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# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## A Family Matter

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Gilliam said nothing but the look of rage on his face made his intent clear. He had just reached for his coat and was about to walk out when his wife ordered him to sit back down first. "We are going to say the blessing first and then you can go do whatever it is you have to do."

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*Domie Lewter*  
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# A Family Matter

His name was Robert E. Lee Gilliam but most people simply called him "Gilliam, or "old man Gilliam." He was aged beyond his years, a product of a hard scrabble life and trying to eke out a living on a few acres of sunbaked red clay that never seemed to produce enough to keep body and soul together.

Being a truck farmer was not the life Gilliam had chosen originally. He had worked most of his life at a saw mill near Gurley until an accident left his right leg crippled. Unable to find other work, he worked as a sharecropper for a time before the landlord told him he was letting another man, an able-bodied man, take over the farm.

The next several years saw Gilliam moving from farm to farm, each one poorer than the one he had left previously until finally he ended up, in 1943, on a small tract of land near Winchester Road. The land was a virtual rock pile, overgrown with no water supply, and with a dilapidated old house that probably should have fallen down years ago.

Regardless, Gilliam, with his wife and three children, made the best out of a bad situ-

ation. Soon they had several acres cleared and were growing tomatoes, squash and other vegetables. These he peddled from door to door in an ancient pick-up truck he had patched together from parts salvaged from junk yards and trash heaps. On weekends, while he worked his route, his wife and children would spend the day at the Farmers Market selling the produce to Huntsville housewives who flocked to the stalls in search of bargains on fresh vegetables.

Gilliam's family was his pride and joy. His wife, a quiet-spoken woman with jet black hair that belied her Indian heritage, was a perfect helpmate, spending long days toiling in the fields beside him and then going home to cook dinner with never a complaint. The youngest two children, both boys, were still too young to be of much help, but his daughter Lucy, who at fourteen was already turning into a striking young lady, helped her mother sell produce at the market. Many people, captivated by the young girl's exotic beauty and quiet charm, became regular customers.

The summer of 1946 was an especially hot and dry one. Almost three months had passed with no measurable rainfall and small gardens that had always produced a bountiful harvest began drying up.



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Gilliam had always hauled water from a nearby spring for cooking and washing but his work load was increased dramatically when he was forced to begin hauling water for the parched fields.

Every day, often three or four times a day, he would drive his truck to the nearby spring where he filled large containers with water. Returning to his garden he would use a gourd to pour a certain amount around each thirsty and parched plant. The work was backbreaking, and with the sun seemingly getting hotter every day, it soon became apparent that something else had to be done.

Calling his family together one afternoon, Gilliam announced a change in the family's routine. He was going to dig a well. His wife would drive the truck on the route each weekend and Lucy would work at the market by herself. The two boys would remain at home with him, helping haul dirt from the proposed well. Gilliam figured a week, maybe two, would be enough to complete the job.

Though at first the job went well, with the dry, red clay yielding easily to the pick and shovel, a few feet down he began to encounter rock. Even

the most casual observer surely realized it was going to take much longer than planned. Gilliam, however, was not a man to give up easily. Every Saturday morning he would help load the truck with produce and then return to what many people had already dubbed his "rock hole."

For Lucy, however, these were exciting times. Her mother would drop her off early at the market where she would spend the day selling produce and talking to the other people who worked there. Every day seemed like another adventure to the impressionable fourteen year old girl. Probably even more exciting were the young men who visited the market to flirt with her. Without the stern looks of her mother to warn them off, there was a constant stream of young Gallahads vying for her attention.

One of the men who noticed her was William Roberts. No one disputed the fact that Roberts was a good looking man, well dressed and with a

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line of blarney that could sway even the most doubtful person. It was the other things about him, though, that made people whisper. Some people claimed he had been married before, although no one was sure what had happened. He was also rumored to be involved in gambling and was a well-known supplier of bootleg whiskey to the G.I.'s at Huntsville Arsenal. Many people said he had a violent temper and was involved in many fights, some of which he resolved with the gun he always carried.

Perhaps the thing he was best known for, however, was the "Clip Joint." Some time earlier he had acquired a semi-truck with a 32 foot trailer. On paydays at the Arsenal he would park the trailer close to the gates, and with the help of accomplices, would lure soldiers and employees into the trailer where he had a bar and crooked dice tables set up. The trailer had originally been owned by C & J trucking but local wags, after noticing the faded lettering, quickly dubbed it the "Clip Joint."

Everyone was surprised when Roberts began paying attention to Lucy. Not only was she still a child, she was totally different from the hard drinking, carousing women he normally hung out with in the road houses and gambling joints.

For the first several weeks it was merely an innocent flirtation, with Roberts stopping by

the produce stall to tease the young girl. Lucy had already heard of his reputation, ....but he was so handsome. She was also careful not to mention anything about him to her father whom she knew would not approve.

When Roberts appeared at the market one day and proposed that Lucy go for a ride with him she hesitated, explaining that she could not afford to miss any potential customers.

"How much do you make a day?" asked Roberts.

"Three or four dollars, if I'm lucky," replied Lucy.

Roberts quickly ended the conversation by laying a five dollar bill on the counter.

A pattern soon evolved. Lucy would work at the produce stand every Saturday until lunch time when Roberts would pick her up. Lucy always insisted that she be back at the market before 6:00 pm when her mother arrived to take her home.

Gilliam, preoccupied with digging the well and trying to support his family, had no idea of the courtship until one afternoon, about the time school let out, when Roberts and Lucy drove up.

Gilliam paused, laying the

**"We never really grow up, we only learn how to act right in public."**

*Jane Smith, Huntsville*



**L. Thomas Ryan, Jr.  
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shovel aside, as he watched the couple walk toward him. He knew something was going on, Lucy was dressed in different clothes than the ones she wore to school that morning.

"Pa, we got married today."

Gilliam, stunned by this unexpected turn of events, stood silently as Lucy explained how Roberts had met her at school that morning and they had driven across the state line where they found a justice of tie peace who had agreed to marry them.

By this time the rest of the family had gathered around Lucy, wanting to hear every detail. Roberts, not caring much for the emotions of the moment, wandered over to the well Gilliam had been working on.

Gilliam, sensing the need to say something to Roberts but not knowing what to say walked over to the well with him. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, he asked, "You going to take care of her?" It was as much of a statement as it was a question.

"Get serious, old man," Roberts replied in an almost sarcastic manner. Then almost

as an afterthought he added, "You still working on this rock hole? The rains are going to come soon and you won't need it."

Gilliam, surprised at the sarcasm from his daughter's new husband, was at a loss for words. After a few moments of awkward hesitation he replied, "May as well finish it, might come in handy some day."

That evening, after the couple had left, Gilliam sat on the porch smoking his pipe, thinking about the day's events. If he had his druthers, none of it would have ever happened. "But still, Lucy is almost a grown woman. Her mother was only 15 when I married her and it worked out well. Maybe that boy will take care of her and everything will be all right."

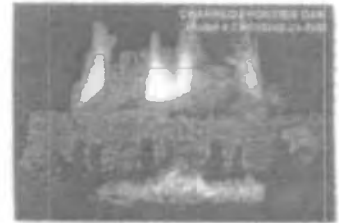
Left unsaid, but in the back of his mind, was the realization that poor people just naturally married young. With no educa-

**You know you're getting older when your happy hour is a long nap.**

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tion, no money and no hope for a future, the only thing a girl had to look forward to was getting married.

The first sign of trouble came several weeks later, on a Sunday afternoon, when Gilliam and his wife stopped by to visit Lucy at her new home. Although Roberts was supposedly making good money from his various illegal enterprises, little if any of it went home with him. Most of it went to gambling and drinking. The house where they resided, in Dallas Village, was actually a bootleg joint owned by someone else, but the person owed Roberts money and had agreed to let the couple live in the front part rent free while he continued bootlegging in the back.

Lucy was thrilled to see her parents, even in such shabby surroundings. "This is just temporary," she explained apologetically. "We're going to get us a big house just as soon as he gets on his feet."

Even though it was almost three in the afternoon, Roberts was still in bed. "He had some business to take care of last night and didn't get in until late."

Wakened by the sound of voices, Roberts staggered groggily into the room where he dropped heavily into a chair. From his looks it was apparent that he was still suffering the effects from the previous night's "business."

