



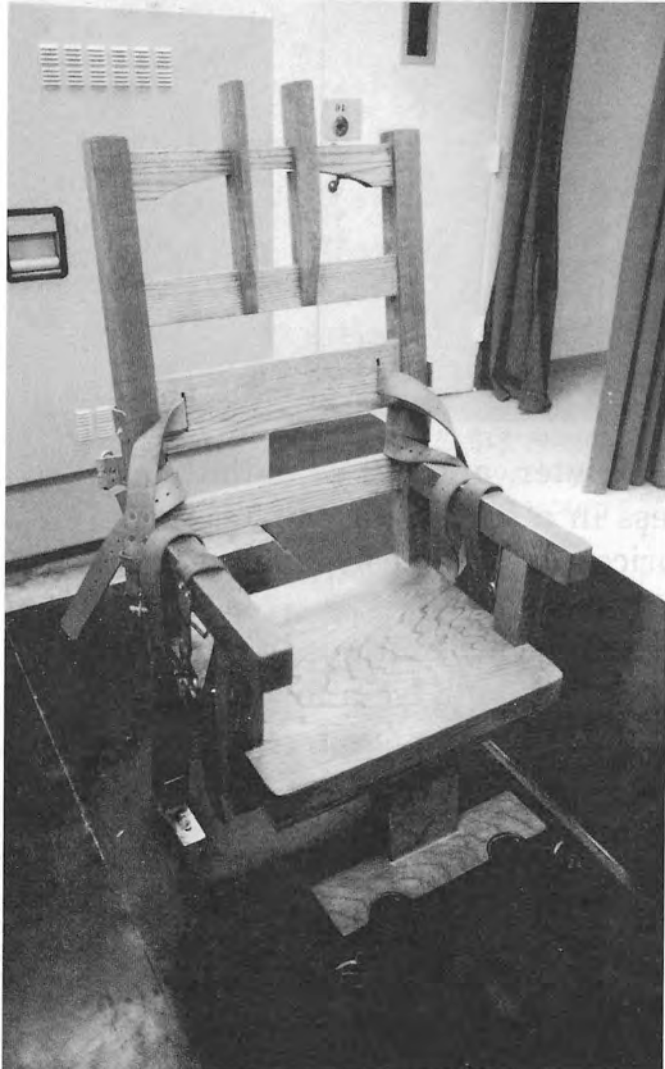
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Jan. 2010



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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



A Ticket To Hell

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Probably realizing that it was useless to deny it any longer, Bowen confessed to the brutal murder.

He went to the electric chair, never knowing that it was his best friend who had informed on him.

Also in this issue: **The Early Days of Redstone Arsenal**

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**A Hardware Store....
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A Ticket to Hell

As the sun rose on Oct. 17, 1961, there was no hint that the day would be any different than thousands of others. Like countless small southern towns, Huntsville awoke to the new day in a lethargic manner.

Old man Putnam, an employee at the downtown pool hall, leaned on his broom debating whether the sidewalk was dirty enough for him to bother sweeping it. Earl Frazier, a deputy sheriff, was sitting in his patrol car reading the newspaper and drinking coffee. For some odd reason though, he was having trouble concentrating.

Across town, William "Bill" Bowen was having the same problem. He had shown up for work at the regular time that morning, but was having difficulty focusing on the day's business. The previous day he had gone door-to-door soliciting pest control contracts and one person he had called on was a lady by the name of Janice Thomas. Now, try as he might, he could not get her out of his mind.

No one would have described Bowen as a ladies man. Short,

chubby, with a reddish complexion, he had a history of violent outbursts. Complicating the image that he tried to present was a perpetual shortage of money. Although he had recently been hired as manager of a local pest control firm and given a small raise in salary, a local finance company was calling him every day threatening to repossess his car.

Finally, giving up on any pretense of work, he grabbed his jacket and told an employee he would be out for the rest of the day. His first stop was at Clayton Allen's bootleg whiskey place on Stevens Avenue. There he ran into one of his closest friends, James B. King, with whom he shared a bottle of beer. They rode around for a while before stopping at the First National Bank where Bowen made a deposit for his company. Next they decided to stop at the Pullman's Cafe, where they drank more beer and killed time by shooting pool. When King casually mentioned that he had recently purchased some "bennies," Bowen insisted they go get them.

Bowen had a history of drug abuse and was addicted to amphetamines.

After dropping King off at the Fairground Cafe and picking up a bottle containing some 600 bennies, Bowen went back to work. Again his thoughts turned to the woman he had seen the day



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before. At about 2 p.m., Bowen decided to visit the woman again.

Janice Thomas' home was in the Green Mountain area in a wooded, secluded spot some 500 yards from the nearest neighbor. Bowen had left a termite control book at the Thomas home the previous day and it seemed the perfect excuse to regain entrance to the residence.

At approximately 5:45 that evening, Huntsville Police received word of a murder. Janice Thomas' husband had returned home from work and discovered his wife's bloody and mutilated body sprawled on the floor of their home. Thomas felt her pulse to see if she was still alive. She was not.

The first officers on the scene were Sgt. Butler, Officer Hogue and Detectives Owen and Shay. After securing the area they began a preliminary investigation. The partially clad body had been found sprawled on the floor amid a large amount of blood. The murder weapon, a large butcher knife, was still imbedded in the victim's neck. This was said to have been the most cold-blooded and ruthless murder in Huntsville history. Within hours every available policeman was assigned to the case with only one order: "Find the murderer!"

Unfortunately for the detectives, there were no clues, no witnesses and no one in the neighborhood had reported seeing anything unusual.

Late that night, with policemen working overtime in an effort to find the killer, an unmarked police car pulled into an alley behind Lincoln School on Meridian Street. The driver of the car, an experienced investigator, waited patiently for a figure to emerge from the shadows and slide into the front seat with him. The man was an informer, a smalltime hustler who periodically traded information to police in an effort to stay out of jail. Tonight he was informing on two of his friends who had recently broken into a grocery store.

The investigator, after writing down the information, prepared to leave when, almost as an afterthought, asked about the murder that had occurred that afternoon.

"I don't know nuthin' about that," the informer said.

There was something unconvincing, something too quick, in the informer's denial. So the investigator kept prying. The informer, who had several possible charges pending against him, finally told the detective that he would name the killer in exchange

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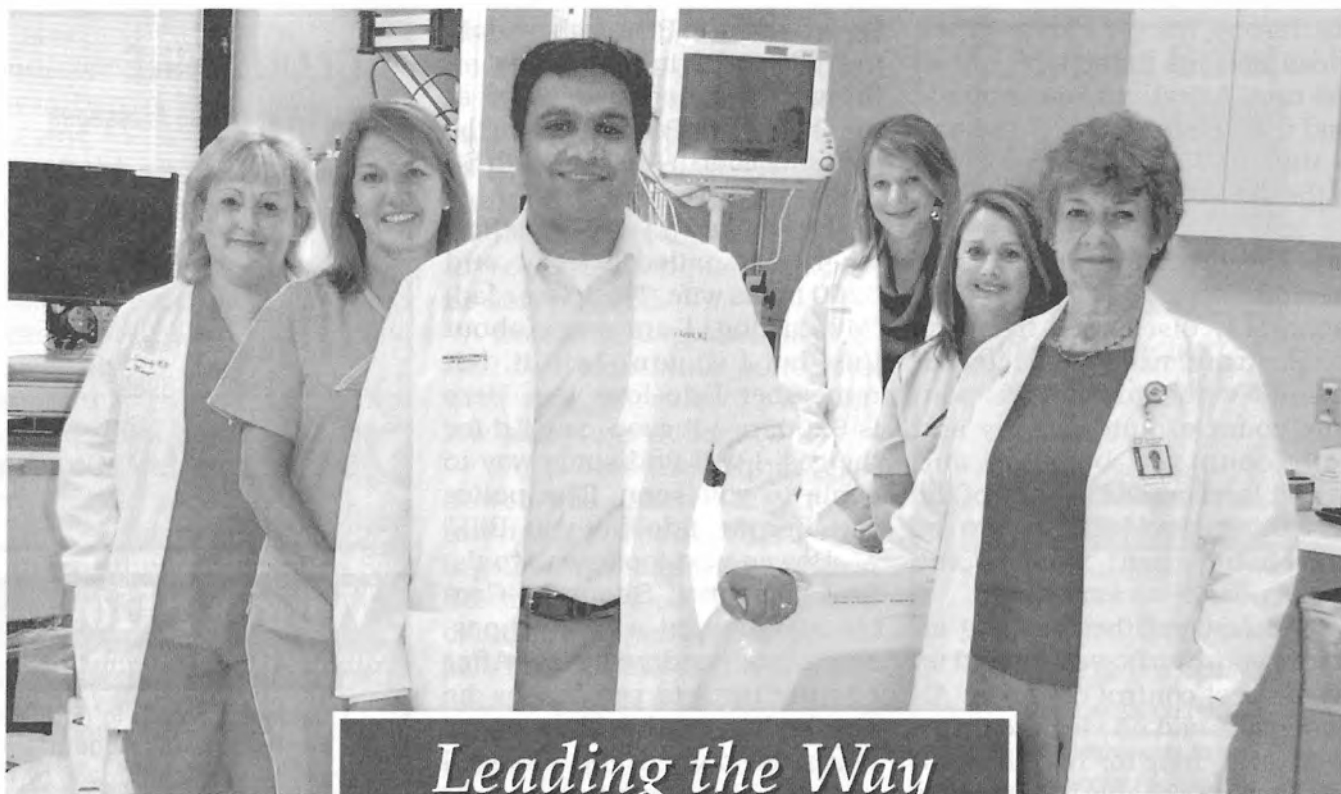
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for having his own slate wiped clean and his name kept out of the case. A deal was quickly made and within minutes the officer had a name: William Bowen, the informer's best friend.

In a matter of hours the police had a printout on the suspect. Bowen, 30 years old, dishonorably discharged from the U. S. Army, twice convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, one count of auto larceny and four counts of burglary and grand larceny. During one of the assaults he had killed a man for which he spent time in the penitentiary.

At 7:30 on the morning after the murder, Bowen showed up at the pest control company. Although he had no idea the police were searching for him, he realized it was probably just a matter of time. Retrieving a sawed-off shotgun from the supply room and a bottle of amphetamines from his desk, he told a coworker that he would not be back that day.

Another employee of the pest control company later told police that Bowen had long scratches on his face and was acting in a highly agitated manner.

At 9:20 a.m. Bowen cashed a \$900.00 check at First National Bank on the Parkway. Bowen had either found or stolen this check a year before. He had no trouble forging the payee's name, E.H. Drake, to the check.

Paranoid and terrified that police were closing in on him,

Bowen drove to Birmingham, taking pills and drinking alcohol all the way. He abandoned his car at the Quick Park Parking Lot on the corner of Fourth Ave. and 20th St. in that city.

He walked to a post office, where he mailed a letter and \$200 to his wife. The letter read, "My darling, I am sorry about this, but I couldn't help it, but remember I do love you. Here is \$200, use it good, pay Ed for the gas. I will find some way to come to you soon. The police are after me, I do love you. Bill."

