



No. 211  
Sept. 2010



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## The Race for Congress

On Nov. 29, 1880 the United States District Court held a hearing on the election. Attorneys representing Lowe's interests were brief and to the point: Recount the ballots.

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Also in this issue: "Lady Curzon, Huntsville Royalty"

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# The Race for Congress

During the turbulent period of Reconstruction, following the Civil War, political power in Alabama underwent a dramatic transformation. Political alliances, and families, that had held power since the early days of statehood suddenly found themselves cast out of the system as a result of their support of the Confederacy.

With the majority of white males disenfranchised, political power shifted to the Republican party largely because of the Black vote. The Republican party, for most newly freed Blacks, was the very symbol of the freedom that Abraham Lincoln had granted them.

Under what became known as the "Carpetbag Rule," and using the powers of the Freedman's Bureau, the United States Army and out-of-state political operatives, the Republicans seized power in North Alabama. The Democrats, most of whose leaders were disenfranchised Confederates, were powerless to stop the political onslaught.

By 1880 the political winds were shifting. Most white males had regained their right to vote

and the Tennessee Valley was no longer under military occupation. The Democratic party, however, was in such disarray that it could no longer command a solid front against the Republicans.

The party had broken into splinter parties, with none commanding a majority. Chief among the splinter groups were the "Independents." These were mostly small farmers who had built up an antagonism over the years against the large planters and often voted with the Republicans.

The Independents were, in fact, more harshly condemned than the Republicans. One Democratic newspaper described an Independent as being "the protege of radicalism, the spawn of corruption, poverty and ignorance who comes forth as the leaders of the ignorant and deluded blacks." Another group, the "Greenbacks," had also been making serious inroads on the Democratic party by promising better economic times and a loosening of tight credit restrictions.

Democratic leaders, searching for someone to unify the party, selected General Joseph Wheeler as their candidate for Congress in 1880. "Little Joe," as Wheeler was popu-



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larly known, had been a highly charismatic Confederate General and, as other Confederate leaders began dying off, was emerging as one of the "Lost Cause's" main spokesmen.

Opposing Wheeler in the Congressional campaign was William Manning Lowe, who had served in the Confederate Army and after being wounded at Bull Run, had been granted an honorable discharge. Returning to Huntsville, he was admitted to the bar and was appointed solicitor for the Fifth Judicial Circuit in 1865. In 1870 he was elected to the State House of Representatives followed by election to Congress in 1878 after successfully putting together a coalition of disillusioned Democrats, Independents and Republicans.

Right or wrong, many people saw Lowe as a tool of the Republicans and Carpetbaggers.

On August 23, 1880, the District Congressional Convention met at a sawmill on the banks of the Tennessee river and nominated General Wheeler to run against Lowe. The selection of the sawmill was deliberate, as a newspaper explained, "as the object is to saw asunder the

Radical party and their Greenback-Independent allies."

A hint of the bitter rhetoric that would follow was given by a Wheeler spokesman when he condemned Lowe's supporters as "radical who would sell their very souls for the Negro votes."

The congressional race was one of the most closely watched in the nation. At stake, depending on which side you chose, was the continuation of "carpetbagger and scalawag rule, or the restoration of "a Democratic party controlled by the rich and powerful aristocracy."

As a result, money and political operatives began pouring into North Alabama. From the very beginning Wheeler factions began a strategy of labeling Lowe as a scalawag and radical. Lowe found this difficult to counter. Although he had served in public office during the carpetbagger era, the fact that he had voted against most of the administration's policies fell on deaf ears.

Although Lowe, like Wheeler, had based much of his early campaign on "white supremacy" as he saw traditional Democratic votes began to peel away, and in an effort to

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replace them, he met with the State Chairman of the Republican party and received their endorsement. In addition, the leading Black newspaper in the south strongly endorsed Lowe.

The Wheeler factions heralded this as proof that Lowe was in the pockets of the "carpet bagging radicals." Secretly, though, they were worried. With Lowe picking up a unified black vote it could spell doom for Wheeler's candidacy. In an attempt to nullify the Republicans' effect on the race, Wheeler operatives enlisted the help of W.H. Councill, a leading black educator in Huntsville. Rumor mills in Huntsville had connected Councill's name to a sordid sex scandal and possibly he saw this as a way to change the subject.

With Councill's help, the Democratic party began holding mass rallies across North Alabama. Abundant quantities of free food and drink attracted thousands of people who listened to speeches by Councill and other black leaders urging them to vote for Wheeler.

Now, the Lowe camp was worried. With Councill and other black leaders supporting Wheeler, they could no longer count on a solid black vote. To counter this, and with advice from the Republican party, Lowe's operative's began to link his name with that of

James Garfield, the Republican candidate for president. Garfield had been a Union General stationed in Huntsville for a while during the civil war and was highly popular with the black voters. The white voters, however, detested Garfield as a reminder of the Union occupation during the war.

In an almost comical sense, Lowe was placed in the situation of portraying himself as a loyal Confederate veteran at white gatherings and a friend of Garfield and the Union Army before blacks. It was a successful strategy however as newspapers of the day describe Lowe's rallies as having almost a religious fervor, with his speeches before black rallies being constantly punctuated by choruses of "Amen" and "Hallelujah."

Many newspapers called this contest the "no-show election." Early on many people began calling for the candidates to debate but it was soon apparent that neither one wanted to face the other in a public forum. Lowe, however, learning that Wheeler had commitments at the far end of the district on a certain date that he could not possibly avoid, immediately offered a challenge to debate on the same date. When Wheeler's camp realized they had been blind-sided they began issuing the same type of challenges.

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The result was a constant barrage of debate challenges with neither side showing up.

Election day observers declared one of the highest turnouts ever. People started showing up at the polls hours before they opened and some had to be kept open later to accommodate the waiting crowds.

Lowe, with his advisors, spent the night at his palatial home, The Grove, going over the returns as they trickled in from outlying areas. As expected, the "hill countries" were going strongly for Lowe while the "flatlands," home of the cotton plantations, were swinging to Wheeler. By late that evening it was evident that the cities of Huntsville and Athens would determine the outcome.

General Wheeler, on the other hand, seemed unconcerned with the outcome. After voting earlier in the day, he had traveled to Huntsville and checked into the Huntsville Hotel where a large crowd of his supporters had gathered. Leaving the vote counting to his aides, Wheeler then retired

to a room to get some much needed sleep.

Early the next morning, as the final tallies came over the telegraph wires, it appeared as if General Joseph Wheeler would be the winner. Certain voting districts, crucial to Lowe, had gone in favor of Wheeler. A disheartened aide to Lowe traveled the few blocks to the hotel to congratulate Wheeler and announce Lowe's concession.

Other Lowe aides, however, continued to watch and tally the returns. By mid morning Wheeler's lead had shrunk to only 43 votes, out of a total of 24,773 cast. Especially intriguing to the aides were the several thousand votes that had been discarded as "spoiled" and another six hundred that had been rejected as illegal.

The Lowe camp strongly believed they had carried the black vote and reasoned that most of the discarded ballots were cast by illiterate blacks who were not familiar with the voting process. If these votes were recounted, they were sure

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*Shelly Winters*

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the new outcome would favor Lowe.

To everyone's surprise, Lowe suddenly placed himself back in the race and demanded a recount of the ballots in question. Aides to Lowe appeared in court with a petition that the ballots be impounded. Wheeler's aides, in turn, appealed to the chair of the election board to declare him the winner, which they promptly did.

This placed the Lowe camp in an awkward position. With Wheeler already declared the victor, their only hope was in getting the election declared illegal. In order to do this though, they had to swing public sympathy to their side. Unfortunately, the press had already declared it to be "old news" and was no longer interested in the charges of fraud.

Simply asking that the votes be recounted would not be enough - they had to create an impression of massive voter fraud.

Working with out-of-state political operatives, the Lowe camp began a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers across the country. Almost daily, charges appeared in the national papers of intimidation, vote buying and ballot box stuffing. It was later alleged that many of these letters originated in Washington, D.C. For the rest of the country, charges such as these were easy to believe when they came out of Alabama.

Among the charges was the fact that many people did not

understand the ballot; that it was very complicated. Wheeler's camp replied by pointing out that Lowe's people had helped design the ballot. Others charged that it was insane to believe that any blacks voted for Wheeler, an ex-Confederate General. Opponents pointed out that Lowe was also an ex-Confederate.

Within weeks the national press took up the cry, demanding a recount. Even the Huntsville papers got into the act when the Huntsville Gazette ran a story, paraphrasing Hamlet's soliloquy to fit the occasion: "To count or not to count, that is the question."

Adding to the furor were the public meetings held to protest the election. The common thread among all the



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speeches was that the election had been stolen and large parts of minority voting groups had been disenfranchised.

On Nov. 29, 1880 the United States District Court held a hearing on the election. Attorneys representing Lowe's interests were brief and to the point: Recount the ballots.

The judge and other officers of the court had already taken a look at a sampling of the ballots and counting them was the last thing they wanted to do. Many of the ballots were later described as "illegible scraps of paper containing everything from signs of the occult to the end results of a runny nose."

Possibly, the judge had no desire to make a public spectacle of himself by trying to decide if a runny nose was an intent of a vote.

Wheeler's attorneys were also prepared. They argued that the election was over and

their candidate had been declared the winner. To support their claim they offered a list of hundreds of witnesses they intended to call to prove there were no voting irregularities.

The judge, apparently not wanting to get involved in a ballot judging contest, got both sides to agree to the taking of testimony first to establish if election laws had been broken. Because of the huge number of potential witnesses it was agreed that the taking of testimony would be conducted at various places throughout the district rather than have everyone travel to Huntsville.