Ignoring Gilliam, Roberts abruptly ordered Lucy to get him something to eat. When she didn't respond immediately, Roberts grabbed her arm and shoved her roughly toward the kitchen with the admonition to "make sure it's fit to eat!"

**"The largest organ in the human body is the head."**

**Seen on 6th grade exam**

Noticing Gilliam sitting in the corner of the room, Roberts explained sarcastically, "We've still got some kinks to work out but she'll learn."

With Lucy no longer helping her family, Gilliam returned to driving his produce route every Saturday while his wife worked at the market. Still, he continued digging the well, even if only for an hour or two a week. He had struck solid rock and progress was measured in inches as he laboriously chiseled away at it with a hammer and crowbar.

The family, knowing Roberts didn't care for their company, stopped visiting Lucy at her house. Instead, several times a month, she would walk the 5 or 6 miles to her parents' home where she would spend the day. When it came time to return home, Gilliam would



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drive her, letting her out about a block down the street. "My husband doesn't want me to take any favors from anyone and if he sees me taking a ride from someone he might get upset."

Despite the many warning signs, Gilliam held his peace. Possibly he was hoping that time would work matters out. Most likely however, he was a product of his time, a culture where no one interfered in another person's marriage and where divorce was unspeakable. Never in the history of the Gilliam family had a couple even separated, much less divorced. Making matters even worse was the fact that most people considered a divorced woman little better than a "lady of the night."

Lucy's visits became less frequent, but when she did visit there would often be signs of bruises on her arms and neck. "Just an accident," she would explain. "I bumped into some-

thing." One hot sweltering day she showed up wearing a long sleeved flannel shirt. When her mother insisted, Lucy rolled the sleeves up revealing dark ugly bruises. There were even more bruises on her back and legs.

"It was my fault," explained Lucy while wiping tears from her eyes. "I made him upset and I shouldn't have."

Her mother called Gilliam into the room and explained what happened. After examining the bruises himself, he stood silent for a long time looking at his wife and daughter, trying in his mind to verbalize the words he had been putting off for so long.

"You don't have to go back," he said quietly. "We'll go to the courthouse and get papers."

The words stunned Lucy and her mother. They both realized how hard it was for Gilliam to accept a divorce in the family.

The decision was made by Lucy. "Things will get better, I just know they will and he's expecting me to have dinner on the table, so I have to go."

That evening Gilliam worked in the well. Long after the sun had gone down he continued pounding the hard rock with a vengeance he had never known before. He was no lon-

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ger crushing simple rocks, he was crushing his helplessness and despair with a cold rage for which he knew there was no outlet.

The next morning Gilliam drove into Huntsville to talk to Sheriff Blakemore. His second cousin's oldest daughter was married to the sheriff and though Gilliam didn't consider him a close friend, they had what he called a "passable" relationship.

After listening to Gilliam's account of the bruises, the sheriff had but one question. "Will she swear out a warrant?"

"I don't think so," replied Gilliam.

"There ain't nothing I can do then. It's all up to her."

Nevertheless, that afternoon the sheriff stopped by to talk with Roberts. Though he had no legal basis for the visit, he was undoubtedly hoping a bluff, or a threat, might accomplish the same thing.

Roberts merely listened to the sheriff with thinly dis-

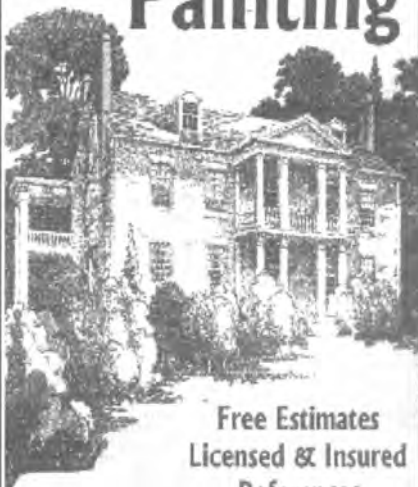
guised contempt and then ordered him off the property. "You ain't got no right meddling in peoples' marriages," he shouted. "This is a family matter!"

Several days later Gilliam and his family had just sat down at the supper table and were about to say the blessing when a neighbor stopped by to say he had seen Lucy at the hospital. He had been visiting a relative, he explained, and just as he was leaving, he saw Lucy being treated by a doctor. "I think she's got a broken arm because I saw them putting a cast on it. It looks bad."

Gilliam said nothing but the

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look of rage on his face made his intent clear. He had just reached for his coat and was about to walk out when his wife ordered him to sit back down. "We are going to say the blessing first and then you can go do whatever it is you have to do."

Gilliam rushed to the hospital where the nurses told him that Lucy had been taken away by her husband. Next he drove to their house but even from a distance it was evident that it was vacant. The only other place he could think of was the "Clip Joint." He had never been there but had heard the rumors of the crooked dice games Roberts ran from the trailer.

Upon arriving, Gilliam knew he was at the right place by the loud music and profanity piercing the night air. Entering the trailer he immediately saw Lucy sitting in a corner. Her arm was in a cast, and her hair hung limply across her face. She was very pale. On her right cheek was a bruise that was just starting to turn a dark purple. "Come on," Gilliam said. "We're going home."

Roberts had been on his knees in the back of the trailer shooting dice when he noticed the old man. Springing to his feet he ordered, "Leave her be. This is a private thing between her and me!"

Gilliam paused for a brief second, eyeing all the men in the trailer before letting his gaze rest on Roberts. "Boy, I ought to kill you right now but I'm not going to. I'm going to take my daughter home and you can go on about whatever you do. Just don't never let me see you again."

Something about the unarmed old crippled man; something more than the barely controlled wrath in his voice, caused the men in the trailer to freeze in their footsteps as they watched him escort his daughter out.

If Gilliam had hoped that would be the end of it, he was sadly mistaken. In the morn-

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ing's early hours, before the sun came up, the family was awakened by the sound of an automobile and loud cursing. Gilliam quickly grabbed his overalls and started for the front door when he was startled by the sound of breaking glass followed almost instantly by a wall of flames.

In spite of all the noise and confusion of the inferno, the whole family swore they heard Roberts laughing as the car drove away.

Although no one was hurt in the fire, the house was destroyed and all of their meager possessions lost. After salvaging what little they could from the ruins, Gilliam drove to the Huntsville bus depot where he put his family on a bus to Chicago where his wife's sister lived.

Word of the fire and of Gilliam sending his family to Chicago had spread throughout the community. Several neighbors, though taking great pains not to get involved, stopped by the ruins of the house to see the carnage from the night before. The first thing they noticed was Gilliam with a pick and shovel still working in the well.

Trying to make conversation, neighbors remarked,

"That well will come in handy next summer won't it?"

Without pausing in his labor, Gilliam replied in a barely audible mumble, "Ain't going to need it. Going to Chicago."

Many townspeople were even more puzzled by the fact that Gilliam had not showed up at the sheriff's office to swear out a warrant for the arson. Until he made a complaint there was nothing the authorities could do.

That same night an unidentified person threw several sticks of dynamite under the "Clip Joint." The trailer was totally destroyed and its occupants, cut and bruised, barely escaped. People assumed that Gilliam was responsible, probably as a last measure of revenge before joining his family in Chicago.

"If he was responsible," people theorized, "that boy had it coming." Almost everyone had heard of Roberts' abuse of his child bride and of the arson he undoubtedly had commit-

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ted. For many people there was even a certain amount of wishful reminiscing about the "old days when the Klan took care of his kind."

Gilliam had not left town, though. The next morning he was back at the well working at a feverish pace. Neighbors, curious at his strange behavior but still not wanting to get involved, stopped by several times during the day trying to draw the old man into a conversation. Gilliam, after politely acknowledging their presence, continued digging, refusing all attempts at conversation.

Late that afternoon neighbors saw him sitting on top of the huge pile of dirt next to the well. Something about the way he sat silently staring into the hole made it apparent that the well was finally finished.

That evening, about 9 o'clock, Roberts was sitting at the bar in the White Castle, a notorious speakeasy located near the intersection of Meridian Street and Winchester Road. With all of his cronies gathered around, he was basking in his new notoriety as he talked about running the Gilliam family out of Madison County.

Most of the patrons, however, tried to ignore Roberts. The incidents of the past few days had disgusted them. Probably what bothered them the most, though no one would say it out loud, was the fact that they had let it happen without doing anything.

