



The Murder of H.E. Ross

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Fortunately, just as in the days of the Wild West, the cavalry came to the rescue; this time under the guise of Company A of the National Guard, commanded by Captain Edwin Jones. Earlier Judge Speake had requested the Guard be activated and Huntsville be placed under martial law.

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The Murder of H.E. Ross

There was a hint of a chill in the air on the night of Sept. 28, 1930. Despite the late hour, Lonnie Simmons was having trouble sleeping. He had visited an automobile dealer that afternoon and now he was debating on whether or not he could afford the payments for a new car.

Abruptly, thoughts of a new car were put out of his mind by what sounded like gunshots coming from a neighbor's house. Quickly grabbing a robe, Simmons ran to the front porch just in time to see a car traveling down Holmes Avenue in the direction of town.

"Must have been a backfire," thought Simmons as he turned to go back to bed. Suddenly the night air was torn by the loud piercing scream of someone

calling for help.

Minutes later, the body of H.E. Ross was discovered lying in a pool of blood in his home at 302 West Clinton Street. He had been shot twice at close range, once in the chest and once in the head. The latter shot had torn away much of his skull and splattered blood all over the walls and ceilings. Lying a few feet away was his wife.

Mrs. Ross been shot in the

leg and was almost incoherent from blood loss and shock.

Sheriff Frank Riddick was in bed when he received the call. After hastily getting dressed he drove to the hospital where the victims had been taken. Mrs. Ross said her husband had gotten out of bed to get a drink of water when he was surprised by a burglar. The burglar then killed her husband and shot her in the leg before fleeing. At first she described the burglar as a black man, dressed in a dark suit and of medium height. Intense questioning by Riddick, however, revealed that Mrs. Ross never actually got a good look at the person. "His hair kind of looked like that of a black man," though she also admitted the suspect was wearing a hat that covered most of his head.

The hat, dropped by the assailant as he fled, was the only physical evidence left at the murder scene.

Bloodhounds, trained to track fugitives, were quickly dispatched to the crime scene. After wandering around for a few minutes, confused by the large crowd that had gathered, the dogs picked up two trails. One reached a dead end at the train depot while the other one led to the fair grounds.

Sheriff Riddick immediately contacted law enforcement officers in Decatur and Birmingham to be on the lookout



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Sales & Mrktg. - Cathey Carney

Gen. Manager - Thomas Frazier

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for a man, possibly black, who might have boarded the train in Huntsville.

Mr. H.E. Ross had been a well respected businessman in Huntsville and as word of his murder spread, the already fragile tensions between the black and white population be-

gan to boil.

Several months earlier, Dr. Hiram W. Evans, Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, had appeared in Huntsville and his lecture on "White Protestantism" had drawn a crowd of over a thousand. In another incident, 500 Klansmen, dressed in full regalia, paraded through downtown in a procession of 150 cars. As one old-timer remembered, "Huntsville was just waiting to explode."

Increasing tensions even more were the articles that The Huntsville Daily Times had printed calling the culprit, "a negro beast" and a "black night

marauder."

The morning after the murder a large and angry crowd gathered in front of city hall demanding to know the results of the police investigation. As Judge Speake tried to quiet the crowd, word was received that a suspect was in custody at the county jail.

Décatur authorities had arrested George Henderson, a black man from Athens. Police officers had seen Henderson get off the Huntsville train in Decatur and after being taken into custody, a large sum of money was found in his possession. More importantly, he had no alibi for the previous night.

As word of Henderson's arrival spread, a mob of over 500 angry people had surrounded the Jail. Some people were carrying ropes and many of the crowd were waving guns in a threatening manner, vowing to

see "justice done."

Meanwhile, inside the jail. Sheriff Riddick was patiently questioning Henderson. Within minutes Riddick was able to prove Henderson was just an illiterate bootlegger who had nothing to do with the crime. He had simply been in the

"If you have a bad cough, take a bunch of laxatives. Then you'll be afraid to cough."

Sam Jenkins, Huntsville

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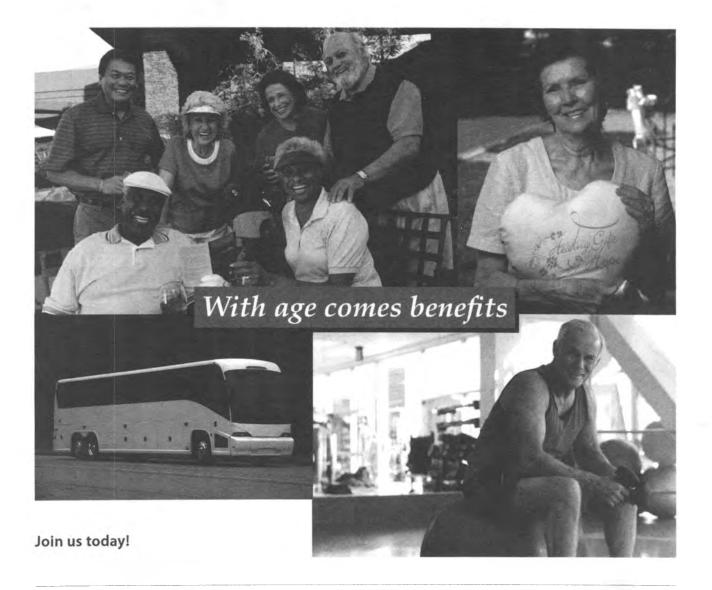
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wrong place at the wrong time.

Walking outside to address the crowd, Riddick said, "Men, you may as well go on home. This man did not kill Ross."

There was absolute silence for a few seconds. Finally one man cried, "Give him to us! We'll see if he's telling the truth!" This seemed to inflame the crowd who then began to shout threatening oaths.

Once again Riddick explained to the mob that the man in custody was not guilty.

"Liar," exclaimed one man standing next to the sheriff. 'You're a damn liar!"

Riddick, a man of few words, responded by hitting the man with the butt of his pistol. The man went to the hospital and Riddick went back inside the jail.

Once inside, and noticing Henderson still sitting there, the sheriff told him he could leave; he was not going to be

charged.

Robinson, after going to the window and looking at the blood-thirsty mob outside, told Riddick, "Sheriff, if it's all the same to you, I think I'll just stay inside the jail for a few days!"

However humorous the situation inside the jail was, outside it was turning into a riot. Rocks were being thrown at the jail and already several attempts had been made to force entry. Several of the mob were reported to have gone in search of dynamite. Riddick had armed every available deputy

with shotguns and any moment they expected to have to

open fire.

Fortunately, just as in the days of the Wild West, the cavalry came to the rescue; this time under the guise of Company A of the national guard, commanded by Captain Edwin Jones. Earlier in the day Judge Speake had notified the Governor of the unrest in Huntsville and requested the Guard be activated and Huntsville be placed under martial law.

The soldiers quickly moved into position around the jail. Now the mob turned their anger toward the guardsmen. After two of the soldiers were slightly injured by thrown objects, Captain Jones ordered a volley of shots to be fired over the crowd's heads. Thus gaining the mob's attention, Jones ordered the soldiers to arrest six of the leaders who were then promptly placed in jail. By midnight the crowd had left and the soldiers were lodged for the night in the Armstrong Stables, adjacent to the jail.

With peace restored, Riddick began a careful investigation of the murder. It was common knowledge that Mr. Ross, the owner of a prosper-

"Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop."

Jane Smith, Huntsville



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ous dry cleaning business, carried a large sum of cash home with him every Saturday night. There were no signs of forceful entrance to the home, and the light bulb in the hallway had been carefully unscrewed part way so it could not be turned on. Even more puzzling was the discovery that the telephone wires had been cut, but in a manner that was not easily detectable. The only actual evidence found was the hat the murderer had left behind. In Sheriff Riddick's long career, this was the most baffling case he had ever seen.

Early the following morning, Oct. 2, word spread like wildfire throughout town that a man by the name of Jack Powell had been arrested in Birmingham and was being brought back to Huntsville. Powell was a carnival worker with the fair that had been in town the week Ross was murdered. He had been seen loitering around the dry cleaning establishment and had supposedly asked questions about where Ross lived. The fact that one of the bloodhound's trails led to the fairgrounds was also talked about and debated by

the mob that once again began forming outside the jail.

Though the crowd was not quite as large as it had been the day before, its intentions were just as deadly. Prominent by their presence were several Ku Kluxers, in full robes, who seemed to be leading the chorus of shouts demanding the accused be turned over to the mob.

After a few preliminary questions, Sheriff Riddick quickly ruled Powell out as a suspect. Realizing a mob had once again formed around the jail, Riddick went outside to ask the crowd to disperse.

"Men," he said, "you may as well go on home. This man's innocent. When we find the guilty one you'll know about it."

Angry rumblings began coming from the crowd. Powell was guilty, they shouted, as they began pushing and shoving to gain entrance to the jail.

The man who had called the sheriff a liar the day before was once again at the front of the crowd, only this time his head was wrapped in white bandages. As he made eye contact with the sheriff, he saw Only he who attempts the ridiculous can achieve the impossible.

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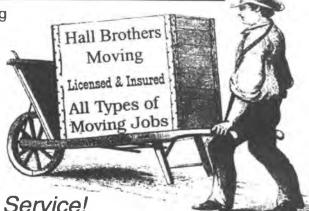






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Riddick's hand drop to his pistol butt. The man quickly, and wisely, decided to leave the scene, carrying a large part of the crowd with him. The national guard quickly broke up the rest of the mob.

Powell, after seeing the mob, chose to remain in jail.

By this time almost everyone in Huntsville had chosen sides as to whom the guilty party was. Regardless of Sheriff Riddick's opinion, most still believed Henderson, the first man arrested, was guilty. Others believed Powell was the murderer. "Just look at the evidence," they all said.

In between mobs, Sheriff Riddick continued his investigation. By this time he had drawn certain conclusions about the case. The murder was evidently a robbery attempt by someone who knew that Ross kept a large sum of money at home on weekends. The person also was familiar with the house and had carefully planned the crime as evidenced by the cut telephone wires and the unscrewed light bulb. Also, with no signs of forceful entry, the person must have had access to the house.

Sheriff Riddick's investigation came to a screeching halt the next morning when authorities in Decatur announced they had arrested and charged a man and woman for the murder. The police had been tipped off by an anonymous letter.

In a scene all too familiar by now, a mob, much smaller this time, gathered at the jail, calling for blood. As he had done in the past, Riddick carefully questioned the suspects and within minutes established their innocence. Next he turned

"He was a wise man who invented beer."

Plato

his attention to the unruly mob outside the jail.

This time Riddick was not as tactful as he had been before. Standing in front of the crowd, with disgust showing on his face, he simply ordered, "Go home right now, before I arrest every damn one of you!" When the mob began protesting, Riddick grabbed the two closest to him, marched them inside the jail and locked them up.

