

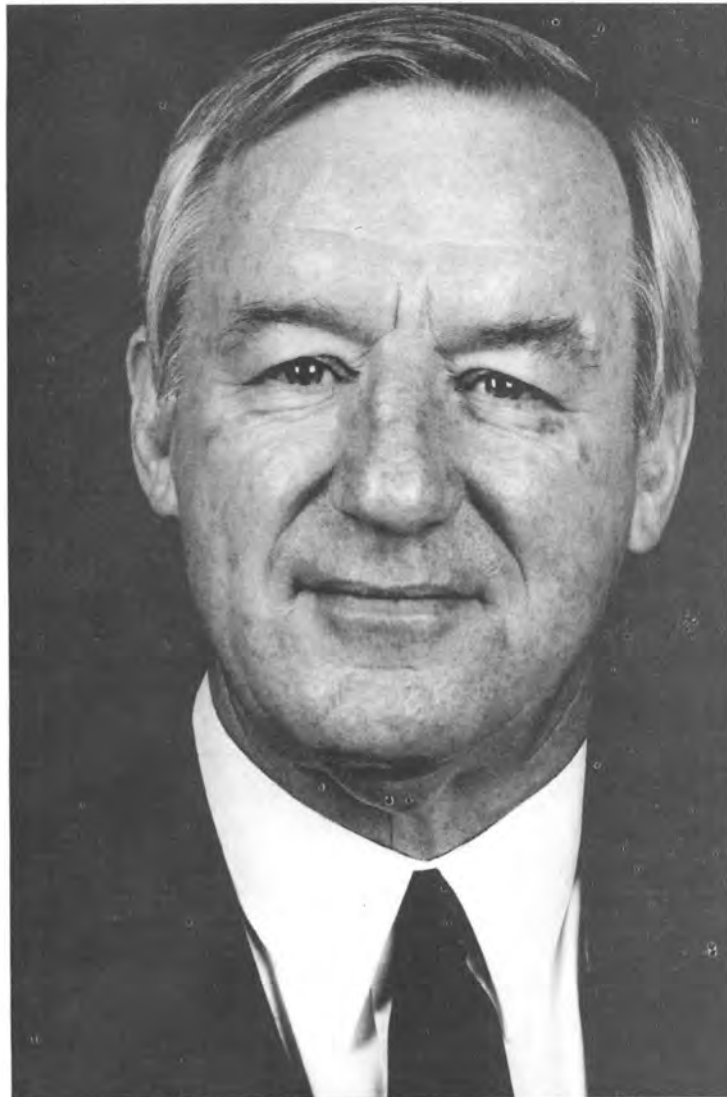


No. 198
August 2009



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



The life and times of

Bill

Easterling

A new editor named Leroy Simms had arrived from Birmingham in 1961, and he had summoned all personnel of The Huntsville Times to meet him. As they gathered, he asked each to give their name and position. This bubbly teenage copyboy listened intently, and finally his time came to speak. "I'm Bill Easterling, and I run this damned place," he said. Instantly, the publisher took a liking to him, and Bill's career at The Times began a meteoric rise.

Also in this issue: **Journal of a Yankee Soldier**

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A Hardware Store....

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Domie Lewter

Mac Lewter

The Life and Times of Bill Easterling

By Mike Kaylor

Dressed in pajamas, he sat on the edge of his bed with feet on the floor. His voice was weak, but his determination was strong. It was the last week of December, and he was flipping through the pages of a book just off the presses. It missed the bulk of the gift-giving season because of a series of printing snafus. He struggled to flash a smile.

"We'll sell these books for many Christmases to come," he said, emphasizing the word "we." Bill Easterling knew he had cancer; he knew how hard it was to sit up in bed. He even labored to breathe. But the determination never faltered. That was Bill's last night alive. Barely past his 60th birthday, a gloried and storied life came to an end on Dec. 28, 2000.

Bill Easterling was a sage to sports fans across Alabama during the 1960s and '70s. He was the sports editor of The Huntsville Times, and his grasp of Alabama and Auburn football, Huntsville and North Ala-

bama high schools had boosted him to legendary status. His behind-the-scenes antics and fast living made him an idol among his cohorts in the press box.

Young Bill had arrived in Huntsville in 1949 at the age of 9. His father, William Rhodes Easterling, was a government employee transferring from Texas to Redstone Arsenal. The family consisted of "Slim," as friends called the elder Easterling, his wife Eleanor, and three boys - Edward, Bill and Charles. They lived first in the Farley community south of Huntsville before moving into an area known as the old Dallas Mill village. Bill attended Rison School, which had been built by the mill, and graduated from Huntsville High School. He was toying with college classes when he landed a job at the newspaper.

Copy carriers were the so-called "gophers" of the press. They raced from department to department with scraps of paper that would eventually land on readers' doorsteps as news.

"Keep your chin up - only the first forty years of parenthood are the hardest."

Liz Ford, Huntsville



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The copyboy might run to the nearest sandwich shop when editors were hungry or fill up bosses' cars when they were too busy. Most of them knew their places in the organization. Not little Bill.

A new editor named Leroy Simms had arrived from Birmingham in 1961, and he had summoned all personnel of The Huntsville Times to meet him. As they gathered, he asked each to give their name and position. This bubbly teenager listened intently, and finally his time came to speak. "I'm Bill Easterling, and I run this damned place," he said. Instantly, the publisher took a liking to him, and Bill's career at The Times began a meteoric rise.

Bill's insights in large part made The Huntsville Times one of the foremost newspapers in Alabama. He shifted to the news desk in the mid-1970s and became state and then city editor. He was climbing a ladder that began at the lowest rung.

His rise continued despite a few small bumps along the way. Not long after New Jersey newspaper magnate S.I. Newhouse bought the Times, the new owner was in town checking on his investment. He made a necessary stop in the men's room one morning, and young Bill just

happened to be there too. Bill saw a pair of shoes in the next stall that he thought belonged to a co-worker. He stomped the toes. The response was silence. Bill later learned those were not his friend's feet.

Bill had already enjoyed a successful career of nearly 25 years at The Times when he became the newspaper's daily columnist. It was a coveted job for any writer, yet a constant chore to crank out a new tale five days a week. The words that began to flow bared the writer's soul - his empathy, his mood swings and his unfaltering opinions. His became a household name.

A preacher's wife who lived on Huntsville's Country Club Circle stopped in at a neighbor's house one day to collect for the Heart Fund. When she heard that Bill Easterling was on his way over, she seemed in no hurry to leave. She had read his columns regularly in The Times, and she was anxious to meet him.

Suddenly, the front door flew open and a man with wispy

"Let me know if you suddenly become interesting."

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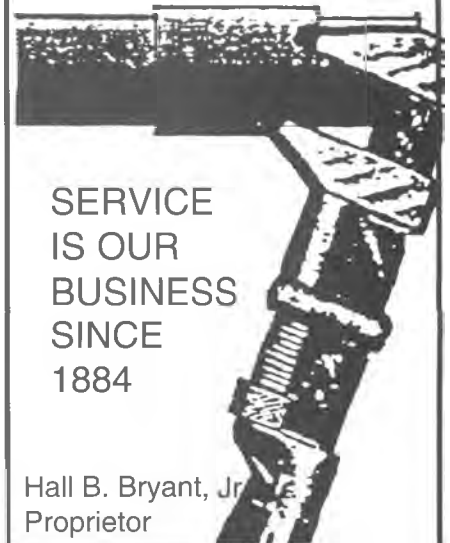
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grey hair, squinting eyes and a prominent nose burst into the room. "Those damned drivers on the Parkway scare the hell out of me," he roared. Then he looked at the elderly stranger. "Isn't that the truth?"

The woman's eyes were wide with dismay, but her look slowly changed to admiration as Bill's grin spread from ear to ear. His warm expression could melt away any sort of tension. The woman babbled about how many people she knew who had been featured in his columns. She told him she hoped he would write a book. She beamed as she headed out the door and back down the lane.

No one could predict what words might explode from the mouth of Bill Easterling, however, they would likely be profound. In the same way, his columns were equally honest. That's why so many people turned to the second page of the newspaper first.

His readers knew Bill's likes and dislikes. When he was struggling for a topic for the next day's column, he might begin with the words: "These are the things I love...." On another day it might begin "If I could be in charge of 1992;" or "Some Wisdom in the Still of the Night." He was always chiding himself in print about his smoking or other habits. He wrote on April 4, 1993, about the second anniversary of his conquest of smoking. He mused that "So many

people have turned against smokers, I'm almost sorry I deserted." Bill wrote a similar column in October 1994, a year after he had quit drinking. He vowed at the end of the article to never mention it again, and he probably never did in print. He did point out his lifestyle change, though, to friends who kept living life on the edge.

Concerning alcohol, Bill said he kept drinking for years because he "didn't want to surrender my image as a fast-playing, hard-drinking newsroom legend." His image had found him married just out of high school, missing many of his two children's firsts as he buried himself in Alabama's sports rivalries and the festivities that surrounded them. By the time he had begun writing human-interest columns at The Times, he had ended one marriage, started a new one and made amends with his almost-grown children.

He had a love-hate relationship with golf, and the game fueled a fiery temper. He could throw a golf club about as far as he could hit the ball. He talked of Alabama's legends, such as Paul "Bear" Bryant and Ralph "Shug" Jordan, as if they were ordinary people. He shared many hours solving the world's

An interesting thing about golf is that no matter how bad you play today, you can always play worse tomorrow.



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problems with his one-time brother-in-law Floyd Hardin on a porch swing at Jackson Way Barber Shop.

Bill said time and again that he couldn't believe someone would pay him to do what he did. After leaving sportswriting, he loved the human-interest columns about people he found on backroads and dusty country lanes. He had corralled all of his addictions except his zeal for the written word. Then his whole world changed. Medical exams and blood tests were showing something awry in his body. His energy level was faltering.

On July 18, 1999, he told his readers the whole story. It began with the words: "I woke up one morning and something didn't seem right." Later in the column he proclaimed that he had "written about people who just simply refused to let life's slings and arrows destroy their faith," and he said their stories were an inspiration to him. "Now I get a chance to see if I can handle what's ahead of me with the same kind of dignity and class and bravery those people displayed."

That he did for the next 17 months and 10 days. He kept his followers apprised of his condition from month to month. His column might disappear for a few weeks during surgery and recovery, but it always returned. While going through the stress and pain, he collected many of his favorite columns from the 1990s for a book to be published in time for the Christmas shoppers. It was called "A Locust Leaves Its Shell."

Scheduling at the printing company carried the production into November. A truck driver quit his job and left a trailer tilted with Bill's hooks on the side of the road between the printer and binder. Soft cover copies arrived around Thanksgiving, and Bill was treated with a handful of autograph parties. But his health was getting worse. He struggled to sign copies of the hard cover books when they arrived only days before Christmas.