Suddenly the whole place got quiet as people focused on a solitary figure standing in the doorway, holding a shotgun leveled at Roberts. Some people said it was 'ol man Gilliam, but other people, probably wiser,

said there was no resemblance.

Without saying a word, letting the motions of his gun give the orders, the figure directed Roberts outside. A backward glance insured that no one would follow.

Some people claimed to have heard a gunshot moments later but others, after careful thought, insisted it was just a car backfiring.

By the next morning almost everyone in Huntsville had heard of the evening's strange events. Gilliam's neighbors, embarrassed because they hadn't helped, drove by the burned out homestead. The place looked much the same as it had the day before with personal belongings scattered across the yard and partially burnt timbers swaying in the wind. There was no sign of Gilliam, though.

The only sign that someone had been there since the day before was the well. It had been completely filled up.

Roberts was never seen again. Some people in Huntsville, perhaps a lot wiser than most, said he probably left town suddenly due to "unexpected business."

More than likely they felt, as Sheriff Blakemore was later overheard saying, "It was just a family matter."



**"Even doctors make mistakes. Mine asked me to undress."**

**Maxine**

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# News from 1875

- Joe Graham, above Triana, had all his outhouses and fences blown down during the late storm. Many of the houses were also blown down at the Nick Lewis place.

- Runaway from my residence about 3 miles northwest of Huntsville, during my absence on the 9th., James Carter, a bound boy about fifteen years of age escaped. Said boy when leaving had on a black sack cloth coat and gray jeans pantaloons. Description: rather small for his age, fair skin, round face, blue eyes, rather low forehead, and very black thick hair. I forewarn any man from harboring him. He has

no relatives in Alabama and it would be to his advantage to have him returned. Thos. H. Hewlett

- The city is now burning Monte Sano coal, taken from the mines in our immediate vicinity, and it appears to be of very high quality. It is surprising that the mines are not more extensively worked. Ruben Street is engaged in delivery of this coal to our homes daily.

- The friends of Dr. Burritt will regret to learn that his condition is not improved by the operation performed on his lip. The cancerous affliction was

perhaps more deeply seated than was at first supposed. He will go from St. Louis to Hot Springs and spend a short time.

- Citizens are warned that pigs running loose in the downtown will no longer be tolerated. This business has gone on far too long, and it is hoped that a few hefty fines will put an end to it.

- Mollie Turner was locked up last evening for attempting to kill her husband again, this time with a shovel.



**"Gun control is not about guns; it is about control."**

*John Adams*



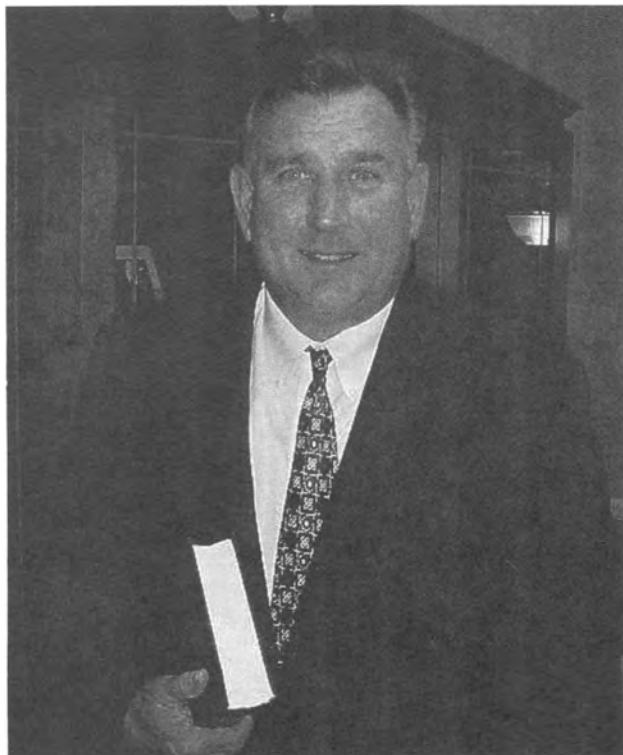
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# A Genealogical Nightmare

*from 1878 newspaper*

One of the most sensational cases ever to appear before our court system is due to go to trial next week in Judge Ramsay's court.

Mr. Allan Dement, a 72 year old resident of this city is charged with the crime of marrying his granddaughter. According to reports, Mr. Dement returned from the war to find his home burned and family scattered to the four winds. Finally after much difficulty he was able to locate his granddaughter, who was at the time living in Jackson all alone, but for her four children. She too had become separated from her family.

The couple soon set up

house together and began living a life as man and wife along with her children who were his great grandchildren but were now his stepchildren, making them their mother's uncles by marriage. After the granddaughter/wife sensed signs of approaching motherhood, a quick visit before a justice of the peace was arranged. When the child was born it became the mother's son/great uncle, the father's son/great grandson and the half brother and great-great uncle of the other children.

Soon, however, her eldest son (the great grandson of its stepfather and the great nephew of his half brother) began a correspondence with his aunt who was also Dement's granddaughter. The aunt/granddaughter, upon hearing the news immediately notified her great uncle who was also Dement's brother who paid a personal visit to his great nephew who was his brother's stepson.

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The great nephew/stepson and brother/great uncle then notified the judge (no kin) who issued a writ for the arrest of the grandfather/husband and granddaughter/wife.

The child has been placed in care of its half brother who is also his nephew and his mother's uncle by marriage. The trial is sure to attract a lot of relatives.

## News from 1904

- We beg to announce that Hutchens & Murdock have been appointed sole agents for the Block Light in the city of Huntsville and that the light is on exhibition at their offices.

The Block Light will give 300 candle power and save half your gas bills. It takes six inch electric lights to give the light of one Block Light. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

- As the result of a runaway accident near the Wade Mattress Factory yesterday afternoon, Mrs. R. B. Searcy was badly injured and Mrs. Frank J. Thompson was painfully bruised.

The ladies were driving in front of the factory when the horse got his tail over one of the reins and began to run. Mrs. Searcy attempted to jump out of the buggy and was thrown with great force against the ground, the back of her head striking against the stone curbing and cutting the scalp very badly. Mrs. Thompson did not jump but was thrown from the buggy a little further down the street. She was painfully bruised but was not cut.

The ladies were attended to by Drs. Rand and Brooks and last night both were resting quietly.

- Joseph Mason, the well known egg and produce dealer, was tried before Commission Greenleaf yesterday on a charge of retailing whiskey.

The revenue men claim that Mason has been violating the revenue laws with impunity for several years and has kept a whole section of Paint Rock Valley supplied with whiskey. Mason, on the other hand, claims that he was not selling whiskey but that he merely took orders for it and delivered it to his friends and customers whom he desired to accommodate.



### Easy Dessert Pie

9" graham cracker pie crust, baked 5 minutes at 325  
 1 lrg. box Jello, any flavor  
 8 oz. carton sour cream  
 8 oz. carton Cool Whip

Blend all ingredients, mixing well. Pour into cooled graham cracker crust and refrigerate for several hours. Frost with extra Cool Whip as you serve.



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# Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney



Congratulations to our winner for the Photo of the Month for September. The handsome boy was of course **John Shaver** of Shaver's books, and the astute lady who was first to call was **Nancy Land Fried**, of Taft Tennessee. Nancy was raised in Huntsville and attended Johnson High. She was an RN at Humana, Red Cross and Bradford Health Services. Congratulations to you Nancy!

**Rosemary Leatherwood**, who with her dear husband **Bill** owns Ole Dad's BBQ, is remembering her sweet Mom, **Mary Branche Richardson**, who died two years ago Nov. 12. Loved ones are never really gone when we think about them all the time and remember their impact on our life.

A special Hello goes out to **Phil Taylor, Jr.** who lives in Georgia, from Mom **Sherry Taylor** and Dad **Phil Taylor** of Hampton Cove. They sure do miss him!

**Carolyn Hall** is a Relationship Banker at BB&T and is proud of her daughter **Kelley King** who just celebrated her 32nd birthday. Kelley is an RN

at the Surgery Center. Also having a birthday is **Kristyn Towers**, that smiling lady you see as Teller Supervisor at BB&T.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of **Robert "Bob" Biss**, at only 79. Bob had not been well but it's always hard when we lose loved ones. Our deepest sympathy goes his son **Scott Biss** and the rest of the family and many friends.

Happy Birthday to our friend **Brenda Hicox**! She is the sweetest person.