Bowen next took a cab to the Sears Roebuck Shopping Center and bought a suit, shoes, shirts and underclothes. After completing his purchases he checked in at the Plaza Hotel where he bathed and changed clothes. The amphetamines he had been taking all day made it impossible for him to remain calm enough to stay in one place. Two hours later he hailed a Yellow Cab and asked for a ride to Atlanta. The cabbie, after making sure he had the \$56 to pay the fare, agreed to take him.

In Atlanta he registered at a cheap hotel under the name of James Patrick. Around 11 p.m., in an attempt to learn what was happening in Huntsville, he placed a long distance call to the Fairground Cafe. Norma Dauberry, an employee, answered and the operator told her it was a long distance call for James B. King. King, who often frequented the cafe was present.

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He accepted the call and after a short conversation, told Norma it was Bowen trying to get him to come to Atlanta. He wasn't going to go, even though Bowen had offered him \$20 for expenses.

The following morning after drinking a bottle of cognac and taking more pills, Bowen called his family to learn what was happening. His wife told him that the police had already been to their home and questioned her.

Bowen, in his drugged and drunken stupor, next called Sgt. Henshaw at Huntsville Police and said he knew the police were looking for him. The booze and pills had warped his thinking to the point that he thought the noise he had earlier heard outside his room was the Atlanta police. He imagined that they had surrounded the building and were getting ready to tear gas his room.

Bowen told Henshaw that he would turn himself in if Henshaw would call the cops off. Henshaw, playing for time and trying to keep the conversation going, agreed providing that

Bowen would return to Huntsville immediately and give himself up.

Bowen immediately took a cab to the airport where he caught an airplane flight to Huntsville. Upon arriving in Huntsville, he took another cab to the police headquarters where he surrendered.

Ironically, the plane also carried two Huntsville policemen who were unaware of their fellow passenger's identity.

At police headquarters, Bowen was ushered into an interrogation room where they began to question him. At first Bowen denied everything, even claiming the scratches on his face had occurred when he was wrestling with a friend. Finally when all other attempts at getting Bowen to talk had failed, he was confronted with a statement from an informer linking Bowen to the murder. The police refused to identify the informer.

Probably realizing that it was useless to deny it any longer, Bowen confessed to the brutal slaying, giving this account:

As he drove toward the Thomas home the afternoon of Oct. 17, he had already planned to

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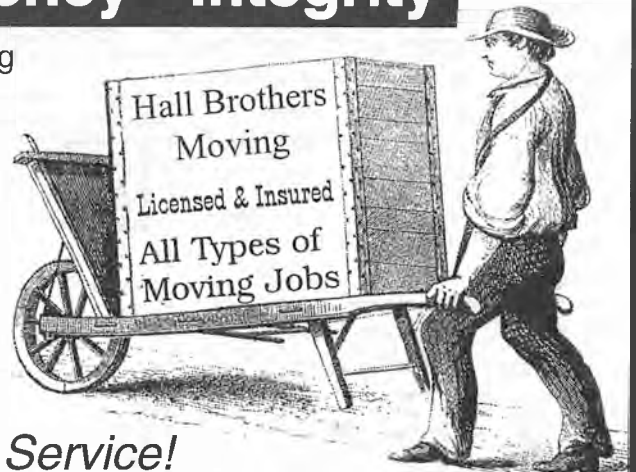
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raper Mrs. Thomas. When she answered the door she recognized him and asked if he had come for his termite book. After chatting for a few minutes, Bowen, emboldened by the drugs and alcohol, told her that he wanted to "love her."

Ignoring her pleas that her husband would be home from work soon, Bowen forced her into the bedroom where he made her begin undressing. His conscience began to bother him at this point and he apologized to Mrs. Thomas saying, "Mrs. Thomas, I am ashamed of myself and I can't go through with this." He started to leave when Mrs. Thomas, terrified, ran past him toward the kitchen.

Afraid that she was going to call the police, Bowen ran after her and began beating her about the head with a rolling pin that was lying on the kitchen counter. During the struggle Mrs. Thomas managed to scratch Bowen on his face before she was knocked to the floor, unconscious. Bowen, afraid she would identify him, got a butcher knife from a kitchen drawer and began stabbing her.

She was lying on the floor, "making a funny noise," as he stabbed her approximately 30 times. After the murder Bowen regained his composure and went around the house wiping away all fingerprints that he could remember having made.

Bowen claimed that after hitting Mrs. Thomas' head with the rolling pin his mind went blank. He had been taking amphetamines and opium daily and had injected some that morning. According to his account, he had become addicted to it while serving in Korea during the war.

"Forgive your enemies - it messes up their heads."

Johnny Johnston

"What will happen to me now?" Bowen asked an officer after finishing his confession.

"Friend, you've just bought yourself a one-way ticket to hell. You gonna ride the lightning!" was the reply.

Although, he was employed at the time, Bowen claimed to have no resources with which to hire an attorney and the court appointed James W. Baker to represent him.

On Nov. 14, 1961, William S. Bowen Jr. was arraigned. A trial date was set for Dec. 5, 1961. Before the trial, lawyer Baker offered to plead his client guilty to first-degree murder for the reduced sentence of life in prison.

The offer was rejected, so Baker pled his client "not guilty by reason of insanity."

Circuit Judge Elbert Par-



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sons presided over the case which was prosecuted by Solicitor Thomas N. Younger and his assistant, David L. "Dea" Thomas.

The trial's outcome was almost a foregone conclusion. The state paraded a steady stream of witnesses in front of the jury to collaborate Bowen's confession, which was the state's whole case and had been obtained with the help of an informer.

There was no hard evidence that Bowen was the killer, only his word and that of the informer, who ironically testified as a friend of Bowen.

The jury took less than two hours to render a verdict of guilty. Bowen stood before the judge with his hands clasped in front of him, apparently unmoved as the judge sentenced him to death. His only comment was that he "deserved it."

Later, Bowen asked for a meeting with prosecutor Younger. After shaking hands Bowen broke the ice saying "no hard feelings."

Younger replied "It's just a job."

On Jan. 15, 1965, some three years after his conviction, Bowen ate a heavy meal and went unassisted to the death chamber where he joked with guards as they strapped him in the electric chair, preparing him to "ride the lightning."

Bowen died without ever knowing the identity of the friend who had betrayed him and sent him to the chair.

The informer was killed in a honky-tonk brawl a few years later.



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Louise Avery, grandma

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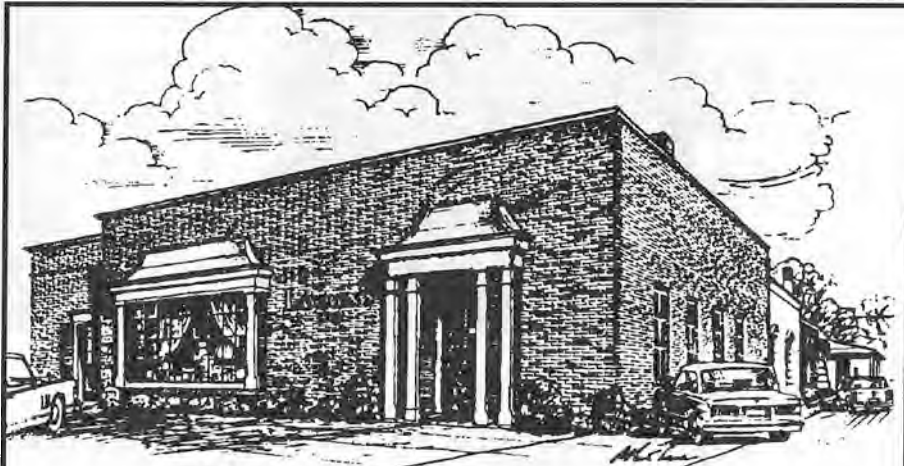


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Preacher Condemns the Sins of Huntsville

Rev. J. H. Newberry, who is conducting revival meetings in the big tent at the Calhoun lot, says that Huntsville has many influences for evil. He has directed his batteries at the popular amusements of the city and says that the picture shows, the skating rinks and the natatorium should not be tolerated by the Christian parents of this city.

He said that the mothers who allow their daughters to go to the rinks and roll on the skates there are allowing them to run the risk of rolling on into hell. He said that the bathing pool and the picture shows have influences against social purity. He promises to continue in his denunciations until he receives a sign telling him to stop.

Two weeks later the following article appeared:

The gospel tent that has been put up in the Calhoun lot for the evangelistic services that were to have begun Sunday af-

ternoon, was blown down in the storm of Sunday afternoon, an hour or two before the services were scheduled to begin. It was impossible to open services then. Preacher Newberry is spending the time working on new sermons.

From 1907 newspaper

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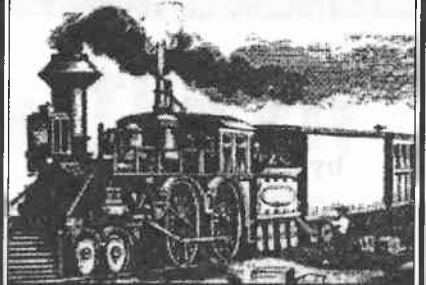
\$2,750 Buys 4-room tenant house on Adams Avenue.

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Touched By The Hands Of God

Old Man Leeman's Ferry

by Jack Harwell

In one of my stories for Old Huntsville, I mentioned that the origins of some of the local street names are not always obvious. Some, however, seem to defy any attempt at logical explanation. Leeman Ferry Road is a good example. Who is this Leeman? What ferry? The only body of water the road comes close to is the Big Spring Branch. And why does a street named for a river crossing lead instead to the city landfill? The precise answers to these questions have been obscured by the passage of time, but it's still possible to learn a little about such things, even at this stage.

There actually was at one time, a ferry on the Tennessee River called Leeman Ferry, operated by one William Leeman. (I should point out here that

research for this story turned up at least four different spellings of the man's name. To avoid confusion we will stick with the one that appears on all the street signs.)

Rivers were the primary means of transportation in pioneer days, carrying goods to market and settlers to the lands west of the Appalachians. But they also were barriers to overland movement. The technology of the day would not allow for the construction of bridges, so ferries were used.

Leeman's Ferry was one of seven ferries mentioned in the minutes of the first meeting of the Cotaco County Court in March of 1819. (Cotaco County was renamed Morgan County in 1821.) Within a year another three ferry operators had been granted licenses. One of the latter was operated by one Hopkins Lacy, brother of John Lacy, for whom Lacey's Spring is named. Mr. Leeman placed his ferry near Lacy's, about three miles down-

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Leeman apparently got into ferrying in a big way. In his "History of Madison County, A Dream Come True", James Record says that Leeman provided stock pens and cabins on both sides of the river for his customers.

To provide access to his facility, he cut a road from the Whitesburg road west to the site of the ferry. This could be called the first Leeman ferry road. It roughly paralleled the current Green Cove Ferry Road. Records further state that Leeman seems to have had all the business he could handle.

Exactly how long Leeman's ferry stayed in business is not certain. But with more than a dozen ferry operators essentially duplicating each other's services, it seems likely that competition would soon reduce their numbers.

Nor is it known if the ferry survived Leeman himself, who died in mid-century and may be buried at the Leeman Cemetery near Somerville. The ferry is shown on Civil War maps as "Leman's" Ferry and also on a state map published in 1892. Leeman Ferry remained the place name for close to a century and appears on maps published as late as 1918.