His last column in The Huntsville Times was published on Nov. 28, 2000. It was a light-hearted tale about losing his hair

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and how it was growing back black and curly instead of thin and grey. His beard also had a distinct five o'clock shadow look.

A summary of his cancer columns published in mid-December included a letter to Santa Claus. "I'm not afraid of facing what every man with a potential life-threatening disease faces: I'm not afraid to die. I was, before I got ill, and stayed that way for an awfully long time. Then it went away, that feeling of apprehension, that dreading of what was in front of me. I just quit worrying and let THE expert take over."

He said he was thankful for the arrival of a granddaughter several weeks earlier, for his beloved wife Pat and his children Leigh Ann and Mike.

From his bed, Bill saw no reason for fuss. He had told Santa in his letter that no one needed good health to celebrate the true reason for Christmas. "So, Santa Claus, I believe that's about all I have to say about the subject as this Christmas season quickly approaches. But I naturally feel sure you and I will be talking about it some more in 2001. Thanking you kindly, Billy."

If you would like a copy of Bill's book, "A Locust Leaves It's Shell," send \$5 (includes shipping and handling) to Mike Kaylor, P.O. Box 737, Huntsville, AL 35804. Books will be mailed US. Postal Service book rate or hand-delivered to the address included. For multiple copies, contact Mike at mike@thebestofhuntsville.biz.

"Flying the airplane is more important than radioing your plight to a person on the ground incapable of understanding or doing anything about it."

from the Military Manual

Chickens Land Man in Jail

A suspect known only as John Doe was arrested last night after being stopped for suspicious behavior. In his automobile was found thirty-three chickens and four pigs. He is not positive of how they came to be in his possession.

The man believes that one of his ex-wives gave the animals to him as a going-away gift. He couldn't remember the name of the woman, where she lives or how long they were married.

He has also apparently forgotten his name and address although the sherriff assures us the man will remember his current address,

1921 Huntsville newspaper



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Memories of the River

by George Swartz
(from a 1931 interview)

As the river bridge (bridge on South Parkway) is nearing completion (1931) and will soon be dedicated, I believe it is fitting that the present day generation should know something of this site's early period of importance to the Tennessee Valley, especially Huntsville. John Ditto, in the fall of 1802, came down the Watauga trail from some point in Virginia, stopped where the present site of Huntsville is today, and built a lean-to pole shack near the river.

James White established a salt house at a point where the present bridge heels on the north bank of the river today. This was about 1828. He was called Salt White, because of his salt trade, by the early steamboat men.

Capt. Mathew Mohan married Betty Cooper in 1830. She was a daughter of the proprietor of Cooper's tavern, then located at the point today where the Huntsville city hall stands. This property was the first sold by the commissioners of Huntsville and bought by John Reed, who paid \$715 for it. Later a tavern was built and run by the Coopers. Miss Cooper was in Roes Seminary on Roes Mountain, now Monte Sano since given that name as a development project.

Capt. Mohan had learned the shoals trade as a flat boat pilot beginning in 1812. He met the girl at the tavern. As these shoals pilots would come up the Watauga trail from the point where it branched off the Natchez trail at Colbert's ferry, they would stop at the tavern.

After Capt. Mohan married he

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took his bride to Ditto's Landing, and was warehouseman for James White for several years. After steamboats were built he ran on the river above the shoals. He went on them and was the first flat boat shoals pilot to qualify as a licensed pilot by the steamboat inspection service from Ditto's Landing to Eastport Landing, Miss., at the foot of the shoals. This was in 1852 after Congress passed a bill Aug. 30, 1852 compelling all officers of steam vessels serve three years and qualify to get licensed. Capt. Matt K. Mohan, son of Matthew and Betty Mohan, lives today at Hartselle, Ala., and is 92 years of age. Hence, the above information.

I have known two early steamboat men who knew John Ditto personally, Capt. Tom Miller, and Jesse Allison. These men told me much about Ditto's Landing in 1807 and 1809, and the first steamboat over the shoals in 1828. She sank on Bird Iron shoals two miles below Ditto's Landing in the early 1830s, was raised and rebuilt into the steamboat Enterprise at John Ditto's boat yard on the river bank below the present ferry boat landing today.

Ditto's Landing road was an important thoroughfare and much traffic was engaged over it, taking all products from Huntsville to the river to be shipped south. Flour was a big item shipped in via Ditto's Land-

ing road.

There was an inspector kept at Ditto's who in those days was called a flour inspector, really was a surveyor of customs in a simple way. Hunter Peel's map of 1825 shows the Ditto's Landing road, which is now called the Whitesburg Pike, since the landing took that name about 1833.

Lynching in Huntsville

from 1878 newspaper

The lynching of the white man, Mike White, and two negroes, Ben. Evans and Eph Hall, at Huntsville, Alabama, Wednesday for the murder of Schoenberger, the butcher, was witnessed by 3,000 people.

The mob was composed, as reports say, of good citizens without mask or disguise. White protested his innocence to the last; both the negroes acknowledged and said White instigated it.

The Chattanooga Times special says: White's life was insured for ten thousand dollars.

His attorneys suggested that a confession would violate the policy; hence the declaration of innocence. The insurance company is not expected to pay.

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Merrimack Village being Painted

from 1921 newspaper

Painting an average of 10 dwelling houses a day, workmen engaged in renovating Merrimack Village today had applied the first coats of paint to 100 houses in the community.

Nearly all the houses in the village had been recovered with new roofs, preparatory to the state of the painting. Repairs also have been made to gutters, sills and flooring where it was necessary.

The painting operations started on the extreme west end of the village and are moving eastward towards Pike street, which is the east boundary for the greater portion of the residential section of the community.

There are 216 buildings, including 4 churches, to be repainted if the project is carried to completion. Company officials said at the start of the work that every building would be repainted and otherwise repaired if business conditions permitted.

As soon as all houses have been painted with the first coat,

the painters will move back to the west end and begin applying the second coat.

The general brightening-up of the village is plainly evident and the contrast decided when one drives down a street where houses have only been painted on one side, with the other side bare.

Different color schemes are being used to add to the appearance of each house, and also makes it blend with the surrounding area. Pittsburgh Paints were chosen by Merrimack for the renovation.

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The Ghosts of Helion Lodge

by Rick Storey

Lights that turn themselves on and off in the middle of the night, doors that open and close for no apparent reason, mysterious stairways that lead to nowhere. A ghost would certainly feel at home here. The oldest Masonic edifice in the state of Alabama has welcomed thousands of gentlemen during the last two centuries. It stands to reason some of them may have decided to return there in spirit form.

Guided tours through the Twickenham Historic district stop in front of 409 Lincoln Street and are quick to point out this is the oldest Masonic Lodge in the state, "they say it's haunted" and proceed to describe some of the mysterious phenomena occurring within; strange presences felt, hanging pictures that jump off the wall, that sort of thing.

Secretary Garry Smith was working in the lodge kitchen late one evening and heard a door slam shut. "I was the only one in the building at the time." Others offer similar accounts of doors opening and closing mysteriously by themselves, including the present Master of the Lodge. Another member once recalled an instance when not just a door slammed while the building was secured but the sound of something being dragged across the floor up-

stairs was heard. Old buildings are creaky though and what one person hears as footsteps may only be that of the dwelling settling. Or is it?

A recent past master talking to another past master, while discussing Henry Pollard, a past master from the early 1900s in front of his portrait, saw his nameplate for no apparent reason leap off the wall. On an earlier occasion the entire framed portrait of H.C. Pollard jumped completely off the wall. Is this mere coincidence?

There have also been accounts of lights coming on in the attic long after the building had been emptied and later turning themselves off. There is no high tech explanation of this occurrence. One brother noticing the attic light from the street, unlocked the door, ran upstairs to flip the switch but was surprised to find it had switched off when he arrived. A recent former steward also accounted how creepy the secret staircase to the basement is, "something has always told me to stay out of there". That basement legend says it connects to the catacombs that run under the old city. We have bats and a dungeon, what other secrets does Helion Lodge #1 hold?

One brother joked, "if we do have ghosts here I'd like to think they're friendly since they're

probably a brother". Could it be, ghosts are alive and well in Helion Lodge #1 and signed in perhaps on one of the old dusty register books stacked in its dark corners?

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The Guitar Man

By Malcolm Miller

In nineteen fifty I was playing on the radio every Saturday with the Jimmy Orears' Band. On the Fourth of July we got a job playing at the annual Fourth of July celebration at Central School. I was really thrilled because that is where I attended school for nine years.

I recall one of the members of the band couldn't go so Jimmy hired a thirteen year-old lap steel guitar player to go with us. That was the first time I ever laid eyes on Maurice Ramsey, but since that hot day in July many years ago, I realize that on that day I witnessed the beginning of a musical talent that knew no bounds.

I found out later that the steel guitar belonged to one of Maurice's brothers who kept it under his bed. It seems Maurice would go

in and slip it out when his brother was gone and that's how he learned to play. Later on his brother gave him the guitar.

When Maurice was about nine years old, his mother had him taking piano lessons for two years but he didn't like this because the other boys would call him a sissy. Later on in his musical career having learned to read music proved very beneficial.

After listening to Chet Atkins play on the radio, Maurice was convinced that playing lead guitar was what he wanted to do and

soon after that his Dad ordered him a Silver Tone guitar from Sears Roebuck and the rest you might say is history. He became one of the finest guitarists I have ever known and I have heard some of the best.

Maurice taught guitar for many years at Corder Music on Meridian Street.

And there are many guitarists playing today because of his teaching.

Let's turn the pages back to nineteen fifty when Maurice was thirteen years old and learning to

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play his brother's lap steel.

You see he lived on Huntsville Street on Billy Goat Hill in north Huntsville and just one street over on Kildare Avenue there was a very pretty little thirteen-year old girl named Mary Ann Anders. Being the shy type boy that he was Maurice started sending love notes to Mary Ann but he wouldn't sign his name and she wasn't certain who her secret admirer was. Finally he got up the nerve to sign his name and from then on their love was the only love in either of their lives.

Since they were so young, Mary Ann's parents wouldn't let them go anywhere together but that didn't discourage them. Mary Ann says that Maurice had a bicycle with a basket that he used to deliver papers and every few days here would come her Romeo on that bicycle with his lap steel in the basket.

She told me recently that when she saw him coming her

heart would really flutter. Finally when they were both fifteen her parents let her start going places with him. After they finished high school and were eighteen years old they were married. They were too young to buy a house but a man named Bill Thrower rented them a house on Swanson Drive and when they turned twenty-one he applied the rent they had paid to the down payment on the house.

There was a great demand for Maurice in the music business; he played with several local groups. One of those groups was local popular DJ Slim Lay. Another member of that band was now famous song writer Curly Putman

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Thomas Jefferson

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who said at Maurice's visitation that Maurice was his best friend and like a brother to him. He also played with some orchestras and several gospel groups.