**Linda Gardiner** brought information recently about **Father Alan Mackey**, who is pastor for St. Jude Parish in Scottsboro, Al. and is Chaplain for the Traditional Latin Mass Community. Father Mackey was honored at the 10th anniversary of his ordination, hosted by **Our Lady Help of Christians Traditional Latin Mass**

community in Huntsville. The pastor's mother was there to celebrate, as well as **Father Bede** of St. Bernard's Abbey and **Father Glen Sayers**, pastor of St. Mary's in Huntsville.

**Linda and Bill Drake** of Huntsville recently celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary and we're very proud of them! Congratulations on your surprising longevity!

**Newman Ward** (he liked to be called **Bill** and wrote some really poignant stories for this magazine) was a mailman in Huntsville in 1934 and lived here for many years. He passed away at 94 years old in April of this year, living in California with his son, but his final wish was that he be cremated and buried here in Huntsville at Maple Hill along with his wife **Bessie (Church)**'s ashes.

Their daughter **Lynn Erckmann** traveled here from Washington State to get that accomplished and it was a really memorable gathering. One of the ladies in attendance was 97 year-old **Lucille Hines** who was hired by Newman

## 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 well known for his music.



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to help with his mom, who was terminally ill. When the mother died, Lucille stayed on as housekeeper and nanny to Newman's two children, **Fred** and **Lynn**. At the time of this event at Maple Hill, Lynn had not seen Lucille in 63 years! Lucille is an absolutely beautiful lady, inside and out.

Also in attendance at the event was **Hazel Church**, who is 92 years old and a lovely lady, a true southern belle. Hazel is a Huntsvillian and was married to **Brooks Church**, whom many remember as managing a baseball team in Huntsville years ago. All in all it was a moving and nostalgic return home for Newman and his dear wife, Bessie.

Happy 90th Birthday to that handsome **Joseph Owens** of Largo, Fl. Joe lived in Huntsville for some time but moved south for that warm weather.

The **2010 Maple Hill Cemetery Stroll** was a fabulous success this year, due in large part to the perfect weather. With temps in the high 70s and no rain, there were thousands of people in attendance to watch the reenactments of famous and infamous people who helped make Huntsville's history. One who attracted large crowds was **Jan Dorning** (**Sheriff Blake Dorning's** wife) who was **Elizabeth Routt**. She recounted having been married numerous times and being accused of killing all of her husbands, then placing their hats on a hat rack on the front porch. **Ron Cooper**, co-owner of In Bloom on Pratt Avenue, was very entertaining, along with his favorite super-producing butter fat cow **Lily Flagg**. All in all, a very memorable and fun event.

**Linda Atkinson** was one of those ladies who loved to help others. She was a nurturing, caring and sweet individual who never put herself first. Linda passed away in October

at the young age of 71, and was a charter member of Grace Fellowship Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Our condolences to her family and her very special friend, **Joyce Russell** of New York Life.

We were very happy to hear that the individuals who had been responsible for daytime robberies in the Old Town and 5 Points neighborhoods have been caught. If you ever see something suspicious, it's better to call the police than to hesitate and be sorry later.

Did you know that in 1940 Huntsville was on its way to being called "The City of Dogwoods" when **Henry B. Chase** donated thousands of dogwood trees from his nursery?

Happy birthday to my beautiful daughter **Stephanie Troup**, who celebrates a Nov. 16 birthday. You're the best daughter ever, Steph.

**Dave Smith's** Dad **Frank Smith** lives in Grayson, Georgia and has had some pretty hard medical challenges lately but he's got a great attitude and is on the mend! One of Frank's best friends is **Marvin Thomas**. Frank was the first Director of the Cahaba Temple Buffoon Unit in 1971/72. Dave wants to tell his Dad how much he thinks of him and that he hopes he is feeling better in no time!

The annual **Historic Lowry House Halloween** party was packed with ghouls and goblins and a few folks in normal clothing and was a blast for all who attended. **Chris Kelly** did the emceeing and everyone enjoyed him. People are already asking about the date for next year!

We wish you a warm, wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends.

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# RECIPES

## Lee High School Magnet Art Program Favorite Recipes (1994)

### Crab Dip

1/2 lb. flaked crabmeat  
 1 T. milk  
 8 oz. pkg. softened cream cheese  
 1/4 c. sour cream  
 1 T. lemon juice  
 1 clove garlic, pressed  
 3 T. chopped green onions  
 Blend cream cheese and sour cream til smooth. Stir in remaining ingredients and season to taste. Chill for a few hours. Stir, season and serve with vegetables or crackers.

Mary Ayers

### Fruit Dip

8 oz. cream cheese  
 1 c. powdered sugar  
 12 oz. Cool Whip  
 1/4 c. lemon juice  
 Mix cream cheese and

powdered sugar, then add remaining ingredients. Delicious with cantaloupe and apples!

Debbie Ivey, CNP Staff

### Baked Beans, Deluxe

1 lb. ground beef  
 3 cans baked beans  
 1/2 c. brown sugar  
 1 c. ketchup  
 2 T. Worcestershire  
 3 T. mustard  
 1/2 green pepper, chopped  
 1 onion, medium, chopped  
 Brown beef in skillet. Mix all ingredients in a casserole dish. Add meat and bake covered for 1 hour at 350 degrees.

Diane Morrison, Secretary

### Jalapeno Pepper Bread

1 1/2 c. self-rising corn meal  
 1 8-oz. carton sour cream

1/2 c. shortening, melted  
 3 eggs, beaten  
 1 7-oz. can whole kernel corn, with liquid  
 2 jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped

Combine cornmeal, sour cream, eggs, shortening, corn and peppers in a medium mixing bowl, mix well. Pour batter into a well-greased 10 1/2 inch cast-iron skillet. Bake at 425 degrees for 20 minutes or golden brown. Serve warm.

Betty W. Jacks

### Banana Tea Bread

1/2 c. butter  
 1 1/3 c. sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1/4 c. sour cream plus 2 T. milk  
 2 T. almond extract  
 2 c. flour

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- 1 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. soda
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 c. mashed ripe banana
- 1 1/2 c. chopped pecans

Cream butter and sugar til light and fluffy. Add eggs, sour cream, milk, and almond extract, mix well. Combine dry ingredients. Add to cream mixture, alternately with bananas, mix well. Stir in nuts and pour into a greased 9 x 5" inch loaf pan. Bake at 350 for 1 hour and 10 minutes - do not overcook!

**J. Crump**

**Bean Chalupa**

- 1 lb. pinto beans (dry)
- 3 lb. pork roast (Boston butt)
- 7 c. water
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 T. salt
- 2 T. chili powder
- 1 T. cumin
- 1 t. oregano
- 1 can green chilies

Trim pork roast of all fat; wash beans and get rid of stones. Dump all in a large stock pot and cook on medium to low on top of stove with lid on for 4 hours. Remove lid and cook another hour to remove most of the liquid. Shred meat, removing all bone, and serve with tortillas or place on small

Fritos and top with beans, chopped lettuce, tomatoes, avocado, onions, cheese, sour cream, ripe olives and salsa.

**Dede Martin**

**Reese Cups**

- 1 box powdered sugar
- 2 sticks butter, melted
- 1 c. smooth peanut butter
- 8 oz. chocolate chips
- 1/4 stick paraffin

Combine sugar, butter and peanut butter and roll into balls; cool. Melt chocolate and paraffin together slowly, and dip the balls into this. Let cool.

**Susan Carr**

**Cherry Crunch**

- 1/2 t. lemon juice
- 1 pkg. white cake mix
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts
- 1 16 oz. can cherry pie filling
- 1 stick butter, melted

In a greased 9" square baking dish put the cherry pie filling. Sprinkle with the lemon juice. Mix the cake mix, nuts and butter (will be lumpy) and spoon this over the cherries. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes - can be served warm with homemade ice cream or cold out of the fridge!

**Charlotte Barkley**



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# Lost Towns

by Tom Kenny

Located a few miles outside of Huntsville were once two thriving communities by the names of Mullins Flat and Pond Beat. Today, if one tried to locate them, all one would find are manicured fields fenced in by the fences surrounding Red-stone Arsenal.

Most of us are familiar with the government, in time of need, taking the land a house or a business sits on, but few people realize that at the beginning of the Second War whole communities were erased from the face of the earth.

