless somebody forces me away, I ain't gwine to leave. I say, "I got no complaints to make. I want to stay by Old Mis' till one of us die. The Yankee mens say to Mis' Adeline, "Don't 'sturb yourself, Miss. We ain't gwine to take him nor harm nothing of yours."

There was springs round and about, not too far from our place, and the sojers used to camp there at one of the springs and build a fire to cook a mule, 'cause they got down to starvation. And when some of the other gorillas [guerrillas] would see the fire, they would aim to the fire, and many is the time they spilled the dinner for the sojers. The Yankees did it, and our boys did it, too. There was killing going on so terrible, like people was dogs, and some of the old ones said it was near to the end of time, 'cause of folks being so wicked.

Mr. Ol came back, and all the others did, too, but he came back first. He was all wore out and ragged. He stood on the front porch and called all of us to the front yard. He said, "Mens and womens, you are today as free as I am. You is free to do as you like, 'cause the damned Yankees done 'creed that you are. Go if you wants or stay if you wants."

Some of them stayed and some went. And some that had run away to the North came back. They always called real humble-like at the back gate to Mis' Adeline, and she always fixed it up with Mr. Ol that they could have a place.

Near to the close of the War, I seen some of the folks leaving for Texas. They said if the Federals win the War, you have to live in Texas to keep the slaves. So plenty of them started driftin' their slaves to the West. They would pass with the womens riding in the wagons and the mens on foot. When some of them came back, they said that it took three weeks to walk the way. Some of them took slaves to Texas, even after the Federals done 'creed a breaking-up.

I hated to go, 'cause things was so bad. Flour sold for twenty-five dollars a barrel, and pickled pork for fifteen dollars a barrel. You couldn't buy nothing 'lessn you had gold. I had plenty

of Confederate money, only it don't buy nothing.

But today, I am a old man, and my hands ain't stained with no blood.



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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*

Our winner for the Photo of the Month for March is **Darla Oliver**, of Madison. The photo of that adorable boy was of **Ron Cooper**, of In Bloom on Pratt Avenue. Darla remembered when her daughter married 8 years ago with a reception at the Heritage Club, In Bloom took care of all the flowers and they were Gorgeous! Congratulations Darla!

We met a really interesting couple recently. While having breakfast at Dallas Mill Deli, we talked with **Phil** and **Kleone Nelson**. They have only been in Huntsville since 1997, but love it here. They said that Huntsville has the most interesting history, they love the stories of our city, and that the people they've met here are the best. I have a feeling the Nelson's will stay here!

For you newcomers, if you haven't been to the **Whistlestop Festival** at the Train Depot on Church St., you've Got to go! There's food, entertainment (Charlie Daniels plays Saturday night) and lots of BBQ's competing for prizes. The dates are May 1 and 2, Friday and Saturday, and tickets range from \$15 for one day to \$25 for a weekend pass.

Congratulations to **Melissa**



Kay Foley and **Ryan Hamilton** on their recent wedding. They make the most gorgeous couple, and Melissa is the daughter of proud parents **Martha** and **Michael Bryan** of Athens and **James Foley** of Huntsville. Melissa's grandmother is **Dr. June Foley**, whom many people here remember. Ryan's parents are **Kate** and **Richard Gildersleeve** of Connecticut.

For those of you who have never attended, the **Art Strolls** downtown are really fun. This year they will be held the 3rd Thursday of each month starting in June. They will be held at Constitution Village just south of the courthouse.

While at LeeAnn's on Church Street recently, we met a super nice guy. **Michael Brazier** is an agent for Liberty National Life Insurance Company, and we loved getting to know him.

Tom Moon has been in the papers lately, he was only 17 years old when he joined the Navy.

He will be 88 on his next birthday, and has tons of memorabilia regarding his career in the Navy. He was even written up in a newspaper in New York. Wife **Annie** is very proud of her husband.

We are SO Proud of Huntsville's Green Team! Under the leadership of **Joy McKee**, and staffed by some excellent, hard working folks, the Green Team won a very prestigious e-cycling (electronic recycling) award. The recent nationwide cell phone recycling contest sponsored by Sprint had cities over the U.S. vying for 2 \$5,000 prizes. One category was winner for city size, and the other was overall # of phones recycled. **Huntsville won BOTH awards!** The \$10K will be spent to create an educational Green Team robot to educate children (and grown-ups) on recycling. In addition, the money raised by collecting and selling the phones to Sprint went to the American Cancer Asso., Relay for Life. Many organizations and individuals came together for this effort. There will soon be a naming con-

Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This little girl knows all about the history of her mountain.



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test for the robot, keep tuned in. You can still recycle your cell phones & ink cartridges by turning them into the Green Team, with the money going to buy recycling bins for Big Spring Park, as well as other projects.

One of our local men has become quite a renowned artist! **Ken Gentle** currently lives in Rome, GA. but has a very unique art talent - you can check it out at www.blacktopfolkart.com.

While at Chop House downtown a few weeks ago we met **Mark Sims**, who works at AMRDEC as a mathematician and Reliability Engineer. He is a pet lover and is owned by 3 cats and Dylan the dog. Mark is a really great guy and we hope to see him again!

Kathy Ogle works for **Dr. DeJarnatte**, and told us recently that her middle sister was recognized for great work recently. **Diane Jones** works as lunch room Manager at Walnut Grove Elementary school in Hazel Green. She was picked as "Support Professional of the Year" for Madison County. Congratulations Diane!

Where else but Huntsville do the drivers come to a complete stop on a very busy road so that ducks & geese can cross the street? That happens often on **Church Street**, bordering the Eastern side of Big Spring Park. Now that we will be seeing baby ducks and geese walking, please be careful when you're in that area so you don't hit anyone!

We have all heard about Taylor Produce and Ayers Farms losing their leases at the Farmers Market on Cook Avenue. They were outbid by others. Not sure about Ayers, but Taylors has been in that same spot for 50 years and have many, many loyal customers. I sure hope the new owners will keep their prices as reasonable as Taylors and Ayers used to.

Late news is Taylors will be

relocating near Airport Road and So. Parkway, so keep an eye out for them for the best tomatoes in Huntsville!

Be sure & mark your calendars for May 2 and 3. The Huntsville Pilgrimage Asso. is sponsoring the **annual Historic Homes Tour and Cemetery Stroll**. 6 beautiful homes will be ready for you to tour from 10 am til 4 on Saturday, May 2. Several gardens will be ready, including the **Historic Lowry House** and **Frank Nola's** home at 601 Franklin. Then on Sunday, May 3, the cemetery will host thousands of Huntsvillians from 2-4:30.

We were so sorry to hear that **Nancy Holliman** had died recently. She was the author of that great cookbook, "Cooking with Nancy, Plain and Fancy" and was a really sweet lady. Our deepest sympathy to her family, we will certainly miss her.

Chris and **Stephanie Waggett's** second child, a son whom they named **Christopher Braydon**, was born in late March. The first child, a big brother named **Will**, is not too happy with this new situation at home and will have to get used to it! Very proud grandparents are **Liz** and **Joe Waggett**, of Huntsville.

We wanted to let **Ron McIntosh** of Huntsville know that we are thinking about him and

want him to feel better! **Jean** is his sweet wife who is taking good care of him.

Remember to support our local businesses, and have a wonderful Mother's Day to all you **Moms** out there!

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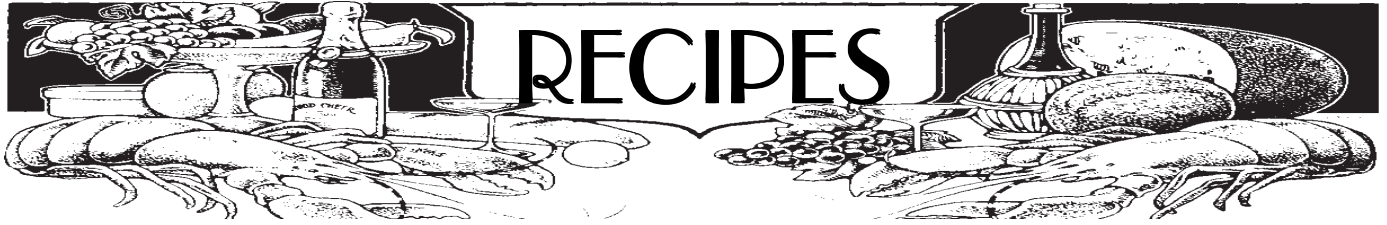
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RECIPES

Vera Tippett's Favorites

Louie Tippett told us about his Mom's wonderful creations. Vera Tippett loved to cook and her family will always think of her and her tasty recipes!

Creamy Vegetable and Fruit Slaw

- 2 c. shredded cabbage
- 1 11-oz can mandarin orange segments, drained
- 1 8.5 oz can pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/4 c. grated carrots
- 1/4 c. raisins
- 1/4 c. thinly sliced celery
- 1 8-oz. carton lemon yogurt
- 1/3 c. Wheat Germ
- 2 T. light cream cheese, softened

Combine first 6 ingredients, mix well. Fold in yogurt, wheat germ and cream cheese. Mix well and serve immediately or cover and chill for later.

Broccoli Casserole

- 2 boxes frozen broccoli cuts
 - 1 8 oz. jar Cheese Whiz
 - 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 - 1 c. cooked rice
- Cook rice by box instructions. Mix Cheese Whiz and soup, mix in cooked rice.

In a casserole dish mix broccoli and cheese mixture. Bake at 375 for one hour.

cup chopped bell pepper and brown. Make a white sauce (below) then blend one cup of that with the sausage mixture and the corn.

Pour into casserole dish and top with grated Cheddar and cook in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

White sauce:

- 1 T. butter
- 1 cup milk
- 1 T. flour

Melt butter, stir in the flour, dash of salt and pepper. Add cup of milk and cook one minute over low heat and gravy thickens.

Sausage and Corn Casserole

- 1 lb. sausage
- 1 can whole kernel corn, drained
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 c. Cheddar cheese, shredded

Crumble 1 pound sausage in skillet and brown well. Add 1/4

Glorified Mashed Potatoes

- 8 medium cooked potatoes
- 1 stick butter
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 carton sour cream

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1 T. grated onion
 Salt and Pepper to taste
 Mash all ingredients together.
 Put in casserole dish. Top with
 grated cheese and paprika. Heat
 through about 20 minutes, uncov-
 ered. (This recipe from Joanie
 Walker, Huntsville and was one of
 Vera's favorites).

