



No. 204
Feb. 2010



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



Lynching at the Big Spring

A large willow oak about five hundred yards down the Big Spring branch, close to the site of the present day Von Braun Civic Center, had already been selected as the place of execution and a large crowd of people was there waiting. The leaders of the mob had even arranged for a minister, the Rev. E.D. Gordon, to be present in case the accused chose to seek heavenly solace before paying for their crimes.

Also in this issue: **The North Alabama College**

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Lynching at the Big Spring

"There comes a time when men must take the law into their own hands. Even our founding fathers did not intend for us to waste our money on trials for murderers such as these."

Judge E.C. Betts paused, wiping the sweat from his forehead, as he watched the unruly crowd that had gathered in the courthouse.

An unidentified man in the back of the room seemed to express the sentiment that was on everyone's mind when he suddenly shouted: "Enough foolishness! Hang 'em all! Hang everyone of them now!"

Several blocks away at the city jail on Clinton Avenue, the three accused murderers, Mike White, Ephrain Hall and Ben Evans, paced anxiously in the narrow confines of their cell as they listened to the angry crowd. Suddenly Evans, who had a reputation around town as a hellraiser, dropped to his knees and began praying in a loud, scared voice.

The other two, surprised by Evans' unexpected behavior,

questioned him, saying they did not realize he was so religious.

"I ain't," replied Evans, "but this seems like a good time to start."

The trouble had begun in the early spring of 1878 with reports of cattle-rustling. Farmers were used to losing an occasional cow to wild dogs or wandering vagrants, but now it appeared that there was an organized band stealing the cattle.

Searches failed to turn up the cattle, so suspicion quickly focused on the local butcher, Mike White, who was widely known as an unsavory character and owner of a slaughter yard on what is now Oakwood Avenue.

Adding more fuel to the controversy were accusations by George Schoenberger, another local butcher, who openly accused White of receiving the stolen property. Rivalry between the two slaughter yards had always been intense, but no one expected it to develop into open warfare.

Schoenberger had risen early to get his meat to the market house before it opened. Along with his helper, a man by the name of Huddleston, he had already loaded the wagon and pulled out onto Meridian Pike, across the street from where Lincoln school is now located, when suddenly the night air was shattered by the sound of gun-



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shots. Schoenberger made a move as if to stand up, but immediately fell lifeless back into the wagon.

Huddleston turned to see where the shots had come from just in time to see two shadowy figures disappearing into the darkness of night.

The sound of the gunshots alarmed the people living nearby. L.M. McCravey, who lived across the pike, was awakened by his wife and immediately went to investigate. Within minutes he was joined by other men.

The roster of men making up the crowd could have been a "Who's Who" list of Huntsville personalities. There was Milton Humes, a former state legislator; Percy Harrison, county tax collector; George Gill, John Patton and Hermon Humphrey.

The men at the scene listened to Huddleston's story of what had happened. Huddleston pointed out to the group where the assassins had stood when they fired the shots that killed Schoenberger. Quickly, the self appointed posse spread out across the nearby fields and began searching for signs of a trail.

The sun was just beginning to rise, allowing the men to see tracks on the ground still damp from the previous day's rain. By

this time a vigilante mood had descended upon the searchers. The trail led to the home of Ben Evans, an employee of Mike White.

Although Evans loudly proclaimed his innocence, the crowd pushed him aside and searched the house. One of the searchers turned up incriminating evidence in the form of a gun that had recently been fired. More searching turned up evidence implicating Ephrain Hall, another employee of White.

Both suspects were taken into custody and tied securely with a length of rope. Several members of the mob suggested another use for the rope, but fortunately, a Huntsville city policeman happened on the scene. After quickly sizing up the mood of the mob, the policemen placed both men under arrest and started back toward town.

By this time Huntsville was beginning to awaken and crowds had started gathering on the streets talking of the murder.

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Early that same morning, Britton Franks, the Madison County coroner, summoned a grand jury to enquire into the cause of Schoenberger's death. Ironically, the men selected to serve on the jury were the same men who only hours before had tracked and arrested the accused killers.

Under a harsh and sometimes threatening interrogation, confessions were obtained from Evans and Hall. They also admitted that their employer, Ben White, had hired them to commit the murder, threatening to expose them for cattle stealing if they refused.

Indictments were quickly returned against the men and a deputy was sent to arrest White. In fear of further inflaming the local population, it was agreed to keep the coroner's report a secret for the time being.

In the meantime, a citizens meeting had been scheduled at the courthouse to deal with the matter of cattle rustling.

J. Withers Clay opened the meeting by suggesting that a committee be appointed to help the courts deal with cattle rustling. When a discussion of the killing of Mr. Schoenberger was brought up, Judge Betts spoke of the tardiness with which justice was meted out to the offenders. The blame, he explained,

lay in the indifference of the people. It was apparent to everyone present that the judge was proposing a lynching.

Though several people spoke out strongly, pleading that the law be allowed to take its course, a vigilante committee was quickly appointed.

The excitement seemed to flame stronger every minute. Many of the very best citizens from town and country were open in their expressions favoring the immediate punishment of those said to be connected with the murder.

About three o'clock, the courtroom again was packed with people who demanded that the verdict of the coroner's jury be read aloud.

Judge William Richardson arose and addressed the crowd on behalf of law and order. He advised them to counsel well among themselves and let the law have its course.

The crowd would not be put off, however. Angrily, they demanded the verdict be read. The demand was met. In perfect silence the crowd heard the opinion of the coroner's inquest.

The reading of the opinion shocked the crowd and there was much discussion about the

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situation and what was to be done. The excitement continued and before an hour had passed the crowd made its way from the courthouse to the jail at Clinton and Green. A police officer named Hardy climbed atop the jail fence and warned the mob that there were fifty men inside the jail who would not allow them in. Slowly and reluctantly the crowd dwindled.

Although Huntsville appeared quiet for the next several days, there was a huge tide of indignation stirring. The secret vigilante committee headed by George P. Beirne quietly went on with their plans.

On Wednesday morning hundreds of horsemen gathered in the northern part of the county. In a scene highly reminiscent of the Civil War, or the Klan, the horsemen formed their ranks into columns and started toward town.

Judge Richardson and Mayor Davis heard of the approaching band and went out to Meridian Pike to meet them. Standing in the middle of the road. Judge Richardson pleaded with them In the name of law

and order to disperse.

Without pausing, and ignoring the judge's pleas, the horsemen moved past him on either side, flowing down the pike and into town.

Some estimates placed the number of men at 350, and not a single man was disguised.

As the crowd neared the jail they were greeted by citizens who had gathered on the streets, encouraging them in their actions. The guards at the jail, seeing the number and mood of the approaching men, decided that discretion was the better part of valor and hastily deserted their assigned posts.

Several of the vigilantes seized a fence rail and battered the jail door. Each blow of the battering ram was accompanied by shouts and when the door finally gave way, a mighty cheer arose from the crowd.

The three accused men were quickly seized and bound with a length of rope. The vigilantes used every precaution to see that none of the other prisoners were allowed to escape or to be disturbed.

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foot and on horse, the prisoners were marched down the street, past the courthouse and down the hill to the Big Spring. A tremendous crowd, which some people estimated at being in the thousands, followed.

A large willow oak about five hundred yards down the Big Spring branch, close to the site of the present day Von Braun Civic Center, had already been selected as the place of execution and another crowd of people was there waiting. The leaders of the mob had even arranged for a minister, the Rev. E.D. Gordon, to be present in case the accused chose to seek heavenly solace before paying for their crimes.

Also in the crowd were newspapermen from surrounding communities, as well as most of the officials of the Huntsville city government.

While the vigilantes occupied themselves with placing the ropes over the tree limbs and securing a wagon to be used as a platform, the accused passed the time answering questions from the assembled reporters.

Mike White stated to the newspaper men that. "I was born in Rochester, New York. I came here in 1860. I was a good Confederate soldier. I am thirty seven years old. I have no children. I saw my wife this morning in jail. I have no messages to send. Mr. Edwards will look after things. I feel badly."

"Do you know who killed Mr. Schoenberger?" asked one of the reporters.

"I did not kill Mr. Schoenberger," White replied.

Again he was asked: "Do you know who killed Mr. Schoenberger?"

This time he refused to answer, turning his head to look away from the inquiring reporters.

Ephraim Hall was cold and

unrepentant. "I have already told as much as need be told." he said. "We were all in it."

Ben Evans, who had all along shown contrition, talked freely:

"We were all in it. There isn't any use to tell anything but the truth. I know I am going to be killed."

At eleven minutes before three o'clock the three men were put on a wagon. Black cloths were tied over their heads before the rope was placed around their necks. There was a momentary distraction when White insisted on keeping his hat on.

At nine minutes to three the horses were whipped and the wagon moved from under the trio. White and Evans died comparatively easily, but Hall struggled for several minutes before finally succumbing to death. The crowd, many of



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whom had spread picnic blankets under the trees, eagerly watched and cheered.

After the bodies had swayed in the gentle breeze for seventeen minutes, a physician approached and examined the men, before pronouncing all three dead.

A gentleman who seemed to be in charge of the posse mounted the wagon and spoke to the crowd. "Now, men, go to your homes in perfect order and peace. There is nothing more to be done."

After swinging for two hours the dead men were cut down and carried to local funeral homes.

Oddly enough, many of the same people who had attended the hanging, and cheered its outcome, also attended the funerals.

The lynching made news throughout the country. Not only was the crime notable for the public officials involved, it was

also the first time an insurance company brought a lawsuit against the city.

The New York Sun, in an editorial, offered the following comments:

"The prominent citizens of Huntsville. Alabama, who lynched Mike White, might, perhaps, have hesitated to commit that crime, if they had known that White's life was insured for \$10,000, and that the insurance company would sue the county for the amount. While human life is held cheaply in Huntsville, currency is scarce, and valued in proportion to its scarcity. Beside, insurance companies are notoriously long-winded in litigation, and the lynching of White will probably prove to have been a costly amusement. The next time a highly respectable Huntsville mob proceeds to lynch a man, they will, no doubt, find out first whether his life is insured."

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The Hotel on the Mountain

M. J. O'Shaughnessy was a man of vision. He arrived in Huntsville from New York in the mid-1880s and in true entrepreneurial style backed the formation of the North Alabama Improvement Company. This company included a number of Huntsville businessmen and its goals were twofold - to transform Huntsville into an industrial center and to make Monte Sano Mountain into a health resort and vacationer paradise.