The rest of the mob departed peacefully, and quickly.

A few hours later the police chief in Chattanooga, Tenn., telephoned. He had arrested the murderer and had him lodged in jail, waiting for transport to Huntsville. Riddick asked to speak to the suspect. After a few minutes he asked to speak to the chief again. "Turn the man loose," Riddick ordered, "He didn't do it."



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Next the police department in Cullman called. They too had arrested a suspect, whom was quickly proven to be innocent. Then Muscle Shoals called with a suspect. Nashville was next, followed by Knoxville and Mobile.

It seemed as if every police department in the South had their own suspect. Riddick, after wasting hours on the phone proving people's innocence, angrily slammed the phone down and told his jailor, "Don't take another phone call unless they have a signed confession and a photograph of the murder being committed!"

Huntsville remained on edge for the next few days. Almost everyone in Huntsville had already made up their minds who the culprit was. There were reports of fist fights between people who each had their own favorite suspect. People were almost unanimous, though, in agreeing it had to be a black person who

committed the crime.

Almost dally there were reports of blacks being assaulted, and shots being fired into their homes as the unruly section of Huntsville's population vented its anger

Tensions between the black and white community were so high that many of Huntsville's prominent black families actually left town "for the duration"

Suddenly, on October 6, Huntsville was electrified by the news that Sheriff Riddick had arrested two men for the murder. The most shocking part of the news, however, was the fact that one of the men, Thomas Ross, was the son of the deceased. The other man, Fred Matheny, was a foreman at the Ross Dry Cleaning firm.

Most of Huntsville refused to believe the men were guilty. They had already made up their minds; a black man was responsible for the murder.

The following week a pre-

liminary hearing was held for the two suspects. The State's case was built upon two important facts. One was that young Ross had rented a car, matching the description given by Lonnie Simmons, a few minutes after the murder. Secondly, Ross had recently purchased a revolver, the same caliber used in committing the crime.

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J.W. McClung, a state criminal investigator, testified he had a conversation with young Ross about the amount of insurance carried by his father. At first Ross said it was barely enough to pay his debts, but later contradicted himself by stating the insurance amounted to between \$15,000 and \$17,000.

Slowly, the events of the fateful night unfolded. Ross and Matheny had spent much of the evening at the fair, where one of the bloodhound trails led. Next, they visited Maude Hamby, a well known bootlegger, where they purchased a pint of whiskey and stood around talking and drinking. A neighbor of Hamby's testified Ross was wearing a gray suit at the time.

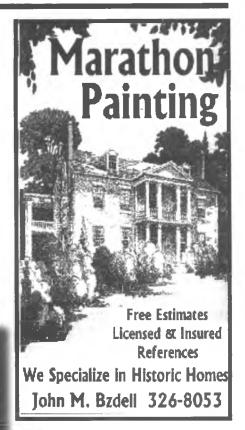
At approximately 11:40 p.m., the defendants showed up at the home of Hazel Battle, a well-known Madam. Battle testified that Ross sat in the hall and engaged her in conversation while Matheny went into another room with a girl who

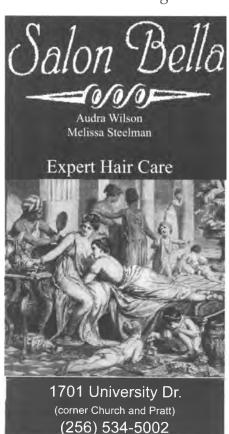
lived (worked) there. Both men were drinking heavily. Hazel Battle and her daughter both testified Ross was wearing a dark suit. The prosecution noted that Mrs. Ross had testified the assailant was wearing a dark suit.

According to the prosecution's theory, Ross had changed from a gray suit to a dark suit prior to the murder so as to blend into the darkness better while going to his father's home. It was carefully pointed out that Ross had a key to the house and knew his father had a large sum of money

"The problem with the world is that everyone is a few drinks behind."

Humphrey Bogart







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at home. Also important was the fact that Ross was the only possible person who could have unscrewed the light bulb and he was also familiar with the telephone wiring.

Especially damning for Ross was that he could not account for the pistol he had

recently purchased.

For the prosecutor, it was

an open and shut case.

The citizens of Huntsville, however, had already decided the case. It just had to be a black man. Hatréd and prejudice refused to let them believe the crime could have been committed by a white man.

Matheny was turned loose at the preliminary hearing and a short while later, Ross too was freed when the grand jury

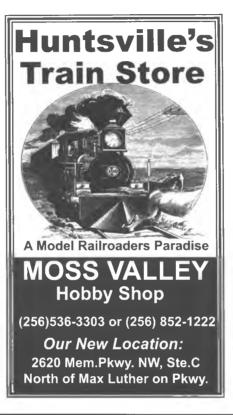
refused to indict him.

As one old-timer described the events, "Most everybody thought the boys were guilty, but no one wanted to admit they had been wrong."

Months later, after tensions had died down, a group of people visited Sheriff Riddick, inquiring how he had ruled out so many suspects so fast.

"Well," replied the sheriff in a slow drawl as he reached for the only evidence found at the murder scene. "The hat just didn't fit. Most of them couldn't even get it on their heads."

The murder remains on the books as "Unsolved."



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A Lifetime of Barbering

By Malcolm Miller

I was an eighteen year old sailor aboard a supply ship anchored in Apra Harbor off Guam in the South West Pacific. It was nineteen forty six and the Japanese had surrendered ending World War II. There were two guys on ship who got paid extra for things they did, one was the guy every one hired to do their laundry and the other was the ship's barber. The ship's barber was sent back to the states, that left all the men on the ship without a barber and no one knew how to cut hair. I got to thinking about all the money I could make so I talked one of the men into letting me cut his hair, he agreed since there wasn't much choice other wise.

I found a pocket comb and a big pair of scissors that cut cloth and took him down to the carpenter shop and gave him a fairly decent trim job. I then went and bought the barber tools the other barber had been using and officially became the ship's barber. Some of my hair cuts looked pretty bad but they had no other choice.

Soon the ship's Captain started asking me to cut his hair. I was scared to death that I would ruin him and I kept making excuses, finally he gave

me a direct order to cut his hair. I sat him down and he held a mirror and watched every move I made, I must have worked on him for an hour or more. He never asked me to cut his hair again after that. Finally when it was time for me to get shipped home I couldn't get anyone to buy the tools and they wouldn't let me take them home so I just had to leave them on the ship.

After I was out of the Navy I decided that I wanted to try barbering in a barber shop. I had a good friend, Oliver Hughes, who had been to barber school and had his license. Since I had a job at the shoe factory I didn't have time to spend a year going to barber school so I got Oliver to loan me his barber science book and sell me some of his tools. After that I was ready for business.

The first shop I went to hired me to work on Saturdays, it was the South Side barber shop just off the court house square on Madison Street next door to

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On the night before I was supposed to work my first day I had my brother Frank lay down on the couch and lathered him up and proceeded to shave him with an old razor I had borrowed from my brother Joe. Frank actually lay there and went to sleep as I nicked and scraped him all over his face. It took a lot of guts but I went to work the next day and must have done pretty well, at least they didn't fire me, but it wasn't long before some one informed the barber board that I was working without a license and they really frowned on that and finally they sent word that I would have to stop barbering.

Not to be deterred I started talking to the secretary of the barber board and I talked him into letting me take the exam and believe it or not I passed. That started my career of bar-

bering in Huntsville.

I still hated shaving with a straight razor and most of the business back then in the barber shops in the late 40's and early 50's was shaves. That is the reason I did not follow barbering full time until after I retired from the postal service in 1984. I worked in many shops part time besides the Southside, I worked for Tuck Williams in West Huntsville, Grady Nichols on Meridian Street, Mr. Clevenger on Jefferson Street, and I spent a long time at the Roosevelt Barber Shop, down stairs below cotton buyers on the West side of the Madison

A tiny good deed counts much more than a big intention.

County Court House.

I also worked at Red Duskin's Shop in Lincoln Village and for Earl Musgrove on Summer Street. That is where I met James Taylor who offered me a job in his shop on the corner of 5th Avenue, which is now Governors Drive, and First Street. I started there in 1959 and worked in that location until they widened Fifth Avenue and renamed it Governors Drive in 1961, then we moved to the Kennamer Shopping Center on the corner of Seminole and Governors Drive, there I spent the most part of 41 years. Except for the short time Í leased Earl Musgrove's Shop on Summer Street and worked for a short while at the GEX Membership Store Barber Shop on N. Memorial Parkway.

After James Taylor sold the shop on Governors Drive and Seminole Jerry Brazier and Bill Tipton were then the owners and they asked me to come back to work there and that is where I spent the rest of my years barbering part time until 1984 when I started barbering

full time.

I had hundreds of regular customers and when I go to that shop even today I see my customers coming in and it is just like I am at home. Bill Tipton passed away several years ago and that left Jerry Brazier the sole owner and I will have to say that Jerry is one of the

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finest men I ever knew or ever worked for and I think of him to this day as my best friend. He treats his customers and his other barbers with the utmost

respect.

I have seen hair styles change many times over a period of 50 to 60 years in the business. When the long hair became popular in the 60's and 70's it put a lot of the barber shops out of business because men started going to the women's styling shops. When women began to wear pixie cuts I even cut ladies hair. I also cut some ladies who wanted just a short haircut. Most of the men today wear their hair like they did in the 40's and 50's when I first started barbering.

That pretty well covers a lifetime of barbering in Hunts-ville for this writer. I do miss the people and I do miss the work. I made many friends over the years and many of them are still around today.



Love from an 1890 Newspaper

Henry Matthews, a local widower, aged eighty-two years, was introduced to a sixty-five year old widow named Sarah Smith last Friday. He resolved to marry her, and wished twenty-four hours of courtship to be ended with a visit to the preacher Saturday night.

On Sunday, they were a great attraction in church. When he went home he gave

his bride \$1,000 in addition to the jewels already bestowed.

On Monday after a hearty breakfast, she packed her bags and left Matthews a note saying she was going West, and would send for him later when she wanted him.

Matthews is still waiting.

"If you can't get rid of the family skeleton, you might as well make it dance."

George Bernard Shaw



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Digging for Gold in the **Sublett** Garden

by Garland Sublett

Born sometime around 1813, Andrew Monroe Sublett grew up in Warren County, Kentucky. He left his old Kentucky home probably in the late 1820s, and found his way to a small valley in Madison County, Alabama where two mountains (Lick Skillet and Chestnut Knob) meet.

Climbing to the top of "Lick Skillet", he met, fell in love with, and married a young lady named Mary Ann (Polly) Moon, whose family had already settled in the area, and who loaned their name to the community now known as Moontown.