Fried Cabbage

1 head cabbage
 8 strips bacon
 Salt & pepper to taste
 In a large skillet fry bacon til
 crisp. Remove and add the
 cabbage, coarsely chopped, to the
 grease in the skillet. Cook about
 30 minutes, turning often. Add
 salt and pepper and serve.

Orange Delight

1 - 16 oz. cottage cheese
 1 sml. box orange jello
 1 - 8 oz. Cool Whip, frozen
 1 lrg. can crushed pineapple,
 drained
 Mix all ingredients in a large
 glass bowl and chill before
 serving.

Yum Yum Cake

2 eggs
 2 c. sugar

2 c. self-rising flour
 2 c. crushed pineapple
 Beat eggs and sugar together.
 Add flour and pineapple and stir
 well. Bake at 350 degrees for 35
 minutes.

Topping:

1 c. sugar
 1 stick butter
 1/2 t. vanilla extract
 3/4 c. milk
 1 c. coconut

Mix and boil milk, butter and
 sugar together for 2 minutes, add
 the coconut.

Pour over cake while still hot.

Bon Bons

1 can Eagle Brand milk
 3 T. butter
 2 boxes powdered sugar
 1/2 package sweetened
 coconut, shredded
 2 c. chopped nuts

Mix all together, put in
 freezer 30-40 minutes to chill, roll
 into balls. Freeze balls, then dip
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Mounds

1 - 14 oz. pkg. coconut
 1/4 c. sugar
 1/4 c. melted butter
 1 can Eagle brand milk
 Mix, chill, make balls and
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The Roomers of Clinton Street

By Tommy Towery

My family moved into the large two-story duplex at 505 East Clinton street in 1953 when I was seven. We rented it from a landlord that I knew only as Mr. Nickelson, to whom we paid \$65 a month rent. It had a great tree in the front yard and was a large white house with a big front porch and a driveway that ran the length of the property that we shared with the house at 503 East Clinton. The sidewalk in front was a pattern made of carefully laid red brick.

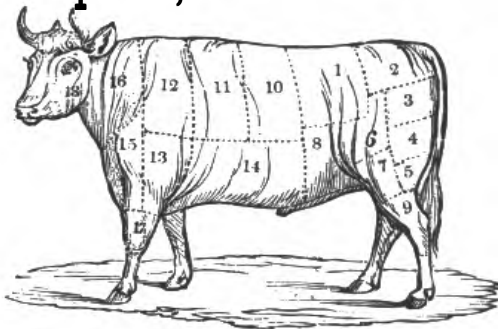
We moved into the house just in time for me to start the second grade at East Clinton Elementary school that was just a short walk up the hill. The house was really a duplex and we moved into the west side. We had a large room on the ground floor in the front of the house facing the street that was probably built as a parlor or some other type of room but which we used as a bedroom. There was another room that was the living room and a third room behind it that might have been designed as a dining room but which was also used as a bedroom. Finally there was a kitchen on the back of the house on the ground floor and a screened in back porch attached to it.

It was obvious that the house had been built before indoor plumbing, because it was easy to see that two bathrooms, one on the ground floor and one on the second floor, had been added onto the house. There was an enclosed stairwell that was accessed through the living room that led to the second floor

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containing two very large bedrooms and a bath.

When we moved into the large house, it was heated with coal, with fireplaces in each main room except for the kitchen. In the back of the house was a coal shed and an open one-car garage located on the back of the property. The other side of the duplex, at 507 East Clinton, was a unit that was a mirror image of our floor plan and was occupied by the Beauguards, a family with which we never became close neighbors.

At the time we moved in, my family consisted of my father and mother, my maternal grandmother, and a brother three years older than me. My father was a disabled vet and worked as a draftsman at the Arsenal. Although we did not have enough money to buy a house, we could afford to rent the big one we had moved into. Things changed in 1954 when my parents were divorced, a rare occurrence for those days, and my father moved out leaving my mother and grandmother with the burden of paying the monthly rent. My grandmother worked as a cook at the Rebel Inn in west Huntsville for \$40 a week. She did not drive so she caught the bus in front of the house each day to go to work. My mother worked at the Huntsville Electric center for a salary unknown to me. Whatever the amount, I remember we had a hard time making the monthly rent payments. My mother and grandmother soon found that they needed a way to take in more money to take care of their family's needs. They seemed to be in the right place at the right time because the solution to their worries soon became apparent.

There have been many articles over the years detailing the rapid, almost boomtown population growth of Huntsville generated by the influx of personnel being sent to Redstone Arsenal to work on rockets and missiles. According to the Historical Atlas of Alabama Volume 1, Historical Locations by county, the population of Huntsville in 1940 was 13,050 people. The next ten years saw a growth of only 3,387 making the 1950 population 16,437. The following ten years, between 1950 and 1960 saw Huntsville's population grow to 72,365, a massive population growth of over 400%.



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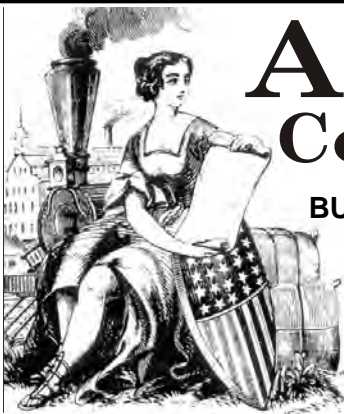
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It is hard to imagine that type of growth today. That population figure represented the addition of 55,928 new people to a small city that had only contained a total of 16,437 people just ten years earlier.

Many of the new residents had been sent to Redstone Arsenal to work and to Huntsville to live, and were initially sent without their families. Their arrival probably resembled the unaccompanied American servicemen that were stationed in England to await the European invasion. Thousands of them were sent to the small southern town on some type of temporary employment for three to six months or were sent to try to find accommodations for their families that would follow at a later time.

There were not enough living facilities on the Redstone complex to accommodate all of these employees. At the time, Huntsville had the Russel Erskine, the Twickenham, and the Yarborough hotels downtown, and a few motor courts scattered near the small two lane main highways that led into Huntsville. Those facilities could house a small percentage of the pilgrims, but in general the city was ill prepared to accommodate the number of workers that were pouring into the area almost daily.

While it is unknown exactly where all the workers came from, to most of the Huntsville residents, if they came from anywhere north of Fayetteville, Tennessee, they

were considered Yankees.

During the Civil War, when the Federal troops occupied Huntsville, housing them was no problem. The union commanders simply took over the houses they needed and moved their troops in. This second Yankee invasion was not so easy for them, and the citizens of Huntsville had more power to control the situation.

About the time all this was going on, there were major changes taking place to our house and the others on Clinton street as well. The coal burning fireplaces in the house were replaced with gas space heaters; the party line telephone was replaced with a single line and the operator who asked "number please" was replaced with a dial tone on the phone. For some unknown reason the city fathers changed East Clinton street from a street to an avenue called Clinton Avenue East. In the process, our house that had been 505 East Clinton street became 510 Clinton Avenue East. I never

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understood why that happened.

The answer to housing the population growth was not seen as a problem, but as an opportunity for many Huntsvillians, including my family. With a little rearranging of our own possessions, we were able to move my brother and myself from our rooms upstairs into the rooms occupied by my mother and grandmother downstairs. This move opened up the upstairs for the group of people that became referred to as "roomers" by the residents of East Clinton street.

Many years earlier my grandmother, Ethel Sullivan Roden, had run a boarding house in west Huntsville. From the stories I heard, I pictured her boarding house like the ones I saw in the western movies each week at the Lyric and Grand Theatres - rooms to sleep in, and a meal (board) cooked nightly for the guests. Since my grandmother now worked full time each night at the Rebel Inn there was no way we could cook big meals so we could not offer Room and Board", we simply had rooms.

A small hand written cardboard sign was stuck in the front window advertising "Room For Rent." Similar signs went into the windows of the Drakes who lived next door at the newly designated house number of 508, as well as in the window of Mrs. Louise Crabtree and her mother Mrs. Butler down at 506. The Beaugards next door followed suit. I cannot be sure but I believe that the Drummonds several houses down also rented rooms, as well as several of the people who owned the houses across the street.

In no time at all, Yankees from the north inhabited the homes of the street. One major draw for the Clinton Street area was that it was only a short walk downtown where several cafes were located and where the roomers could eat their meals and go to movie shows to help them occupy their evenings.



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At first we had two beds in each of the upstairs rooms that allowed us to take in four roomers. Our rate for the rooms was \$10 a week for each person. Later, one smooth talking carpetbagger talked my grandmother into letting him have the whole front room as a private room for which he paid \$15 each week. It took away the necessity of cleaning one pair of sheets and washing one less set of towels each week, so I guess there was a mutual advantage for her as well.

The room in the front of the house was reconfigured to contain a double bed, but the occupant had to walk through the twin-bed room to get to the stairs or the bathroom. The bathroom contained a claw foot bathtub, a toilet and a free-standing sink. It also had a small gas heater that kept the room warm. It was never designed to accommodate three men trying to get ready to go to work at the same time each morning.

I don't remember my family ever having problems finding people interested in renting the rooms at first. More often than not, the departing roomer had already lined up his replacement before he moved out. Rooms on Clinton street were at a premium. Many of the men stayed several months at a time, but when the time came to move out, a new prospective occupant would knock on the door and ask about the room. Many times others would knock and ask if we had any rooms available. When we told them no, they would inquire about any others rooms up or down the street that may

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be available. Usually the neighbors knew who had vacancies and helped each other find roomers that needed the space.

We never really knew or really cared what all the men did except that they worked at the arsenal. I did know that one time the Drakes next door had a roomer that worked with the army band. I knew that because he would leave his window up and play marching music and work with the tempos. I know that was in 1957, because the marching music he was working on was "The River Kwai March" and that was the year the movie came out. He supplied his own record player to play the 45rp record. As far as that goes, any roomer that wanted something to listen to in their rooms had to supply their own.

None of the renters had rooms with TVs or even radios. Sometimes some of our roomers would sit with us in the living room and watch the family's black and white TV, but more often they would stay up in their own rooms by themselves.