He had offers from some of the biggest names in country music including Ray Price, but Maurice loved the life he had with his wife and two children. He liked his job at the Huntsville Fire Department where he rose to the rank of district chief even though one time he almost lost his life repelling in a training accident.

One group that Maurice loved to play with was the southern gospel group, The Regents; he stayed with them twenty five years till not long before he passed away.

In July two thousand three Maurice Ramsey passed from this life. His passing was a huge loss for many people, especially those who had heard his music and loved it. They had his funeral at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he had been a faithful member for thirty three years. The visitation at the funeral home the night before was one of the biggest crowds of any visitation I have been to.

As I visited with Mary Ann getting material for this story their son Jeff and his wife, Rhonda, were there. Jeff, like his dad, is a fireman but best of all he is a fabulous guitar picker, taught by his Dad. He played several of the songs his Dad had written. When he was playing I could almost see his Dad sitting there. Jeff said he was blessed to have Maurice and Mary Ann for parents.

Also while I was there the next door neighbor David Henderson came in and I asked him to say something about Maurice and he said that Maurice had been his best friend and neighbor for forty six years. He said they had laughed together and cried together. Just another testimonial to the life of a good humble man.

My nephew Jimmy Miller was visiting from Florida and took a walk through Maple Hill Cemetery recently. He happened to notice an unusual head stone with a beautiful guitar engraved on it. He took a picture of it, not noticing the name.

When he arrived home he saw the name inscribed on the stone and he realized that this was the same man he had listened to play the lap guitar in my kitchen years ago. He called me and we went to view this beautiful stone.

I thought as I viewed the guitar head stone that it is very fitting, as the guitar was a big part of his life. Now it watches over him as he rests through eternity.



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Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney



Our winner of the July Photo of the Month contest was **Eddie Wilson**. The cute boy in the photo was **Donnie Thigpen**, who co-owns Po-Boy Factory on Andrew Jackson Way with his pretty wife **Marie**. Eddie is an old guitar-picker from way back and even remembers playing at the Snuff Dippers Ball downtown! Congratulations to you, Eddie!

It seemed like the day would never come, but **Joe Lougheed** has finally decided to retire from Huntsville Firefighters after many years of service. Joe's sweet wife **Connie Broadway-Lougheed** threw him a rocking Mexican-themed party which was not only a retirement party, but a birthday party for Joe too! It was definitely an unforgettable night, made even more fun by the live Mariachi band!

We met a really interesting lady recently in downtown Huntsville - **Marsha Lucas** works for GMAC Real Estate and knows many folks in this area! She was a lot of fun to talk with.

One recent summer afternoon we were sitting at an outside table at the Kaffeeklatsch bar on Jefferson Street and **Mark Haynes** stopped by! Mark

is from Huntsville and has lived here for years but is now selling trucks in Nashville. He looked great and none the worse for wear after having added about 5 years to his age!

Will Stutts was amazing in his performance of **Antonio Salieri** in the UNA Florence production of "Amadeus". The audience was mesmerized by him and the entire cast did a great job. Will also was Producing Artistic Director of the play.

George Boles used to live in Huntsville and worked with the DA's office til 1993. He now works in Birmingham and tells hilarious stories. He is known as "**Bosco**" to his family and has brothers living in St. Louis and in Scottsboro. An unnamed

family member let us know that George had a very important birthday on Aug. 1, not an old one - just a good one. It does have a 7 in it, somewhere. Happy birthday to you, George!

Many, many people know of **Dr. Mabry Batson Miller**. If you have anything to do with the arts or civic organizations here, you have met her. Dr. Miller was recently given a very prestigious award in Montgomery - she was one of four recipients to receive the Governors Arts Awards. Congratulations to you, Dr. Mabry Miller! We're very proud of you.

John Rader worked for Hewlett-Packard as parts manager for many years in Huntsville. John always had a huge smile on his face and a kind word for everyone. John passed away in July at the young age of 77. He leaves his daughter **Renay** and her husband **David Nunn**, and his loving wife **Phyllis**. John and Phyllis had just celebrated their 50th anniversary, and were always in love. We will miss John very much, and we know his

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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friends and family are so saddened at the loss.

Ken Owens, of Huntsville, recently celebrated a milestone birthday. We won't say exactly what but it comes right after 59. He looks great for being an older guy and is really enjoying life right now with his feisty wife **Diane**.

Merrimack Mill has announced that it will be holding its first original production. "Upon Their Shoulders: The Merrimack Story", which was written and researched by local playwright **Ron Harris**. It is a play that illustrates the rich history of Huntsville through the lives of real people who labored in the city's textile mills. The play traces the development of child labor laws, mandatory school laws and the socio-economic impact on Huntsville today. The play will be performed Oct. 15-18.

Our good friend **Mike Kaylor** seems to be pretty content with being semi-retired. After 20 years of working nights, his wife **Jenny** loves having him home these days!

Louise Hope was 90 when she passed away the end of June. Many remember Louise and her sweet husband **Harley Hope** who preceded her in death. Harley was a member of the Golden K Kiwanis and is missed, to this day. He and Louise were a very loving couple, and we went to send our condolences to the Hope family and many friends.

Happy Anniversary to that great couple, **Stephanie and John Troup!** They make being in love look easy! John is also celebrating his birthday on the same day in August - Happy Birthday to you John!

Linda Hamlin, owner of Linda's Printing Services, and **Christina Reynolds** are the proud recipients of the 2008-2009 **Tom Milford Rotarian of the Year** award from the Greater Huntsville Rotary Club, #6860. Linda and Christina co-chaired

this year's The Great Gatsby Gala event. Their efforts raised \$22,926.51 for the Community Free Clinic and \$18,785 going to the Rotary Educational Assistance program. Congratulations to two very hard-working ladies!

If you're into great garage sales & antiques, you won't want to miss the event to be held again this year at Lincoln Antiques on Meridian Street. It'll be Saturday, Aug. 1 and starts sharply at 9am - no early sales!

Then, when you're ready for some unique gift ideas and crafts, try the **NEACA (Northeast Alabama Craftmen's Association) fall craft show** that will be held at the Von Braun Center Sep. 18-20 - the whole family will love it!


We met a really sweet guy recently. **Jim Long**, owner of Clayton Amusements, loves to spend time grilling and using his smokers, and he's really good at it. In addition to that, he loves to cook and his pretty wife **Karen** doesn't mind that a bit!

Huntsville was the proud host of Sports Week in July - State high school coaches were spotted at many places around town and Auburn's new Head Coach **Gene Chezik** was at the Furniture Factory during the middle of the month. He was here with his football staff along with the Alabama Football coaching staff. Everyone


who was at the club enjoyed hanging out with the coaches and listening to "JUICE"!

The weather has been incredible lately and get out and WALK! Come to the historic districts and just enjoy August!

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Old South Family Recipes

Ann Cooper's Pecan Pie

- 1 stick butter
- 4 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. white corn syrup
- 1 c. pecans
- Pie crust (2-9" or 1 10")

Melt stick of butter and brown it in a saucepan. Pour into bowl and mix in sugar and corn syrup. Beat in eggs one at a time. Add the pecans and mix well. Pour into prepared pie crust(s) and bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Makes two 9" pies or one 10" deep dish pie. Easy!!

Nell's Mother's Fried Green Tomatoes

- 3-4 green tomatoes

- 1/2 c. corn meal
- 1/4 c. flour
- 1/4 c. oil
- salt and pepper

Wash green tomatoes and slice them in about 1/4 inch rounds. Mix corn meal and flour with salt and pepper to taste. Put corn meal in a shallow bowl. Coat each slice of tomato on both sides with mixture and place in skillet containing hot oil. Fry on med-high heat. Cook til coating is medium brown on both sides.

Nell's Mother's Cooked Spinach

- 1 sml. can spinach, chopped
- 3 eggs
- 1 T. bacon drippings
- 1/2 c. water
- Place spinach in skillet - don't

drain. Add water, bacon drippings and salt/pepper to taste. Cook til spinach is tender. All the water should be cooked off. Beat eggs and scramble in skillet with spinach until dry.

For a healthier version, substitute olive oil for the bacon drippings.

Also, Poke Sallet, when in season, can be substituted for spinach. Be sure to wash well and NEVER cook poke sallet once the berries have come on the bush - then it's poisonous.

Fried Chicken

- 1 large fryer, cut up
- 1 c. flour
- 1 egg beaten
- Salt and pepper
- Cooking oil

Mix flour with salt and pepper to taste. Coat chicken on

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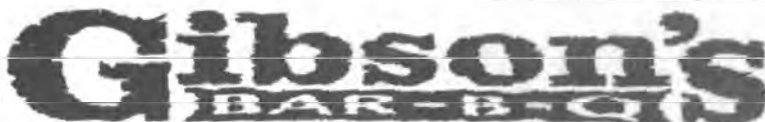


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both sides with flour. Dredge chicken through beaten egg and coat again on both sides with flour. Cook in hot oil (Mother used lard) on high heat until brown on both sides. Reduce cooking temperature to medium-low and place lid on skillet. Cook til done. Mother tested with a fork for doneness.

Nell

Mushroom Pie

- 4 T. butter
- 1 t. salt
- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms
- 1/2 c. cream
- 1/4 t. white pepper
- 1/4 t. garlic powder
- 1 pie crust

Melt butter in saucepan, add mushrooms, cook gently for 10 minutes, then add cream. Pour into baking dish or casserole, cover top with pie crust and cook for 10 minutes at 375 degrees, until crust is done.

Jenny Johnson

Sweet Potato Pecan Balls

- 1 1/2 c. mashed, cooked sweet potatoes
- 1/4 c. orange juice
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 3 T. sugar
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans

Mix potatoes, orange juice, vanilla and sugar. Shape into balls using about 2 tablespoons for each. Roll in pecans and place on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes.

Stephanie Troup

Chocolate Sunday Pie

- 1 env. gelatin (unflavored)
- 1/4 c. cold water
- 3 egg yolks
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 c. scalded milk
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 3 egg whites, beaten stiff
- 1 c. heavy cream, whipped
- 1 oz. chocolate slivers
- 1/2 c. pecans, chopped fine
- 2 pie shells, deep-dish, thawed

Soften gelatin in cold water, let it stand. Combine next three ingredients and slowly add the scalded milk. Cook in double boiler til mixture coats back of spoon, sticking to it.

Add softened gelatin and stir til dissolved, cool. Add vanilla, fold in egg whites, whipped cream and pour all into thawed crusts. Sprinkle chopped pecans and slivered chocolate over top of pies, chill thoroughly.

Gale Nichols



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The Zesto

by Bill Goodson

Soft-serve ice cream made its Huntsville debut in the 1940's with a Dairy Dip on Meridian Street. Soon after, the Zesto, licensee of the franchise based in Atlanta, arrived on the corner of Pratt and Russell. Roy Jones was the first owner, and he had one employee, Pop. That's all I knew him by - Pop. He spread a laconic disposition over his seventy-plus years and grudgingly accepted my sister and me, high-school age, as proteges when my father, Houston Goodson, kept him on after buying the place in 1950.