Wheeler's attorneys immediately filed another petition stating that ballots cast for Lowe were illegal because they violated Alabama election law that provided, "the ballot shall be a plain piece of white paper without any figures, marks, rulings, characters, or

embellishments thereon, not less than two nor more than two and one-half inches wide, and not less than five nor more than five and one-half inches long, on which must be written or printed, or partly written or partly printed, only the names of the persons for whom the elector intends to vote, and must designate the office for which each person so named is intended by him to be chosen; and any ballot otherwise described is illegal and must be rejected." The Lowe ticket, the Democrats reasoned, was illegal because it contained figures designating Presidential electors by districts.

Lowe's political allies were enraged and countered with the claim that many ex-Confederates who voted for Wheeler had never been pardoned and therefore were ineligible to cast votes. This was a calculated move on their part as they re-

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alized Wheeler had carried the ex-soldier vote.

While Lowe continued to fight in the courtrooms and the arena of public opinion, General Wheeler was quietly making other plans. Rather than retiring to his farm to await the verdicts, Wheeler traveled incognito to Washington D.C., where on the first Monday of December, 1880, he presented himself for the oath of office at the opening session of the Forty-seventh Congress.

Representative James Jones of Texas offered a resolution that neither Lowe nor Wheeler be seated until the Committee On Elections could make a report. The resolution was tabled and the matter referred to committee. With no motion on the floor opposing Wheeler, he was sworn in as Alabama's new congressman.

Lowe issued a statement vowing to fight "until the bitter end."

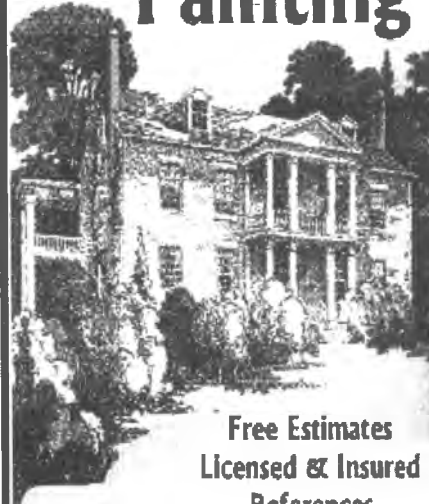
Although confirmed as a congressman, General Wheeler's political battles were far from over. Delegations from the Committee of Elections traveled to Alabama where they listened to all the available evidence. When the committee was still unable to reach a decision, it was decided that the ballots would have to be counted.

This was easier said than done. First, both sides had to agree on what was a valid ballot. Lowe's camp wanted the looser interpretation while Wheeler's aides wanted to ap-

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ply the strict letter of the law. In the hope that cool heads would prevail, two representatives from both sides, as well as two independent observers, were appointed to count the ballots.

With the whole country watching, it was hoped that a speedy and fair resolution of the election would take place. After days of counting and re-counting, and in some cases re-counting, it was announced that the tally was complete.

With swarms of people crowded into a small room, the Democratic minority spoke first. Waving to the room to be silent, he announced that the new figures showed Joe Wheeler in the lead by 4,712 votes.

Instant jubilation broke out among the Wheeler supporters as they yelled and clapped one another on the backs.

The jubilation did not last long, however. Minutes later a Republican representative made his way to the front and begged for silence. After the crowd calmed he read the majority report stating that, in their opinion, William Manning Lowe had won the election by 848 votes.

However outrageous and partisan the results were, the fact remained that the Repub-

licans were the majority of the committee, and Congress, and their opinion would prevail.

The committee made its report to the House the following June 2, 1881 stating that "Joseph Wheeler is not entitled to a seat in this House of Representatives."

The resolution to unseat Wheeler was adopted 148 to 3, with 140 Democrats abstaining.

Immediately after being escorted to the Speaker's desk where he was sworn in, Lowe sent his friends in Huntsville the following telegram: "The fraud has been eliminated. I am seated at last."

Lowe's victory was hollow. In all, Wheeler had served ten of the eleven months the Forty-seventh Congress was in session before being unseated. Lowe served the remaining one month and returned to his home in Huntsville where he soon died of tuberculosis.

In the next election, General Joe Wheeler was easily elected to Congress, where he remained for the next 18 years.

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# Religious Storm

*From 1907 newspaper*

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

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

*Two weeks later the following article appeared*

## Storm Destroys Revival Tent

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

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

# Danger to Huntsville

*from 1915 Huntsville paper*

That the authorities should take some steps to stop the reckless driving of automobiles from running by streetcars when standing at crossings is the talk of the town, especially so at Jefferson and Clinton street intersection where so many men and women transfer. No regard is paid to the crowd crossing the streets by the reckless drivers of the smoke belching machines.

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by Jerry M. Wilbanks

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My father worked a short stint as a bus driver back in the fifties. I don't remember too much about that except that he wore a kind of gray uniform and a cap with a big shield on it that made him look for all the world like a policeman. Encouraging this mistaken belief, he enjoyed a special kind of respect around me and my young friends. By the time we had gotten old enough to know better, he had gone on to another job.

Sometimes on Friday afternoon, I would ride the bus downtown with my Mom. There she would take care of banking business, shop the department stores and wind

up the afternoon at the A&P Grocery Store. When we had finished up with the grocery shopping, my dad would appear and we would load the grocery bags into the trunk of the family car and drive home.

My sisters worked at the Woolworths, Walgreens drug-store soda fountain and anywhere else they could find after-school employment. After all, the bus service was always available for the back and forth commute. There were no malls to speak of in those days, but teenage girls loved to hang out and shop downtown. That's where the stores and the movies were!

Alone, I liked to ride the bus downtown to go to the movies. I remember that the Lyric and the Grand Theaters were directly opposite each other on the same street.

The movie theaters were usually my destination on Saturday and Sunday afternoons (after window-shopping the hunting knives, guitars, cameras, Army surplus and luggage at the local pawnshop on

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the square.) Occasionally... almost always ...I would spend all my money at the theater's concession stand, and I would be forced to walk home. This was quite an uneasy journey and usually in the dark. I would come straight down Clinton Street, past the sometimes dangerous red brick projects, turning at the Butler High School intersection and proceeding through the very scary district of West Huntsville, and thus into the familiar village of Huntsville Park. Each time I made this harrowing trek, I promised myself it would be the last. And it always was ... until the next time.

Another destination on the bus route was the Big Spring Park. The area had been developed into ponds, bridges and neatly trimmed expanses of grassy landscape. The ponds and waterways were home to ducks, geese and giant goldfish.

One of the big attractions of Big Spring Park was the Big

Spring Cafe. In those days before the proliferation of fast food joints, the Big Spring Cafe was a destination in itself. The food was just great. Delicious chili dogs and slaw dogs made with ketchup, hamburgers, cheeseburgers and chili; these are just a few of the items to be found on the menu. Even today the Big Spring Cafe continues to serve all the old favorites, along with stew, hamburger steak, Double Cola and Coke in bottles and the ever popular "greasies".

These are little burgers with mustard and onion. (Did you want fries with that greasy?)

Along with an army of other customers, my Dad especially liked the hamburgers. Upon request, both sides of the bun, top half and bottom, could be dipped in the grease that the burgers were cooked in. This was considered the apex of gourmet dining among burger enthusiasts of all ages. A note to the health conscious: don't try this at home. My Dad somehow made it to the age of eighty-



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seven, in spite of such reckless dining and utter disregard for all the rules of a healthy diet.

Riding downtown on the bus was a big deal to us kids. It sort of expanded our universe and allowed us to browse around beyond the confines of our little village.

Of course we were always happy to get back home to familiar surroundings. In those days, a trip downtown for shopping, business or recreation was an event to be enjoyed.

Even though the town itself began to grow and expand and businesses began their slow, inexorable crawl toward the outlying complexes and malls, the downtown was slow to give up its dominant status in the estimation of old time residents.

Downtown was still the big story in most people's minds and endures in memory unchanged and undiminished.

## Rest of the Story

It was a hot, sweltering summer day in New Market when a salesman walked up the drive to the home of Don Giles. Don's pa was sitting on the old porch, rocking and whittling on a piece of wood.

As the salesman walked up, a large dog in the yard began to growl in a low, menacing manner.

"Does your dog bite?" the salesman asked the old man.

"No, he don't," Giles said.

The salesman took a few more steps toward the porch and the dog suddenly tore off one entire leg of his pants.

The salesman screamed, "I thought you said your dog didn't bite!"

The old gent looked up from his whittling and said, "Ain't my dog."

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# News from 1904

- John Merts has been held over for trial on the charge of beating his mule. Merts claims self defense.

- James Murphree will leave for Cincinnati next week to purchase the fixtures for the new Henderson National Bank. The fixtures will be mahogany and marble base and mosaic tiles.

- There was a row on Randolph Street the other day when Jenny Green announced to her parents that she was going to marry a lad who hails from New York. The elder Green, a veteran of the Grey, has made it known that no child of his will ever marry a yankee.

- Mr. John Sutherland, about 50 years of age, died yesterday from hydrophobia. He was bitten about six weeks ago and was sent to Atlanta. He died in awful agony, six men being required to hold him.

- Mayor Smith has given instructions to the police on the enforcement of the city laws and minors will not be allowed to enter pool-rooms in this city. Proprietors will be required to remove their curtains so that people can see in as they pass along the street.

# News from 1908

- West Holmes street concrete bridge is nearing completion. Its opening to public travel has already relieved the West Clinton St. congestion.

- Deputy Sheriff N. I. Pierce late yesterday arrested Ike Lee of Dallas Village on a charge of an assault with a knife.