Many times the roomers bought some adult entertainment magazines from the Grand Newsstand and read in the rooms. One of my buddies down the street would rush up to the rooms when one of those roomers who rented from his family moved out so that he could see if they left any girly magazines in the trash. He often got in trouble when his mom would later find them under his bed, but that did not keep him from collecting them.

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roomers would get tired of southern food and would want to cook himself something special. Since they were not allowed to cook in the rooms, my mother or grandmother would usually allow them to cook in our kitchen, but that did not happen often. They could keep snacks there, and drink beers in their room, but not cook.

The closest grocery store for snacks was Kroger's, and there was also a little store that Mrs. Grimes ran in her house up the block. It was an interesting store because she would go to Kroger's and buy groceries there and then take them back to her house and use a China marker to raise the price on each item by three to five cents and set them on her shelves to sell.

More often the roomers would eat out, usually walking downtown when the weather was nice. Sometimes they would go in groups, stopping at the various houses where they roomed collecting others that wanted to go eat together.

Of course we didn't lock the front door back then. We didn't have a curfew and our roomers came and went as they pleased. The long driveway easily accom-

modated their cars if they had one. Telephone calls were rare, since the cost of long distance was still very expensive and the calls were difficult to complete. I do not remember mail being delivered to the houses for the roomers. Perhaps they got their mail at a post office box or at work.

In the years we had roomers,

a dozen or more men must have lived with us. I knew them at the time, but soon forgot them as they were replaced with different faces and names. Our first roomer was a Yankee from Colorado.

The one roomer that stayed with us the longest was named Jim, and he did a lot with the family. He would take me swimming

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Seen on recent 7th grade student's paper

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at Guntersville, and would walk with my grandmother and me to the wrestling matches at the Armory each Wednesday night. Jim's hobby was weight lifting and he had a makeshift gym in the room he rented. He and three of his friends finally all got together and rented a house in west Huntsville where they could cook as well, so he moved out. Although I still remember some of our roomers, I have not had contact with any them since they moved on.

I believe that Jim was our last roomer. Eventually the Huntsville housing market finally must have caught up with the demand and the need for people to find spare rooms in which to temporarily live diminished. By the time 1960 came around, we could no longer depend on the income from renting the rooms and we had to move away from the big white house on Clinton and find something more affordable. I believe that others houses in the neighborhood might have lasted a little longer in their efforts, but not much longer.

As far as the houses go, most of them are not only still standing but have been beautifully restored and are now part of the Historic Old Town and Twickenham Districts. Their age and heritage are documented with small signs in their front yards, signs that document their history.

These grand houses are now the homes to many new families that are probably unaware of the colorful history of the men that lived in them for short periods of time and were known as the roomers of East Clinton Street.

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* Remove rust stains with salt and lemon juice and lay in the sun.

* A hatpin can be used to dip candies into chocolate and slip them off onto waxed paper.

* To remove a grease stain from wall paper, hold a piece of blotting paper over the spot with a hot iron for a few seconds.

* To make coffee sugar, place coffee beans in an airtight container with 2 cups of sugar. Keep covered for 2 weeks, then discard the beans.

* If one awakes in the night, hopelessly wide awake, an unfailing remedy is a glass of hot water.

* If the insides of your aluminum pans have become stained, brighten them easily by boiling apple parings in them for a short time.

* Gasoline fires may be quickly put out by sprinkling with common wheat flour.

* Brass can be kept shiny by rubbing with salt and vinegar.

* When wine, cider or lemon juice is used in puddings, it should be stirred in at the last minute, gradually, to prevent curdling.

* Rice has a better flavor if you wash it in hot water before cooking.

* To prevent crust or scale in your teakettle, place an oyster shell in it.

* A cake will frost much better if you cool it completely before frosting.

* Half of a lemon squeezed in a cup of water before breakfast will prevent headache.

* For arsenic poisoning, give milk in large quantities or white of eggs or flour and water. Follow

with strong coffee.

* For ivy poison - apply soft soap freely to the affected parts.

* To rid a room of mosquitos burn a piece of camphor the size of a walnut.

* To make hens lay in winter, do away with the roosters. Give each hen daily a half ounce chopped fresh meat, plenty of grain, water, gravel, lime and boiled oats fried in fat.

* A strong thread is very effective for cutting cake, rather than a knife.

* Pricking the top of your bread dough with a fork before it is put in the oven tends to make it rise and bake evenly.

* To remove dandruff, wash hair thoroughly with borax dissolved in rain water.

* A little vinegar added to water when stewing makes tough meat more tender.

* The best soup bones are 2/3 meat and 1/3 bone and fat.

* Whiten your discolored wooden cutting boards by rubbing with lemon rinds turned inside out and sponging off the wood with warm water.

* To dry herbs, pick them on a clear day just before flowering. Place in a warm oven to dry. When dry pick off the leaves, put them in bottles and cover tightly. Store in a dry place.

* Featherbeds should be aired out of doors in a shady place. The direct sun rays may cause oil in the feathers to become rancid if not clean.



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A Faithful Servant

by Austin Miller

Lawrence Frank Mefford, nicknamed Stray, was my Uncle on my mother's side.

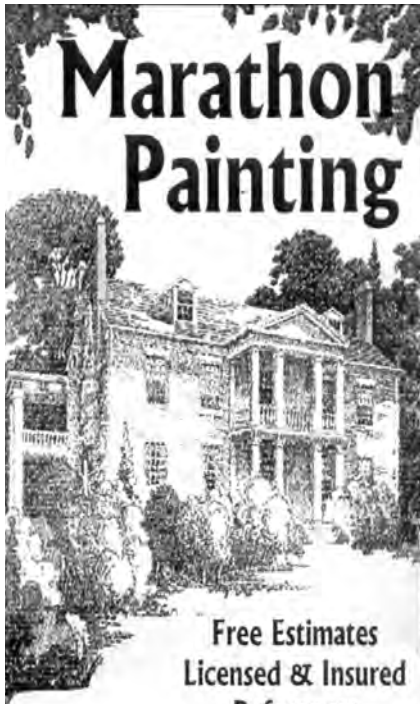
I had two Uncle Franks; the other was Daddy's brother, Frank Jordan Miller. The two grew up together and were friends all their lives. When they came back from World War II in 1945 or '46, they opened a restaurant named the Veterans Cafe on Fifth Street, now Andrew Jackson Way. The little stone fronted building where the restaurant was located still stands.

At first they had a good business. But they were young and restless and wanted to catch up on things they missed during the war. In their early twenties, they had been in the Army three years and were not ready to settle into

the long hours and hard work of running a cafe. They paid less and less attention to the business and the cafe soon closed. However, the venture was not a total loss. Uncle Stray married the waitress. The marriage resulted in four children and lasted the rest of his life.

Soon after the Veterans Cafe closed, another cafe named the Fifth Street Cafe moved into the building next door. That business eventually grew into one of the largest if not the largest restaurant in Huntsville. The Fifth Street Cafe name was dropped years ago and is now known as Mullins Restaurant or just plain Mullins. I recently asked Larry Mullins if he remembered the Veterans Cafe. He did and said his father, Jim Mullins, used to sell them meat.

After Uncle Stray got out of the restaurant business he worked in cotton mills, filling stations, ran his own station until it burned down, painted houses and worked as a school janitor.



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For every dollar Uncle Stray made, half went into savings, a family trait that he inherited from the Tipton side of the family. He lived in public housing, drove old worn out cars and bought as little of anything as possible. Uncle Stray was a very intelligent man with a high school diploma and some college. He likely could have made a good living but seemed to revel in living a simple Spartan life. He was critical of anyone who spent money for anything above the bare necessities of life. His family lived hard and I learned from them that city poverty was much worse than country poverty, or so it seemed to me.

My cousins didn't see it that way. They felt sorry for us and thought they were much better off because they lived in Butler Terrace with an indoor toilet, running water, a bath tub and central heat. We had none of those things in Ryland.

Uncle Stray was not raised in a church family and for much of his life had no use for churches. When he was about forty or so, something lit a fire in his soul. Religion became an obsession and it was all he wanted to talk about. Family and friends didn't want to be around him and avoided him if possible. Any time you saw him he was either reading the bible or talking about religion.

Once my brother Berns saw him reading his well worn Bible and asked him if he had it all

figured out, he answered; "you know I think I have, I believe like those Church of Christ." One of the people he talked to often was my Uncle Malcolm Miller, a deacon at the Huntsville Park Church of Christ. Uncle Malcolm told him that if he believed that way, he should be a Church of Christ. In time he joined the Huntsville Park Church and I doubt that they ever

had a more dogmatic member. After joining he switched from talking about what the Bible meant to zealously trying to con-

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Clarence Darrow

vince everybody he came in contact with that his belief was the only road to heaven.

I read somewhere that World War II veterans who served in New Guinea had a much higher incidence of Lou Gerrig's disease than the rest of the population. Uncle Stray served in New Guinea and was diagnosed with the disease in the mid 1980's. He lived for about ten years and fortunately for most of that time was active.

The last time I saw him getting around with no apparent difficulty was at my father's funeral. He and Aunt Audrey came to the house after the service. He had a great time visiting with his old friend, Uncle Frank Miller. They talked about the Veterans Cafe, old times and the adventures of their youth. I could hear him laughing from outside the house. It sounded good to me because it was the first time I ever remembered hearing him laugh.

On his way out, he stopped in the yard and talked to me. I noticed that he had mellowed considerably and was like a different person. He talked openly about his illness but did not seem the least bit distraught. I felt that I was talking to a man that was at peace with himself and God.

When Uncle Stray joined the Huntsville Park Church of Christ, it not only turned his life around, it changed his family and set them on course for a better future. His four children Patsy, Mike, Butch and Lora are all successful people with good lives. All except Mike live in the Huntsville area. Mike is a prominent Church of Christ minister in Florida.

Uncle Stray searched long and hard for his faith, finally found it and tirelessly shared it with others. The sad part, other than his family, I don't know of one person he converted to his way of thinking. But sometimes God works

in mysterious ways.

His hard fought search for faith and reluctant decision to join the Huntsville Park Church of Christ broke a long held family pattern and set the stage for his son to become a minister; a son that has impacted the lives of many in ways Uncle Stray only dreamed about.