Mr. Jones had added a deep fry to expand the menu and primarily to introduce to Huntsville what eventually would become known worldwide as corndogs. Another franchise license was involved, with the trade names Kwiki Dog and Turtle Burger (the hamburger counterpart to the hot dog.) These became wildly popular under the names Dipped Dog and Zestoburger. How did the name change come about? Simple. After a couple years of paying royalties, my Dad, ever with an eye to the bottom line, figured out how to make the batter mix himself, ditched the franchise, and changed the names. The recipe, by the way, is a family secret, so don't even think about it.

That leads me to one of the highlights of my career as a short-order cook, challenging me to think on the fly. One day a gentleman in a suit and tie (that was my first clue) approached the service window and ordered a Kwiki Dog. We hadn't used that name in over a year, so it took me a back for a moment. I could have simply sold him a Dipped Dog without any further ado, but something told me otherwise. "We have Dipped Dogs, sir, but we haven't had Kwiki Dogs in a long time. Do you want a Dipped Dog?"

He looked me up and down, frowned, and said yes, he guessed so.

After he had walked away, my dad, who had been eavesdropping in the back, came to the front and congratulated me. "He's probably a representative of the Kwiki company." Nevertheless, I turned the event over in my mind - maybe he was really an FBI agent, maybe he was packing heat - until I found myself relishing the titillating feeling that must accompany a life of crime and then wondered if that could be a mortal sin, so I turned back to my duties - but with a smile.

If that was my highlight, I'd be less than forthcoming if I withheld the lowlight. In one



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of my first days at the grill, Pop left me alone to mind the shop for a few minutes. Up walks a man who orders a hamburger. I said, "Sure," and turned to the work counter for my inaugural creation. On the warming rack was a piece of meat that bore a resemblance to a cooked hamburger patty, but I should have taken seriously its most notable features - dry and shriveled. Not seeing any alternative, I slapped it on a bun that felt a bit crusty, but I thought that, too, was okay. I'd eaten many a burger with week-old buns. A thin slice of tomato, wilted piece of lettuce, and mustard topped it off. I collected the fifteen cents, delivered my masterpiece, closed the window, and sat back, full of myself.

That frame of mind didn't last long. In less time than it took to wonder where the other hamburger patties were located, the patron, with a facial expression decidedly different from his previous one, rapped on the window. I had a hunch this was not going well. He slammed the burger on the window ledge and demanded his money back, muttering something about dogs and teenagers.

In spite of that inauspicious beginning, I worked there weekends and summers for four years. Dad was fortunate in his choice of "assistant managers" Pat Couch and Selma Jones, who served successive terms and became fixtures and favorites of the patrons.

Summer Sundays were our busiest days. With Zesto soft-serve going for a nickel or dime and Dipped Dogs fifteen cents, a \$200 day was a consummation. Dad liked to brag that he could make ten cents off a fifteen-cent Dipped Dog, and a single onion could net a dollar when served as onion rings.

My feet ached from hours on the concrete floor. My hair and every pore smelled of grease. At the end of the day, it was hard to tell that my apron was once white. After closing at 10 p.m., I sometimes would fix a malted for Elise's mother and would have to sit on their back porch to air myself out. How Elise managed to stick with me during that aromatic courtship, I will never know.

Zesto was a favorite hangout for high school kids. After ball games at Goldsmith Schiffman



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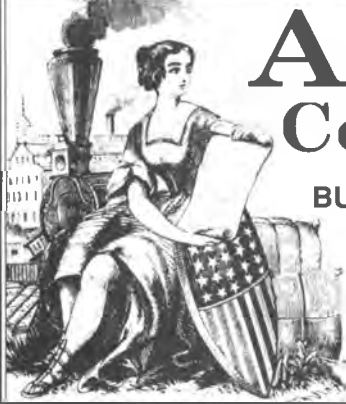
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Field, I'd rush there to don an apron and serve up extra-thick milk shakes for special friends - probably my greatest claim to fame and popularity among my peers.

Dad often had his mind on expanding the business, leading to an extension on the building to accommodate a larger grill area, walk-in refrigerator, and supply room. The menu grew with the square footage, to include Ranchburgers (open-face hamburger with fries in a cardboard boat), a variety of sandwiches, onion rings, and chili. The tables and chairs outside were added after my parents took a trip to Paris - Huntsville's answer to sidewalk cafes!

The enterprise came to a screeching halt one night in 1965 when a fire gutted the building. While rebuilding, Dad posted a sign, "YOU'LL MISS THESE DIPPED DOGS AND WE'LL MISS YOU."

It took a few months to re-open, but this time with a different look. Only one walk-up window was preserved, and the other patrons would thereafter be served inside at booths and on bar stools at the counter. The drive-in had morphed into a restaurant. Breakfast was added, and soon a faithful following could be seen regularly drinking coffee and devouring eggs and bacon at six each morning.

Dad had to get to work a little earlier, but he had never been a stranger to long hours and hard

work. Growing up in Dallas Mill Village and delivering groceries before school on a horse cart at age eight, he was an exemplar of that "Greatest Generation," starting out with a teacher's certificate during the Great Depression but soon realizing he couldn't raise a family the way he wanted to on what he earned at Rison School.

He aspired to owning his own

business, and he got it - in several installments. Grocery stores on Beirne Avenue, Jefferson Street, and Wells Avenue. Willys automotive and Massey-Harris tractor dealerships. Rental houses and apartments in the Five Points area. Finally, owner of Zesto Drive-In and Goodson's Variety Store. All of that while acquiring a solid reputation as an honest and fair man that would culmi-

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nate in his being elected to the Huntsville city council for three terms, president for one of those. His public official years coincided with the boom times of the fifties and sixties.

This piece isn't supposed to be a bio of my father, and I apologize if I have strayed too far. But it's hard for me to tell Zesto's story without summoning the perspective of its most noted proprietor.

There were other owners after Dad. He sold it in the mid-seventies to Earl Noe and told him, "If you don't make money in a week, I'll buy it back." Apparently, he made money, because he operated it for over fifteen years before selling to Brandon Jones, who in turn passed it on to Jim and Brenda Rigsby.

They later added a pub to the side of the eating area. I'm not sure what led to the demise, but eventually the place was closed. A developer bought the property, leveled the building, and built two restaurants in its stead. (If anyone's interested, franchises are still available at zesto-ice-cream.com. Apparently the Zesto brand has thrived in the Midwest.)

It wasn't until after Dad sold it that we were allowed to patronize the competition. My sisters, Elise and I, and the kids finally got to see the inside of Mullins' and Eunice's.

It seems to me that old-timers - my age - developed an affection for the place and the people. Even now, in the twenty-first century, friends as well as strangers often tell me how much they miss Dipped Dogs (not Kwiki Dogs, thank you very much.) And onion rings. And Zestoburgers.

Elise doesn't miss the aroma.

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News from the Year 1923

- Mrs. C. T. Greaves, of Dallas, Tx., one of the most seriously injured in the wreck of the Southern passenger train near Scottsboro last week, is still at the Huntsville infirmary, where she was taken immediately following the accident. Mrs. Greaves is, however, reported to be doing well. She is the only one of the several brought here who have not returned to their homes.

- For rent - two new 4-room houses, lower end of Locust street - \$15 per month

- The old building on the corner of West Clinton and Gallatin streets is being torn down to give place to a handsome new filling station for the Wofford Oil company, better known as Woco Pep. The new station is made necessary to accommodate the growing business of that company in this city and will be up to date in every respect.

- For sale - one concrete mixer, \$50. Two 3-horse power gasoline engines, \$50 each.

- While riding his bicycle on Walker Street Sunday, Howard Larkin, a small boy, was run into and knocked from his wheel by an automobile driven by Henry Thomas. Young Larkin was jolted but not seriously injured.

- Messrs. James McGill and Lee Guy have perfected a new

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automobile light which they intend to apply for a patent for. The light will contain a revolving fan on one end and colored lights on the other, the lights being generated from a dry battery and being operated by the car. The gentlemen have tried out their light with complete success.

- For sale - Oakland six touring car, newly painted, good tires, run less than 6,000 miles. price \$500, call Baxter Bros. Phone 244

- Work on the new Yarbrough hotel is progressing rapidly under the direction of Mr. Baxter of Baxter Bros. And the third floor level has been reached and passed by the brick layers. Mr. Baxter says there will be no delay and that the work on this beautiful structure will

be pushed as rapidly as possible.

- For Rent - The Womans Club rooms, possession June 1 - call Mrs. John Hay, phone 190

- For sale Liquid Waxine, the famous furniture floor and automobile cleaner and polisher. Nothing better and the shine it is said looks like a mirror. Can be bought at the home of W. S. Garvin, 708 Randolph Street

- Reward will be paid for the finding of two mules lost in the mountains near New Market. Contact Hunter's Sawmill.

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Washington Street looking East - Circa 1915



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The Old House

by Austin Miller

In late 1945, my parents moved into an old dilapidated shack at what is now 491 Ryland Pike. The house was in such bad shape that it was leaning noticeable to the north.

To keep it from leaning further and falling down, the back side was propped up by four long hickory poles. Despite many years of repair, it was never physically comfortable, had few amenities and was not what you would call a nice house. It had a full length front porch that was the center of our lives in warm weather. In winter, the social center moved from the porch to the living room as close as we could get to the heater.

From the warmth of the stove we spent many hours listening to the radio, visiting, talking and doing schoolwork. Sometime in the mid fifties the radio was replaced with a television that got one channel out of Chattanooga. In real cold weather we had to eat our

meals in the living room because it was too cold to eat in the kitchen. Our drinking water would sometimes freeze solid in the bucket.

On the rare occasion we took a bath in winter, it had to be in

the living room close to the heater. After the fire in the heater died out at night there was no heat in the house. It was cold when we went to bed and even colder when we got up. One time it snowed and my

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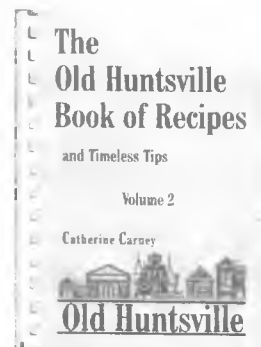
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Evie, age 6



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brother Berns and I awoke to find our bed covered with snow that had filtered down through cracks in the roof and ceiling. We got electricity in about 1948 but improvements were slow after that. It was 1959 before we got running water and 1965 before we got an indoor toilet. It never had air conditioning.

It is important to know that our house was not an exception to most Ryland homes in those days. Our closest neighbors were the Shepards and their house was about like ours.

