

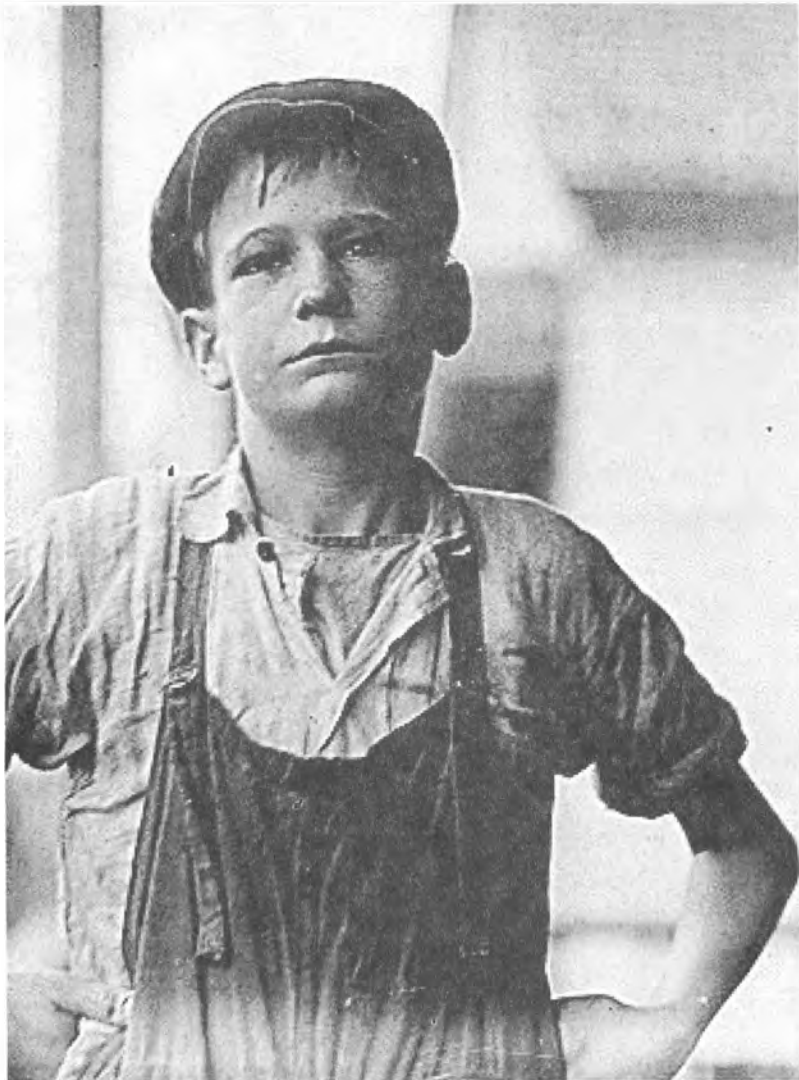


No. 199  
Sep. 2009



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## You'll Have to Move On

The boys had to quit school and go to work. At those tender ages, they became "the men of the family."

He told me of plowing cotton when his hands barely reached the handles of the singletree plow. Blisters filled tender palms. The ground was hard, and the mule cantankerous. Near the woods at the edges of fields, the trees snaked roots into the cotton. The plow tore through the them and sometimes the broken roots whipped back and cracked them across the shins so hard that blood dripped on their dirty bare feet.

Also in this issue: **The Photographer**

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**A Hardware Store....  
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*Domie Lewter*  
*Mac Lewter*

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# You'll Have to Move On

By Rick Carter

Five small words altered the path of a family, and future generations.

The family was mine. As years go by, I've come to realize the meaning, the multiple meanings of those words.

Almost fifty years ago, I was delivering newspapers with my father. It was a late Saturday night / early Sunday morning. Ahead of us was a truck pulling a trailer hauling two mules. Their tails flapped in the breeze.

"Would you look at that," my father said, "beats anything I ever saw. I swore when I was nine, that when I was able to do better, I'd never look at another mule's behind as long as I lived. Now people haul the crazy things around to shows. Things sure have changed. Time was, mules pulled the wagons - now they ride in them."

Daddy was nine when his father died - the same age I was when he told me the story of his childhood.

I could not imagine life without my dad.

They lived across the Tennessee River, and were sharecroppers on hardscrabble land. Times

were hard for some, even before the Great Depression. The cotton was just planted when his daddy died. After a pauper's funeral, a widowed mother and four young children were left to try and finish the crop by themselves. They had to if they were going to eat and have a place to live the next winter. Daddy was second-oldest at nine, his older brother, Carey, was eleven, his two younger sisters, Eloise and Isol, were ages five and three.

The boys had to quit school and go to work. At those tender ages, they became "the men of the family."

He told me of plowing cotton when his hands barely reached the handles of the singletree plow. Blisters filled tender palms. The ground was hard, and the mule cantankerous. Near the woods at the edges of fields, the trees snaked roots into the cotton. The plow tore through them and sometimes the broken roots whipped back and cracked them across the shins so hard that blood dripped on their dirty bare feet.

At times, the hungry mule was spooked by snakes and ran away, ears laid back, braying. Sometimes a mule runs away just because he wants to. The brothers dared not let go of the plow. The boys hung on for dear life and were dragged across fields and into briar patches.



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Briars are one of the favorite foods of ornery mules. The scratched, bleeding children sat in the briars and the edges of fields and cried, but crying did not help. The mules had to be coaxed back to work.

On the days their work found them near the road that they once walked to school, some of their former classmates taunted them mercilessly for being too poor to go to school. They had both been good students. Not having a chance to learn might have hurt as badly as the kids' ridicule.

Though the lives of the children were cruel, fate was kinder, at least in the short run. The weather cooperated, the rains came at the right times and the young family's cotton crop yielded almost more than they could pick. They picked cotton for long fall days and into the moonlit nights. Isol, the youngest, slept while being dragged through the fields on her mother's cotton sack.

They did it. Against all odds, they managed to harvest their bumper crop and get it to the gin. They were proud, and rightly so.

Fate is notoriously fickle. When the time came to "settle up," the old man who owned the farm cheated them out of their half, ev-

ery dime.

We'll call him old man "Smith," from this point. I'll not print the man's name because his family is prominent locally and need not suffer embarrassment over an act they had nothing to do with, committed by an ancestor.

When the devastated young widow protested, she was simply told, "You'll have to move on."

With the powerlessness only the poor can feel, they gathered what little they could carry of what little they owned and walked away.

Had it not been for the charity of the churches and people in the community they moved to, they'd have starved or frozen that winter.

Daddy's eyes misted as he told of mornings when they had only cold compone for breakfast. His mother often claimed she wasn't hungry and the kids had a few bites more.

Santa forgot to stop by that year, and some years afterward.

Daddy and Uncle Carey hired out for public work; they cut wood, dug ditches, shoveled barn stalls, whatever they could find to do for a little money. The pair of boys were the paid wages equal that of one man - fifty cents per day.

At some point during that hard, bitter winter, Uncle Carey

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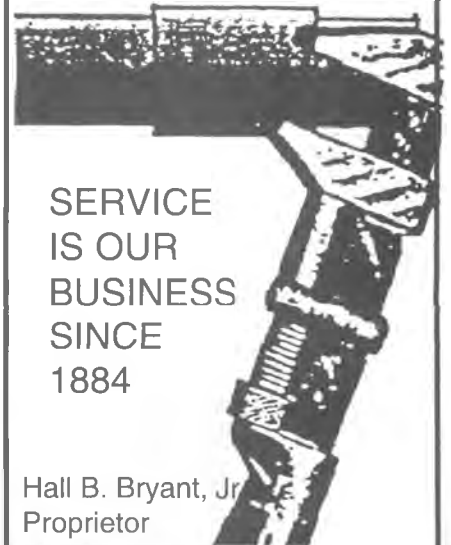
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hatched a fantasy plan with my dad that, when they both turned twenty-one, they would come back and kill Mr. Smith. They would tell him it was time for him to move on.

Daddy more or less forgot about the revenge pact he and his brother forged a decade before, but on my father's twenty-first birthday, Uncle Carey showed up with a gun and said, "Let's go do it."

Mr. Smith's time had come.

Daddy talked him out of it, convinced Carey that Mr. Smith wasn't worth life in the penitentiary. They each had wives and a small child by that time, and daddy remembered what it was to be fatherless.

I figured the story ended there, though I came to see how the events shaped them.

Daddy was able to move past his hatred and became a kind, gentle man with a soft spot in his heart for the poor, aged and others unable to help themselves.

Uncle Carey turned hard, and bitter. Being the oldest, maybe his wound was deeper.

I don't think I'd have ever learned the rest of this story if it hadn't occurred to me to ask daddy a few years later if he ever saw Mr. Smith again.

He said, "Yes, but much later, just before World War II. I was cutting barrel staves for a man near Arab. On Friday's, I got to drive the load into town and deliver them to the man who bought

them. The wait to unload the staves was usually long, and the man who owned the truck gave me money to buy lunch. You could get two hamburgers and a coke for a quarter at a little place in downtown Arab, and boy, they were a treat. I looked forward to those greasy burgers the entire week. I believe I could have eaten six."