By 1886 the company had made a firm decision to build a huge resort hotel on the mountain. On February 16th of that year a site was selected on the northwest section of the mountain 100 yards from the edge of the bluff overlooking Huntsville on the present site of Old Chimney Road. (The chimney now standing was part of the hotel.)

John Rea, the architect, had designed the 233-room structure in the Queen Anne style encircled with broad porches on a 200 x 308 foot area.

One week later 16 teams were busily hauling lumber, lime, cement and other materials up the mountain as construction got under way. The hotel would be lighted by gas and heated by steam. Drinking water would be pumped from nearby Cold Spring, and bath water would be forced up the mountain from Big Spring and stored in a ground reservoir north of the hotel. An 8,000 gallon water tank and observation tower were to be built on top of the hotel from which guests could enjoy views of the distant countryside.

In late April 1887 furniture was being carried up the moun-

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tain by the wagon load. A highly regarded landscape architect, Major Schrimshaw, was summoned from New York and he soon had workers transforming the grounds around the hotel into a veritable garden.

Twenty miles of bridal paths were built, and a driveway circled the town of Viduta. Terraces, walkways and lookouts were placed at prominent spots of geological wonder at various locations on the mountain. Markers pointed out Shelter Rock, Wildcat Glen, Hell's Half Acre, Brigand's Cavern, Vanishing Falls, Chalybeate Spring, Alum Spring, Magnesia Spring, Shelter Spring and Inspiration Point.

Local newspapers kept residents aware of construction progress. Extensive publicity was devoted to the hotel's opening on June 1, 1887, and the grand ball the following night.

Trains arriving in Huntsville were packed. A team-drawn bus seating from seven to ten persons met all trains regardless of time of arrival. A huge Tallyho, with seats above its closed compartments, carried special guests. Six horses drew this carriage up the narrow, winding road. Several stops were made along the way to view the scenery. Nearing the hotel the guests were whirled through a

gateway of rock bound flower beds and orderly lines of shrubbery to the hotel main entrance. There they were met by uniformed attendants who bowed to the guests and directed them through the double doors of colored glass panes into the lobby to the registration desk. The wall behind the desk showed "pigeonholes" for mail, and a call board listing 233 rooms. Alarms and speaking tubes were nearby.

A long south wing of the building was divided into the baths, barber shop, saloon and pool room. A separate house contained two bowling alleys.

A concert was given on July 1st and a few days later a ball was given which opened with a huge fireworks display. About 400 guests were present to hear Prof. Abbot's orchestra play. Dinner was served at midnight, and the ball continued. The huge dining room was "laden with everything to tempt the appetite."

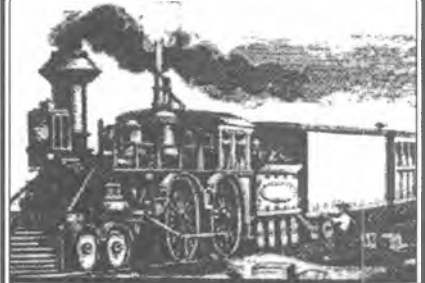
The Huntsville Mercury wrote on August 24th that over 1,000 guests had registered at the hotel since its opening. A profit was made the first year.

In 1889 a railroad line from Huntsville up the mountain was completed. Many local people paid the fare just to enjoy the ride and scenery.

Many prominent people

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signed their names to the register, including William H. Vanderbilt, William Waldorf Astor, Walter Damrosch. Jay Gould and Helen Keller.

In 1894 the hotel was opened early in June and attracted in August one of its largest registrations. However, due to litigation among its stockholders it was not opened the following year. The hotel opened for its last season in 1900. Transportation and other problems accounted for its drop in popularity.

Efforts were made from time to time to revive the hotel to its early successful operation but to no avail. The hotel was later sold to Mrs. Lena Garth. In 1944 the executors of the Garth estate sold the hotel building, with its dust and cobwebs, for \$9,000 for salvage. Later the land was sold as business sites for modern homes.

The only visible evidence of the hotel itself is the tall brick chimney on Old Chimney Road. This rustic monument stands as a reminder of the elegance and gay times that once surrounded it nearly a hundred years ago.

"The American Revolution would never have happened with gun control."

Anon.

Buttermilk Pie

- 1/2 c. butter (One stick)
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 T. flour, plain
- 3 eggs
- 1/2 c. buttermilk
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 9-inch pie crust, brushed with egg white

Preheat your oven to 350 degrees and place your rack in the lower third of the oven. Melt the butter and blend the sugar and flour in a bowl. Add the melted butter to the dry mixture, mix with a wooden spoon.

Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after adding each one. Stir in the vanilla and buttermilk. Pour the filling in the crust and bake til set, about 45 minutes. Cool for about 20 minutes and serve warm or chilled.

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Another Name for a Hospital

Brothers Billy and Charlie had a dream.

They wanted to build a hospital where patients could receive specialized care, that would also serve as a research and teaching center.

Such an idea in the late 1800s was considered absurd, to say the least.

For many patients of that era, checking into a hospital was equivalent to a death warrant. Unsanitary and crowded conditions, combined with medical practices often bordering on quackery, was enough to convince most people to take their chances at home.

Also opposing the idea were many prominent members of the medical community who distrusted the "new-fangled" ideas of the two brothers.

Huntsville was without a true hospital at the time. When several of the community's leaders heard of the idea, they immediately contacted the brothers who were living in Minnesota at the time.

Also in Huntsville's favor was the fact that the United States Surgeon General had recently declared the city as one of the healthiest places in the country.

In April, 1896, Charlie was induced to visit Huntsville. He took an immediate liking to the city and after extensive negotiations, purchased a parcel of land.

The land was expensive: \$2,500 in cash and another \$3,000 in bank stock.

Unfortunately for Huntsville, civic leaders in the brothers hometown also heard of the

their idea. By offering attractive inducements of land and money the brothers were persuaded to build their hospital there.

The brothers kept their land in Huntsville for several years before finally selling it.

Several years would pass before our city finally got a hospital. It is interesting to note, however, that if the brothers' dreams had worked out here, the hospital, instead of being named Huntsville Hospital, would have been named the Mayo Clinic.

The brothers, Charles and William Mayo, never returned to Huntsville.

Want Ads from 1903

Wanted - agent for Nashville Banner. Pays forty dollars a month. Must be reliable and a hustler. See John H. Lackey, Huntsville Hotel.

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Working Twice as Hard

by Billy Joe Cooley

During the second world war there spread a great spirit of patriotism across America. Some ladies in Paint Rock Valley decided it would be nice, since we had an abundance of cotton in the South, to cut bed sheets into four-inch squares and convert the squares into bandages for use in "poor houses" up north.

A Mrs. Kirkpatrick knew elderly people who lived in such a commune in Dayton, Ohio, so it was agreed that the bandages would be sent there for use in the facility's clinic. The ladies theorized that cotton bandages were difficult to obtain in northern communities.

Each week, the Valley ladies

would buy two or three new bed sheets, cut them into the little squares, sew hems on the borders and ship them up to Ohio in cardboard boxes.

Since money was scarce during the war, the ladies would sell produce from their tiny "victory" gardens to finance the buying of the bed sheets. Some even sold home-baked bread, cakes and pies to workers in home-front factories and mills in nearby Huntsville and Scottsboro. The ladies worked their fingers to the bones, so to speak, to provide this very necessary service to the ailing elderly of the Ohio Home for the Destitute.

Three days a week the Paint

Rock Valley women would meet in various homes, pray for the war effort and pour over their bed sheet tasks. It also gave the women a chance to talk about various events in the community and stay abreast of war news as it affected the community: which local servicemen had been killed or wounded overseas and which ones were missing in action.

But mainly it was the bed sheet project which concerned the ladies. The knowledge that their bandages were being sent to help poor people in another part of the nation accounted for a great deal of morale-boosting. That would lessen the demand



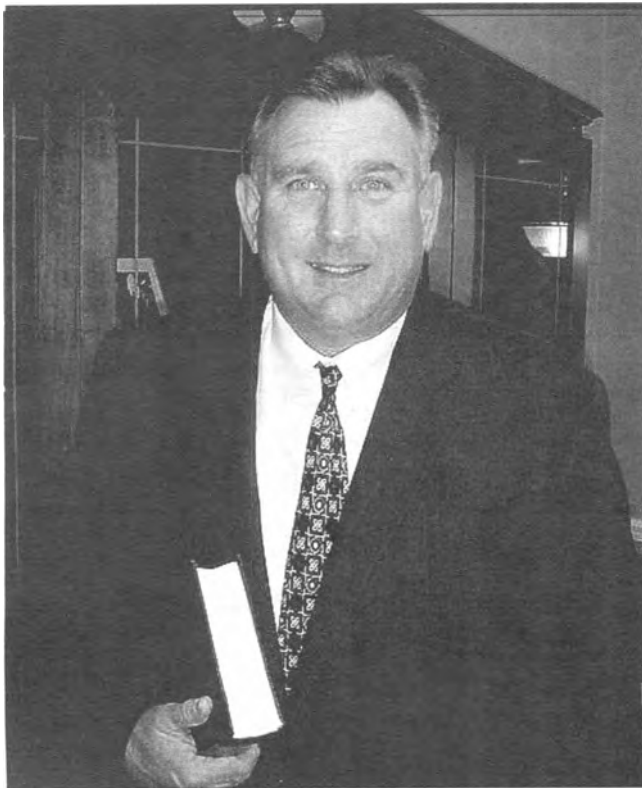
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for "civilian" bandages on the medical industry, thus freeing more commercial bandages for use by our servicemen overseas.

Cut, cut, cut! Sew, sew, sew! This procedure went on for years, until the war finally ended and medical supplies, including bandages, became more plentiful across the nation.

The ladies of Paint Rock Valley were given special recognition for their fine deeds with the bed sheet bandages.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick finally dispatched a letter to the Ohio poorhouse and mentioned that she hoped the bandages had served a needed purpose, since each tiny square had been cut and sewn by hand and "each stitch was made with a loving prayer by the Christian ladies of Paint Rock Valley, Alabama."

Soon a reply to her letter was received from the medical director of the Ohio institution. It read in part:

"Dear ladies, Thanks for the many bandages you have sent us in recent years. However, since we didn't need many bandages, our womenfolk painstakingly sewed the bandages together and made bed sheets."

Gingerbread Recipe

1 /2 c. sugar
1/2 c. butter
1 c. molasses
2 c. flour
1 /2 t. soda
1 1/2 t. ginger
1/2 t. cinnamon
1/2 c. sour milk
Nuts or raisins if desired

Mix all together. put in large loaf pan, and bake in moderate oven about an hour (325 degrees).