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At the trial the next day, J. K. Malone, the chicken thief, claimed the chickens were his and he was training them so he could sell them to a circus when it came to town. That was the reason he had them in a bag.


The judge asked Malone to make the chickens perform, and when he couldn't, sentenced him to six months at the county farm.

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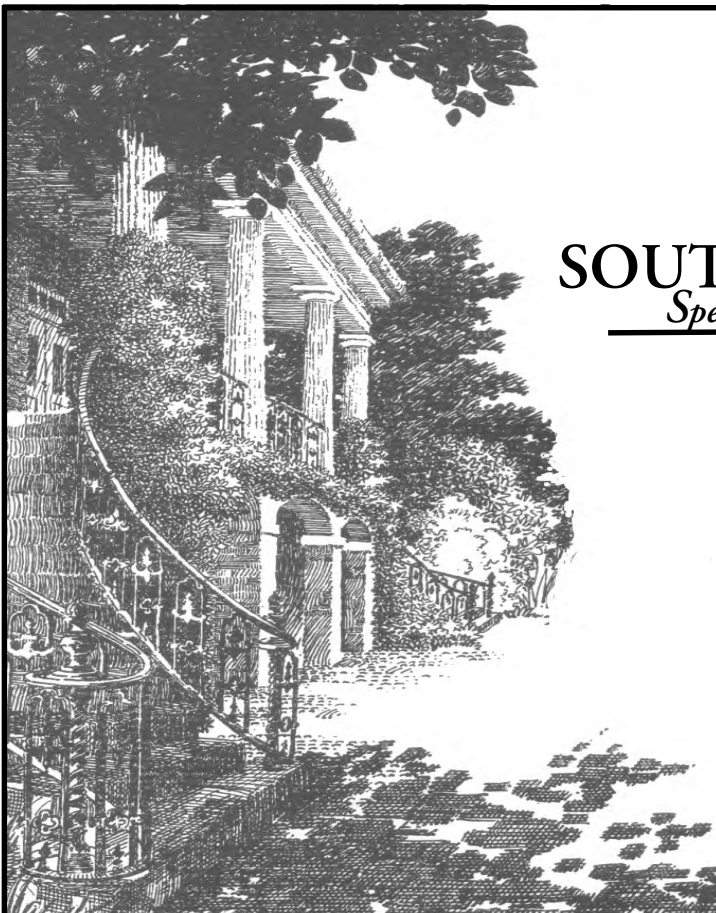
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Parson Drake and Family of Big Cove

by William Sibley

The Drake family first arrived in the Huntsville, Alabama area in 1807, one year before Madison County of the Mississippi Territory was created. Two Drake brothers, James and William, and their brother-in-law, James Neely, sailed down the Tennessee River in a flat-bottomed boat and departed from the boat near present-day Ditto Landing.

Those men settled in an area of southeast Huntsville known as Little Cove, which was later named Drakes' Cove, and presently is known as Jones Valley. A very old Drake Cemetery located on Garth Road gives the reader an idea of the area the men settled.

Other Drake settlers arrived in 1810 and 1811 and settled in the same area. Among those settlers was Captain John Drake, a veteran of the American Revolutionary War, who was a Quaker Baptist who spoke Old English. He and his wife, the former Jean Neely, were the parents of ten children. The eighth child of the couple, Elijah, made Big Cove his home.

Elijah Drake (1793-1848) married Elizabeth Wills Buford in 1823. She was the daughter of early Big Cove settlers, Henry Buford and Jane (Sherman) Buford, who are buried in the Buford Cemetery, which is located between Old Big Cove Road and James Road. Elijah and Elizabeth Drake were the parents of fourteen children and most of those children lived into adulthood and some lived into old age in Big Cove, where their parents owned 2600 acres of land.

The seventh child of Elijah and Elizabeth, John Henry Drake

(1827-1888), became a circuit-riding minister in the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. His circuit, at one time, stretched from Paint Rock Valley of Jackson County to Warrenton of Marshall County.

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Drake "Parson Drake." He was educated at Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee and was licensed to preach in 1846 and began preaching in Mount Zion Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He is given credit for the Drake family establishing the Drake Private School which served Big Cove's children from the middle 1840s into the early 1890s.

During his ministry, Parson Drake performed numerous weddings. He was married two times. His first wife was Nancy Worthem, whom he married in 1853. The couple had two children, a daughter, Mary, who died very young and a son, Elijah Donnell, who died in a Big Cove cyclone in 1920, at the age of 65.

Parson Drake's second wife was Mary Ann Anderson of Marshall County. The couple were the parents of eight children. Two of the children died young, but the other six children (and Elijah Donnell) grew into adulthood in Big Cove and distinguished themselves as very prosperous citizens.


Elijah Donnell Drake owned lots of land in Big Cove and was a very successful farmer. His siblings were William Ewing (1868-1941), James King (1870-1957), Frazier McAdow (1872-1937), Elena Grace (1876-1956), Zechariah Isrel "Zac" (1878-1941), and Samuel Tate Estill (1885-1953).

All of Parson Drake's children enjoyed the good life of farming in Big Cove. William Ewing was the owner of 3000 acres of land in Madison, Jackson, and Blount Counties, owned a Big Cove cotton gin, and large amounts of stock in a cotton mill, and was a bank director. He was also a

church elder.

James King Drake was a well-known sheep farmer, who also owned large peach orchards. He was a member of the Madison County Board of Education for 16 years and was an officer in the Sixteenth District Sunday School Association and a church elder.

"Zac" was a well-known lawyer who was Madison County's Solicitor and was head consul of the Alabama Woodmen of the World. Tate owned a large farm in Big Cove



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and became President of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association.

Frazier McAdow was a large landowner in Big Cove and was a successful farmer in the community. Grace married a large landowner.

When one looks at the occupations of Parson Drake's children and other descendents, one can see minister, college professor, teacher, physician, high school principal, postal worker, pharmacist, homebuilder, farmer and rancher, engineer, merchant, etc. listed.

Parson Drake had children and grandchildren who were leaders in the Cumberland Presbyterian and the U.S.A. Presbyterian Churches in Big Cove. Also, Rev. Emmett Neely Drake, nephew of Parson Drake, was very impressed by a new church group that was becoming popular in Appalachia in the early 1900s. That group was the Free Holiness. Rev. Drake was a founding member of a Holiness congregation in Big Cove and his descendents are still leaders in that church.

The Drakes have enjoyed the

good life of Big Cove and some are still enjoying that good life. There are four distinct reminders in Big Cove of the Drake influence in the community. Those reminders are the very impressive Drake Cemetery, Terry-Drake Road, King Drake Road, stately homes, and the many acres of land that are owned by the Drakes.



"The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon."

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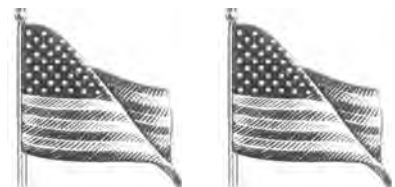
About Glenn Watson

- * Bachelor’s Degree, University of Alabama, Huntsville
- * Eight years service, United States Air Force
- * Twelve year member, Huntsville City Council
- * Established Stanlieo’s Sub Villa, 1970
- * Substitute teacher, Huntsville schools
- * Raised over \$100,000 for Tsunami Orphanage
- * Father of three



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- * Ended Sunday “Blue Laws” which stimulated our economy
- * Upgraded our road system with new paving projects
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If you would like to contact me or to help in the campaign, please email me at glennwatson@yahoo.com

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Letter from Huntsville

The following are excerpts from letters written by Anne Royall, who visited Huntsville, in 1819, while it was still in its infant stage. The letters provide a unique look at one of the most undocumented periods of our fair city's history.

January 1st, 1818

Now here is the twentieth letter I have I written, without receiving an answer to one of them, until today – and that is no answer I may say. What are you about? Have you got the blues again, or blacks; or are you in love? But seriously, I am sorry to hear you mend so slow. I am convinced this climate would restore you.

It is summer here, compared to our country; the trees, many of them, are still green. Huntsville; you will expect to hear something of this flourishing town. It takes its name from a man called Captain Hunt, who built the first cabin on the spot, where the courthouse now stands. In front of this cabin, which was built on a high bluff, there was a large pond, which is now nearly filled up by the citizens.

Captain Hunt cleared a small field west of his cabin, the same year. This was between his cabin and the Huntsville Spring. He spent much of his time in waging war with the rattlesnakes, who were very numerous in his day, and had entire possession of the bluff at the spring. Thousands of them, it appears, were lodged amongst the rocks, and the Captain would shoot hundreds a day, by thrusting long canes filled with powder into the fissures of the rocks.

Whether Hunt or the snakes acquired the victory, I have not heard, as he was compelled to abandon his settlement to a more successful rival, who purchased the land. This was Colonel Pope, who, in company with Dr. Manning and others, purchased the land at a Land Office opened in

Nashville; and though this sale did not stand, these gentlemen at this time own vast bodies of land around Huntsville, and are the wealthiest men in the Territory. ...

The town stands on elevated ground, and enjoys a beautiful prospect. It contains about 260 houses, principally built of brick; has a bank, a courthouse, and market house. There is a large square in the center of town, like the towns of



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Ohio, and facing this are the stores, 12 in number. These buildings form a solid wall, though divided into apartments. The workmanship is the best I have ever seen in all the states; and several of the houses are three stories high, and very large.

There is no church. The people assemble in the court house to worship...

... The citizens are gay, polite, and hospitable, and live in grand splendor. Nothing like it in our own country...

February 22, 1818

This day, the anniversary of our beloved Washington, was ushered in with all manner of rejoicing. The star spangled banner is now waving on the cupola, before my window, and an elegant ball is to conclude the day. The companies are now marching before me, under arms, in a handsome uniform; they step light and graceful, and are tall, fine looking men.

February 28, 1818

... The ladies of Huntsville distance everything on the costliness of their dress; nor do I like their manners as well as I do the manners of the Florence ladies. They are always in the streets. But they are very beautiful women, and very familiar.

OLD HUNTSVILLE TRIVIA

1899 City fathers pass an ordinance making it unlawful for any female to enter a pool or billiard hall.

1908 Madison County becomes the first county in the state to use gas-powered buggies and motorcycles to deliver mail.

1910 The spring, located downtown, finally gets a name. Mrs. Grace Walker appeared before the city governing body with a request that the spring be named the Big Spring Park. The motion barely passed.