At the beginning of this century there were still two ferries crossing the river between Madison and Morgan Counties, one at Whitesburg and one at Triana. With the coming of the automobile, however, the days of the river ferries were numbered. New and better roads were being built for motorists.

Bridges were finally appearing, thanks to the availability of

steel. The Keller Memorial Bridge was the first, opening in 1928 at Decatur, a town that grew up around, what else? - a river ferry. Soon bridges began appearing all up and down the Tennessee valley, including the Houston Bridge at Guntersville and the Comer Bridge at Scottsboro. When the Whitesburg Bridge opened in 1931, it killed not only the ferry at Whitesburg but the one at Triana as well, forever stunting that town's growth. The Leeman Ferry road now went nowhere.

Leeman Ferry Road reappeared in 1928, beginning at Huntsville Hospital and running south to the old ferry site. On city maps it was called "Leeman ferry or Triana Road," apparently so there would be no doubt as to where the road led.

As the city grew, the street layout changed and Leeman ferry (or Triana) Road got shuffled. The section nearest the hospital became Sivley Road, and remains so today. The northern terminus of the road moved to Clinton Avenue, near the Pollard Street intersection. Then in the mid-1950s, Memorial Parkway chopped the road in two. (Spelling was not standardized at that point: the name was spelled "Lehman" on maps of the day.) By that time, of course, the road no longer went anywhere near Leeman Ferry (or Triana, either), since the southern part of the road

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was on land that the U.S. army took for Redstone Arsenal. Recently, the part that lies east of the Parkway was renamed as an extension of Monroe Street.

The site of the ferry is just west of the Civilian Recreation Area on Redstone Arsenal. There is a rock bluff there, still listed on topographical maps as "Lehman's Bluff." Somewhere near that bluff, Mr. Leeman built his ferry, complete with cabins, and left his name to history - though not, perhaps, in the way he intended.

According to a recent survey, people suffering from depression found relief by eating a banana a day. Bananas contain tryptophan, a type of protein that the body converts into serotonin, known to make you relax, improve your mood and generally make you feel better.

Residents to Test Cow Law

There is a popular outcry in Dallas village against the enforcement of the city ordinance which forbids allowing cows on the streets of Huntsville and it appears likely that a test case will be had in the courts at an early date.

Since Mayor Smith gave instructions for the strict enforcement of the ordinance there have been about fifteen or more cows belonging to residents of Dallas taken up. Several of the owners have been placed under arrest when they appeared to pay the fine for impounding and they have been fined in the city court.

The residents of the village allow their cows to graze on the common and they claim that the animals ought not to be taken up because of this.

Some of the people of the village have set about to make up a purse with which to employ a lawyer and take the question into court.

From 1907 Huntsville newspaper



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Grasshopper Lodged in Man's Ear for Three Years

A grasshopper, after being lodged in the ear of Tom Wall of Monrovia for 3 years, was extracted last Saturday by Dr. M. R. Moorman of this city.

Mr. Wall says that about three years ago he had a feeling of some bug or insect entering his ear. He called his wife's attention to it and she treated his ear with hot water. After some inconvenience he thought no more about the matter, as his hearing was not interfered with in the least.

A short while ago, his other ear began giving him trouble, and he went to Dr. Moorman for relief, casually telling him of the insect's getting in his ear long before. Dr. Moorman made an examination and found something imbedded in the ear

against the drum, as far down as it could be.

He drew it out and much to his surprise and that of Mr. Wall, it was a grasshopper of medium size. It was in a perfect state of preservation. The shell, of course, was all that remained, the other parts having decomposed.

Dr. Moorman says that while the case is unusual, such things are not unknown in medical history.

From 1907 Huntsville paper

"Be a good kisser. It might make your wife forget that you don't take out the trash."

Advice on love from Tim, age 7

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Carroll Grocery Store

by Ruby Crabbe

The graveled road on 5th Street, now better known as Andrew Jackson Way, had felt many a little bare foot going across it to Carroll's Grocery Store. J.D. and Flossie Carroll were two of the nicest people a person could ever want to meet.

I remember this one day in particular, Mama had sent me to the store, and as usual I was bare-foot. The weather had gotten cold but a lot of the kids back in those days didn't have shoes to wear no matter how cold the weather got.

So there I stood in Carroll's grocery store with my feet as bare as the day I was born. Mr. Carroll called his wife over to where I stood and told her to put shoes and socks on "this Child's feet and legs."

And what beautiful shoes and socks they were! The knee-high socks were fit for a queen to wear. And those shoes ... I didn't even want to pull them off when Mama put me to bed that night. Mr. Carroll told me to send my sis, Eva, over to his store so he could fit her with shoes and socks also.

Next day in school my Sis and I thought we were in "High cotton," with those new shoes and socks. Late that evening I saw Mama going across the road to Carroll's grocery store. I didn't have to ask her why she was going - I already knew. She was going to thank those people for their kindness and generosity in making two little barefoot girls very happy.

Years later Bill and Christine Thigpen took over the Carroll grocery store. Christine was the daughter of J.D. and Flossie Carroll. I would be at a loss for words in trying to describe what kind of people the Thigpens were. Just by their everyday living and the love they shared with their fellow man spoke more than words ever could. They never hid their love of God, and like the Carrolls, made everyone feel special and loved.

Now when I ride down An-

drew Jackson Way and see the place where the Carroll grocery store used to be, my mind goes in reverse and, again, I feel rewarded and blessed by the kindness the Carrolls and Thigpens showed that little barefoot girl.



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Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney



Congratulations to **Ruth Rasmussen** who was the first caller to correctly guess the Photo of the Month for December. That beautiful little girl was none other than **Jackie Reed**, who attends each City Council meeting in Huntsville and always voices her opinions. Ruth is a retired apartment manager and worked at that for 30 years.

I talked with the sweetest guy recently. **J. C. Moore** lives in Fayetteville now but worked in Huntsville as an aerospace engineer for Wernher Von Braun starting in 1953. He was a fighter pilot in Burma during WWII. He and his lovely wife **Florence** have been married for 65 years and will celebrate their anniversary in February, same month that Florence has a birthday!

The residents at **Redstone Village Retirement Community** were in for a real treat when they were visited by the **Nashville Suzuki Players** on their Fall 2009 Tour. They vary in age from 6-17 and all of them play the violin.

They played wonderful fiddle music as well as traditional violin, and were just fantastic, per the residents.

Be sure to keep your eyes out for **bicyclists on the road** - there are many more now traveling to work and biking for leisure, and they're hard to see. Just be careful and watch out for them as well as motorcyclists & scooter drivers.

Joan Babin was a familiar name to many in Huntsville. Joan was a member of Holy Spirit Catholic church and a mom to 11 children. In her spare time, she frequently took in foster-care kids! Joan died at the young age of 79, and will be missed by so many.

Elwanda Hallman lives at the Russel Erskine apartments downtown. She was married to **Jim Hallman**, who was the son of a Methodist preacher, and is now

deceased. He wrote memories of life as a preacher's son, and Elwanda treasures each minute she had with him.

Happy Birthday to **Heather Bzdell**. She is the sweet daughter of proud dad **John Bzdell**, owner of Marathon Painting. John recently lost his Dad **Stephen Bzdell, Sr.**, and we want to send our sympathy to all families who have lost loved ones over the past year. It is really difficult going through the holidays, when someone so very special is missing.

Chuck Bobo is a fascinating gentleman to talk with. His family has lots of history in the North Alabama area. Chuck was born in Limestone County and grew up in Madison and Morgan counties. Chuck left this area to work but when he retired he returned to Huntsville. He just couldn't believe the difference that 50+ years made in the Huntsville area. As a youngster he lived in the Gladstone Community north of Pulaski Pike. His friend **Jim Webb** and he would hunt squirrels in the woods on the farm of

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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Mr. Robert White. They would swim at the swimming hole on Beaverdam Creek at Pulaski Pike. Jim's dad managed Huntsville Wholesale Nursery at Gladstone and most of the boys in the community had summer jobs there.

Calvin Holder was telling us recently that his father drove the Westlawn bus years ago, he was **Calvin Holder, Sr.** Some other bus drivers back 50 years ago were **Mr. Armstrong**, who drove the Lincoln bus, and **Herman Gardner** who drove the Fair-ground bus.

Jane and Louie Tippett helped to host a rocking annual Christmas party held at the Eagles Club on Bob Wallace. **Rudy Mockabee** played for the partiers and there was a huge crowd there, all having a great time. **Tim Spivey** was playing as well. Tim is part of the band Hot Mix and it's always good to see him. It was great seeing old friends and catching up with folks we hadn't seen in a while.

Gibson's BBQ is a well-known eatery to many locals here in the North Alabama area, but for you newcomers they have the best pie you'll find anywhere. Their **mile-high coconut pie** just won the Huntsville Times Readers Choice Best Dessert, and I can vouch for that - there's no way that meringue topping can stay that high through cooking but it does. My personal favorite is Gibson's Peanut Butter pie, so you guys have just got to try it. Congratulations to the folks at Gibson's for the award!

Joyce Russell, of New York Life Co., sure had alot of birthdays in her family in December. Her daughter **Megan Mack** turned 27 on the 19th, her grandson **Trenton Keefer** turned 12 on the 19th, and her handsome grandson **Nate Keefer** turned 16 on the 4th. To add to the count, her daughter Megan delivered a beautiful baby boy on Dec. 14, whom they named **Robert Butler Mack**, to make one more for December!

Speaking of birthdays, we always had a soft spot for those who have birthdays close to Christmas. **Audra Wilson** of Salon Bella had a birthday right after Christmas and her gorgeous daughter **Olivia** also has a close-to-Christmas birthday. We hope everyone had a wonderful birthday/Christmas combo!

We keep hearing about people who leave their valuables/purses in their cars, in full sight of anyone looking in. It is too much of a temptation for some folks if they see that. The smartest thing to do, if you HAVE to leave valuables in your car, is to **leave them in the trunk** or hide them somehow. Also, when you're shopping at the mall and notice that someone is following you, just go back in the store. It's not worth the risk. Be aware of everything around you. And finally, when you do get into your car, immediately lock your doors. Oftentimes crooks will wait for a victim to get into the car, knowing it's going to be a minute or two before you leave.

The **Channel 31 annual Christmas parade** downtown was a huge hit, with hundreds of floats and organizations. We look forward to that every year, it's just part of our holiday traditions! And the bands are always the greatest! Love A&M!

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Curry Nut Mix

- 2 T. unsalted butter
- 2 t. curry powder
- 2 c. raw mixed nuts/seeds
- 1/2 c. currants or raisins

In a large saute pan over medium heat, melt butter. Add curry and cook, til it begins to bubble. Add nuts & seeds and cook til lightly browned, stirring for 3-5 minutes. Transfer to a wide bowl and stir in currants. Cool prior to serving.

Healthy Sweet Potatoes

- 4 sweet potatoes
 - 1/4 c. unsweetened apple juice
 - 2 T. unsalted butter
 - 1/2 t. sea salt
- Bake sweet potatoes at 400

degrees for an hour, and soft. Allow them to cool til you can handle. Peel skins off and cut them into large chunks. Place in blender or processor and puree til smooth. In a medium saucepan heat juice, butter and salt. Add potatoes and stir well. Heat and serve.