This recipe is at least a hundred years old.

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Tips From Liz

- Use brown shoe polish mixed with floor wax to fill in faded spots on your wood floors.
- Apply a coat of wax to your dustpan and watch the dirt slide easily into the garbage.
- If you store your mops and brooms off the floor, they last longer.
- Don't put perfume on your neck before putting on real pearls. It will mar the finish on the pearls. That goes for hairspray, also.
- If you wash a faded pair of jeans with a new pair, the color will come back to the faded pair.
- To tell if your toilet tank leaks, add a few drops of green or blue food coloring to the tank. Don't flush for an hour - if color seeps into the toilet bowl, you might have to replace the ball.
- Dab your favorite perfume or scented oil onto the light bulbs, then turn on. The room will be full of the scent.
- Remove rust from your tub with a mixture of borax and lemon juice.
- Use real wine for cooking and marinating - try to avoid the commercial cooking wines because they have too much salt and too little flavor.
- Your pie crust will not brown properly in a shiny pan - use glass or a pan with a dull finish.
- If you don't have a rolling pin, fill an old wine bottle with cold water and re-cork it.
- Dab lemon juice on your face and watch blemishes disappear in a few days.
- If your postage stamps get wet and are stuck together, put them in the freezer for a day - the stamps will come apart and their glue will still be usable.
- If you have a queen size bed and need sheets, buy full size for the flat sheet and queen size for the fitted. You need the fitted sheet to fit exactly, but the top sheet will be plenty large without hanging down to the floor. And it's cheaper.
- Fill your dining room with candles at different heights - try going with one color, like burgundy or dark green.
- For an eye-catching center-

piece for your dining room table, loop a wide taffeta ribbon around a wreath of greens and place on table. Intertwine with small white lights and in the middle put candles of varying heights.



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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to **Geneva Smithey** of Arab for being the first correct caller to identify last month's photo as that of **Tommy Ragland**. She said she met him years ago and what a great guy he was.

We are so grateful that there were very few injuries during the January tornado that hit Old Town & Five Points, as well as a few other areas. But what really stood out to us was the fabulous job that the **Public Works Department of the city of Huntsville** did, almost immediately. They were on site at the scene within minutes of the tornado touch down, and worked tirelessly all night long and the days following. This was true also of the **Huntsville Utilities crews**. We are so proud to live in Huntsville with such dedicated city workers who keep us safe.

Recently while walking through a downtown neighborhood I ran into **Ty Samples**. He does alot of walking for exercise and it sure shows - he looks

great!

While shopping at Dillards recently at Parkway Place mall I met the sweetest sales lady named **Belinda Bailey**. She wants to say a special hello to her brother **Charles Bailey**.

We're so proud of the **Weatherly Elementary school 4th grade girls!** 5 of them in particular have made the school proud. **Claudia Sanchez, Lindsey Harper, Alexandra Liever, Robin Malmede** and **Hannah Troup** were selected to make a presentation in Birmingham at the Girls Engaged in Math and Science Exposition (GEMS-U) regarding a project on inertia and gravity they had been working on. Only 150 girls were selected out of more than 500 who applied within the state. The girls had to create a display for their project, and

also had to answer questions about it. We're proud of them!

One really active guy is **Wilbur Patterson**, who is a member of the Golden K Kiwanis Club. The Golden Ks are the retired group and their average age is 84. Wilbur is 90, and one of the nicest guys you'll ever meet!

Betty Davis called us around the holidays to tell us that her aunt **Jean Pitsinger** celebrated her 96th birthday on December 23! We are very proud of you and will wish you happy birthday again next year!

I recently talked with **Gwen Michael** of the 5 Points area, just after the tornado. She had a really old pecan and cedar tree come down due to the winds, and we really hate to lose the old, stately trees downtown.

Happy Birthday **Neil Cocker**, you handsome devil you!!

Duke Deluca was a name that many in Huntsville remember, he was associated with clubs and Fat Harry's in par-

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Photo of The Month

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Hint: This cute little boy was well known as a writer.



ticular. Duke died in Philadelphia recently. We send our sympathy to his friends and family.

Liz Waggett's Dad AJ Casey of Satellite Beach, Fl. recently came up to Huntsville for a visit with family over the holidays. I was lucky to meet him and really enjoyed talking with him. Liz's husband is **Joe Waggett** and he sure loves his dear wife.

A happy belated 50th wedding anniversary to **Robert** and **Patsy Giesecke** of Alvin, Tx. The couple used to live in Huntsville and has many friends here.

Carmine DeSanctis was only 74 when he died recently, at the nursing facility of Redstone Village. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife **Gerri** and their family. Carmine always had a smile for everyone and really will be missed.

Congratulations to a recently married couple! It was not unusual, except that the bride was 91. **Annell Wright** married her sweetheart, **Dr. Ernest Rogers**, a 93-year old retired professor at Oakwood University. The wedding took place with about 1,200 well-wishers at Oakwood University Church.

One of my favorite people at BB&T bank when I do business there is **Thelma Schaefer**. She and her dear hubby celebrated 8 years of happy marriage in early January '10. Congratulations to the Lovebirds!

The Golden K Kiwanis Christmas party was held this past December at Brookdale & the entertainment was great - **The Counterpoint Handbell Choir**, directed by **Shane Kennedy** of Trinity United Methodist Church. The choir has evolved from a 3 octave to a 5 octave choir that performs very challenging music and is just a joy to listen to. **John Vaughn**, who is a member of the choir, is also current President of the Golden K Kiwanis Club.

It was great reading about

El Palacio in the Times recently. **Doug Davis** runs it now, it was started by his family and opened in Huntsville in 1966 - wonderful, savory Mexican food!

Billy Joe Cooley was only 78 when he died in early January. Billy was one of the most beloved humorists and authors of this area, and at one time authored this column, before **Aunt Eunice**. We send our deepest condolences to all who knew him.

I met a sweet lady at BB&T bank on University Dr. - **Ianthia Bridges** had a January birthday - Happy Birthday to you!

L. T. Mills of New Market recently celebrated his 91st birthday, and his family is SO proud of him. His grandson is **David Perry**, and David's daughter **Casey Moss** is L.T.'s great-granddaughter. Casey's son **River Moss** is L.T.'s great great grandson!

Lola Stutts-Braxton of the Shoals wants to send a special hello to her niece **Earline Moore** and Earline's husband **Jack**. Also to her niece **Linda Myrick** and husband **Bill**.

Congratulations to that gorgeous lady **Jana Hinsley** who married **Will Wise** in December at a wedding in Tyler, Tx. attended by 400 people! Tyler is known as the Rose Capital of

the state. Jana works for Edward Jones and recently moved her office to Cecil Ashburn Drive near that fabulous Sushi restaurant, "I Love Sushi."

We hope you all have a good February, less eventful than January!

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RECIPES

Sweetheart Treats

These recipes are taken from the Huntsville Hospital cookbook, "Welcome Back."

Honey Candy

- 1/2 c. butter
- 3/4 c. honey
- 3/4 c. milk
- 3 T. cocoa
- 1c. peanut butter
- 3 c. rolled oats

In a saucepan mix first 4 ingredients and bring to a boil. Boil for 3 minutes, stirring. Remove from heat, then mix in the peanut butter and oats. Spread hot mixture in a 9x13" glass dish and let stand til cool. Cut into squares.

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Apple & Pineapple Bake

- 3 medium baking apples, peeled & sliced
- 1/2 c. unsweetened crushed pineapple

- 1 T. cinnamon
- 1 1/2 t. sugar
- 2 T. chopped walnuts

Place apples in greased 8-inch pie plate. Drain pineapple, reserving 1/3 cup juice. Spoon pineapple over the apples. Sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Pour reserved pineapple juice over top. Sprinkle with walnuts and bake at 325 degrees for 40 minutes.

Diane Magnuson

Crazy Pie

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 1 c. finely ground butter crackers
- 4 egg whites, stiffly beaten
- 1 c. whipping cream
- 1 t. almond extract
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 2 T. sugar
- 1/2 c. broken pecans

Fold one cup sugar, chopped pecans and cracker crumbs into stiffly beaten egg whites. Pour into pie plate and bake til light brown, cool.

Beat whipping cream, flavorings and 2 tablespoons sugar in mixing bowl til stiff. Spread over cooled pie and sprinkle broken pecans over top. Refrigerate til ready to serve.

Martha W. Durham

Peanut Butter Pie

- 1/3 c. creamy peanut butter
- 3/4 c. confectioners sugar
- 2 c. milk
- 3 egg yolks, slightly beaten
- 2 T. butter
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 1/3 c. plain flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1/8 t. salt
- 1 baked 8" pie shell, cooled
- 3 egg whites

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- 1 t. cornstarch
- 3 T. sugar
- 1/4 t. cream of tartar

Mix peanut butter and sugar in bowl. Combine next 4 ingredients in saucepan. Heat til milk is scalded, stirring constantly. Mix flour, 1/2 cup sugar and salt together. Add to milk mixture, beating constantly with wire whisk. Cook til thickened, sitting constantly. Spread 2/3 of the peanut butter mixture in pie shell. Pour filling over top. Beat egg whites with mixer til stiff. Add next 3 ingredients; beat til glossy. Spread over filling, sealing to edge. Sprinkle with remaining peanut butter mixture. Bake for 10-15 minutes. Refrigerate until serving time.

Terry M. Frye

Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 2/3 c. shortening
- 2/3 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 1 t. almond extract
- 3 c. plain flour
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 t. salt
- 2 c. semi-sweet chocolate chips

Beat together first 7 ingredients til smooth. Blend in flour, soda, salt and chips, mix well.

Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets. Bake for 8-10 minutes and golden brown.

Cindy & Dr. David Durst

Four-Layer Dessert

- 3/4 c. margarine
 - 1 c. plain flour
 - 1 c. pecans, chopped
 - 16 oz. cream cheese, room temperature
 - 1 1/2 c. confectioners sugar
 - 12 oz. whipped topping
 - 2 4-oz pkgs. chocolate instant pudding mix
 - 16 oz. whipped topping
- Melt margarine in saucepan. Add flour and pecans; mix well. Spread over bottom of a 9x13" baking dish. Bake until light brown; mixture burns quickly after it gets hot. Set aside to cool.

Beat the cream cheese in mixer bowl until smooth. Add confectioners sugar; mix well.