Pond Beat got its name from a series of ponds, Mack Pond, Rock Pond, Round Pond and others that extended from Pond Beat nearly to Triana.

The two communities were separated by a branch of Indian Creek. Mullin's Flat was north of the creek, Pond Beat to the south. These old communities lacked electricity, plumbing and telephones. Some of the houses had dirt floors and makeshift heating.

Many of the people occupying these communities were poor, very poor, but others were quite affluent. In Mullin's Flat there were over fifty black families and five white families. The community was not integrated but everyone got along very well.

Many of the residents were tenant farmers, providing labor for the land owner in exchange for a place to live and a share of the crop, usually a third or a fourth.

Most of the land was owned by individuals who were the children or grandchildren of former slaves. They farmed the land, owned businesses, stores, gins and mills and ran their own communities.

Peddlers called "rolling stores" visited both communities once a week, selling household goods, foodstuffs, sweets and personal needs. Mail was delivered by horseback. The riders came

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from Talucah in Morgan County by ferryboat, delivered the mail and ferried back home. Later mail was delivered by automobile.

The three room, wood framed Silver Hill School of Mullin's Flat located off present Dodd Road had an enrollment of about 150 black students. The school was financed partly by the Julius Rosenwald Fund of Chicago to help black schools in the South. Rosenwald funded one-third of the money, the State of Alabama funded one-third and the balance was supplied by the Mullin's Flat community. Most of the community funding was supplied by several of the wealthy black farmers.

James P. Burns, who died in 1919 of double pneumonia, was a resident of Mullin's Flat. He operated a general store, a blacksmith shop and forge, and a carpentry shop which specialized in the manufacturing of caskets.

The Horton School, located in Pond Beat, like the Silver Hills School, was funded jointly by the Rosenwald Fund, the State and the Community. In the early days of Pond Beat there was a large southern mansion and plantation near the Tennessee River. The building was demolished in 1982. The land became part of the Redstone Arsenal. The house had been occupied at times by the Childress family and the Jones family.

The government moved rapidly in its efforts to acquire the lands of Mullin's Flat and Pond Beat. The Quartermaster General filed a petition on July 23rd, 1941 for the seizure of the lands.

The U.S. District Court of Northern Alabama entered an order granting possession of the lands to the Government as of noon July 24th, 1941.

The Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, acting as a consultant to the Government, made an appraisal of each tract. Most of the land owners accepted the evaluation. A few owners went to court to protest the Government evaluation and offer. The Government permitted the land owners to remain in possession of their property until crops were harvested.

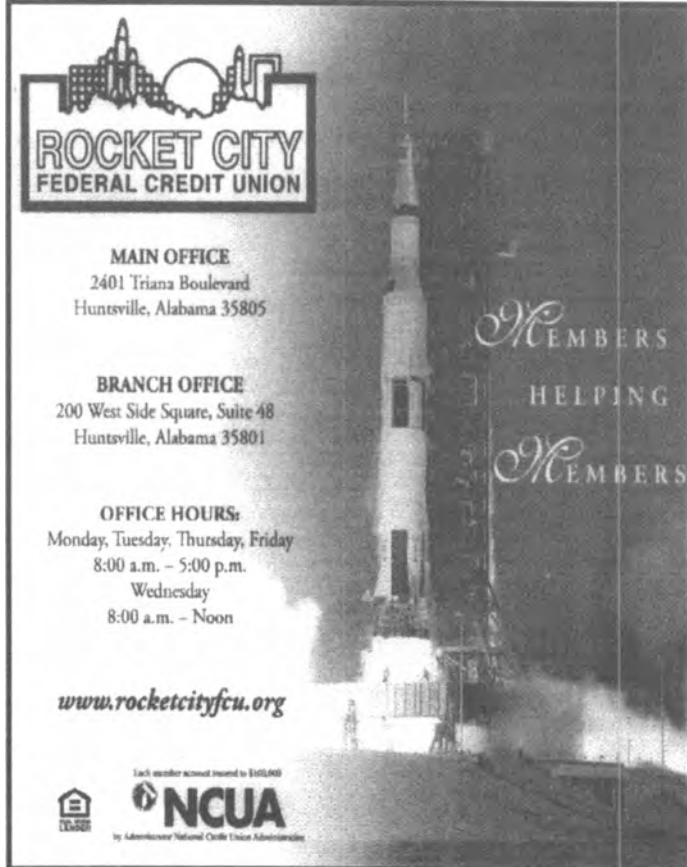
The Churches in the two communities merged and formed the Center Grove United Church. When their congregations were forced to move, the original church was dismantled and moved to the corner of Jordan Land and Mastin Lake Road in Huntsville.

Many of the old residents

of the two communities believed the large black ownership (about 80%) of the land was influential in the area being chosen for the arsenal. When the Government decided to build the arsenal, the property owners had no choice but to sell. As one old resident said, "They set the price and we had to accept it."

Still, the coming of the arsenal was a Godsend for many of the tenant farmers and their families.

Today the towns are but memories for the people who once lived there.



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### Old Southern Superstitions

- \* Amber beads, worn as a necklace, can protect against illness and cure colds.
- \* If someone is sweeping and sweeps over your feet, you'll never get married.
- \* To predict the sex of a baby: Suspend a golden wedding ring held by a piece of thread over the palm of the pregnant girl. If the rings swings in an oval or circular motion the baby will be a girl. If the ring swings straight up and down the baby will be a boy.
- \* Seeing an ambulance is very unlucky unless you pinch your nose and hold your breath until you see a black or brown dog.
- \* Spit on a new bat the first time you use it to make it lucky.
- \* Do not ever lean a broom against the bed. The evil spirits in the broom will cast a spell on the bed.
- \* A loaf of bread should never be turned upside down after a slice has been cut from it.
- \* Always carry an acorn with you to bring luck and ensure a good, long life.
- \* The sound of bells will frighten away evil spirits because they're afraid of loud noises.
- \* "To prevent an unwelcome guest from returning, immediately sweep out the room they were staying in.



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# Slave Revolt

by Charles Rice

"Startling news!" wrote Daniel Robinson Hundley in his diary on May 18, 1861. "I have just learned that a Vigilance Committee in Triana has ferreted out a most hellish insurrection plot among the slaves, and in consequence I expect to go out patrolling tonight, something I never did before. I have already rode about thirty miles today, but I do not expect to close my eyes tonight."

Fort Sumter had been fired on only a fortnight before, and both North and South were intoxicated with war fever. Septimus D. Cabaniss, a Huntsville lawyer known for his cool head, apparently had some doubts.

"In the winter & spring after the election of Mr. Lincoln," said Cabaniss, "there was an apprehension in the minds of many of our citizens & especially the ladies, that there would be an Insurrection among the slaves. This increased, after three companies of volunteers had gone to the Confederate Army, leaving no military organization in the county.

"To allay this excitement, nearly every male citizen of Huntsville & vicinity between the ages of fourteen & eighty years, voluntarily united in a military association,

forming a small battalion.

"As a consequence of this uneasiness & the state of the country, there was, as is usual in times of high excitement, a disposition upon the part of some of the community to take the law in their own hands; and when the military association was formed, it was agreed that it should be under the control & direction of a

committee of nine citizens, elected at the time of its organization, who should be charged with the duty of investigating any matters which the safety of the community might seem to require."

Cabaniss agreed to serve on the Committee of Safety only because of "his knowledge of the high character of the gentlemen associated with him for intelligence, integrity & discretion, and the belief that the existence of that committee would serve to allay excitement, and to prevent less

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discrete persons from taking the law in their own hands."

Cabaniss served on the Committee of Safety in Huntsville, and it appears this council was indeed of an exemplary nature. "Several startling reports were brought before the committee," noted Cabaniss, "of insurrectionary plots which, when carefully investigated, proved to be without foundation."

In neighboring Limestone County, however, the situation continued to be tense. Daniel R. Hundley became a member of another Committee of Public Safety - one considerably less discrete than Huntsville's.

On May 20, 1862, wrote Hundley, the Mooresville committee investigated "the insurrectionary movements of the slaves in the neighborhood of my father's residence. We have punished several, and the testimony elicited is very startling. The whole servile population appears to be disaffected, and the most egregious falsehoods everywhere pass current among them."

The following day, Hundley wrote, "It seems the Negroes have concluded that Lincoln is soon going to free them all, and they are everywhere making preparations to aid him when he makes his appearance."