"One Friday, I stopped for lunch and there sat Mr. Smith, on a bench outside the burger joint."

I became excited. I just knew I was about to hear how my dad, the hero, slapped the greedy old man silly and told him what was what. I asked daddy what he did.

It was an answer I'll never forget.

"Well, by that time, Mr. Smith was a broken down old man. Life hadn't been very kind to him. He'd lost everything he had during the depression, and was forced to live with his daughter, off the charity of his son-in-law, who begrudged him every bite he ate, and every breath he took."

"I gave the old devil one of my hamburgers. He looked like he needed it more than I did."



**"Money can't buy friends, but it can get you a better class of enemy."**

*Spike Milligan*



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# A Killing at Ryland

by Austin Miller

In the 1920's Ryland had the name of being a mean place. This reputation was earned by several young men known as the Ryland Gang. They were as rough as they came and their reputation was known throughout Madison County.

In those days Ryland was a busy place due to it being a business and trade center plus a train depot that attracted many traveling to Huntsville. Going to town for country people was usually an all day affair. Ryland had a store run by Allen Roundtree, a cotton gin run by Willis Sanford, a saw mill (owner unknown), and a post office run by Charley Lacy.

There were no roads directly to Huntsville from Ryland. Highway 72 had not yet been built and the closest route by road was through Chase up by A & M University and then south on

Meridian Street to the square. There were very few cars and most people either rode the train or walked over a bumpy and rocky trail across Chapman Mountain. You could take a two-horse wagon over the mountain but it was a rough ride. The most used method of travel was the train.

Droves of people from all around including Brownsboro, Maysville and vicinity caught the train at Ryland in the morning, spent the day in Huntsville and came back on the train in the afternoon. The Ryland Depot was a favorite hang out for the gang and their presence was well known with employees of the Southern Railroad line. The Southern tracks were once the old Memphis and Charleston Railroad.

Distant travelers getting off at Ryland were warned by the conductor of the potential trouble and cautioned them to be careful. Another favorite gang spot was behind the Ryland Gin where they drank, gambled and had numerous squabbles and fights.

Most of the names of these

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men are unknown to anyone alive today. The ones I know about are Dick Kelly, Allen "Bull" Sanford and Elton Miller. By all accounts those three were the ring leaders.

Dick Kelly was a descendant of Russell J. Kelly who once owned all the land around Ryland during and after the antebellum period. During much of the 1800's Ryland was known as Kelly's Crossing. The old Kelly plantation house still stands, located at 565 Ryland Pike, and now owned by the Shannon Ford family.

Willis Sanford's family owned the gin and was very prominent in the community. Descendants of both these families still live in Ryland.

Elton Miller was my father's first cousin. His escapades came to a head when he got into an argument with a black man over a crap game. I heard the man's name many times over the years but I can't recall it now or find anybody else that remembers. I am afraid the name is forever lost to history.

With tempers flaring, Elton walked about 200 yards from the Ryland Gin to the Roundtree Store to get a gun. The black man aggressively followed with a rock in his hand to take up the fight. Elton entered the store first and the black man followed close behind. Elton retrieved Allen Roundtree's rifle and killed the man by shooting him twice. One or both of the gunshot wounds were fatal but Elton angrily bent the rifle barrel over the man's head.

Elton went to trial for the killing but even before the evidence was heard more than one

member of the jury signaled the family that he had nothing to worry about. In those days a white person killing a black man with a question of self defense was not taken very seriously. This was especially true, if the black person was not well thought of in the community.

Elton was acquitted but that did not end his troubles. He soon got into more trouble and this time it looked like he would have to serve time in the penitentiary.

Because of this, Elton's father, John Wesley Miller, who was my grandfather's older brother, invited all the extended family to his house for a get-together. The purpose was to tell them that they were leaving Ryland for an unknown destination in the West. My father remembered this and said it was a very sad occasion.

The next day Elton and his



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family slipped out of Ryland in the middle of the night. My grandfather never saw his brother or sister-in-law again. In time, two of their daughters came back for a visit and the family learned that they had settled in California.

In the mid-fifties, a stranger showed up in Ryland at Mollie Miller Saxon's front door. At first she had no idea who the bald elderly man was and wouldn't open the door. Then, all of a sudden, even though she hadn't seen him in more than thirty years, she recognized that it was her cousin Elton. He had finally come back to Ryland for a visit. By this time any trouble he had had with the law in Alabama was long ago forgotten.

He stayed about two weeks visiting family and any old friends that were still alive. He visited my grandfather several times and they talked a lot about Uncle John W's life in California, a topic of great interest to my grandfather.

That was to be Elton's first and last trip to Ryland since his de-

parture in the middle of the night many years before.

About twenty years ago, members of the John Wesley Miller family attended our annual Miller Reunion on Monte Sano. We learned that the family was scattered throughout the western states from California and Alaska.

We also learned that some of them had made their living as professional entertainers and musicians. There is a lot of musical talent in the Miller family but unfortunately all of it

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*Malcolm Miller*

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skipped my father as well as my two brothers and me. Charles McCay, our preacher at Shiloh church for many years, often complained that with all the musical talent in our family none of the Millers who attended his church could sing a lick.

One of the visitors to the reunion that year was Elton's daughter and three of his grandchildren. I thought it impolite to ask but I wondered how much they knew about his youth at Ryland, the killing, the trial and the fact that he and his family left Ryland for an unknown destination in the middle of the night to save him from going to the penitentiary.

## News from 1923

- An old gentleman by the name of Johnson was run over by his own wagon out on Meridian Pike Thursday afternoon. It seems from reports that Mr. Johnson was walking beside his wagon when an automobile passed and frightened the team of mules causing them to take a dash, knocking the old man down and the wagon ran over him. He was considerably bruised and was picked up by a passing automobile and brought

to the city hospital where his wounds were dressed and he went on home.

- The Cantrell-Lewter Drug Co. are now giving with each cash purchase at their drug store a coupon which entitles the holder to a chance on five dollars and a box of Whitney's candy. The drawing is held every Saturday night at 9 o'clock. The money was drawn by J. M. Bradford and the candy by Harry Hammons of the Grand Theatre last night.

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- A large barn belonging to W. M. Jordan at Jordan's Park was totally destroyed by fire yesterday together with a large amount of hay and other food stuff and two large fine hogs. The barn was a large and costly one and the loss is very large. The fire occurred between 7 and 8 o'clock and the origin is not known.

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*Polish Proverb*

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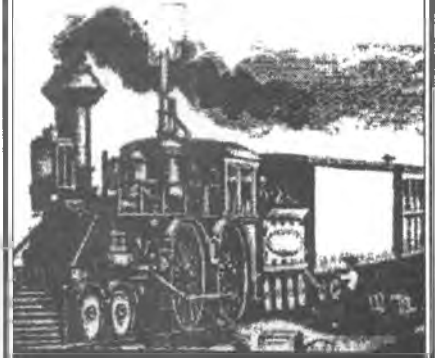


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# A Ball of Fire

## Huntsville - February, 1895

A vivid ball of fire, three times as large as the sun and equally as brilliant, shot through the heavens last night, at 11:05 o'clock.

The brilliant ball turned the city as bright as noonday and made many declare that its passage was attended by a rumbling noise and a slight shock, as of an earthquake.

Everyone who was awake at that hour saw the swift-moving meteor. It was of marvelous brilliance and passed close to the earth seeming to almost touch the housetops.

It was seen by every policemen on duty in the city and, in a few minutes after its flight, they were making sensational reports of it to the police station.

At the office it was seen by every one in the building. There was a vivid flash as of a powerful stroke of lightning. The whole earth was brilliantly lighted and

the heavens were ablaze with splendor.

The meteor came out of the northwest and travelled toward the southeast. It shed a swath of light that extended in every direction as far as the eye could see and for several seconds the city was lighted as brightly as at the hour of noon.

The first impression was that it was a vivid flash of lightning, but a glance into the heavens dispelled that idea. The light was caused by a huge ball that seemed to have stolen the blinding light of the sun. The ball had disappeared before anyone could get an idea of its size or nature.

In three minutes after the passing of the great light the telephone began to ring and inquiries commenced to pour in from all over the city, who had seen the ball of fire. All gave the same account of it, saying that it looked like the sun out on a midnight tear.

It was at first thought to be

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*Unknown*

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a local brilliant, but this was disproved before five minutes had passed. At the train dispatcher's office, three minutes after the meteor passed, the telegraph operators all along the line of the East Tennessee and Georgia Pacific began to send in reports of the night light.

The same sight was witnessed in Decatur, the meteor passing over that place, going in a southeasterly direction, at 12:15, making the town as light as day.

The night watchmen claimed the ball of fire was so near the earth that it melted the snow on the roofs of store buildings, that the water poured off the roof of the post office block in streams into the alley.

Jack Creecy, the night operator at the depot, it is said, was so terrified that he hastily extinguished the lights, seized his revolver, and jumping into the middle of the room, made ready to defend himself against what he supposed must be a gang of robbers with ball and shot before he realized his mistake.

# An Innocent Incest

from 1873 newspaper

There is now in the State Penitentiary an aged couple who are serving out a term for the crime of incest, they being brother and sister.