Fold in 12 ounces of the whipped topping. Spread over cooled layer. Prepare pudding mix using package directions, using 1/2 cup less milk. spread over the second layer. Spread 16 ounces of the whipped topping over the chocolate layer. Garnish with pecans or chocolate curls. Best if prepared a day before serving. Delicious & Light!

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North Alabama College, the School that Never Was

by Charles Rice

To 19th century North Alabamians, the city of Huntsville was often viewed as an oasis of culture. Unlike many frontier towns which simply grew up more or less by chance, Huntsville was largely planned and settled by wealthy planters from Georgia and Virginia. Thus the city had its culture virtually imposed upon it almost from the beginning.

By the middle of the 19th century, Huntsville was celebrated for its Methodist Female Academy and Presbyterian Female Seminary, while many young men came to receive their education at the nondenominational Green Academy on East Clinton Street.

However, another little known Huntsville educational institute died stillborn as just one more casualty of the War Between the States. This was the North Alabama College, a cherished project of the local Presbyterian Church.

The idea seems to have started in 1852 among the members of Huntsville's First Presbyterian. Many church members desired a Presbyterian men's school to serve as the equivalent of their highly respected Female Seminary. The project took some time getting off the ground, however, and it was not until April of 1858 that the North Alabama Presbytery finally got around to electing a board of trustees to oversee the college.

Appointed as trustees were three prominent Huntsvillians: Dr. Frederick A. Ross, the distinguished minister of First Presbyterian, Dr. Lawrence B. Sheffey, a medical practitioner, and Isaiah Dill, a noted Huntsville attorney. The terms of service for the men were staggered, with Ross

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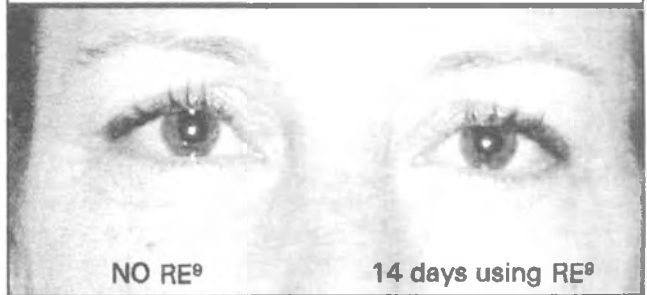
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to serve one year, Sheffey two, and Dill three.

On May 14, 1858, the North Alabama College was incorporated under the laws of Alabama. Two months later, the Presbyterian Church negotiated the purchase of 140 acres of land from George Horton for the sum of \$7,000. The land was on the south side of Governor's Drive, a short distance beyond today's Huntsville Hospital East. The present residential area is even now known as College Hill.

Matthew W. Steele, son of the noted Huntsville architect George Steele, was awarded the contract to construct the impressive edifice. The three-story brick building was to be 125 feet in length and 65 feet in width. It faced northward toward the city of Huntsville.

Work commenced in early 1859 and proceeded steadily. "The North Alabama College is being built upon an eminence one mile from town," said the 1859 City Directory. "It is of the castellated style of architecture. The building is to be three stories high, with two towers. It will contain a lecture room and hall for societies. It is under the direction of the Presbytery of North Alabama, yet in the selection of professors it is allowable to choose them, irrespective of religious creed. It will cost when finished, from thirty to thirty-five thousand dollars."


The spring of 1862 found the North Alabama College almost completed. However, the fledgling school was never to open its doors. On April 11, 1862, a Union Army led by General Ormsby McKnight Mitchel seized Huntsville. Work was immediately halted.

Harper's Weekly, the famous New York illustrated newspaper, carried an engraving of the city one month after its capture. The North Alabama College is clearly visible in the drawing, looking for all purposes virtually ready for occupation. Later testimony revealed that the exterior of the building was, indeed, finished. The tin roof was in place, and the interior was also largely completed. The material required for the final touches was stored within the building. However, that is as far as it ever got.

The Union Army retreated from Huntsville at the end of August 1862, but war time conditions kept the school from

opening. In the summer of 1863, the Union Army returned, this time to stay for almost all of the remainder of the war.

Unfortunately for the Presbyterian Church, the winter of 1863-64 was unusually severe in North Alabama. In early 1864, Union General David H. Stanley, who then commanded in Huntsville, decided his men simply had to have bricks to build chimneys for their makeshift dwellings. He ordered the Union soldiers to take their bricks from the North Alabama College!



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By the time the Yankees had finished vandalizing the beautiful building, almost all of Matthew Steele's fine work had been undone. The North Alabama College was left in ruins. It would never be rebuilt.

Impoverished by the war, First Presbyterian Church was left to foot the bill for their shattered dream. On August 25, 1866, the church was forced to sell the property and all that was left of the college at public auction to pay off the mortgage of \$3,300.

Many years after the war, First Presbyterian sought to recover its losses from the Federal Government. General Stanley wrote to the church in December 1891 to confirm that everything happened just as they said.

On September 12, 1893, Joseph Wheeler introduced a bill into Congress to investigate the church's claim against the government. The wheels of government turn slowly, however, and nothing much had been done through December 3, 1901, when Congressman William Richardson reintroduced the bill. This time the matter was referred to the Committee on War Claims.

Testimony before Congress confirmed that the money to build the college was raised by contributions of Huntsville citi-



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zens, and that the trustees were a nonpartisan group that had nothing to do with wartime politics.

Huntsvillian Augustus Pryor, then 75, testified that he had seen the Union soldiers destroying the college building.

Pryor added that after the Union troops left Huntsville, he saw at least a thousand brick chimneys standing at the Union campsite, which was about a quarter of a mile from the school.

On February 25, 1907, the Federal Court of Claims finally decided in favor of the church to the amount of \$7,600. After legal expenses were deducted, the church received \$5,320.

It had taken 43 years for the Presbyterian Church to receive what it was owed. Unfortunately, Huntsville never did get its hoped-for men's college.

News from 1907

- Will Pylant was charged with drunk and disorderly conduct, and Jim Bowman, charged with trespassing. Both men were arrested at the Southern passenger depot last night by the watchman, Will Short. Bowman is a hackman and he was arrested after the officer had warned him to stay in line at the depot. Both men have been lodged in jail.

- Mr. J.J. Crittenden, who resides at Adams Avenue, has reported to the police the loss of a pocket book containing \$9. He claims that the wallet was left on a table in the front room and while the family was at supper a thief entered the home and escaped with the loot.

- A Banner reporter was informed Monday that a detective agency will permanently locate

in the city within the next few days. Messrs. Corbett and Ladd of Nashville, who have been in the city for the past month, are very much pleased with the location for a detective agency. Mr. Sawyer of West Huntsville will be a member of the firm and only first class men will be employed. Discretion is guaranteed on all matters.

- For Sale - Nice rubber-tired buggy, harness and driving mare, perfectly gentle. For information, address 512, city.

- Lost - A lady's bracelet, lost on the public square, finder return for large reward at the First National Bank. The bracelet has sentimental value to the owner as it was a gift from a departed grandfather.

February Auctions!

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Auction #1: Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010 at 4pm

Eddie from Pennsylvania, along with other out-of-town sellers! Partial list includes: 5 piece Mahogany bedroom suite, Mahogany 4 maple tea carts, pair of matching Mahogany twin beds, 4 piece Mahogany bedroom suite, lots of jewelry, set of Hummels, walnut wardrobe, cottage style highback bed, leaded glass windows, pair of blue glass art deco tables, glassware and tray deals. Much, Much, More! You must see these!

Auction #2: Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010 at 4pm

Tony from Ohio, here this week! Partial list includes: 1960's English Rocking Horse, old pocket watches, early Huntsville drugstore bottles, Huntsville amber Coca Cola bottle (plus others), Amber lightning canning jars, highback oak bed, cookie jars, advertising signs, 6' tall nutcracker, old picture frames, several old clocks, crocks and jugs, 4-drawer J&P Coats Spool Chest, old radios, oak kitchen cabinet, 3 stack oak bookcase, 2 oak pie safes, marble top nightstands, 2 oak side-by-sides, 4 piece Eastlake parlor set, Mahogany bubble glass china cabinet, 6 piece rosewood bedroom suite, Mahogany leaded glass bookcase, French curio cabinet, 8 piece & 4 piece dining room suites, 19th Century French cast iron scale, early pine dovetailed blanket box, several GAR badges, glassware, silverplate, tons more!

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An Amazing Man

By Malcolm Miller

Sitting high on a shelf among the tonics and hair dressings in Jerry and Bill's Barber Shop on Governors Drive is a large painting of three clowns. At the bottom of the painting are the names of the men depicted as the three clowns. There is Jerry Brazier and Bill Tipton, the shop owners, and the other clown bears my name, Malcolm Miller. This painting has been on this wall for twenty something years and it stands there as a reminder of the artist that did this handiwork. This multi-talented man was none other than my friend, the late Dick Sasnett, one of the most controversial and interesting people I have ever known.

Just about every morning a group of men gathered at the Big Spring Cafe on Governors Drive and occupied the only table in the place. The regulars were Avery Lee "Abe" Daniel, Jerry Brazier, Louis Robinet, Ray Owens, Dick Sasnett and yours truly.

Every morning we covered every subject from world peace to politics to religion and usually the center of all the controversy was Dick Sasnett. He loved a good argument and he and I usually dis-

agreed on almost every thing. In fact a few times he made me so mad that I would get up and leave. When this happened he would always make up by bringing me a gift of some kind to the barber shop. You just couldn't stay mad at him.

Dick passed away in nineteen eighty nine at the age of 81, and it really hurt me. Dick was Irish to the bone and loved to sing "Danny Boy" in that high tenor voice of his and before he passed away he requested that I play "Danny Boy" on the har-

monica at his funeral. I stood out front and played "Danny Boy" on the harmonica while Susan, his step daughter, and Tony Myers, a friend that sang with him when he was living, sang behind the curtain. Dick also wrote his own eulogy and had our friend Ray Owen read it

Dick told so many stories of things that he had done in his life time that I used to laugh at him and tell him that if he did all the things that he claimed he did he would be over three hundred years old.

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He said he was once a world putt-putt champion and a golden gloves boxing champion. He painted signs for Ringling Brother's circus and held over three hundred jobs in his life time.

I only wish Dick were alive today because I owe him an apology. You see a few weeks back I was talking to my next door neighbor Wayne Smith and he mentioned Dick Sasnett. I was totally shocked. I said did you know Dick and he told me that Dick was his wife Susan's step father and furthermore he confirmed that all those tales that Dick had told me over the years were true. He said that he and Dick were going to play a game of putt-putt and Dick gave him ten points and Wayne being pretty good at the game took

him up on the bet. He said that Dick soundly defeated him using the neck of a Dr. Pepper bottle for a putter.