The Elmer Sharp family lived in an old two-story house on Dug Hill Road next to the rail road track. The Sharp boys, Wayne, Phillip and Larry had to sleep up stairs where there was no heat or electricity. Their sleeping area was an unfinished attic with no furniture except for three cots. The ceiling was a tin roof attached to exposed rafters. In winter, a window next to where they slept was boarded up by a piece of plywood. In summer it was taken down to let in fresh air. The space was

freezing in winter and stifling hot in summer but I never heard them complain nor do I ever remember any of them being sick.

There are only two or three old-time Ryland houses left. The Tornado of 1974 took the others away and changed the landscape and flavor of the community forever.

In the last twenty years or so, subdivisions have sprung up in and around Ryland. Most are smaller modest houses. The smallest and plainest of the new subdivision homes would have been considered luxurious by most Ryland people during the forties, fifties and sixties.

What makes a home are the people who live in the house, not the building. My

mind is still full of memories of the house.

In June of 1966, while on leave from the army, I often sat on the front porch alone late at night pondering what fate awaited me in Vietnam. It's where I brought

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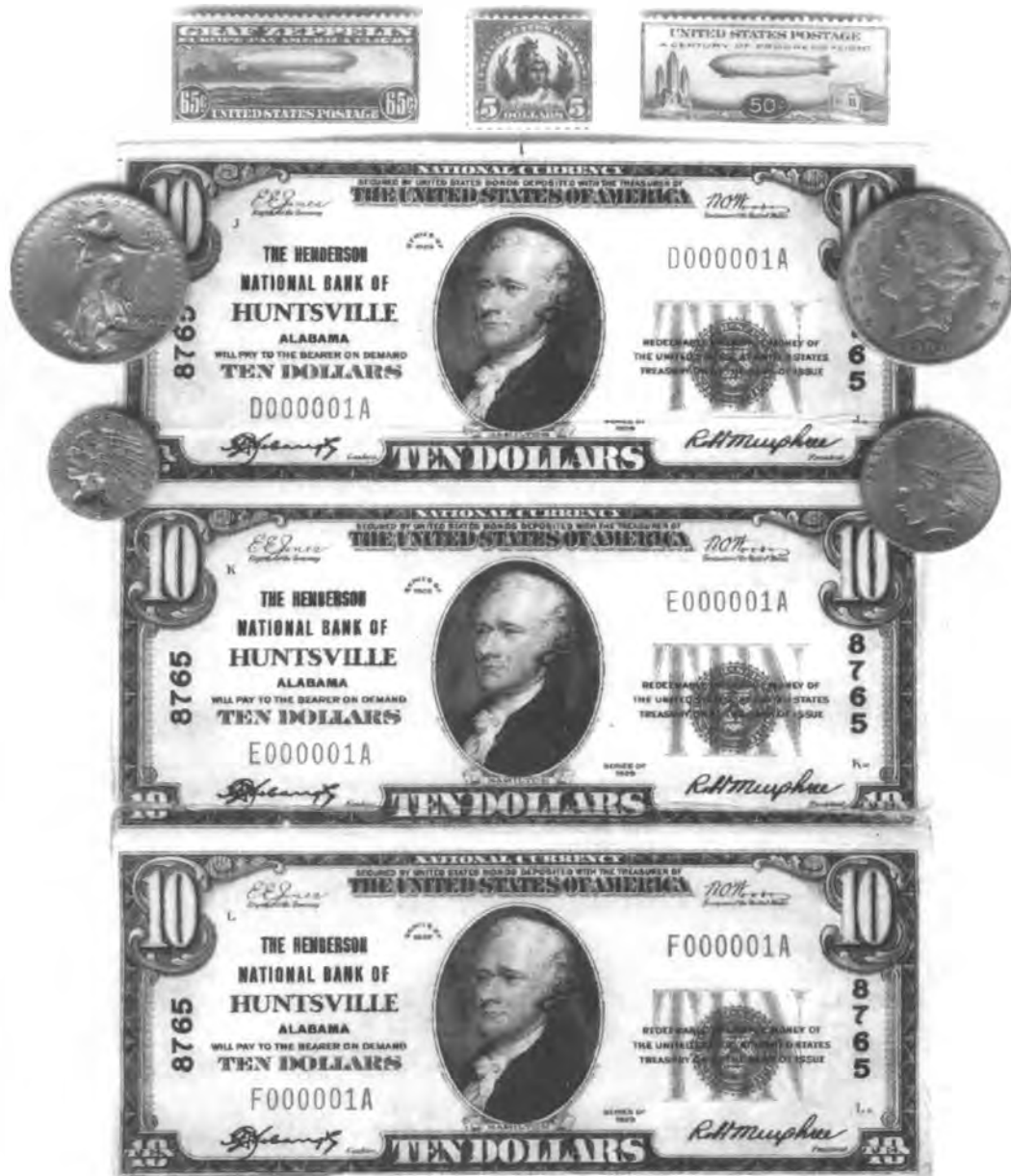
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my future wife, before we married, to meet the family. When we drove up Mama, Daddy, Berns, my younger brother Gregory and Mark McMellon were sitting and lying on the front porch.

Several chickens were scratching around in the yard. After we got there a rooster ran out from under the floor chasing a hen. Four or five cows had gathered at the fence next to the house to eat watermelon rinds that had been thrown over the fence. Several rifles, shotguns and fishing poles were propped against the wall on the front porch.

I was afraid my fiance would think she had come to hillbilly heaven. But she too soon learned to love the old place, chickens and all.


Mark was a city boy who lived with his parents in Huntsville but spent a lot of time at our house. He talked not long ago about how he always enjoyed sitting around the heater in the living room or

on the front porch listening to Mama and Daddy talk politics and current events. He went on to say that his favorite place in the house was the old dark, drab rustic kitchen where he enjoyed some of the best meals he ever ate.

As uncomfortable and rustic as the old house was, it provided home and hearth for many families in the approximately 70 years that it stood. My father often said he wouldn't trade it for the finest house in Huntsville.

I called the old house home for almost thirty years or 120 seasons. It was where we had thirty great Christmases and an untold number of delicious meals with family and friends. These days the good times are exaggerated in my mind and the bad times don't seem so bad. That's the way it with times of our youth.

Sometimes I wish the old house was still standing but I know deep down that the era of it's time passed long ago.



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My Days at the Kildare Mansion

By Sherry Carlin

I was brought up in the country, in a small town called Maysville. We didn't get to go to town often so it was a big adventure when we did go. I looked and marveled at everything.

When we got to travel to Huntsville it was a real adventure. There was one place that really stood out for me. It was the McCormick House or Kildare Mansion, off Oakwood Avenue. All of us called it the Castle. I found it so mysterious, as a kid I couldn't even imagine getting to tour the place.

But as the years passed by and I grew up I decided to move to the big town of Huntsville. Having lost a job and not owning a car, my choices for employment were limited to say the least. I lived on Kildare and I was single at the time, trying to support myself, so I had to find another job fast.

I had walked by Lumpkin Stained Glass many times but never dreamed I would find employment there. But when I called, lo and behold they needed someone right then. So I soon started my career in stained glass as a glazier. I had a small apartment at the time but my landlord told me he wanted his grandson to live there so the search was on for another place to live.

My boss at the

stained glass shop, Wayne Lumpkin, was very kind and caring so he took me to some local areas that advertised rentals but I couldn't find a thing because it needed to be close enough to walk to work.

One day Mr. Lumpkin came up with the idea of the McCormick House. He knew the owners and asked them, and

sure enough I was able to move in. At the time the owners rented apartments on the third floor. I was so thrilled at my good for-

"Spotted owl plague threatens northwestern U.S. crops and livestock."

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tune, and so grateful to Mr. Lumpkin. The rent was reasonable and I was right across the street from work.

Later on, when I began dating my boyfriend, he couldn't believe I lived in such a fancy place so I had to take him on a tour.

I had never really thought much of ghosts and spirits until I moved there. Then my experiences with haunting began. I had to pass the round room every time I went to the kitchen. Each time I passed that room I got a very eerie, creepy feeling, like there was something evil there. I couldn't explain how I felt.

I began to do some research on the house at the library and found that the daughter of the man who owned it had been insane. Virginia McCormick was the daughter and although I didn't learn as much as wanted to, I did learn that she was locked up in that room for many years. Back in those days we heard that the wealthy people kept their mentally ill relatives at home so as not to be embarrassed if the word got out.

I was not the only one who experienced these weird feelings or a presence of someone. A friend of mine said he felt someone touch him, and although he was a big burly man, he was scared. He never came back to visit as long as I lived there. Also, one night I heard a noise, like a huge bowling ball coming down the steps. There was very heavy carpeting on the steps but that sound was deafening. My mother was with me at the time, and she heard it too. She wanted to know what it was and I told her I wasn't sure. I was pretty shaken up, but my mother was completely unnerved.

During my stay there many people wanted me to let them tour the home or at least my area. But many people didn't go past the front door, saying they felt some presence even at that

point. Many people couldn't believe that I actually paid to live there.

After I found the information on poor Virginia I felt a connection to her, I wished she had had a better life and therefore felt a little better when I passed by the round room. Somehow I got the feeling that she just wanted someone, anyone to feel some of the hardships she had endured.

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Huntsville News from the Year 1873

- We are informed that five or six prisoners broke jail and escaped on Thursday night. They were at large at last accounts.

- Bill Thompson, colored, arrested on Wednesday by Captain Forman, on the charge of stealing a cow from Mr. River, and offering the same for sale at market in Decatur, was taken to jail on Monday last for safe keeping. He made an attempt on Friday night to escape from the guardhouse by removing the iron bars from one of the prison windows.

- Telegrams received at Huntsville Saturday, from Hous-

ton, Texas, state that Joseph Aquero, charged with the murder of Jack Snow, of this city, last May, has been acquitted.

- A heavy wind and rain storm occurred on Thursday night in New Market. The roof of the gin-house was blown off and the blacksmith shop leveled with the dust. Considerable damage to fencing was done in the neighborhood.

- A little girl, between thirteen and fourteen years of age, the daughter of Mr. Zach Elliot of Madison County, brought to this place on Friday last a bale of cotton weighing nearly five hundred pounds, which she made by her own labor, plowing the ground, planting the seed, working it during maturity, picking it, and selling it herself, realizing from its sale nearly one hundred dollars. The cotton was purchased by our fellow citizen A. S. Curtis, who gave the little girl half a cent more to the pound than the market value.

We know of many boys loafing about the city in idleness, that might assist their poor widowed mothers in making a support, by

following the example of this industrious little girl.

- An ex-Federal soldier was seen near Triana paying court to one of our young lasses. Local lads persuaded him to make a speedy departure to the northern region from whence he had come. The young lass received a severe lecture from her parents.

"Don't get your knickers in a knot; it solves nothing and you walk funny."

Jessie McComb, Athens

"My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government."