Moving to the bottom of the

mountain, Andrew and Polly built the Sublett home (which still stands today) in 1834, and began raising the Sublett fam-

As time passed and the 1860's rolled around, Andrew and Polly found their family swallowed up in the events and consequences of a war that marked one of our country's stormiest periods; the war between the North and South. On one occasion, hearing that there was a company of union soldiers in the area, and fearing that if they should show up at the farm they would loot or take anything of value that they could find, Andrew and the oldest boys began to herd all the larger farm animals (mules, cows) into the mountain and hide them in a large cave.

That was about all they had of any value except for a handful of five dollar gold coins which they kept in a cannister on a mantle over the kitchen stove. Alongside it was another

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identical canister in which they kept their used cooking grease. Grease (lard) was a valued commodity in those days. You didn't throw it away, but saved it to be used again. While hiding the farm animals, they happened to think about the gold coins on the mantle. So they quickly grabbed the canister and ran out to the garden where it was buried.

As it happened a few soldiers did show up at the house. They took some chickens and meat from the smoke house, and a few small items. After they had gone, Andrew went to the garden and dug up his gold. To his surprise, it wasn't gold at all, but grease. In their haste, they buried the wrong canister. The gold canister was still on the mantle untouched and unnoticed by the union soldiers.

News from 1867

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

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

Bell Factory Store Reopened

It looks considerably like old times to see the Bell Factory goods at the old Bell Factory Store, on Commercial Row, and to see the

smiling face of Mr. Charles Cabaniss behind the counter. Wm. Elgin is also at his old place with the books. The same old loungers may be seen there daily and an hour spent with them carries us back to the good old times of yore.

- Owing to feeling unwell, Dr. F. Seymour will be unable to visit Paint Rock until Monday, June 4th and Huntsville, June 6th at which time he hopes to see his patients. Dr. Seymour regrets his not being able to fulfill his engagements last week, but being unwell, it was impossible.

Success is getting what you want. Happiness is wanting what you get.

Nighttime Congestion

If you find that you get congested at night, try propping up your pillows a few inches more than usual. Also, invest in a cool mist humidifier or warm mist vaporizer.



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Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney

Congratulations to Jackie "Jaxie" (Tate) Bradford who was the first correct caller to guess the Photo of the Month for September - the picture was of Greg Patterson and we had so many callers who were correct, but only the first one wins! Jackie was the Lee High Decca Sweetheart back in the day, and went to school with Greg back in the '60s.

A very Happy Birthday to Christian Hall who turned 11 years old in October. He goes to school in Hampton Cove and his proud Dad is Steve Hall, who with brother Jim owns Hall Brothers Moving.

Newman Ward lived in Huntsville for many years prior to 1948 and worked here as a postal carrier. He had many friends here and people who really cared about him. Newman passed away in April of this year in California where he lived with his son Fred, but always loved Huntsville so much and wanted to be bur-



ied here. Newman's daughter Lynn Erckmann will be bringing Newman's ashes back to Huntsville along with his wife's ashes and they will be buried in Maple Hill Cemetery on Sunday, Oct. 10 at 3pm. Lynn asked us to let people in Huntsville know so that if anyone would like to attend, they are invited. The location in Maple Hill will be Lot 64, Block 26, the Ward family plot. I know we'll be there.

Speaking of Maple Hill, the Director there for the past 21 years was **Brenda Webb**, and she just recently retired. So many of our readers have been helped by Brenda when their loved ones passed away. She took a personal interest in each and every family she helped through the burial pro-

cess and the people she helped will never forget her kindness, empathy, attention to detail and just getting things done. She was the driving force behind expanding the cemetery by over 1100 new plots, enlisted the Boy Scouts to record the location of every tombstone in the cemetery and put that on the Maple Hill website (hsvcity.com/cemetery) so that residents can find where their loved ones are buried. She was responsible for the planting of hundreds of beautiful shade trees, that change color in every season. Take care, Brenda!

We've got lots of exciting elections coming up very soon, but probably one of the most watched one will be the School Board elections on Tuesday Oct. 5. Walker McGinnis is running for District 3 on the School Board and many people are telling us they are ready for a change. But you can't change anything unless you vote! So be sure and exercise your right

Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This little boy is not a writer but he deals with the written word.



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to vote on Oct. 5.

John Bzdell recently returned from an amazing trip to the Ukraine with his girl Margaret Watson, and they had a great time. Also, John's son Justin Bzdell just turned 19 in September with a fun get together at Ryan's with Ben & Heather Luthy, their kids Annli & Gavin, John Bzdell, Jr. and his girlfriend Jessica, and Dad John Bzdell Sr. with Margaret Watson.

Ann Smith wants to wish her dear friend Clayton Yarbrough, of Athens, Happy Birthday! It was in September.

We heard some GREAT NEWS lately! Star Market will be opening its 4th. location in the old Southern Family Markets store on Bailey Cove in Southeast Huntsville!! This is super for all the residents in that area who had been hoping that would happen. The Madison County License Dept. will again have a presence there, like in the old days. At 60,000 sq. feet, this will be the largest of all Star Markets. It will have that delicious Terry's Pizza, the best meat market, fresh veges, a deli & bakery, like the other locations. Opens in November.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Escoe B. Henley, who was 90 and lived in Huntsville. He was loved by many, but especially by his sister, Elwanda Hallman. We send our deepest condolences to his friends and family.

Oct. 30 is a Saturday night and the **Historic Lowry House** will be the location for a rocking Halloween Costume party. There will be food, crazy costumes, music and maybe even a few ghosts! The time is 8pm to midnight and the cost is \$20.

Happy Birthday **Sam Keith**, you handsome devil you!!

There have been so many auto and home burglaries lately. When you come out of a shopping center ALWAYS look around you and be very aware of everything going on. Get an alarm system for your home they are relatively inexpensive these days and will really deter criminals. Don't leave doors open when you're not there. Call the police when you notice anything suspicious in your neighborhood - the phone # to call is 256-722-7100.

Happy October birthday to **Diane Owens**, who recently retired from Civil Service and is getting used to doing more than ever! We hope her sweet hubby **Ken** does something really special for her!

We also know that **Ron & Barb Eyestone** of Madison are celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary in October! Congratulations you two!

Darryl Goldman of Keller Williams Real Estate just recently celebrated a birthday in September. That man gets better looking every year! But he doesn't think so! We hope that Darryl & wife Linda celebrated in style.

We heard recently from **Barbara Conner** who grew up

here in Huntsville and even tho she has lived in California for 45 years, Huntsville will always be her home. "The city and the people are the best."

Jean Pitsinger will turn 97 on December 23 so for now she's just 96. She wanted to let us know that she is writing lots of stories about her memories of Huntsville.

Have a safe October!







Chuck Bobo Cooks!

Fried Fruit Die

4 c. flour

2 eggs

6 T. butter

1 c. milk

2 t. baking powder

1 t. each salt, cinnamon, ground nutmeg

3 T. sugar

Sift flour and add baking powder, salt and butter, mix well.

Beat eggs & milk and add slowly to flour mixture. Mix til it forms a stiff dough. Roll out thin and cut into 5 or 6-inch circles. Combine sugar, cinnamon & nutmeg and sprinkle over the fruit. Fold the dough and seal the edges with a fork dipped in milk.

Fry in deep hot fat at 375 degrees til golden brown. Let

drain on paper towels.

Impossible Pie

4 eggs

1 c. sugar

1/2 stick butter

2 t. vanilla

1/2 c. plain flour

1 c. shredded coconut

2 c. whole milk

Put butter out and let it warm to room temperature. Mix butter well with sugar and flour in electric mixer. Add the milk, eggs and vanilla, mixing well after each addition.

Fold the coconut into the mixture and pour into un-

greased 10" pie pan.

Bake at 350 degrees until it's golden brown, about 45 minutes. This will make its own crust and is impossible to leave alone.

Also, your kitchen will smell fabulous!

Turkish Poached Apples with Whipped Cream

1 c. sugar

1 c. water

16 whole cloves

4 large firm cooking apples (Rome Beauties, Golden Delicious, Pippins, Gravensteins, Gala, Jongolds or Granny Smith's)

1 c. chilled homemade

whipped cream

Core the apples using an apple corer and then peel. In a Dutch oven or 4-quart saucepan combine the sugar and water and boil over high heat til the sugar dissolves. Insert 4 cloves in a ring around the top of each apple.

Place apples side by side in the pan and baste with sugar syrup and reduce heat to low.

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Cover and simmer about 15 minutes and apples are tender, basting occasionally. Transfer apples to individual serving dishes.

Pile whipped cream in the center of each apple and ladle over a teaspoon of syrup.

Elephant Stew

1 medium size elephant 2 rabbits

Salt and pepper to taste

Cut elephant into bite-sized pieces. This should take about 3 months. Add enough water for brown gravy and cook in cast iron kettle over kerosene fire about 4 weeks at 365 degrees. Serves 3,800 - if more are expected, add a couple more rabbits but do this only if it's really necessary - as some people do not like to find hare in their stew.

Wooden Nickel Chicken

4 boned chicken breasts 8 oz. can sliced mushrooms Golden Dip or other allpurpose batter mix

2 t. black pepper

1/2 t. garlic powder

1/2 t. thyme 1 1/2 t. salt

1 large clove garlic, crushed

2 c. shredded Colby or Monterey Jack cheese

Roll chicken breasts in the batter mix and set aside. Drain mushrooms, reserve the liquid. Set aside. Add the pepper, garlic, thyme & salt to one cup of the batter mix, then add the mushroom liquid and just enough water to the dry batter to make it think enough to dip the chicken.

Lay the chicken on a greased baking pan, cover them with the mushrooms and bake at 350 degrees for 1 1/2 hours. Remove the cover and sprinkle chicken with the shredded cheese. Place back in the oven, uncovered, just long enough to melt the cheese.

Cowboy Ham

1 c. ham, diced & cooked Salt & pepper to taste 1 c. chopped celery

1 1/2 c. milk

1/4 c. chopped onions

3 T. cooking oil

1/2 c. peanuts, chopped fine

1 T. seasoned salt

3 T. flour

Heat oil in cast iron skillet; add onions and celery and brown slightly. Blend flour and brown a little more. Pour milk over the mixture and cook til thickened; add ham and peanuts. Serve over toast or hot biscuits.







Paper Boys

by Johnny Johnston

That canvas strap cut into the shoulder after awhile, especially on Thursday and Sunday. Inserts were heavier on those days. We all left school when the bell rang, some on bicycles, some on motorcycles and others walking but very few in cars. Some came from Huntsville High and some from Butler High. We headed to the Huntsville Times Building at the corner of Green and Holmes where we checked in with the dispatcher for our papers. The papers were counted by hand as they were handed to us by Cecil Chancy, my brother Fred, Jimmy Vann or maybe even Tillman Hill. If we were lucky the press operated on time and we could start folding, rolling and counting so that an hour later our customers could began reading their papers.