- Mrs. E. Y. Miller, of West Clinton St. was notified yesterday of the death of her cousin, J. W. Gills at Dyersburg, Tn. to which place she goes tonight and will come into possession of \$5K in cash left to her by her cousin in his will.

- The Jabber-Jabber Club meets on Tuesday evening with Miss Lula Lockerd on Meridian Street.

- It is a great pity that the Hotel Monte Sano will not be a reality this summer. Our people should come together and help complete the car line to Monte Sano.

- Mike Roberts seems determined to break his own record. Last night marks the 22nd time he has been arrested for public intoxication.

**"When people run around and around in circles we say they are crazy. When planets do it we say they are orbiting."**

*Seen on 4th grade exam*



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# Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*

Congratulations to **Toni Brooks** of Huntsville who was the first correct caller to guess last month's Photo of the Month. As many people knew, the sweet girl is **Rosemary Leatherwood**, who with her husband owns Ole Dad's BBQ in Hazel Green and does so much with her fund-raising for Multiple Sclerosis. Toni and her husband **Kenny** are the owners of Brooks Market at the Farmers Market on Cook Ave.

**Jamie Newby**, of Athens, is a registered nurse at Huntsville Endoscopy & sure loves her family! Her husband is **Keith Newby** and they have 5 children! She doesn't look old enough to have even one baby! Her kids are **Brad, Rebecca, Caleb, Hunter & Beck Beck**. She loves being a Mom!

**Betty Esslinger** is certainly proud of her sweet Mama. **Virginia Mae Esslinger** turns 101 on September 29. That is NOT a typo - 101!! Congratulations to Virginia, who lives with Betty and her other daughter



**Mary Thomas** in New Market. There will be lots of friends who will stop by and celebrate the big day with them.

**Cecil Ashburn's** beautiful granddaughter **Margaret Farber** will be getting married late September in Virginia. Her fiancée is **Jordan Hendon** of Vinemont. Margaret knows that her sweet Mom, **Jenni Ashburn**, is looking down on her and smiling on her big day.

**Jack & Earline Moore** of Muscle Shoals love reading history about North Alabama. Earline's aunt, **Lola Stutts-Blaxton**, is mom to Huntsville's **Diane Owens** and lives in Muscle Shoals also.

We were so sorry to hear that **Larry Huskey** had passed away, in mid-August. He was only 62. We send our deepest

condolences to **Tommy Huskey** of Arab, and the rest of the family and many friends.

We've heard lately that it's hard to get a good tomato because of the hot weather. But we found some really good ones at **Ayer's Farmers Market**, at the southeast corner of Mem. Parkway & Governors Drive. This Market is FULL of veges, fruits, honey, etc. Also, **Susan Ayers** celebrated a birthday in late August - Happy Birthday!!

**Evelyn Rochelle**, from the Five Points area, recently had a visit from her dear daughter. **Ann Foster (Rochelle) Graves** moved to San Antonio but remembers well her days at East Clinton school and Huntsville High, then attending Auburn University. Ann married **Carey Graves** who is a battalion chief of the Grapevine, TX Fire Department. Ann works as a sales rep for a Texas plant grower and loves Texas, but will always remember her roots here in Huntsville.

## Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This little boy knows all about sports.



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Don't forget **Trade Day** downtown on Gates Avenue by Constitution Village on Sep. 18, Saturday from 8-5. For you newcomers, there is food, lots of items to buy, and it is a day-long event with NO admission charge and entertainment for kids. It has been an annual event now for years and so many look forward to it!

**Stephanie McCulley** is that very proficient Research Assistant who works at Clinical Research Associates. Her sweet husband is **Justin McCulley** and he works there too!

We heard some GREAT news recently! Five Points will soon have a restaurant again, where Sazio's used to be located. It will be called **1892 East**, and well-known chef **Steve Bunner** will be working there. Owners are **Troy & Rhonda Moore** and will be working with **Mike Bureson**. It will be a casual, no-TV tavern-type neighborhood restaurant opening in early October and we CAN'T WAIT!

Many remember **Liz Waggett**, who passed away early this year from pancreatic cancer. Liz was recently honored by the International Association of Administrative Professionals by naming their annual scholarship the **Liz Waggett Memorial Scholarship**. The 2010 recipient of the scholarship is **Whitney Ingram**, congratulations to you!

D&L Bistro on South Parkway was the site for a very eventful 50th wedding anniversary party. The lovebirds were **RD & Gennell Watson**, and some of the attendees were **Lee & Jan Inram**, **Bob & Kathy Jackson**, **Bobby Jackson & Suzanne Hicklen**, **John Bzdell & Margaret Watson**. They said the food was really Good and a

great time was had by all!

One of our dear friends died recently. **Robert A. Martin**, who was 90 years old, lived at Morningside Assisted Living for years and then moved to a nursing care unit in Madison. He met friends every Wednesday at Steve's on So. Parkway and really looked forward to these lunches. Robert was so proud of his military son **Randy Martin**, who spent time in Iraq defending our country. We send our sympathy to Randy, his wife **Aileen** and Robert's very special friend **Dorothy Jennette**. Robert was a native of Madison and his ancestors were some of the first settlers of Madison in the early 1800s. We will miss his gentle sense of humor and his love of his friends.

**Kinley Eittreim** has a Sep. 29 birthday and will be 78. On August 6 he and sweet wife **Ann** celebrated their 50th year of marriage. Kinley says that "she's full of grace" for putting up with him all these years!

Cloud 9 will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in business. **Terese Stevens** is a fabulous licensed masseuse and the owner. Congratulations!

There are some real mile-

stone birthdays in September. **Barb Eyestone** turns 60! And my mom **Annelie Owens**, of Redstone Village, will turn 90! Both ladies are beautiful and we can't believe those years! Happy Birthday to you both!

Have a safe & happy Labor Day, and be sure & check on your older neighbors in this hot weather. Come on COLD WEATHER!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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# Jodi Sisk's Favorite Sweets

## Peanut Butter Monster Cookies

- 2 sticks margarine
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 2 c. white sugar
- 6 eggs
- 1 1/4 t. Karo syrup
- 2 T. baking soda
- 1 t. vanilla extract
- 3 c. peanut butter
- 7 1/2 c. rolled oats
- 1/2 lb. chocolate chips
- 1/2 lb. M&Ms

Cream the margarine & sugars. Add eggs, syrup, soda, extract, & peanut butter.

Stir in oats, chocolate chips and M&Ms, drop by teaspoonful onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes.

Cool completely. These can be rolled in balls & frozen for future use.

## Orange Pecans

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 t. cream of tartar
- 1/3 c. orange juice
- 2 1/4 c. pecans halves
- 1/2 t. grated orange rind

Combine the sugar, cream of tartar and orange juice in a saucepan. Cook over low heat, stirring gently, til sugar is dissolved. Cover and cook over medium heat for 2-3 minutes (be sure and scrape down the sugar crystals from the sides of pan.) Uncover and cook over medium heat to soft ball state (240 degrees.)

Remove from the heat and beat with a wooden spoon just til mixture begins to thicken. Stir in pecans and orange rind. Working rapidly, drop by heaping teaspoonfuls onto wax paper, let cool.

## Honey Almond Cookies

- 2 large egg whites
- 1 pinch cream of tartar
- 2 T. honey
- 1/2 t. vanilla extract
- 1 t. lemon zest
- 1 pinch salt
- 1 c. ground almonds

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Lightly butter a regular cookie sheet.

Beat egg whites and cream of tartar til stiff peaks form, and gradually beat in the honey, vanilla and lemon zest.

Gently fold in the ground almonds. Drop 1 tablespoon of batter at a time onto the baking sheet, spacing about 2 inches apart. Bake for about 30 minutes. These cookies are soft out of the oven but they will harden as they cool. You'll see they won't last long!

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## Annie's Coconut Macaroons

4 egg whites  
 1/4 t. salt  
 1 c. sugar  
 2 t. vanilla extract  
 3 c. flaked coconut, well packed, unsweetened

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat egg whites and salt with electric mixer til frothy. Gradually beat in the sugar til stiff peaks form. This may take a few minutes. By hand, fold in the vanilla and coconut.

Drop batter by the teaspoonful 2 inches apart onto greased pan or parchment paper on the baking sheet. Bake til lightly browned, about 12 minutes. Cool on the sheet for a minutes then remove.

## Sugar & Spice Nuts

1 c. sugar  
 1 1/2 t. salt  
 3/4 t. ground red pepper  
 1/2 t. ground cumin  
 1/2 t. ground cinnamon  
 1/2 t. chili powder  
 1/4 t. ground ginger  
 1 egg white  
 2 c. pecans

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Cover a sided cookie sheet with parchment paper or grease the sheet with butter. In a bowl mix the sugar, salt, red

pepper, cumin, cinnamon, chili powder and ginger to combine. Add one tablespoon of the water to the egg white and gently mix to combine.

Toss about a quarter cup of the nuts into the egg white. Shake off excess white.

Put nuts in the sugar mixture, tossing to coat nuts. Transfer nuts to prepared sided cookie sheet. Repeat steps 3 and 4 til all nuts are sugared. Arrange nuts in a single layer on the sheet. Bake for 25 minutes or until fragrant. Let cool on pan for 5 minutes, then remove.

## Maple Apple Jam

16 c. peeled, chopped apples  
 1 1/2 c. pure maple syrup  
 2 c. apple cider  
 2 t. ground cinnamon  
 1 t. lemon juice

Combine all ingredients in a large kettle and bring to a boil. Continue to boil til mixture thickens, about 25 minutes. Jam is ready when it begins to hold its shape when dropped into a cold plate. Remove from heat and skin off foam.

