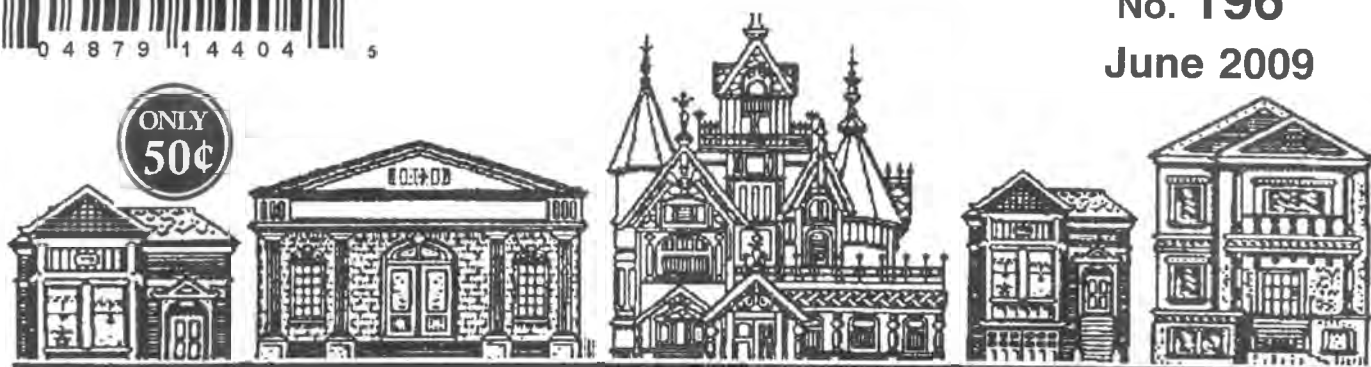




No. 196
June 2009

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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



The House That Mary Built

She worked until her hands were bloody, only to have a neighbor cheat her out of a year's labor. Even when vandals burned her home, she still refused to give up.

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Also in this issue: **Saturday Night At The Snuffdippers Ball**

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Mae Lewter

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The House that Mary Built

Follow Meridian Street north to where it leaves the city limits, then look closely to the west at the brush and the kudzu vines that seems to cover everything.

If you look closely enough, you will see what appears to be a large pile of stones. Closer examination would reveal that these stones are the remnants of what was once a structure. You won't see much, a few decayed timbers, a window frame lying haphazardly in the undergrowth and a hole where someone had started to dig a well, but quit in despair after encountering solid limestone a few feet beneath the surface.

There's nothing to indicate what kind of a structure it was or who built it.

However, old-timers recall, "It's the house that Mary built."

Mary Higgins was born in 1878 into a family which eked out a living as sharecroppers. Her early years were spent in the cotton fields and helping her mother take care of the large family. Her father, a drunkard, often ended up in jail after

spending what little money the family had on booze.

It came as no surprise when, at age 15, Mary married.

Unfortunately, the marriage only lasted two years, ending with her husband being sent to prison for making illegal whiskey and leaving her with a year-old child. To make matters worse, her husband announced he had no intention of returning home once he got out of prison. Children, he said, were not his "thing."

Unskilled in any other labor, Mary began cleaning houses. She had an excellent reputation as a hard worker and a kind soul. Soon she had all the work she could manage. Though earning but little money, she managed.

She had worked at the Baker household for almost a year when she heard Mr. Baker describe a "worthless" tract of nearby land that had come into his possession.

Curious, Mary walked out to look at the land. It was a rocky, irregularly-shaped tract that seemed to be useless.

Mary had dreamed all her life about owning her own home on a piece of land that was paid for. And now, here was the land! If only Mr. Baker would sell it to her and if she could afford it.

The next Monday, she arrived for work in her best dress. As Mr. Baker prepared to leave for



Old Huntsville

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work, Mary mentioned, "That land."

"Would you be of a mind to sell it?" she asked.

Amused, Baker looked at his cleaning lady. "I might," he replied, "but would you have the money to buy it?"

"No," Mary answered, "but I have an idea." Excitedly, she explained that if he would sell her the land, she would work extra every day and let the money go toward payment.

Probably because of her sincerity, or maybe just because it was such an unusual proposition, Baker agreed to the plan.

Mary's life quickly settled into a routine. Work ten hours a day during the week, and on Saturdays pack a picnic lunch and spend the day on the land she was buying. In her mind she could already see a house with a neat yard and flowers everywhere. Patiently she explained to her infant son how they were going to have their own home someday, and not owe anyone.

After almost two years, the land was hers. She had transformed the small piece of land into a veritable garden of Eden, with flowers everywhere in well-tended beds.

By this time, most people knew of the purchase and the woman's dream of building a

house. They also knew she had no money. "It takes money to build a house," they would say, sadly shaking their heads. "And though she's a good woman, she still can't afford it."

Ignoring the comments, Mary persisted in her dreams.

The first Saturday after the land was legally hers, she appeared at the door of a neighboring farm whose land bordered hers.

This time she had a different proposition. She had noticed that one corner of his land was unfit for planting because of the rocks. "I will clear the corner of all the rocks and haul them off," she said, "for twentyfive dollars."

Needless to say, the farmer took her up on her offer. He had been trying for years to cultivate that ground, but had broken so many plows he had finally given up.

Every weekend Mary would lift the rocks into a handcart, push them over to her land and

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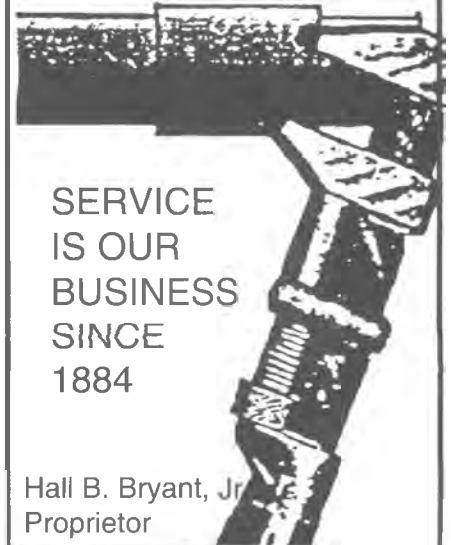
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add them to another pile she had gathered.

In the meantime Mary had gathered scrap lumber, odd doors and even broken window casings. After clearing the land and collecting her twenty-five dollars, she ordered a load of sand and concrete from a local building supply company.

Now her life took a different routine. Every weekend she would mix mortar and place the rocks. Amazed, the local residents realized that the woman was actually building a house. A rock house.

When a friend asked how she intended to build a house all by herself, she replied: "You build a brick house brick by brick, don't you? I can't afford nothing else so I'm building a rock house, one rock at a time!"

The neighbor, whose land Mary had cleared, would often visit the site, just standing there and staring, as she continued her back breaking task. Then without saying a word, he would turn and go back to his house.

Late that fall, after Mary had almost completed the exterior walls, she arrived at her land one morning to find that her neighbor had erected a fence around the house she was building. Angrily she went to see him, demanding to know why.

"Mrs. Higgins," he said, "that house is on my property. You should have been more careful."

Almost in tears, Mary rushed back to town to see Mr.

Baker and confront him with the news. After listening to her, Baker made an appointment with a lawyer, where Mary once again told what happened.

Mr. Baker, the lawyer, and Mary, with a copy of the deed in hand, went back out to the land where they carefully paced off the dimensions of the lot.

It was true. Mary had built the house almost twenty feet on the other side of her boundaries.

Most people expected her to give up on her dream. Her son was getting older, she had become a devout churchgoer and there just didn't seem to be much time for her to do anything else. Mary had, in the meantime, rented a house a few hundred feet down the road from her land to be closer to the house she hoped to build.

Instead of giving up though, the next Saturday morning found her back at work, once again patiently gathering rocks and placing them near the new site she had selected. Work progressed much slower this time, but she persisted, often laboring until her hands became bloody from handling the jagged rocks.

Many times, friends and neighbors would stop by, offering

How is it we put a man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?



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to help, but Mary always turned them down.

Mary hoarded every nickel and dime she could save in order to purchase concrete and building materials. By scrimping, she had saved almost forty dollars when fate once again intervened. A neighbor had taken sick and died, leaving a widow and a houseful of children and no way to take care of them.

Resignedly, without saying a word to anyone, Mary took her meager savings and gave it to the widow. During the influenza epidemic that hit Huntsville in 1917, she spent every spare moment taking care of neighbors and friends who had been stricken. Often times, she would show up unannounced with a pot of food for some family who were too ill to take care of themselves.

By 1925, the house was almost completed. Though not an attractive house, it was nevertheless paid for and it appeared as if finally Mary would have her own home.

Unfortunately, the night before she was about to move, vandals broke into the house, and

after ransacking it, set fire to it. Years of hard work went up in smoke in just a few minutes time. Seeing the flames, Mary rushed to the site in an effort to extinguish the fire, but it was too late.

A friend later said that was the only time he ever saw Mary Higgins cry.

Most people would have given up by now, but the next morning saw Mary back at the burned out shell of the house, gingerly picking through the rubble, trying to salvage what she could so that she might start over again.

Years passed, and the construction went much slower this time. What little money Mary managed to save for materials often went to some needy family. Age was beginning to catch up with her, and her body could no longer do the work it once had.

Her hair became tinged with grey and her son was grown and living in Chattanooga. She still spent every possible moment working on the house, but now it appeared to most people as if it were merely a dream that would never be fulfilled.



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Late one fall evening in 1932, she was trying to pull some nails from an old door casing she had salvaged somewhere when she felt a sharp pain in her side. Moments later she collapsed.

A neighbor later found her and carried her home. Within hours, the house was crowded with friends and neighbors, worried about the little lady's condition. A doctor was summoned and after examining Mary, pronounced her condition critical. "It's only a matter of time," he told the assembled crowd.

As is true in most cases like this, the ladies assembled in the kitchen, talking in hushed tones, while the men gathered on the front porch. Possibly, they were all thinking of the many times Mary had helped them. There was not a person present who could not tell stories about Mary nursing them when they were sick, or of her giving what little money she had to help a neighbor.

As they gazed down the road, they could see the walls of the house that Mary had so laboriously worked on all of her life. Now there was nothing they could do except sit on the front porch and wait.

Abruptly, one of the men got up and left. An hour later he returned, with a truck load of building materials he had purchased. Without a word he unloaded the materials in front of the rock walls. The other men, within minutes, joined him.

They labored through the night by the light of kerosene lanterns. They knew this was

their last chance to repay a gentle lady for a lifetime of generosity.

Early next morning, as the men finished hammering the last shingle on the roof, Mary Higgins awoke and asked one of the women tending to her what that noise was. "Mary," the woman said, "The men have finished your house!"

Suddenly, a strange sort of peacefulness seemed to sweep over Mary's face, before she once again lapsed into unconsciousness. A few minutes later, the men, still sweaty and grimy from their night's labor, arrived and af-

"You know you're getting older when you step off the curb and look down one more time to make sure that the street is still there."

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ter gently picking Mary up, carried her down the hill to her new house. Other men carried the bedroom furnishings, while some of the ladies hastily rushed ahead to hang curtains and place pictures on the walls.

We don't know if Mary ever regained consciousness again before dying a few hours later.

We like to think she did.

The house was sold after her death. The person who bought it purchased it primarily for the land, and let the house fall into total disrepair. People vandalized the house, taking the rocks to build fences and walkways.

Within a few years there was nothing left of the house that Mary built, except for the memories of a lady who refused to give up.

"I was such an ugly kid, when I played in the sandbox the cat kept trying to cover me up."

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A Trial and a Social

from 1878 newspaper

A young lady of Huntsville has brought suit against a young man for breach of promise in marriage. The trial will come off at the Court House, next Tuesday night April 9 at 7 1/2 o'clock. The following lawyers will represent the case:

Judge Thos. C. Barclay as residing officer, and Mr. Walter Oliver with other professional aid for defendant. In connection with this court, the ladies of the church will give a festival for the benefit of their church. A pleasant time is anticipated and all are cordially invited to attend. Admission only 25 cents.