The story is this: At the age of twelve years, the male left his father's house in Morgan County to seek his fortune and no more to return. He, in time, grew to manhood and married, raised a family of children, and in time his wife died.

His sister grew to woman-

hood and was married. Her husband died, and in time she received an offer of marriage from a man who was a widower. She accepted the offer and they were married with neither of them suspecting a kinship. Her husband was wealthy, and after a time one of his sons wished to have the father give him some property, but the father refused to accede to his demands.

The son, one day, while looking over the family record of the stepmother, which had been laid aside and forgotten, discovered that there was a kinship between the families, and further investigation proved that his father and stepmother were very own brother and sister.

To avenge himself for his father's refusal to give him the bulk of his property, he brought suit against them both for incest. They were tried and convicted and sent to the penitentiary for one year. They are both over sixty years of age, and as innocent of intent to commit crime as the new born babe.

The son has meanwhile taken possession of the property.

**"By the time a woman realizes that her mother was right, she has a daughter who thinks she's wrong."**  
*Patsy Jackman, Athens*

**"Marriage is a great institution, but I'm not ready for an institution."**  
*Mae West*

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# Ladies of the Night

by Judy Wills

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

Huntsville has its own version, but it was fact, not fiction. Huntsville Hospital owes its existence to the generosity of the town's most colorful madam, Mollie Teal.

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

Huntsville Hospital opened.

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

Part of the public's confidence in Mollie's probably was

the fact that her girls had regular health inspections.

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

Mrs. Russell remembered her mother talking about Mollie,

**"Most of the people you see in lingerie stores, you wouldn't want to see in lingerie."**

*Maxine*

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

Mollie was an acute business woman who knew the value of publicity. One year, during the 4th of July parade, she dressed her ladies in their finest garb and joined the parade, to the delight of many onlookers. She was not on the official parade schedule, but as an observer later commented, "She did add interest."

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

ers.

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

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

**"We could certainly slow the aging process down if it had to work its way through Congress."**

*Will Rogers*

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up, wearing big flowery hats and exquisite clothing, they attracted much attention on their daily excursions.

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

Many of Huntsville's outstanding citizens were regular patrons of the houses, as evidenced by an incident that happened in the late 1800s. One of the bordellos caught fire and the fire department quickly showed up and extinguished the blaze, which proved to be minor.

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

And needless to say, when word spread among the volunteer fire department of the madam's offer, other firemen, even from out in the county, begin showing up, "to make sure the fire is out."

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

Some of the prostitutes married well. Miss Bessie Russell remembered that her husband was astonished at the number of young men who married women right out of the houses.

Though "polite society" never mentions the fact, there are still several elderly matriarchs in Huntsville today who got their start in a much more colorful place than the Huntsville Country Club.

**"You know you're getting older when your doctor doesn't give you Xrays anymore, but just holds you up to the light."**

**Sam Keith, Huntsville**

**"A girl phoned me the other day and said, 'Come on over, no one's home.' I went over. Nobody was home."**

**Rodney Dangerfield**



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# Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*

**Donna Gurley** of Owens Cross Roads is the winner of the Photo of the Month for August. The beautiful girl in the photo was **Erin Dacy**, and I promise you we will never run her photo again - we had calls each day that started at 5am and continued through midnight - who were calling to guess the photo! Erin works at **Channel 31** and is a hugely popular anchor there. Congratulations, Donna!

**John Bzdell** was visiting his doctor recently (**Dr. Kaufman**) when he saw a good friend of his. **Michelle Berres Nelson** from Davis Hills and Lee High was there too and they were able to catch up with the news. Michelle's husband, **Bruce Nelson**, has worked at PPG for 36 years!

We want to wish **Darryl Goldman** and his wife **Linda** a happy 40th wedding anniversary that was celebrated in mid August! Darryl is the interim pastor at the historic **First Presbyterian Church** on Gates Avenue. Congratulations to you love birds!

Many people remember **Cecil Tipton**. Cecil had a September birthday and was 87 when he died nearly 2 years ago. Cecil was the Madison County Health Department officer for



many years. His daughter **Debbie Maples** and her Mom **Gladys Fanning** loved Cecil so much and will never forget him.

A special hello to our dear friend **Robert Martin**, who lives at Valley View Health & Rehab, in Madison. He's so proud of his son **Randy Martin**, who retired from the Army as full bird Colonel.

**Steve Cappaert**, of Averbuch Realty, and his gorgeous wife **Kim** are proud grandparents again of another sweet baby boy! **Max Caden Sylvester** was born on July 2, and his proud parents are **Michael Sylvester** (of MS Masonry) and wife **Lindsay**.

That fabulous musician **Malcolm Miller** celebrated his 82nd birthday on Aug. 10.

We send our congratulations to Malcolm and his loving wife **Lois**.

Happy birthday to the most beautiful Mom a girl can have. **Annelie Owens** was born in Berlin where she studied to be a medical doctor, met her handsome Army husband-to-be and traveled to the U.S. to make a life here. Her birthday was celebrated with family at her favorite German restaurant, **Cafe Berlin!**

If you're a dog lover you've got to put September 12 on your calendar. That's when Huntsville Obedience Training Club is sponsoring it's **Dog Fair** from 9am - 3pm at Monte Sano State park. Lots of fun canine activities!

While eating at **Lee Ann's Restaurant & Bar** recently, we caught up with **Joe Walker**. Joe is one of the sweetest guys I know and I love his light blue eyes! Joe and his brother **Jeff Walker** stay really busy with their company, Southern Sealing and Striping.

A couple of very important birthdays were close together - **Jane Tippett** celebrated hers on August 29, while **Judy Smith**

## Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This little boy is the expert on plants & gardening.



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had hers on Aug. 30th. Happy birthday to two beautiful ladies!

We were so very sad to hear of the death of **Margaret Ashburn**. She was 86 when she died, leaving husband **Cecil Ashburn**. She loved her family dearly. In addition to Cecil, she leaves daughters **Jenny Ashburn** and **Judy Nayman**, as well as countless friends who loved her. We send our deepest condolences to Cecil and his family.

On September 29 **Virginia Mae Esslinger** turns 100 years old! What a happy birthday that one will be! Virginia lives in the same house she was born in 100 years ago, and her daughters **Betty Esslinger** and **Mary Thomas** take good care of her. Virginia is a New Market native and retired school teacher. She taught at Riverton, then Plevna, and finally at New Market school. Congratulations to you, Virginia!

Happy 10th birthday to a pretty young girl - **Rachel Sisk** had an August birthday party given by her parents, **Glenn** and **Jodi Sisk**. Rachel is home-schooled and is just a sweetheart.

A beautiful young lady who works for Amedisys Home Health Care is **Tiffany Day**. Tiffany works there as a Physical Therapist Assistant and does an outstanding job with her clients. We met her recently and her clients think the world of her!

The **Huntsville Beautification Board** was first created in 1965 and works really hard each year to identify and rate business properties in regards to appearance. The 35th Annual Awards program was held recently at the Wynn drive location of Redstone Federal Credit union. **Joy Parker** is the Beautification Board President and **Peg Heesch** is the Board Vice President. These ladies have worked in overdrive, along with **Huntsville's Green Team**, to judge and select worthy properties that received the awards.

**Mayor Tommy Battle** made the presentations to the hundreds of property owners. We were really proud of **Louie & Jane Tippet's Historic Lowry House**, which has won the award two years in a row. Congratulations to all the winning companies for keeping our city so beautiful!

**Trade Day** this year is going to be held on Sep. 12 from 8-5, a Saturday. Because of the sidewalk construction around the square, the event had to be moved a couple of blocks South to Constitution hall Village on Gates Ave.. It is always fun and there are so many interesting items to look at, entertainment, food, etc. just like in the old days!

**Shirley Bush**, of Colonial Bank, is retiring on Sep. 18! She has done a great job in her position and is always one of the first smiling faces you see when you go to the main branch on Church Street. Shirley is retiring after 31 years, 4 months and 18 days - but who's counting?? We are very proud of you, Shirley!

**Lewis Mills** lives in Decatur now. He moved in 1955 to Huntsville from Texas, and owned the Buckskin Western store on North Parkway and Blue Springs Rd. Lewis loves history and reading about all the events that happened in this area over the years.

**Sam and Glenda Huffstetler**

are proud of their beautiful granddaughter, **Morgan Rae Carter**. Morgan married **Chris Scott** in a moving ceremony at Holmes Street United Methodist Church.

Have a safe & fun Labor Day, and be sure to support our local, home-owned companies!