Susan told me that Dick had really lived a rough life growing up, having to quit school in the first grade and go to work picking cotton to help the family of eight children survive after his Mother left them and their father. The eight children all shared a bed with Dick in the middle, making it very crowded, but cozy. Susan also told me

"There should be a support group for women who can't put their dishes in the dishwasher, dirty."

Maxine

that Dick spent some time as a hobo riding the rails. To be perfectly honest Dick still looked like a hobo with his long hair and scruffy beard, but he was

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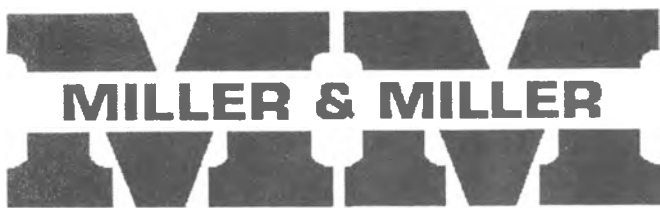
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far from it. When the movie "The Ravensers" was filmed in Huntsville, Dick had a part as a cave man.

Dick and his wife Marge had a very successful sign painting business when he passed away. Marge went to work with Dick in the sign painting business and Dick taught her how to paint signs and together they operated a very successful business. Marge also played on the putt-putt circuit with him.

The old saying "you can't judge a book by its cover" was certainly proven true by my friend Dick Sasnett. He looked like a hobo, however inside was a heart of gold and more talent than I ever imagined. Knowing Dick enriched my life and I will always remember the talented, controversial, interesting, successful, man, husband, father and business owner.

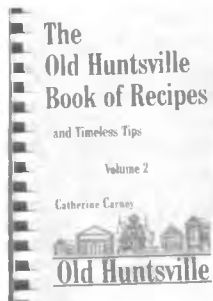
A Sad Case

from an 1890 newspaper

The saddest case of the Enoch Arden kind is that recorded of a Missouri man, which took place lately. One day in the year 1861 his wife sent him out to get an armful of wood, but he walked to town, where he enlisted and went away to the war. When the war closed he drifted away to California and Mexico. His wife waited five or six years; then

concluding that he was dead, she married again. The second husband died in 1879, and in 1882 she led another blushing groom to the altar. About a month ago the original husband came lumbering back. But there was no glad smile for him. The wife looked over her shoulder at him from where she sat by the stove and asked him if he had got that wood yet. Then the third husband came in and told him to "make tracks, and make 'em lively." "Alas," exclaimed the first husband, "It has been for naught!" Then he went out, and the second husband's dog chased him to the forks of the road.

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The Man with No Name

John W. Hanner, a staff writer for the Brooklyn Gazette, while visiting Alabama in 1847, wrote a story about a slave in Huntsville who belonged to a Mr. McLemore. The slave had been born on the place where he lived, but had never traveled more than a half mile away from home.

Apparently, the slave was born retarded, but had become a favorite of his master. Although able to perform simple chores, the man was unable to care for himself. He slept in the main house, where someone could watch over him.

Mr. Hanner described the slave as a very large, but calm, person who was never known to tell a lie. His voice was low and his enunciation slurred. He never became angry or excited

about any of the ordinary things of life. Like all other slaves at that time, he was unable to read or write.

What made the slave so unusual was the fact that he was a mathematical genius. The man did not know one figure or letter from another, but was able to add, subtract, multiply, and work complicated mathematical problems in his mind faster than most people could on paper.

Word of his unusual ability spread and before long he became a local curiosity. The Rev. John C.

Burruss and Thomas Brandon, prominent men in the early days of Madison County, heard of the strange slave and decided to see for themselves.

Some of the questions used in testing him were

as follows:

"What is 99 times 99?" Answer: "9,801."

"What is 74 times 86 1/2?" Answer: "6,401."

"How many 9's are in 2000?" Answer: "222 with 2 over."

"What is 321 times 789?" Five second pause. "253,269."

"What is 7 times 9,223?"

"The problem with the gene pool is that there is no lifeguard."

Steven Wright

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Two second pause. "64,561." "What is 3,333 times 5,555?"

This was the only question that seemed to stump the slave. He pulled at his clothing, wrung his hands, sucked his thumb and then ran out of the house into the yard where he began skipping and leaping into the air.

Satisfied that they had finally been able to best the slave genius, Burruss and Brandon were about to leave when the slave ran back into the room.

"18,514,815," he shouted to the bewildered questioners.

A week later he was able to recall to the men what the last problem, asked him on that day, had been.

He never had an explanation as to how he arrived at the answers, stating only, "I studies it up!"

When word of the slave's uncanny mathematical gift begin to spread, his master was besieged by requests from people wanting more information. One group of learned professors, from Nashville, spent three days with him in an effort to prove trickery. All attempts failed as the slave answered each question correctly.

Finally, in a last effort to discredit him, one of the professors asked how many stars were in the universe. The slave jumped up, ran out of the room and didn't return. Almost an hour later the professor found him hiding behind a woodshed.

"You don't know the answer!" exclaimed the jubilant professor.

"Yes sir, I knows the answer ... there jest ain't no word for a number that big."

No one knows whatever happened to the slave who was a mathematical genius. Years later, people could not even remember his name and he became just another footnote in Old Huntsville's history.

P.O.W. Camp for Arsenal

from 1944 newspaper

July 1944: Word was announced yesterday that Chambers Construction Company of Athens has been awarded a \$24,000 contract to build a facility on the Arsenal to house between 300 and 500 German prisoners of war.

The prisoners, from Rommel's Africa Corps, are expected to begin arriving in Huntsville within a matter of weeks. These will be the first prisoners held in Madison County since the Civil War to oversee the prisoners. No plans have been announced as to whether the prisoners will be expected to work but it is commonly assumed they will be hired out to local cotton farmers.



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The Legend of Lily Flagg

Even though it not as old as some homes still standing in Madison County, the Watkins Moore home on Adams Street downtown bids strongly for a unique place among colorful local history, for this was the location of the only reception ever held for a cow.

In the 1850s the home was built by the Watkins family. James L. Watkins passed the land on to his son, Robert H. Watkins. At the time this home was built, Huntsville was renowned for having some of the most beautiful homes throughout the South. This started a building feud in Huntsville, and Watkins was not to be outdone. He was surrounded by stately dwellings, and wanted his home to outshine them all.

The building of the home began. Craftsmen were called in from other states to create plaster of Paris molding. All the woodwork inside the dwelling was made of walnut, frescoing was put together painstakingly in sections. Slaves were put to work making hand pressed brick for its walls. Two stairways led to the second floor of the home, with a third going directly to a tower on the roof which consisted of two floors.

There was no other structure like the tower anywhere near Hunts-


ville. Those who traveled the world spoke of a similar one in Paris. On clear days, one could see as far as the Tennessee River from the lookout in the tower.

Robert Watkins built this magnificent home as a gift to his beloved bride Margaret Carter. She didn't live long in the home, however. Soon after the home was completed, the Civil War began and the men went away to war.

Margaret had just given birth to their first child when yankee

forces reached Huntsville. When the yankees spread their tents all over the yard of the mansion, the alarmed servants ran in to tell the weakened mother the news. She became extremely agitated, and died a few hours after being notified.

You know you're getting older when yellow becomes your favorite color: Walls, teeth, hair.



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When Samuel Moore acquired the home in 1890 he continued to improve the interior of the home. Such rare items as bathtubs, lighting fixtures, and marble mantles from Italy were brought in.

Mr. Moore was quite a colorful character. Even though he was a renowned bachelor and a member of the State Legislature, he loved parties and people. Prominent visitors never missed a tour of his home, and many local celebrities married there, surrounded by flowers and gaiety.

Samuel Moore not only loved people, he loved his cow Lily Flagg. This was not an ordinary cow, but had just returned from the state fair in Chicago where she had taken top honors as the world's greatest butterfat producer. He was as proud of her as if a daughter had taken top honors in a world beauty contest. So to celebrate her success he decided to honor her with a grand reception.

He spared no expense in the preparations. He had the home painted a bright yellow for the occasion. A fifty foot dancing platform was erected at the back of the mansion and was lit by one of the first electric lighting systems in the Southeast. Lanterns were hung everywhere, flowers were in abundance.

When prominent officials received their invitations, they noticed a picture of a cow on the front of the greeting. On the evening of the event, guests dressed in formal attire formed a long line that wound its way to the small stable at the rear of the property, where the little Jersey stood almost hidden by roses. She was honored by people from as far away as Washington, D.C.

When the Italian orchestra from Nashville began to play, the dance platform quickly filled up. Special tables were set up all over

the property to hold exquisite foods and pastries. Champagne flowed freely and it is said that this was one of the best parties held in the Huntsville area, before or after.

The party lasted until the early morning hours, and older residents said that they would never forget the party for the little cow.

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The Black Widow

Tall, dark-haired, and beautiful. "She had a penchant for attracting husbands ... and then burying them," is how one local wag described the mysterious Elizabeth Flannigan, one of the most notorious figures ever to live in Madison County.

The mysterious happenings that took place in her home near Hazel Green may have been accidental, or may have been violently purposeful. The first sight to greet any visitor who happened to visit the home was a massive oak hat rack, placed in the most prominent part of the foyer, upon which she hung six hats—one for each dead husband. For some curious reason known only to her, she made a point of displaying the hats, perhaps as a morbid reminder, or maybe as a warning to her next unfortunate lover.

The antebellum home was built on the site of an Indian

mound about a mile east of Hazel Green. The original log cabin was erected in 1817 in the middle of a 500-acre plantation by Alexander Jeffries, an early Madison County settler. He was an older man who had met and immediately became infatuated with the young widow.

After a courtship lasting only several weeks, they married in 1837. If Mr. Jeffries had any thoughts of a long marriage, they were dashed two months later when a servant found his body lying lifeless in the barnyard. His cause of death was listed as heart failure. The fact that Jeffries was presumably in good health at the time was never explained.

Fortunately, the young, grieving widow had by this time acquired experience at burying husbands and so within hours of Jeffries' demise his body was

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Mo Phillips, cat-owner



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consigned to the graveyard.