1921 Huntsville's first supermarket, Piggly Wiggly, opens with J.S. Comer as the manager.

1930 A mad dog runs amuck in Bryant's Alley, biting fifteen people, all of whom had to take the dreaded rabies treatment.

1933 The first state unemployment office opens in the Madison County Courthouse. Unemployed people were lined up for three blocks on the day of the opening.

1950 Terry Heights subdivision votes to come into the City of Huntsville.



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A Letter

September 20, 1891
Mrs. Sally Sandlin

Dear Daughter:

I seat myself this beautiful Sabbath morning to answer your letter that I got from you some-time ago. I was glad to hear from you and to no that you was well and doing well. Sally, I have nothing to rite to you that would interest you, no more than we are all well, hoping that this will find you and Len both well. Well, Sally I have got your picture and Len's lying by me, thee look pleasing and it looks like they both want to say something to me. What to rite. Well, I recon that you think that I mite rote to you sooner. I could have rote a letter a long time ago, but I was just hoping you would rite. That is the only reason that I have for not riting sooner. Well, Sally if you will excuse me for not riting no sooner, I will try to rite you a letter once a month. Dear Daughter, if I could see you with your glossy black hair & rosy cheeks, loving smiles, tender words & kind heart with them lilly white hands clasp my one, that would been briter to me than the britest star that ever shone. Sally there ant many days that passes but what I think of you. Sally, I recon you would like to no something about how times is here. They are very hard times here. Money for horses & cattle & hogs cheap, corn & wheat is a very fair price. Sally I recon you would like to no what sort of a crop we have got. We made 60 bushels of wheat, a few oats & I have got about 2 acers of cotton. We have got a fine corn crop. We ant tending much of our land in corn.

The land that we rented will make 10 barrels per acer.

I have got a fine sweet potato patch made rite smart of arch potatoes. No cabbis, no garden, no chickens, hardley heap of ducks. Sally we had squirrel and chicken

for breakfast this morning, two big possomes for dinner. I dont no what for supper yet. I must close for this time. I remain your affectionate father over till death.

Yours,
Henry Rutledge

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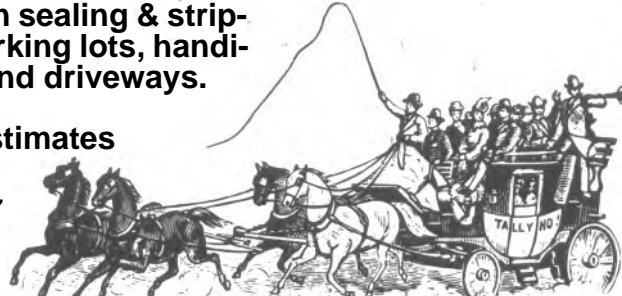
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No Jail could Hold Her

The courtrooms in early Alabama history normally dealt with horse thieves, murderers and bushwhackers, but in the late fall of 1822 our courts of law were forced to deal with something totally different. The courts had to render a decision about a woman accused of witchcraft.

History has forgotten the old woman's name. All we know about her is that she lived on the banks of the Flint River. A friendless old crone who had strange ways and was rather aloof, the woman was the talk of the local area. At first, she was spoken of only in whispers, then more boldly until she was publicly accused of being a witch. It culminated in a Warrant for her arrest signed by one of the landed gentry of the com-

munity.

The day of the trial was fixed. Excitement ran high and people came from far and near to witness the unusual event. The trial proceeded on time and a great number of witnesses were called to testify, but nothing positive resulted from any of their testimony.

Then a young woman was called to the stand. Her testimony went as follows: One day she was washing down at the creek, and became extremely tired. She sat down at the foot of a beech tree to rest. Soon, the old accused woman came down the tree in the form of a squirrel, with its tail curled over its back, snarled at her and put a spell on her.

The sickly girl testified that she had been ill ever since and couldn't sleep due to pain in her stomach that started the day she saw the old woman in the form of the squirrel.

The presiding judge, who seemed to have been in deep study, now seemed quite relieved upon hearing the young lady's testimony. He straightened in his

chair and announced that the young woman's testimony was proof positive of the old woman's guilt. His opinion was that she should immediately be locked up in to jail.

A controversy arose, however, when one of the spectators inquired as to how they intended to confine a witch. If she had the power to transform herself, then surely no jail could hold her.

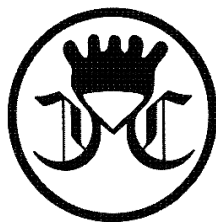
The judge as well as the whole courtroom seemed perplexed at the unusual turn of events. Finally, unable to reach a decision, the judge adjourned the court while "taking the issue under advice."

As far as is known the issue never came before the court again.



"You know you're getting older when everytime you suck in your gut, your ankles swell."

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News From the Year 1949

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Berlin Blockade Ends

Cheers broke out in Berlin this morning as lights burned past midnight for the first time in a year. Cars roared in both directions on the autobahn connecting Berlin to the British sector of Germany.

And sighs of relief were heard among overworked employees at the airport. The blockade of Berlin was over, and Berliners felt they had beaten Russia at its own game.

The Russians choked off the city last June to protest what they called intransigence by the Western Allies on the future of Berlin and Germany. They ended the blockade today after negotiations in New York under the auspices of the United Nations. The Russians also agreed to attend a new meeting of the Big Four foreign ministers, to drop their opposition to the creation of an independent West Germany and to give up their plans for a single currency for all of Berlin. The Allies and the Russians also agreed to give more autonomy to Berliners, although

they retain tight control over security matters, foreign relations and the constitution.

It was the Allied airlift that punctured the holes in the Russian blockade. The operation started as soon as the blockade began, and it was costly. The Allies spent \$200 million to keep the planes in the air.

Frank Sinatra has New Hit

Frank Sinatra, gangly crooner and darling of the bobby-sox set from Hoboken, N.J., has yet another hit song in "New York, New York." He sings it in the film "On the Town."

The 33-year-old is just as popular today as when he sang "This Love of Mine" and "I'll Never Smile Again" with the bands of Tommy Dorsey and Harry James.

Sinatra has been under investigation for his alleged mob ties but that has done nothing to harm his popularity.


Israel Becomes Member of U.N.

Israel became a U.N. member today by a General Assembly vote of 37 to 12.


Nine abstentions included Great Britain. But before the applause had died away, five Arab delegations - Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Yemen - walked out of the Flushing Meadow Assembly Hall in protest. They were complaining bitterly that Israel had not complied with U.N. resolutions calling for an international regime in Jerusalem and the repatriation of Arab refugees.

Gambling Raid

Huntsville police raided what some authorities have described as one of the biggest and most sophisticated gambling operations in Huntsville's history. Captured in the raid were 14 individuals along with all sorts of gambling devices, most of which were altered to favor the house.



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Allies Organize NATO

Is it a legitimate defense treaty or a militaristic plan that will only provoke the Soviet Union? Forceful arguments were made for both viewpoints as the United States and Western Europe unveiled plans for a collective defense alliance they call the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO. The Allies agreed that an armed attack on any one of them would be considered an attack against them all. Their goal is the "preservation of peace and security." They also reaffirmed support for the United Nations.

Critics say the treaty will turn Europe into an armed camp that will ignite a war with the Russians. Earlier this month, Belgian Communists adopted a resolution opposing

"A government that is large enough to supply everything you need is large enough to take everything you have."

Thomas Jefferson

any "war of aggression against the Soviet Union." Strong opposition to the alliance has also surfaced in left-wing circles in Italy and France. A chief backer of the treaty, Secretary of State Dean Acheson, chides critics by saying that only strength will preserve peace.

The U.S., Canada, Britain, France and the Benelux nations wrote the treaty. Italy, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Portugal are invited to sign it next month.

B-50 Flies Non-Stop Around the World

An American B-50 bomber, Lucky Lady II, completed the first non-stop flight around the world today when it landed at Carswell Air Force Base near Ft. Worth, Texas, at 10:31 a.m., 94 hours and one minute after takeoff. The B-50 was refueled in mid-air four times during its 23,452-mile flight. The Lucky Lady II took off just after noon on February 26, flying toward the east. It was refueled over the Azores early Sunday, over Saudi Arabia later that day, then over Manila and over Hawaii yesterday. Air Force officials say the flight demonstrates that United States aircraft can drop atomic bombs at any spot on earth at any time.

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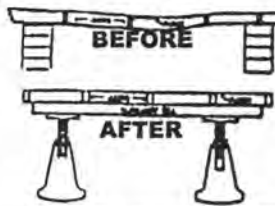
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Revival at Rice's Chapel

By Theresa Hanvey Fallwell

The word revival in the South of the 1920's, conjures up a plethora of images, an impressive culture of great religious awakenings in a variety of settings. From brusharbors or camp meetings to tents or church buildings, these regularly scheduled awakenings focused on personal spiritual growth and a fervent relationship with God or rebuilding the church body following a lull or "backslide" in Christian enthusiasm or dedication.

To the reverberating strains of "I'll Fly Away," or "Washed in the Blood," or "Land Where You'll Never Grow Old," generations of people dealt with the seductive influence of sins such as spirituous liquors, smoking, card-playing, dancing, gambling, and profanity.

All of these revival entities had similarities, as well as individual differences by denomination and/or location. Commonalities included soulsaving preaching, congregational singing, testimonies, and altar calls. Some also had foot-washings, healing crusades, and Jericho marches. Most were held on summer nights and lasted from three days to two weeks.

Brush-arbors or camp revivals were unique in their building structures and served communities distant from the city. A location, usually on someone's farm,

was chosen. The only requirements were a fairly flat area and young trees. Four sapling trees in close proximity, preferably in somewhat of a square configuration, were bent over so the tops would meet each other. Then men using old grapevines or ropes tied the four tree tops together and in-

"Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol."

Seen on 5th grade religion test



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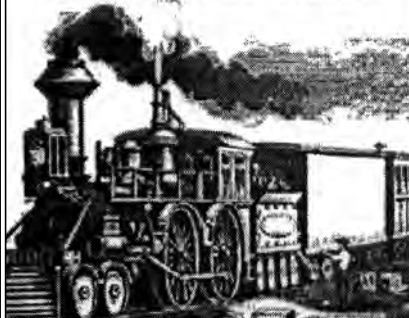
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tertwined long, dead branches to form a canopy.