Ladle into hot, sterilized half-pint jars, leaving 1/2 inch head space. Seal. Process in a boiling water bath for 5 minutes. Cool for 12 hours.



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# Percy Rideout

by Jack Harwell

Redstone Arsenal was established as a chemical warfare plant in 1941. In naming the roads on the Arsenal, the Army chose to honor the men of America's first chemical warfare unit, the First Gas Regiment. No fewer than eleven men of this regiment were so honored; among them was a Massachusetts native named Percy Rideout.

Percy Adams Rideout was born in Ashburnham, Massachusetts on October 16, 1888. When he was two, he and his family moved to Concord, 40 miles away. He attended high school in Concord and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1911, with a degree in civil engineering.

After graduation, young Rideout went to work building roads. He married in 1913, and with an education, a wife, and a promising career, he seemed to be destined to a long and successful life. But in 1917, the United States declared war on Germany, entering the conflict which had been ongoing in Europe for two and a half years. Like many young men that year, Rideout felt the call to his country's service and returned home to enlist. He joined the Army on August 15, 1917 as a private and was assigned to the 101st Engineers at the First Corps of Cadets Armory in Boston.

On the same day that young Rideout joined the Army, the War Department in Washington issued General Order 108, which established a "Gas and Flame Service." It was America's response to the introduction of gas warfare on the battlefields of Europe. American military leaders had viewed with alarm the use of gas on the battlefield and decided that they had better be ready to deal with this new and insidious form of warfare.

World War I saw the first widespread use of gas in warfare, despite the fact that it was prohibited by the Hague Treaty of 1899. At first, tear gas was used, but had little effect. Later, both sides

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made extensive use of chlorine, mustard gas, and phosgene. Gas was not an ideal weapon; it could be just as dangerous for those using it as for its intended victims. Yet it continued to be used throughout the First World War because, when it did work, it was a cost-effective way of killing large numbers of enemy soldiers quickly.

As the gas service and its first operational unit, the First Gas Regiment, was being organized and prepared for war, Percy Rideout underwent training as a soldier. By the time he sailed for France with his regiment on September 23, 1917, he had been promoted to sergeant. On January 4, 1918, about the time the First Gas Regiment was arriving in France, he was commissioned a second lieutenant; three months later, on April 1, he received his first assignment, as a training officer.

Lt. Rideout was not happy with a position so far removed from the fighting, and he soon volunteered for service with the First Gas Regiment. On June 1, he was assigned to Company D, Second Battalion. The First Battalion had gone to the front in March and had been primarily occupied with the placement of mortars. They had already come under enemy fire several times and taken their first casualties, including two deaths on April 9. But the men of the Second Battalion soon learned that they were not immune to injury, even in a supposedly "safe" rear area. During a grenade-throwing exercise on April 11, five men were badly wounded when one of the grenades exploded prematurely.

By summer, the entire Regiment was ready for action. It participated in the Chateau-Thierry offensive in July, but only in a supporting role - mostly repairing roads and burying the dead. The men chafed at being used as manual labor after all their training, and in late July they were finally sent into action at a previously-reconnoitered position. Here, they set up their mortars and launched four attacks in three days, losing four men to enemy shell fire.

Percy Rideout, by now a first lieutenant, was beginning to display the courage that would keep memory of him alive long after the war. On August 5, he helped scout out a new position near the village of St. Thibault, well in advance of the Allied lines, and then participated in moving his men and equipment there. St. Thibault was still being shelled by the Germans, and a retreating infantry officer warned Rideout

that the area was not secure. Rideout went forward anyway, and he and his men unloaded their wagons without assistance. The next day, St. Thibault was hit mistakenly by friendly fire, and Rideout and two other officers had to take refuge in a wine cellar. The cellar was collapsed by an exploding shell, and the men were forced to dig themselves out.

By the fall of 1918, the arrival of American forces was beginning to swing momentum to the Allied side in the war. Already, the Germans had begun to withdraw in order to shorten their lines. Sensing the enemy's weakness, Allied commanders planned a massive war-ending offensive, which began on



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September 26. The men of the First Gas Regiment supported the drive by firing thermite, high explosives, and smoke, behind which the infantry was able to advance unseen, making slow but steady progress. The Germans were giving ground, but were making the Americans pay dearly for it. Altogether, 26,000 men of the American Expeditionary Force died in those last few weeks of the war.

On October 4, Company D, Lt. Rideout's outfit, moved forward to set up four mortars. Rideout himself went well beyond this position to locate enemy machine guns and report them to his superiors. During his scouting mission, Lt. Rideout was forced to dodge enemy fire and was knocked down repeatedly by exploding artillery shells. He survived his mission and returned to direct mortar fire upon the enemy positions he had located.

For his actions that day, Percy Rideout was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross, the second highest military decoration awarded by the United States military. He was one of only two men of the First Gas Regiment to be so honored.

Percy Rideout did not live to receive his DSC. Just five days after his bold reconnaissance mission, the lieutenant was killed by an enemy shell, one week before his thirtieth birthday. Six of the men with him were wounded. The next



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day, he was buried with full military honors. After the war, his remains were moved to the newly-established Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery, where his grave can be seen today.

Thirty-one men and eight officers of the First Gas Regiment died in the war. They include Lt. Paul L. Goss of the Medical Corps, who died on October 6, 1918 after a gas attack, and Sgt. Gerald S. Patton, University of Washington '15, who was killed August 14, 1918 by a shell burst. Their names, too, are on Huntsville streets. Redstone Arsenal Gate 8 is located near the intersection of Goss and Patton Roads.

Percy Rideout's name, like the war in which he died, is nearly forgotten today. The section of Rideout Road outside the arsenal boundaries was renamed Research Park Boulevard in 2001. Still, the new has not entirely put off the old - in addition to Rideout Road, the lieutenant's name can be found on a children's playground in his hometown, Concord.

Today, nearly 50,000 vehicles travel Rideout Road daily. The road still bears the name it was given nearly 70 years ago. The Army has not forgotten the young lieutenant from Massachusetts - and neither should we.

**"Whoever gossips  
to you will  
gossip about you."**

**Well-Known  
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## It Wasn't a Squirrel?

From 1888 newspaper

A curious accidental shooting occurred about a mile north of New Market. Oscar Kroger, living at that village, started out squirrel hunting and while passing through the woods noticed an object in a tree. He thought it was a squirrel and let go a load from his shotgun. To his surprise, down came a human form, which proved to be Clifford Seward, aged 20 years, who had climbed the tree in search of a bird's nest.

Upon examination it was found that Seward had received the full load of shot in the face and will lose the sight of one eye, besides being badly disfigured for life. Kroger is expected to be examined for glasses in the near future.

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# Taylorville

by Bob Baudendistel

Out in a beautiful open meadow nestled along the foot of Wallace Mountain to the east and bounded by the Tennessee River to the west is a unique community that was originally named Taylorville. It never quite made it to the full stature of becoming an incorporated town, but this thriving community was once a major hub of a lot of the region's social and economic activity. The Taylorville community was named in honor of Christopher Columbus Taylor (also known to his friends and family as Mr. "C.C." Taylor). Born in 1842, Taylor was a native of Talbot County, Georgia where the 1850 Census records show that he was one of seven family children living in the City of Muscogee. Taylor enlisted as a Private in the E. 20th Georgia Regiment at the

brink of the Civil War. During the midst of the war, Taylor was wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where he was treated and sent to the David Island Prison. He later got released in 1865 as part of a war exchange effort. Taylor was apparently traveling through the Huntsville and Madison County, Alabama region quite frequently during the war in that he later married Miss Laura Ann Hobbs in 1872. Her family had already pioneered much of the land in southern Madison County including various sections found along the river as well as those which were located up along the Aldridge Creek Valley and in Green Cove.

Around 1890, C.C. and Laura A. Taylor purchased at public auction a sizeable portion of land in Madison County and adjacent to the Tennessee River near Hobbs Island. Their two-story home was found close to the edge of the mountain and right next to the already well

established trail leading to and from the New Hope area. The Taylors soon owned and operated one of the three general stores found in the community,

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but the biggest surge of economic activity came in 1892 as the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis (NC&StL) Railway was in the process of building an extension of its Huntsville branch line to the river. At the time of its construction, the Taylors agreed to sell several tracts of land to the railroad there in the immediate vicinity of the river but with the conditions that the railroad would agree to build a depot at the Taylor place and provide them a free pass to ride the train up to Huntsville and back.

Another significant land transaction took place a few months after when the Taylors sold some property to the railroad where a "wye" track could be built for the locomotives to turn around. In addition to the depot and the wye directly adjacent to the Taylors place, the railroad also featured a siding for the switching of cars. The railroad referred to this stop as Hobbs Island despite the official name of the community and its post office being Taylorsville.

By late 1892, the railroad was completed to the river where it built an incline and operated a 21 mile railcar ferry to Gunter's Landing. Taylorsville became one the busiest stops along the railroad due to having the new depot and the resulting significant increases in freight shipments and passenger travel. Passengers who traveled by rail would often stop over at the depot where they were treated to the unforgettable hospitality

and loyalty offered by the Taylors and other families living in the area. Passengers heading to and from Gunter's Landing would get to board the paddle-wheeled steamers during the river journey and experience some of area's most spectacular scenery.

C.C. and Laura A. Taylor were the parents of three children including two sons who lived and farmed there in the

Taylorsville community.

The sad news came in November of 1905 when Laura A. Taylor died in her home at the age of 63. Her husband later died in 1910 while visiting with his daughter up in Petersburg. His body was then transferred back to Taylorsville where he was taken and laid to rest with his wife at the Hobbs Family Cemetery back up in Green Cove.