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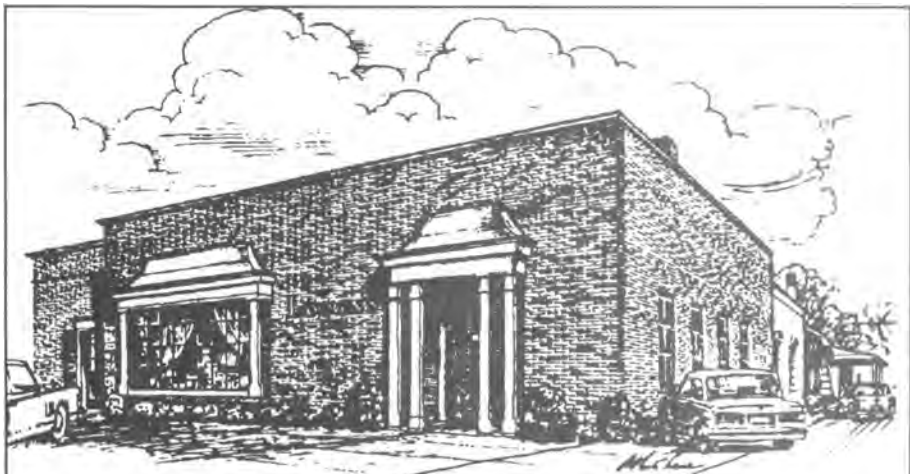
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The stranger, an elderly man, was dressed in summer clothing and carried no luggage. He asked for a room for two weeks and paid in advance with cash.

He also asked that no one, not even the maids, be permitted to enter his room. Instead of signing his name to the register, he wrote the numbers 6654.

The following morning he began a routine he would follow every day for the next two weeks. Eat breakfast at the hotel, walk three blocks to a barber shop where he would request a shave, sit on a bench in front of the Courthouse for the rest of the day until finally return to the hotel for dinner.

At the end of two weeks the stranger disappeared. The manager of the hotel, worried about the man's strange behavior, finally entered the room. The room was exactly the way it was when the

stranger had rented it. The bed had not been slept in and there was no sign anyone had been in the room since it was last cleaned, two weeks previous.

Adding to the mystery were six envelopes lying on the bed, addressed to different individuals around town. In each envelope were five one hundred dollar bills.

Later checking revealed that none of the individuals knew the stranger. They also had no idea what the money was for, or what the numbers 6654 stood for.

Another Huntsville story that has never been explained.

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Clinton Avenue Archeology

On December 15, 1968, North Alabama was riveted by the news of a possible major archeological find in Huntsville. William Thomas Young, a resident of 507 East Clinton Avenue, was working on replacing a floor in his home, and upon discovering a pile of loose bricks underneath the floor, decided to remove them. What he uncovered next would earn his home a spot in Huntsville history for all time to come.

A skeleton, the biggest that anyone had ever seen, was uncovered. Everyone agreed that the bones were of some type of animal but no one could imagine what kind of a creature could be so huge.

Immediately, speculation began about the bones. As the word spread, gawkers began lining up on the street trying to get a view. Old history books, with pictures of dinosaurs, were hastily retrieved from dusty attics and neighbors began talking of the Tyrannosaurus, and Trachodons that once stalked this region. One person who lived on Clinton even suggested calling the Smithsonian Institute to have them fly in experts.

Unfortunately, the puzzle was quickly solved and Huntsville missed the opportunity of becoming the site for an archeological dig. A local historian (Old Town's full of them) remembered hearing tales of an elephant being buried somewhere on Clinton Avenue and by putting two and two together, solved the mystery.

It seems as if a circus had come to town in the fall of 1893 and erected its tents about a half-mile outside of town in a location now known as Five Points. As the circus was packing up and getting ready to leave town, one of its elephants died. Circuses and traveling carnivals were notorious for leaving sick and dead animals behind, so when Sheriff Jere Murphee heard of the dead elephant, he quickly informed the circus that they could not leave town until the elephant was buried.

Mr. Bradshaw, the manager of the circus, then hired a local man by the name of Gentry to

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bury the carcass for the sum of ten dollars. Although some people may think that ten dollars was a large sum of money, it was also a large elephant. Mr. Gentry hitched his team of mules to the carcass, the circus left town, and everyone was happy.

In retrospect, it seems as if Mr. Gentry might have been a bit on the lazy side, for instead of digging a hole to bury the carcass, he took the easy way out. In the 500 block of East Clinton, there had at one time been an old brickworks, and adjacent to the works was a large hole from where the clay for the bricks had been dug. It was here that Gentry dumped the carcass, and finished filling in the hole with old bricks and rubble.

And it was here, years later, that homes were built, with Mr. Young eventually buying the one with the secret.

So the next time you go by 507 East Clinton, take a long look. It's probably the only house in America with an elephant buried underneath it.

News from 1878


- Mathias Jolly was shot and instantly killed by Sam Green last Wednesday night at Brown's Bend on the Tennessee River. The particulars so far as we were able to gather them from persons in the neighborhood are about as follows: It seems that Jolly and his wife, who is a sister of Green's, fell out about some trifling matter, when Jolly slapped her in the face. The wife told her brother what had happened, then he deliberately took down a rifle that was hanging in the boat. When Jolly saw Green go for the gun he jumped off the boat to the shore and fled. He had not gone more than 75 yards before Green fired and the ball went through Jolly, killing him instantly. All the parties

"If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables - what is baby oil made from?"

Terri Sizemore, Athens

lived on a trading boat on the Tennessee River, which was moored at the time to the bank of the river on the Limestone County side. Green is still at large, but the officers are in search of him.

- Died in Nashville, TN. this Thursday morning past, Abigail Robinson, an old colored woman well known in the community. She was reputed to have been more than 120 years old and the daughter of an African King who sold her into slavery at the tender age of 13 years old.



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News from 1923

From 1923 newspaper

- Considerable crowds were attracted around a blind man, who stood on the downtown corners Saturday and sang. The unfortunate man was seeking alms and to attract alms-givers he sang repeated songs. His voice was especially attractive and carried for quite a distance on the streets above the hum of traffic. Much commenting was heard on the quality of his voice which was a rich baritone. The ease with which he reached the high notes and the mellowness of his voice attracted crowds around him the whole day.

- A crowded street corner in Huntsville Traffic - Officer John Allison had a great time for a short while at the busy corner of Washington and Clinton

streets late Saturday afternoon, while standing at the side of the road with his traffic signal, directing traffic. His actions attracted a large crowd, but John handled the traffic in a manner that would do justice to an experienced man in the large cities. Probably more automobiles and other vehicles pass this particular corner than any other in town, especially on a Saturday afternoon. Several declared that the city should continue this arrangement permanently as it would not only give Huntsville the metropolitan ap-

pearance that she justly deserves, but that it would be the means of clearing congestion at this busy corner.

- One hundred and nineteen arrests were made by the Huntsville police department during June. Arrests for violating the Sanitary laws (21), lead the list. Stock at large coming next with 16 and drunks (14) is third on the list. There were 12 arrests for traffic law violations and eleven for affrays, the balance were scattered among a large number of other causes.

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Star Dust

by Jim Burruss

The time was around 1950 and I was a member of boy scout troop #15. We met each Monday night at the First Methodist church. My scout master was Mr. Tom Cornell who lived on Bonita Circle in Mayfair. I lived on Pansy Street in the same neighborhood and he would give me a ride in his fine Ford straight shift automobile. It was a beauty.

On this particular Monday night, I sort of slipped out of the meeting and found a piano in another room. It was a hot summer night and all the windows were raised for there was no air conditioning. I knew nothing about playing, but I enjoyed picking familiar songs with one finger. After a few minutes of

this, I felt someone staring at me. I turned around to face a strange man about twenty feet from me. He asked, "Do you play?" Of course, if he had been listening for a few minutes he would have known the answer to his question. I replied, "No, do you?" He said yes and further stated that his name was Carl Michael and he wrote the song "STARDUST".

I was not very impressed and figured this must be some drunk that wandered off the street.

I got up and he took a seat at the piano. Now, I am not very smart or talented but this man knew what he was doing. And if he did not write that song, he sure had done a lot of practicing.

He was good! After a few minutes the scout meeting broke up and I thanked him and we all left. Here is where it got really interesting. I was telling my Mother about my impromptu concert and she said Hoagy Carmichael was

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the one that wrote "STARDUST". She also said that he had been in several movies. Was I excited? You bet. I immediately telephoned the Russel Erskine hotel to inquire if there was a Hoagy Carmichael registered. They said yes there was. I was fit to be tied.

As soon as I got out of school the next day, I planned to go there and get his autograph, seeing as we both played the piano. When I got to the desk clerk, I asked for the room of Mr. Carmichael.

Upon checking their records, it seemed that he had checked out that morning. I was very disappointed, but I figured that probably I was one of the few persons that had a personal concert by Hoagy Carmichael, playing his signature song.

A Letter

Woodville, Al.
July, 1862

The infernal slave order is enough to make one curse the government that allowed it to be issued. A few days ago a rebel came here with an order to take away his slaves. The order was given by General (illegible) who now commands the division. I was away from camp at the time but the captain in command allowed the master to take his slave away.

Today, a notorious rebel lawyer came here wishing to search through the camp for his slave, but I refused to allow him to do so, and told him if the slave were in camp, he should not have him, if as I supposed, we had received information from him.

He told me he had been assured he could go through our lines and into our camps to find his property.

I assured him he could not go through mine. He will go to Huntsville and probably report me and I may be arrested I will give that rebel (illegible) crew a fight. I will appeal to the president, but if not arrested, I will resign rather than disobey orders.

Poor Miles, who was so badly wounded about three weeks ago, died day before yesterday. One of the gang that killed him and Capt. Moore, whom we arrested and sent to Huntsville, was released by Gen. (illegible). Oh, such conduct

makes my blood boil!

Pray this horrible war will be over soon and we can all come home.

(signed) J.M.



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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*

Jane Barr was the Photo of the Month, the little girl with those beautiful eyes. Jane lives on Monte Sano and knows lots of history of that area. The winner who called with the first correct guess was **Pamela Tippett/Henderson**, who works for United Fire, Smoke and Water Restoration.

William A. Heimann, Jr. loves the history of this area and thinks there's no better place to live than here. His mother, **Catherine Heimann**, feels the same way. William is so proud of his pretty daughter **Samantha**, who works at Starbucks Coffee on North Parkway. Someone who frequents that shop often is **Peggy Rhoden**, who says the coffee there is "fabulous"!

A very special man passed away recently. **Kenneth Biggs** went to Hazel Green High School, and rose to become the president of **Ashburn & Gray**. He was an expert in the field of asphalt paving, and was elected president of the Alabama Asphalt Association, and was nominated for the Alabama Roadbuilder's Hall of Fame. His unique talents contributed to such projects as Research Park, 565 and I565 and the Huntsville/Madison County Jetport. We send our deepest condolences to Mr.



Bigg's family and many friends.

Many women are familiar with the **Breast Center at Huntsville Hospital**. The Center just earned a perfect score in a FDA inspection in early May, by meeting Mammography Quality Standards set by the FDA. In addition, this is the 10th year that they have earned a perfect score. We're very proud of them!

Congratulations to that sweet couple in Hazel Green, owners of Ole Dad's BarBQue there - **Rosemary and Bill Leatherwood** just celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on June 1! Rosemary's sisters are also having June birthdays - **Dot Branch's** day was on June 8, and **Lynn Greene's** was June 14!

We will be seeing many more visitors to the Huntsville area in the next few months. Many of these will be foreign dignitaries from many countries. This will be in conjunction with the move of the **U.S. Army Security Assistance Command** headquarters

from Virginia to Redstone Arsenal. They will be moving here with family & staff and we know that they will be very impressed by the beautiful city they're moving to, and the friendliness of the Huntsville residents. We hope they take some time to walk around the downtown historic districts and learn more about our great city.

Curtis and Becky Parcus, owners of Dallas Mill Deli, are brand new parents! Their first child was born just a couple of weeks ago and is a baby girl whom they named **Avery Jennings Parcus**. We hear that she is alert and absolutely beautiful! Congratulations to Curtis and Becky, your life will never be the same!

It was very interesting to read that **ginger capsules**, taken several days in advance to a chemo infusion, can really subdue the nausea experienced when people have to undergo chemo treatments for cancer. This breaking news was released recently by the **American Society of Clinical Oncology**. Ginger has long been

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 is the boss lady of a popular Huntsville business



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known to calm upset stomachs, this new one used a specially formulated gelcap containing concentrated, purified ginger root extract.

Donna Hays, who owns the Furniture Factory, is so proud of her sweet grandchildren! She was telling us recently that there are some important birthdays coming up. **Will Lanter** will be 7 on June 1, and **Hays Lanter** will turn 6 on June 3. Their parents are **Rena and Chris Lanter**, they all live in Aspen, Co. **Ali Hays** will be sweet 16 on August 12, and **Lauren Hays** will be 18 on August 26, they both are students at Huntsville High. They are daughters of **Wade and Lisa Hays**, of Huntsville.