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# Local Cooks' Favorites

## Jodi's Fresh Lemonade

- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 c. boiling water
- 2-3 t. grated lemon rind
- 1 1/2 c. fresh lemon juice
- 10 c. cold water
- Lemon slices
- Fresh mint sprigs

Combine sugar and boiling water, stirring til sugar dissolves. Add lemon rind, lemon juice and cold water; mix well. Chill. Serve over ice Garnish with lemon slices and mint sprigs. (You can substitute equal amounts of lime rind & juice for the lemon)

by Jodi Sisk

## Nancy's Nut Bread

- 3 c. flour, sifted
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 t. salt

- 6 t. baking powder
- 1 1/2 c. milk
- 1 egg
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 3 T. melted butter

Mix all ingredients together and beat lightly. Pour into a greased loaf pan and bake 1 hour at 350-375 degrees. Cool on rack for 10-15 minutes before turning out of pan.

by Nancy Holliman

## Stephanie's Savory Dill Potato Salad

- 3 lbs. new red potatoes, with skin
- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 1/2 c. mustard
- 2 t. dill weed
- salt & pepper to taste
- 5 green onions chopped
- 1 large white onion, chopped
- 6 oz. cooked bacon, crumbled
- 1/4 c. chopped celery

Boil potatoes in plenty of water til knife goes in easily - don't overcook. Take off heat, drain off water and allow to cool. Cube with skin on. Place in fridge for at least an hour. In a small bowl mix the mayonnaise, mustard, dill weed and salt/pepper. Add this mixture to the potatoes when they are cooled and stir well. Mix in the onions, bacon and celery. Put back in fridge for 3 hours.

by Stephanie Troup

## Zellah's Caramel Corn

- 6 qts. popped corn
- 1 1/2 c. pecan halves
- 1 1/2 c. packed brown sugar
- 3/4 c. butter
- 3/4 c. light corn syrup
- 1 1/2 c. raw peanuts
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1 t. vanilla extract

Coat a large roasting pan with cooking spray. Combine

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popcorn and pecans in the pan and set aside. Combine sugar, butter, corn syrup and peanuts in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil and continue boiling for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and baking soda.

Pour syrup mixture evenly over the popcorn mix and stir with a lightly greased long-handled spoon til popcorn is well coated. Bake at 250 degrees for an hour, stirring every 20 minutes. Remove from the oven and immediately pour onto waxed paper, breaking it apart as it cools. Store in an airtight container.

**by Zella Heath**

## Chuck's Irish Soda Bread

- 1/4 c. sugar
- 1 T. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 4 c. + 1/2 t. plain flour
- 6 T. cold butter
- 1 c. golden raisins
- 1 1/2 c. buttermilk

Preheat oven to 350 degrees, grease a large cookie sheet. In a bowl combine first 5 ingredients, reserving 1/2 teaspoon of the flour. With a pastry blender or 2 knives cut in the butter til the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in raisins, then buttermilk,

until just moistened evenly. Gently knead the dough a few times til it forms a ball - don't overmix or it'll be tough.

Place dough on cookie sheet and shape into a 7-inch round loaf - dough won't be smooth. Sprinkle remaining flour over the top of the loaf and with a sharp knife cut a 4-inch long cross on the top of the bread. Bake for 1 hour and a broom straw comes out clean from the center. Cool on wire rack.

**by Chuck Owens**

## Barb's Hot Shrimp Dip

- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 3 mild banana peppers, chopped
- 3 jalapeno peppers, chopped
- 2 tomatoes, chopped
- 2 8-oz. pkgs. cream cheese
- 1/2 lb. cooked shrimp, chopped small
- Salt & pepper to taste

In a large crock pot put the vegetables at the bottom. Add cubed cheese and slowly heat til melted, mix well. Let simmer for a few minutes, then add the shrimp at the last minute.

Stir well and serve with hot crispy tortilla chips. Use less jalapeno if you don't want it too spicy.

**by Barb Eyestone**



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# The Photographer

They say pictures don't lie. Lewis Hine, the crusading social photographer of the early 20th century, built his career on this assumption. Around the nation and in Huntsville he took pictures of children working in the fields, mines, and factories of a nation caught in the gears of industrialization. These children look at you from the depths of time as if to say, 'I was here, remember me.' In black and white, in tattered clothes, in a childhood cut short by work in the Huntsville cotton mills, they lived lives now forgotten. At the dawn of the twentieth century Lewis Hine waged his crusade to take children out of the workplace and give them a childhood. In the end, he failed. But it was a glorious failure.

Lewis Hine was born in 1874 to Douglas Hull and Sara Hayes Hine of Oshkosh Wisconsin. He grew up in the relative privilege of a white middle class upbringing. His parents owned a small restaurant in downtown Oshkosh and Lewis attended school, graduating in 1892.

In 1892, Lewis' father died and the family fell upon hard times. Lewis took a job in a local upholstery factory for four dollars a week. The 13-hour days and six-day weeks gave him a taste of how the other half lived. He later said, "For seven years I lived behind the scenes in the life of the worker, gaining an understanding that increased through the years." After the upholstery factory closed he took a variety of jobs around the Oshkosh area. He also began studying sculpture and drawing at this time, taking correspondence courses and attending the normal school (a school



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set up to train future school teachers) in Oshkosh.

The ideas of art, especially those of the composition and arrangement of his subjects, would have a great effect on his photography. Hine used a five-by-seven box camera with a bulb-operated shutter and a magnesium flash. Unlike modern photographers with faster, lighter cameras, which can be used to capture a subject in motion, Hine had to set up his camera and pose his subjects. Photographers compose so as to have a specific effect on a viewer. At the time the rules of photographic composition said a subject should look away from the camera to give the illusion of being caught unawares. In contrast Hine had his subject look directly into the camera. This gave the viewer intimacy with and sympathy for the subject.

In 1900 Hine enrolled in the University of Chicago, although he only stayed there a year. In 1901 he followed his friend and mentor Frank A. Manny to New York when Manny was appointed superintendent of the Ethical Cultural School in New York. Hine took a position teaching at the school. There he began developing his love for photography.

At first he took pictures of the school clubs but, on a school field trip to Ellis Island, he saw the immigrants. At the beginning of the twentieth century immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe, flooded the shores of America. Often seen as dirty, uneducated vermin who brought with them huge social problems America did not need, many in America looked down on them. Hine saw something in them most, including his students, did not.

Using his camera he returned again and again to capture portraits of a people teeming to America's shores to breathe the air of freedom. Going up to people who often did not speak English he communicated his desire to take their picture.

In the crowded conditions of Ellis Island he would set up his tripod and camera. Without a common language he would commu-

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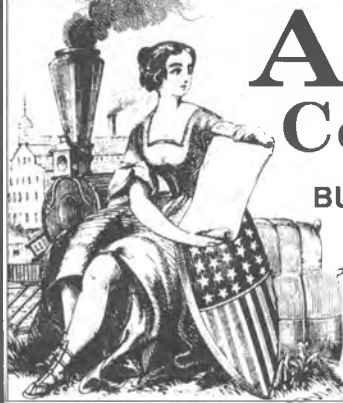
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nicate the pose he wanted them to hold. Using hand ignited magnesium flash powder he would take the portrait of the immigrant and, in the ensuing smoke and confusion, disappear into the crowd. Again and again in these pictures one sees what would later become a major theme of Hine's work: The inherent dignity of his subjects. Again and again the nameless people who look out from their portraits are shown not as sub-humans coming to America to commit crimes and live off the dole, but as people whose only crime is wanting freedom and opportunity. Their crime was hope.

In 1907, with a growing family to support, Hine began working for the National Child Labor Committee. Over the next ten years he logged hundreds of thousands of miles crisscrossing the nation, photographing children working in the industries of America. Much of his work was done in Huntsville where he captured the images of the young children working in the mills.

At Dallas, Lowe, Merrimack, and Lincoln he saw children going in and out of the mills. Many of them were underage, some as young as seven, their parents having lied on the affidavits they were required to sign attesting to the age of the child. Often the family needed the money and, not having any education themselves, they did not want their children "wasting" their time going to

school.

In the Huntsville cotton mills children were often hired as 'doffers', 'spinners', and 'sweepers'. Doffers went around the mill replacing the whirling bobbins as they filled with thread. Spinners kept an eye on the bobbins and when a thread broke they tied the ends together. Sweepers kept the floors clean so the other workers could do their

jobs more efficiently. The mill owners valued the small workers whose deft fingers meant they could do the work quickly and thus maximize the money the mill owners spent. And, because they were children, the owners did not have to pay them as much as an adult.

At the time machinery often lacked even basic safety features. Moving parts were often exposed

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and it was easy to get a limb caught and mangled. Once while Hine was at a factory he reported, "A twelve-year old doffer boy fell into a spinning machine and the unprotected gearing tore out two of his fingers. 'We don't have any accidents in this mill,' the overseer told me. 'Once in a while a finger is mashed or a foot, but it don't amount to anything.'"

At first Hine managed to gain access to the mills themselves, taking pictures of children so small they had to stand on the spinning machines to do their work. He would tell the supervisors he wanted to photograph the mills themselves. Fumbling around with the camera and equipment he would deliberately waste time until the supervisor would grow bored and wander off. Hine then set about on his real task of photographing the children. Later the pictures would end up in newspapers and in displays the National Child Labor Committee set up around the country to raise awareness of child labor. When the mill owners caught on they barred him from the mills and instructed the supervisors to run him off when they caught him around. Hine then began hanging around outside the mills, taking pictures of the children coming and going to work.

The cotton mills began to put pressure on Hine, hoping to run him out of town. Other Huntsville businesses, beholden to the cot-

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President

ton mills, refused to sell anything to him. He was refused admittance to businesses and had to order his film from out of town. At one point he was forced to sleep in his car when a local hotel refused to rent him a room.