As a young woman, Elizabeth had met and married twice in short succession. Her first husband was a Mr. Gibbons, a wealthy man who was many years her senior. They were married only a few months when a mysterious malady struck the new bridegroom. Neighbors later claimed that Gibbons took sick one morning, died at lunch, and was buried before dinner. The cause of death was never explained.

Shortly afterwards, she set her sights on another neighbor, Mr. Flannigan, who becoming instantly taken with the young widow's charms, insisted they be married immediately. Flannigan was also a wealthy plantation owner and when he too died three months later,

Elizabeth became one of the wealthiest people in the community.

Apparently Elizabeth did not believe in long mourning spells, as her latest husband was buried before she took the time to inform the neighbors of his sudden departure.

The widow was now forced to look elsewhere for her next spouse, as the supply of eligible bachelors in the neighborhood had been depleted considerably. Within a few months, Elizabeth, while visiting friends in Limestone County, announced her impending marriage to Robert A. High, who was a state legislator. He was also very wealthy.

He must have spent a lot of time away from home, as it took almost two years for him to succumb to the same malady

that had claimed his predecessors. He too was buried immediately, leaving behind a hat on the foyer hat rack and a considerable fortune.

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Having tried plantation life and politics, Elizabeth decided next to marry a merchant. Absalom Brown was a wealthy businessman from New Market. After spending most of his fortune on his new wife, he died as well. This came as a shock to everyone, as Mr. Brown was a very healthy and virile man. The unknown malady that he was stricken with caused his body to swell so much that it was necessary to bury him immediately after his death. None of the neighbors ever saw the body.

Once again, not believing in long spells of mourning, Miss Elizabeth Flannigan Gibbons Jeffries High Brown roused herself out of her depression long enough to marry Willis Routt, her sixth husband. He died, amazingly, just like the others, in a short time.

At about this same time, Elizabeth, or Mrs. Routt, became involved in a controversy with a neighbor, Abner Tate, over loose livestock and other matters. Tate was completely blind to her beauty, which infuriated her, and had been observing the home and its occupants for many years. He openly charged her with murder. He backed up his suspicions with the hat rack in the parlor that was in open sight, on which hung six old hats—the blatant proof of Tate's accusations.

Maybe Abner Tate should have been

forewarned of crossing the notorious widow, for shortly afterwards, he was wounded by a shotgun blast. Though proof was lacking, gossip had it that Mrs. Routt had hired one of Tate's slaves to do him in. The slave, not having the courage to do the dirty deed himself, in turn hired another man, who allegedly pulled the trigger. Mr. Tate, shortly afterwards, sold all of his slaves.

By this time, Tate was furious with his neighbor and determined to see justice done. When he went to the authorities he was informed that "nothing could be done unless you can find some evidence. Maybe all of her husbands did die natural deaths. Maybe the slave did shoot you by accident. Maybe it's just all coincidence. There's nothing we can do."

Beside himself with rage, Tate was determined that his neighbor would not get away with her dastardly deeds. He began writing a book in which he described the mysterious happenings at the antebellum home. He wrote about

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how the succession of husbands made her prosperous and wealthy, and how she would treat them all with disdain, once she had captured them. He noted how the intervals between weddings and deaths became shorter and shorter, as she acquired "more experience and practice."

When the book was published, it created a scandalous sensation in Madison County. Half of the county believed she was guilty while the other half swore to her innocence.

Needless to say, the merry widow was not a pleasant lady to be around when she heard news of the book. She immediately drove her buggy into Huntsville, where she consulted an attorney and brought charges against Abner Tate for defamation of character.

When the case finally came to trial late that fall, the courtroom was packed. The courtroom became a battleground, with plaintiff and defendant hurling insult after insult at each other. Accusations followed from each of the attorneys, while

the judge rapped repeatedly for order.

The crowd of onlookers became so large that it overflowed onto the courthouse grounds. It was said a tavern in town was taking bets as to how the trial would end.

The judge, after listening to as much as he could stand, continued the case, hoping both parties would calm down

Writers

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enough to be rational.

After a short while, Mrs. Routt dropped the charges.

Even today, the debate goes on in Madison County. Why did she drop the charges? Was it because she was tired of constantly being the topic of gossip, or was she worried about some new information that Tate's attorney had recently uncovered?

Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Routt and her son moved to Mississippi. She never again returned to Madison County. No one knows why she moved, but on the day of her departure, witnesses swear that they saw her in a carpenter's shop, getting a seventh peg added to her hat rack.

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

A Letter

Lee Shirer

Somewhere in California, 1889

To Mr. Robert Shirer, Meridian Road, Huntsville, Alabama

Dear Papa,

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

I went to San Francisco with the men I work with. The city must be as big as Huntsville and Decatur both. It is something to see the ocean. You can throw a fish up in the air and the birds will fight over it until one gets it and flies off with it. Some of the birds are as big as a turkey.

Some of the men I work with are going to go off gold hunting. They want me to go but I said no. I don't think there is any gold left here. We did not find as much to pay for our beans this year past. There are men all over the hills and all the good places are gone. The way to get rich here is to open a cooking place. The food is bad and most of us would rather be hungry than eat it.

I had to sell the horse. I had run out of money and no one to turn to. I will surely be home Christmas next year.

Your Dutiful Son,

Lee

FROM THE HEART



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

The Indian Creek Canal

To bring the Tennessee River to Huntsville was the dream of Dr. Thomas Fearn, and his dream was to become a reality through the construction of a canal linking Huntsville with Triana.

On December 21, 1820, the Indian Creek Navigation Company was chartered and Dr. Fearn, LeRoy Pope, Henry Cook, Sam Hazard, and Stephen Ewing were designated as commissioners and were empowered to issue stock in the company at \$50 per share.

Under the charter, the corporation was given the rights to open, and improve for navigation, Indian Creek from the spring at Huntsville to the Tennessee River at the town of Triana, and to open the waterways for use as a canal. The corporation was also given the right of eminent domain for the purpose of acquiring the necessary lands and waterways. The company was empowered to collect tolls for the passage of all boats through the canal from Huntsville to Triana at the rate of two dollars for every ton of cargo the boat may carry.

A notice appeared in the *Alabama Republican* on 30th March, 1821, stating the "Indian Creek Navigation Company

Stock is available for sale at the Planters and Merchants Bank in Huntsville."

At the end of August, it was announced that work on the canal was progressing rapidly and the canal would be open to shipping next season. But, in April of 1822, Dr. Fearn was receiving bids to complete the unfinished one-half of the canal.

Over the next few years, there was a lack of interest in

the canal by the public and the feeling was that the canal would never be completed. Dr. Fearn and his brother, George, still had faith in the project, but it appears they were the only ones who believed the canal would become a reality.

An advertisement in the *Southern Advocate*, 27th January, 1827, announced, "The Indian Creek Navigation Company is prepared to ship cotton from

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Huntsville to the Tennessee River. The canal is not completed, but presently will admit the passage of boats."

Work on Fearn's Canal, as it was now known, progressed slowly with alternating phases of "work" and "no work."

Finally, on April 5, 1831, two boats came up the canal to the wharf at the head of Big Spring Creek where they unloaded a cargo of merchandise. They loaded up with a cargo of cotton and passengers and successfully returned to the Tennessee River. Each boat was capable of carrying 100 bales of cotton and fifty passengers.

Unfortunately for the investors, the advent of the railroad spelled the end of the canal's future. The last time the canal

was used was during the Civil War, when the federals shipped the stones that had been quarried for the uncompleted Catholic church to Ditto Landing, where they were used for fortifications.

"I thought my window was down, but found it was up when I put my hand through it."

Seen on recent accident report

The Outhouse Caper

from 1906 newspaper

Celebrating the 4th of July holiday has landed several of our local lads in the City Jail. Richard Jarvis and William Petty, after having spent most of the day atop Monte Sano, "partaking of the of devil's brew" decided to pull a prank on Homer McPeters, a resident of the mountain.

Creeping on all fours, the lads approached McPeters' outhouse and after making sure the premises were occupied, threw several large firecrackers into its subterranean chamber.

McPeters was examined by a local physician and is now demanding full and swift punishment for the culprits.

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W. C. Fields

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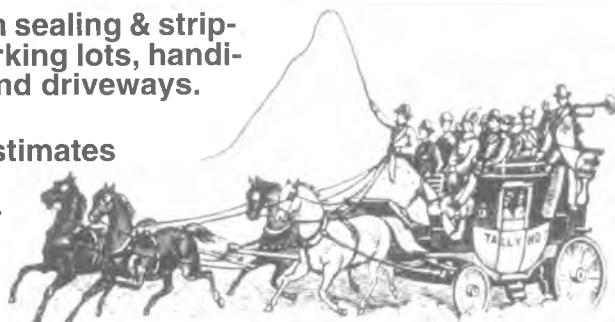
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You Can't Get There from Here

by Gene Primm

In 1955 I worked for Monroe Calculating Machine Company. I was sent to St. Louis, Missouri to a service school. I left Huntsville from the old bus station on Clinton Street.

After leaving Huntsville we stopped at what seemed to be every cross roads and country store we came to. It took me eighteen and a half hours to get to St. Louis.

While in school I met another employee who was from Nashville, Tenn. He had come to St. Louis by automobile. When school was over we left on our trip to Nashville.

We arrived in Nashville some time after 12:00 midnight. I asked him to take me to the bus

station so I could catch a bus to Huntsville. When we got to the bus station I found out the next bus to Huntsville did not leave until 7:00 that morning. I decided that was too long to wait so I asked my friend if he would take me to the Huntsville highway so I could hitchhike on in to Huntsville. Hopefully, I thought, I would be in Huntsville long before the bus ever left from Nashville.

The first car that came by stopped and said he was going as far as Murfreesboro. He was a bus driver just getting off

from work. I really appreciated him stopping and thought this hitchhiking was going to be easy, it was a piece of cake.

After he let me out in Murfreesboro I stood there for hours without getting another ride. As it started to get daylight I began to get worried. Then finally as the traffic started to pick up, a man stopped and asked me where I was headed.

After I told him I was going to Huntsville, Ala., he told me to hop in and that he would take me as far as Tullahoma, Tenn. I thought for a minute and asked

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him how far Huntsville was from Tullahoma and he told me about seventy miles. I asked him how far it was from Murfreesboro to Huntsville and he said about seventy miles, but he said it was a beautiful drive. After spending the night standing on the side of the road I really was not interested in the countryside. Despairing of any more hitchhiking I asked him if there was a bus station in Murfreesboro, and after he replied "yes," I got in the car for the seventy mile drive to Murfreesboro.