We met a newcomer to Huntsville recently, who says he and his family are here to stay! **Neil Raiford** is a teacher and published author who just loves living here. His sweet wife **Karen** is a medical doctor who works at Tennessee Valley OBGYN. They moved here in 2004 from North Carolina. Their children are **Turner**, who will be 2 years old in June; **Benjamin** who will be 9 in June and will be a fourth grader at Whitesburg Christian Academy next year; and **Thomas** who will be 4 in October. Finally, Neil and Karen's 15th wedding anniversary is in June! They are a really close family.

Happy Birthday to that special lady **Louise Avery!** Among many other activities, Louise does so much volunteer work for CASA and her church, Lathan United Methodist, and absolutely loves her grandchildren! She's the best.

There are some really beautiful historic areas near downtown Huntsville. Old Town will be sponsoring a **Hidden Gardens Tour** on June 7, from 1-5pm. Have you ever walked by a home and wondered what the garden behind the home looked like?

There are 9 stunning gardens that will be open for visitors, for just \$10 each. You just might get some really great ideas for your own garden! Tickets are available at In Bloom on Pratt Ave., Five Points Hallmark, Railroad Station Antiques and Dallas Mill Deli. There's even a rain date as well.

We were so sorry to hear that **Bob Langley** had passed away, in late April. He was 89 years old, and was a prisoner of war before he escaped from a German prison camp in 1945. Bob worked at Thiokol for many years. He lived at Redstone Village Retirement Community after his wife **Janis'** death and always appreciated the love and support that the Redstone community gave to him and his dog **Lilly Belle**. We send our deepest condolences to Bob's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He will be missed.

The **Historic Lowry House** hosted their 2nd Vintage Creations night recently at the home. You arrive with your wine of choice, then be prepared to unleash the hidden artist inside you! A local artist (on this day, it was **Connie Lougheed**) will display one of her latest creations, then you follow the instructions of the artist in creating your own version of her masterpiece. The more wine, the better the paintings look! All of the paintings


have their own personality and may or may not look like the original, but it is definitely a fun night!

Happy Father's Day to all you great Dads out there, and to those of you who still have your Dads, let them know you love them.

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Just Salads, from Nancy Holliman

Summer Fruit Salad

- Melon balls in season
- Berries in season
- Seedless grapes, sliced
- Lemon Juice
- Pineapple wedges
- Maraschino cherries
- Bananas, sliced
- Fruit dressing (next)

Dip the banana slices in the lemon juice. Mix fruits together and place on salad greens. Use any or all of the fruits suggested, or add your own! Drizzle with dressing, recipe follows.

Fruit Salad Dressing

- 12 marshmallows, diced
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1 pt. whipping cream
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1 c. toasted, sliced almonds
- Mix cream cheese and

mayonnaise before adding marshmallows and almonds. Whip cream and fold into the cheese mixture. This goes well with many raw or jellied fruit salads and keeps well in the fridge.

Garlic Dill Potato Salad

- 3 lbs. new potatoes, peeled
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1/2 c. mayonnaise
- 1 1/2 t. dried dill weed
- 2 T dill pickle cubes
- 2 t. dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 t. lemon juice
- 2 t. chopped garlic
- Salt & pepper to taste

Boil potatoes til tender, about 30 minutes. Remove from pan, rinse in cold water, cut into slices or cubes and put in bowl. Combine other ingredients and pour over the potatoes. Refrigerate overnight before serving, to best combine all flavors.

Jane's Corn Salad

- 2 12-oz. cans shoe peg corn, drained
- 2 tomatoes, seeded, drained and chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 1 purple onion, chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped
- 2 t. salt
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 4 T. mayonnaise
- 1/2 t. celery salt and pepper
- 1/2 t. dry mustard
- 2 T. white vinegar
- Mix all together and refrigerate. This will serve 8-10.

Spicy Black Bean & Cilantro Salad

- 1/3 c. olive oil
- 1/4 c. fresh lime juice

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2 T. fresh cilantro, finely chopped

1 T. jalapeno pepper, minced

2 t. granulated garlic

1/2 t. cumin seeds

1/2 t. salt

2 cans black beans, drained and rinsed

1/2 c. red onion, chopped

1/2 c. chopped yellow bell pepper

1/2 c. chopped red bell pepper

2 c. white shoe peg corn, drained

Mix ingredients together and marinate overnight. Serves 8 to 10.

Green Cabbage Salad

4 c. crisp, shredded cabbage

1/2 small jar pimiento slices

1/2 green pepper, diced

1 t. celery seed

1 t. salt

1/2 t. black pepper

3 t. Dijon or coarse ground mustard

4 T. sugar

3/4 c. garlic wine vinegar

1 garlic clove, minced

1/2 c. vegetable oil

Wash, drain and combine vegetables in a serving bowl. Put remaining ingredients in a blender and whirl til salad dressing is thoroughly mixed. Add dressing to salad just before serving.

Excess dressing keeps well in the fridge.

Asian Salad

1 lb. pkg. broccoli slaw

4 green onions, chopped

3 oz. Ramen noodles,

Oriental flavor

1/2 c. cashew nuts

1/2 c. sunflower seeds

1/4 c. canola oil

1/2 c. sugar

1/3 c. cider vinegar

Seasoning packet from the Ramen noodles

Break up the noodles and mix with onions and slaw. Mix oil, vinegar, sugar and seasoning and pour over the broccoli mix. Refrigerate for 24 hours.

Add cashew nuts and sunflower seeds an hour before serving.

Blushing Pears

2 cans pears

1 8-oz. pkg cream cheese

1/2 c. finely chopped pecans

Red food coloring

Drain the canned pears and pat dry. Mix cream cheese with the pecans. Spread this in the pear cavity and place face down on lettuce leaves.

Color tops of pears with a little red food coloring, thus the name.



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Saturday Night at the Snuffdippers' Ball

By George Dickerson

During the 1930's, 40's and 50's - Saturday's were busy days for the business district - or the Center City of Huntsville... Jefferson Street from Holmes Avenue to West Clinton was bustling with activity during the day, but Saturday night.... at times were almost deserted. About all that was open then was the Grand Theater - with the last Western feature, along with a few restaurants and cafes.

However, there was one place on the east side of Jefferson Street that was the focal point for fun and frolic on Saturday evening. It was a building known as The Labor Temple, and the second floor was where people gathered on Saturday nights to dance and to listen to country music. This was the place that was called, "The Snuff Dippers' Ball". Folks came to the ball from around town, Mill Village, Redstone Arsenal, and surrounding counties.

This hall was sometimes used for Union Meetings and other events. Saturday nights the large room became a place to forget about the day to day drudgery of working on the farms or the cotton mills, to unwind and have fun.

There were cane bottom chairs lined up along the walls, and at one end - the musicians had microphones and a sound systems to amplify their music, so there was no difficulty in hearing the sounds of the instruments.

As the dancers moved about the floor, the music almost bounced off the walls. Many of the folks at the Ball would partici-



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pate in the dancing, but some were there just to sit and listen to the good ole country music. Folks on the floor enjoyed both round and square dancing. The musicians on the small stage put on quite a show. Usually, there were two fiddles, a banjo, a bass fiddle, a guitar and a mandolin or two. There were also one or two members of the band who would draft the Ball attendees for some of their sounds.

The Saturday night ball was a real social event. Many of the folks just sat and talked with their friends. It was a good opportunity to catch up on all the latest news from the farm and mill villages.

There were no alcoholic beverages sold at the Saturday dance. But people could bring their own bottles and purchase soft drinks to use as mixers. The proprietor and manager of the dance hall was a fellow named Monte Sano Crowder. Monte served as greeter at the door and since he was a renowned fiddler, would sometimes take the stage and play a mean fiddle. Monte also acted as the Emcee during most of the Saturday dances. Monte stood more than six foot six and weighed in at two hundred and fifty pounds. Monte would also act as the official bouncer when the need arose. However, one look at Monte, and very few would give him any trouble.

In addition to being a talented fiddler, Monte was also a professional wrestler. So Monte was able to keep order without resorting to physical force. There were only a few instances of anyone getting belligerent or hostile. There might have been a few heated discussions, but almost no fights or confrontations. If there were cases that came close to fisticuffs - Monte would politely escort the gentlemen down the steps - and the disagreement could be settled on the outside of the dance hall.

The Ball had gained a reputation of being a "den of iniquity" - and some of the Huntsville town folk spread the rumor that the ball was a haven for prostitutes, men on the prowl and those few looking for a fight. There were few news report or police reports

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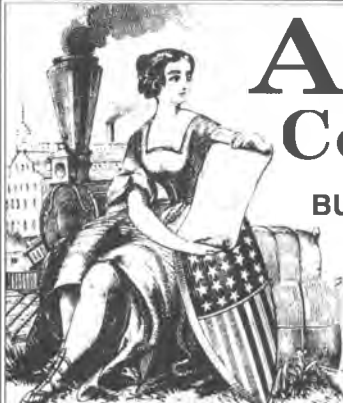
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where they were dispatched to the Ball to restore order. One of the town's flamboyant preachers would stand by the door at the floor below and admonish the people entering the hall.

As the ball got underway, the music was electrifying. The fiddler could be heard above everything else. The two Albino gentlemen that were playing made their instruments sing! The guitar and mandolin added a colorful dimension to the sounds of the hall. But it was the rhythmic percussion sound of the bass fiddle that really stood out. On some (when they finally got air conditioning) evenings the air conditioning would go on the blink - they would then open the windows for fresh air and improve the ventilation. With the windows opened - the sounds of the band wafted from the hall to the sidewalks below. Passers-by would often stop and just listen to the sounds of the country music.

The ball was always well attended, and packed with people and, yes they did dip snuff. In fact, two brands of snuff, Garrett and Brewton, could be purchased in small cans at the concession stand. One look at the floor and you knew this to be true.

During the Saturday Night Dance - you would see various modes of transportation all up and down Jefferson - mules to jalopies - to the latest in automobiles. They would also come on buses from Redstone Arsenal and other military installa-

tion located in close proximity to Huntsville.

As the evening wore on - the dancers and band would finally become weary. The Snuff Dippers' Ball would come to a close for another week - with all the attendees finding their way home. It would not be long before Jefferson Street was deserted. The dancers would work for another week - waiting for the next Saturday Night at the Snuff Dippers' Ball.

The Ball would last for several years into the 1950's and 1960's. Monte Crowder would go on to become famous as a fiddler. He would play for events throughout the southeast and was also selected to play on the WSM Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and for the WLS Barn Dance in Chicago.

Have you ever noticed that when you put the two words "The" and "IRS" together that it spells "THEIRS"?

Eggnog Pie

Graham cracker pie shell
1 env. unflavored gelatin
1/3 c. sugar
1 1/3 c. milk
3 egg yolks, lightly beaten
3 egg whites
1/4 c. sugar
2 T. dark rum or rum flavoring
1/2 c. heavy cream

Combine the gelatin, sugar, milk and egg yolks in a saucepan. Cook over medium heat slowly til mixture comes to a boil, remove from heat.

Chill for 20 minutes, stirring a few times. Beat egg whites into soft peaks and add sugar. Beat til thick, add rum to the chilled egg yolk mixture.

Whip cream and fold it, along with egg whites, into the egg mixture. Pour into the pie shell and chill for 4 hours before serving.

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A Union Man in Dixie

by Tom Baker

Shadrack Golden was hated by many and loved by few in the New Market, Alabama community during the Civil War. Shadrack was an outspoken unionist, as was the entire Golden family. The Golden family were loyal unionist, church going, good neighbors, and good citizens who believed strongly in the Constitution of the United States, and that no state had the right to separate from the Union. They were not alone in their beliefs, for almost half the county believed as they did.

Such was the climate of the time as the war lingered on into January of 1865. The hatred for the Golden family grew stronger as the war, after almost four long bloody years, seemed to be a lost cause for the Confederacy. Neighbors of the Golden family became more vicious in their hatred, running to the Confederate Bushwackers in the area and telling them that the Golden family were reporting to the Yankees any rebel soldier seen home on leave visiting his family.

Shadrack and a neighbor, on the 13th of January in 1865, were killing hogs at a place called Campbell Springs in the countryside outside New Market. A mob of Rebel Bushwackers approached them shouting obscenities. Shadrack and the neighbor, seeing the mob was intent on doing them harm, ran toward home with the mob in hot pursuit. The young neighbor outran the mob, but Shadrack, almost 57 years old, could not, and he was caught. They tied his hands behind him, and with a rope



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around his neck, pulled him along like one would pull an animal. Foul smelling men with whiskey breath cursed and jeered him, asking "Where are your damn Yankee friends now, Union Man?"