The women in the community attached wild summer flowers such as Queen Anne's lace, honeysuckle, wild roses, morning glories, etc. to the underside of the canopy. Torches or kerosene lamps were used to light the way, as well as the arbor. Wooden benches were added to accommodate the audience and a pulpit of sorts was erected.

Jericho marches, a cacophony of sounds and movement, often occurred when people gathered at a central location and marched back into the woods to the arbor shouting Bible verses or singing.

Tents were the next generation of structure used to accommodate revivals, and are still in use today. Plain or stripped canvas tents tied down with ropes and stakes were often set up next door to churches, in ball parks, or near streams for baptisms. These tents of varying sizes might have sides which could be dropped or raised for ventilation or in case of rain.

Benches or folding chairs were used for seating. Kerosene lamps usually lit the tents in the 1920's.

Country churches housed revivals as electricity became more widely available. The novelty of electric lights and electric fans appealed to most attendants, and promised to make the event more comfortable. Air conditioning was not yet available, and those open windows gave entry to all kinds of bugs, particularly moths attracted to the lights. But despite the variety of settings and conditions, revivals in the South in the 1920's, were an important part of the way of life, a means of attending to the spiritual needs of the community.

It was just this sort of revival setting in a church near New Market, Alabama, Rice's Chapel, that my late father, Ralph Hanvey, had his own rather unique "great awakening" in the late 1920's. Old time, Biblically focused religion was preached at Rice's Chapel both on Sundays and during this summer revival of 1929. The re-

vival had been going on for several nights in extreme heat and humidity with capacity crowds. Hand fans advertising politicians and morticians were scattered on the wooden pews. Ladies claimed these fans and had them moving at break-neck speed trying to keep overheated, irritable babies from crying. All the church windows were flung open with men perched on the window sills to gain access to any possible breeze, and the hum of several new electric fans sounded like a swarm of insects. And still it was hot; just like hell was the analogy Brother Collins made as he extolled sinners to leave their lives of sin behind and accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior.

Brother Collins was a very tall,

"The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that."

Curt, age 7, on kissing girls

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impressive revivalist who moved about the church in an extremely animated fashion as he preached. Moving from one side of the church to the other, he might stop in the middle of the congregation and look someone straight in the eye if he was making a point. Gesticulating wildly with his long arms circling high over his head, he often swung around quickly in mid sentence with a finger pointed at the congregation to a drive an idea home. He was also possessed of a loud, deep voice that commanded attention, and regular non-solicited, congregational "Amen's!"

Coincidentally, it was during this time that the church's oil lamps were replaced by those new-fangled electric lights. Two lights had been added to the sanctuary, one near the front and one near the back. Both lights hung low on long cords to place the illumination closer to the congregation for ease in reading their Bibles. The location of the lights had never been a problem until Brother Collins stepped out of the pulpit to preach. His animated style resulted in frequent collisions between his head or hands and the light. The first night or two of the revival, Ralph and the other teenaged boys snickered every time Brother Collins banged into the light near the front of the church, disrupting the moths circling the light. They dared not laugh out loud, but a stern look from Brother Collins warned them their indiscretions had not gone unnoticed.

The last night of the revival Brother Collins was preaching

from Deuteronomy and Exodus on God's provision of all we need, specifically the story of the Israelites, manna, and the journey through the desert to Canaan. Gesturing toward heaven to indicate the source of the manna, this low hung light with it cadre of moths was just too much of a distraction for Brother Collins. After bouncing the light off of his head a couple of times and flicking moths away from his face and mouth, it was apparent that the serious nature of his message was being compromised by the comedy of him hitting the light. As a man prone to decisive action, he looked over at the young people sitting in the choir section and asked the boys to tie a knot in that

long cord to raise the light. Well, my dad, being long and lanky, volunteered for this assignment. It was later that he admitted that he really volunteered to impress a certain pretty young girl, Louise Brooks, whose father was a deacon in the church and owned a jewelry store in New Market.

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Young Ralph scrambled up to balance on the top of the back of the pew located right in the center front of the church. Using a long handled broom that someone brought him, he reached over three feet or so and caught the electric cord with the light attached. He pulled it toward him and with great fan fare over the heat of the bulb, he tied a big, floppy knot in the cord. He then let the light swing back toward Brother Collins who measured the new height against his head and then against his up stretched hand.

Seeing that the light still did not completely clear his hand, Brother Collins asked Ralph to tie the light up just a little higher. Once again Ralph climbed to the back of the pew, and as he did he gave a quick glance to see if Louise or any of the others in that bevy of pretty young girls in the choir loft was looking. He flashed them his best smile and with great drama, he stretched his arms and the broom way up over his head to catch the light cord for the second time.

Against a backdrop of positive congregational comments about what a fine young man Ralph was despite the death of his mother and his father not being around, and a number of "Atta boys," suddenly, an ear-splitting sound instantly silenced the congregation. An unloaded pistol that Ralph had stashed in the back of his pants under his shirt slipped out of the waist band and down his pant's leg to the floor. When the pistol hit the floor from that height it sounded like a bomb going off. Everyone froze with their eyes riveted on that shiny, silver revolver as it spun around and around and around. When the gun finally stopped spinning, J.C. Walls calmly stood up,

stepped in front of Brother Collins who was standing there in unaccustomed speechlessness, and retrieved the gun. Ralph climbed down from the pew, and Mr. Walls handed him the gun. He took the gun in hand and dropped his arm to his side. Without a word, Ralph turned around and slunk out of Rice's Chapel, but in the just breaking quiet he heard a child's rather sweet voice question "Was that manna from heaven?"

As Ralph walked away from Rice's Chapel that fateful evening, he heard on the night air a single, spontaneous voice begin singing:

"What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" "For my pardon this I see! Nothing but the blood of Jesus!" "Nothing can

for sin atone! Nothing but the blood of Jesus!"

Slowly, more voices joined in the singing until the night was absolutely filled with this musical indictment of him. Ralph heard the strains of that old familiar hymn, ironically his mother's fa-

"When I recently read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading."

Henny Youngman

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favorite, as he retreated from his embarrassment, bad judgment, and perhaps, even a negative direction in his life into his own personal "great awakening." By the time he got back to his empty home that night he had judged his own behavior according to how his beloved mother would have if she had been alive. He knew she would have told him that the Lord's House is no place for guns even if bullies were lying in wait for you. She would have told him to find a better way to deal with such threats. She would have simply said that she expected better of him.

Although Ralph never went back to Rice's Chapel or saw pretty little Louise again, he carried that old hymn with him for the rest of his life of 86 years, a sort of personal soundtrack which he often whistled when he was visiting the past in his mind. And, despite his "great

awakening," at Rice's Chapel in 1929, he remained a colorful character who did get into mischief occasionally, but never any real trouble. His mother's faith in God, though she was absent from his life, remained his guiding influence as to acceptable behavior.

She would have been very proud of the good man he became and of the good life he lived.

"Dear God, Maybe Cain and Abel would not have killed each other if they had their own rooms. That's what my Mom did for me and my brother."

Kid's note to God in religion class



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The Murder of Flossie Putnam

At the sound of the car horn blowing, young and vivacious Flossie Putnam, who had been a beauty contest winner at the age of 16, jumped to her feet. Glancing in the full-length mirror standing in the hall, she checked her makeup and shapely figure one last time. Her mother, sitting in a chair and watching, was agitated that her daughter was going out again. It seemed to her that Flossie was always on her way to another date.

"Going out again tonight?" asked the mother. "Who are you seeing now?"

"My number one boy friend!" replied the daughter gleefully. "The one I really love."

"Please don't stay out too late, honey," the mother pleaded.

Flossie kissed her mother lightly on the cheek, and pausing only long enough to tell her not to wait up, she dashed for the door.

Mrs. Putnam watched as her daughter departed. Her whole life was wrapped up in Flossie, an only child and her sole sup-

port. Mother and daughter lived in a modest house on O'Shaughnessy Avenue in the village of Dallas, a cotton mill section at the edge of Huntsville.

As darkness closed over the hills and valleys that night of April 30, 1937, angry clouds were gathering on the western horizon to swoop down on the countryside in one of the worst storms ever experienced in the Tennessee Valley. Within an hour after the daughter's departure from home, lightning flashed and thunder cracked with a fearsome fury. This was followed by a gale of hurricane proportions and then rain came down in torrents. As the storm increased in violence, Mrs. Mae Putnam, alone in her house, felt almost psychically worried about her daughter's safety for the first time in her life.

Flossie, however, was safe from the elements of the night. She was comfortably seated in a

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darkened corner of the White Castle, a popular roadhouse four miles north of Huntsville. Opposite her sat a companion, and on the table between them were two glasses filled with whiskey.

The popular tavern was almost empty of patrons on this stormy night. Besides Flossie and her date, there were only a few others present. No one paid any attention to the young couple until they began arguing in loud voices. The man seemed to be doing most of the talking, his voice thickened by the whiskey he had already consumed. As suddenly as the argument had begun, it ended, with the couple leaving the bar holding hands.

For the next hour the remaining patrons of the tavern continued to drink and talk as the storm raged outside. Two of the customers were preparing to leave when suddenly the door flew open and Flossie Putnam, her face and clothes splattered with blood, stumbled through the entrance.

The patrons anxiously gathered around the young girl offering to take her to the doctor, only to be met by a curt refusal.

"Leave me alone," Flossie cried angrily. "Please go away."

Just then the door opened and the girl's escort walked in. He, too, was splattered with blood and appeared to have been heavily intoxicated. Grabbing Flossie by her arm, the man angrily ordered her to leave

with him. Neither spoke a word as they left.

Through a window, those in the tavern saw the couple climb into a pickup truck and drive away.

The following morning,

when Mrs. Putnam realized her daughter had not returned home, she became alarmed. She began calling her daughter's friends only to be told that they had not seen her. One of them did tell her, however, that the man

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Flossie had been seeing was named Jim.

Mrs. Putnam next notified H.C. Blakemore. Huntsville's chief of police. Anxiously she told the Chief of her daughter dating someone by the name of Jim, and of her concern.