Was this simply wishful thinking on the part of the

slaves, or was someone inciting them in this erroneous belief? The committee determined to find out. "So far as our investigations have now extended," wrote Hundley on May 23, "we are led to believe that Peter Mud, Andrew Green, and Nicholas Moore, slaves, and one or two free Negroes, aided by base white men, are the leaders of the proposed servile insurrection."


Two days later, the members of the various Limestone County committees "met with the Triana Committee in Triana. This committee has already hung one free Negro, named Jacobs, and today had up an old English abolitionist, who, for lack of proper evidence, was sent to Huntsville jail to await further action of the Committee." Matters were definitely becoming serious.

On May 26, another man was hung, this time a slave in

Mooresville. "A jury of twelve men selected by his overseer, were allowed to hear the evidence against him, and afterwards bring in their verdict - it being the design of the citizens to preserve the spirit of the law at all events, although it may be necessary in these exciting and dangerous times to override the letter thereof."

Was there in fact a slave plot, or was it simply hysteria caused by the tensions of the times? On May 27, a third man was executed. "Andrew Green, one of the instigators and leaders of the conspiracy, was hung in Triana. He made a partial confession."

However, Peter Mud's master, Dr. John Pickett, still remained unconvinced. Pickett sent Mud off by train to try to protect him. "We sent one of our Committee men after the fugitive," wrote Hundley, "and were informed by telegraph that the police had secured him in



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Memphis."

On May 30, 1861, the Triana Committee met once again. "First we tried a free Negro, who was sentenced to the penitentiary for life," noted Hundley. "We then tried parson Peter Mud. Peter was proven to be one of the principal conspirators, but the influence of his master's family in his behalf was great - however, he was found guilty by the jury, and was hung about half an hour after sundown."

Tellingly, those who knew Peter Mud best believed in his innocence. The following day. "Two Negroes were tried, but the final decision in their case was postponed for one month - in the meantime the Negroes remain in Huntsville jail. We also tried Bob Williams, white man. He was given until Christmas to settle up his affairs and leave the country."

After this, the tensions began to die down. On June 9, Hundley wrote in his diary. "The Committee seems to be satisfied with their labors thus far, and by apparent general consent are doing nothing more about the Negro Insurrection."

Had a bloody slave revolt been prevented? Perhaps. But more than likely it was much ado about nothing. Four unfortunate black men had lost their lives. In contrast, not one slave had been punished in Hunts-

ville. In fact, only one person - a white man - was sentenced by the Huntsville committee.


"It was proved that this person had been in Huntsville but a few months," wrote Septimus Cabaniss, "was a gambler by profession, & came from Memphis or New Orleans." The unwelcome gambling man was simply told to get out town and make sure he stayed gone.

Robert K. Dickson, a wealthy planter and merchant, "was also before the Committee charged with uttering disloyal sentiments. The facts charged against him were investigated. The Committee advised him to be more discrete in his language, & he agreed to do so in the future."

Such was the extent of their corrective action.



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# Memories

by Mrs. Lola Henley  
(Recorded in 1995)

I was born in 1898, in a two room log cabin near Paint Rock. My Daddy grew cotton and tobacco. One of my earliest memories is my Mother carrying me to the fields and placing me on a blanket in the shade of a tree while she helped Daddy in the fields.

By the time I was 6 or 7 years old I had to help in the fields, too. Daddy made me a cotton picking sack out of old pillow cases and I helped pick cotton. My other job was fetching water for the field hands. My cousin and I were both expected to pick a certain amount of cotton each day. One day, realizing we didn't have enough, we decided to put some heavy rocks in our bags to make them weigh more.

When Daddy got home from the gin he took a belt to both of us. We learned later that the rocks had tore the gin up.

Daddy also raised honey bees. After he robbed the hives every fall he would take the honey to Huntsville where he would trade it with Mr. Harrison (Harrison Brothers Hardware). We also dug ginseng to trade in town.

Going to town was always a big event for us. The night before, Daddy would load the wagon with crock jars full of honey packed with straw so they wouldn't break. The next morning we would get up before daylight, and after Daddy had hitched the wagon up, we would start for town. Mother always placed a quilt behind the wagon seat and I would curl up back there listening to all the honey jars rattle.

About lunch time we would stop at a creek to eat our biscuits. Mother had prepared the night before. There was a wooden box nailed to a tree next to the creek where people would leave messages for other people. Lots of times people would leave a note asking you to pick up something in town.

Our first stop in town was at the Big Spring. All the people from out in the county camped out there when they went to town. Daddy had a piece of

canvas he would make a tent out of, and that's where we spent the night. It was always great fun with all the campfires and everyone visit-



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ing back and forth.

The next morning we would hitch the wagon and take the honey up to Harrison's (Harrison Brothers). Daddy and the man who had the store would always argue and shout for what seemed like hours and finally they would make a deal. We got paid in half cash and half trade out. Next we would look up a man by the name of Foster, who always bought our ginseng. He didn't have a store or an office, but was always hanging around the Courthouse square. He would look at it real carefully and if he liked it, we would go to another place where they would weigh it.

While Daddy got supplies from Mr. Harrison, Mother and I would go shopping at the other stores. I still remember the first store-bought dress I ever had. Before that they were always made from flour sacks.

Someone later told me they had deer in the Courthouse yard back then but I don't remember it. The only thing I remember about any animals there is stepping in mule droppings and Mother washing my shoes under the pump. There were lots of pigeons too. I remember you could throw a piece of bread on the ground and hundreds of pigeons would fight over it.

Once Daddy carried us to a hotel for dinner and we had oysters. Daddy liked them but Mother and I got sick. Most times, however, we just ate at the Spring whatever Mother cooked.

The next morning, before the sun came up, we would start back for home.

## Lost or Stolen

Nine hogs of a reddish nature. The hogs are the property of J.D. Kendall and were last seen on the streets of Huntsville at the corner of Clinton and Jefferson. The above has, already this year, lost 33 hogs and two milk cows to the infidels of the dark who seem to be continuously preying upon the trusting manners of our townspeople. A liberal reward will be paid.

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# Emmett McKinney

By Austin L. Miller

Emmett McKinney, born in 1927, was my second cousin on my mother's side. Like a lot of Ryland men in those days he enjoyed cursing, smoking and drinking. Sometimes he liked to get drunk. On one of those occasions he got cut in a knife fight with the notorious Archie Bridges. The wonder was not that he had the fight but that he survived. Archie was quick to settle his disputes with a knife and the other fellow usually ended up dead. Archie was finally sent to Kilby prison for murder and was found in his cell one morning with his throat cut. Few tears were shed around Ryland over his passing.

Emmett never married and always lived at home but he

often told me about a girl that was the love of his life. She unexpectedly married somebody else and it broke his heart.

When his mother died in 1977, he lived the rest of his life alone. He didn't have much formal education but was not without skills. He was an excellent mechanic and could operate as well as repair any kind of heavy equipment. He learned his trades working for a well

known mechanic and heavy equipment operator named Clifford Dean. The story is that Mr. Dean was asked to come in as the mechanic and third partner in a newly established Huntsville road construction company. But he had his own interest and didn't take the offer. When most Ryland people had never seen an airplane up close, Mr. Dean flew his own airplane from a landing strip lo-

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cated behind his house off what is now Wall Road. The name of the company that Mr. Dean reportedly chose not to join was Ashburn and Gray. I asked his son Kenneth about this and Kenneth said he had always heard it too but did not know if it was true. He said that the only person left that would know for sure was Cecil Ashburn.

Emmett didn't think much of preachers or churches but liked Charles McCay, the minister at Shiloh for 29 years. Charles tells the story of inviting him to church and Emmett promising to come. True to his word he came one time and that was it. Afterwards he told everybody that, "I promised that preacher I would come to church and I did!"

As I grew into a teenager our dealings became extensive. He befriended me more times than I can count or remember. When I started to Athens College (now Athens State University), I had a worn out 1951 Chevrolet sedan that I needed for a daily commute of about 20 miles one way. I didn't think there was any way it would make all those trips for four years. But Emmett was able to keep it running like a sewing machine at very little expense. In four years I never missed a day because my car broke down. During those years we went to a lot of Drive-in movies. If I didn't have any money, which was most of the

time, he would pay my way. On Saturday nights after I got off from work at the old down town A & P I often visited him. We would talk and watch westerns on TV until the wee hours.