When they came within yards of Shadrack's home, he begged to go inside for his tobacco. His pleading struck a sympathetic cord in the heart of the gang leader and he gave the OK. Untying his hands, but keeping the rope around his neck, he was led by a big burly red bearded man into the house. Shadrack had in his pocket a leather pouch which contained five twenty dollar gold coins. Not knowing what this drunken bunch had in mind to do with him, he thought it best to rid himself of these. He reached for his tobacco pouch he kept on the fireplace mantel and intentionally brushed it onto the hearth below. Reaching down to retrieve it with his coin pouch in his hand he pretended to search while he placed the coin pouch behind a fire log on the hearth. When a fire was made that evening a family member would surely find it.

Outside with his hands tied again, the march continued with Shadrack being pulled along a narrow cow path toward a hill in the distance. Shadrack recognized the hill as that of his Rebel neighbor. It was known as Bailes Hill. Reaching the crest of the hill, they shoved Shadrack against a big pine tree, and tied him to it. The leader of the mob stepped forward, and in a loud voice shouted, "Shadrack

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Golden, you are guilty of treason for aiding the enemy in time of war in this community, and your sentence is death. Have you any last words?" "Yes, long live Abe Lincoln and the Union." Shadrack shouted. There was a brief silence. The command "Fire" was given, and a barrage of gunshots rang out echoing throughout the hollows.

When they buried Shadrack Golden on that bitterly cold day in January of 1865, other than family, few were there to actually mourn him. The Yankee colonel in charge of the burial had forced surrounding neighbors to attend. And with military honors, Shadrack was laid to rest.

Today where Shadrack was buried is known as Bragg

Cemetery, located a few miles outside New Market, Alabama. The tallest tombstone in the cemetery marks the grave of Shadrack Golden. Hatred for Shadrack, some say, continued for him into death. For years workers who cleaned the cemetery grounds would, for spite, pile the trash and debris on Shadrack's grave. The inscription on his tombstone, ordered by the Yankee colonel to be inscribed, has faded with time as has the hatred.

It reads: In memory of Shadrack Golden, born July 4, 1808 in the year of our Lord. On the 13 of January, 1865 he was taken off and murdered for maintaining the Union and Constitution of the United States.



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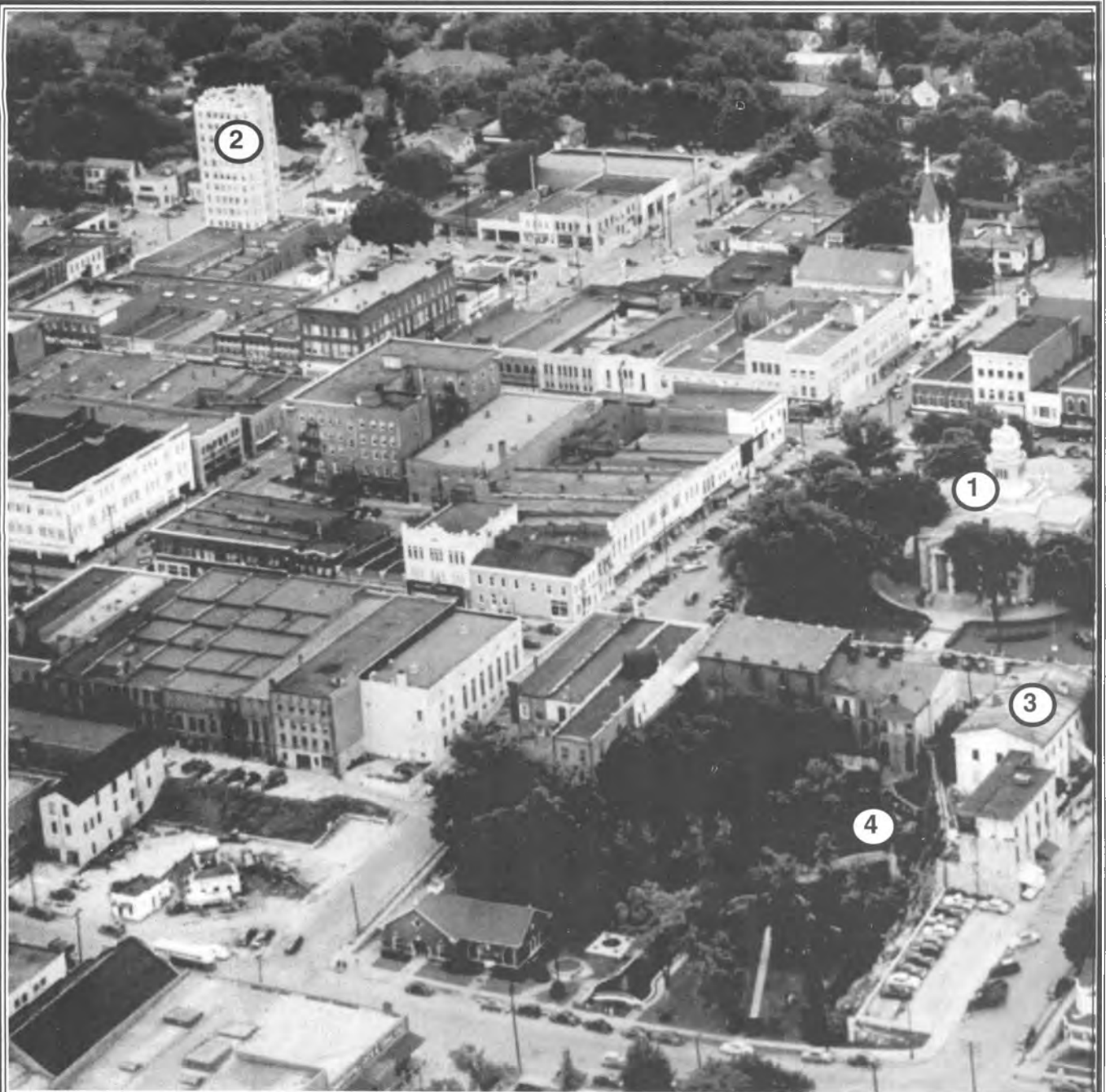


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Western Night Operetta at Hamilton School

By Theresa Hanvey Fallwell

For entertainment in the early 1920's, schools often presented operettas. Operettas were original plays that contained dancing, singing, and sundry forms of performance under a central theme. Most were held on a Saturday night and lasted, with intermission, about two hours.

Parents often served cookies and punch, and each operetta was a major social event for the community. Young children and girls especially liked the operettas. Older boys were more hesitant to perform these "sissy" activities, so they often begged off, feigning chores or simply not showing up on the night of the performance.

To counter this attitude on the part of older boys, some were coerced into participation by proud parents. This is the

story of how one of those reticent boys, my late father Ralph Hanvey, fought against such parental coercion and won his battle not to participate in the operetta.

The Western Night Operetta at Hamilton School in May of 1922 was promoted as outstanding entertainment. There was to be square dancing, ani-

mal costumes, songs, a Will Rogers dialogue complete with rope tricks, and a play. In addition, several children were to read their original poems, and solos on the piano, violin, and guitar were also scheduled. Costumes complemented the theme with the girls wearing colorful, long crepe paper circle skirts that swayed as they danced and



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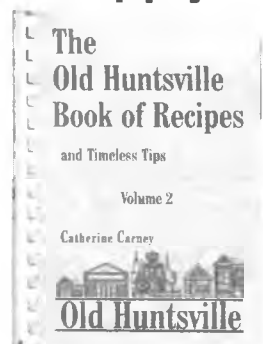
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sang and big, paper flowers in their hair. The boys wore jeans with vests, cowboy hats, bandanas, and as many toy pistols, guns, or knives as they could muster.

All of this entertainment was set against an impressive stage backdrop of a broken down fence appointed with bushes, sapling trees, and a big yellow, paper moon. Much time and effort had been spent to make Western Night Operetta the best ever at Hamilton School.

At the time of the Western Night Operetta my dad was eight years old. His part in the performance was as a dancer in the "hoedown" and a violin solo. His mother, a refined lady and a talented musician who played several instruments by ear, insisted he take violin lessons from an early age.

The violin teacher lived across the football field from Hamilton School. So, once a week for three years on lesson day Ralph would have to dress up in his Sunday clothes so that

he would be properly attired to approach such a cultured instrument, and walk across the football field to his teacher's house. An audience of older boys would lie in wait for him, laughing and calling him the "mowsician."

My dad took great offense at this weekly teasing, and dreaded the operetta because he knew it would only increase the harassment. Young Ralph made many excuses to escape performing in the operetta, but his mother was insistent, thinking he had more talent than he did.

When the program for the Western Operetta Night was finalized, Ralph noted that his dance performance which he wanted to do was scheduled

in the first act followed by the violin solo which he did not want to do in the second act. He began to concoct a plan that would allow him to escape potential humiliation and future teasing by the older boys, and yet, not openly defy his beloved mother.

The first act of the operetta was most entertaining for the large crowd that had gathered. The "hoedown" was well-received by the audience. The Will

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Rogers' act was a great hit as it was current with its political jokes and satire. Next, the primary children dressed as farm animals, did their little play and sang their songs.

Following all the oohs and aahs, the intermission was announced. At that time, the performers and the audience all adjourned to the picnic areas under the big oak trees in front of the school for cool refreshments.

Amidst all the partaking of punch and cookies, Ralph slipped back into the auditorium unnoticed. From his violin case he pulled out a very large can of black pepper which he sprinkled all across the worn,

wooden floor of the stage under cover of the stage curtain. After he disposed of the empty can, he quietly rejoined the others at the refreshment tables.

After intermission, the performers and the audience filed back into the auditorium. The first act, a lively dance number, was to be performed by the sixth grade girls. The music began and the girls started moving rapidly on the stage, bowing to partners, circling, and promenading home. Their long, crepe paper skirts grazed the floor with each bow and turn.

Suddenly, one of the girls began sneezing uncontrollably, then another and another. Soon all the girls were sneezing so hard that their eyes were watering and their noses running. The dance movements were lost as they bumped into each other because they couldn't see, and some even fell as the floor became slick from all that moisture.

Initial, subtle giggles from the audience turned into hysterical laughter as the situation deteriorated. The girls started crying because of the embarrassment, and seeking relief, they wiped their eyes and noses on the paper skirts which, of course, began to tear apart adding to their overall distress. To this scene, add a distraught teacher running around dabbing at eyes with her handkerchief and trying to salvage skirts and modesty until she, too, was overcome with sneezing. Observers noticed what appeared to be dust clouds rising from the stage floor. Parents, with handkerchiefs in hand, retrieved their crying, sniveling children and headed for home fussing about the lack of cleanliness and preparation of the stage for the operetta.

It was with a sense of utter disbelief that the principal canceled the remainder of the operetta.

With a smug smile and a guilty

"There will be a pinto bean dinner next Sunday at 6pm. Lively music to follow."

Seen in local church bulletin



REDSTONE VILLAGE, the area's premier Life Care community, will soon be opening Grandview Gardens, a Memory Support Neighborhood.

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sense of accomplishment, my dad took his violin home and never played another note. And, even though Ralph didn't know it, his mother was terminally ill by this time, and, of necessity, she relinquished her dream of him ever becoming an accomplished violinist.

His means of escaping the operetta remained a secret until he confessed later in life and at a considerable distance from Hamilton School. It might also be noted that for a number of years after the disastrous Western Night Operetta, the stage received particular attention and a personal inspection by the principal prior to any Hamilton School function.

"Ozone created by electric cars now killing millions in the largest state in the U.S., Mexifornia, formerly known as California."

Headline from the year 2030


Huntsville Trivia

1812 - Inflation has driven the price of Whiskey to an astonishing price of five cents a shot.

1832 - Lemuel Jackson successfully bids on two slaves being auctioned in front of the courthouse. Mr. Jackson, a local business owner, is black.

1862 - Huntsville is taken by Union troops. The advance unit that entered Huntsville was led by Union Colonel Ivan Valsilovich Turchinoff, a Russian emigre.

1876 - Faced with a budget deficit, Madison County is forced to sell the County Poor House. An outraged citizen, Donald Finney, suggested it might make more sense to sell the City Hall, as it was responsible for the deficit.



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Huntsville's Ladies of the Night

by Judy Wills

The theme of the wicked lady with the heart of gold runs through our literature from the Biblical Rahab, the Harlot, an ancestor of Jesus to that friend of Rhett Butlers, Belle Watley, in *Gone With The Wind*.

Huntsville has its own version, but it was fact, not fiction.

Huntsville Hospital owes its existence to the generosity of the town's most colorful madam, Mollie Teal. She bequeathed her house, the most popular bordello in town, first to a friend, and then upon the friend's death to the City of Huntsville. It became the City Infirmary and operated until 1926 as a hospital. It was one of the most modern hospitals in North Alabama, even having its own School of Nursing. It remained in operation until Huntsville Hospital opened.