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The Hobbs Family Cemetery inherited from their father is located along Siniard Drive in the Chimney Springs subdivision off of Bailey Cove Road in Southeast Huntsville. Amazingly, the tombstone which marks the burial of C.C. and Laura A. Taylor is one of the few that has remained unharmed in recent years due to vandalism. While driving out through the modern-day Southeast Huntsville and then along Hobbs Island Road, the Community of Taylorsville remains a very active place with many historic homes, new developments, churches, farms, trails, timber forests, gated communities, industries, fishing spots, orchards, boat docks, and even a light house. Christopher Columbus Taylor and his wife Laura Ann Hobbs - Taylor were two of the most loved and highly respected citizens of their time with a circle of friends that spread as far as the eye could see. It is without a doubt that their faith is carried on to this very day throughout the harmony of the land and for those of us who are willing to look around and admire it.

## A Deserting Husband

from 1881 newspaper

A man living near Gurley has had something of a sensation. A year ago Abraham Meyers, a tailor, left the town, deserting his wife and little son. Recently he returned, accompanied by a lawyer, and announced his intention to secure possession of his boy and take him to another State.

The deserted wife bears an unblemished reputation, and when Meyers and the attorney were heard questioning her chastity, they soon found themselves surrounded by a crowd of determined men armed with some antiquated eggs.

The lawyer pleaded so hard that he was not molested. Meyers, however, became the very unwilling target for the eggs and was a sorry sight when he got on board a passenger train to leave. The conductor at once put him off, out of consideration for the other passengers who immediately began to complain of the smell.

## The Groom Was a Thief

from 1899 newspaper

George Hardy, aged 37, has been committed for trial on \$2,500 bail, on a charge of grand larceny, preferred by his sister-in-law, Dora Rane, who alleges that he stole \$50 from her pocket on the day of his marriage to her sister. The accused denied the charge, and said it was a case of spite. When arrested he had over \$1,200 in his possession. It was said Hardy made a practice of marrying women for money and leaving them on their wedding day.

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# On the Trapline in Madison County

E.N. Woodcock, a native of Pennsylvania, was one of the last professional trappers. During his career he roamed the country, coast to coast, hunting wild game. The following account, written 1912, of his experiences in Alabama are remarkable in the sense it gives an outsider's view of North Alabama.

On the last days of October, 1911, I arrived in Huntsville, Alabama where I met Mr. Ford, whom I found to be a gentleman in all respects, and a member of the M.E. Church.

My first day's outing after reaching Mr. Ford's place was on the Tennessee River, raising

fish nets, and putting out a few mink traps to ascertain what the complexion of the inner side of a mink's coat was. I got a mink the first night, which I found to be of fairly light color, but not quite light enough to my liking. The setting of more traps was delayed for a few days and we spent the time in tending the fish nets.

I have whipped the streams and drowned earthworms for

brook trout and other fish, from my childhood days to the present time. I had never done any fishing in large rivers with nets, so you can imagine my feelings when one net after another was raised which contained many fish of different kinds, such as yellow cat, channel cat, buffalo, pickerel, pike, carp, suckers, black bass (called trout in the South) and many other kinds. These fish ran in weight all

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the way from one-fourth pound up to twenty pounds each, and occasionally a buffalo or yellow catfish much larger. Mr. Ford informed me that often on trot lines they got sturgeon, weighing more than one hundred pounds.

We intended to put out a trot line and catch a sturgeon that I might get some oil. It is said that the oil from a sturgeon is a sure cure for rheumatism in the joints, but it rained so much, keeping us busy adjusting our traps, that we did not get any time to get the bait and put out the trot line. So I did not get to see one of those large fellows.

Mr. Ford pointed out corn and cotton fields where the corn and cotton was still ungathered and told me that he had trot lines set out all through these fields last spring and caught hundreds of pounds of fish—it hardly seemed possible as the water was then fifteen or of twenty feet below the banks of these fields. But in December it began raining nearly every day, and the water rose so suddenly that I was obliged to leave many of my traps where I had set them around ponds and banks of streams and in the swamps, I could then readily see that it was perfectly possible for the fish

to get out into the corn and cotton fields to feed.

The rainy season set in nearly a month earlier this season than usual, causing the rivers and streams to rise so as to flood the whole bottoms (it is called the tide by the people in Alabama).

I will not give my views of the country and conditions in northern Alabama—it would not look well; it is sufficient to say that the greater part of the land is owned in large tracts by a few men and leased out at from \$3.00 to \$8.00 per acre. Corn and cotton are the main crops. Any land lying above the overflowing sections requires heavy fertilizing in order to make a crop. The fertilizer is the commercial sort, and all the crop will sell for is put onto

the land in the way of fertilizers. These lands are mostly leased to colored people—in fact, I was told that the landlords did not care to lease to white men.

The poor white man in northern Alabama is worse off than

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the colored man, for he is looked upon as neither white nor black. In this section the population is largely of the colored class. All of the landlords have a store, so as to furnish their tenants with goods of an inferior quality at exorbitant prices.

There is no good water to be found in that part of Alabama. The water that the people use is something fearful— of course the wealthy class have cisterns. The soil is mostly red clay, and terrible to get about in when the least damp. The roads are only names for roads.

South of the Tennessee River is what is called the Sand Mountains; the soil is of a sandy nature, freestone water, and the people are all white— in fact, it is said that they will not allow a colored man to live there. I heard it stated that they would not even allow a negro to stop over night in that section.

The Sand Mountain region is a piney country with a sandy soil. The land is not as fertile as the bottom lands along the Tennessee River, but they produce a finer grade of cotton, which brings a cent or two a pound more than that of the bottom lands.

As to game in north Alabama, there is but little large game to be found. In the extreme northern part of Madison county, well up to the Tennessee line, there are a few deer and wild hogs; it was said that there were some bear, also plenty of wild turkeys. There were plenty of ducks, and a good many quail.

There is still some lumbering being done, mostly in oak of differ-

ent kinds, though a good part is white oak. The logs are cut and hauled to the Tennessee River and taken by steamboat to Decatur in Limestone county, and worked up into lumber and manufactured articles. There is still quite large bodies of cugalo gum left in the swamps, though this timber is not yet used to any great extent.


I wish to say that if the trapper expects to ship his camp outfit by freight to any part of the South, he should start it from four to six weeks in advance of the time that he will arrive at the place where he will use it.

The trapper, as a usual thing, is too shallow in the region of the pocket book to afford to ship an outfit of camp stove, cooking utensils, tent and a hundred traps or more of various sizes, by express. Of course, he can take his bed blanket and extra clothing as baggage in his trunk.

Now to make this matter plainer, I will give my experi-

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ence of the last two seasons. In 1910 I trapped here in Pennsylvania the first two weeks of November before going south. So I shipped my camp chest by express to Cameron, N. C., started it four days before I left so as to be sure that it would be there by the time I arrived. But when I got to Cameron there was no express matter for Woodcock.

Five days later while I was standing on the depot platform at Cameron waiting for the eleven o'clock express train, along came a freight train, stopped and put off my camp chest. Now, the express charges on this chest was something over ten dollars on 180 pounds.

The next season I concluded that I would not give the express company another rake-off, so started my camp outfit by freight for Huntsville, Alabama, four weeks before I started, so as to again be sure that it would be there when I arrived. Mr. Ford met me at the station nine miles from his place with a conveyance to take baggage and camp outfit to his place. And boys, imagine my feelings when I was again told by the station agent that there was nothing there for Woodcock. About a week later, I got the goods. So boys, take the hint and start the outfit well ahead if you wish to get it on time.

On our way back to Mr. Ford's place the day he met me at the station, he called my attention to several different places along the road to mink tracks in the ditches and in the road. I thought that it would be no trick at all to take three or four mink each night, but I was not reckoning on the disadvantages I had to contend with.

This section of the country is very thickly settled with poor people, and each family keeps from one to three dogs, which are out searching for food all the time. These people never think of feeding their dogs. Nearly ev-

ery night these people are out hunting in droves of five or six, and with six or eight dogs, they think it no more of a crime to steal a trap, and anything found in the trap, than they would consider it a crime to eat a baked 'possum.

A trapper must keep a good lookout when setting his traps to see that there is no one anywhere in sight. If there is, you may expect that that particular trap

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will be missing the next time you come that way.

In setting a trap, the first thing to do is to select a place where the trap is to be set, then go into the bush and get the trap, stake and everything that you will use in making the set. Then you will again look carefully to see that no one is around, and will proceed to make the set, provided that yourself is the only human being in sight, stopping your work often to look about you. Do not think that this caution is not necessary, for it sure is. The writer had nine traps taken at one time within an hour after he had been over the line.

We went into our first camp, I think, on the 5th of November, at a place called Blackwell's Pond or Blackwell's bottom (Blake bottom?), I am not sure which. The first day after we

got to camp, Mr. Ford went out and put out a few traps, while I stayed in camp and fixed up things. Mr. Ford came in that evening I think he brought in five rats. We set nine traps that day and went south along the pond to look over the grounds.

The next morning we had one mink and one coon in the nine traps. I think Mr. Ford brought in four rats and had one coon foot. That evening Mr. Ford went home to raise his nets, and when he came back he brought in two mink; I got two coon. Mr. Ford went home again and made arrangements for a team to come in and move us out to "pastures new." He also brought another mink, and I believe that we got two or three coons that night. I think we got nine rats, four mink and eight coons in the three nights with about twenty traps.

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Our next camp was on Little Indian creek, at the edge of a large cugalo swamp.

The next day after we went into Camp No. 2, I set a few traps near camp. Mr. Ford went down the creek toward his place and set a few traps, and went home to look after his fish nets, returning to camp that evening. Mr. Ford had warned me that the mink in that section would foot themselves equally as bad as muskrats, but as I had never been bothered with mink footing themselves, I paid no attention to his warning.