Thomas Jefferson



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Three Caves

by Chip Knight

The name "Three Caves," came about long after this former limestone quarry, or mine, had ceased operation. During the years it was active, it was known simply as the "rock quarry" and it was not looked upon with the nostalgia commonly felt for it today. It was loud, as both dynamite and crushing machinery were used in its operation, and loaded trucks spilled stone on what were rapidly becoming residential streets, particularly along Hermitage Avenue.

The rock quarry was first opened in 1945 on land owned by Madison County near the old County Poor House, and was well out from town in an area of pastures and nurseries. For the next seven years the quarry supplied crushed limestone for road construction in Huntsville, notably for Governors Drive which was known then as the "Four Lane Highway" because it was the only one around.

The rock quarry started out like most others in the area, as an open pit operation. Blasting

in the pit occasionally caused problems with large rocks being blasted hundreds of yards and dropping on the Poor House and, once, on a brand new 1949 automobile. As the quarry grew, the operators found that they had to go deeper and deeper to get to the desirable limestone. The dirt and rock on top of that was known as overburden, and had to be blasted and removed from the site. This caused a growing problem which they finally solved by turning it into an underground mine. By going underground they avoided the effort and expense of removing the overburden and there was little danger of damage from the blasting.

Mining operations ceased in 1952 because of a large number of complaints and because the cost of underground mining became more expensive as the mine grew. By that time, three large entrances had been created and work had begun on a fourth. Rock was drilled and blasted carefully to leave large supporting pillars while the rest of the rock was removed. This method, called "room and pil-

"The telephone pole was approaching fast. I attempted to swerve out of its way when it struck my car."
Seen on local accident report

lar" mining, was used when the amount of overburden was large compared with the available rock.

When operation of the quarry ceased, the site was simply abandoned. Unfenced, the old

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mines gave a generation of children a place to explore and teenaged couples a place to find privacy. It was even rumored about town that one rather well known citizen had been found there with another man's wife.

The area remained largely out of the public eye until the year 1962 brought the Cuban Missile Crisis, and Madison County decided that the site would be an excellent location for a fallout shelter. An Engineer Company from the Alabama National Guard spent several weekend drills removing debris and otherwise cleaning the place up, but the crisis soon passed and the effort was dropped before emergency supplies of food and water were stocked.

Once again the old rock quarry was pretty well forgotten. Then, in 1978, movie producers found several sites in the Huntsville area which were ideal for a film to be called *The Ravagers*, which was about the time following a nuclear war. Although the film starred Richard Harris and Ernest Borgnine, it was not particularly successful, perhaps because people did not want to even think about a nuclear war, much less spend the time watching a movie about it.

In any case, the quarry was the location for a number of scenes in the movie, and the open area was filled with trucks, power carts and trailers. Another location used in the movie was the Space and Rocket Center. There, the normally gleaming white missiles were covered in a rather mottled gray that made them look old and abandoned.

As with most films shot on location, there were a number of parts which were filled by local area residents. Among these were musicians Tony Mason and a fiddler known as Monte Sano Crowder. When filming was completed, the old quarry was again quietly

forgotten.


In the 1980s, local land developers began to believe that they could build houses on the steeply sloping and cave-ridden limestones of Monte Sano Mountain. One reaction to this was the formation of the Huntsville Land Trust, which was dedicated to preserving not only Monte Sano itself, but any other undisturbed lands in the area. The Land Trust bought over 500 acres of the west face of Monte Sano from private owners and got others through the City of Huntsville with the help of the Land

and Water Conservation agency which is a State agency. The Madison County Commission donated the acreage which included the old rock quarry, now known as "Three Caves" to the Land Trust.


The area around the three caves is now fenced, much to the chagrin of youngsters seeking to explore and of young couples

"To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is called research."

Steven Wright



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wanting privacy.

The cliffs around the mine are sheer vertical, and several people have been injured falling from them.

The "caves" have now become a well known attraction. Volunteer groups, the Boy Scouts and others, have built trails, so to speak, throughout both the mined area and the land around it which have made it for the first time, really safe to explore. The Land Trust conducts tours of the "caves" on a regular basis and special tours can be arranged when needed.

Perhaps the most interesting thing is that, although the old quarry, mine, or whatever you want to call it, was never really a cave - it is becoming one.

A stalagmite, which grows from the floor of a natural cave, is growing in this old abandoned limestone mine, and the numbers of brown bats which call this place home is growing.

Perhaps, one day, it will even look like a natural limestone cave.



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Jitney Drivers Dangerous

From 1919 Huntsville newspaper

The authorities should take some steps to stop the reckless driving of automobiles. No regard is paid to the crowd crossing the streets by the reckless drivers of the smoke belching machines.

At dusk this practice is indeed a most dangerous degree when numbers of jitneys and others who know better, run their cars without lights.

The police, no doubt, will cause somebody a great deal of trouble when some hapless soul is run down.

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Memories of War

Pittsburgh, Pa.
Dec. 14, 1901

Dear Sir:

A clipping was recently handed me, stating that the President had appointed you to a judgeship for the Northern and Middle District of the State of Alabama, and giving a sketch of personal history, stating that you had served in the Confederate army under General Gordon, and carried a flag of truce to Sheridan's lines at Appomattox.

My object in addressing you is to ascertain if you remember on that occasion as you approached the Union skirmish line you stopped and asked a Union soldier, dressed in a zouave uniform, where the commanding General was. If you are

the person that carried the flag of truce in at that point, I was the party who directed you. I was Sergeant-Major of the One Hundred and Fifty-Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Brigade, First Division.

Our Regiment was on the skirmish line that morning, advancing into Appomattox, when I saw a supposed cavalryman advancing from the Confederate lines with a flag of truce; he stopped, addressed me an inquiry and I directed him where to go. This is a matter of personal interest to me to straighten out history, and it will also be source of pleasure to

renew an acquaintance and claim you as a friend who was once a foe. Hoping to hear from you at an early date, I remain,

Very truly yours,
William Shore.

Huntsville, Ala.,
April 14, 1902.

Dear Sir:

Your letter of April 7th revives some very interesting memories and I reply at the earliest opportunity.

When the war ended at Appomattox, I was an officer on the staff of Major-General John B. Gordon, who then commanded the Second Corps of the

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

army of Northern Virginia, and parts of Anderson's corps. General Gordon was selected to command the troops which attempted to cut out about day break on April 9th, and I was with him in that charge.

As you will remember, we drove the cavalry some distance; when, coming upon General Ord's forces, we retired, without attempting to break through, then being closely pushed by the infantry. When General Gordon ascertained that General Ord's command was in front of him, he gave up all hope of cutting through, and as he had been directed in that event, by General Lee, with whom he was in communication by messenger and courier, sent in flags of truce at several points on the line in our front.

As the emergency was very pressing and your people were about to swoop down upon us, it was all important to stop hostilities at once, and General Gordon directed flags to be carried to several points along the line which was advancing on us.

I was then not quite twenty-one years old, and was mounted on a good-looking bay horse, and was in full dress, having put on our best uniforms for fear they would be captured with the wagons. We all expected the worst and wished to be dressed as decently as possible.

I rode in on the right of Appomattox Court House, coming from the direction of our lines. Some of your skirmishers opened fire on me at first, but they stopped as soon as they perceived my flag of truce, which was a large, white napkin in which some ladies had wrapped some snack for me the day before, the napkin being all that remained in my haversack.

I have always had a vague recollection that the officer I met was an artillery man, and it may be you were the man who told me where to go, and that I mistook the artillery man for a man in zouave uniform. I was so intent on getting the firing stopped that I did not pay very particular attention to what happened on the skirmish line. Thirty-seven years have elapsed since then, and my memory is not very distinct as to the details.

I think the first general officer I was carried to was General Chamberlain, of Maine, who was a

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Division Commander, and if I am not mistaken, he carried me to General Griffin. General Sheridan was near by. I think he or some of his staff rode out into a part of the field where I was and said something about having another flag of truce and that "we seemed anxious to stop" and so on.

From this point I was sent with a Union officer to some Confederates, who did not understand the situation, and were trying to move off and were occasionally firing. After this I went back into the Confederate lines to where General Lee was sitting on the road about a mile from Appomattox Court House on some rails near an apple orchard, waiting to hear from General Grant.

It would give me great pleasure to meet you should chance ever bring you to Alabama, and I will hunt you up if I ever come to Pittsburgh.

Yours very Truly,
Thomas G. Jones



"On the first date, they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date."

Mikey, age 8, on love

News from 1911

- Huntsville - United States Deputy Marshal Perry Harrison brought in last night Rev. C. Chancey, who is charged with violating the postal laws while postmaster at Dutton's store about five years ago. Chancey left soon after that and has since been in Mexico and Missouri.

He is a practicing minister and was in the act of setting up a new church in South Alabama when he was apprehended by Harrison who posed as a fruit tree salesman to learn his whereabouts. Chancey is about thirty five years old and has a wife and nine children. No bond has been set.

- A warrant was issued yesterday for the arrest of Oliver Innis who had been incarcerated in jail for the crime of issuing forged instruments and theft by deception. Innis had written checks in excess of \$500 to local merchants, and when they proved worthless, was arrested. Innis then agreed to reimburse the merchants and a fine and court costs of \$250. After writing checks for the amounts, Innis was allowed to go free.

It seemed like a good resolution until the checks were pre-

sented at the bank for payment where they were declined for insufficient funds. It is believed that Innis left here last Tuesday in the company of a young lady who shall remain nameless.



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2. Make pens carefully. Whittle nibs to individual tastes of students.

3. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings if they go to church.

4. After ten hours in school, the teacher may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.

5. Women teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.

6. Every teacher should lay aside a goodly sum from earnings to benefit his declining years so that he will not become a burden to society.

7. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to be suspected of his worth, intentions, integrity and honesty.

8. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of twenty five cents per week in his pay, providing that the Board of Education approves.

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Downtown in 1909

- The policemen on day duty presented an imposing sight when they began their rounds on horse back. From now on every section of the city will be covered during the day by the mounted men. This has been the law for years but it has been neglected and many of the policemen found it more comfortable to walk than to ride horseback.

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Dear Father

July 19, 1937

Dear Father,

Well, we finally made it. We are in Chicago now and are getting settled in. We have a room that we are sharing with another man who is from Decatur. He said that he is kin to the Giles family that used to live down the road from us. He seems all right but drinks a lot.

The car broke down in Nashville and we were stuck for two days while Jerry tried to find a used radiator. We had to pay four dollars for it.

Chicago is a lot different than anything back home. It is a big city and everybody seems to be in a hurry all the time. It snowed a couple days ago but the snow

looked yellow from all the smoke in the air. We went by to see Tom Lamb but they said he left a couple weeks ago. They thought he went back home. If you see him tell him we tried to visit him.