Recalling the fact that Flossie had joked about getting married, Blakemore said there was nothing he could do in case of an elopement since Flossie was of age, but he would do what he could.

Blakemore began searching for the man who had been with Flossie the night she had disappeared. Finally after much hard work, he was able to narrow the list of possible suspects down to five whose first names were Jim. Four of the suspects were able to give alibis for the night Flossie disappeared. The fifth, James McAnally, lived only a short distance from Blakemore's home. McAnally was married and was known as a devoted husband and the father of eight children.

With attributes such as these, Blakemore was at first hesitant about even considering McAnally as a suspect. Despite his personal feelings, the Chief nevertheless decided to question McAnally.

During the course of the next several weeks, Blakemore visited McAnally's residence several times, only to be told each time by Jim's wife that he was not home. Finally Blakemore de-

manded an explanation as to why McAnally was never home.

Obviously worried, the woman said Jim had disappeared. "I know I should have reported it sooner but I kept thinking that he would come back."

The woman said she had not seen her husband in almost a month.

Upon questioning the woman, Blakemore was able to establish that McAnally had disappeared the same night as Flossie Putnam. Now the investigator was faced with two mysterious disappearances instead of one. As rumors begin to spread across Huntsville, the general feeling was that McAnally had abandoned his wife and children and run off with the attractive Flossie Putman.

The whole case had stalemated when Mrs. McAnally ap-

peared at headquarters one day, three months later, to tell the Chief that she had heard from her husband. He was working in Texas, had a good job and was about to send for her and the children.

"Did he say why he left so suddenly without telling anyone?" Blakemore asked.

"He just said that he had an unexpected job offer and he wanted to make sure it worked out before telling anyone." The look on her face showed that even she knew it was a flimsy excuse.

Then, as the woman was leaving the office, Blakemore said he would like to talk to her husband about the disappearance of Flossie Putnam.

Indignantly, the woman replied that Blakemore was mistaken in his assumption that her husband had anything to do

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with the Putnam girl. "My husband has never been unfaithful to me!"

"Mrs. McAnally, I'd like permission to search your place before you leave for Texas."

Upset by the thought of police prowling about her home, and certain that her husband was in no way connected with the disappearance of Flossie Putnam, she refused. She could not understand the Chief's attitude nor his request as she stalked out of the office.

The state of Alabama had a peculiar outlook regarding the search of private property, regardless of the nature or seriousness of the case involved. A legal search could be made only with the consent of the resident, or with a warrant sworn out in his name whenever the consent was refused. When a search was made with proper warrant, should the officer fail to find what he was looking for the resident had recourse against the officer and superiors in the courts of the state.

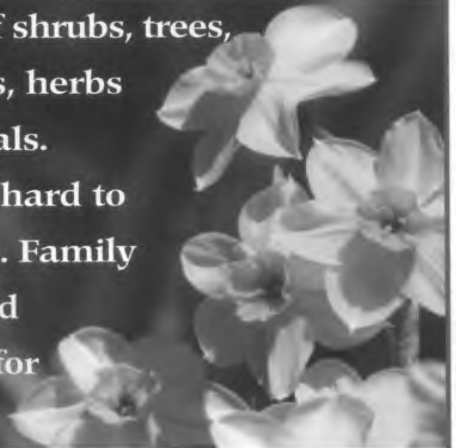
So Chief Blakemore refrained from searching the McAnally home and premises; he had no proof of his vague suspicions. Jim McAnally had turned up alive and there was the possibility that the girl whose name had been linked with his might likewise be located. Until he had proof that the girl had not merely run away, the police official had no intention of subjecting himself to a costly damage suit.

There were many conflicting and baffling possibilities in the events surrounding that stormy evening. Had the Putnam girl dashed into the roadhouse that night because she was fleeing the man who tried to kill her? If so, why did the man fol-

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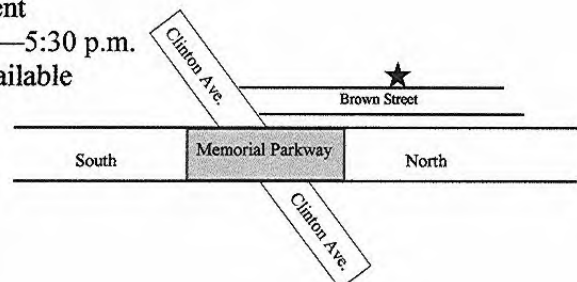
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low her into the bar where other people were bound to see him? And why did she leave with him again?

Every promising trail the investigating Chief followed seemed to lead to Jim McAnally, and then dissipate into thin air. Especially intriguing was his mysterious departure from home at the time of the girl's disappearance.

Surely Jim McAnally was not the "number one boy friend" mentioned by Miss Putnam, nor the one to whom she referred in jesting about an elopement. What attraction could there be in an insignificant married man of 41 years for the attractive and popular beauty with countless admirers? Yet, there seemed to have been numerous clandestine meetings between the two .

After months of diligent work, Chief Blakemore believed the girl might be dead, the victim of a jealous suitor. But his investigation along those lines was stalemated until some evidence of the body-- or the murderer could be located. To hunt for one involved dangerous financial risks and to look for

the other was a colossal undertaking, with the name of Jim and a general description that might fit hundreds of men the only clue to his identity. Where to look for either was a mystery as dark as the stormy night into which the girl and her friend had disappeared.

Months and then years passed. Finally, the summer of 1939 rolled around with still no trace of the missing Flossie Putnam. In the long span of time the residents of North Alabama had practically forgotten the former beauty, and many changes had occurred in the lives of the principal characters in this strange drama.

Chief Blakemore had resigned his position as head of Huntsville's law enforcement body and had been elected sheriff of Madison County. In his new capacity he had not forgotten the baffling Putman mystery, now more than two years old. The McAnally home was now occupied by the owner's father and mother, who had moved in when McAnally's wife and eight children left for Texas.

Reports from Texas told of

McAnally's success. He had acquired half ownership in a garage and had purchased a home for his family.

Blakemore never heard from Jim McAnally though he still wanted to question him in regard to the missing Flossie Putnam. He also still wanted to search the house in which McAnally had resided while in Huntsville but his repeated requests had been met with stern refusals from the new occupants. There was strong resentment of any thought that anything could be wrong. And a search was still impossible with the meager information available.

On the morning of August 13, 1939, Sheriff Blakemore re-

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ceived in his offices at the county courthouse a visitor with what appeared to be an important bit of information. This visitor was a neighbor of the McAnallys in West Huntsville.

"For the past few days," the man said, "my dog has been acting strangely around the McAnally house. He has been digging under the kitchen in the rear. I watched him again this morning through the fence. He digs a while, sniffs the hole he is making, and then digs again. I am sure there is something buried under that house."

Sheriff Blakemore decided to act immediately, to risk his judgement against a possible lawsuit. After obtaining a search warrant and accompanied by two deputies armed with shovels and digging irons, he went to the home which had previously been McAnally's residence. There he saw where the dog had been digging but the opening was too narrow to permit the entry of a human body. The sheriff and his deputies then entered the kitchen and their attention was immediately drawn to a section of the flooring which had a different appearance from the remainder of the boards. The elder McAnally explained this section had rotted and he had repaired it several days after his son went to Texas. Sheriff Blakemore ordered his men to remove the boards.

Directly beneath the floor was a mound of earth, large and oblong in shape, which had partly caved in. The aged occupant of the house, still unaware of the purpose of the unusual procedure but asking no questions, explained that his son had started to excavate for a cellar with the intention of installing a furnace but had abandoned the plan just before he went away. The sheriff ordered

his men to start digging.

Four feet down in the earth, which was loose and easily removed, Deputy Smith struck something hard with his shovel. Reaching down, he brought to the surface a small shoe, almost disintegrated, which contained the bones of a human foot. The officers continued their digging with renewed vigor and soon uncovered the skeleton of a woman. The shoes and a few fragments of clothing remained among the bones. These were carefully re-

moved to a mortuary, where an hour later Mrs. Mae Putnam, torn with grief, identified the bits of cloth and leather as part of the dress and shoes worn by her daughter the night she disappeared.

Flossie Putnam's strange disappearance was finally





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solved.

A long-distance call to the sheriff's office in McKillney, Texas requested the immediate arrest of Jim McAnally. Within an hour, a call came from the Texas city stating they had arrested one James McAnally.

When McAnally was returned from Texas he was brought before Solicitor Jeff D. Smith and Sheriff Blakemore for questioning. The man had made no statement since his arrest and the officials expected a continued denial of the murder.

Sheriff Blakemore addressed McAnally. "Jim," he said, "it looks pretty bad for you and we want to hear your story of what happened that night."

Calmly and without any outward sign of remorse, McAnally began to tell his story of what had transpired that night. He admitted to being out that night with Flossie Putnam, whom he said he had known about a year. He told how they rode around for hours talking and drinking whiskey.

When the storm was at its peak, he said he parked the pickup truck off the New Market road. It was here, according to his story, that the girl fell out of the truck and cut her face.

"The next thing I remember," he continued, "a man was shaking me to wake me up and get out of his way so he could drive into his home. After moving the car I tried to arouse Flossie and she didn't answer. Well, the woman was dead.

"I didn't know what to do so I went home, took the body out of the truck, and carried it into the house, placing it in the closet in the downstairs room. I then fell asleep.

"I was wakened soon after daylight by my wife and children moving about in the house. I thought of the body, and knew I had to dispose of it. So I told

my wife to take the children and go to the home of my parents.

"I had planned to dig a basement and had actually started it. So after the family left, I removed the floor in the kitchen and deepened the hole. Then I placed the body in it and covered it up, nailing down the floor tightly. When my wife and children returned at 11 o'clock they were none the wiser. I left the following morning and finally landed in Texas. You know the rest."

Though the story sounded feasible, it was a lie. Medical evidence had already shown that the girl died from a gunshot wound.

The trial began Nov. 1, 1939. McAnally offered a plea of "not guilty because of insanity." Solicitor Smith recounted the mass of testimony against the

accused man and demanded the death penalty for a brutal murder.