But taking pictures was only half the battle. It still remained to convince the nation that these invisible children who made the conveniences that they brought were people. Hine had to give his vision to others. On breaks from his schedule of shooting at the factories he would go around the nation lecturing about what he saw in the factories, mines, and streets of the nation where children labored.

He told of the brutal 13-hour days of back-breaking labor to groups of affluent, middle class whites. He told how children, too young to protest, were enslaved by corporate greed. In one instance he came to Huntsville on his lecture tour, he had to change the captions on some of the pictures to avoid being run out of town.

The wealthy cotton mill owners began a campaign to discredit Hine and his photographs. Powerful lobbyists in Washington labeled him a Communist and assertions were made that his photographs were staged. One lobbyist went so far as to say that the children portrayed in the pictures were actually dwarfs.

Despite the criticism leveled at him Hine re-

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fused to defend himself, choosing instead to let the photographs speak for themselves. President Wilson, after viewing the photographs, was said to have been "shocked to his inner core." The stark black and white photos of young children enslaved to corporate greed created a national controversy and people began pressing for reform.

In 1916 and again in 1918 Congress passed child labor reform laws but the Supreme Court struck them down. In 1924 Congress attempted to pass a Constitutional Amendment that would authorize a national child labor law. At each of the hearings Hine's photographs of children working in the Huntsville cotton mills were exhibited.

Groups opposed to any increase in federal law in areas relating to children lobbied against the amendment and within ten years the measure died. Only during the Great Depression of the 1930's did child labor finally begin dying. But not because of activism or laws: In this period of high unemployment men competed even for the lowest paying jobs formerly held by children. At the same time labor unions began to agitate for change. But the most powerful reason for change was the growing need by industry for more skilled workers. School became, not an option, but a necessity to get a job. It was not until 1938, when President Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, that severe restrictions were placed on child labor.

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Amended in 1949 the law finally put teeth in the regulation of child labor. Yet even today, in dark out-of-the-way corners, child labor continues.

In 1917, when the NCLC voted to reduce his salary from \$275 to \$200 a month, Hine and the National Child Labor Committee parted ways. In 1918 Hine went to Europe with the Red Cross to photograph the aftermath of World War I. There he saw the ultimate horror of the industrial age: The aftermath of a war that had ground a generation of men into hamburger.

When he returned to America he felt ready to take on new challenges. "I thought I had done my share of negative documentation," he later recalled, "Now I wanted to do something positive." During the 1920's he worked on a series of portraits he called his 'Work Portraits.' With

titles such as 'Freight Brakeman', 'The Engineer', 'Mechanic', and 'The Printer' his work of this period showed the dignity and satisfaction people could get from labor. "Cities do not build themselves," he said, "machines cannot make machines, unless back of them all are the brains and toil of men."

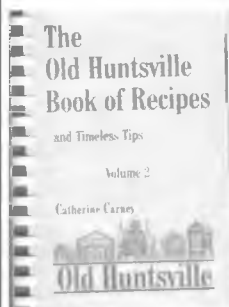
In 1930 he became the official photographer during the construction of the Empire State Building. The high point of his career, this body of work showed more than any other Hine's love for the workers of America. Whereas before he had shown the dark and shameful underbelly of industry, he now showed the glories that the American worker could accomplish. Lugging his heavy

equipment hundreds of feet into the air, he documented workers as they thrust a tower of steel, stone, and glass a quarter of a mile into the sky.

The remainder of the 1930's was not kind to Hine. With the initiation of Roosevelt's administration and the New Deal legislation the nation needed photographers to document the Depression and what Roosevelt was doing about it. Most of the new gen-

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eration of editors felt Hine was past his prime and too temperamental. He could not get on with the influential Farm Services Administration. He did manage to get a job photographing the work of the Tennessee Valley Administration but quit not long after he started because of artistic differences. By the middle of the 30's he was broke and had to sell his house. In 1940 Lewis Hine died, destitute and discouraged.

If you are tempted to think of Hine's life as wasted, do not. His art, though it did not accomplish what he intended, did what true art always does: It showed the beauty of creation in spite of the ugliness of the world. A machine cannot see a person. In many ways a person cannot see another person.

How many times have you encountered an invisible person? It may be a waiter who brings your food at a restaurant. You're talking with friends, the waiter brings your food, you say


thanks or perhaps nothing, the waiter leaves, and disappears from your perception. Who really thinks, "Did he have a good day?" "What are his prospects for a bright future?" And a hundred other questions about his life. Do we ever think about the person who made our car or built our house, not to mention the person who grew our food or made our clothes?

These people are the invisible people that make our lives possible.

The genius of Lewis Hine wasn't in the composition of his pictures or in his decision to use the camera. The genius of Lewis Hine was his ability to see the invisible person and show that person to us, very clearly.

His pictures helped change a nation but in Huntsville, home of the cotton mills he photographed, he had been conveniently forgotten...until now.

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# Back From the Dead

*from 1907 newspaper*

Harvey Longtree, a farmer of this county, and his wife Mollie Longtree were arrested yesterday and brought to Huntsville, the former on a charge of living in adultery and the latter on a charge of bigamy.

Warrants for the arrest of the couple were sworn out by John Hines who claims to be the first and present husband of the woman.

Hines claims that the woman had a suit for divorce pending in the chancery court and that although a decree of divorce has never been rendered, his wife married Longtree and has since lived with him.

Harvey Longtree is seventy-three and his wife is sixty-five. Between them they have a total of eleven children with the oldest being fifty-four.

The confusion is supposed to have begun when Hines traveled to Texas in search of a new homestead. When he did not return after several years his wife filed for divorce but was advised there was no need of it as Hines was most likely dead.

Longtree then paid court to the supposed widow and a short time later they were married.

The defendants were arrested by Deputy Constable Ferguson. They were arraigned before Justice Vaught who fixed their bonds at \$250 in the case of Longtree and \$1,000 in the woman's case.

# The Naked Truth

from 1911 newspaper

Seven people, three men and four women, were arrested and placed in jail here by Deputy Sheriffs Pierce and Robinson on charges of enjoying the charms of the Big Spring while unclothed in their natural attire. A mad scramble ensued as several of the town's gentry rushed forward to volunteer their efforts in the arrest of the comely lasses. The parties are members of a naturalist society.

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# Things You Can't Live Without Knowing

Q. Who was the first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time TV?

- Fred and Wilma Flintstone.

Q. What color was Coca-Cola originally?

- green.

Q. What company prints more money every day than the US Treasury?

- Monopoly

Q. What state has the highest percentage of people who walk to work?

- Alaska

Q. What is the cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven?

- \$6,400

Q. What is the average number of people airborne over the US any given hour?

- 61,000

Q. How old was the youngest pope?

- 11 years old.

Q. What was the first novel ever written on a typewriter?

- Tom Sawyer.

Q. How old were the world's youngest parents?

- They were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.

Q. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4th?

- Two, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most of the rest signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until

5 years later.

Q. What is the shortest complete sentence in the English language?

- I am.

Q. How did Hershey's Kisses get their name?

- They are called that because the machine that makes them looks like it's kissing the conveyor belt.

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# My Smart Dogs

by Billy Joe Cooley

I love animals and always try to keep one with me. They can sure brighten one's day.

When I was in my sporty years between 20 and 30, those who build fancy cars came out with a newfangled auto which had headlights set on a timer, they'd cut themselves off when adjusted properly.

I bought such a car, a big Chrysler. A few days later I took my cocker spaniel 'Rummy' with me on a visit high in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee. There apparently had never been a snazzy car like mine in that vicinity.

It was shortly after dark when we stopped at a country store and immediately a group of mountain men sitting on the porch started admiring the machine. Almost instantly one of

the men called out to me that I had left my lights on, not knowing that I had set the lights on a 30-second delay.

I yelled back to the car at Rummy and instructed him to "turn them lights out."

Of course two seconds later the lights went out and those men were amazed that a dog could be taught such a chore. I was an instant hit in the hinterlands.

That was many years ago. Rummy has long gone to where the good puppies go. My current dog, a Chinese Red Wolf named Jenny, is getting along in years, and likes to stretch out on the back seat and snooze.

The other day I pulled into the crowded parking lot at the Super Walmart Shopping Center and rolled down the car windows to make sure my precious friend had fresh air.

She was stretched full-out on the back seat and I wanted to impress upon her that she must remain there!

I walked to the curb backward, pointing my finger at the car and saying emphatically,



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The driver of a nearby car, a pretty blonde young lady, gave me a strange look and said, "Why don't you just put it in 'Park'?"

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# My Mama, the Midwife

by Malcolm Miller

One of my earliest memories as a small child happened many times over. There would be some man standing outside our house usually in the wee hours calling to my Mama saying that his wife was sick. It wasn't until I grew older that I found out what was going on.

You see back in the nineteen twenties and thirties there was very little money and most babies were born at home with the help of a midwife. Even though Dr. Frank Jordan lived in the Ryland neighborhood and didn't charge very much for his services, it was still more than most of the poor share croppers could afford.