Marinated Salmon Salad

- 1 lb. salmon fillet, skin removed
 - 1/2 c. pure water
 - 4 sprigs fresh parsley
 - 4 scallions, trimmed and quartered
 - 3 cloves garlic, peeled
 - 1/4 c. lemon juice
 - 1/4 c. lime juice
 - 4 T. extra virgin olive oil
 - 1/4 t. hot pepper sauce
- Cucumber and celery spears, crackers or sliced bread
- Bring water to boil in large saute pan. Add salmon and cover. Cook til the fish begins to flake

and has no resistance to inserted fork, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer salmon to a large platter and allow fish to cool.

In a blender or processor pulse chop parsley, scallions and garlic. Add these to saute pan, with lemon and lime juices, 1 tablespoon of the oil and hot pepper sauce. Cook for 2 minutes. Using a fork, gently flake the salmon and place into a serving bowl. Add garlic medley, pan juices and remaining oil. Toss gently, cover and refrigerate til chilled, at least 30 minutes.

Serve with crunchy cucumber and celery spears, whole wheat sesame crackers or as an open faced sandwich.

Cathey's Tuna Salad

- 1 large can white albacore tuna, in water
- 1/2 c. lite mayonnaise
- 1 T. capers

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Gibson's BAR-B-QUE

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1/2 c. chopped sweet onion
1/2 t. garlic powder

In a medium bowl, add drained tuna and flake to small pieces. Add the mayonnaise, capers, onions and garlic and mix well. Spread immediately on fresh whole grain bread - even better with fresh spinach added in place of lettuce!

Red Lentil Soup

1 onion, peeled & quartered
2 cloves garlic, peeled
1 T. unsalted butter
1 t. curry powder
1 t. ground coriander
2 slices fresh ginger root
2 c. red lentils, sorted and washed
4 c. chicken or vege broth
3 T. lemon juice
2 T. extra virgin olive oil
1 t. sea salt
Ground pepper to taste
1/4 c. plain yogurt with active cultures

Chop onion & garlic. In a large soup pot on medium heat, melt butter and cook veges til soft but not brown, about 5 minutes. Add curry powder, coriander and ginger - cook for several seconds, being careful not to burn the spices. Add lentils & stock, stir and bring to boil, covered. Lower heat and simmer til the lentils are tender, about 30 minutes. Add lemon juice, oil, salt and pepper

and cook another minute. Remove the ginger and discard. Pour into individual bowls and serve with a dollop of yogurt.

Green or brown lentils work just as well as the red.

Vermont Maple Apple Crisp

9 Apples of 3 different varieties, such as Granny Smith, McIntosh, Red Delicious
1/2 c. real maple syrup
1/2 c. walnuts, chopped
1/4 c. golden raisins
1/2 c. plus 2 T. whole wheat pastry flour
1/2 t. cinnamon
2 pinches sea salt
4 T. unsalted butter
1/2 c. rolled oats

Quarter and core apples, peel if desired, cut into slices. Place in medium bowl with 1/4 cup syrup, nuts, raisins, 2 tablespoons flour, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon and one pinch salt. Mix and pour into buttered baking dish.

In a small pot on low heat, melt butter and turn off flame. Using a wooden spoon mix in 1/4 cup syrup and add oats with 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon and one pinch salt. It will look like very coarse meal. Crumble oat mixture over top of apples and bake at 325 degrees til topping is golden, about 45 minutes.



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Excerpted from the book "Glimpses of Huntsville in the 1950's"

by "Riverboat John" Ferguson

Not everyone cares to remember the first hamburger they had, but I remember the first good hamburger I ever had. It was at the Big Spring Cafe down next to the Big Spring Canal in downtown Huntsville. I remember that it had mustard, onions and two slices of dill pickle with salt and pepper. That's what most of the hamburger places put on a hamburger. The hamburgers were full of fillers, crackers, bread, meal and more.

Wimpy's Grill on the east side of the courthouse square was another classic hamburger of the day. It cooked a whole pan full and let them sit in hot water until they were ordered. They sure were juicy! There was a blinking neon sign out in front of the restaurant with the character Wimpy from the cartoon Popeye.

Then there was the Snow White on the square. Red Bennett, his wife and son ran that place. They were our next-door neighbors when we lived on Brook Manor Street. Best chili in town! They had twelve hamburgers for one dollar - little square burgers on little square buns with mustard, onions and pickle. Later, a freestanding Snow White was built in place a few blocks from the hospital and they added barbecue. It became a popular hangout for Huntsville High students.

Another hangout for high school students was

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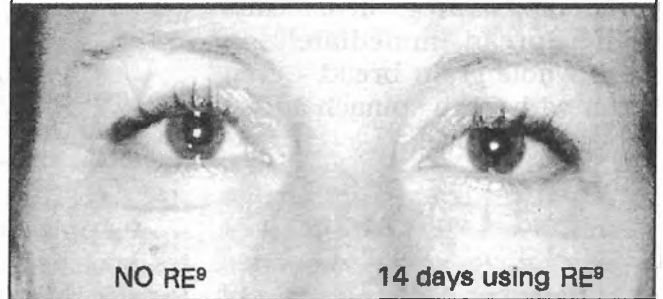
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Jerry's Drive-In on the Memorial Parkway. Of course, since it was a drive-in, you had to be in a car to get waited on. There were a lot of things that went on at Jerry's. Huntsville, Butler and the new Lee High Schools all congregated there in the evenings. You never knew what was going to happen among the students from the three schools. A lot of folks with cars would cruise as many drive-ins as they could on Friday or Saturday nights. Since Huntsville was growing so fast because of the Space program, there were new places to go every year.

The Zesto at Five Points was a most unusual but familiar place. You walked up to the service window and ordered what you wanted. It was famous for two things: the Zesto Burger and the Dip Dog. It also had good soft-serve ice cream. The Zesto Burger was a hamburger with seasonings and filler, very much like a meatball, which was breaded, put on a stick and deep fat fried. The Dip Dog was a deep fat fried wiener on a stick with cornmeal breading. A lot of people call them corn dogs. Houston Goodson owned the Zesto. He was very active with the youth and was a DeMolay advisor at the Twickenham Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, which met in the Helion Masonic Lodge. I became a member of that DeMolay chapter when I was fourteen years old. The Masonic Lodge building is one of the oldest buildings in the state.

There were lots of places that served hot dogs with chili, but the top two places for me were Mullin's in Old Huntsville and Phillip's Lunchroom on Seminole Drive. Of course they were called chili dogs.

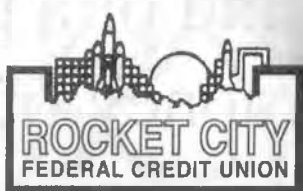
Steadman's Restaurant on West Holmes and the Southland on Governor's Drive were two old standby places to eat. I believe I remember the Hastings family running the Southland. Their son's name was Don and I knew him at Butler School. Danny Banks lived across the road from the Southland. He was in the band at Butler and played the trumpet. He was also the drum major in the band. He later became a lawyer and a

Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.

judge in Huntsville. He also played in a band that was and still is popular with high school reunions. It was very much like the Beach Boys.

Henry's Hamburger Drive-in was located across from Rison School on Oakwood.

The Fox Restaurant located on what is now Governor's Drive is another place long forgotten. The Fox family ran it all during the '50s, and their son graduated from Huntsville High in 1958. They had a sign out front with a red fox on it that stated that the restaurant was air-conditioned. It later became



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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

Red Bennett's restaurant. Bingo! We had two Red Bennetts that owned restaurants in Huntsville. A lot of people would walk from the Huntsville Hospital to eat there.

Shoney's built a place on the Parkway. You could use the drive-in or you could eat in the restaurant. It had the best milkshakes in town, topped with real whipped cream and a cherry. Shoney's had a hamburger called the Big Boy. It was the first double-decker hamburger I ever ate. It had a three-piece specially-made bun with a particular sauce that was kind of like Thousand Island salad dressing. I still love it to this day.

Although there was plenty of north Alabama pit barbecue to be had in the Huntsville area, Gibson's Barbeque Restaurant was the most popular. Gibson's started in Decatur by Big Bob Gibson, and the Huntsville Gibson's was owned by the Hampton family.

I went to Huntsville High School with John Paul Hampton. His mother was a Gibson. They had good sauce and knew how to hickory smoke pork shoulders on an open pit. Gibson's also had some of the best barbecued chicken around. They used small chickens, and they were always cooked good and tender. Gibson's had an "all you can eat" special on the fried chicken. I won't give his





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last name, but someone named Richard was asked not to come back for the "all you can eat" special. Yes, the chickens were small, but more than four or five was too many for one man to eat without putting Gibson's out of business.

If you really wanted a treat you could drive out to the old Greenbriar Restaurant in Greenbriar. They had the best barbecue and catfish. The barbecue was cooked the old way: over a hickory smoked fire, good and slow, with patience and real hickory. The catfish was brought in fresh daily in big washtubs from the Tennessee River. The tables at the old Greenbriar were made out of plywood, and some of them were still in use the last time I was there.

Barbecue cooked over an open pit with hickory wood was what we typically called North Alabama barbecue. It was simple. An old black man told me long ago that you should not mess with the meat on a pit if it was going to be done right. He said not to poke it, stick it or grab it - good, sweet, pink, slow-cooked and tender pork. Shoulders were the best, but any part of a pig would do. Texas has its beef cooked on mesquite wood. but we have our pork over hickory wood.

There was always a discussion about who had the best sauce or what kind of sauce was the best: sweet sauce, hot sauce, tomato-based sauce, mustard sauce, white sauce and just plain old barbecue sauce. We had them all.

Most barbecue in restaurants today is cooked with gas or cooked in foil in an oven. The barbecue cooked in the contests that are held today would not have been affordable back in the '50s, due to all of the fancy ingredients in their sauces, rubs and marinades. The cookers they use today would not have been affordable by the common man. A few concrete blocks and a grill or a fifty-five-gallon drum was all that was needed. Huntsville and surrounding communities had many barbecue places

that sold nothing but the cooked meat. Nearby New Hope, Monrovia, New Market, Gurley and Hazel Green all had good barbecue.

Nothing could beat the blue-plate specials at the Bon Air

"If falling in love is anything like learning to spell, I don't want it. It takes too long."

Jimmy Johns, age 7

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Restaurant on Meridian Street. It was built in 1951 by the Hicks family and remained in the family until its demise as a result of the construction of Interstate 565. The restaurant had the best beef stew anywhere I have ever been and some of the best cornbread sticks to go with the stew. Many bragged about the yeast rolls and fresh vegetables.

A hamburger steak at the Rebel Inn across from the old Butler High School was also fantastic.

The Try Me Drive In restaurant on Triana was another good place to eat dinner. They had homemade yeast rolls. They lost a lot of business because someone was supposed to have been killed in the restaurant. I wasn't there, so I am not going to say who got killed or how they got killed.

One thing we had back then that has disappeared from sight is the "tamale man." Huntsville Park is where he headquartered, and he sold the best tamales in the world. My mom and dad loved them, and we used to cook a pot of chili and go get a couple of dozen tamales with a box of fresh crackers. It was a real treat.