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

a day to deliver my route.

I recently talked to a couple of my friends about their routes in the 1950's trying to remember what it was like. Jimmy Miliner had the Holmes Ave. section which, west past 9th St. (Triana now), was mostly farms. W. L. Howard, former president of State National Bank, had a few acres just at the foot of Russell Hill along with the Drakes, Butlers and a couple other families. That was before Lane Park and Hillandale Holmes were built. The Martin Family owned land from Holmes to the railroad to Jordan Lane and back to Holmes. They also owned Martin Stamping and Stove Co. on "The Four Lane Drive". A large farm then, it now consists of Butler High School, CCI, College Park and property owned by a local church. The Smith family lived across Holmes St. in a large house which sat at (now) the corner of Hillmont and

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Holmes. They owned the highest part of the hill. Iordan Lane north across the Hill had not been built. Past the intersection of Jordan was The Steadman Restaurant then Bill Penny farm and Yarbrough farm. The Steadman Family owned a farm where the McThornmore section is now. Harold Green at that time had his chicken and egg farm on Holmes across from what is now

John Himes's Big Brothers.

No UAH, no traffic lights and no traffic except when the "Arsenal let out". That was the look of the neighborhood in the 50's. I started my route next to the First National Bank on the Square and proceeded down the hill to Oak St., Fountain Circle, Pelham St. past the Big Spring and back into the areas of the Naval Center. Many of the streets were back alleys where million dollar buildings sit now. Mrs. Lucy Hice ran a grocery store just about at the intersection of Manning. What a breath of fresh air she was. In her 70's, she often showed me the gun with which she "would shoot any undesirable character coming in her store". Mrs. Hice was very independent but friendly. I loved to talk to her for a couple of minutes and drink either a chocolate or grape "cold drink."

While I carried papers in Baxter Bottoms, it was one of the roughest places in town (it was destroyed for construction of Council Courts). I won every prize The Times had for new customers when Council Courts started getting residents. The route grew so large that I pulled a trailer with my bicycle. On Thursdays and Sundays I had a bag on my back, two on the sides of the bike and a very large stack on the trailer. I carried an extra pedal because they

broke so often.

There was no paper on Saturday when we made collections. That was sometimes a

problem because not everyone had the 25 cents per week we charged. Many times paperboys had to pay the bill for someone who moved, did not have the money or just plain forgot. Of the 25 cents I recall we got to keep 11 cents. When we had to make up the 25 cents it was a big loss. One famous family (a German Scientist) left owing me about \$1.25, but that's OK, I can

"The guy who says he will do it tomorrow was probably saying the same thing yesterday."

Jeb Stone, Arab

now say that one of the Worlds most famous men owes me money. Several times, especially Sunday Mornings, we would be robbed or at least the attempt would be made. I had a knife pulled on me a few times but never hung around long enough to get hurt; I got to be real fast. At 12 or 13 years old Í couldn't fight off grown people.

Some carriers really didn't need the money, or at least it appeared that way. The person I have in mind drove a Triumph Motorcycle, his father was a bank official and they lived way downtown. This carrier was later to become a famous Air force Pilot, Blue Angel then General before he retired



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somewhere in Florida.

I was not as smart as some people in collecting money. Roger Grider tells this story that happened when he was delivering in Lincoln Village where he lived. While Roger was parked at the Times Building, a very prominent business man backed into his small motorcycle and did several hundred dollars damage. He told Roger to get it repaired and bring him the bill. Roger went into his business to collect and when the fellow found out how much he said "No, I'm not gonna pay it."

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

mean and he carries a big gun."

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

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

Some local adults hired boys to de-



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Bourbon Glazed Salmon
Loaded Potato Skins
Fried Pickles

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liver papers while they did the collections. That left Saturday's open for other things. Donald McElyea did this and at the same time got up very early to deliver another paper from Chattanooga.

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

I wonder sometimes, if I

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

Drinkers Beware

Huntsville, Ala.

A stomach pump has been added to the equipment of the detective department of the city of Huntsville with a view to aiding in the detection of violators of the bone dry prohibition law. City Detectives secured permission from the Chief of Police to purchase a pump. Every person arrested who smells of whiskey will be pumped. "It is against the law for a man to smell of whiskey and if he drinks it we are going to pump it out of him," said the a spokesman for the police department.

from 1923 newspaper

"I read recipes the same way I read Science Fiction -I get to end and say, 'Well THAT'S not gonna happen!""

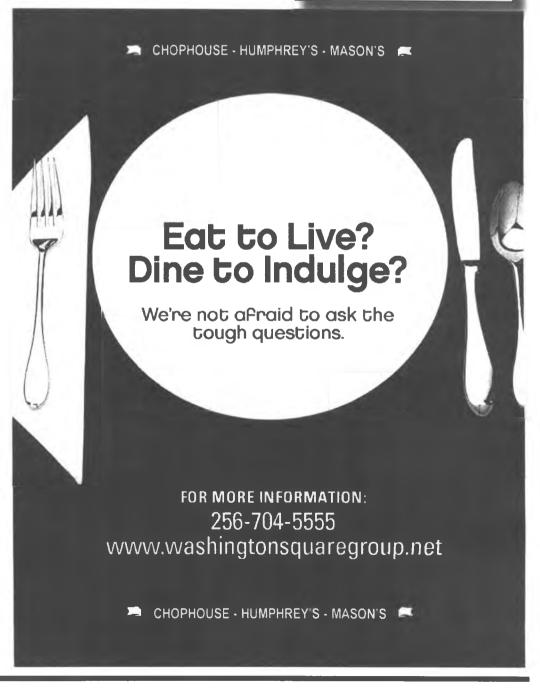
Maxine

News from 1896

- Joseph Hill, ten vears old, had two fingers blown off Sunday by a dynamite cap. His first words were: "This'll break mama's heart."

Tuesday he is dead, having sent a bullet from a revolver through his body soon after being taken home. The boy recently passed the fifth grade grammar school.

- Daniel Healy, a young man of Scottsboro, coughed up a bullet that has been lodged in his throat for 3 months. It was badly needed as evidence in the trial of Peter McLean for murder, but now physicians won't have to operate.



News from 1885

- A Huntsville washer woman was arrested Thursday on a warrant from Judge Richardson for larceny. It is charged that she received clothes to wash, and sold them instead of

returning them.

- There is a new manufacturing enterprise locating in our city. It is a cigar factory, to be located on Franklin Street, below the post office. The proprietor, J. B. Dierke, of Cincinnati, wisely decided on Huntsville after surveying several other cities. He informs us that he will use only the finest of goods, and his work will be handmade. So we will be seeing cigars made of only purest of tobacco, without the use of cabbage leaves, old rusty pieces of nails and leather.

- Stolen last Thursday night from Thomas Gore near Huntland, Tennessee a black horse mule. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for the return of the mule and ten dollars for the apprehension of the thief. The lucky man can address this newspaper or Thomas Gore in Huntland.

- In front of Charley Cumming's grocery store, corner Holmes and Washington, we notice a very neat invention, known as the "Patent Well Windlass." Mr. Cummings has the county right for its sale.

- The ladies held prayer meetings at the same hour at the Methodist Church, and we hear that the proceedings were very touching. The good which has been done here cannot be estimated and an impression has been made on the citizens which will perhaps last forever.

- The air of quiet which prevails around the Mayor's office proves that we have either the finest police in the world, or we live in the most law abiding city

J.C. Vaughn

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John F. Kennedy

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Civil War News

Huntsville Daily Confederate, Feb. 13, 1864

From Jackson County, Alabama. Recent advises from Jackson County, Ala., represent the terrible devastation throughout the county, except where there are mountain defiles and fastnesses favorable for guerrilla operations. We are told that Ma]. Lemuel G. Mead is operating in that county with five companies, and with good effect - that he, recently, captured and brought out 20 prisoners. He remains, with his men, in the county and subsists them there, at points, where it would be dangerous for the Yankees to travel and they are discreet enough not to attempt it. There are three Tory companies there - one raised in Jackson County, the Captain of which is [Ephraim] Latham, who deserted from the 50th Ala., in which he held the rank of Lieutenant about a year ago. The other two companies are from DeKalb County, Alabama. The Yankees feel contempt for them and stigmatize them as the 1 st Alabama Tory Battalion. We are told that one of the miscreants - Sample by name, not long since, went to the house of Elias Barbour, a true Southerner, and beat Mrs. Barbour with a hickory stick, and only desisted when her daughter, heroically, seized an

axe and drove him off. We are, also, told that an old "Rebel" woman, living near Bellefonte, was struck by a Yankee, with a stick, on the back of her neck, breaking it. The Courthouse and all of the block on the West side of the Square, in Bellefonte, have been burnt by the Yankees. One of the parties from whom we get our information represents that he was under arrest at Stevenson and had an opportunity of learning the sentiments of Sherman's Corps on the question of reenlistment, and they, generally, declared that they would not reenlist.

> "Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Anyone who Threatens it!"

> > Seen on Military bumper sticker





The Trial of Elizabeth Routt

by Chip Knight

It really wasn't much of a trial, but it remains well known in Madison County to this day, over 150 years later. The charges didn't amount to much, she had accused him of defamation of character, so it wasn't even a criminal trial. But it did pack the courthouse so that people were flowing out the doors and onto the grounds, and bets were being taken in at least one tavern on who would win. People in Madison County were about evenly divided in their support of Mrs. Elizabeth Routt, the plaintiff, and Abner Tate, the defendant. Things had gotten so out of hand that fist fights had broken out over the subject, and one shooting had occurred. There had even been talk of imposing martial law, but that was just talk, as there were no troops available for that.

Mr. Tate and Mrs. Routt had gotten into a disagreement which had begun as an argument over loose cattle. Unfortunately, the records do not show whose cattle were loose, but the argument had grown all out of proportion, as neither was the type who could back off once the disagreement had started and the accusations grew. There were claims of crop damage by the loose cattle, and each claimed that the other had shot, or permitted shooting over the other's fields, endangering humans and

livestock alike. Whether it was related or not, Tate was injured at one point by a shotgun blast, supposedly fired by one slave or another who had, again supposedly, been hired by Mrs. Routt.

Tate had finally reached the point where he had openly and publicly accused Mrs. Routt of murder. She had married and buried six men over the space of a few years, and he claimed that a hat rack in the fover of her home with six old hats on it was proof that she had done them in and was using the hats like notches on a pistol to maintain the count. He was so angry that he wrote a book which he had

Many things are opened by mistake, but none so often as the mouth.