Mollie became quite well off financially as a result of her "business." She bought the house at the corner of St. Clair and Gallatin for a mere \$300 and a few years later was able to mortgage it for \$1,900, a debt she soon repaid. It was an extravagant, well run house where a shot of whiskey could be had for 25 cents and the favors of an attentive lass would cost you \$5 for the night.

Part of the public's confidence in Mollie's

probably was the fact that her girls had regular health inspections.

Miss Bessie Russell, for whom the branch library is named, was the widow of the physician who was charged with health inspections at Mollie's place.

Mrs. Russell remembered her mother talking about Mollie,

saying "she was the most attractive person you ever saw." She always carried a parasol and when she took her afternoon ride in her long black carriage with the two black horses, she was considered, by most people, to be an extremely glamorous lady.

Mollie was an astute business woman who knew the value of publicity. One year, during the

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4th of July parade, she dressed her ladies in their finest garb and joined the parade, to the delight of many onlookers. She was not on the official parade schedule, but as an observer later commented, "She did add a bit of interest."

Mollie's ghost was said by many to have haunted the hospital for years after her death. There was a screen door that had a habit of slamming and hooking itself shut. The long time employees joked that it was Mollie checking on the customers.

Another legend concerns her grave in Maple Hill Cemetery. Ever since her death almost a century ago, fresh flowers have been periodically placed on her grave. No one knows by whom.

While Mollie Teal is the most colorful and the best known of Huntsville's "Fancy Ladies," she was certainly not the only one. Minnie Maples' establishment, though smaller than Mollie's, was equally well known around the turn of the century. She and her employees advertised their wares by dressing up and promenading on the city's sidewalks. Heavily made up, wearing big flowery hats and exquisite clothing, they attracted much attention on their daily excursions.

May Wells, June Martin, Jewel Earl, and "Gashouse Carrie" were other prominent Huntsville madams, but in the 1920s and 30s the best known was Hazel Battle. Her house was located near the present day site of Von Braun Civic Center, and though illegal, had the reputation of being a well regulated house. The only disturbances were an occasional police raid when some of the girls would be jailed long enough to get their health checkups.

Many of Huntsville's outstanding citizens were regular patrons of the houses, as evidenced by an incident that happened in the late 1800s.

One of the bordellos caught fire and the fire department quickly showed up and extinguished the blaze, which proved to be minor.

Needless to say, the girls were so impressed by the brave, courageous firemen that they invited them to stay for a while and "relax."

And needless to say, when word spread among the volunteer fire department of the madam's offer, other

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firemen, even from out in the county, begin showing up, "to make sure the fire is out."

Unfortunately, the Huntsville Police Department chose this exact time to stage one of their raids. The firemen were promptly arrested and thrown in the calaboose. Furious, the volunteer firemen resigned, leaving Huntsville without fire protection until the matter was straightened out.

Some of the prostitutes married well. Miss Bessie Russell remembered that her husband was astonished at the number of young men who married women right out of the houses. Though "polite society" never mentions the fact, there are still sev-

eral elderly matriarchs in Huntsville today who got their start in a much more colorful place than the Huntsville Country Club.



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From 1890 Huntsville newspaper

A speedy and conclusive trial was that of Ed Morrison, who killed young Henry Hunter in Madison County, Ga. at three weeks since. Eighteen minutes argument for the defense, sixteen for the prosecution, twenty for the judge's charge, twenty for the jury and then the verdict. One hour and fourteen minutes after the evidence closed, the jury returned a verdict of Guilty.

He was hanged the morning next.



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News from 1907

- I wish to learn of the whereabouts of my folks. My father was named Dickson; brother name Edmond Anderson; sisters named Polly, Dinah and Rachel Anderson. Sister Polly married a man by the name of John Anderson.

I came from South Carolina when I was 19 years of age and stayed 2 or 3 years in Green County, Alabama, then went to Lee County Mississippi, near Carona. I left there the 2nd year of the war and went to Corinth, from there to Cleveland, Tennessee, where I joined the Federal Army and served three years and have been in Huntsville since I was mustered out.

Write Milton Anderson at Huntsville, care of the Journal.

- On Saturday last, at New Market in this county, a young

man, George Norris raised a difficulty with another young man, Bud Powers, and the town marshal, William Mullins tried to arrest him. Norris drew his knife and resisted arrest. Mullins struck Norris with his stick; and a young man, William Fuqua, threw a stone at Mullins, striking him on the head and knocking him senseless.

Attempts were made by other citizens to arrest Norris and Fuqua, but they drew their guns and the citizens being unarmed, they made their escape. Parties have been out hunting them, but to no avail, and it is supposed they have left the country. Our informant says that new brandy made at stills near New Market is the cause of the trouble and is causing a good deal more of trouble in the neighborhood.

- Near Huntsville on Sunday last, a boy killed his father. The facts, as told to us, are that the boy left the house of his father, Hawk Houston, and went to the

farm of Mr. Wm. R. Day, and Hawk went after him, and told him he intended to whip him, when he got him home. The boy got home first, and seizing a shotgun, fired the load into his father's heart. It is stated, al-

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most incredibly, that the father, although shot and badly bleeding, drew a revolver and fired twice at his son as he ran off.

The boy escaped and at last accounts had not been seen in the neighborhood, and no one has pursued him.

- For Sale - roller top desk - good as new, will sell cheap. Address H. R. Taylor, Huntsville, Ala. Box 512

- Once upon a time someone said, "When you do a thing do it well." Evidently burglars who last night ransacked John Cicero's store on the corner of Washington and Holmes Street believed in this teaching.


They entered through the rear door, but were not satisfied with merely breaking the lock. They took the entire door off and set it neatly to one side. Mr. Cicero early this morning reported the loss of more than 1,000 cigarettes, a batch of cigars, some boxes of candy and various other small items as well as \$6.00 which was in the cash drawer.

- Edward T. Sweeney, employee of a carriage factory here, is in Jail on a charge of wife beating and public drunkenness. The prosecution claims that on last Saturday night, Sweeney went home in a beastly state of drunkenness. He committed an assault upon and choked his wife, Mrs. Maud Sweeney and she was compelled to flee, attired in insufficient clothing, from her home on Jefferson Street, to the home of J. H. Bryant in the southern part of the city.

A warrant was sworn out against Sweeney in justice Vaughn's court and Sweeney is now in jail in default of bail in the sum of \$700.00.

- Frank Pickard, one of the ad writers on the Mercury, and R.D. Carlisle figured in a dangerous runaway at the Southern Depot Sunday afternoon. Their horse became frightened at the approaching train and overturned the buggy, but neither of the occupants were hurt.

- Looking for information on Mrs. Frances W. Gerkin, a music teacher, nearly blind, who left Norfolk, Virginia some years ago and is reported to have been drowned while crossing the Tennessee River, near Ditto, four or five years ago.



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Professors Lost to Huntsville's Damsels

The following is taken from "Franklin College and Its Influences."

In 1843 I went to Elm Crag School, but remained only a short time. I was not pleased with Elm Crag as suited to my wants at the time, and went to Old Lasea, Maury County, Tenn., and remained there three years.

When Elm Crag merged into Franklin College, I visited it occasionally. During one vacation the students of Franklin College were sent out on excursions.

My teacher, John M. Barnes, and I went with a crowd of about twenty students under the control of Professor Fall, of languages; Professor Loomis, of natural science; and Professor Cook, of music. Among the young men were the pick of the musicians at the college, who

gave a free concert at every town or village we passed.

The people were so carried away with the music that they gave us an abundance of supplies all along our route (for we camped under a good tent every night).

When we reached Huntsville, Ala., we pitched our tent hard by the city, and announced a free concert in the courthouse that night (Friday). We had a fair audience, and the young men did full justice to the occasion.

The next morning a committee of gentlemen came to our tent and notified us that the city authorities had arranged with the two hotels for our accommodations free of charge while we remained there. The professors gladly accepted. Our camp equipment was taken in charge, and

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we were all assigned rooms in the two hotels.

Announcement was made at once for a free concert at night. In the meantime the professors, who were all young men, began to be introduced to the young ladies of the city; and the boys followed their example, till the city was all aglow with promenades, flowers, and bouquets. The boys seemed to be on stilts, and at night the courthouse was jammed, while flowers showered like meteors upon the musicians.

On Sunday, Professor Barnes preached a big discourse, and all the afternoon and night was spent by the young men in gallanting the lovely Huntsville girls.

On Sunday morning we were to move on, according to our programme; but another committee waited upon the professors, J. F. Demoville being the speaker, insisting upon a concert for the special benefit of the old people, in which an anthem, "The Earth is the Lord's, and the

Fullness Thereof," must be rendered. It took but little persuasion to carry the point.

On Monday night the old people of Huntsville had the front seats, (two courthouses could not have seated the crowd.) Professor Cook, with all his boys, felt the magnitude of the occasion, and surpassed themselves on all former occasions, to the delight of all present.

On Tuesday morning we had to leave early to reach a barbecue which we had been notified would be given us at Savannah, (sic) Ala.

When the time came, nearly

every student and professor had a sweetheart that he must tell good-by. Huntsville girls did not rise in those days in time for calls from young men and give them a very early start; but there was no use in grumbling, for that call had to be made by the professors, especially if it consumed half the day.

For a time the boys had no leader, till young Carmack of Mississippi assumed the role of leader and sent messengers all over the city to find the professors.

Finally he got them "rounded up" and we all had to "double-quick to make the barbecue."

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A S S I S T E D L I V I N G

A Trip To Town

by Mildred Thomas

The residents of Lacey's Spring and other points south of the Tennessee River were somewhat isolated from civilization for years, until the C. C. Clay Bridge was built in 1931. Before the bridge was built, the only way people could get to Huntsville and Madison County was by ferryboat at Ditto Landing.

Before there was a bridge across the Tennessee River, the postman and his horse or mule rode a ferry to the north bank, then went on to the train station at Farley to send off a sack of letters and pick up any mail coming in. Man and beast would then take the ferry south across the river and deliver their route.

At one time, Mr. Bill Thomas rented Hobbs Island where he grew cotton and corn. He would take his farming equipment and mules to the ferry, cross the river, then go down Hobbs Island road to the island. When he got to the island, he would ford the Little River to the island where the animals and equipment would stay until the first stages of the plowing were complete. Mr. Bill would do this two or three times a year. He and his sons, along with some hired hands would board a large canoe type boat, (they called it a Yawl), at Johnston Landing and paddle across the Tennessee River to the island. They worked in the field all day, then paddled back to the other side before daylight's end. It was a hard life, but it was the only life we knew.

Mrs. Berta Kay of Lacey's Spring was a large landowner and very nice lady. She thought it would be a nice gesture to take a truckload of youngsters to see a movie in Huntsville. The C. C. Clay bridge had just been built and at the time was a toll bridge, (I think the toll was about a nickel). Mr. Nat Hough was the toll bridge keeper. Mrs. Kay furnished a truck for about fifteen to eighteen of us kids and paid the toll for all of us

to go over the bridge. Buford Garrett drove the truck. The old truck was a ton and a half that was used to haul cotton and do work around the farm. It had high sideboards and we all stood up in the truck like cattle - singing songs, laughing and telling jokes. We had a lot of fun.

We parked at T. T. Terrys and walked to the Elks Theater that was on Eustis Street behind the Schiffman building. My sister Ebb, who was four years younger than I, had never been to the city before. So when she saw street lights for the first time in her life, she didn't know what to think. She was so amazed that she just wanted to look at the pretty lights. We almost got lost from the others while I was trying to get her to come along!

Mrs. Kay bought everybody's ticket to get into the movie theater. I don't remember what movie we saw, but we had a wonderful time. On the way back home, about halfway between the bridge and what is now Hwy. 36 (which wasn't there then) the truck broke down. We had to walk at least two miles to get home.

The evening was one of the wonderful memories of my childhood and of a wonderful lady, Mrs. Berta Kay.

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A War Letter

Dear Ma,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health. We are in camp now in a place called Huntsville. The people here aren't too friendly and there is not much to do. There is a big spring here and that is where people go to see other people.

They say that Morgan is going to try and take the city back but we are ready for him. We got a lot of defenses and no one would try to overcome them. We march all the time.

This war cannot last much longer because people are going to get tired of killing. People can't kill but so much and they will get tired of it and then there will not be any more wars.

Roy is coming back home on leave soon. He got a bullet but not bad. I hope this war will be over by Christmas and I can come home. Please send me a comb and some real sugar if you can, we don't ever get none of that here.