The stranger dropped me off at the bus station a few hours later. Hurriedly, I approached the ticket agent and asked if there was a bus leaving for Huntsville, Ala., anytime soon. He told me I was in luck, that there was a bus just getting ready to leave that was going to Huntsville. Without even a pause I said: "give me a ticket."

The agent gave me my ticket and pointed the bus out to me and I was on my merry way.

As I approached the bus I saw on the front that it was going to Nashville, Tenn. Puzzled, I ran back in inside the bus sta-

tion and told the ticket agent that the bus he had pointed out was going to Nashville not Huntsville.

He then informed me you could not get to Huntsville from Murfreesboro without going to

Nashville first!

I took the bus back to Nashville and caught the same bus to Huntsville that I would have caught anyway if I had not spent the night hitchhiking through the back roads of Tennessee.

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Evan Troup, age 6

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* The Amish believe in the healing touch - get regular massages of the feet, scalp and back.

* If you want a sweeter body smell, eat less meat and fats.

* To prevent colds, take 1 tablespoon of cod liver oil daily to build up your resistance.

* To help prevent a fresh wound from scarring, rub the area with cocoa butter.

* For good memory, eat 10 hazelnuts for 2 weeks.

* Give a bed-wetting child

1-2 teaspoons of honey before he goes to bed.

* The alcoholic should drink 1 tablespoon of pure olive oil before drinking, to relieve the craving for alcohol.


* For bone spurs, take supplements of calcium and magnesium each day.

* For a sprain, immediately apply a hot poultice of vinegar to the area.

* For constipation prob-

lems, the Amish have a cereal recipe that has tons of roughage: combine 6 cups oatmeal, 1 cup shredded coconut, 3 cups wheat germ, 1/2 cup chopped almonds, 1/2 cup chopped pecans, 1 1/2 cups brown sugar, 1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 cup vegetable oil. Mix in large bowl, then toast in oven til crunchy.



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News From the Year 1961

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Soviets Put Man in Orbit Space Pioneer Feeling Well

Moscow: The Soviet Union announced today it has won the race to put man into space. The official press agency, Tass, said a man has orbited the earth in a spaceship and has been brought back alive.

A brief announcement said Yuri Gargarin had landed in what was described as the "designated area" of the Soviet Union.

A Moscow radio station broke into regular programming and announced in emotional tones:

"Russia has successfully launched a man into space. His name is Yuri Gargarin. He was launched in a sputnik named Vostok, which means "East."

Tass said than on landing Major Gargarin said: "Please report to the party and Government, and personally to Nikita Khrushchev, that the landing was normal. I feel well and have no injuries or bruises."

Major Gargarin, 27 years

old, is an industrial technician and married. He was reported to have had preflight training similar to that of the astronauts who will man the U.S.'s first space ship.

Reactions from around the world ranged from the skeptical in London to outbursts of joy in Prague.

It has been widely believed that the U.S. space team has been capable of launching a man into outer space for the past year but have been held back by political bickering in Washington.

The White House said today that it will have an official announcement concerning current U.S. Space policy within the next week.

No clue has been given as to what the announcement will be.

"Women like silent men - they think they're listening."
George Carlin

Elvis' Father to Wed Local Girl

Vernon Presley, father of rock and roll singer Elvis Presley, announced Saturday he will marry Davada Stanley Elliot, his long time house-guest and formerly of Huntsville, Alabama.

Presley said the exact date of his marriage to the 31 year-old divorcee has not been set yet. The timing will depend on his son's schedule. Elvis will be the best man, the elder Presley said.

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A Huge Blast Rocks Wellman Avenue

Three People Sent To Hospital

A gas explosion at the Huntsville Butane Gas Co., on Wellman Ave. sent three people to the hospital this morning.

Neighbors described the explosion as "sounding like sticks of dynamite going off."

The Huntsville Fire Department is working to establish the exact cause of the blast but at this time have no clues.

A neighbor living nearby was quoted as saying he believed the explosion was caused by careless smoking near the butane tanks. Hospitalized were James Myrick, an employee, Jim Young of Marsheutz Avenue and William Strickland.

The blast of the explosion was felt all across North East Huntsville, leading many people to believe the damage was much greater than it actually was.

"When a teacher is in a bad mood, there's no way I'm going to ask if I can go to the bathroom."

Angela, age 11

Local Boy Returns to Music

Ernest Ashworth, better known to music buffs as Billy Worth is once again trying to pursue a career as a country singer. Ashworth, who lives with his wife and children on Viscount Drive had vowed in 1957 he was done with music. "I almost starved to death," he said of his earlier attempt.

He has one release out now entitled "Each Moment Spent With You," co-written by another Huntsville native Billy Hogan and is working on another tentatively entitled "Talk Back Trembling Lips."

Ashworth is currently employed as a truck driver on Redstone Arsenal.

Expert Declares Bad Weather Caused by Rockets

Neil Ewing, a self-taught weather forecaster, has issued a report that claims our weather patterns are being changed by rocket launches.

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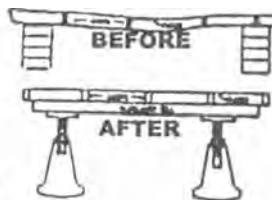
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Drive-In Movies in Huntsville

by "Riverboat John" Ferguson

We had three main drive-in movie theatres in Huntsville during the 1950s. Woody's Drive-in out on the north end of town, and the Whitesburg Drive-in on the south end of town. We also had the combination of the Parkway Drive-in and the 231 Drive-in. The Whitesburg Drive-in opened in 1949 and closed in 1979. It had four hundred car spaces.

Woody's opened in 1951 and closed in 1976. The Parkway Drive-in opened in 1955. It was advertised as the "world's largest screen and drive-in cafeteria" and had 660 car spaces. The screen was advertised as being five stories high, and a large fireworks display occurred on opening night. The theatre joined with the 231 Drive-in (which opened on April 3, 1953) on a fifteen-acre site located between the Parkway and U.S. 231.

Starting May 1, 1955, the ads for the 231 Drive-in noted the following: "You can step over to the new Parkway Theatre and

hear Slim Lay and the Homefolks tonight, appearing nightly at intermission." The first section next to the Parkway had spaces for 660 cars, with the second screen being located next to U.S. 231.

There was a drive-in on Highway 72 west called the Highway 72 Drive-in. It opened in 1960 and closed in 1979. It was torn down to build an office park. It had about nine hundred car slots. There was a drive-in called the Regal in the early 1950s that catered to the

black population of the Huntsville area. The Princess Theatre was downtown, and it was a walk-in catering solely to African Americans. Segregation was still very much in full force then. As a voting man, I never thought about what black folks did when I didn't see them working or doing their jobs.

In 1958, there were about one hundred drive-in movies across the state of Alabama. In 2008, there were fewer than ten. A drive-in movie was set up for people to watch movies through

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the windshields of their automobiles. Speakers were mounted on poles about four feet high, and they attached to your car window, which could be partially opened or closed. There was a volume adjustment on each speaker. Sometimes people would forget to place the speaker back on the holder, and they would drive off with the speaker still in the car after ripping the wire out of the pole.

Drive-ins also catered to families. Mom and Dad always liked the Whitesburg Drive-in best. There was a playground at our drive-ins right under the huge screen on which the movies were projected. There were also chairs for folks who wanted to sit there and watch both the movie and their children play.

The snack bar at a drive-in sold all kinds of interesting food: snow cones, hot dogs and chili dogs, hamburgers and cheeseburgers, barbecue, French fries, onion rings, pizza, popcorn, colas, peanuts, milkshakes and candy. Drive-ins were always having promotions. Sometimes you could get in for one dollar for a full carload. When the Whitesburg Drive-in opened, the price was forty cents for adults and ten cents for children over five, and children under five got in free.

For several years in a row, the Parkway/231 Drive-in had a Big John contest night. They always showed a John Wayne movie when they had the contest. The song "Big John" by the singer Jimmry Dean was very popular. At the intermission they turned the lights on over the concession stand, and the emcee (Slim Lay) held the contest. If your name was John you could enter the contest. Whoever was the biggest won the prize.

I won the contest one night. My prize was one night's free admission to the drive-in and a case of twenty-four Coca-Cola drinks in a wooden drink pallet. I don't mind telling you that the main reason I won was because it was a big football night and it was misting rain. A case of Coca-Colas and another free admission on any night I chose

was a good prize for a boy with very little spending money

I didn't own a car and my father would not let us drive his car. Unless we went to the drive-in with Mom and Dad, we had to buddy up with a friend who got a carload of guys without dates together. It was easy for a bunch of guys to get into trouble when a crowd was out carousing in a car.

The best way to go if you didn't have a car was on a double-date. Plenty of smooching going on. This meant that you had to have money to get in the movies and buy your date a cold drink, snacks and more. I can tell you, this didn't happen very often for me.

Another point about the '50s was the way pornography was handled. One of the drive-ins had a late-night series called "Nurse-A-Rama." It

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was intended for adults and was considered to be risqué or pornographic at the time. The movies would start out at a late hour and last all night long. The series involved nurses and their escapades. They progressively became more risqué as the night went on. The more you watched the worse (or better) it got, depending on your expectations. These movies would be considered mild today, but at the time were vulgar in the eyes of the majority of the public.

Television ruined the drive-in business. People started building dens in their new homes and making the television the center of attraction. It cost a whole lot less to operate than going to the movies.

The book, "Glimpses of Huntsville in the 1950s" can be purchased at Shavers Books, located in the Railroad Station Antique Mall at 315 Jefferson St.

Huntsville News From 1907

- In the recorder's court this morning Peter Stevens, arrested for disorderly conduct, was fined \$5 and costs.

- John Williams, an old man who was arrested a few days ago for drunkenness, was ordered released and directed to leave Huntsville at once. Williams is quite an old man being 72 years of age and Mayor Smith took pity on him.

- By reason of an open switch on the Southern railway freight train No. 306 - J. Edward engineer and switch train No 431 with Conductor Miller in charge - collided on the side track on Meridian street late yesterday afternoon, wrecking

and derailing two cars of the regular train, demolishing the pilots of both engines, smashing the front of a car and the trucks of the end of the switch train. No one was hurt.

- Hon. W. T. Lawler, probate judge of Madison county, entered upon his 4th year of office on Monday morning with every deed mortgage left on the books from the past year. Business is heavier than ever and the probate office is especially busy.

- Mrs. Elma Wesley died of apoplexy in Merrimack. A long time resident of Merrimack Village died last night after a few days illness with apoplexy. She left three daughters.