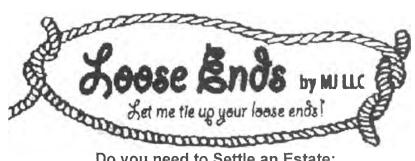
paid to have published, and which laid out his claims of her foul deeds of murder. When Mrs. Routt heard of, and then read the book, she



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drove her buggy from her farm near Hazel Green to Huntsville, hired an attorney and brought the charges of defamation of character against Tate.

The trial itself had consisted of insults hurled at each other by the plaintiff and defendant, and then, later, by their attorneys. The judge had not been able to maintain any semblance of order in the courtroom, despite banging his gavel and telling the parties involved of the penalties if they continued their misconduct. The judge realized that he had lost control of the case and that he could no longer keep order either in the courtroom or in the county. He finally ordered the case to be continued, hoping that time would permit all the parties to calm down enough to go ahead with the case in a reasonable manner.

Mrs. Routt's maiden name is not recorded, but as a young girl, she had married a man by the name of Gibbons; nothing more is known of him, neither his first name nor his occupation. Mr. Gibbons died a couple of months later under what were called "mysterious circumstances" by the time of the trial. She then married a man named Flannigan, again, nothing more is known of him, except that he died

three months after the marriage.

Even today, these things would cause a fair amount of gossip to spring up, most of it rather malicious, gossip being what it is, but in the 1830s, in rural Alabama, and Hazel Green was definitely rural then, it was truly a miracle if one was alive at all. Life was cheap, and nobody knew how to change that. The horror of it was that you were perhaps worse off if you were under the care of a physician, medicine then being in a rather primitive state. Known diseases consisted of consumption, colic, and the like and the treatments were bleeding, usually with leaches, bed rest and various teas, some of which have been shown to truly have healing value and others to be rather poisonous. The basic truth of the matter was that if you survived long enough to produce children, then you had survived long enough to continue the race of man, and were basically successful in what passed for life in the mid nineteenth century. Mrs. Routt had very bad luck.

Elizabeth's third husband was a man named Alexander Jeffries. He was an early settler of Madison County who had built a log cabin on a five hundred acre land grant in 1817. By 1837 he was a successful planter and had built a proper plantation house about a mile east of Hazel Green. He was quite a bit older than Elizabeth. who was still in her early twenties. Jeffries was, quite naturally, a slave owner, as you couldn't work 500 acres any other way, there being no machinery as we know it today. His house stood for years, and, most unfortunately, burned not many years ago.

Elizabeth Jeffries became the mistress of Mr.



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Jeffries' plantation, enjoyed the role thoroughly, and, with his teaching, learned how to run the place efficiently and at a profit. She loved the lifestyle, living in a plantation house with its wide verandah and many columns, with its tall ceilings to help cool the rooms in summer, and with an adequate staff to run the place effectively.

This was perhaps the happiest Elizabeth had been in her entire life. It was not so much that she ran the estate - was the boss, but that she had found a tranquil world away from town which was pretty much self sufficient and gave her a great deal of privacy from the gossip and other talk which she knew she

generated.

Unfortunately, Mr. Jeffries died before they had been married a year, and was buried quietly on the property. With her marriage to Jeffries, Elizabeth's social status had increased a great deal as had her monetary worth. That, unfortunately,

increased her gossip value, for then, as today, those who have not tend to envy those who have. Even then, there were rumors about her having had three husbands, all of whom had died within a short period of time.

Elizabeth's fourth husband was a man named Robert A. High, and he was a state legislator from Limestone County. He survived for about two years,

and, of course, the local gossip held that he lived that long because he was often in the Capital and away from home and his wife. He eventually died at the Hazel Green plantation, and

"You're not drunk if you can lie on the floor without holding on."

Dean Martin

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was quietly buried there.

candidate; he was fairly young for her son. and he was a hard working and health and was quite active.

some point in his life; upon his without a husband, men would death, it was necessary to bury him immediately, as his body was grossly swollen. Needless to say, a considerable amount of gossip was generated over the neighbors not having even seen the body before it was buried.

Her next attempt at marriage was to Willis Routt. Routt's occupation is not known, so her last husband is nearly as unknown as Gibbons, her first. It is known, however, that he did not live long and was buried quietly.

Elizabeth gave up. How-

"The only thing domestic about me is I live indoors."

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ever much a woman of the 1840s She next married Absalom needed a husband, she finally re-Brown, a wealthy merchant alized that she was destined not from New Market, a Madison to have one. She supposed that County community not too far she could go on killing good men from Hazel Green. Almost at in the area by marrying them, but her wits end, Elizabeth, who she didn't want to do that. For knew that she had done nothing each man who had died, a part wrong, was trying to find some of her had died, and she knew kind of a man who would not that she did not have much more die from just being around her. to give, and that she had better Brown seemed to be a perfect save what was left for herself and

She had gained greatly in masuccessful merchant. From all terial wealth, and was, in fact a appearances he was in perfect very wealthy woman with a successful five hundred acre planta-Unknown to Brown, much tion, numerous slaves to work it less to Elizabeth, he had ap- and a great deal of money in the parently damaged his liver at bank. She was at the point where,

try to call on her who really just wanted to get at her money and she grew more and more bitter and more and more isolated. She began to concentrate on running the plantation, on getting the best crops, on giving her people the best care as she had learned that people well cared for were far happier and that they worked harder and longer.

Elizabeth listened carefully to her slaves, especially to those who worked in the house, with whom she had the most contact and, as she understood their plight to a greater extent, she began to understand that, although the law said that she owned them, she did not, could not really own thinking hu-

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man beings anymore than she herself could be owned — and her people were not just thinking human beings — they were smart, and had thought up all sorts of ways to run the place more efficiently. In fact, seldom did a week go by that an idea was not brought by a slave to the manager of the plantation.

She decided that she could afford to experiment, since everything was running so smoothly, so she freed, legally, two of her house servants and offered them wages to continue doing the same work. She asked them to be quiet about it and they were, but, nonetheless, the legal paperwork had to be filed in the Courthouse.

Despite the primitive communications of the 1840s, word spread immediately that Mrs. Routt had freed two of her slaves, and that generated rumors and more gossip. Madison County was really about evenly divided on the issue of slavery. There was a side that realized that slavery was inefficient, and which looked

forward to the recent inventions, such as the cotton gin, which would help replace human or other animal power with machines and there was a side which put those thoughts aside and just cherished the legal right to actually own another human being. Both of these sides were, of course, overshadowed by the increasing friction between the northern and southern states. Slavery was not really a primary issue between the two groups, but was often presented as the only real

He who dies with the most toys is, nonetheless, dead. issue.

Elizabeth Routt's freeing of two human beings had just about the same effect as if she had buried a couple of more husbands.

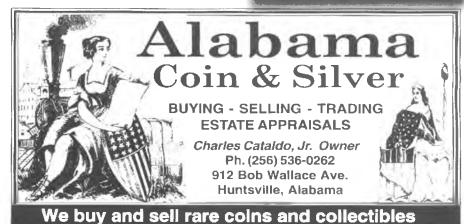
Abner Tate had lived near Mrs. Routt's plantation for quite a few years, and had seen the beautiful young woman over a number of years, both casually, in town and socially at a Christmas party or some other gathering of those in the Hazel Green area who were of a certain social status. He had also noted with some curiosity, the procession of husbands into and out of her

plantation home, which she had acquired with husband number three, Mr. Jeffries.

A married man himself, Tate had refrained from paying a great deal of attention to Mrs. Routt or to her affairs even though he knew that he was strongly attracted to her.

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut."

Ernest Hemingway



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He even tried to put aside his strong negative feelings when he learned that she had freed two slaves. As a slave owner he felt that all those who were owners needed to pull together to counter the forces, mostly from the North, which were trying to disrupt the way business, mostly farming, was done in the South.

Abner Tate's wife died about the same time as Mr. Routt and, after a reasonable period of mourning, he began to find his attention turned increasingly toward his neighbor, the widow Mrs. Routt. Actually, he became infatuated with her and believed himself to be falling in love with her, although they had actually had no contact since the deaths of

their spouses.

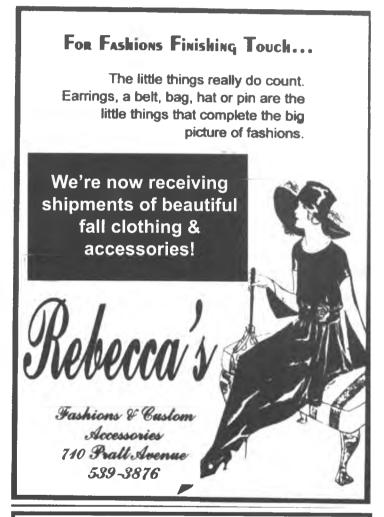
And then some of his cattle got loose and into one of Mrs. Routt's cotton fields. She got into her buggy and drove to Mr. Tate's place and told him in no uncertain terms that his cattle were damaging her cotton and that he must immediately get them back on his property and that he might have to pay her for the damage to her crop. Tate felt that he had been rejected and began to brood and then to grow angry. He was the type of person who either liked you or hated you, or in the case of Mrs. Routt, loved her or hated her. The incident of the cattle and her response to it turned his love to hate.

He resolved to "do her in." His first claim was that her cattle had damaged his crop, never mind that the opposite was really the case. Mr. Tate was rather savvy, and he knew that local gossip would carry his story quickly, and that Mrs. Routt tended to be rather quiet so her version would likely not be believed. Not satisfied with the switch in the cattle story, he zeroed in on Mrs. Routt's former husbands, all now dead, and began to tell tales about how she had actually murdered them. Although there was no evidence to support his claims, the "grapevine" still picked up the story and it spread throughout Madison County. Not yet satisfied, he began to openly accuse her of murder, and, finally, wrote a book laying out his claims of her notorious murders. Those claims, he stated, were supported by her hat rack with six old hats on it. Needless to say, it did not occur to him that few men would accept the presence of former husbands' hats held out before them.

Elizabeth Routt finally could take no more of Tate's harassment, and filed a lawsuit claiming defamation of character. She was normally a quiet person, but not one to be taken lightly when she spoke.

It really wasn't much of a trial, and in fact, it was rather ridiculous, and she found herself shouting in the courtroom like a fishmonger's wife. The judge finally continued the trial to her great relief and once again Elizabeth gave up. A short while later she dropped the charges against Tate.

The transfers of ownership of the plantation may be traced in the Courthouse, but Elizabeth Routt and her son simply disappeared from any recorded history in the Madison County area. Rumor was that they had moved to somewhere in Mississippi.





Traffic Lights Installed Downtown

from 1925 newpaper

In a highly controversial move, the city of Huntsville has installed traffic lights at the corners of Jefferson and Clinton, Holmes and Washington, Washington and Clinton and Randolph, Greene and Holmes.