We never really had any Mexican places until the El Palacio came to town in the 1960s. A man drove in from Texas and brought a bunch of his family and friends and started it. Later on, he sold franchises and did pretty well. They were located all over the South, and the one in Huntsville is still going strong, owned by Doug Davis, and is just as popular as ever.

We didn't have any Chinese places that I remember in the

"Live your life and forget your age."

Norman Vincent Peale

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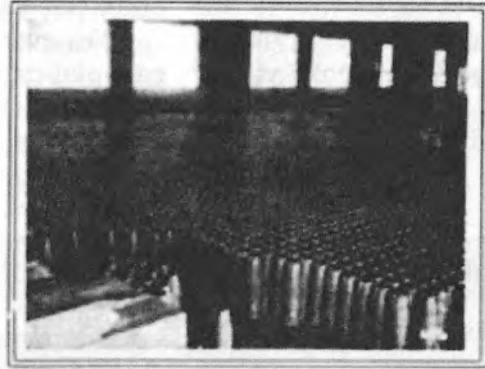
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ALL'S QUIET HERE.—The picture above taken at one of Redstone's workshops shows extensive work ready for shipment to the various war theaters. The goal is simple: "Ammunition needed to win battles at Redstone, any of us who do all in maintaining this war. The time is the battle lines are awaiting more and more shells and bombs to see against the Axis and Huns." One of Redstone's main purposes of this time is to get this ammunition loaded on trains for immediate shipment. Hundreds of barrels are spotted for this job alone. Lifting of these shells into freight cars now means a loaded "box" for those going their way to Victory and Peace.



WORKING CONDITIONS EXCELLENT.—The above photograph shows workers in one of the shops at Redstone Arsenal. The work is of a high and interesting nature. The conditions are excellent.



WORKERS AT REDSTONE.—This picture shows the work at one of the shops at Redstone Arsenal. The work is of a high and interesting nature. The conditions are excellent.

ACT NOW!

We deeply respect and value our job in the Home Front, especially getting ammunition to our boys who are doing it with such a fine effort, each one of them. We are not taking any of them from the front. But in the interest of Redstone's production to the fighting front with without question, we are doing it with the most of Victory and Peace. The decision is clear . . . the need is great . . . we need you now, all of us together!

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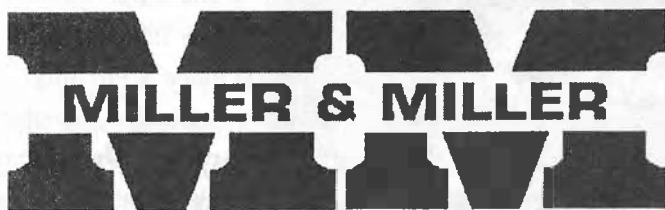
If you can't work then act as an employment agent for Redstone among your family — friends — Neighbors! We must do all we can to help the arsenal turn out this vitally needed ammunition . . . our obligation to ourselves, and our fighting brothers, husbands, fathers, sons and daughters.



AMMUNITION IN ACTION.—The picture above shows the work at one of the shops at Redstone Arsenal. The work is of a high and interesting nature. The conditions are excellent.

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Taken from Huntsville newspaper during World War II



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'50s. It seemed like they were everywhere at one time. The Golden Dragon on Jordan Lane was always my favorite. Later, the Formosa on University was also great because of their crab legs and succulent barbecue ribs.

To me, the two fanciest restaurants we had in Huntsville were the Dwarf off Governor's Drive and the Parkway and the Ritz in downtown Huntsville. I had my first lobster at the Dwarf, and the Ritz always had something different to eat.

Some of the old places are still around, like Mullins and Big Spring No. 2, and there are a lot of new and different businesses. I will always remember the savory taste of that first good hamburger and the good old days in Huntsville.

Miss Edna Keel, one of my teachers at Huntsville High School, once made the announcement that Huntsville was going to get an Albert Pick Motel. She said that Huntsville had really arrived and that we would be on the map some day. Boy was she right! The Albert Pick has since long been gone and Huntsville sure has arrived.

"Glimpses of Huntsville in the 1950's" can be purchased at Shaver's Book Store at Railroad Station Antiques, 2nd floor. It is one of the most delightful books about Huntsville we have read in a long time!

Pet Deer to be Put in the County Court Yard

Sheriff William Mitchell is in correspondence with various parties for the purpose of buying a pair of pet deer for the county court yard. They will make the yard look more attractive. The unsightly pathways will soon be obliterated as the sheriff has placed a number of signs up bordering the pavement forbidding anyone from walking on the grass.

from 1907 newspaper

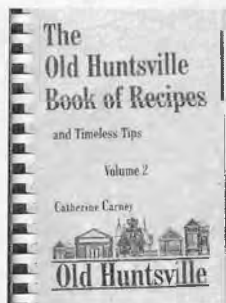
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Captain Frank Gurley Seeks Revenge on Yankee Turncoat

The year was 1914 and the Civil War had been a memory for almost a half-century. A new and more terrible war had just started in Europe and by its conclusion millions would be dead and many more millions would be left in desolation with no hope.

In Alabama, Capt. Frank Gurley, the stouthearted Confederate veteran, was in the twilight of his days. A hero and defender of Huntsville and North Alabama, Gurley had tried to live a peaceful existence since those long ago days when he had

pledged his honor and life to the Confederate States of America.


As Captain of the 4th Alabama Cavalry, he kept in touch with the remaining men who had fought beside him against the northern aggressors. Gurley felt it his duty to represent these men and do for them all he could in matters pertinent to them.

In the fall of 1914 it was brought to his attention that one D.B.F. Whitaker was on the pen-

sion rolls of the State of Alabama Pension Bureau for the relief of Confederate soldiers and sailors. Whitaker was listed on the pension rolls as a private in Company D of the 49th Alabama Regiment.

Certainly a commonplace occurrence for a surviving veteran of the Confederacy.

The only problem with Whitaker's name on the pension rolls was the fact that he was also on the pension rolls of the



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United States of America as having served as a Yankee soldier!

In his application for pension relief from the State of Alabama, Whitaker stated that he was an enlisted private from March 10, 1864 until July 3, 1865. Capt. Gurley knew from his men that Whitaker had only served in the Confederate Army a short time and then had deserted to join the Union Army, and now, nearly fifty years later, Whitaker was drawing a pension from both sides of the conflict!

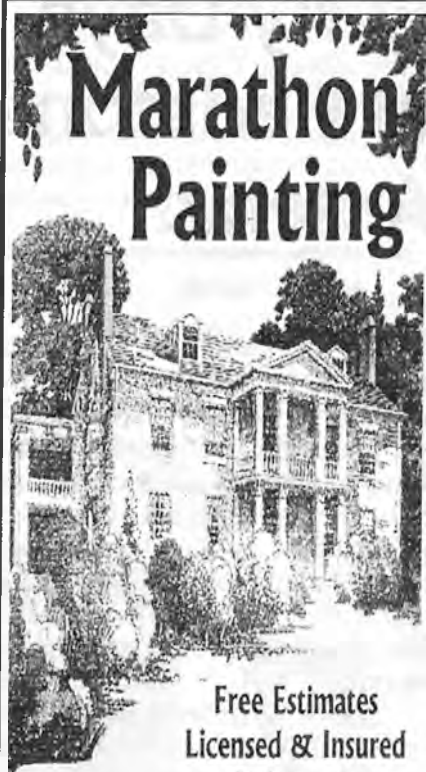
This was an affront to every brave soul that had fought and sacrificed everything for the Rebel cause.

Gurley would not stand by and let such an injustice continue. The wounds of the Civil War were deep and the people of North Alabama had suffered enough without having to endure the indignity of giving a turncoat a pension.

On October 31, 1914, Frank Gurley wrote to the Pension Bureau in Montgomery revealing all he knew about the Rebel traitor. Three days later Whitaker was sent notice that he had been charged as ineligible to a pension because he was a deserter from the Confederacy and was drawing a Union pension. Whitaker was given twenty days to respond and defend himself. If he failed to respond to the charges, it would be taken as an admission of guilt and loss of pension.

D.B.F. Whitaker never responded to these charges, was dropped from the rolls and never heard from again.

In some small way Capt. Frank Gurley, C.S.A. had come again to the defense of Huntsville and North Alabama. He had restored to his native land its honor and dignity and driven out the Yankee invader from his home.



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News from 1907

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

A warrant for the young man's arrest was sworn out in Justice Grimmett's court by Miss Daisy Bowers, a young girl of the Whitesburg community, who claims that the man promised to marry her sometime ago. Long is not 21, she claims and his parents have refused to give their consent for him to marry her.

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Early Days of Redstone Arsenal

by B.J. Smith

The news was announced on July 3, 1941. The Chemical Warfare Service would install a chemical plant and a separate ordnance plant just south of Huntsville. The timetable set by the War Department, in Washington, was strict, if not impossible. Construction would begin within a week, and production would begin in six months.

The Government sent a number of officers and enlisted men immediately. Arriving in Huntsville, they discovered that the area set to become Huntsville Arsenal was still occupied by farmers and property owners. Their first job was to remove these residents, many of whom had no place to go. Though many of these families had lived on the land for almost a hundred years, they reluctantly moved when it was pointed out to them that the land was needed for the war effort.

Organization in those early days was difficult. Many of the government officials and local administrators had to set up offices outside of the Arsenal until permanent buildings were constructed.

A fact not commonly

"True happiness is having a large, close-knit, loving family in another city."

George Burns

known is that the gym of Huntsville High School served as one of the first "office buildings" for the influx of new employees. In fact, office space was so limited that many churches, schools, and other buildings in Huntsville were used as the "Arsenal" until initial construction was finished.

Eventually, workers began moving into newly constructed

buildings. Many local employees formed car-pools, as the Government called for conservation of gas and oil. When one of these cars broke down, which was fairly often, four or five workers became stranded, unable to work that day. To make matters worse, construction concentrated on buildings, and not on roads. Following heavy rainfall, the dirt and clay roads

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running throughout the Arsenal became treacherous "seas of mud." In probably a "first" for Huntsville's government workers, women were instructed to wear pants, not skirts, to work as they often had to trudge through knee deep mud to get to their workplaces.

Some problems unique to the Arsenal's early history were the road blocks at the guard gates, creating long lines of overheating cars. The road blocks were designed to stop workers from sneaking alcohol off the Arsenal. Grain alcohol was used as an ingredient for some gasses, but many workers found it more profitable (and enjoyable) to use it for other "purposes." Workers initially smuggled the alcohol off the Arsenal in buckets, jars, and other containers but when the guard at the gate was "tightened" they were forced to use more ingenious methods.

To make it through the road blocks, many of the would-be bootleggers stored the alcohol in their car's radiators. Not a bad idea. Unless, recalls one worker, the car began to overheat in the long line. The aroma of the "still" would lead the guards directly to the smuggler's car causing several of the workers to spend part of their wartime service in the local jail.

As production began to increase, the demand for workers became hard to meet. Most of the able-bodied men were in uniform and the few left were reluctant to work in a chemical plant. Ads were placed in newspapers throughout the country, but there was still not enough labor to supply the Arsenal's requirements. As a last resort, job recruiters periodically drove through the streets of Huntsville, announcing available jobs with a loud speaker attached to their cars.