One of my most pleasant memories was Christmas Eve 1966 just after I got home from Vietnam. Emmett and I rode around all day in his new car talking and delivering Christmas presents he had bought for relatives and older people in the community. At a time when soldiers coming home from Vietnam almost had to slip back in the country to avoid hippies and anti war demonstrators, every one of these older country people of my grandparent's

generation thanked me for my service and told me they were glad I was home; they were the only ones that did. It was a good day that I will always remember. After the holidays I went to work for the State of Alabama and he voluntarily loaned me enough money to tide me over until I got paid.

Emmett worked for the city as a mechanic for about ten years. That was the longest he ever kept any job but in that ten years he must have quit ten times. Each time they asked him to come back. It was probably some of the best years of his life. But the last time he quit they didn't call him back. He was past fifty and a combina-

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tion of age and reputation had caught up to him. The job offers didn't come and he couldn't find the high paying jobs that he had once known in the private sector. He later admitted that quitting the city was one of the worst mistakes he ever made.

Soon he was scrimping to get by and his health began to fail. Emmett was not a man to depend on others or take charity. To him any kind of welfare was an abomination. He had proudly lived his life taking care of himself and doing what he wanted to do without being obligated or dependent on any man. The prospect of anything different was totally unacceptable.

One Saturday in September of 1983, when I came home for a visit, Daddy said to me, "I have some bad news, Emmett has just killed himself!" He shot himself in the head with a pistol. After the shock wore off I was not surprised. Deep down I knew that it was bound to happen. I had heard him say many times that he would not live if his health got bad or if he had to depend on the help of others. Knowing that did not relieve my sorrow at his passing, he had been part of my life from the day I was born. I still miss him and it is rare for a day to go by that I don't think of him and very few go by that I don't mention his name or recall something he said.

I sometimes relate him to the old country and western song titled, "I remember the year that Clayton Delaney died." In the lyrics, Tom T. Hall said that when he heard Clayton had died, he went out into the woods and cried.

Well, when I heard that Emmett had died, I went out behind the house and cried.

# A Lady of Distinction

Clarissa Douglass, a lady of dubious distinction, was up before Squire Figg yesterday on a charge of stealing clothes from Huntsville's merchants.

Miss Douglass' downfall was her penchant for fine clothing which she said, "is necessary for any lady in my changed position," hence she began a monologue describing why each article of the purloined clothing was essential to maintain her position in our fair city's society. She found her purse would not withstand so heavy a load, but the clothes must be had. Her raid ended on a sour note when she attempted to leave the store with three dresses in an egg basket, and two hats perched daintily upon her head.

She was brought up before the august presence of Justice Figg, who after hearing evidence of the state, bound Clarissa over in a bond of \$100.00.

*From 1866 newspaper*

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# The Town of Hazel Green

by Jack Harwell

If you spend any time travelling about Madison County, you will find communities whose origins seem to be lost in the mists of history. But each one has a story to tell.

During the early part of the last century, people flocked to what is now North Alabama from the more populated areas back east. Two of the more popular migration routes intersected about 14 miles north of John Hunt's cabin at the Big Spring. One was the road leading south from Nashville, where the sales of lands in the area were recorded. The other road ran east west toward Athens and was known as the Limestone Road. Also known as the Military Road, it brought many settlers to Alabama from the Carolinas and Virginia.

By 1809 this crossroads had become a busy place. With both hotels and stores, and a spring for watering horses, it was becoming a real town, rivalling the settlement at the Spring to the south. It was during this period that the little community became known as Hazel Green. Travellers passing through the town were struck by the abundance of green hazelnut bushes there. Thus the place where the hazel-nuts grew became Hazel Green. One version of this story suggests that the name was bestowed by none other than Andrew Jackson. This is certainly possible, since the general and future president was a frequent visitor to Huntsville.

Thomas McGeehee came to north Madison County in 1815 and built a mill on a fork of the Flint River about two miles north of Hazel Green. Another settler, Charles Cabiness, built a cotton gin in the same area. Both the McGeehee mill and the Cabiness gin are believed to be the first operations of their kind in Madison County, and possibly in the state.

So rapid was Hazel Green's growth that the town incorporated in 1821. Five trustees were elected in August of that year, and later there was a treasurer and a constable. At this time, perhaps three or four hundred people lived in Hazel Green, making it the third larg-

est city in the county, behind Huntsville and Triana. A post office had been established in 1819. But the City of Hazel Green was destined for a short life, for the articles of incorporation were repealed by the state legislature in 1830. Hazel Green has been unincorporated ever since, although in the last twenty years there has been some sentiment to reincorporate.

During Hazel Green's days as a popular stopover for Huntsville-bound travellers, one of the favorite lodging places was the Round Mound Inn. Located one mile east of the town, this structure was built in 1847 by a woman with a questionable past. Elizabeth Evans Dale had moved to Hazel Green in 1835, having recently married a man named Gibbons. Gibbons

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died shortly after arriving in Hazel Green. His widow remarried - but her new husband died soon after. She then married Alexander Jefferies, who owned a large plantation in the area. Eight years later, Jefferies passed on as well, and some locals began to whisper about the woman whose husbands seemed to die mysteriously.

Elizabeth was a woman of great beauty, which she would retain well past her youth, and had no trouble attracting rich and influential men. Not long after burying Mr. Jefferies, she married Robert High, a Limestone County legislator. He lasted three years. In 1846, Elizabeth married for a fifth time, this time to Absalom Brown, a merchant of New Market. It was during her marriage to Brown that Elizabeth began construc-

tion of the inn, but he was not around for the opening, having died suddenly. Now the rumors were mentioned more openly. It was said that Elizabeth hung the hats of each husband on a rack in an upstairs hallway. Supposedly, the burial of Absalom Brown on the grounds of the inn took place late at night.

Elizabeth's sixth marriage, to Willis Routt, fared no better than the others. He soon followed his predecessors to the grave. She then began keeping company with D. H. Bingham, a local schoolteacher. But then matters finally came to a head. A neighbor, Abner Tate, pub-

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lished a book which specifically charged Elizabeth with the murders of her husbands. Tate believed Elizabeth and Bingham to be responsible for legal problems he had been experiencing. The couple brought libel charges against Tate, which were later dropped. Elizabeth sold the inn in 1854 and moved to Mississippi, where, it is assumed. She spent the remainder of her life.

Hazel Green's first residents were attracted to the area by the abundance of fertile farmland, and the town would always remain a farming community. The wealthy cotton planters of antebellum days were replaced after the Civil War by small tract farmers. Meanwhile, the center of population of Madison County shifted to Huntsville.

The road to Huntsville eventually became a paved state highway, which was widened to four lanes in the 1950s. Until interstate highways were built, it remained the main road from Huntsville to Nashville. Many

of Hazel Green's natives took jobs in Huntsville. But change always came slowly to Hazel Green. A survey done in the mid-50s listed 88 cars and 70 tractors.

The past yields slowly, but inexorably. The Round Mound Inn burned down in 1968. A traffic light now stops traffic at the crossroads where travelers once watered their horses and marvelled at the hazelnut bushes. But Hazel Green is still a town centered at a single crossroads, just as it was 175 years ago. And away from the main roads, land is still being farmed, just as it was in the days of Andrew Jackson.

**"I think you're supposed to get shot with an arrow or something, but the rest of it isn't supposed to be so painful."**

*Evan, age 7, with his thoughts on Love*

## **J.L. Phillips and a Young Dallas Lady have Vanished - Thought to be in St. Louis**

The disappearance of J. L. Phillips, a well-known employee of the Dallas Mills and Miss Ada Horton of Dallas village, have led their families to believe that they have eloped and are now in St. Louis. Phillips is a married man and has 3 children.

Miss Horton left here last Saturday and went to Stevenson. Phillips departed that night and it is said that he joined Miss Horton at Stevenson. Nothing has been heard from them since then. It is not believed that Mrs. Phillips will have her husband arrested. According to one report she has expressed relief that he is gone and prevented her brothers from taking up pursuit.

*from 1904 newspaper*

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# The Flying Machine

by Gab Wicks

It was the first flight in Alabama, and possibly the world's first monoplane, but, because of two North Carolina bicycle repairmen, it was beaten by a margin of only a few years.

That is not, however, all of the story. That flight would affect the early history of aviation, and influence the formation of one of the largest aviation companies in the world.