Don't forget me Ma,
Your son Ben

Reward For Horse Thief

from 1827 newspaper

On the 23 of October last, a man who called his name J. Wilbond sold me a Horse, and said he was going back to Huntsville, from which place he came here; I paid him, he then took the stage, went a few miles, whereupon the driver said he got out and went into the woods. That night my stable was broken open, and the horse I bought off him stolen out, with a new saddle and bridle.

As said Wilbond has not been heard of since, no doubt but he returned that night and stole my horse. Wilbond is a large man, blue eyes and fair complexion, and says but little, wore a black cloak, and black cloth coat.

He limps on one leg and speaks with an educated voice. He is around 25 years of age with a heavy black beard.

I will pay \$50 for the delivery of said Wilbond and the horse to me, living at the Bell Tavern in Winchester, Tennessee, and for the horse alone, \$25. Wm. Rankins.



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Tips from Liz

* This is one of my originals. I found that when replacing plants in my window-boxes, the roots from ivy and other plants were too tough for my garden spade to go through. I used a large, serrated kitchen knife and it cut through the roots beautifully. And this way if I wanted to transplant the ivy someplace else, I had a nice plant/root package to plant. It's much easier than trying to get through all that with a small garden tool!

* For hiccups, there are thousands of remedies. Try eating a piece of bread that is a few days old. Eat it slowly, by small pieces. By the time you're done, your hiccups should be gone! Or, place an ice cube right below your Adam's apple and count to 150. And the final one, take a mouthful of water and keep it in your mouth while you stick the middle fingers of each hand into your ears and press firmly. Count to 100, then swallow the water and unplug your ears.

* If you can't sleep, try a natural remedy. Warm some milk with 1/2 teaspoonful of nutmeg and 1 teaspoon of honey. Drink right before you get to bed and you'll have sweet dreams! Or try a breathing technique. Get into bed. Before you lie down, breathe deeply 6 times. Count to 100, then breathe deeply another 6 times. Good night!

* For a fever, bind sliced onions or garlic to the bottoms of your feet. Don't be surprised if this gives you garlic or onion breath! And it WILL bring down your temperature.

* If you're feeling nauseated, drink 1/2 cup of ginger ale. You'll be burping in a minute, but will feel better.

* Warm ginger tea works wonders for a colicky child, as well.

* For those women who experience hot flashes, many have been helped by taking 500 mg. of bee pollen a day. Always check with your doctor first, of course!

* For indigestion, try scrubbing an orange and eating some of the peel 5 minutes after a meal.

* Okra can be a mild laxative - add it to your favorite vegetable soup and you'll stay regular!

* A really good cough remedy is to mix 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar, honey & 1 teaspoon cayenne pepper, drink as needed. This can be used day or night.

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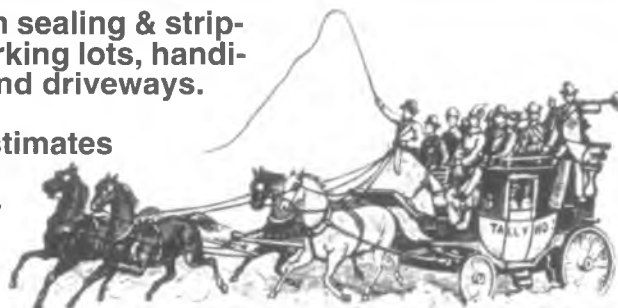
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Wife Turns In Murderer After Seventeen Years

from 1900 newspaper

Sheriff Oscar Fulgham has gone to Paris, Texas to bring Jas. H. O'Connor to Huntsville. O'Connor is the Negro man who killed policeman Bill Street during the fair here 17 years ago.

He went out to Texas after making his escape and married. Some years ago he confided everything he knew in her, and they lived together happily until recently, when they fell out and he beat her considerably. To get revenge she went and told the sheriff that her husband had killed a policeman in Huntsville about 17 years ago, by the name of Bill Street. The Sheriff at once telegraphed Sheriff Fulgham

Some of the older citizens will recall that when Policeman Street was murdered, two men were implicated in the crime, one making his escape and the other man was lynched on the courthouse square.

The Grand Shine Dry Cleaners

One of Huntsville's unique attractions in the late 1940s was, believe it or not, a dry cleaning establishment. Owned by a Mr. Johnson, the Grand Shine Dry Cleaners offered on the spot dry cleaning and pressing for the individual with a busy schedule.

Unfortunately, many of his clients were farmers who only

owned one suit, and it was the one they wore to town to do their shopping. Many of these farmers wanted to have their suit cleaned while in town, but, not having another change of clothes, were forced to hide in the restroom while the employees hastily cleaned the suit.

In an effort to rectify the problem, Mr. Johnson acquired a large barrel which he placed in the front lobby of his estab-


lishment. The front of the barrel was fitted with a hinged door allowing customers to enter, where they could remove their clothes and wait for them to be cleaned. It also gave the customers a chance to converse with other people who had business in the shop.

The price was 50 cents a suit, or 65 cents if you used the barrel.

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News From the Year 1914

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Europe On Brink Of War

Austria-Hungary is eager and ready to invade Serbia and as the sending of his passports to the Serbian minister is a virtual declaration of war, hostilities will begin probably within the next day or two.

Serbia had acceded to most of Austria's demands and nothing but an entire surrender on its part could now avert war. While the warlike attitude of Austria-Hungary has been precipitated by the assassination of the Crown Prince Franz Ferdinand, about two weeks ago, a Slavic propaganda against Austria has been in progress for some time.

But the moment Austria starts a war with Serbia, Russia will take up the fight and aid its little Slavic neighbor to the full extent of its military resources.

Germany would join Austria. The German people are in a frenzy of war. France and possibly England would be drawn into the conflict. The only certainty is that the United States

will mind her own business and stay out of the fracas.

Europe has been long preparing for such a war as this which is threatened, but although it seems inevitable, all peace-loving people will pray that some way out of it will yet be found.

New Hotel Skyscraper in Huntsville

Ground breaking was held today for the Twickenham Hotel, a project expected to cost \$100,000. The hotel is being built on the site of the old market house which was purchased by the city for a reported \$15,000. A crowd of some three thousand people attended the ground breaking.

With the completion of the six story hotel, Huntsville will be able to boast of having the tallest skyscraper in the Tennessee Valley.

Family Saved By Dog As Home Burns


A Dallas mill family is counting their blessings this morning after their home was completely destroyed by fire. The family was sound asleep when the blaze began and were alerted by the pet terrier which began barking until the whole family was roused.

The family is staying with relatives until more accommodations can be found. The mills have a policy against pets but it is expected to be waived in this instance.


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Local Man in Jail after Drowning Death

Vassar Vest, residence 121 Washington Street, Decatur was drowned in the Tennessee River this morning about ten o'clock. At a point several hundred yards below the bridge, a boat occupied by Vest and a young man named Jim Breedlove turned over according to Breedlove's story, throwing the two out.

Breedlove has been arrested and placed in the county jail. Breedlove, when seen in the lockup this afternoon, told the following story to a reporter: "Vest and I were crossing the river to fish and had reached the other side when the boat turned over, but I do not know what caused it. I grabbed the side and saved myself. I got the boat turned right side up when I had gotten about 50 yards from this side, after having looked for the body of Vest. I came on to land and got the family of Vest and went back across the river. I was sitting on the bank over there when Deputy Sheriff McCulloch arrested me."

Breedlove does not have a criminal face, but there appear to be several details of the drowning

which he doesn't seem to be quite familiar with. He stated that he didn't know what caused the boat to turn over, dumping the men in the water, though he said that Vest had been teasing him about not being able to swim and had been rocking the boat in an effort to aggravate him.

Deer To Go

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

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

New Speed Limit

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

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

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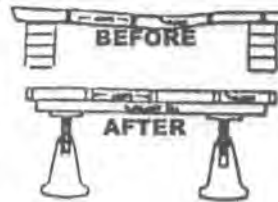
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Life on Monte Sano

by Tom Barr

My first encounter with the water system was after we purchased our first lot on Crescent Circle. In order to get water to our lot we had to join the "Monte Sano Water Association." Sam Thompson sold the lots for the Mountain Heights Development Company (M. M. Hutchens and Herbert Johnson were Trustees for the stockholders).

You had to deal with the Association to get water. Membership required that you have the proper house plans and be acceptable socially to the other mountain people. The \$150 fee was more important than being social. I never knew of anyone being turned down.

The association wanted quality houses. Any house costing over \$5000 was OK. In fact most of the houses cost about 10 or 12 thousand. If you really wanted to put on the dog and show your wealth you could

blow \$15K on your house. This would get the best bluff lot, 4 bedrooms and a rental apartment over the garage.

We had to borrow \$6000 to build our first house on Crescent Circle. The loan agency was very uptight about lending money for a house on Monte Sano. No pavement on the side streets and no street numbers. We all had mailboxes on Monte Sano Boulevard. Our number was 77 1/8. There was a 77, 77 1/2 and 77 1/4. The post master did not believe the mountain would ever need more than 100 mailboxes.

Up to the time when Redstone reopened, Monte Sano was considered fit only for summer living. If you had money you had a summer home on the mountain and lived downtown during the "terrible winter

months."

I don't know who started the Water Association. At the time we moved to the mountain the lots were going for \$75 to \$150 each. They were narrow 50 to 75 feet wide by 200 to 300 feet deep. Most people purchased two or more lots. When you got ready to build you applied to the Water Association for a water connection. You filled out a form and submitted your house plans. They had some type of review and in time you would receive a go ahead on your house.

Getting a water connection simply meant you were given a water meter by the Association. It was your problem to find the water main and have the meter installed. Marvin Tippet was the man to find the water main and install the meter. In some cases no water main existed, which left

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you with the problem of working out some deal to install a link to the main line. Cost was usually shared by the Association and owners of the land needing the water line.

The water distribution system on the mountain was anything but ideal. The entire system was based on a 2 inch diameter main line and more 2 inch distribution lines to side streets. The line from our wet weather spring and reservoir to the top of the mountain was also 2 inch diameter. The spring was down the dirt road across from Burritt Museum (at the time Dr. Burritt's home).

Continuing down this road would lead around the mountain and eventually to the Natural Well. The reservoir was an open concrete tank about 5 feet deep and 30 feet in diameter. It may have been built by the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) in the 1930's. Adjacent to the reservoir we had a small block building that housed the large 1 HP pump and chlorination system. The chlorinator seldom worked.

We occasionally chlorinated the water, especially on weekends after the kids tired of swimming in the reservoir. Swimming was against the rules, but seemed to go on anyway. Not only was the swimming bad for the water but the reservoir had a good bit of glass in it.

Since the chlorinator rarely worked we would bypass the

unit and put chlorine directly into the reservoir. I had a chlorine measuring kit that I used to carefully determine the amount of chlorine to add.

Hank Shuey figured out that the cheapest chlorine source was Clorox bleach. It came in one gallon glass bottles that we purchased by the case from Sandlin Hardware on the Square. Once a year we had everyone come down to the reservoir and help clean it out. There was Otto Hoberg, Buster Bell, Eric Neubert and many others. All of us continued to drink the water, even after the cleanup.

During the dry season we pumped city water from Fagan Springs to the mountain top. Someone had run a 2 inch pipe from town to the mountain top, possibly the CCC. This pipe in many areas was above ground and thus froze and burst dur-

ing some of the cold winters. Some of the most miserable times in my life was when we had to walk down the mountain in sub zero weather looking for the break. In cold weather the trick was to keep water flowing to prevent a freeze.

The Fagan Spring pump was a Deming "Tri Plex". A three piston pump driven with a 20 horsepower motor. It was located in an old tin shed just below the old abandoned Huntsville retirement home, now long gone. Each piston was about 3 inches in diameter with a 6 inch stroke. The water was pumped in a single stage all the way up the mountain. The static head was about 600 pounds and the dynamic head was about 800 lbs. This very high pressure was the source of much of our problem. The pipe was NOT rated for this pressure and the pounding of

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the water pulsations contributed to pipe breakage and related pump failures. Most of the pump failures were associated to packing around the pistons. We had an extra pump for emergencies that was stored outside the building. (The building was too small for both pumps). Some kids spent all night taking that old pump apart. They sold it to Miller's Junk Yard for \$15.

As the mountain grew the water demand increased beyond the 2 inch pipe distribution system. The pipe was too small, the pump was too small and so was the water tank. We made numerous patches to improve things with little reward. The Fagan spring pump had no control other than an off-on switch at the pump house.