Those who wanted a job and were willing to work soon found themselves employed on the

Arsenal. There were no technical qualifications required. For many of the new employees, this was to be their first job off of the family farm. Though many of them were barely literate, they proved to be hard workers easily adaptable to the rigors of a wartime economy.

Producing chemicals was an indefinite science. New workers seldom received any training before taking their

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place on the production lines. Mistakes were made, and the workers learned from them. Eventually, the process grew in efficiency and safety.

Some side effects from the production of chemicals did persist. Dyes of different colors were used to create smoke bombs and the dyes would also color the skin of the workers. The dye could not be washed out conventionally. It had to wear off in time. It was quite common to see workers with brightly colored skin. You could literally tell which gas a worker was producing by the color of his skin. Arsenal employees could be seen walking around Huntsville colored blue, red, yellow, and violet.

A Huntsville native who worked at the Arsenal in its early days recalls dating his wife who also worked there. "Her skin was dyed violet and mine was yellow. When we got married that summer even our best man was colorful! His skin was green! My wife was so pretty that we all teased the best man about being green with envy."

Occasionally a worker would

come into contact with a hazardous chemical such as white phosphorus. For these situations, deep holes were dug inside the building and filled with water. The workers were instructed to jump in, hopefully to rinse off the burning chemical. Fortunately the holes were seldom used.

As expected from a chemical and ordinance plant, Huntsville and Redstone suffered their share of fires and contaminations. However, from the first day of construction to the end of the War, only nine deaths were recorded. These fatalities resulted from the production of chemical weapons, which were not used at all in World War II. Ironically, more deaths occurred on the Arsenal from chemicals than any battlefield during the War.

Huntsville Arsenal went on to

"It's easy to identify people who can't count to ten. They're in front of you at the supermarket."

Jimmy Reslin, Athens



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earn many safety awards and medals, including nine "E" flags for production excellence and a national championship for most man-hours worked without a single lost time accident. (1,440,000 hours).

Not all of the jobs on the Arsenal were directly related to the production of chemical weapons. One employee actually had the designation of being the only official "Spider Killer" listed in federal records at that time. When production lines were being built, certain areas became infested with large blackwidow spiders. With the production line employees afraid to enter some of the buildings and after more conventional methods had failed, the government finally hired a man to kill the spiders. Though he became known as the

Spider Man, it is not known whether or not he wore a cape.

Other employees were in charge of growing and harvesting corn and hay to feed the horses, chickens and pigs, which were raised on the Arsenal. The horses were used early on by a cavalry patrol unit. The pigs and chickens were raised to help feed the numerous workers on the Arsenal. Neither project proved cost effective, and both were eliminated as part of the Arsenal's first "cut back."

Part of the huge Arsenal complex was used as a prisoner of war camp. When the allied offensive in Africa began, large numbers of German soldiers were captured and many of these were sent to camps in America. It is estimated that as many as seven hundred prisoners were kept on

the Arsenal. Many of these prisoners became converted "Southerners," and returned in later years as tourists. Ironically enough one of the prisoners had

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relatives who would move to Huntsville in a few years as part of the German rocket team.

By in large, though, Huntsville Arsenal's main objective was to produce and load chemical weapons. Ammunition such as incendiary bombs and artillery shells were also produced, but in much smaller quantities. The end of the War resulted in a decline of interest in chemical weaponry. Huntsville Arsenal was ordered to be decontaminated and demilitarized, and eventually sold off. Fortunately, this process took longer than the Government had expected.

During this time, Redstone Arsenal was being considered as the home for rocket and missile research. In October, 1949, Redstone Arsenal and Huntsville Arsenal joined to become the new Ordinance Guided Missile Center. The Huntsville Arsenal was officially closed, and the new Redstone Arsenal was born.

Redstone Arsenal, whose sole reason for existence was to help defeat the German war machine, would now look to the Germans for its rebirth.

"You know you're getting older when you wake up looking like your driver's license picture."

May Justin, Huntsville

If Only They Knew

Huntsville's attention was directed to Atlanta, Georgia this year as the Atlanta Braves battled for the World Series championship. Few people realized that baseball could have also put our city on the map ... if things had worked out a little differently.

Baseball history in Huntsville, like much of our history, is full of irony and untold stories. Perhaps one of the best tales of baseball is one of a young man who grew up over in Georgia and made his way to Huntsville in pursuit of a career.

The young man was born near Royston, Georgia in 1886. At a young age he discovered the sport of baseball and immediately it became the passion in his life. This was in the days when every city, town and mill village had its own teams and professional players were almost unheard of.

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At the age of nineteen the young man left home to pursue his new career. Walking and hitching rides on wagons he made his way across the Southland, looking for the "Big Time," or so he thought. According to one report of the day, there were so many baseball teams that the scores were no longer listed in the newspaper.

The young man sought out every sandlot team in town trying out for a position but was repeatedly turned down.

One team offered him a position as an unpaid player, but he had to furnish his own uniform and glove. The young man had a glove but did not have the money to buy the uniform.

The manager of a local team, a mill village team, listened to the young man and then burst out laughing.

"Son, you better go on back home and get a real job. If you think you can make a living playing baseball, why, you're crazier than you look!"

Probably a large part of it had to do with the exorbitant salary he was asking ... \$65.00 a month.

Disappointed, he left Huntsville after only a few days and eventually ended up in Detroit where he landed a job with a local baseball team.

This team went on to become one of the best known teams in baseball history and the young man, Ty Cobb, became a legend in his own time.



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Jim Ben Gossett

by Austin Miller

In the thirties and forties, Jim Ben Gossett was well known in Madison County as a basketball player and person with whom you did not want to have a fight. He was tough and trouble followed him like the plague. Some would pick a fight with him so they could say they had whipped or backed down the notorious Jim Ben Gossett.

This always proved to be a mistake on the part of the challenger. A lot of fights occurred because he did not tolerate rude or inappropriate behavior and would take on offenders in a heart beat. But there was another side to him that many others did not see. Of all the boys that visited with my father and uncles during their growing up years, my grand-

mother was always quick to say that he was one of her favorites and one of the nicest boys she ever knew. In his youth he sometimes lived with my grandparents for weeks at a time and worked alongside my father and uncles without pay. I don't know the reason for this other than he considered the Miller family like his own.

Jim Ben joined the Alabama National Guard in the thirties as a teenager. His unit, from Huntsville, was activated in 1942 and sent to Alaska. After about a year he was then sent to Europe where he saw combat. After the war he was involved in clashes between American and Russian troops in and around Berlin.

By all accounts Jim Ben didn't always adjust well to the regimentation of a peace time army and was busted from sergeant to private more than once. But in combat, he was the man you wanted in your fox hole. After the war he got out for a while

but soon decided that he did not belong in the civilian world and reenlisted. This time he stayed thirty years. I first met him in 1964 at the store in Ryland. I think he must have asked somebody who I was because he came up to me and introduced himself. He stuck out his hand and said, "Austin, you don't know me but my name is Jim Ben Gossett."

Somehow, I instinctively knew who he was even before he told me his name. I felt like I knew him because I had heard about him all my life. He was still in the Army and I knew that I would be going soon. I told him that and he talked to me about doing my duty whatever it was and having a good attitude. He said that if I did that I would have no problem in the Army. He was right, I didn't!

He served several tours in Germany during his career, married a German woman and had a child. His nephew, Bill Gossett, told me that after the marriage he got transferred back to the States and was in the pro-

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cess of getting his wife brought to the U.S. when she disappeared. He went back to Germany to find her but couldn't and finally learned that she had gone to East Germany and couldn't get back to the West. He never saw his wife and child again.

After the Army, he worked and lived at the Old Soldier's and Sailor's Home in Washington, D.C. In his last years, he came back to Ryland for two weeks each summer. He would rent a car, get a motel, and visit old friends and the places that he had known in his youth. One of the people he visited was a gentleman named Arless League. They were long time friends and well matched. It is said that in their youth, the two cleaned out the rough necks at the White Castle and other joints around Huntsville on a somewhat regu-

lar basis. He spent hours each trip talking and reminiscing with Daddy under the old elm tree in our front yard. He never talked about war, the army or his life as a soldier; the conversations were always about his growing up years in Ryland. If it was during the time of the Miller family reunion, he would attend. It seemed natural for him to be there. His last name may not have been Miller but there was a bond as strong as blood between the two families. One summer I heard Daddy ask him if he was coming back next year; his response was that he would come back as long as he was able.

The last time was in the late 80's. He told people that it was his last trip and he wouldn't be coming back anymore. Daddy told me he heard that he cried when he left.

As a son of Ryland it would be appropriate for him to be buried in Ryland cemetery close to his parents, a brother, other family, old friends and three of the Miller boys that he considered brothers. But he chose Arlington National Cemetery instead, a fitting choice for a warrior like Jim Ben Gossett. If I wrote his epitaph, I would say, "He was one of the last of a special breed of soldiers that the American Army will never see again."



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Did You Know?

* Of all the presidents to have visited Huntsville, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, received the biggest welcome. Over seventy percent of the city's population turned out to greet him.

* In the mid sixties, with the Cold War at its height, a major espionage scare was averted at Redstone Arsenal when it was discovered that the "spy" who had entered Wernher Von Braun's office was actually the night janitor looking for a comfortable place to eat his dinner. The thermos that he had accidentally left behind was sent to Washington to be checked for listening devices.

* During War World Two, Huntsville had two Medal of Honor winners.

* The stone masonry used to construct the Church of the Visitation (Catholic) downtown was part of the Union defenses at Ditto Landing.

* The city of Huntsville still owned mules and wagons up until 1946 when they were sold for the sum of \$200.00.

* In 1928, when Montgomery Wards department store opened downtown, police had to be called out to control the crowds.

* Pinhook Creek was actually the site of a gold strike in 1887. Unfortunately the vein quickly played out.

* Mullins Restaurant was the first restaurant in Huntsville to have curb service. Hamburgers were 10 cents apiece, tip not included.

* The last bordello did not

close in Huntsville until 1949.

* Moonshine in Huntsville now costs more than the liquor bought in stores.

* The largest fish ever caught in the Tennessee River was a 117-pound catfish.

The economy is so bad that Exxon-Mobil had to lay off 25 Congressmen.

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I Recollect

by Malcolm Miller

Back during the late thirties and early forties all across the country small local radio stations began springing up, and Huntsville was no exception.

I recollect that one of the first was WBHP. Since most of the station owners and managers were new at the job and they had no network ties they had to rely heavily on local programming and this was even more difficult back then because of the fact that they didn't have modern taping equipment that the stations rely so heavily on today.

One of the most popular programs to come out of this era was the live local radio show. Most of these programs were what everyone then called "hill billy" music.

As I look back on those times today I realize that this was the real beginning of what is now called modern country and blue

grass music. The good old country boys who had never played for anything bigger than a community square dance suddenly were before a live "mike" singing and playing their hearts out for thousands.

For many years, from the time we got our first battery powered Philco radio I was one of their biggest fans. I would rush from the cotton field as fast as I could and stay as long as I could at dinner time on Saturdays, since that was the day most of these shows were broadcast.