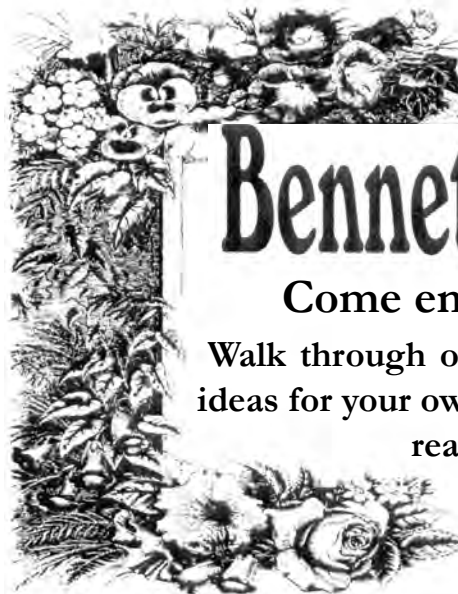
Three days later a jury deliberated four hours and returned a verdict of guilty and fixed punishment at life imprisonment.

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The Messenger of God

by Antonio Howard

She's one of the most translated American authors of all time. Her writings have been printed in over 140 different languages. She is also cofounder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and was instrumental in the establishment of Oakwood College. Her work and teachings influence the lives of thousands of Huntsvillians every day but few even recognize her name.

With over 115 book titles credited to her name, Ellen G. White is known by millions of people throughout the world as a "Messenger of God." Ellen Gould Harmon was born on a farm in Gorham, Maine in the year of 1827. When Ellen was nine years old, she was struck on the nose with a rock thrown by one of her schoolmates. The injury caused serious medical complications and as a result her education came to a end. Over the years her health continued to deteriorate.

White, a Methodist at the time, began going to Bible meetings given by Preacher William Miller, founder of the Millerite Movement. Also known as "Adventists," the sect believed that Jesus Christ would soon return to earth. Miller's teachings attracted many followers, many of whom sold all of their worldly possessions in preparation for the expected return.

When Miller prophesied a return date for October 22, 1844, and Christ failed to ap-

pear, many people began to abandon the Adventist belief. This period was known as "The Great Disappointment."

On a wintry day, in December of 1844, 17-year-old Ellen Harmon (weighing just 70 pounds) and four of her friends gathered for Bible study. It was then that Ellen claimed to have received her first vision from God. Her vision, as she later described it, was about "the Adventist people going to the City of God." Despite her obvious sincerity, she and her friends were labeled fanatics and the vision received widespread ridicule.

To the Adventists who had left the faith after "the great disappointment," Ellen Harmon appeared to be a true prophet. Over

the next 70 years she was said to have received more than 2000 visions, many of which she shared by writing books. The topics included such diverse subjects as health and nutrition, marriage, child guidance, voice cultivation, evangelism and education.

In August of 1846, Ellen married a preacher named James White. Not long after their marriage they came into possession of a pamphlet printed by Joseph Bates entitled "Seventh-day Sabbath." The booklet set forth the argument that if Sunday was the first day of the week, then Saturday must be the holy day.

Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt

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thou labor and do all thy work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God.

After adopting their interpretation of the fourth commandment, the Adventists started celebrating Saturday, the seventh day the week; as the sabbath, hence, the appellation "Seventh-day Adventists."

Within a short time the new religion had attracted numerous followers, with a strong emphasis being placed on missionary work. On March 21, 1891, in Battle Creek, Michigan, Ellen read an appeal to 30 church leaders of the General Conference of Seventh Adventist. The appeal, entitled "Our Duty to the Colored People," urged the church to spread its work into the Southern States. Motivated by the writing of his mother, James Edison White built a missionary boat called "The Morning Star" and, along with some helpers, traveled to Vicksburg, Mississippi to begin evangelist work.

The conditions White discovered appalled him. Lack of sanitary conditions, poor health care and especially, the lack of suitable education caused him to write many letters to the General Conference asking that something be done.

In the fall of 1895 the General Conference selected three men to locate land for a school. The three men, George Irwin, Ole Olsen and Harmon Lindsey, ventured to Huntsville to inspect a 380 acre farm in the north-west part of town. After submitting a report to the General Conference, the men returned to Huntsville in January, 1896 and purchased 358 acres from Michael O'Shaughnessey for \$6,300.00.

The land was a former slave plantation that consisted of four buildings, nine slave cabins and a house known as the "Old Man-

sion," where it is believed President Andrew Jackson had once visited. Although the purchasers did not know it at the time, the plantation had once been the home of Dred Scott, the slave who sued for freedom and whose lawsuit helped precipitate the Civil War. Now the same plantation would be used to free the ex-slaves, and their descendants, from illiteracy.

The new school was named Oakwood because of the huge oak trees lining the drive.

With only four teachers, 16 students, and one copy of reading text to be shared among them, Oakwood opened its doors for the first time on November 16, 1896. Oakwood was a twelve grade school the first 21 years. The following 26 years it served as a junior college, and since 1943, Oakwood has been a four-year senior college.

On June 7, 1904, the old and venerable Ellen G. White visited

Huntsville for the first time to see what her visions had wrought. After touring the school and meeting the faculty, she confided to the assembled students as to what visions for Oakwood were, saying "this is the Lord's institution" and "the instruction given me, never part with an acre of this land. It is to be used in educating hundreds."

Ellen White died in 1915, ridiculed by many but praised by others. Oakwood College is today one of the premier black educational facilities in the country and stands as a memorial to the woman whom many people called "The Messenger of God."

"A permanent set of teeth consists of eight canines, eight cupids, two molars and eight cuspidors."

Seen on 6th grade health exam

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Taking Care Of Yourself And Others



The Brazilian acai berry is the new super fruit and if you haven't heard about this new super drink, you must be living under a rock. It's been featured on many television shows like Oprah and in many articles such as People & Vogue Magazines. It is sweeping the world health food market as we speak, opening up to distributors in Great Britain and China. The company is expanding very rapidly and has enjoyed a huge growth cycle in less than 5 years. The company offers three products: Original (for children and nursing mothers), Active (contains glucosamine), Pulse (to promote healthy hearts with plant sterols).

This is not a product that has been quickly put together in the laboratory of a juice company. Created by Dr. Ralph Carson, a well known Huntsville nutritionist, Mona Vie is the product of several years of development. Its rich tart berry flavor is derived from the combination of 19 essential fruits to feed our bodies the proper amount of nutrients we are unlikely to get from a fresh salad or a banana/apple a day. The USDA recommends 5-9 servings of fruit a day to promote good health. The good

thing about Mona Vie is that you are getting all of these fruits-plus in only 4 ounces. If you need a visual for the amount of fruit you would need to consume to equal the antioxidants contained in a 4 ounce serving of Mona Vie, imagine a large serving platter covered with fruit! We found through careful shopping that the cost of purchasing the nutritional equivalent found in 4 ounces of Mona Vie was \$20+. Compare that to drinking 4 ounces of Mona Vie which is approximately \$5 per day and includes those same nutritional benefits!

I believe that Mona Vie is about your health first, your wealth second. And yes, it is sold only through distributors and not in any store. A 28 oz bottle that should last the average person a week is \$40. And yes, you can become a distributor and make a nice living selling the juice. The marketing of the product to entice self employed people to sign up is slick and as handsome as it comes. But the important thing is, you may never sell one bottle of it but by becoming a distributor, you will drink the product and therefore become more healthy.

For countless centuries, the people of the Amazon have revered this unique fruit for its health-promoting properties and prized it as a source of health and vitality. The remarkable health benefits of acai are continually being documented by modern science. And because of its unparalleled antioxidant levels and extraordinary nutrient content, acai is now widely regarded as one of the world's top super-foods and comes with a comfortably high ORAC score.

Excessive amounts of ORAC value (claims made by other acie based products) have been found to be of no value and in some cases detrimental or nega-

tive to a person's health. The range, as suggested by Dr. Carson, is 880 to 1200 a day- all balanced.

Several of my friends have reported excellent results with relief from their arthritis and joint pain. I have been told by others that the difficulty of climbing steps was greatly relieved. Others say they sleep better; are more alert; are energized and losing weight. Whereas we cannot make any medical claims regarding Mona Vie, their improvement can only be associated with their use of it, as it is the only thing they are doing differently!

I know this may sound strange, but I have a 14 year old dog, she was just dragging around, her arthritis was hurting her and she didn't have a lot of energy. With just about an half ounce of Mona Vie twice a day, she now is playful as a pup, walks more briskly, is no longer reluctant to negotiate steps and seems to be a more full of life. When I get the bottle out of the refrigerator to shake it, she stands at my feet and cries for her drink. Maybe man's best friend is trying to tell all of us something!

More info:(256) 468-3069
or www.monaviehuntsville.com



Local News from 1923

- A local minister whom we will not name had a bad day of it recently. He received a sound thrashing by the new groom in return for a "fatherly" kiss bestowed on the pretty bride. "He grabbed me about the waist, and held me so tight and I was fighting so that he got a terrible scratch. He was trying to reach my mouth." After struggling for about 5 minutes he succeeded in kissing her on the cheek, right before he received the thrashing by the furious groom.

- Mrs. Hewlett of the Community House wishes to announce that the Baths will be open for three days a week now. Hot and cold shower baths will be in operation.

- Wanted - good cook, phone 639 or see Mrs. June Martin, Lowe Avenue

- For two or three year lease - 5 room bungalow on Locust street, currently occupied by E. P. Kingsway, \$40 per month. Also a 5 room house on West Holmes, currently occupied by Dr. Laughlin at \$35 per month. Finally, a 4-room house with large garage, large garden, electric lights, lower end Locust street. Now occupied by Dr. D. E. White, \$17.50 per month

- Lost - broach pin, crescent shape, pearls and other stones between Elks theatre and business section. Finder call Miss Ethel Dennis, 307 Calhoun, phone 3745. No questions asked.

- For sale - household goods from parlor to kitchen. Also one Ford Sedan. See Mrs. S. E. McNatt, 205 East Clinton street. Get a bargain, starting from \$1.

- Mr. And Mrs. Charles T. Landman have moved to their apartments in Mims Court

- For Sale - one flat top mahogany finish desk. Call and see at 427 White street.

- For rent - 429 W. Holmes - an apartment consisting of three

connecting rooms, front porch and large back porch, also large garden. \$38 per month with use of kitchen. Phone 154-W

- For sale - cheap hogs and pigs. If you want pigs or hogs come to see me. D. B. Jett, Brownsboro, Route I

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