I would turn the pump ON my way to work at the Arsenal. Marvin would turn it OFF later in the day. The signal to turn it off was to watch the water tower, located near the intersection of Woodward and Wildwood. When it was

overflowing you got in your car, drove down the mountain and turned it off. We made a major improvement by leasing a telephone line between the tank and Fagan Spring and installing a remote control. Later we added a pressure regulator and additional pump at the tank to make a constant pressure distribution system. This made a noticeable improvement in our water supply and was the last improvement before the city replaced it.

By 1955 the mountain had grown to over 300 houses. The water system was totally inadequate and we had no fire protection. The city proposed annexing Monte Sano. A condition was that they install a new water system.

"I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up first."

Amanda Stolz, age 20

Nutty Brown Sugar Pie

2 eggs, beaten
1 c. brown sugar
2 T. all-purpose flour
1 c. maple syrup
2 T. butter, melted
1 t. vanilla
2/3 c. pecans, chopped
Pinch salt
1 unbaked pie shell,
thawed out

Combine eggs, sugar and flour in a large bowl. Mix in the remainder of the ingredients, (not pie shell) and stir well.

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A Soldier's Diary

Tens of thousands of Union soldiers were either stationed in, or traveled through, Huntsville during the Civil War. While a few left brief accounts of their experiences here, none detailed the everyday life of a soldier.

Recently Old Huntsville came into possession of the diary of Jenkin Jones, a private with the 6th Wisconsin Artillery Battery, who was stationed in Huntsville from January to June of 1863. The record he left stands as one of the most detailed accounts in existence of a soldier's life in Huntsville. The diary consists of over three hundred pages of which excerpts appear below.

Dec. 25, 1863 - Bellefonte - Christmas night. Awoke to the notes of the bugle calling us to get ready to move. Struck tents at 8 A.M. Roads much better than those we have passed. Marched fast most of the time, having to go much out of the way to avoid swamps or bluffs. Marched quickly along, thinking of home and what they were doing on this Christmas day. Came into camp late in the night near the county seat of Jackson County (Scottsboro). The buildings burned and gone to ruin. No crackers for supper, so we made up the Christmas supper on parched corn and coffee. During the night rained heavily.

Dec. 26 - Larkinsville - Four small crackers for breakfast. Struck tents in drenching rain. Warning given not to enter houses as smallpox was prevalent. One house had five patients, another a corpse.

Dec. 30 - Cold and cloudy day. Dressed the two hogs brought yesterday and salted them. The chickens hung up for New Year's.

Women and boys in camp trading cornbread for coffee and salt, etc. with the soldiers.

Jan. 2, 1864 - Dance held in town by Alabama girls and Yankee soldiers. Running rumor afloat that we are to leave for Huntsville. Don't like it.

Jan. 7 - Leaving for Huntsville. The roads are frozen and very rough, the weather extremely cold covering our clothes with ice and sleet. The troops marched fast and kept warm but the (wagon) train moved slow, wagons sticking in ruts, mules giving up and lying down in the road, to receive beastly oaths from the impatient wagon masters. Came upon the officer's wagon on side of road, axle tree broken, where we had to stop and take on the load and it followed in the rear with a pole for a wheel.

Jan. 9 - Huntsville - Natives say it is the coldest day known for years. Animals and wagons covered with ice.

Coming around the point of the bluff we could see Huntsville in the valley three miles distant. Marched through the town with colors flying and bands playing, much to the satisfaction of the large crowds of contrabands that flocked at every corner. Came into camp a mile north of town on Russel Hill.

Jan 10 - Not withstanding that all were tired from the march of the last three days,

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camp reverberated with the sound of ax, saw and lumber, erecting quarters for the third time this winter. Our tent is back with the boys on the R.R.

Jan. 11 - Worked quite hard all day building fireplace. Had to carry much of the bricks on our shoulders but we completed it by night and had the satisfaction of sitting in front of a fire in the evening. Draws well.

Jan. 12 - Pleasant in the middle of the day but freezing at night. Busy most of the time completing our shebang (hut). It is 6 ft. by 8 ft. Very small but quite cozy for two soldiers. Door is in front, 18 in. by 30 in. Bunk is in the back, 4 ft. wide. At the foot of it is a hard-tack box for cupboard, etc.

Jan. 13 - Wrote letter home. Mail arrived. None for me. Sadly disappointed.

Jan. 16 - A ball was announced to be held tonight in town

and many of the boys attended, but found to their chagrin that it was a Negro dance. Some returned crestfallen, others enjoyed the joke by tripping with the colored sisters.

Jan. 17 - Walked over town. Visited the waterworks of the city, which is the largest of the kind in the South with the exception of the one at Columbia, S.C. A large stream gushes from the solid rock under the courthouse, which is dammed about four feet and propels a large water wheel which works a powerful force pump that forces water all over the city, furnishing a hydrant at every corner. Pump is enclosed in a neat stone house. Returned to camp for supper and evening roll call, then we walked back again. The (Presbyterian) church was very neat and filled with soldiers, but one woman in the audience. Good to be once more listening to

an earnest speaker and hear old fashioned tunes.

Jan. 18 - An idle day in camp. Nothing of interest. Griff and myself went to town on pass, made a few purchases.

Jan. 20 - Health good. Plenty to eat and nothing to do. Foragers brought in several hogs. Gave us a piece of ribs which we roasted before the fire. A fine dinner. (Two men) in our Battery in jail in town for robbing an old gray haired Negro after dark while on his way home from camp, where he had been to sell corn cakes.

Jan. 21 - Drill call sounded at 9 A.M. and we fell in. Lieutenant Clark drilled us in infan-

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try drill for half an hour and then had the chief of the platoon take over. The same in the afternoon. Rather awkward at first, but it is easier to remember than to learn.

Jan. 22 - Arose with a slight cold and swollen face from the inflamed nerve of defective tooth. On fatigue all day hauling rubbish from front of Battery.

Jan. 24 - My face much swollen yet and exceedingly painful. Was on guard first relief. The weather was warm and I felt unwell, sick headache and aching limbs, but I stood my guard. Clothing inspection by Captain Dillon. He was very particular, found much fault with the service worn clothes in which we have marched through rain and mud, sleeping on the wet ground, etc. He seemed to have little sympathy with his privates, but is determined they shall look well.

Jan. 25 - A delightful night to stand guard. Mail came in while I was on. I received one from brother T.L., which I read by the pale light of the moon while walking my silent beat, contrary to military rules.

Jan. 26 - Another beautiful day full of sunlight and comfort. Drill call sounded as usual but instead of drilling we policed about three acres of ground by order of Captain Dillon. Teams sent to Flint River and returned at night with the remaining four guns. Rumors of a rebel cavalry advancing. Two regiments gone out, others under orders.

Jan. 27 - Reveille sounded at 5:30 A.M. Blankets to be hung out for airing, quarters to be swept

out and clothing brushed for inspection at 9:00. Train cars came by this afternoon for the first time, the whistle of the train responded to by a hundred cheers by the boys. Cavalry came in, reported rebels repulsed.

Jan. 28 - Notified I was to go on foraging detail. Fell in with long

(wagon) train under quartermaster of 18th Wisconsin. Went on turnpike and traveled about eight miles on winding road but beautiful country. Obtained plenty of corn on a large plantation which all the whites had left, leaving a large flock of Negro women and children unprovided for. They

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seemed delighted to see us until some of the boys took unallowed privileges with the chicken coop.

Jan. 29 - Drilled in forenoon and afternoon. The Captain drilled us for about thirty minutes and appeared well pleased. He is getting very strict. Put one of the boys on extra duty, all day for slight mistake at guard mount this morning. Rebel cavalry still reported very active.

Jan. 30 - No drill and rain prevented parade in afternoon. Dr. Coleman sent for J.D. and myself and presented us with a can of condensed milk for building up his chimney.

Feb. 3 - Instead of the usual drill this morning, was general policing, ground to be swept, about five acres. Guard house and kitchen to be white-washed. A well started. I climbed Russel Hill for evergreen boughs for brooms in company with a couple of others and managed it so as not to return until nearly recall. That is the soldier's strategy - Do no more than you can.

Feb. 7 - Attended church (Episcopal). Gothic style, poorly arranged for sound. The civilians were apparently of the aristocratic class, mostly women equaling the military in numbers ... careful always to omit the prayer for the president of the U.S.A. - Collection plate was passed which was returned well laden with soldiers "greenbacks." The money of the government they will not pray for is very acceptable.

Feb. 8 - Several articles were stolen from camp lately and a guard was detailed to watch the quarters. At 3 P.M. assembly was sounded and all men prevented from entering their quarters while they were searched. One revolver was recovered.

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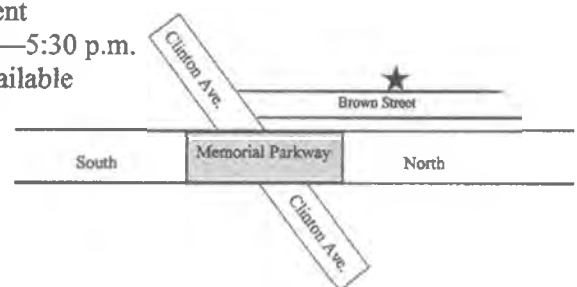
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Dillon very angry.

Feb. 9 - Called on before finishing my breakfast to go foraging. Two wagons from the battery fell in with a train of 150 wagons. Drove fast nine miles south -where there were 100 Negroes at work for the government, husking corn, protected by infantry. Soon loaded and started back at head of train. Arrive in camp not very tired but exceedingly hungry, having had nothing since morning.

Feb. 13 - No drill or parade but we did not get paid off. Camp unusually active during the day, Ball playing and the boxing gloves in constant use. At night a merry dance went on in the open air with music from the fiddle and bow. Ladies dispensed with from necessity.

Feb. 20 - As soon as breakfast was over I hitched up a new team and drove out to a confiscated fence a mile off, for a load of lumber as the Hungerford brothers were desirous of coming in with us, and we must build a bigger hut. After we were all loaded, a guard commanded us to unload but after some talk allowed us to leave in quiet with

our lumber.

Feb. 22 - On foraging detail. Traveled in south westerly direction for 15 miles. Walked most of the way. Jerked our corn from a 500 acre field. Returned by sundown, awful tired and with severe sore throat. Eve was mounted and procured four chickens and a hog in exchange for coffee. Also got a mutton. At night a grand ball was to be held by shoulder straps (officers) in town, but they failed to find but four ladies to join in the festivities. They ended in a drunken carousal, their maniac yells rending the midnight air.

Feb. 25 - Reported at sick call and was excused from duty. Four desperate big powders of quinine, opium, etc. to be taken. Returned to quarters, burned the powders and went to bed. Could eat nothing all day.

Feb. 28 - Went to the Presbyterian church. A sermon fraught with southern principles. P.B. Moss, after a short illness, died very suddenly. It was unexpected by all and spread gloom over the camp.

Feb. 29 - Rained heavily all night and continued through the

day without interruption. Funeral ceremonies for Moss. In charge of Sergeant Hood ... followed by a caisson on which the coffin was placed. The procession marched about two miles passing through town. Chaplain offered short prayer before the burial. It was a solemn but tearless scene. Comrades paying the last tribute of respect to a fellow soldier.

March 1 - A dreary rainy day. Huddled indoors all day. Whiled away the heavy moments as best we could, dominoes, etc.

"Alive but without my permission."

Seen on Athens patient hospital discharge chart

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March 4 - Evans and myself went to the city on pass. Visited the Christian Commission rooms. Bought stamps. Also went to the colored school under charge of Chaplain of 17th Colored. Had school teachers, being volunteers from the ranks. One class of youngsters was taught by a large Negro. All seemed attentive and anxious to receive the instruction but poorly imparted to them.

March 5 - Smallpox quite prevalent. Lieutenant Clark is down with it. Paddleford was sent off last night to smallpox camp. His case is quite advanced.

March 8 - Henry Robson taken to smallpox camp having been sick in camp for nearly a week. On duty hauling wood for the cooks both morning and afternoon.

March 9 - Rainy evening. Privates had a grand ball tonight at the Alabama Hotel. I understand they had a grand time. No officers allowed. Forty ladies attended. Lieutenant Clark little better with the smallpox.

March 13 - Delightful Sabbath morning, T.J. Hungerford very sick, heavy fever and hard breathing. Bathed him, towels kept around him. Afraid he is going to have a fever. In the afternoon walked to town where in a crowded house of soldiers and citizens I listened to an excellent practical sermon on the ten virgins, wise and foolish.

March 14 - Was on detail of 20 men to go foraging with two days rations in haversacks. Fell in at 9:00 A.M. to go with brigade teams thirty in number. A ride of

"You can say any foolish thing to a dog, and he will give you a look that says, 'Wow, you're right! I never would've thought of that!'"