Merchants are outraged at the novel experiment and have vowed to form a coalition to remove them. Their anger comes from the fear that drivers will spend less time looking at the window displays of the various stores.

A citizens group has joined in the merchants protest claiming that red and green lights will be confusing to everyone. Among the various proposals the city considered before deciding on the lights were whistles, electric gates and crossing police.

The majority of people seemed to be in favor of crossing police but the cost seemed to be prohibitive for Huntsville, a city already deeply in debt.

The first accident was reported yesterday while the lights were still being installed. Mr. Orville Roberts of New Hope lost control of his car and ran into the ladder of a workman installing the light on Clinton and Jefferson.

"I never saw a green light before," Mr. Roberts said later. A thief fell into wet cement. He became a hardened criminal.

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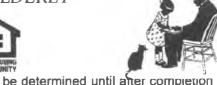


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Doris Fenn

By Austin L. Miller

In the forties, the Fenns were one of our closest neighbors. They lived in an old rental house next to the Kelly cemetery at the corner of Ryland Pike and

Dug Hill Road.

There were several children in the family; two, James Ellis and Doris were about my age. This was a salt-of-theearth, well respected family but, like us,

they were very poor.

Doris and I started to Central school together. In the first grade, she sat on the row to the right of me about two desks forward. I could see her all day. Sometime she would turn around and smile. In pretty weather, we often played at my house after school. We had good times and were great friends.

But I soon learned a hard lesson that has been repeated many times in my life; circumstances and life's changes often separate friends and only in rare cases is it ever the same again. Before we finished the school year the Fenns

moved away.

Their moving day saddened my heart. It was the first time, but not the last time, that I felt a sense of loss about losing someone I cared for. I cried myself to sleep the first night they were gone. They only moved a few miles from

Ryland but it was to a new school district and seemed like a world awav.

It would be almost a lifetime before I saw or heard from

any of them again.

In December 2002, I was at Berryhill Funeral Home because of a death in the family. My cousin told me that she wanted me to meet a good friend and co-worker that

once lived at Ryland.

As soon as I saw him, I knew it was James Ellis Fenn. In the conversation, I learned that he was retired from the Navy and currently worked at the Post Office. I asked about Doris; he told me that she was married and lived down the road only a short distance from him on Winchester road. I said I know she may not remember me but please tell her I said hello. I also asked him to tell her that I cried myself to sleep the night she moved away, he said he would.

It has been more than sixty years since they moved but I never forgot this family and the pretty little six or seven year-old girl that broke my heart when she moved away so long ago. She probably doesn't remember me at all but whether she remembers or not, I hope life has been good to her.

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No Gasoline Sales on Sunday

from 1925 newspaper

At yesterday's meeting of the city fathers a resolution forbidding the sale of gasoline on Sundays was overwhelmingly

adopted.

Speaking in support of the ordinance were local pastors who decried the Sunday sale of gasoline by stating it permitted joyriding and encouraged people to engage in frivolous pursuits rather than attending church.

The pastors supported their arguments by presenting figures showing how most people lived within walking distance

of a church.

In other actions, the Ku Klux Klan successfully convinced the city to adopt an ordinance prohibiting boxing matches from being held within the city limits. This action came about as a result of a recent match held at the Big Spring which pitted a colored man against a white opponent. The Klan offered arguments that allowing such spectacles would encourage the races to mix.

Huntsville church leaders supported the ordinance.

Other items taken up included a proposed ordinance to require all business owners to post a sign in front of their establishments stating their hours of operation as well as the type of services offered.

"I can't understand why I flunked history. When I was young there was so little of it."

George Burns

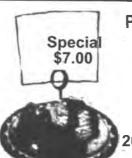


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Three Caves

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

The rock quarry was first opened in 1945 on land owned by Madison County near the old County Poor House, and was well out from town in an area of pastures and nurseries. For the next seven years the quarry supplied crushed limestone for road construction in Huntsville,

notably for Governors Drive which was known then as the, "Four Lane Highway" because it was the only one around.

The rock quarry started out like most others in the area, as an open pit operation. Blasting in the pit occasionally caused problems with large rocks being blasted hundreds of yards and dropping on the Poor House and, once, on a brand new 1949 automobile.

As the quarry grew, the operators found that they had to go deeper and deeper to get to the desirable limestone. The dirt and rock on top of that was known as overburden, and

had to be blasted and removed from the site. This caused a growing problem which they finally solved by turning it into an underground mine. By going underground they avoided the effort and expense of removing the overburden and there was little danger of damage from the blasting.

Mining operations ceased in 1952 because of a large number of complaints and because the cost of underground mining became more expensive as the mine grew. By that time, three large entrances had been created and work had begun on a fourth. Rock was drilled

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and blasted carefully so as to leave large supporting pillars while the rest of the rock was removed. This method, called "room and pillar" mining, was used when the amount of overburden was large compared with the available rock.

When operation of the quarry ceased, the site was simply abandoned. Unfenced, the old mines gave a generation of children a place to explore and teenage couples a place to find privacy. It was even rumored about town that one rather well known citizen had been found there with another man's wife.

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

Once again the old rock quarry was pretty well forgotten. Then, in 1978, movie producers found several sites in the Huntsville area which were ideal for a film to be called "The Ravagers", which was about the

> "Average weight of Americans drops to 250 pounds."

Headline seen in 2029



time following a nuclear war. Although the film starred Richard Harris and Ernest Borgnine, it was not particularly successful, perhaps because people did not want to even think about a nuclear war, much less spend the time watching a movie about it.

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

As with most films shot on location, there were a number of parts which were filled by local area residents. Among

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these were musicians Tony Mason and a fiddler known as Monte Sano Crowder. When filming was completed,

the old quarry was again quietly forgotten. In the 1980s, local land developers began to believe that they could build houses on the steeply sloping and cave-ridden limestones of Monte Sano Sano from private owners and got others through the City of Huntsville with the help of the Land and Water Conservation Funds, which is a State agency. The Madison County Commission donated the acreage which included the old rock quarry, now known as "Three Caves" to the Land Trust.

The area around the three caves is now fenced, much to the chagrin of youngsters seeking to explore and of young couples wanting privacy. The cliffs around the mine are sheer vertical, and several people have been injured fall-

ing from them.

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

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

which grows from the floor of a natural cave, is growing in this old abandoned limestone mine, and the numbers of brown bats which call this place home is growing. Perhaps, one day, it will even look like a natural limestone cave.

Old Huntsville Trivia

1879 The first phonograph is demonstrated in Huntsville. It was shown at the Huntsville Female Seminary and the admission was 50 cents per person. The money went towards the purchase of song books.

1899 Joe Wheeler, a general in the Spanish American War, visits Huntsville and is presented with a horse as a gift. The last time he visited Huntsville, in uniform, he was a general for the Confederacy.

1908 The first local automobile agency and garage opens at 212 Washington Street.





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The Legend of Lily Flagg

Even though it not as old as some homes still standing in Madison County, the Watkins-Moore home at 619 Adams Street bids strongly for a unique place among colorful local history, for this was the location of the only reception ever held for a cow.

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

The building of the home began. Craftsmen were called

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

There was no other structure like the tower anywhere near Huntsville. Those who traveled the world spoke of a similar one in Paris. On clear days, one could see as far as the Tennessee River from the lookout in the tower.

Robert Watkins built this magnificent home as a gift to his beloved bride Margaret Carter. She didn't live long in the home, however. Soon after the home was completed, the Civil War began and the men went away to war. Margaret had just given birth to their first child when vankee forces reached Hunts-

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

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

brought in.

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

"The probability of one's being watched is directly proportional to the stupidity of one's act."

Law of Probability



gaiety. Samuel Moore not only loved people, he loved his cow

Lily Flagg.

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

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

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

When the Italian orchestra from Nashville began to play, the dance platform quickly filled up. Special tables were set up all over the property to hold exquisite foods and pastries. Champagne flowed freely and it is said that this was one of the best parties held in the Huntsville area, before or after.

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

"My little brother's dirty diapers are worse than liver."

Matt, age 10

Life in 1903

- The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

- A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

- There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads. The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

- The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour.

- More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

- Ninety percent of all U.S. physicians had no college edu-

cation.

- Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

- Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason.

- The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30.

- The average woman was 17 years old when she married.

"You know it's going to be a bad day when you wake up to discover your water bed has broken, then remember you don't have a water bed."

Jackie Evans, Athens

John's Jungle Jyms





Tips from Liz

* To get rid of cockroaches, put about a quart of water sweetened with molasses in a tin wash basin or smooth glazed china bowl. Set it at evening in a place frequented by the bugs. Around the base put an old piece of carpet so that the bugs will have easy access to the top. They will go down in the water and drown.

* Grape juice is a wonderful source of iron. Drink 8 ounces

every day.

* A mousetrap placed on top of your alarm clock will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep after you hit the snooze button.

* If you want to remove a regular band-aid without pulling your skin, just rub it with vegetable oil before pulling off.

* You only need two tools in your life - WD40 and duct tape. If it doesn't move and you want it to, use the WD40. If it moves and you don't want it to, use the duct tape.

* To get rid of that pesky double chin, do the following exercise: It's a simple yoga exercise called "the lion." Simply stick your tongue out and down as far as it will go. Do this dozens of time during the day, especially while driving, making a sales presentation, etc.

* Insects in the ear will be easily removed by pouring oil into the ear canal, then remove by

syringe.

* When you have a bad cold, before bedtime mix up a mug of very strong, regular tea, add 1 tablespoon honey, 1 tablespoon cognac, 1 teaspoonful butter and 1/2 teaspoonful cinnamon. Drink it hot and go to bed between cotton sheets.

* An old-fashioned tip for the kitchen: "If every iron, pot, pan, kettle or any utensil used in the cooking of food, be washed as soon as emptied, and while

still hot, half the labor will be saved."

* To get rid of the smell of cigarettes or cigars in a room, simply place several soup bowls of vinegar around the area.

* If you can't fix something with a hammer, you've got an

electrical problem.

* When you have one of those irritating tickling coughs, just keep a glass of apple cider vinegar (2 teaspoons mixed in a glass of water) by your bed at night - when you wake up with a cough simply take a couple of mouthfuls and you'll be back to sleep in no time.

* To avoid streaks on your eyeglasses, wipe them with a couple of drops of vodka.

* Prevent a sleepless night by avoiding all salt in your dinner and eliminate all after-dinner snacks.

* If you have a spouse who snores, simply sew a tennis ball on the back of the snorer's pajamas. This prevents sleeping on the back, a cause of snoring.



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News from the Year 1943

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Allies Land In Italy

Allied Headquarters in North Africa - The Allies have breached the fortress of Europe. On the fourth anniversary of France and England's declaration of war against Germany, Allied troops are striving to establish a bridgehead on the Italian side of the Strait of Messina.