The next morning Mr. Ford stepped outside of the tent—it was about five o'clock and called to me, asking where I had set my first trap on the creek, and being told, he replied, "Well, you have caught a mink." When asked how he knew, he said, "Come out and hear him squall." I ate breakfast and hastened down to release the mink, but my haste was unnecessary for the mink did not propose to wait for me, I found only the mink's foot—the mink had gone.

I had never had a mink foot itself in this way before and did not think that the mink did, although here in Alabama, we had two mink to foot themselves in one night. Had I heeded Mr. Ford's warning, I would have been several mink pelts ahead.

While there was considerable fur to be found in the vicinity of Camp No. 2, it was a hard place to camp, owing

to the scarcity of camp wood and the inconvenience of getting water, so we moved on to Beaver Dam creek in Limestone county, where we were in hopes of finding a few beaver and quite a plenty of mink and coon. But we were sadly disappointed; we found but little to trap, but found trappers and trap-lifters in abundance, so made haste to get out of that country while we had our boats left. Our catch was only two mink, twelve rats, five coon and one or two 'possum.

We moved from this place back into Madison county and pitched our camp at a point known as the Sinks, where we did a better business. But the rainy season soon set in, so we were compelled to break camp and get out, leaving a good part of our traps where we had set them, now under several feet of water. We shall never see them again.

Well boys, you will excuse me from bragging about just how many coon we got. I can only state that during the five weeks that Mr. Ford and the writer were in camp in Madison county that we got twenty-six mink, and I don't remember the number of coons, opossums and (musk)rats caught.

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# All About Gall Bladders

By Charlie Lyle

There was once a doctor who lived during the depression on through the 60's. The doctor was an honorable and successful man. The name of this man was Dr. Whitaker.

The doctor was so successful that he owned a hospital called 5th Avenue Hospital, which is now where the Rehab Hospital, now stands. Now the name of the street has been changed to Governors Drive.

What made the doctor so interesting was the fact that he absolutely detested gall bladders. He disliked them so much that many of his patients believed that he wanted to remove as many as possible. Thus many people called the hospital "The House Built By Gall Bladders."

There are many people to this day who believe that after being examined, were told that their gall bladders needed to be removed.

One day, a lady was at the hospital being checked out. After the lady was examined, she later went in for the consultation. Immediately there after, it was said, "Yes, your gall bladder needs to be removed." The lady excitedly replied, "But Dr. Whitaker, you took my gall bladder out a year ago."

**"The pistol of a flower is its only protection against insects."**

*From 5 grade science exam*



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# A Quiet Hero

by Austin Miller

Bill Mitchell stood over six feet tall with ramrod straight posture. He was a soldier, farmer and construction worker. James William Mitchell was born in 1917, at Plevna, Alabama and grew up between Huntsville and New Market on Winchester Road. After World War II, the family bought a farm across from Central School and moved to Ryland. This is where his wife Catherine still lives. Bill was a quiet man almost to the point of shyness. I always admired him greatly and he came to mind often when I watched the recent HBO series, Pacific. Although, he was not in the Marines, his war experiences with the army were very similar. Bill served four years dur-

ing World War II. He got to come home only once during those four years and was sick in bed with the flu the whole time. I heard him say that the only time he got homesick was his first night in the army. After lights out, he said he heard a train whistle in the distance that made him think of the L & N train whistle that he could hear at night from his house back home. When the wind was right, we could hear that same whistle late in the day in Ryland. I don't know if he was decorated but I doubt that it would matter to him one way or the other. Medals didn't mean much to combat soldiers of long duration in World War II. One reason is there were no medals that adequately measured their sacrifice

and bravery. They went for the duration of the war with only three ways to get out; badly wounded, dead or survive the war. Bill survived the war. This required an amazing combina-

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tion of luck and combat survival skills, especially when you consider that he was in a rifle company hunting and fighting the Japanese in the jungles of the South Pacific for three years. Just as amazing was his mental strength and stability that enabled him to adjust to civilian life without the post traumatic stress related problems that haunted many war veterans. Most of us could not imagine the horrors that he saw and the fear he knew in those three years of combat. When I was in Vietnam, I sometimes thought about him and his service. For some reason, it always made me feel better.

During his life, my father had many friends. I don't think the old adage that you have a lot of acquaintances but only one or two close friends in your life applied to him. He had several close friends that I knew and none were closer than Bill Mitchell. I saw this friendship demonstrated in many ways over the years. Bill not only served his country with bravery and distinction in World War II, he also served his church and community for years after the war.

If work needed to be done at

Shiloh Church Bill and Daddy took care of it. They did all the church's maintenance work for about 40 years. When they saw a need at the church they filled it without being asked, without thanks and without thinking gratitude was due. They didn't wait for somebody else to help and never complained that they had to do it all.

This, however, was not their greatest contribution to the church. Where they really stood out was the example they set for other church members and the way they represented the church in the community. They not only did church work, they did work for anybody that needed help. They didn't expect to be paid and didn't take it if offered. If

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they had collected pay for all the help they provided their friends and neighbors, it would have been a huge bill indeed.

After Daddy died, Bill had open-heart surgery. His condition was very grave and it was touch and go for a while. Catherine told me later that when Bill awoke from recovery the first thing he said was, "Where did Joe go?" She said, "Joe is not here, there is nobody here but you and me and the nurses who are in and out." To which Bill responded, "didn't you see Joe, he has been standing right over there in that corner." Bill Mitchell was not the kind of man who saw things that weren't there.

Bill and Catherine personify the people that Tom Brokaw wrote about in his book, "The Greatest Generation." Also it is important to note that Catherine did her part during the war. She was one of the first women to serve in the navy. They proudly served their country, their community and their church. They did it because that was who they were. This not only made them great neighbors, it also made them great Americans. Bill died in 2004 at the age of 87 and I was asked to be a Pall Bearer. I was greatly saddened but it was an honor to be a Pall Bearer for an American hero like Bill Mitchell.

## Want to Find My Mother

from 1867 newspaper

In 1864 I was carried to Tennessee to help dig fighting ditches. When I returned after the fighting my mother was gone. Some say she was sold to a Mr. Wilkins. Her name is Sally, is of medium height and light skinned. Contact me at this paper. *Tom Robinson*

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# The Court Martial

Special Order No. 69  
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from 1865 military records

Sarg. Thomas Riggs, K Company, 13th Indiana Cavalry Regiment, having disgraced himself and the regiment to which he belongs by having been found guilty of theft is hereby reduced to the ranks.

He will be placed on a barrel head in front of Regimental Headquarters to stand one hour on and one hour off for twelve hours. He will also be worked for nine days at hard labor on fortifications or at other work and kept in close confinement under guard while not at work.

It is with feelings of the greatest regret and mortification that the major commdg. is compelled to resort to such punishment but the habit the men are too readily falling into of pilfering and stealing must and shall be stopped.

By Order of Major L. Stout, Commdg  
13 Ind. Cav.

Note: "Standing on a barrel head" was a common punishment during the Civil War and consisted of being forced to stand at attention, in full gear, on top of a barrel. Thomas Riggs, evidently disagreeing with the sentence, deserted the same day. A picture of Major Stout was drawn on a wall inside the Huntsville Depot during the period it was occupied by Federal troops and may still be seen.

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# A Dastardly Attempt to Burn the Business Block on the North Side of the Square

From 1891 newspaper

Monday morning about 1:30 o'clock, as one of the Mercury's compositors was going home after his night's work, and as he passed the store room recently vacated by Mr. J. B. Bradford, and since then has been unoccupied, he saw a small light through the front door.

Way back in the rear, he could also detect a volume of smoke rising.

He called a gentleman or two who were standing on the Huntsville Hotel corner, and after a slight examination the cry of fire was given.

It did not take many minutes for the fire department to appear, and headed by Fire Chief Baker, the front door was burst open.

Lanterns were brought into requisition and in the hands of two or three men, the rear end of the store was visited, and just as the corner of the stair was reached from which a door opens into a place reserved for a private office, a fire made of paper and kindling was on the inside, built right on top of the floor.

As soon as it was discovered, the men in the front yelled for the hose, but at that time a member of the department, William Hayden, caught a man's form in a crouching position up in a dark corner of this little space, and immediately laid his iron grasp upon him and drew

him from his hiding.

Officers Ward and Fulgham were on hand and the man was turned over to them.

They got him into the calaboose, while he was kicking, jerking and making strenuous efforts to free himself. Finding the man created a great deal of excitement, but the small gathering set to work and in a few minutes had the fire put out.

If the fire had gained any headway no telling what dam-

age it would have done, for the entire block would certainly have been in danger. The villainous fellow arrested would not disclose his name, nor residence, neither could anything be learned of him from those present.

But it is safe to say that when he is arraigned for an investigation of his extreme criminal act he will be fully known and dealt with accordingly.

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# A Fine Dinner in 1868

A fine dinner was held for the Huntsville Bar Association on Friday, May 22, 1868 at 5 pm. The bill of fare included:

**First course:** soup, genuine turtle, vegetable; fish both baked and broiled.

**Second Course:** Boiled Leg of Mutton with caper sauce; ham and cabbage; tongue; ham with Champagne sauce; bar-bequed saddle of mutton; lamb; roast sirloin of beef; veal; spring lamb with mint sauce; pig; turkey with oyster sauce; beef a la mode and Jackson County chickens with mushrooms; tenderloin of beef larded with Maderia sauce; tenderloins of veal with mushroom sauce; mutton chops breaded and garnished with green peas; lemon flavor rice croquettes, Brunswick stew; stewed tomatoes; fried potatoes, green corn, asparagus, green peas, boiled onions, Jackson County cucumbers, relishes, lettuce, pickles, lobster salad, lamb salad, chow-chow, chicken salad, potato salad, walnut catsup, tomato catsup.