Some times I wouldn't hear the men calling for Aunt Anner or Miss Anner saying my wife is sick because I was asleep but when I woke up hearing Papa rattling pots and pans and fussing I knew what I was in for, Papa biscuits. You see my Mama rolled the dough out real thin and used a tin can to cut out perfect biscuits but not Papa, he would mix up the dough and just pour it out in piles resulting in biscuits usually larger than a saucer.

As far as I know my Mama never in all those years ever received pay for all the work she had done delivering babies, however she was one of the most loved and respected members of the community. Dr. Jordan often said that he wished there was some way she could be his nurse and believe you me she was a good nurse.

With nothing to work with but things like coal oil, turpentine, castor oil and warm salty water she could do some amazing things and her loving hand placed on a small boy's head really made them

feel better when his head was burning with fever, I know because I was fortunate to be one of those boys.

At Mama's funeral many of the people there had been brought into this world by her.

My Mama was born Eunice Anna McKay, September 18th, 1886 and much of her childhood was spent living in a house by the side of the toll gate on the road up the mountain to the Monte Sano Hotel, in fact her and her younger sister, my Aunt Lucy operated the toll gate while their father Archie McKay worked to keep the road in good enough shape for the many tourists to be able to travel back and forth to the hotel.

Later on as a young girl Mama went to work in Dallas mill and after working twelve hour shifts would walk to the home her parents had bought on what is now Toll Gate Road. It was originally called Monte Sano Pike.

Finally at age twenty-one she met and married my Papa

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Andy Karabinos - Hartwell Lutz - Hank Mattern - Bob Middleton  
Hank Miller - Archie Murchie - Robert Overall - Wilbur Patterson  
Roscoe Roberts - Dendy Rousseau - Donald Royston - Bill Russell - Reggie Skinner  
Don Slagle - Bob Smith - Steve Stevens - Walt Terry - John Vaughn  
Jim Webb - Ray Weinberg - Jim White - Sam Zeman

and together they raised seven sons of which I am the youngest. Their first child was a girl but only lived ten months.

Loretta Lynn recorded a hit song titled "They don't make men like my Daddy any more". I would like to say that they don't make women like my Mama any more. She had a very hard life as a share cropper's wife. I don't believe that in her whole married life she ever had a store-bought dress or under clothes. She would make her clothes out of flower sacks or on occasion she would sell enough eggs and chickens to the rolling store man and he would bring her material from town for a dress.

My Mama never attended church real regular. She really didn't have nice clothes to wear and she was busy taking care of seven strapping boys but I can assure you my Mama was a godly woman and after spending a life of hardship and misery living in one share cropper's shack after another she must surely be residing in a mansion now and through out eternity.

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



# Old Huntsville Trivia

1816 - James O. Crump delivers a load of oranges to Huntsville from Mobile in only 28 days. The newspapers of the day stated that it was remarkable that only 6 out of the 1000 spoiled.

1817 - First school of dance opens. The school was located above Talbot's Inn and was run by John B. Grantland.

1820 - Planters Hotel advertises breakfast for 37 1/2 cents. Lodging for the night was 12 1/2 cents while a stable for a horse cost 50 cents.

1824- First bank robbery in Huntsville. The Planters and Merchants Bank was robbed of \$25,000 and a \$2000 reward was offered.

1828 - New water reservoir is built on the courthouse square. It was a two story building with the reservoir occupying the first floor and chambers for the city council filling the second floor.

1861 - Church bells from the Episcopal, Presbyterian and Methodist churches were melted and made into cannon. The cannons were captured by the Yankees in 1862.

1909 - Huntsville Ice Creme Co. was first in the nation to use paper cartons.

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# A Letter

To Mr. Robert Shirer  
Meridian Road  
Huntsville, Alabama

From Lee Shirer  
Somewhere in California  
1889

Dear Papa,

I do not think I will be able to come home for Christmas. It is such a long way and not much money. I think about you and the family all the time. I wish you could be here to see the sights I have seen. California is truly a grand place. I have got a job at a sawmill now. I am throwing slabs. When I get some money ahead I am going to send you some picture cards of places I have seen.

I went to San Francisco with the men I work with. The city must be as big as Huntsville and Decatur both.

It is something to see the ocean. You can throw a fish up in the air and the birds will fight over it until one gets it and flies off with it. Some of the birds are as big as a turkey.

Some of the men I work with are going to go off gold hunting. They want me to go but I said no. I don't think there is any gold left here. We did not find as much to pay for our beans this year past.

There are men all over the hills and all the good places are gone. The way to get rich here is to open a cooking place. The food is bad and most of us would rather be hungry than eat it.

I had to sell the horse. I had run out of money and no

one to turn to. But don't worry - I will send money to pay you for it.

I hope my letter gets to you by Christmas and tell everyone that I send my regards. I will surely be home Christmas next year.

Your Dutiful Son, Lee

(Editor's note: Lee's father received one more letter from him, postmarked Seattle, Washington the following year. The family never heard from him again)



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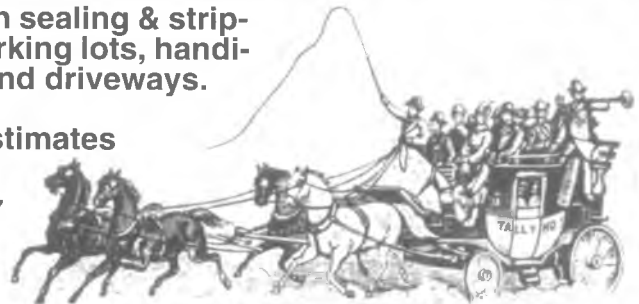
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# Tips You Can Use

\* Judy C. Smith gave us this tip, especially for those who have neck and back pains. She takes a regular disposable 8-oz. water bottle, and pours out or drinks about 1/3 of it. Press the bottle so that it becomes a bit flat, but still with 2/3 of the water in it. Put the cap on and stick it in the freezer. Next day you'll have a frozen, flat bottle of ice, put it into a tennis sock and it's ready to put behind your neck or back. It's great for those who do alot of driving!

\* Consider buying repossessed cars. You can get them at a good price, drive them a couple of years, then sell them as "classics" and get back most of your money.

\* Preheat your oven at least

15 minutes before you put in your bread dough - a hot oven ensures high rising.

\* An old arthritis remedy is to have a cat sit on your knees, or where ever you have pain from arthritis. Legend has it that cats do the same thing as Chihuahua's are supposed to.

\* Watch for signs that you may be diabetic - you're always thirsty or hungry, you have increased urination, there is unexplained weight loss or fatigue.

\* To keep yourself from snacking at night, brush your teeth, turn off the kitchen light and tell yourself the kitchen is closed.

\* When boiling corn on the cob, add a pinch of sugar to bring out the corn's sweet taste.

\* If you have some good leftover wine and hate to waste it, freeze it in an ice cube tray, bag it and save the cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.

\* Toothpaste works great for

removing small scratches from a glass tabletop.

\* If you have trouble opening jars, use latex dishwashing gloves - they give a non-slip grip that makes opening easy.

\* When you're upset about something, ask yourself this question, "Does it really matter?" If it does, express your feelings to the right person. If it doesn't, drop it and move on.

\* Apply your perfume after a hot shower, your open pores will absorb the scent much better.

## Writers

Send us your memories to be published in Old Huntsville magazine.

Stories must be about Huntsville and have factual basis. Please do not send original manuscripts. Send to:

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# The Birthday Present

By Judy C. Smith

It's been 52 years exactly to date that my father asked his little princess what she wanted for her 16th birthday. I was so excited; all I had been dreaming of was a four-poster canopy bed.

The next day I ran out of our house at the top of White Circle all the way to town to Mason Furniture Store on Clinton Street looking for the perfect bed. I stayed in the store all morning lying in every bed; day dreaming of what it would be like to have a real canopy bed. At dinner that night I announced that I had been to Masons and found the perfect bed. Now all I had to do was wait to see if Daddy was really going to have it sent out on August 30th.

My friend Anne Walker Forgey had me over for lunch and I must have called home about 50 times to ask Mother if my special birthday present had arrived, but she said no. Finally I walked all the way home from Ward Avenue to White Circle rather disappointed. I was on the verge of tears, but consoled myself thinking, maybe next year.

Upon arrival home, Mother and Anne had a surprise birthday party waiting for me, with all of the fixings outside for a Bar-

B-Que.

As I ran inside to change my clothes, there it was all set up in my room, the bed I had dreamed of. I don't know how Daddy afforded it, but he certainly did make his princess' dreams come

true.

Three generations have now slept in the bed. Their names are carved on the back of the headboard. Maybe I'll be lucky enough to carve the fourth generation on it before I die.

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# News From the Year 1901

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Oklahoma Territory Open

**Aug 9.** Oklahoma Territory has grown by 2,080,000 acres overnight, and a lucky 6,500 homesteaders have staked their claims. Federal agents acquired the fertile land south of the Cimarron River from the Commanche, Kiowa and Apache for \$2 million. Ranchers and railway barons lobbied for the purchase, seeking grazing grounds and increased traffic, respectively. Miners know the area offers coal reserves, and farmers believe the soil is good for corn, wheat and cotton.