The job situation here is pretty bad. We heard Caterpillar was hiring but when we got there, there must have been a thousand people waiting outside the plant for jobs. Everywhere we go there are signs saying they don't need help. Jerry is working one night a week playing the guitar at a bar and we have gotten several days work unloading boxcars. They don't pay nothing but it is better than nothing. Tomorrow we are going to Hammond where they are supposed to be hir-

ing people for a steel mill.

I think if we don't get work soon I am going to come home. If I am going to go hungry I would rather be home among my kin.

Your son,
David Hill

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News From the Year 1921

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Fairbanks appears in "The Mark of Zorro"

"The Mark of Zorro," Douglas Fairbanks' 30th film, may prove his most popular, and maybe the most popular picture ever. On the day of its premiere last December 11, a record number of patrons, 19,547, paid a record sum of \$11,708, to see it. And police even had to be summoned to calm the crowds.

"Zorro" stands out from Fairbanks' other works and from film's present trends. The actor has always played the American hero, as in "The Good Bad Man" and "His Picture in the Papers." But here, Fairbanks portrays a Spanish baron in colonial California, wielding a foil and branding his enemies with a "Z." Now it is hard to imagine him as anything but a foreigner.

"Zorro" is also the first successful costume picture made in years. All of a sudden, the public longs for capes, masks and swords. And the public wants to know everything about Fairbanks. The 37-year-old actor obliges, having already published his autobiography. Raised in Denver, Colorado, as Douglas Elton Ulman, Fairbanks now lives in Beverly Hills with his wife, Mary Pickford, at their home, "Pickfair."

Can Female Freedom Lead to Divorce?

The St. Louis Court of Domestic Relations attributes the increase in local divorces to the growing economic independence of women.

Nearly 700 divorce decrees were granted by the court during one of its last terms. State-wide, Missouri has experienced a 100% increase in divorces since 1896.

Statistics both confirm and refute the board's contention. A record eight million women are now employed nationwide, and the average number of children to support continues to decrease.

However, their pay would not encourage women to divorce: they often receive half the salary of a man doing equivalent work.

The income may be a helpful supplement to a husband's salary, but can hardly sustain a family.

Immigrant Act Sets National Quotas

Too many refugees from war-torn Europe have purportedly denied American-born workers their rightful employment. Heeding labor's complaints, Congress has instituted restrictions on immigration. The quota limits immigration to three percent of each nationality that lived in America in 1910. Northern and Western Europeans are favored; about 200,000 will now enter each year. Russians, Italians and Greeks will be admitted at one-fifth their previous number.

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New York Passes Law on Dancing

The New York State Legislature has passed a law giving a state commissioner the right to censor dances. In Utah, a statute is pending providing for the imprisonment of women wearing skirts higher than three inches above the ankle. And in Virginia, it's the decolletage, front and back, that lawmakers are going to shrink.

Across the country, American youths are kicking up their heels and indulging themselves in what seems to be a frenzy of rebellion against the standards and values of their parents and grandparents. And according to a recent survey by the New York-based Literary Digest, a majority of college officials and reporters believe that the burgeoning youth revolt of our times is a sign of a serious moral crisis.

New styles of dress and dance have been singled out as the chief culprits. "There is a minimum of clothes and a maximum of cosmetics, head decorations, fans

and jewelry," according to the New York University News. "It is, indeed, an alarming situation when our 20th Century debutante comes out arrayed like a South Sea Island savage."

The New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts newspaper writes that gliding smoothly over a dance floor while keeping in rhythm with music is pleasing to witness, "but to jig and hop around like a chicken on a red-hot stove, at the same time shaking the body until it quivers like a disturbed glass of jello, is not only tremendously suggestive, but it is an offense against common decency that would not be permitted in a semirespectable roadhouse."

But the respected Nation offers a less alarmist view. "The rank and file of the virtues have not greatly changed," it reports reassuringly. "All that appears is a certain pendulum swing from one repression or indulgence to another, reaction setting in whenever the virtues or vices of an age begin to bore it."

"When life gives you lemons, turn them into lemonade, then mix it with a good vodka."

Jeremy Smithy, Arab

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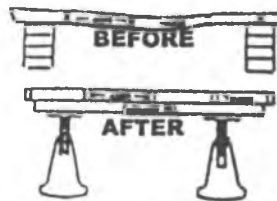
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In one of the most remarkable documents to come out of the Civil War era, Captain Frank Gurley tells, in his own words, of wartime justice in North Alabama.

"A friend told me that there was a widow woman living in the river hills up to the night before and that a man went to her home, assaulted her and her grown daughter, and then killed all the family, including the mother, daughter and four other

children. Among the lot was a little fat boy about four years old. The man took this child by one leg and beat his brains out against the fireplace.

"The citizens caught the man and carried him to the jail in old Bellefonte, but he was under the Yank's protection. The Yanks told them that if they did not turn him loose, they would turn him out and put them in the jail.

"When I got there that night I found the Yanks camped all over the town with a patrol on the street in front of the jail. Two

of my men were with me and I was familiar with the town and we took in the situation. We hid our horses in a dense woods close by and crawled up near the jail, where we could see the guard walking his beat. The night was dark and cloudy. I had dropped men along behind us to protect our rear, and with one man, got close to the guard. When the guard passed us, I left my man and slicked across the pike to the jail and was soon concealed in the shade.

"I knew where the jailor slept, and I got to his window

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and gave a Masonic tap. He asked me who I was and I told him. He wanted to know what I wanted. I told him I wanted the prisoner. He said the Yanks would kill him. I told the jailor, who was also the sheriff, that I intended to take the prisoner, or him, back with me.

This was said to impress the other prisoners and to save the jailor from the Yankees when they found the prisoner missing. "The jailor then got up and asked me if I had a rope. I told him no. His wife told us where there was one. He got the rope and he and I went down to the dungeon and tied the prisoner.

When we were ready to go out, I rubbed my pistol against his face and asked him if he knew what it was, he said he did, and I told him if he made any fuss, I would shoot him and then take care of myself.

"The man I had left then joined me. I made the prisoner get down on his knees, and when the guard got in the right place, we all crossed the picket line and were soon getting out of danger.

"In a short time we were on our horses with that big 200 pound prisoner up behind our smallest man. But the load was too heavy for the horse, so I had the man ride up under a nearby tree. I took a part of the rope the jail woman gave me and put it around the prisoner's neck and over a limb. Then I rode out.

"The prisoner was so heavy, the limb let his feet hit the ground, so I took another part of the rope and tied his feet up so they could not touch the ground. I remained close to him until he quit struggling and then we all rode off."

"Any day on this side of the flower bed is a good day."

Maxine

Big Spring Safe from Enemies

from 1943 newspaper

Huntsville - In a joint statement issued by Mayor McAllister and Huntsville Police Chief Herman Giles, assurances were given that adequate measures have been put in place to protect Huntsville's water supply from possible enemy sabotage. Mayor McAllister says at this time there are no plans to erect a fence around the headwaters of the Big Spring.

Madison County Deputies and Huntsville City Police are jointly patrolling the spring and have been issued orders to arrest any strangers loitering without cause.

All citizens are warned to be on the look-out for any suspicious activities that might affect the war effort.



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The Courthouse

When Huntsville's early settlers first started arriving, they discovered a large mound of stones directly above the Big Spring. This mound of stones was infested with rattlesnakes and was considered worthless.

In 1809, the Mississippi territorial government decreed that Madison County was to have a system of circuit and county courts and that the appropriate buildings be erected. This mound of stones, known as the public square, was deeded to the local government and in 1811 the first courthouse was built. The first floor was used as offices and courtrooms. The basement was also completed and was open on the north side.

The first city market was located in the basement. A small wooden jail and pillory was constructed on the northeast corner of the public square.

The incomplete courthouse became the nucleus for civic, religious, and commercial activity. In 1817, arrangements were made to complete the building of the first courthouse. Arrangements were also made for a more substantial jail and pillory to be built on the east side of the square.

During the 1820s and the prosperous 1830s, Huntsville and Madison County continued to grow. By 1835, it was evident that a new courthouse was needed. Plans were drawn up and the firm of Mitchell and Wilson was hired to construct the new courthouse at an approximate cost of \$31,000. The building was built in the popular Greek Temple style, being

constructed of brick and stone and having two full stories in addition to a full basement. The old courthouse was sold at auction for \$494.

After it was removed, the ten-foot elevation it sat on was graded down and the rock was used to pave the surrounding square. As work progressed, changes and additions were made to the original plans, necessitating additional revenue.

The new courthouse was completed in 1840 and provisions were made for a new jail in 1846. The new jail was a brick structure located at the northeast corner of Washington and Clinton streets. During this time the square began to take on the appearance of a thriving business center. The yard in front of the courthouse became a place where cotton could be bought or sold, slaves could be auctioned off, and punishment

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would be administered by flogging or even sometimes hanging.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, when it was realized that the courthouse might be occupied by Yankee troops, most of the public records were removed and sent to Blount County for safekeeping. When indeed Huntsville was occupied by federal troops in 1862, the courthouse was taken over by military officials. A blanket of depression and hardship descended upon Huntsville during the occupation. From the courthouse, signed passes and loyalty oaths were extracted from any citizen entering or leaving town, buying supplies from the commissary, or when protection was needed by Union troops.

After the war, the grounds of the courthouse had deteriorated badly due to lack of money and upkeep. Many newspaper articles of that time spoke of the "overgrown courthouse yard."

One of the more interesting stories of the late 1800s concerns that of pet deer kept in the courthouse yard. No one today is sure where they came from, but for years they were a common sight to anyone having business downtown. According to one old-timer, the deer were taken from a bootlegger when he was arrested. The sheriff, not knowing what else to do with them, turned them loose in the courthouse yard. When the courthouse was torn down, they were moved to the McCormick estate on Meridian Street.

The original plans had called for that courthouse to be remodeled, but when work began it was found to be in much worse shape than anyone had expected, and had to be torn down. The third courthouse was completed in 1914. Certain items were retained, such as the town clock, the massive "Doric" columns, the D.A.R. plaque listing

the names of all the Revolutionary soldiers buried in Madison County, and the statue of the Confederate soldier, which was a memorial to the Confederate dead.

In 1964, \$37,050 was awarded to the Bama Wrecking Company to demolish the old

(third) courthouse. The contents of the 1914 cornerstone were saved and the twenty massive stone columns were salvaged to be used elsewhere. The weather vane atop the old dome was transferred to the First Alabama Bank on the west side of the square.


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Reverend McCoy

by Gerald Nance

I read with much interest your recent story about Reverend McCoy. According to my grandfather, who knew McCoy well, it was widely known in the community that he was in fact William Quantrell. According to my grandfather, Quantrell and many of his men sought safety in North Alabama after the war and assumed new identities. Grandfather said that everyone knew who these men were but even though there was a bounty on their heads, no one would turn them in.