Under the thunderous support of Allied air and sea power, British and Canadian forces of the British 8th Army crossed the narrow strip of water to bring the war at long last to the Continent that Germany has enslaved.

Preceded by a thunderous artillery barrage across the strait and by a number of reconnaissance landings, the main party set foot on the mainland at 10:30 RM. Eastern War Time.

No details were available on either this morning's historic assault or the previous reconnaissance missions.

The latter were plainly those referred to in German broadcasts as landing attempts beginning on Aug. 29. A special dispatch issued from London

said merely, "Allied forces under General Eisenhower continued their advance. British and Canadian troops of the 8th Army, supported by Allied sea and air power, attacked across the Strait of Messina early today and landed on the mainland of Italy."

Nazi's Coming To Huntsville

Huntsville - Chambers Construction Co. has been awarded a \$24,000 contract to build a facility for German POW's at Redstone Arsenal. Most of the prisoners are from Rommel's Afrika Corps and are expected to be employed in agricultural work.

Civilian workers at the Arsenal are cautioned against having anything to do with the prisoners.

In other Arsenal news, it is reported that large quantities of chemical munitions, captured from the Nazis, are to be stowed at specially built facilities.

Madison County Purchases B-24

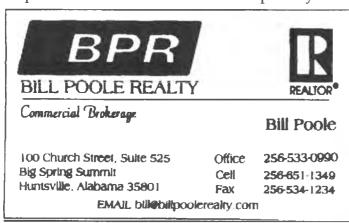
Huntsville - Residents of Madison County have set a state record in purchasing war bonds. The \$446,000 raised will be used to purchase a Liberator B-24 bomber that will be named, "The Madison County, Alabama."

In other county news, a new housing project located on Seminole Drive had its grand opening last week. The project is named Binford Court in honor of the late Henry C. Binford.

The project is one of the most modern facilities in the state.

Big Spring Safe from Enemies

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





Area Whiskey Runners Beware

Police Chief Herman Giles recently announced the purchase of two-way radios for the city's police cars. It is expected the radios will help to put a stop to the county's whiskey runners who have been operating with impunity so far. The radios have been tried successfully so far in Birmingham and Mobile. Giles is quoted as saying, "The benefits will justify the cost."

Confederate Reunion

Huntsville - A piece of history has faded into the background as Confederate Veterans unfurled their flags for the last time. The last official reunion of the comrades in gray was marked by John Steger placing a wreath of flowers at the base of the Confederate statue. A volunteer honor guard was

provided by soldiers stationed at the Arsenal.

With few people attending, it was unanimously decided to make this the last official reunion.

War News Summarized

In London, Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged that after Hitler's defeat "every man, every ship and airplane in the King's service that can be spared will be moved to the Pacific front to help in crushing the Imperial Army."

Reports of an Allied landing in France next year have been greatly exaggerated according to the Allied Commander. "Our plans now are the same they have always been - To secure a base of operations in Italy and work our way up the boot."

Officials in Washington say that the war for 1943 will cost 71 billion dollars. Public debt is up to 140 billion, while the deficit stands at 55 billion.



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The Life and Times of James Bierny

Probably one of the most colorful and eccentric characters of all time to reside in Huntsville had to be James G. Bierny. Mr. Bierny was born in Danville, Kentucky in 1792 into a wealthy, slave-holding family. After attending the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) he moved to Huntsville in 1817.

Bierny was a failure at cotton farming; he had neither the experience nor inclination to do better. He possessed numerous slaves, earning his living by renting them to other plantation owners. Citizens of Huntsville began to talk of his eccentric ways when he started promenading around town with a slave whom he described as his best friend.

At this time James Bierny had become interested in the Abolitionist movement and became an avid spokesman for its ideas. Antislavery meetings were held regularly at his home on East Holmes street, opposite its intersection with North Lincoln street.

When the first state legislature met, Bierny was one of its

members and remembering this, the town people were tolerant of his unorthodox ways. In a few years his fame as an agitator had spread causing the "American Colonization Society" to offer him a post as its —General Agent for the States of Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas Territories.

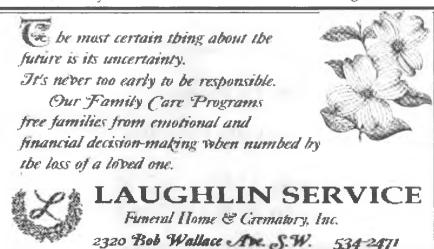
James Bierny, upon receiving the offer, asked for time to think it over so he could "consult his conscience." In reality he had asked for time so he could begin to sell his slaves. At about the same time he began to publish a series of letters in the local newspapers condemning slavery and dealing rudely with the south.

James Bierny was the only man from Huntsville who ever ran for President.

By now the Huntsville citizens' tolerance had worn thin. He was "invited and persuaded" to leave town. A publication of the times states that "wisely he sought some other shore, where those who knew him less might praise him more."

In 1835 Bierny moved to Cincinnati where he published the "Philanthropist", the cause of numerous riots and threats. In 1837 he was again invited





to move.

Next he moved to New York where, in 1840, the Liberty party selected him as their Presidential candidate. He garnered 7,100 votes and in 1844, when he was again persuaded to run, he attracted 15,812 votes. He lost the Presidential race but had ensured that slavery would be a major issue in any political race for many years to come.

James Bierny had two sons, both born in Huntsville. David Bell Bierny graduated from Andover and became a lawyer in Philadelphia. He served the North as a general in the Civil War and was twice faced with charges of dereliction of duty. The charges were finally

dropped.

William Bierny, the other son, was educated in the north and abroad. During the war he became commander of a regiment of black troops. He is probably best known for the book he wrote about his father, titled "The Life And Times Of James Bierny".

William explains that his father left Huntsville because "moral conditions were so deprayed and shooting and drinking brawls so frequent that one's life was not safe there."

Roof on Dallas Mills

from 1891 newspaper

The roof is now placed upon the great Dallas Mills. Thus it is that this immense structure is rapidly nearing completion. The wing now nearly completed is three hundred and fifty feet long, one hundred and fifteen feet wide, five stories high. It will require eighteen hundred operatives to run this mill

Prisoner Eats \$442 Worth of Food

from 1841 newspaper

In spite of the allowance for food being limited to 40 cents per day, William R. Hunt, jailer, was refunded \$442 for feeding prisoner Jefferson Dance, a rather large man and a voracious eater, who was housed in the jail for 1,105 days. It took a legislative act to obtain the refund, this being a very unusual circumstance. In spite of his many days in jail, the prisoner is still waiting to be fined and the food bill of the state will eventually be lessened by the amount of the fine, if any.

Avoid arguments with the ladies about lifting the toilet seat by using the sink.



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The Fortunes of War

Pittsburgh, Pa. Dec. 14, 1901 Dear Sir:

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

My object in addressing you is to ascertain if you remember on that occasion as you approached the Union skirmish line you stopped and asked a Union soldier, dressed in a zouave uniform, where the commanding General was. If you are the person that carried the flag of truce in at that point, I was the party who directed you. I was Sergeant-Major of the One Hundred and Fifty-Fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers, First Brigade, First Division.

Our Regiment was on the skirmish line that morning, advancing into Appomattox, when I saw a supposed cavalryman advancing from the Confederate lines with a flag of truce; he stopped, addressed me an inquiry, and I directed him where to go. This is a matter of personal interest to me to straighten out history, and it will also be a source of pleasure to renew an acquaintance and claim you as a friend who was once a foe. Hoping to hear from you at an early date, I remain,

Very truly yours, William Shore. Huntsville, Ala., April 14, 1902.

Dear Sir:

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

opportunity.

When the war ended at Appomattox, I was an officer on the staff of Major-General John B. Gordon, who then commanded the Second Corps of the army of Northern Virginia, and parts of Anderson's corps. General Gordon was selected to command the troops which attempted to cut out about day-break on April 9th, and I was with him in that charge.

As you will remember, we drove the cavalry some distance; when, coming upon General Ord's forces, we retired, without attempting to break through, then being closely pushed by the infantry. When General Gordon ascertained that General Ord's command was in front of him, he gave





up all hope of cutting through, and as he had been directed in that event, by General Lee, with whom he was in communication by messenger and courier, sent in flags of truce at several points on the line in our front.

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

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

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

I was so intent on getting the firing stopped that I did not pay very particular attention to what happened on the skirmish line. Thirty-seven years have elapsed since then, and my memory is not very distinct as to the details.

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

"You can tell it's going to be a rotten day when you call Suicide Prevention and they put you on hold."

Gloria Penney, Scottsboro

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

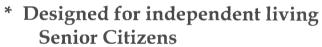
Prom this point I was sent with a Union officer to some Confederates, who did not understand the situation, and were trying to move off and were occasionally firing. After this I went back into the Confederate lines to where General Lee was sitting on the road about a mile from Appomattox Court House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

It would give me great pleasure to meet you should chance ever bring you to Alabama.

Yours very Truly, Thomas G. Jones

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Comments from a Union Camp at Huntsville

From the Nashville Union, Saturday, March 12, 1864

Huntsville, March 5, 1864 A few notes from this department of the Army may be interesting to your numerous readers.

This town of Huntsville is truly the gem of the Southern Confederacy. It is a most charming and delightful place. It is beautifully situated in the centre of a rich and enterprising population. Notwithstanding the horrors of war, it is still imposing and attractive. The mansions of the wealthy nabobs vie in picturesque splendor, with the lordly residences of European aristocrats.

There are four churches, all distinguished by the peculiar architecture of their church edifices. All of them are neat and commodious, though, as a matter of taste. Methodist as I am, I confess a special liking for the Gothic grandeur of the Episcopal Temple. The Methodists have a magnificent Female College, in fact it is the finest structure of the kind I have ever seen. Mr. Plummer is the President, and is said to be a gentleman of fine culture. Mrs. Prof. Wilson presides over the culinary department, and is a lady of great personal beauty and accomplishments.

Jerry Clemens resides here. He is a brilliant lawyer, and voluminous author. The fearless and patriotic Nick Davis stays here. This also was the home of the noble Lane, who kept the

grand old flag floating from his house in the darkest days of rebellion. He was the noblest Roman of them all. Peace to his gallant soul.

Standing upon one of these hills, and looking around upon this beautiful and glorious country, the thought of this most wicked rebellion came over us with a heart-depressing dullness. I am forcibly reminded of the saying of Cromwell, while viewing the beautiful valley of the Nore from the cupola of St. Canice "That this indeed is a land worth fighting for."

What weather! More lovely days never dawned on the sunny South than those of the last few weeks. Yesterday the sun rose beautifully and brilliantly, the surrounding hills dazzling as his first beams played upon them. But what a fickle climate!