I recollect that one of my favorite entertainers of that era was

Jimmy O'Rear. He had a show known as Jimmy O'Rear and His Radio Gang. I suppose this program inspired me as much as any thing to try to be an entertainer myself and it was many, many years after I heard the show for the first time that I actually stood before a live "mike" and sang for the first time on Jimmy's program. Friends, you just can't imagine the thrill that I experienced standing there singing "Many Tears Ago."

I thought I'd died and gone to heaven and I'll never forget that day as long as I live. I would like

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to say a few things at this time about the dedication of Jimmy O'Rear to his radio program.

He played for some eighteen years on the same radio station and probably didn't miss over ten shows out of the whole eighteen years.

Also during this time he worked full time in the old Lincoln cotton mill, played school houses in north Alabama and Tennessee on show dates and played on other radio stations as well.

I recollect that Jimmy was as dedicated to making all his personal appearances at the various schoolhouses and barbecues as he was his radio show. Once we were going to play a show at Skyline School in Jackson County, the car broke down and not to be stopped, Jimmy hired a cab to take us there, costing him much more than we could ever get for playing the show.

On another occasion we went to play a show at Estill Fork School; which was about as far back in the mountains as you could drive a nail. When we got there we found a two room school with a small stage in the corner and no electricity to plug our equipment into, but Jimmy went ahead with the show by light of a coal oil lamp, to an audience of about twenty people in the two room school and probably another seventy-five standing outside the windows looking in.

I guess you would say that Jimmy O'Rear never really made the "big time," but I know this much; he brought joy to the hearts of many, many folks during some hard years when there just wasn't too much to cheer about.

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More Village Fun

by Jim Harris

Remember "ring around the roses, pocket full of poses, the last one to sit down has to tell his sweetheart's name"? Ring around the Roses was a popular group activity when I was growing up, although I'll never understand why it was popular with small boys. Why, we would kill to keep other boys from finding out who we were sweet on, and here's a game that was likely to put you in the position of having to "tell all" to every kid on the block.

It had its rewards though. The group formed a circle holding hands and, if you were fast enough when forming the circle, you got to hold your sweetie's hand. If you were fast enough when sitting time came, you never had to admit you were holding hands with your girl. However, when you were holding your girl's hand, your mind wasn't always in gear.

Red Rover was another group activity we enjoyed. The group formed two lines with each kid in the line holding the hand of the one next to him. The two lines stood about 25 feet or so apart and faced each other. The magic words, "red rover, red rover let Mildred, (or Mike or whoever) come over" were uttered. (I'm sorry, I didn't want to use that word but my mind

went into neutral.)

The kid whose name was called then had to run at the other line and try to break through. If he/she broke through, he/she picked one member of the line to take back to his/her own line. If the line didn't break, he/she had to remain with that line. This was another game where, if you were fleet of foot and mind, you could hold hands with your girl, in public, without getting harassed.

Drop the Handkerchief was

the name of the game and it required the group to form a circle with one kid in the center. Another kid would walk around the outside of the circle with a handkerchief, drop it behind someone and then run like a scared rabbit. The kid in the center had to get it before the kid behind whom it was dropped got it. That was the only way he could get out of the center. He then tried to catch the one who dropped it. Those are all the rules I remember. I'll never forget the fun, though.

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News From the Year 1947

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Hollywood Stars Testify at Communist Hearings

Actor Ronald Reagan, President of the Screen Actors Guild, testified before the House Committee on Un-American Activities today and said that the guild is not controlled by leftists.

Yesterday, in its third day of hearings on communism in the film industry, HUAC declared it would present "at least 79" subversives in the coming days. Actor Robert Taylor testified against other stars. His deposition was not as damning as the panel may have hoped; he failed to specifically name any card carrying Communist infiltrator.

Taylor's arrival at the session was greeted with appraising gasps by women spectators. He took a seat before a microphone and swiftly stated, "I personally believe the Communist Party should be outlawed. If I had my way they'd all be sent back to Russia."

He suspected a few actors, but added sheepishly, "I don't

know whether they're Communists." He noted some Screen Actors Guild members "who, if not Communists, are working awfully hard to be so." After 30 minutes of questioning, Taylor retired from the session.

Next week, a group of Hollywood stars plan to protest the hearings. Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall, Jane Wyatt, Danny Kaye and Gene Kelly are among them.

Food for Europe Needed

President Harry S. Truman asked the American people tonight to reduce their meat and poultry consumption, making more food available for famished Europe.

He suggested Americans have no meat on Tuesdays, no poultry or eggs on Thursdays and save a slice of bread every day. Truman feels these acts will also lower inflation.

Yeager Breaks Sonic Barrier for First Time

Chuck Yeager is the first human being to travel faster than the speed of sound. Today, the former fighter pilot boarded a Bell X-1 rocket plane and took off from an undisclosed California Army base. Within minutes, he reached a speed over 600 mph, breaking the sound barrier. Yeager's craft, named Glamorous Glennis, was powered by a new kind of rocket engine. The fuselage is streamlined to reduce turbulence generated by faster movement.

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United States Armed Forces are Unified at Last

President Truman has signed legislation that unites all branches of the armed services into one agency, the Department of Defense. And Navy Secretary James Forrestal has been approved by Congress as Secretary of Defense.

Moments later, the president flew to Missouri to visit his dying mother, Mrs. Martha Truman.

Congress had favored the new department, the aim of which is to coordinate the armed power of the nation, promote efficiency and integrate domestic, foreign and military policies.

The legislation creates another agency as well, the National Security Council, which will evaluate problems of American military power. Under its domain will be a Central Intelligence Agency to direct intelligence gathering.

Transistor: A bit of electronic magic

It seems only a year ago that the vacuum tube was heralded as an electronic breakthrough in calculators and other devices. In

fact, it was a year ago that the U.S. War Department credited vacuum tubes with powering its mighty computer ENIAC. Yet Bell Laboratories has recently developed something that may soon make the vacuum tube obsolete: the transistor.

A transistor is a solid-state electronic component. It is faster, lighter and smaller (about 1/200ths the size) of an early vacuum tube. It generates less heat and requires less than one hundredth the power of an D early style tube.

Latest Play a Hit for Tennessee Williams

Tennessee Williams' play "A Streetcar Named Desire" made its electrifying debut in New York tonight. It describes a disintegrating Southern family irreparably torn asunder by sexual tension and lies. Marlon Brando, Jessica Tandy, Kim Hunter and Karl Malden star.

Brando, mumbling and cursing in a sweaty undershirt, dominates the stage. It is his first major role; he was last seen supporting Paul Muni in "A Flag Is Born" last year.

Playwright Williams was born in Mississippi 36 years ago.

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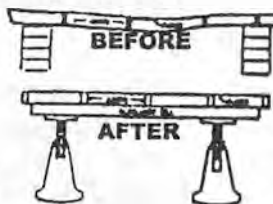
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The Mystery Lady of Keel Mountain

No one knows for certain where Eleanor came from; we don't even know her full name. According to legend, she made her first appearance in about 1850. Farmers and travelers alike stopped to stare at the young woman trudging slowly up the road pulling a handcart loaded with her few meager possessions. At every house she would stop and ask if, perhaps, they might have work for her, and possibly a place for her to sleep. People would later say that, even though she always had a faint smile on her face, there seemed to be an aura of sadness hanging over her.

A short while later, those living in the community heard that she had taken up residence in an old abandoned hut at the foot of Keel Mountain. She made no attempt at farming and rarely, if ever, had contact with other people. She would never visit the local store. People had no idea how she managed to survive.

Immediately, rumors began to spread about the peculiar woman living in the broken down hovel at the foot of Keel Mountain. Woodcutters and hunters told stories about passing by her place and seeing deer, raccoons and other wild animals following the woman around as she went about her chores. The animals seemed to have no fear whatsoever of this strange but gentle lady. She was seen feeding deer by hand, and it was said that she even helped a doe deliver a fawn one day. The closer you got to her place, the louder the birds got. When at her place, they all appeared

to co-exist in a peaceful kind of harmony. It was rumored that the animals protected her from harm, and would let her know when strangers drew near. Other people claimed that it was Eleanor who protected the animals.

The rumors might have

eventually died down, had not two young men decided to go torch hunting one night. There used to be a clearing on the top of Keel Mountain where deer would congregate and feed at night, and it was there the men decided to try their luck.

Quietly picking their way through the woods, they stopped at the edge of the field. Their hunch had been right, a whole herd of deer were feeding in the clearing, with one huge solid white buck standing guard. Suddenly, for no explainable reason,

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the buck's head jerked up and every muscle in his body went tense. The rest of the herd immediately took flight while the white buck stood perfectly still.

In the last second before the white buck was about to flee, the young men raised their rifles and fired, both at the same time. When the buck crumbled to the ground, the young men knew they had a once-in-a-life-time trophy. Dropping their rifles and racing to the spot where the deer had fallen, they came to an abrupt stop.... The buck had vanished; no tracks, no blood-trail, no nothing. It had completely vanished. The only evidence of anything ever being there was a blood soaked shawl lying in the spot where the deer had disappeared.

The young men were at first puzzled, and then frightened as the idea began to sink in that, perhaps, they had shot a person. But no, that was impossible, they both agreed they had seen the white deer fall.

Returning home the men told their families what had happened. Quickly, the neighbors organized a search party just in case there was a person lying on the mountain, wounded. As the search party fanned out across the mountain, it quickly became apparent that something was different. There were no birds in the trees, no deer running in front of the search parties, not even a fleeing rabbit. It was almost as if all the animals had deserted Keel Mountain.

After searching for most of the day and finding nothing, the men finally gave up. Coming down from the mountain, they decided to stop at Eleanor's house and get a drink of water. It would also give them a chance to satisfy their curiosity about the strange woman about

whom they had heard so many rumors.

As they approached the house the men shouted out a hello. No answer. They shouted again. Still no answer. The house looked like it was about to fall in. The door was hanging off of its hinges, and most of the roof had long since disappeared. It

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was easily evident that no one lived there. The men were about to leave when all of a sudden, a huge white buck walked out of the woods. Men later said that the deer just stood there, looking at the group of men.

Several in the group raised their rifles and shot at the buck. The buck just stood there calmly, watching the men. Other men began blasting at the buck. He never twitched a muscle while the shooting was taking place, but finally the buck slowly turned around and walked back into the woods.

Some of the men in the group were the best rifle shots in the county, yet they could not hit a deer standing only fifty feet away. Other men in the party who were standing off to one side later said that when the men began shooting at the deer, they could see bark flying off the trees directly behind. It was almost, and they said this very hesitantly, "like the bullets were passing right through the deer."

In the late fall of 1923, John Ingrams was returning home from a hard day at work. As he approached the foot of Keel mountain, in the midst of a freak snowstorm, he was suddenly forced to slam on his brakes.

Standing in the middle of the road, directly in front of his car, was a woman. Leaving his car, John approached the spot where he had seen the woman a few moments before. The woman had disappeared. No sign of her could be found anywhere.