Grandfather said that besides McCoy there was another one who was later elected to state office from Guntersville and another member of the band was supposed to have been a deputy sheriff in Huntsville. He also remembered one who became a businessman on the Huntsville square.

As I got older I dismissed many of these stories as being tall tales. After you published the story on McCoy, I sent a copy to my grandson who attends Auburn. Several weeks later he sent me the following article which he found in the Alabama Archives.

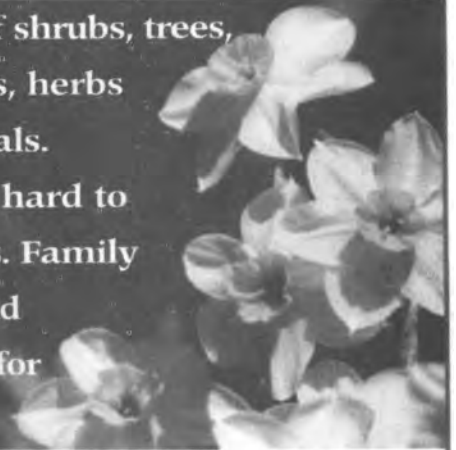
BOYD, RUFUS KING, lawyer, Secretary of State of Alabama, was born in 1831, in Williamson County, Tenn., and died May 10, 1883,

at Guntersville. Mr. Boyd received little education other than that obtained in the common schools of his neighborhood, and in 1849, when he was eighteen years old, he went to California and joined William Walker in his Nicaragua En-

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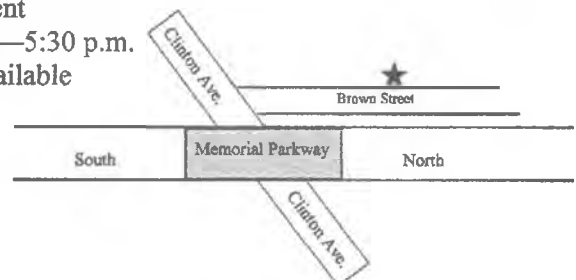
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terprise. He probably escaped execution with Walker by being on a temporary recruiting mission in New Orleans, La., at the time of Walker's capture. When the War of Secession began, he joined Stewart's cavalry as a private and served until 1863, then returned to his home for the first time since leaving it in 1849, in order to organize a regiment of volunteers for the C.S. Army. Circumstances frustrated this attempt, and soon he left home again. For several years his family received no tidings of him, and of this period of his life nothing definite is known, but it is certain that he was a member of Quantrell's band of guerrillas during the remainder of the war.

Frank James, the noted outlaw, when in prison in Huntsville, so stated, and said that he knew Boyd well. Dr. W.C. McCoy, later a Methodist minister in the northern Alabama conference, and father of Bishop McCoy, was a member of the same band. How Mr. Boyd received the knowledge of law that he possessed when he came to Alabama is unknown.

In December 1865, he located at Guntersville and formed a law partnership with the late Judge Louis Wyeth, under the firm name of Wyeth & Boyd. This partnership continued until Mr. Wyeth went on the bench as circuit judge. In 1872, Mr. Boyd was elected to the legislature from Marshall County and became a leader in that body. In 1874 he was nominated and elected Secretary of State on the Democratic ticket which redeemed Alabama from the carpetbag rule; and was re-elected for two years in 1876. He was an uncompromising Democrat,

Snakes In Big Spring

from 1901 newspaper

Another report has been received of someone else being bitten by the snakes that are infesting the city spring. It would be believed with all the many improvements in Huntsville that the city leaders would do something to rid the spring of such a dangerous nuisance.

Reward For False Teeth

from 1903 newspaper

A five dollar reward will be paid to anyone finding my dentures. The initials HRW are etched on them. Inquire at this newspaper. The dentures were lost at the Black Cat last Friday night.



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Journal of a Yankee Soldier

From the diary of R. S. Dilworth, 2d Lieut. of Co. G,

Huntsville - April 12th, 1862

We left camp yesterday morning at 5 a.m. and marched 21 miles to our present place. At 4 a.m. of April 11th, the adjutant came to me and told me he would have to use me today. He wanted me with 20 men to go ahead of the regt. and see that the road was all right so I took my squad out and left. And Oh!!!! What roads. Mud and water, mud and water all the way for 10 miles. We put 27 rods of fince [fence?] into the road at one place, and that is the way it was for 10 miles. The roads were awful, 'till within 4 miles of town when we struck the pike. At 8 a.m. of April 11th we heard the sound of heavy artillery, and when got to camp (a town) learned that they were shelling the locomotives to stop them from leaving. But one got away and thus saved us of a fight.

The Col. came around and charged us to be on the alert and for each man to have his gun by him so that he could catch it in a moment, and be out in a line for he said we are right between the rebel's forces.

Huntsville - April 13

Rained nearly all night, more pleasant this morning, rather cool and lowering. Our troops came in this morning from Chattanooga. They took 3 locomotives and all the cars on the road, and burned the bridge. One of Alban's boys stopped at a house and asked for some-

thing to eat, and the fellow told him that he had some nice hams in his smokehouse and told him to come in with him and he would give him one and it should not cost him anything. So the boy went with him. And he took out his bayonet and stabbed him 6 times but they came to his assistance, Alban took him and found a hole dug in the smokehouse where he intended to bury someone. Our pickets were out and found one of the 33rd Regt. hanged till he was dead, dead, dead!!

Huntsville - April 15

Company G. of the 21st was ordered out on picket. We therefore shouldered up our rigging and marched out 4 1/2 miles and stationed our guards upon a large plantation owned by an old bachelor, and a hard looking old crockling he was. He

owned 100 negroes on that plantation and 2 others with 200 negroes on one of them and 50 on the other. The negroes brought us pies, cornbread, eggs, milk etc. But you would have laughed to have seen the wenches frowning out the

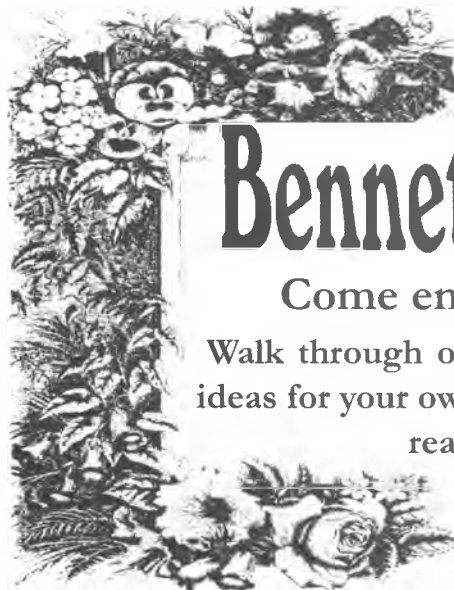
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campground. The day and night passed away without anything of importance. When we returned to camp the regt. had moved.

Huntsville - April 16

Col. Norton appointed Provost Marshall of the town of Huntsville. We are the Provo guard. The day was spent in rigging up our camp.

Huntsville - April 17

Provo station courthouse Huntsville. We of the provo guard had a gay old time. I had 70 men, 4 corporals and one sergt. with me. I captured one horse, the charger of a secesh colonel, a splendid animal he is. I also captured a secesh spy and searched him and put him in the lockup. After the capture of the spy, the night passed off smoothly and peacefully it appeared as though there were no distractions in the bosom of our beloved country. I was relieved by Lieut. Bumpous of Co. I with 60 men, 3 corporals and one sergt. When I came to camp I found my regt. moved down to the edge of town just back of the engine house.

Huntsville - April 18

Capt. Walker of Co. B captured 9 secesh horses and 6 saddles. Nothing of importance save this has occurred to day.

Huntsville - April 19

J. B. Moore of Co. F died yesterday of congestion of the brain and will be buried today. Reverend Mr. Gaddis of the 2nd Ohio Regt. will preach his funeral at 11 a.m. Rained all night and is still pouring and rainy at intervals. George Brooks, J.W. Cummins and William Palmer and I.J. Blakeman all received their discharge today.

Huntsville - April 23

Up at 1/2 past 4 a.m. The morning broke in beautiful and clear. Co. H leaves with the prisoners for Ohio. Mail left at 4 a.m. Bought one fish weighing 3 lbs for (1.25) one dollar &

twenty-five cents. Bought one book at Huntsville, a book of poems, & payed five dollars for it.

Huntsville - April 24

I visited Huntsville today. Visited the big spring as it is called. From which the whole town is supplied with water by means of a forced pump or water works. The spring is 40 feet in diameter and 5 feet deep in the center. It runs through under the town and appears at the western side of the town flow-

ing out of solid rocks, and at least it appears so to the observer. The town of Huntsville is regularly laid out. The courthouse is a very handsome one and is surrounded with a most splend [splendid] yard enclosed by an iron fence with 4 iron gates opposite the 4 outside doors. On the north and south is a splendid stone pavement leading to the portico, which is entered by a flight of stone steps. The floors are all stone. In the 2nd story and the northwest corner of the building is the sher-

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iffs office, Douglas, a full cousin of the little giant. Fronting the court house may be seen stores, groceries, jewelers, slop shops, etc.

From the courthouse I passed one square east and then 2 north and took that street which leads to the cemetery. I passed on, passing several guards until I arrived at the place of the dead. What grandeur meets the eye in this place. Here in one grave rests 2 little ones, enclosed with a marble tomb with a monument on the top of which is panelled with glass and the form of 2 children sketched from marble laid side by side, so innocent, so lovely. And on the top of this are two little lambs side by side. The head of one reposing on the other. Oh! What respect is here shown to the dead.

Huntsville - April 25

Dull & rainy. The rain commenced at 7 a.m. & has rained steadily until the present & the prospects are favorable for more rain. Bought a fly coat for the sum of 10 dollars. 9 p.m. and still raining. General Mitchell promoted to Maj. General. Sending and receiving dispatches every 1/2 hour. Five men from each Co. was sent 33 mi. east by rail for wood.

Huntsville - April 26

An attack on our troops below Decatur and 18 men taken prisoners. Dark and pouring. We have with potatoes for dinner a rather rare dinner. Chicken from 25 cts to 50 cts a piece, potatoes 25 cts for Lunch. Ain't that rather fast living. Nothing of importance occurred through the night.

Huntsville - April 27

Sabbath morning sunny and beautiful. I attended church at Huntsville to day and heard a very good sermon from the text found Acts 17th Chapter & 23rd verse. The preacher's name is

Frederick A. Ross, an old man. He throws all at us. Oh! What a church! The richest I ever saw. The names of all their pastors, are engraved on a marble slab set in the wall to the ministers left hand.

Huntsville - May 1

We are quartered in the depot hotel. My quarters is the ticket office. No guards today. 21



detailed to go to guard the bridge near the Tenn. River. Nothing occurred throughout the night.

Huntsville - May 7

More wounded have arrived. Calhoun's house taken for a hospital. The most splendidly furnished house. We are moving to Nashville tomorrow.

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