A negro by the name of Sharpe appeared in the recorder's court and complained that while driving his mule along East Holmes street last night his mule ran into a pile of brick, the presence of which was not disclosed by any sign of warning. His mule broke his leg.

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Maysville: Off the Beaten Path

by Jack Harwell

In the early days of the Republic, Congress passed the Northwest Ordinance, an act which established an orderly partition of the western lands. When Alabama became a state in 1819, the terms of the ordinance were applied there too. One of these stated that the sixteenth section of each township was six miles square, with each square mile comprising a section, was to be reserved for schools.

In 1828, Congress amended the law to allow the state of Alabama to sell the land in section 16 to private individuals, provided the proceeds from those sales were spent on education. About nine miles east of the Big Spring, there was a crossroads that formed one corner of the 16th section of a township.

Homes and businesses began to appear there in the 1830s. The inhabitants took note of the location of their community and gave it the wonderfully descriptive name, Section. The town was incorporated in 1852 (and reincorporated in 1858) as Maysville. The source of the name, unfortunately, is lost to history. The town extended for one quarter mile in all directions from the crossroads, which pretty much describes Maysville today.

Most of the town of Maysville was laid out on lands that had been purchased by two men, William Stewart and Dr. Bright Berry Nunnally. Stewart had

been in business in Maysville as early as 1840. Dr. Nunnally and his partner, Joel H. Chambless, began dividing their property into lots in 1852. One of them was bought by a local physician, F. E. H. Steger.

Francis Epps Harris Steger was arguably early Maysville's leading citizen. Born in Mississippi Territory in 1810, he was

educated in Kentucky and at La Grange College near Florence, Alabama. Having established himself in Maysville, he built a home on his land there in 1854. By the time he received full title to his land in 1859, he was a wealthy man.

When the Civil War came in 1861, Maysville was affected as much as any Southern town. Dr.

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Steger went to Georgia and offered his services to the Confederate Army, leaving his home in the care of his father-in-law, Thomas Maddin, a Methodist minister.

Other Maysvillian sons of the South also answered the call. Among them was First Lieutenant Thomas J. Alexander, who rode with General Joseph E. Johnston; Private James Beaty; a Confederate scout in Texas; Private W. M. Jordan, of the Fourth Alabama Cavalry; and Private James Hammett, who saw action at Stone's River.

But while the men were away fighting the war, the war came to Maysville in their absence. Several skirmishes were fought in and around the town in 1863 and 1864. On November 17, 1864, units of the 12th and 11th Indiana Cavalry and the Fourth Michigan Infantry marched from their encampment at Brownsboro headed to New Market. As the blue-clad soldiers neared Maysville, they heard the CRACK of rifle fire directed at them. Rebel pickets!

The Federals quickly scrambled for cover. Without artillery support, they were pinned down. But the Federals' superior numbers soon carried the day, and the Southerners were forced to withdraw.

The occupying Northern troops were never far from the minds of Maysville's residents. In addition to the garrisons that occupied Huntsville from time to time, there was actually a U.S. Army unit encamped at Maysville. the Fifth Iowa Cavalry, Major J. Morris Young, commanding, in a letter to his division commander, dated November 18, 1863 (as Abraham Lincoln was enroute to Gettysburg). Major Young described a recent expedition to Whitesburg and Decatur during

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1903, and contains a vivid account of **the** fears of an ordinary man caught up in historical events which he is powerless to change. Paper was in short supply, so much of the letter was written between other lines in pencil. So moving is the letter that it was published in its entirety in the Chattanooga Times in 1933.

Maddin tries to be upbeat, talking of domestic events, but the overall tone of the letter is that of a man who has despaired of nearly everything except his own faith. Of the war, he writes, "We are in daily dread of a raid. The Yankees are at Paint Rock ... much depends upon the success of the companies now doing battle at Paint Rock. Cannon was heard booming yesterday but to what result, we do not know."

Conditions around the home were no less grim. Maddin tells of the town's buildings being torn down for salvage. Dr. Steger's own office was spared; it was turned into a harness maker's shop. "As to milk and butter we have done without until a few weeks ago ... Mrs. Kelly loaned me her cow and calf, but the Yankees took the calf ... We raised nothing but what we got from the orchard and garden,

which was plundered of its fruit before they were ripe. It would amuse and distress you to see how they stole apples from the orchard and how obsequious we all were, fearing to say a word."

On Friday, April 7, 1865, soldiers of the 18th Michigan Infantry crossed the Flint River at Bell Factory. Detachments were sent to several towns in eastern Madison County, including Maysville. The commanding

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officer reported to his superiors that his men "drove out small parties of rebel thieves." Two days later Robert E. Lee rode into Appomattox to meet with General Grant.

Dr. Steger, like his home, survived the war. Union troops had repeatedly threatened to burn the house, but never carried out their threats. He sold the house to his father-in-law, Thomas Maddin in 1866. Maddin later moved to Nashville, where he died. in 1874. Steger sold the house again in 1889 and also moved to Nashville. He died of a stroke in 1907.

The house he built in Maysville has changed hands at least seven times since then.

As for Maysville, it was re-incorporated in 1881 (the vote was 35-1 in favor), but only one person ever again served as mayor. Eventually the charter expired and was never renewed. From time to time there was talk of reincorporating, but it never came about. When the post office closed in 1955, Maysville

officially became just a crossroads although the people who live there may not think of it as such.

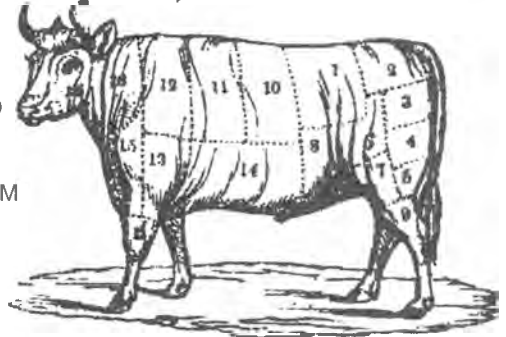
The (non) town of Maysville still sits at the same crossroads as it did in 1852. Burns Spring, which attracted some of the

early settlers, is still there, just east of the intersection. In many ways it is an unremarkable place. But if we could hear the voices of those who passed this way before, they could tell more stories than could be digested in a lifetime.

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News from 1867

Shooting Mule Lands Lowry in Calaboose

Win. Chad Lowry, a freedman, and charged with shooting a mule belonging to Nash Malone, was up before Squire Figg yesterday, and bound over in the sum of \$200, to appear at the County Court to be held in July.

Monroe on Drinking Binge; Assaults Innocent Bystander

The attack on Clinton Street upon Mr. Wise by Mr. Charlie Monroe was an unfortunate occurrence and is no doubt a matter of great regret by Mr. Monroe himself, who was on a spree. The matter will be up for investigation before the Mayor.

Bell Factory Store Reopened

It looks considerably like old times to see the Bell Factory goods at the old Bell Factory Store, on Commercial Row, and to see the smiling face of Mr. Charles Cabaniss behind the counter. Win. Elgin is also at his old place with the books. The same old loungers may be

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Doctor Sick

Owing to feeling unwell, Dr. R. Seymour will be unable to visit Paint Rock until Monday, June 4th and Huntsville, June 6th at which time he hopes to see his patients. Dr. Seymour regrets his not being able to fulfill his engagements this morning.

We suppose, that being unwell, it was impossible.

Local Boy Shot While Playing War

Johnathan Hobbs was seriously injured yesterday when an old musket discharged and injured him in the leg. The twelve year old boy had been playing in his uncle's barn when he discovered the old gun. He was playing war, he said, and did not know the gun was loaded. The uncle later stated that he had forgotten the gun was there. He said it must have been there for at least ten years,

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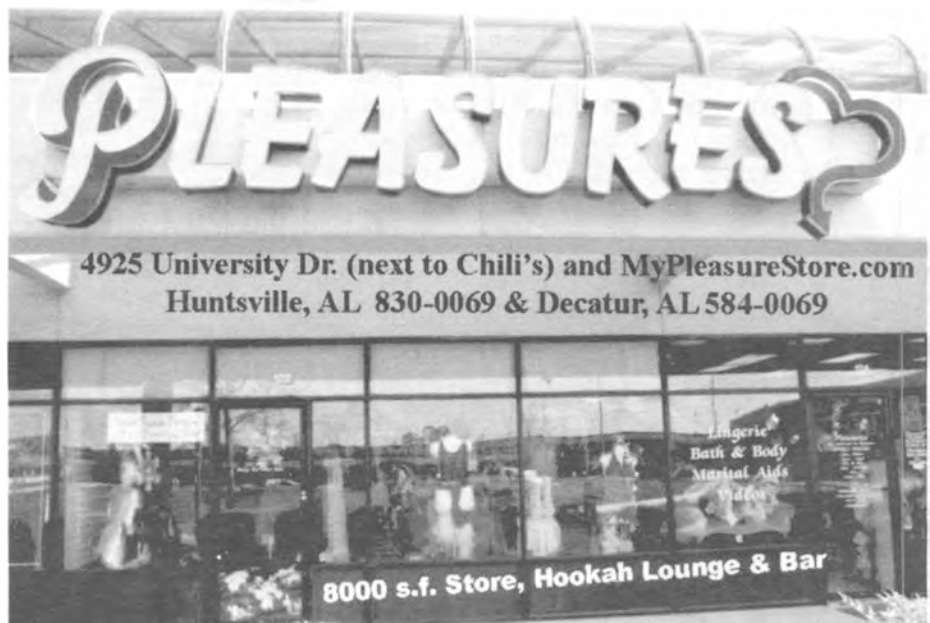
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Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

1. *The Farm in Jones Valley* by Ray Jones \$18.95
2. *Glimpses of Huntsville in the 1950's* by "Riverboat John" Ferguson \$18.95
3. *Wicked North Alabama* by Jacque Procter Reeves \$17.95
4. *Huntsville Then And Now* by Fred Simpson (limited supply) Special price \$18.00
5. *When Spirits Walk: Madison County Ghost Stories* \$16.95
6. *Murder in the Heart of Dixie* by Fred Simpson (limited supply) Special price \$18.00
7. *Historic Photos of Huntsville* by Jacque Gray Reeves \$39.95
8. *True Tales of Old Madison County* by Virgil (Pat) Jones \$7.95
9. *Historic Photographs of Alabama Football* by Joseph "Woody" Woodruff \$35.00
10. *Southern Turkey Hunting: A Family Affair* by Ray Jones \$15.00

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