**Third Course:** pound cake ornamented a la Pirole, fruit cake ornamented a la Anglaise; fruit cake ornamented a la Francaise, Victoria pudding with sherry white sauce; raspberry jelly tarts; biscuit a la Anglaise, green applie pies; Maderia wine jelly; cream tarts a la vanilla, biscuit glace a la Orange; quince jelly cake; punch jelly cakes; potato custard pies; meringues suisse; lemon jelly; Charlotte Russe; almonds, filberts, raisins, peccans, oranges, ambrosia, vanilla

ice cream, strawberries, punch a lac and St. Julien Claret, Green la Romainie, coffee, cornbread; Seal, sherry.  
 Proprietors of the hotel were wines included Imperial Cabinet, port, Piper Heidsick, Bauil-Venables and Willard.

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# News from the Year 1940

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Germans Surrender Unconditionally

Europe wakes to freedom this morning. Germany capitulated to Allied demands in a ceremony at 2:41 a.m. All battlefields but those in Czechoslovakia lie silent.

The document of surrender was signed inside a little red school-house at Reims. The unassuming building has been serving as headquarters for General Dwight D. Eisenhower. While Eisenhower did not witness the signing, chief of staff Lt. General Walter Bedell Smith was present. The U.S.S.R., France and Great Britain were represented. General Gustav Jodl and General Admiral Hans Friedeburg were the German delegates.

While surrender terms have not officially been released, it is believed all German forces must disarm and war criminals must submit themselves to Allied authorities. Prisoners in Allied camps may be used as a labor force to rebuild the rav-

aged European cities. Germany will probably be partitioned to accommodate Polish and Russian demands, but only after an extensive peace conference that may be held years from now. The end of war with Germany was greeted with joy in the United States. However, the death of President Roosevelt still weighs heavily on hearts and minds. And no can forget war in the Pacific area.

Reaction in Europe was m subdued. The public, huddled in the rubble that was once their homes, are too weary to celebrate. Perhaps the only noisy festivities were held in Dublin, where Trinity College students planted a Union Jack and flags of the other Allied nations and sang "Rule Britannia."

German Foreign Minister Lutz Schwerin von Krosigk brought the news of surrender to the German people with a radio broadcast at 8:09 a.m. He expressed great sadness.

### Ho Chi Minh Rules Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh, the leader of the anti-Japanese, Communist guerrillas of Vietnam, has organized a Liberation Committee of the Vietnamese People, of which he is assured the presidency. Ho's anti-colonial guerrilla forces have taken possession of the modern armaments left by the Japanese occupation army.

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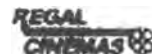
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# Petain, Once a Hero, Now He is Condemned to Die

France's Marshal Petain has been found guilty of intelligence with the enemy and sentenced to death. Because of his age (the former Vichy leader is 89), the jury expressed the hope that the death sentence will be commuted.

From the first sentences of the long judgment, it became clear to all except Petain that the verdict would be "guilty." The marshal, paler than usual, leaned back in an attitude familiar during the 20-day trial, while one hand nervously stroked his mustache.

The judgment ordered the confiscation of all Petain's possessions and a proclamation of his "national unworthiness." He was further found guilty of having led astray many good

citizens who had faith in him because of his heroic past. Petain is revered by many as the "Savior of Verdun."

# Glenn Miller Plane Missing at Sea

Glenn Miller is missing. A plane carrying him and two companions disappeared en route from England to France during a USO trip. The pilot raised no distress call, and no wreckage has been spotted by British planes in the area.

A master of swing, Miller took his place alongside Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Count Basie. Miller plays trombone and arranges his orchestra's smooth, satisfying compositions.

The Iowa-born bandleader is only 40 years old.

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# The Lady Was Royalty

by Cathey Carney

Very few people realize that North Alabama had its very own royalty, in the name of Grace Hinds, Lady Curzon Marchioness of Kedleston.

The Alabama native was at one time a favorite in European society, as noted in the book, "The Life of Grace Hinds Curzon" compiled by Leon T. Hinds in 1971. Grace Hinds was born in the Hinds-McEntire home, located near the downtown area of Decatur on Sycamore Street, in 1878. The home was built by John Burleson in around 1835 and overlooked the beautiful Tennessee River.

As often happened in the South, both Yankee and Confederate Army chiefs used the house as its headquarters during the Civil War. In fact, the home was the site where the battle of Shiloh was actually planned by General Albert Johnston. The home was spared the terrible flames of the Civil War, but several large decorative balls which were atop the iron fence surrounding the home were shot off during numerous battles. At the war's end, Col. Jerome J. Hinds of Illinois and his brothers were so taken by the home that they made it their own. Col. Hinds and his brother Monroe were Union soldiers and with the extra money they had saved were able to buy large properties surrounding the home in a stricken but rich valley and soon owned larger tracts of land on both sides of the Tennessee River.

Later when Monroe married, he and his wife raised their children in the home, including their daughter Grace. Grace Elvina Hines was born in 1878 in the upstairs room of the brick house in Decatur and was the third offspring of a family of seven. Her father was a U.S. Marshall during Chester Arthur's administration following Garfield's death and was United States Minister to Brazil.

It was later said that when she became famous she forgot her old friends, but she never forgot the old Decatur home. In her book, "Reminiscences," she wrote: "Decatur, Alabama, as I remember it, was a quiet, sleepy town, although my older friends used to tell me, with great pride, of the wealth and

dignity of the vast entertaining and hospitality before the Civil War."

The Hinds family moved to Huntsville when Grace was still a young girl, since her



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father was U.S. Marshall of the Northern District of Alabama.

At this time the family lived very modestly on Grove Street. They attended the Episcopal Church and young Grace often played in the heavily treed area around Big Spring. Old-timers recalled her as a very bright, engaging child with long curls that her mother tediously wrapped each day.

While living in Huntsville, however, the family encountered some misfortunes. In April 1882 Grace's mother died and was buried in Maple Hill. In February of the next year, her father died and later in November 1888, Lucia, Grace's infant sister, died also. Another unfortunate incident that befell the family was the day the home on Grove Street burned to the ground and the family had to move to a smaller house on the corner of Madison and Gates.

In 1890, Grace was 12 years old and the remaining family moved back to Decatur. From then on the story of the beautiful North Alabama resident reads almost like a fairy tale. Five years after the family had moved from Huntsville to Decatur, Mrs. Hind's brother, John Trillia, came to Decatur from South America to visit the family. He was fascinated by his young relative Grace and offered to take her on a 3 month journey with him. Grace jumped at the chance, getting bored with the mundane daily living in Alabama.

While visiting in Argentina, the young Grace met and married an Argentinean millionaire and packer of London

- Alfred Hubert Duggan - who kept herds in South America and was a native of Tennessee. Although she was never particularly happy with him, Grace gained experience, poise and education in London and before long had captured the hearts of European society. They had three children, 2 boys and a girl. One of the boys, Hubert Duggan, later became a British Member of Parliament.

After the death of Duggan, Grace was left with some \$25 million, at the very young age of 36. On January 2, 1917 she became the 2nd wife of George Nathaniel Curzon, a widower, in a private chapel of Lambeth Palace. This was the second American heiress that Curzon had married. The ceremony was attended only by eight or nine guests, including children, and Grace had only one attendant.

Grace was an extremely beautiful woman whom many claimed had a perfectly shaped face and large, expressive eyes. She was exceptionally youthful for her age, which was probably

one reason she captured so many European hearts. Curzon had a brilliant career behind him and was the idol of many women. They were a dream

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couple to society.

Following their wedding, the couple moved to London where they bought the historic Bodiam Castle in Sussex. Built in 1386, this structure is considered the finest English example of medieval castles. There Grace lived with all the splendor and pageantry of medieval royalty and became a world famous hostess. Among her friends were King George V, Queen Mary, The Prince of Wales, the Churchills, the Queen of Portugal and Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt.

Lord Curzon became Viceroy of India, as well as Lord Viscount, Earl, Foreign Secretary and Leader of the House of Lords. The King of England conferred Curzon with the title of Marquis and Grace received that of Dame of the Order of the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire.

All was not storybook perfect, however. Grace was extremely independent and as early as the first year of their marriage, while Curzon was struggling to regain the heights which he achieved in India in 1939, they had a habit of living apart.

Curzon had a great dream of becoming the Prime Minister of England. He failed, but did fill many important government posts. He was a controversial figure, attacked by some as a tyrant and a political turncoat and praised by others as a beneficent ruler of India and skilled negotiator and shaper of England's postwar policy.

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at the Huntsville Senior Center, 2200 Drake Ave.**

He kept five or six mansions, country manors and town houses and that included two or three castles. He was a collector of castles, who had artistic taste and a reverence for antiquities.

Despite fertility-related operations and several miscarriages, Lady Curzon was never able to give Curzan the son and heir he so desperately longed for, a fact that later helped to erode their marriage, though they never divorced. He died in 1925, literally in a harness, which he wore for 48 years because of the constant pain he suffered from a back injury.

He was still making plans for his future on his deathbed. Grace was again a widow.

Later that same year, Grace was approached the famous American artist John Singer Sargent, who had his studio in London and desired to paint her portrait. She agreed to this, and was quite flattered.