Dave Barry

30 miles brought us to the corn field at 3 P.M., two men to a wagon. Jerked it from the rows and in about an hour started back. Drove hard until sun down. It was very cold and blustery and not in the least enticing to sleep out doors but necessity compelled it.

March 15 - Teamsters and boys up early. Went into a citizen's house to procure my breakfast. Had warm biscuit, buttermilk, etc., for 50 cents. Walked nearly all the way to camp where we arrived at 11:00 A.M.

March 16 -

Tommy Hungerford continues quite ill. Fever has left him but he suffers from inflammation of the lungs. Confined to his bed all the time. Byrom Babcock taken to the hospital last night and M. Murphy today. Hauled wood in the afternoon.

March 18 - Formed funeral



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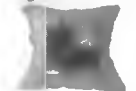
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procession and marched to the funeral of M. Murphy. Chaplain officiated at the grave.

March 22 - All were surprised this morning upon looking out to find the ground covered with snow. Many were the thoughts of sleigh rides, hills, girls, etc. by those that are to enjoy such. One party I saw, as I went to water. They had rigged up a sled with young mules hitched to it, and a sonorous cow bell for music. They paraded the streets of Huntsville and were looked upon by the native fair as crazy.

March 23 - Snow all gone by night. Hungerford apparently a little better but very weak. Set up long enough to make his bed and bathe him. No mail.

March 25 - Four more recruits arrived from Wisconsin, having been left behind sick when the others came. Two horses died today, which is the same every day.

March 26 - The train from Nashville today came by way of Decatur. Generals Sherman and McPherson were on board and are now in town where the headquarters are to be established.

March 29 - Our camp was visited today by Mother Bickerdyke with four mule teams loaded with good things from the North for the soldiers. Left us three barrels of potatoes, turnips, carrots, etc., one barrel of sauerkraut with one of dried apples. May God bless her noble, self sacrificing spirit.

March 30 - Turned my sick horse out to die this morning. Obtained a pass to go to the city. Called at shoemaker's shop, fixed my boots, and took a ramble through town to the cemetery and spent a half hour meditation among the sacred dead. Here are coward, patriot and traitor. Truly all earthling passes away and leaves no faint traces behind. At dress parade we were looked

upon by four Northern ladies.

April 1 - Although the day was wet and dreary the boys played well the part of April Fool and it was one continuous jest all day. The bugler blew the breakfast call half an hour early, calling out the men in the rain to awaken to the fact it was April Fool.

April 8 - 59th Indiana went out to reinforce Whitesburg. Deserters say that the enemy is making preparations to throw a pontoon bridge across the river. Rumor says John Morgan was in town with a load of wood.

April 11 - A little after noon we were startled by a terrible explosion near the depot. A caisson of the Illinois Battery had exploded while returning from drill, killing six men instantly and wounding two. A very sad affair. Bodies torn to shreds. Drew clothes. I got a new blouse and pants.

April 18 - Rained very heavy all night. 18th Wisconsin Infantry broke camp at the public (courthouse) square and came up on our left.

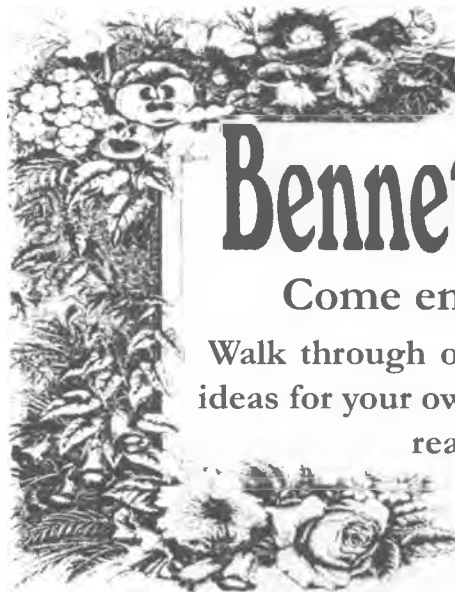
April 20 - I was rendered half crazy all the forenoon by the greatest of plagues - tooth-

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ache in back tooth. After dinner Dr. Griswold laid siege to it. After taking a hitch on it, it came out and bothered me no more.

April 26 - Reached Whitesburg by noon. Found the boys well and in good spirits, very neatly quartered in Ft. Hall with one company of infantry with them. After supper Evie and I went fishing in the Tennessee River, dropped our lines and watched the rebels on the opposite side on picket. Breastworks are to be seen but apparently vacant.

April 29 - Took box to express office this morning to send home, had to obtain permit from Provost Marshal. The express office was crowded so I had to wait nearly two hours. Boxes, Barrels and bundles - no end to them.

May 3 - Broke up camp early this morning and went into camp nearer to town. Our battery near the depot on the race course, a large open green, very pretty for summer quarters but rather low for wet weather. Teams hauling down lumber, etc. for quarters.

May 5 - Our camp is very nicely located. A pretty brook runs in front of the battery which the boys have dammed up to make deep enough for a pleasant bath. Water to cook and drink is hauled from the big spring.

May 8 - Grazed horses in the afternoon near a Negro meeting which I attended. After an earnest discourse from an old gray haired Negro and a prayer which would compare with many a white man's, the sisters got happy which was truly amusing and I could not help but laugh although I should not have.

May 9 - Sent to work on the fort (on Echols Hill). The hill being so rocky, very tedious work. Forrest said to be moving on this place, hence the haste

to complete the works. All the Negroes in town pressed in and put to work.

May 11 - Started early to the fort, worked hard in the forenoon loading wagons with dirt to be hauled to the wall. After dinner helped lay foundation for heavy guns.

May 12 - All army followers, sutlers, correspondents, etc. were ordered out this morning to work on the fort, a tough pull for them but justifiable and highly acceptable to the soldiers. Let them dig alongside the but slightly darker complected baker and hotel waiter. Another sprig of chivalry working with the Negroes under guard for saying "no damn yankee could make him work." Yankee bayonet did it though.

May 17 - Packed up in great haste with the report that Madison Station is in the hands of the rebels. Battery ordered aboard train, three days rations, one blanket. At dusk we halted by the smouldering ruins of Madison depot, burned down and occupied by stragglers from the 13th Illinois.

May 18 - Awoke before daylight, numb with cold (at Madison). Sought the fire around the ruins. Picked up my breakfast from scraps of hard tact scattered. Started for Huntsville at noon. Arrived at 5 P.M., being gone twenty four hours.

May 22 - Very warm. Traded sugar for milk. Made a fine bread pudding for dinner. A train of thirty cars loaded with

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grey-backs captured by Sherman passed North, very dirty and filthy looking clothes.

May 24 - The boys as of old are doing steep jay-hawking, breaking into gardens, cheating sutlers, etc. Guards stationed on every corner.

May 29 - In the evening a bevy of staff officers visited camp, but were so beastly drunk as to be unable to carry themselves with propriety, racing their horse after Negroes, etc. Their conduct would be disgraceful to a private, One of the staff officers of Sherman among them.

June 7 - A squad of eight men under Sergeant Dixon went as escort to a picnic party composed of "shoulder straps" and Southern ladies to Bird Spring, six miles distant. Had a good dinner, champagne in plenty and dancing. Enjoyed themselves well.

June 10 - Abraham Lincoln nominated for president. Drilled under Lieutenant Hood. Condemned horses turned out. Drew rations, hard-tack instead of flour. What does this mean?

June 14 - All the wounded and sick sent north from hospitals here. Long awaited order received this afternoon: Hold ourselves ready to march at any time.

June 15 - Weather fine. Health good. Green peas for dinner. Division concentrating at this place. Two soldiers, 2nd Brigade, married to girls they

found at Scottsboro.

June 19 - Relieved from guard at 9 A.M.. Stayed in camp reading papers received by mail. Four hundred rebel prisoners passed through on their way north. One train stayed at the depot most of the afternoon. Citizens and soldiers flocked around to see the sights. Some ladies tremblingly inquired for friends and relations, others pressing to bestow a smile upon those they sympathized with.

June 21 - Enoch Johnson died at 10 A.M. His disease was congestive chills and typhoid fever. Was one of the detachments that late in the evening followed the corpse to the grave. Silently, without a word of prayer, we buried him in a rude coffin and without a thought, hastened back to camp to prepare for the morrow.

June 22 - Reveille sounded at 2:30 A.M. and quietly we broke camp and marched at 5 A.M., with but one regiment ahead of us in the column. Marched through town in fine style and soon beautiful and dreamy Huntsville was placed among the past. Bathed in the clear waters of Flint in the evening.

Private Jenkins was discharged at the end of the war and returned to his home in Wisconsin where he became a minister. Although Jenkins was patriotic and supported the war

he was later proud of the fact that he had never "pulled the trigger of a gun aimed at a fellow man." He died in 1916.

"I don't feel old. I don't feel anything until noon. Then it's time for my nap.

Bob Hope

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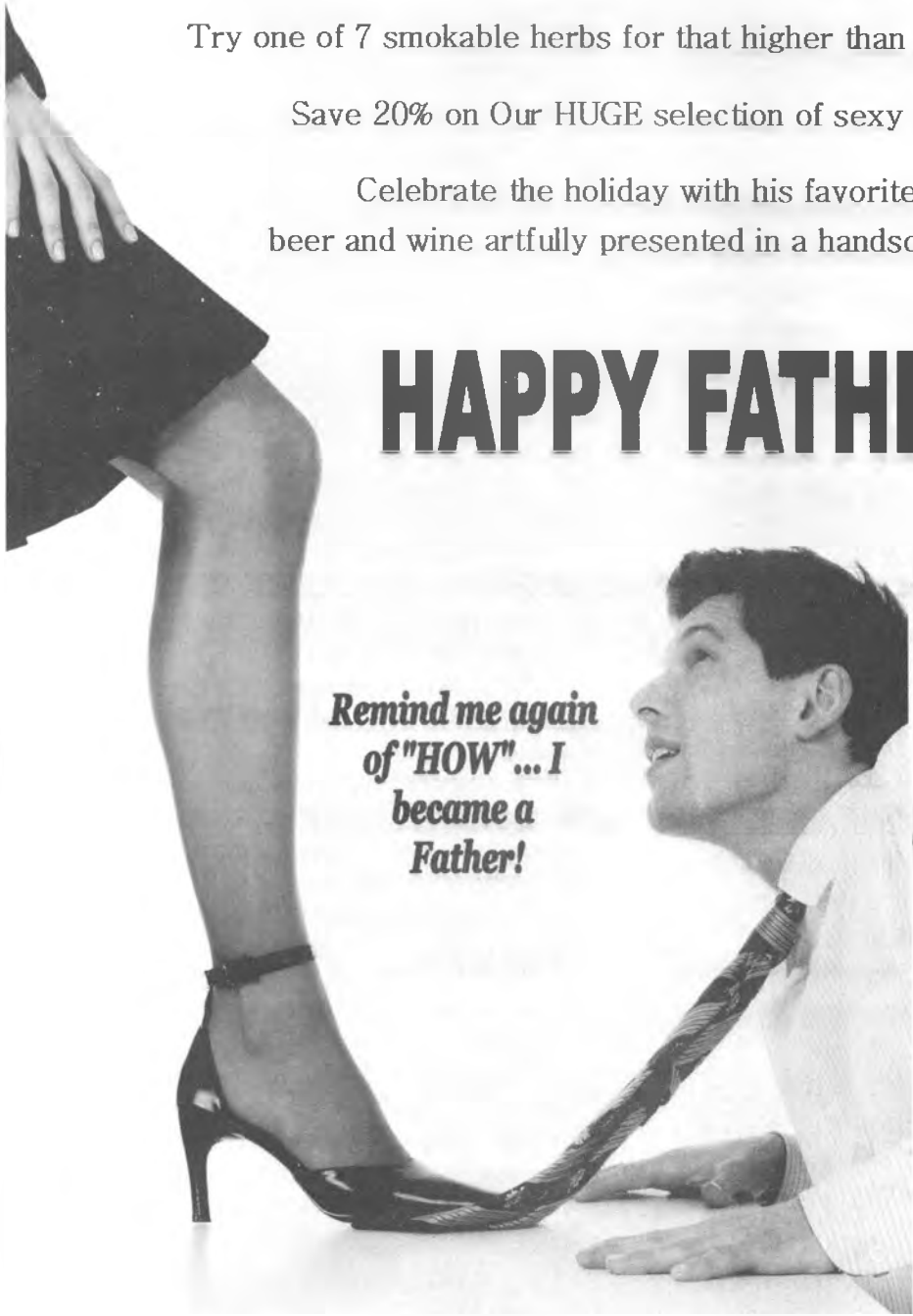
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