The only sign in the fresh driven snow was a set of enormous deer tracks. Being curious about the strange tracks and the disappearance of the woman, John followed the tracks a short piece up the road, to where a bridge crossed the stream. The bridge was gone.... it had collapsed. Amazed and confused at

the good fortune that had saved his life, John was about to return to his car when his attention was drawn to the other side of the stream. Standing there calmly, not moving a muscle, was the largest buck he had ever seen.... and it was pure white. No one has ever been able to explain the strange facts surrounding the woman, and while almost everyone living near Keel Mountain has seen a white deer at some time or the other, no one has ever seen or

heard of one being killed.

Maybe it was something that could have not been harmed by mortal man ...

"The income tax has made more liars out of the American people than golf has."

Will Rogers

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For More Information Contact:

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SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2010

January 25	6:30	Robert Patterson	Misconceptions About the Law
	7:40	Brent Jordan	Private Disability Insurance
February 1	6:30	Phil Price	DUI Law
	7:40	Perry Shuttleworth	Roll on 18 Wheeler
February 8	6:30	Cornie Glass	Elder Law
	7:40	Robert Prince	Rules of the Road
February 15	6:30	Ron Sykstus & Amy Tanner	Bankruptcy, VA Disability, Security Clearances
	7:40	Josh Hayes	Politics and the Law
February 22	6:30	Michael K. Wisner	Wills, Trusts, and Estate Law
	7:40	Jonathan Lusk	Divorce Law
March 1	6:30	Ed Gentle	Mass Tort Cases
	7:40	Mayor Tommy Battle	City Government
March 8	6:30	Matt Glover	Bad Faith and Fraud Cases
	7:40	Kerri Johnson Smith	Employment Law
March 22	6:30	Rebecca Brinkley	Contract Law
	7:40	Barton Warren & Derek Simpson	Trial Tactics
March 29	6:30	Michael Timberlake	Nursing Home Law
	7:40	Richard Chesnut	Real Estate Law
April 5	6:30	Archie Lamb	Sports Law
	7:40	Charles L. Brinkley	Corporate Litigation
	8:40	Graduation	

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METHOD OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED: CHECK or MONEY ORDER

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All programs will be taped and televised throughout the year on Comcast Channel 3 on the following schedule:
Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 6:00 am, 2:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 10:00 pm, and Sundays at 2:00 pm.

Surviving the Great Depression

by Evelyn Hayden Hodges

The Hoover Administration had hardly begun when the stock market crashed in the fall of 1929.

After the crash, the country sank into the worst depression of its history. Millions of people lost every cent they owned. More factories shut down, stores closed, businesses were paralyzed. Local governments could not collect half their taxes.

By the end of 1931 there were 12,000,000 people out of work.

Now, how did the average, everyday person in Huntsville cope with the depression?

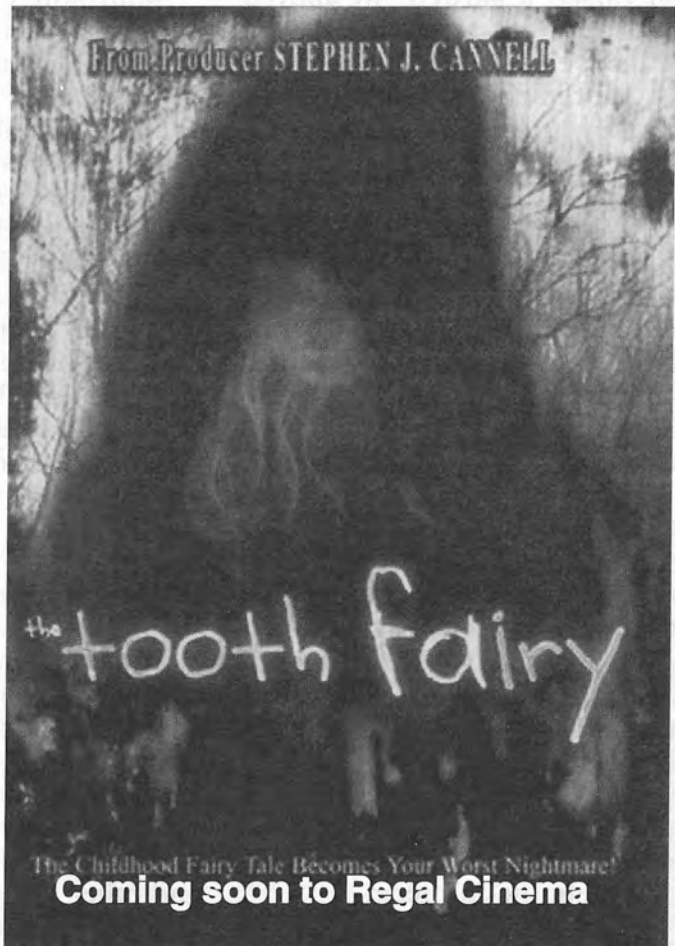
First, there was no money. Everybody was scrambling to find work wherever they could. Men and boys rode freight trains from one place to another, looking for work. Even when they found work, it paid very little. A ten-hour workday in the field -- hoeing cotton or

tobacco -- paid 25 cents a day and people picked cotton for 50 cents a hundred pounds. The farmers had a rough time too. All farm prices dropped -- cotton fell from \$1 to 5 cents a pound. Corn sold for 25 cents a bushel. Most farmers were deep in debt at the end of the year.

One man recalls that his father, grandfather and uncle all worked at a sawmill for 25 cents a day. On payday, instead of receiving \$1.25 in cash, they were required to take the equivalent in trade at the company store.

Some jobs paid a little better. My brother worked at a drug store for a dollar a day. One man, who had been a trav-

eling sales man for a Nashville wholesale grocery company, was out of work. So he bought and butchered hogs and ground them, except the hams, into sausage. He cured the hams for use at home



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and sold the sausage to the public for 20 cents a pound or two pounds for 35 cents.

Groceries were dirt cheap but nobody had any money. So everybody who had any space at all raised a garden. We moved outside the Huntsville city limits so we could keep a cow.

We rented a six-room stucco house with a carport and a basement for \$20 a month. We had a large lot with plenty of room for the cow, chickens and a large garden. We had our own milk, butter, eggs and vegetables. We not only grew vegetables for the table in the summer, we canned and preserved everything available for winter. We had fruit trees too.

During the Depression I was teaching at Rison School for \$65 a month. The highest salary paid to any Madison County teacher then was \$146 to a high school principal. For two or three years Alabama had only enough money to run the schools for seven months.

Parents who could afford it paid tuition for the other two months so their children could complete the full term.

One year the state was so short of funds that they couldn't pay the teachers. So for three months they gave us warrants (IOUs). Nobody wanted the warrants because of their extended

date of maturity. I was told that the Alabama Power Company would take them in trade. So I traded my three warrants to the power company for our first electric refrigerator.

Madison County, like the state, also ran short of funds. They didn't have the money to pay people for jury duty.

They gave them IOUs called script. There were two or three men in town who bought the script at a big discount from the jurors. Then they collected the full amount when it became due.

Young people also felt the pinch of hard times. Getting gasoline for their cars was a problem. Four or five boys would get together or couples would double-date so they could split the cost of the gasoline.

They had no money for movies so they would go up on Monte Sano and park at one of their favorite gathering places. Sometimes several couples would get together at the home of one of the girls and, if a piano or a guitar were handy, that made it all the better. Picnics, swimming and other inexpensive pastimes were also popular.

There were the popular floursack dresses. Back then flour came packed in white cloth bags with the label printed on the front of the bag. It was packed in 24 and 48 pound bags.

The milling companies hit upon the idea of packing the flour in cloth bags that were printed in colored designs. Women would select a pattern that she liked and then she bought flour in that same print until she had enough material to make a dress or other garment for herself or another member of the family.

Prices were in line with what people earned back then but they seem almost unbelievable to us today. For example, a lunch consisting of a hot dog, a pint of milk

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and a piece of pie cost 2.00; a stein of beer was 5¢, cigarettes were 15¢ a pack, breakfast bacon was 1.90 a pound; bread was .50 a loaf, a five pound bucket of peanut butter cost 6.00 and a pound of crackers was .50.

By 1937 times were some better but not by a whole lot. I recall that we could buy groceries for two for \$5.00 a week. That included flour, sugar, coffee, bacon, potatoes, a beef roast and other smaller items.

Even as the depression wound down and World War II had begun, a frame house sold for three or four thousand dollars and a brick house could be built for around \$5,000.

Times were slowly improving by the late thirties but World War II was the death blow to the Depression. Most of us survived the Great Depression and it is something we shall never forget.



Local Man Invents New Type of Monoplane

Huntsville 1913

William L. Quick of this county has invented and perfected a new type of monoplane which, it is believed, will overcome many of the deficiencies that are found in the flying machines now in use.

Mr. Quick's machine is patterned after the ordinary hawk and contains wings and a tail. The propelling arrangement is patterned after the insect, consisting of vibratory propellers that make no revolutions but beat the air like the wings of a humming bird or fly. The system of control is designed to become instinctive on the part of the operator since, by simply leaning forward, the attachments in the tail of the machine will guide it upward and by

leaning backward it will go downward. The rudder is regulated in the same manner.

Mr. Quick has been at work on the model of this machine during the last eight years and it looks like he has solved the problem. The lines of the machine make it impossible for it to fall directly to the ground either head first, backwards or upside down. Mr. Quick claims that should the motor power be shut off while the machine is in the air, it would drift slowly to the ground.

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Shug Jordan/Auburn

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Old Huntsville Trivia

1808 - Stephen Neal is appointed Madison County's first sheriff. He and Thomas Freeman are also named justices of the peace.

1843 - Madison County now has 23,070 cattle and 8,714 horses.

1885 - City attorney office is abolished, but is re-established a year later.

1918 - Huntsville is growing by leaps and bounds. We now have 10 firemen and 10 policemen.

1919 - Fisk community near Hazel Green is bombarded with five-inch hail.

1941 - Hopper Hardware store is established. They sold 107 kerosene lamps in their first six months of business.

1943 - Joe Tidwell opens his grocery store and J.C. Jamar is publishing the city's newest newspaper: Huntsville Weekly Mirror.

1945 - Waterman Airlines begins regular flights to and from Huntsville.

1946 - City council takes a chance on modernization and sells the city's last mules and wagons to C.A. Floyd for \$200.

1958 - Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson is hanged in effigy by Huntsvillians who blamed him for Russia being first to launch a spacecraft.

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1965 - Ed Greene becomes Madison County's first bailiff for circuit court, although the legislature had authorized such positions in 1923.

1968 - John Tarver is appointed assistant city attorney (prosecutor). He later is named manager of a citrus plantation in Felsmere, Fla.

1972 - Chattanooga psychic Doc Anderson appears on Channel 31 News and predicts

the upcoming wounding of Gov. George Wallace. Movie actor Denver Pyle is at the seer's side as the prediction is made. Anderson had predicted many other major events, among them the deaths of F.D.R. and Martin Luther King.

1974 - Richard Nixon comes to Huntsville and makes his last public appearance before resigning as President of the United States.

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4. *True Tales of Old Madison County* by Virgil (Pat) Jones \$7.95
5. *When Spirits Walk: Madison County Ghost Stories* \$16.95
6. *Glimpses of Huntsville in the 1950's* by "Riverboat John" Ferguson \$18.95
7. *Madison County Volunteer Fire Departments: Historical Account* by Willis Speed Kastorff \$19.95
8. *Historical Markers of Madison County, Alabama* \$18.95
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