The artist was quite an interesting character himself. He was interested from a very young age in art, and had established quite a process in the painting of a client's portrait. After securing a commission through negotiations he carried out by himself, he would visit the client's home to see exactly where the painting would hang and would review the client's wardrobe to pick out the perfect attire. Some portraits were done in the client's home, but more often in his studio in London, which was well-stocked with period furniture and rich background materials he chose for the project. He usually required 8-10 sittings in order to complete a

piece, though he would try to capture the face in the initial sitting. He always tried to keep up a pleasant conversation and sometimes he would take a break to play the piano for the client. He seldom used pencil or oil sketches, instead went about laying down oil paint directly. Finally he would select an appropriate frame.

During his career he painted a series of 3 portraits of Robert

Louis Stevenson and his wife, as well as pictures of Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. In 1907, at the age of 51, Sargent officially closed his studio. Relieved, he stated, "Painting a portrait would be quite amusing if one were not forced to talk while working.. .What a nuisance having to entertain the sitter and to look happy when one feels totally wretched." In that same year, Sargent painted

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himself- a modest and serious self-portrait that shows a sad and gaunt man. He painted a portrait of John D. Rockefeller in 1917. His last in 1925, of Lady Curzon, garnered much attention among art critics and marked the end of his career. The oil on canvas painting was Sargent's last oil portrait, and was purchased in 1936 by the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Lady Curzon, Marchioness of Kedleston, wrote her memoirs in 1955, something she had wanted to do for a long time. King George V knew that she wanted to do this, but persuaded her to wait for a least 25 years after Lord Curzon had died. She wrote the book 30 years after his death.

Grace Hinds, the little girl who grew up on Grove Street in Huntsville, lived with the opulence of medieval royalty that many only dream of. It was a very long journey from the Big Spring and the cotton fields of her North Alabama home.



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Soak peas for a couple of hours, cook til done but not mushy. Make sure you have at least an inch of water over the top of the beans when fully cooked.

Add all ingredients except for the Tabasco sauce. Stir well. When serving, sprinkle with the green Tabasco sauce.

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# Number Please

by Mickey Moore

*An account of the history of the telephone in Huntsville and contributions by Robert A. Moore, my grandfather (a telephone company pioneer).*

Robert A. Moore was born in 1867 in Shelbyville, TN (Bedford County). His father, James A. Moore, was a confederate Captain in Co. K 41st Tennessee Regiment.

At the early age of 16 he was granted schooling at the Bell Laboratories in New York. After his training he returned to Shelbyville and was the first Associated Press Manager. This led to his move to Huntsville and established the Associated Press for the first time in Huntsville as well. He was tutored by Alexander Graham Bell.

In 1889 Alexander Graham Bell appointed Robert A. Moore as the manager of the Huntsville Exchange of the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company. This was quite a responsibility for a newly married 22 year old to take on at the infancy of telephone service.

He remained energetic at his

work and was instrumental in increasing telephone subscribers from a mere few telephone users (36). He found himself required to "sell the service" as well as fill in for a minimum staff of linemen, repairmen and operators.

His early energies continued for 50 years of continuous service to telegraph and telephone service. These 50 years included five years in Associated Press work and 45 years as manager here in Huntsville. At the time of his retirement the 36 users had grown to 1,770 users. He had become a veteran telegraph operator as well as a telephone pioneer.

Following a couple of year's retirement he was fatally hurt in an automobile accident in Meridian, Mississippi. He was not driving the automobile as he never learned to drive. He had many accomplishments in his life but driving was not one of them. (My Father was his driver of a fine automobile and taxied him everywhere or at his option in good weather rode his bike into the Huntsville square from his home in "The Grove" just off Meridian Pike.

One of the great hallmarks of my grandfather's career took place July 22, 1896 in the old Huntsville Hotel. This was the site of a 2:00 to 6:00 P.M. occa-

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sion of the first long distance telephone calls from Huntsville, Alabama.

Robert A. Moore arranged the make-up of a circuit from Huntsville to Fayetteville to Nashville to Evansville to Vincennes to Terre Haute to Cuyahoga Falls to Chicago and to New York. Whew?? That was pretty intense and quite a skillful endeavor in those times.

My grandfather made this connection and handed Huntsville Mayor W.T. Hutchens the headset. The first long distance call from Huntsville was about to resume between Mayor Hutchens and Mr. D.I. Carson the General Manager, Southern Bell Telephone New York.

The conversation opened, "This is Huntsville, Alabama". The city of Huntsville, her people, send greetings to New York City, hoping that the long distance telephone may be both pleasant and profit to her people and increase our already pleasant business relation with the Great Eastern Metropolis."

Other conversations that evening were made with Cincinnati, Chicago, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Evansville and other places. In these conversations songs were sung, poetry quoted & recitations by young ladies of the time were proved both entertaining and pleasing.

This had become a giant step from a few users picking up an antique phone and hearing an operator's response of Number Please? Usually the number was only 2 or 3 digits followed by the letter 'J', representing the Jefferson Exchange of Huntsville, Alabama.

On November 8, 1926 at the Hotel Twickenham the 50th anniversary of the telephone was celebrated. The slogan the telephone company used for

the occasion read "In Truth the Telephone has made Neighbors of the People of our Nation".

Attendees included among many others: Robert A. Moore, Prof. Samuel R. Butler, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Goldsmith, Mr. J. D. Humphrey, Hon. William T. Hutchens, Mr. Thomas N. Patton, Mr. R.E. Pettus, Mr. M. B. Spragins, Mr. Thomas T. Terry, Mr. John B. Van Valkenburg, Dr. William H. Burritt, Gen. Walter Bare, Mrs. Katie Moore Jones, Mr. & Mrs. Henry C. Pollard, Mr. & Mrs. T.W. Pratt, Mr. Humes C. Laughlin, Mr. & Mrs. Winston S. Garth and Mr. Henry Chase.

Robert A. Moore had officially concluded his service to the Southern Bell Division of the telephone company. He had served in many capacities but not withstanding his service to the City of Huntsville as a great civic leader, member of First Methodist Church, Helion Lodge No. 233, 32nd degree Mason, Shriner, ER of Elks Lodge in 1913 and 1914,

Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, President of Alabama Pioneers Southern Bell, Vice President of Southern Bell Employees Association, Charter member of Kiwanis Club, Chaired Red Cross, Scientist and Inventor of the time circuit controller for Western Electric - September 10, 1903. (This and other work he accomplished led

to the development of the 'dial' system.)

Unfortunately I never saw my Grandfather due to his accident and death (9/29/1931) before I was born.

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# Grand Jury Reports on Conditions in Huntsville

from 1912 newspaper

Bootlegging is alive and well in Madison County. It exists in every part of the county, especially in the city and outlying areas, with the exception of Merrimack. Most of the county officers and city commissioners offices are bought and sold.

Night hacks and omnibus lines help supply the bootleggers. Two restaurants, one near Southern Railway Station and one near the N.C. St. L, are termed "dens of vice." Near one of these a Negro, carrying \$40 he had gotten from the sale of his cotton, had been reported murdered during the past year. The city has been asked to revoke the licenses of the cafes, one of which was selling five barrels of illicit whisky a week.

The jail situation is a pitiful one. The old portion of the jail that is still in use is a "horrible reminder of the dreadful dungeons of the Dark Ages" and the removal needs to happen speedily.

The poor house is in condition of neglect and its 23 inmates, white and negro, run out of food regularly at different intervals and are unable to obtain any doctors services when required.

The Courthouse is a positive disgrace, with the Grand Jury room a germ-laden hole. It is the recommendation of the Grand Jury that this courthouse be torn down. The only reason that the county commissioners have not been indicted was because of the pleas of the solicitor.

# Whiskey Business Flourishing

from a 1920 newspaper

Mr. W.A. Romine, local agent for the United States government for the suppression of liquor making and liquor selling, is having some interesting experiences in his work, in which he is now actively engaged.

The allegation is made that the high price of spirits is a great

temptation to the lawless to go into the business of producing the contraband; and a further allegation is that there are believed to be in the county right at this time a number of booze factories in full blast.

It therefore remains to be seen whether or not the strong hand of the federal government is going to be effective in suppressing a business that is demoralizing to every one who engages in it, including the producer, the bootlegger and the consumer.

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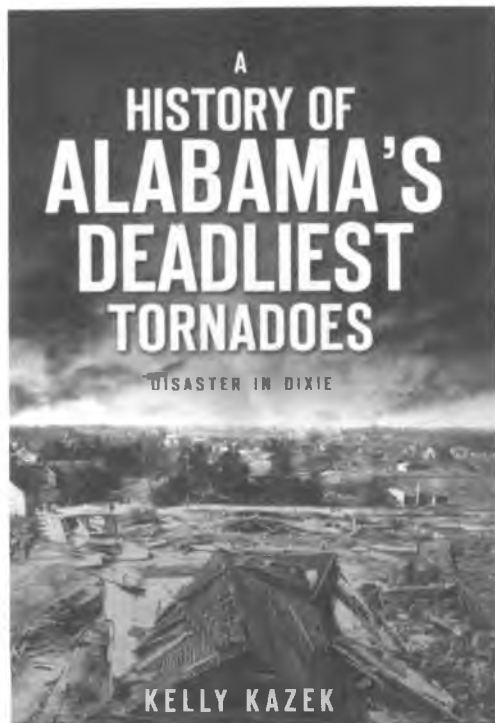
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## Shaver's

**Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest**

1. **Remembering Huntsville: 131 Vintage Photographs** by Jacque Reeves \$16.95
2. **Alabama's Deadliest Tornadoes: A History** by Kelly Kazek \$19.99
3. **Growing up in the Rocket City: A Baby Boomer's Guide** (over 200 photos/illustrations) by Tommy Towery \$15
4. **Hidden History of North Alabama** by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves \$19.99
5. **The Farm in Jones Valley** by Ray Jones \$18.95
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