Previous expansion in Oklahoma had been a chaotic affair; in the 1889 land rush the mad scramble resulted in at least one death. This time, authorities submitted nearly 170,000 would-be claimants to an orderly lottery. The winners are required to remain on their allotments for five years before obtaining titles.

The land would have been available to the public sooner if the Indians living on the east-

ern half of the territory had not known their rights and exercised them so well. The tribes there have written constitutions and well-established systems of self-government.

They demanded, in addition to the cash payment, a 160-acre allotment for each member of their tribes.

### Oldsmobile Horseless Buggies to be Built In Quantity

Ransom E. Olds predicts he will produce and sell over 400 of his curved-dash Oldsmobiles before the year is out.

The \$650 vehicle, which resembles a horseless buggy, is affordable by many middle-class families. Still, Olds cannot assume the public will prefer his experimental internal-combustion engine to a steam-driven one.

Most informed people believe the venture will fail.


### Effort to Change Utah Polygamy Law Fails

Utah Governor Heber M. Wells has vetoed a bill that would have eased restrictions on polygamy. The governor acted just days after the legislature passed the measure, which would have made it virtually impossible to prosecute those accused of plural marriages.

Polygamy, once widely practiced by members of the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), early settlers in the state, was officially outlawed when Utah became a state of the union in 1894.


But sponsors of the bill had argued that "agitators" have been crusading against Mormons by making widespread accusations of polygamy.

Such attacks, they argued, were prompted by religious bias. The legislators argued that most persons in Utah with plural marriages are now dead and that the few remaining ones are quite old.



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# Stock Market Takes Dive

**May 9.** In the largest single-day break on Wall Street since 1803, mayhem ruled today as previously rational men punched and kicked each other in the scramble to unload their plunging stocks.

Quotations started falling at about 1 p.m. By closing, some prices had crashed a full 20 points. The situation was so critical that bankers conferred late into the night to find a means to prevent total financial catastrophe. Although this plunge has been predicted by some, it caught many by surprise. All eyes had been on the phenomenal rise in Northern

Pacific stock, which gained 70 points in three days. It remained unscathed, with a net gain of 16.5 at the end of an otherwise disastrous day.

## Auto Club Gets Speeding Ticket

**May 11.** Members of the Automobile Club of America were arrested today in Morristown, New Jersey, for breaking the speed limit. The drivers violated the posted eight-mile-an-hour ordinance during a cross-state race. Witnesses said the auto enthusiasts had reached speeds up to 30 miles per hour. When the gentlemen stopped for lunch at a local hostelry, the Morristown justice of the peace presented them with a lump fine of \$10.

# Jacksonville Fire Leaves 10,000 Homeless

**May 3.** A defective wire at a factory in Jacksonville, Florida, is thought to have sparked the worst fire in the city's history. The fire caused about \$15 million damage and left 10,000 to 15,000 homeless.

An area two miles long by a half mile wide was razed and about 130 blocks were scorched, many in the heart of the business and residential sections of town. An estimated 1,300 houses were destroyed, along with hotels, theaters, shops and churches. Casualties could not be immediately determined. Fed by strong winds, the blaze spread so quickly that firefighters were unable to get it under control. After about ten hours, it finally burned itself out.

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# Paper Boys

by Johnny Johnston

That canvas strap cut into the shoulder after awhile, especially on Thursday and Sunday. Inserts were heavier on those days. We all left school when the bell rang, some on bicycles, some on motorcycles and others walking, but very few in cars. Some came from Huntsville High and some from Butler High.

We headed to the Huntsville Times Building at the corner of Green and Holmes where we checked in with the dispatcher for our papers. The papers were counted by hand as they were handed to us by Cecil Chaney, my brother Fred, Jimmy Vann or maybe even Tillman Hill. If we were lucky the press operated on time and we could start folding, rolling and counting so that an hour later our customers could begin reading their papers.

As often as not the presses

broke down and we would be working long after dark on weekdays delivering the paper. On Sundays the paper was early in the morning. It is not easy to forget the cold, cold mornings at 5:00 am on that bicycle. Some routes were longer than others. I rode my bicycle 15 miles a day to deliver my route.

I recently talked to a couple of my friends about their routes in the 1950's trying to remember what it was like. Jimmy Miliner had the Holmes Ave. section which, west past 9th St. (Triana now), was mostly farms. W. L. Howard, former president of State National Bank, had a few acres just at the foot of Russell Hill along with the Drakes, Butlers and a couple other families.

That was before Lane Park and Hillandale Holmes were built. The Martin Family owned land from Holmes to the railroad to Jordan Lane and back to Holmes. They also owned Martin Stamping and Stove Co. on "The Four

Lane Drive". A large farm back then, it now consists of Butler High School, CCI, College Park and property owned by a local

## I Need your Help!

Next year the historic YMCA of Huntsville celebrates its 100th anniversary!

Seems like everyone has some sort of affiliation with the YMCA whether it be Green Street, McCormick, Northwest, Southeast or Camp Cha-La-Keel!

I am looking for any sort of memories, stories, pictures, etc. as I'm putting together a commemorative book to document the rich history of this popular YMCA.

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church.

The Smith family lived across Holmes St. in a large house which sat at (now) the corner of Hillmont and Holmes. They owned the highest part of the hill. Jordan Lane north across the Hill had not been built. Past the intersection of Jordan was The Steadman Restaurant, then Bill Penny farm and Yarbrough farm. The Steadman Family owned a farm where the McThornmore section is now. Harold Green at that time had his chicken and egg farm on Holmes across from what is now John Himes' Big Brothers grocery.

No UAH, no traffic lights and no traffic except when the "Arsenal let out". That was the look of the neighborhood in the 50's.

I started my route next to the First National Bank on the Square and proceeded down the hill to Oak St., Fountain Circle, Pelham St. past the Big Spring and back into the areas of the Naval Center. Many of the streets were back alleys where million dollar buildings sit now.

Mrs. Lucy Hice ran a grocery store just about at the intersection of Manning. What a breath of fresh air she was. In her 70's, she often

showed me the gun with which she "would shoot any undesirable character coming in her store". Mrs. Hice was very independent but friendly. I loved to talk to her for a couple of minutes and drink either a chocolate or grape "cold drink."

While I carried papers in Baxter Bottoms, one of the roughest places in town, (it was destroyed for construction of Council Courts), I won every prize The Times had for new customers when Council Courts started getting residents. The route grew so large that I pulled a trailer with my bicycle.

On Thursdays and Sundays I had a bag on my back, two on the sides of the bike and a very large stack on the trailer. I carried an extra pedal because they broke so often.

There was no paper on Satur-

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day when we made collections! That was sometimes a problem because not everyone had the 25 cents per week we charged. Many times paperboys had to pay the bill for someone who moved, did not have the money or just plain forgot.

Of the 25 cents I recall we got to keep 11 cents. When we had to make up the 25 cents it was a big loss. One famous family (a German Scientist) left owing me about \$1.25, but that's Ok, I can now say that one of the World's most famous men owes me money.

Several times, especially Sunday mornings, we would be robbed or at least the attempt would be made. I had a knife pulled on me a few times but never hung around long enough to get hurt; I got to be real fast. At 12 or 13 years old I couldn't fight off grown people.

Some carriers really didn't need the money, or at least it appeared that way. The person I have in mind drove a Triumph Motorcycle, his father was a bank official and they lived way

downtown! This carrier was later to become a famous Air force Pilot, Blue Angel then General before he retired somewhere in Florida.

I was not as smart as some people in collecting money. Roger Grider tells this story that happened when he was delivering in Lincoln Village where he lived.

While Roger was parked at the Times Building a very prominent business man backed into his small motorcycle and did

several hundred dollars damage. He told Roger to get it repaired and bring him the bill. Roger went into his business to collect and when the fellow found out how much he said, "No, I'm not gonna pay it."

Roger being smarter than me told the fellow this. "My daddy told me you would not pay it and he said that was ok, just to bring the bill home and he would come up here and collect it," Roger said "my daddy is mean and he



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carries a big gun." As Roger opened the door the businessman said "Now wait a minute, I'll give you the money," which he did. Roger opened the door, put one foot outside then yelled back to the man, "I ain't even got a daddy" and ran up Meridian Street.

I often think of Frank Sanderson who was a salesman (no particular route). He would get a stack of papers, sell up and down the few office buildings existing at that time, then take what was left to Clinton Street and sell them in the heavy "Arsenal" traffic.

Some local adults hired boys to deliver papers while they did the collections. That left Saturdays open for other things. Donald McElyea did this and at the same time got up very early to deliver another paper from

Chattanooga.

It has been a few years since our paper was delivered by someone on a bicycle. Cars are the thing now. A couple of years ago I had a need to meet a paper carrier while he was picking up his papers. I counted over 30 cars. No motorcycles or bicycles.

I wonder sometimes, if I would have done as well in life had I not received the discipline of delivering and managing my paper route.

## Garfield Preached Sermon at Mooresville

In 1863, the 42nd Ohio Volunteers were camped at Bibb's Spring, a short distance behind the Bibb residence at Mooresville. One of the officers of the regiment was James A. Garfield.

When war came, he received a commission in the U.S. Army and served his country with distinction. Some of the villagers at Mooresville learned of Garfield's presence and invited him to preach at the Christian Church.