One day bright, another dark; one as wet as a swamp creek, another as dry as powder! One day the air is still as death, not a leaf stirring; another cloudy and wet! If angels laugh, they may smile at our sudden transition from storm to sunshine.

To-day it is very unpleasant as it rained all night, and continues to rain. Did not a poet write something beginning with the words, "How beautiful is the rain?" If that hardy genius was doing picket duty in a pelting storm, walking his post two hours out of every six, and in vain trying the other four to get some rest under the shelter of cloth through which the water came in a fine drizzle, he would expurgate that piece from the next edition of his works. There are some indescribable elements connected with the Southern

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any length of time.

And now what of our present camp? It is one of the finest, in all respects, which we have ever occupied. The water is excellent and abundant. Two regiments of the brigade are encamped on the slope of a large field, almost clear of timber, and beautiful for situation. In full view is the charming city of Huntsville, back of it is a vast range of hills, their peaked summits glowing in the sun, with the colored brilliancy of a chain of gems.

The sanitary condition of the troops is all that we can desire, thanks to the vigorous efforts of the surgical department for this state of things. Messrs. Buell and Bowenger are indefatigable in their efforts to secure the health of the men. How long we shall occupy this almost Eden we don't know; a day - a week - perhaps a month! Army movements are uncertain. The birth of the Father of his Country was celebrated

by appropriate ceremonies in the beautiful rooms of the Huntsville Hotel. Though the design of the celebration was un-known a few days before, still the occasion was full of interest and enthusiasm. Peals of bells ushered in the morning, salvos of cannon resounded at noon! And the bands discoursed patriotic airs. The day was delightfully mild and bright. It seemed as if Providence had ordained that the anniversary of this memorable event, should have no drawbacks on account of the weather!

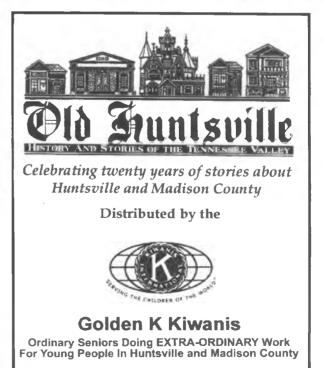
The contrabands are collecting here by the hundreds. Much has been said as to their future. Our land cannot do without them. We have almost a boundless continent of surpassing beauty and fertility to be converted into a garden. It will require myriads of hands to make this wilderness blossom as the rose. The forests are overshadowed with myriad acres because there are no hands to fell the trees! The luxuriant prairie lies idle because there is none to put in the plow. Here thousands of streams rush uselessly down their foaming beds, because no hands can be found to rear the factory and to guide the machinery.

A detachment of the 15th Tennessee Colored Infantry arrived today. They are a splendid set of fellows, and their soldier









bearing won the admiration of all.

The Sanitary and Christian commissions have branch offices here, and are doing a noble work for the soldiers of the Union. The useful and inestimable services of these societies for the sick, wounded and dying volunteer, demand the gratitude and blessing of all. The Sanitary organization is not quite two years old, and in this brief period of time it has accomplished a great work in promoting the general health of our vast army. The originators of this Godlike scheme of benevolence are well-known philanthropists. Though authorized by the Government, it is not a Government institution. Since its formation. it has disbursed four hundred thousand dollars in money, and distributed seven million dollars' worth of hospital stores. Dr. Teed is superintendent of the Western department. These remarks also apply to the Christian Commission.

I hear a noise in camp, followed by a shout. I listen, the Paymaster has arrived. The countenances of the veterans are radiant with joy. I wish I could describe the sensations produced by the presence of the aforesaid gentleman. The first of it has been sent home. May

company paid, and greenbacks flying like leaves. Our regiment (the 80th Ohio), received almost fifty thousand dollars; much

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Partial Listing; S&W .38 Special w/Grip Adapter, H&R .32 cal Model 733 Revolver w/Holster, US Revolver Co. .38 cal, American "Bulldog" .38 cal Revolver, Iver Johnson ,.22 cal Revolver w/Holster, Ruger, .22 cal Revolver, Iver Johnson .32 cal Hammerless, Eclipse Co. Double-Barrel Shotgun, Richard Double-Barrel w/Damascus Barrel, Scars M-200 12ga. Pump Shotgun, Savage (Springfield) 944 12ga. Single-Shot, Remington Sportsman '48 16ga., Mossberg Maverick Model 88 12ga. Pump, Western Field M170A "Slugster" 12ga., Winchester Model 190 .22cal Long Rifle w/Scope, Revelation Model 120, .22 cal Long Rifle w/Scope, Japanese Arisaka Rifle, Remington .22 cal Short/Long Bolt-Action Rifle, Savage Model 74, .22cal Lever-Action, Spanish Mauser 1947 8mm Bolt-Action Rifle, Line Market Devices and Market Remington .22 cal Short Rifle, Line Market Devices and Rifle Remington .22 cal Short Rifle, Line Market Devices and Rifle Remington .22 cal Short Rifle, Line Market Devices and Rifle Remington .22 cal Short Rifle, Remington .23 cal Short Rifle, Remington .23 cal Short Rifle, Rifle, Remington .24 cal Short Rifle, Rifle Liege-Marked Derringer, Lorcin Model 1380 380 Auto, Several Flint-Lock Black Powder Pistols, Ruger Mark II .22 cal Long-Target Pistol, Remington 1863 Percussion Revolver, Colt Brevette #412 Percussion Revolver w/Engraved Cylinder, Remington & Sons #642 Percussion Revolver, (2) Colt brevette Percussion Revolvers #57 & #58 w/Engraved Cylinders, Winchester Model 1400 16ga, Auto, Savage Model 340 Series E, 222cal Rife w/Strap, Winchester Model 12 I6ga. Pump, Winchester Model 1400 12ga. Auto w/Strap, Remington Game Master Model 760 w/Strap, Swiss Vetterli M-78 (parts) w/Fixed Bayonet, S&W Model 14-3 38 Special Revolver, Mauser C96 "Broomhandle" w/Holster, S&W Model 36 and MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!

All guns sales are subject to state and federal laws

Phone (256) 837-1559 or (256) 837-8377 Wilson Hilliard, S.L. #97 356 Capshaw Road - Madison, Al 35757

every dollar create joy and gladness in the distant homes of our brave, battle-scarred volunteers. These noble fellows had fulfilled their first term of enlistment, and had entered the service for another term. They have been through many terrible battles, passing through incredible hardships; and yet these undaunted heroes again pledge their honor never to lay down their armor until the last armed foe expires. It was a

grand and imposing sight.

Almost thirty months ago, they left Ohio nine hundred strong; now they number three hundred weather embrowned heroes. Their two battle flags once flaunting in their fresh embellishments, are now rent by hostile bullets. Many brave hands have grasped them, and followed them into the scenes of warfare and of death. But where are the hundreds whose places are now vacant? The majority of them fill soldiers' sepulchres. Have they died in vain? No, by Heaven! The blood of men fighting for Freedom is never shed in vain. From the ground it cries aloud; the earth will never cover it, and the Avenger knoweth his day and his hour. Indeed those lines of Byron's are profoundly true and noble, "For Freedom's battle once begun. Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son, Though often lost, is

News from Gurley

from 1891 newspaper

Our little city is quiet as usual, moving

on "in the even tenor of its way."

- Last week the weather was extremely warm, but it has suddenly changed and forced us to put on our overcoats and

kindled fire to keep us warm.

- Gurley is still enlarging her borders. The new bucket factory of Vorenburg & Bros. is about completed. The workmen are putting up the machinery, and expect to commence the manufacture of cedar buckets in a very short time.

It would seem to an ordinary thinker that there is great room in the country for cedar bucket factories, but there are only

about 4 in the United States.

- The new Baptist church will soon be completed, which will be quite an addition to our town. The work of the new building seems to be first class.

- Mr. Picken's new residence will soon be completed and will be very convenient and handsome. It is rumored that he has spent over three thousand dollars on it.

A Bad Bargain

from 1899 newspaper

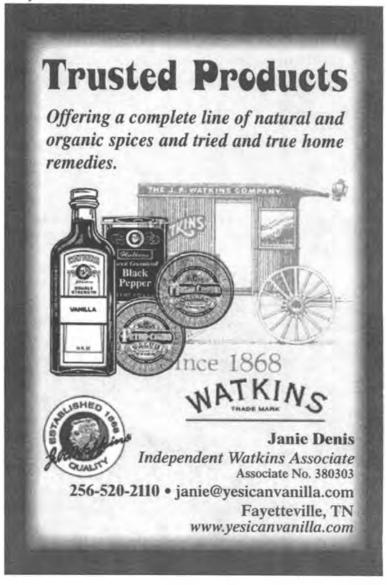
OCT. 17: John Kendall of Madison County was arrested yesterday on the charges of selling his wife to Lem Nobles for the sum of 25 dollars.

Apparently all concerned parties were happy with the transaction until Nobles was informed that he was also now the owner of six children, whereas he promptly complained of fraud to the Sheriff.

At first the Sheriff was at a loss on what action to take but after consulting with the judge, file charges

against the men for white slavery.

Both men are currently residents of the jail and are expected to stand trial soon. Mrs. Kendall and her six children are residing at the home of Lem Nobles. When questioned about her feelings regarding the case she merely shrugged her shoulders and said, "What ever they want to do."



Eggnog Party in Paint Rock Valley

An early landmark in upper Paint Rock Valley was Cox's Still House, on Clear Creek. Oddly enough, some innocent jollification turned sour for a group of Union soldiers at the Still House one day in 1864. About 40 of the boys in blue had retired to the secluded spot, meaning to take time out from the brutal War Between the States. The vankees quickly confiscated all the whisky they could find, intending to make some egg nog with the milk and eggs they had stolen from local farmers.

Unfortunately, they made so much racket that some of "Bush-whacker" Johnston's Confeder-

ates heard them. The Johnny Rebs sent several of their men to slip around behind the yankees. Meanwhile, the rest of the Confederates set an ambush along the road.

Without warning, the Confeds in advance opened fire into the carousing yankees. Panic stricken, the blue coats dropped their booze and fled straight into the ambush.

When the yankees sobered up, they were faced with the double humiliation of having a hangover and being taken prisoners.

They were taken "south" across the Tennessee River where they were eventually paroled.

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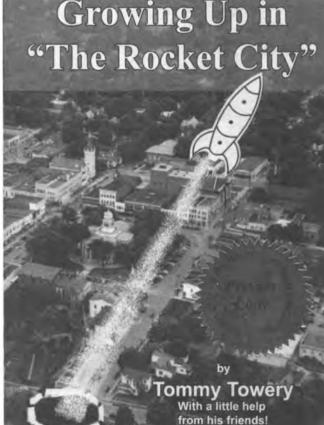
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