General Garfield, in writing to his wife, mentioned the invitation. "There is a church in the village of Mooresville near by and they have sent up inviting me to speak to them on Sunday. If I am well I will do so."

**"All men make mistakes, but the married men find out about them sooner."**

*Red Skelton*

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### Banana Pudding

- 1 lrg. vanilla pudding mix
- 1 can Eagle Brand milk
- 1 lrg. Cool Whip
- 10 bananas, sliced
- 1 lrg. box vanilla wafers

Prepare pudding by directions on box and then set aside. Crumble vanilla wafers to fine crumbs, set aside. Add condensed milk to the pudding mixture, in a large bowl.

Place a thin layer of crumbs on bottom. Cover crumbs with pudding mixture, then layer with banana slices. Cover with layer of Cool Whip.

Continue alternating layers til ingredients are used. Refrigerate overnight.



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# A Soldier's Letter

Huntsville, Alabama, May 22, 1864

Friend Lucy:

I believe the last time I saw you there was something said about my writing to you when I arrived in Dixieland. However, it doesn't make any particular difference whether I was to write or not, as I claim to be an old friend with nothing to do and plenty time to do it in.

I will write you a few lines anyhow, if they are not so interesting, as George says, and we have been here nearly two weeks, and I am very much pleased with the place. I think this is the most beautiful country I ever saw. Nature has done everything for this country. Allowing me to use the phrase it is God's own land, beautifully supplied with the necessary, and blessings of life.

You don't know about beautiful flowers up north. We have them here of every variety and description and the richest color imaginable. I wish I could send you a sample of them and have you enjoy them as they look here. Huntsville is enthusiastically a city of flowers.

There are several embellishments too numerous to mention without taking all the space of this sheet with a description. There are a great many fine private residences in this city. I passed one the other day that particularly pleased me. It was

built of freestone, in the Gothic style of architecture, the doors guarded by sculptured lions, birds, etc. The grounds were laid out in terraces covered with shade trees, evergreens and flowers. There were several fine arbors and I counted some twenty marble statues distributed throughout the grounds.

I think if I was the owner of such a place, I would be con-

tented, get married and settle down for the remainder of my life on this earth.

About the only drawback is the weather. We are now having Illinois July weather in the daytime. The nights are cool.

We have excellent quarters in the Huntsville Court House. The whole of the second floor is assigned to us for practicing and sleeping rooms. Our dining

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*Seen in local church bulletin*

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room is just across the street.

We have an old darkey and his wife to do our cooking and they are pretty good cooks. The General is pretty much pleased with his bunch and is going to get us the appointment of post band. If he does so, we will probably stay here during the war or until our time of enlistment is out.

I am so well pleased with my position that I would not change positions with a captain. We are situated here, we enjoy ourselves, as we only have to play for the government about an hour and a half out of 24. The rest of the time we do what we please.

The General gives us privileges that but few soldiers get.

The band has been out serenading nearly every night since we have been here for the officers on such occasions. The best of wines and liquors are placed before us. To partake of this is an awful place for a temperance man.

I don't think I am in much danger. I was never much of a hand to drink spirits and less so now than ever.

I will enclose my photograph in this and should be very much pleased to receive yours in return. It isn't as good as I could wish, but is the best I have. If this meets with your approbation, I shall expect an answer soon. Most respectfully yours,

Theo. Pomeroy  
1st Brigade Band  
3rd Div. 15 Army Corp.

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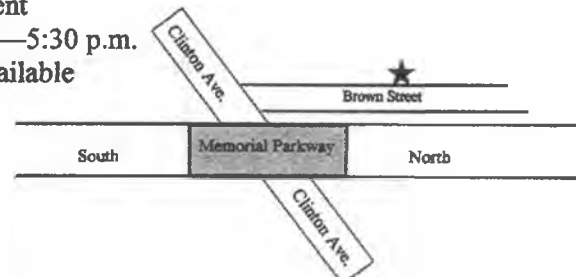
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# Cannons from Huntsville

by Charles Rice

The outbreak of war caught the South woefully unprepared to do battle with the much more industrialized North. Indeed, the Confederacy seemed lacking almost everything needed to fight for its independence, even such obvious necessities as guns and gunpowder. To help fill the shortage, iron and brass foundries across the South shifted their production to war items, and the Madison Iron Works of Huntsville was no exception.

The Madison Iron Works was a thriving business on the west side of Mill Street only a block away from the Memphis and Charleston Railroad depot. The large multistory brick buildings normally produced items of a more peaceable nature. Their prewar advertisements offered mill machinery castings and gin gears for plantation owners, plus stoves, coal grates, fire dogs, ovens, bakers, skillets, stew pots, sink pans, and wash tubs for the housewife. Some of the iron fences and balconies that still exist in Huntsville's historic districts might well have been produced by the Madison Iron Works.

The Madison Iron Works were owned by the firm of J. R. and Company, which was composed of John R. Young, Andrew D. Lighton, Joseph

Armbruster, and John Z. Hamel.

Possibly using the city's old brass howitzer as a pattern, John Young set to work manufacturing big guns for the South. On July 17, 1861, the *Huntsville Democrat* noted the

company's success. "A few days ago," wrote editor John Withers Clay, "we were shown by Mr. James Crawford at the Huntsville Machine Shop of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad three beautiful iron 6 pounders which were cast in our city in

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**"By the time he was admitted,  
his rapid heart had stopped,  
and he was feeling much  
better."**

*Seen on Scottsboro patient's  
hospital chart*

the foundry of our enterprising fellow citizen J. R. Young & Company and bored out and finished at the machine shop under Mr. Crawford's directions."

By the middle of August, no less than seven cannons had been cast, bored, and mounted through the combined efforts of John Young and James Crawford. This was no small achievement for a company that had only recently been making mostly household goods. John Young became even more ambitious, trying to produce rifling equipment to turn out even longer range guns for his adopted South. Evidently impressed by their products, Colonel Josiah Gorgas of the Confederate Ordnance Department ordered several of the cannons sent to him at Richmond, Virginia.

Production continued without let up and in November Samuel Tate, an aide to General Albert Sidney Johnston, reported, "I can get six guns a week cut and bored at Huntsville, from 6 pounder to 24 pounder howitzer."

Tragically, John Young died on December 13, 1861 at the early age of only 42. However, cannon construction continued under the supervision of James Crawford. On February 8, 1862, A. J. Hopper, a Memphis & Charleston official, wrote to

General Johnston that the Huntsville machine shop had a 6 pounder Parrot gun rifled and mounted on a carriage, though still needing the wheels. Another gun had been bored and rifled, but lacked its carriage.

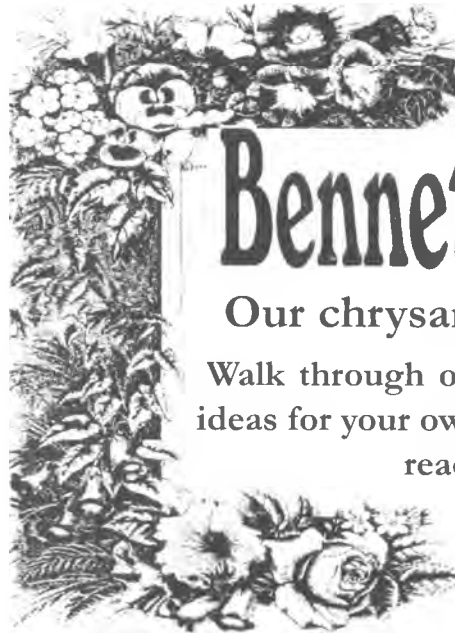
With this last mention, all record of cannon production in Huntsville ends. Perhaps the casting ceased with the death of John Young, and Jimmy Crawford simply finished those he already had. On the other

hand, production might have continued until the city was occupied and the machine shops taken over by the Union forces. Whatever the answer, at least one thing is certain.

Some of those big guns that belched fire and roared in anger on battlefields across the South bore a familiar label. It said very simply, "Made in Huntsville."

**"Gentlemen, it is better to have died a small boy than to fumble this football."**

*John Heisman*



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# Dear Mother

Huntsville, Ala  
March 14th, 1862  
My dear Mother,

As time and opportunity present themselves now better than they have in a month, I will write.

A great many sick are at this place from our Company. They are sent here in the cars, and very often box cars with no accommodations or seats of any kind are placed. They come with the intentions of entering the Hospital - but such a one as I have seen here I would sooner remain in my tent and risk all chances than enter one.

George Riley, brother to Frank, now lies in one of those houses, dignified by the name Hospital.

It consists of three small rooms, with about twenty or thirty sick, in chairs - no beds except their blankets on the floor and in fact no conveniences of any kind.

W. Malone and myself succeeded in getting a private house and we are fixed as well as we could wish. I am staying with Mr. Leftwich of this place, a hardware merchant.

So you see I am well attended to, even if I am on the sick list. The citizens are doing their best for the sick. They have been going to the hospital every day and are carrying them to their homes. I did not intend entering one (hospital) when I came if there was any possible chance of doing otherwise.

Your affectionate son,  
Burton  
Co. A  
Third Alabama Cavalry



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