William Lafayette Quick was born near Shiloh, Tennessee in 1859 and later moved his family to a small community outside present day New Market which became known as "Quick's Mill." He set up a grist mill, blacksmith's forge, saw mill and machine shop in the late 1800s and began to dream of flying.

Quick first began talking of what he called "aerial navigation" before the turn of the century. Although he had never heard of anyone trying to fly before, he came up with the idea of building a "flying machine."

Quick had no formal education, but he had all the resources he would possibly need. He could build a wooden body in his saw mill, derive a method of propulsion with his machine shop,

and make all the necessary rigging and gear in his forge. His primary resource, though, was the models he found in the woods that surrounded his home.

Quick's granddaughter, Lorraine Wicks, recalls: "My grandfather would go into the woods back of the Quick home and watch the buzzards sail around and around, dip down and up with ease and never flap their wings."

Quick designed his craft after the buzzards, bats, insects, and other flying creatures that surrounded him. He chose his power plant, cut and laminated the lumber for the frame, took three bicycle tires for landing gear, and set about on an eight-year design and construction plan, with assembly well underway in 1908. After assembly, the final step was the selection of a propeller. This consisted of several high speed engine tests to find the right combination. When the choice was made Quick asked his son William Massey to fly the plane because he was the smallest of the ten children.

The flight lasted for only a few seconds. William achieved an altitude of a few feet, and then ran out of pasture. He tried to turn the plane, but succeeded in clipping the ground with a wing. The wing was damaged, the

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propeller broken, and the landing gear torn off. Quick took the plane back to his shop where it stayed for almost 60 years.

This, however, was just the beginning of the Quick family's career with aviation. In the years to follow, eight of the Quick children became pilots. Some were barn stormers, others were pioneers of the crop dusting industry, and others fell victim to the numerous dangers of primitive aviation.

W. L. Quick influenced many friends and relatives to fly, including his brother-in-law, Terah Maroney. Maroney moved West about the time that Will Quick was finishing his monoplane, and enrolled in the flying school of Glen Curtis, later founder of the air craft company that bears his name.

Maroney purchased a flying machine, and became a barn stormer.

Later, he became the first man to fly in the state of Montana. On July 4, 1914, Maroney gave a flying exhibition in Seattle, Washington. Many of his audience were impressed enough to ask for a ride - including a certain lumber company owner named Bill Boeing. When Boeing stepped from the plane he vowed to spend the rest of his life as an aviator. The rest is history.

Meanwhile, Will Quick, innovator that he was, modified his original monoplane design, and patented an "improved flying machine" in 1913 that had such modern features as folding wings, retractable landing gear, and a three-prop propulsion system. However, it never left his blueprints; he died in 1927, leaving his historical flight simply a local legend.

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However, in 1970, the Experimental Aircraft Club discovered the old monoplane as it hung in the rafters of Will Quick's old shop. After obtaining the consent of the family, the plane was restored to its original condition using almost all original parts. It is now on public display at the Huntsville Space and Rocket Museum.

Will Quick has received some recognition for the history he created. The Smithsonian Institute has his original model and patent, and the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame in Birmingham has a plaque commemorating his induction - right beneath the Wright Brothers.

Even with this notoriety, the Will Quick story remains one of the most impressive and well kept secrets of Huntsville's colorful past.

**"My mother never saw the irony in calling me an SOB."**

*Jimmy Stevens, Scottsboro*

## Good Uses for Old Things

- \* Store extra blankets in pillow cases that you can set on sofas and beds.
- \* Use old shower curtains to cover wood stored outside this winter.
- \* Use old dryer sheets to dust.
- \* Use old socks over your hand for dusting.
- \* Use empty luggage to store future gifts - just don't forget them!
- \* Save plastic mesh bags to hold small items you put in the dishwasher.
- \* Your old pantyhose (clean of course) can be used to hang onions and potatoes in your pantry - just put a knot in between each one.
- \* If you shred old Christmas wrapping paper you can use it as filler for gift bags.
- \* You're not supposed to, but you really CAN empty your used vacuum cleaner bags and re-use them.
- \* Use leftover candle stumps as pincushions. Needles will slide into the fabric much more smoothly.
- \* Buy discounted wallpaper for wrapping paper - very sturdy!

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

# Before the Depression

By Newman Ward

I remember one period in Huntsville around 1926 when all the rage with the kids was speaking Pig Latin. They seemed to think that it was their secret way to communicate with each other. It was pretty much a secret to me for a while, as no one bothered to explain how to do it. It is really pretty simple. Take a word like "happy" and move the first letter 'h' to the end of the word, and add 'ay' after it, thus 'happy' becomes 'appyhay' and 'day' would become 'ay-day.', etc. Well, Pig Latin faded in, and faded out, and it seems that no harm was done, so that was O. K. It was 'unfay' while it 'astedlay.'

Before paving, West Clinton Street and Pike Street used to be muddy messes. They looked like the streets in Western movies, deep in mud. In dry weather, cars used to race, maybe even 25 or 30 miles an hour, so a speed bump was built just north of J.C. Brown's corner. I remember seeing cars going fast, hitting the bump, then bouncing straight up in the air about a foot or so.

Our first traffic light in West Huntsville was at Brown's Grocery corner, Pike Street and 8th Avenue. It was said to have cost \$500 and it was a modern day wonder, a village sight to behold. Doc Champion's Drug Store was across Pike Street from Brown's store. One day I bought a pack of cigarettes, charged it to Daddy and thought that I would learn to smoke. I was about 8

and made myself so sick that I've never smoked since. I've been talked into trying chewing tobacco too, but it also made me pretty sick. Now at age 87 my lungs and everything else are very thankful.

When Champion's Drug Store closed, George Savas' cafe moved from downtown Huntsville into the drug store space to become west Huntsville's first

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restaurant. I was offered my first full time job there at \$4.00 a week with meals. However, I was working supper-relief for some movie projectionists at 75 cents an hour and turned down the cafe job.

About this time, Doc Stanley opened a drug store next to Brown's store. He had circulars distributed that invited people to come by for a free ice cream cone. They were usually a nickel. Boy, was that a mistake for Doc. In the depression a nickel seemed like five or ten dollars today. The response was staggering. So many people crowded into the small store wanting ice cream that they began pushing the fountain and had Doc backed up against the wall. So Doc Stanley had to lock the doors and cancel the free ice cream.

A distribution of circulars by Fowler Brothers Clothing Store was also a big fiasco. The circulars stated that the store was closing, and that the circulars would be good for 60 cents in trade. As you might guess, you couldn't move through the crowd. Some people were picking up small items and tearing up the circulars, saying that they were even.

Sometimes small airplanes would fly over and drop Baby Ruth candy bars or other items with little parachutes. You can't imagine the rush to grab one. Because these planes were about the only ones we ever saw, any airplane noise brought everybody out of the house.

You really would have had to experience a long, bad depression to appreciate what people went through. For our family and lots of other mill families, the depression started early. Mr. Tracey Pratt owned the West Huntsville Cotton Mill, and when he died in 1928 no one took his place to keep the mill going. Our family and so many others were out of work. The depression began the next year, and then nearly everyone was out of work.

We owe so much to President Roosevelt for getting the country going again. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC), and other such agencies, along with surplus food distribution, were like gifts from Heaven. Come to think of it, wouldn't be a bad idea to start them up again.

**"Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much for you."**

*Seen in Church bulletin*

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# The Deacon

*Taken from 1893  
Alabama publication*

Deacon Johnson is a great temperance man, and sets a good example of total abstinence to all his church-going neighbors.

Not long ago he employed a carpenter to make some alterations in his parlor. In repairing the corner near the fireplace it was necessary to remove the wainscoting, when, lo! A discovery was made that astonished everyone. A brace of decanters, a tumbler and a pitcher were costly reposing there, as if they had stayed there from the beginning. The deacon was quickly summoned from prayer, and as he beheld the bottles, he exclaimed,

"Well, I declare! That is curious, sure enough. It must be the

same that old Bains left when he left this home for greener pastures, thirty years ago!"

"Perhaps he did," offered one of the carpenters, "but, Deacon, the ice in that pitcher must have been froze mighty hard to last all these years!"

**"Patient has left his  
white blood cells in  
another hospital."**

*Seen on patient chart*

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# The General Who was Not a General

No less than eight Civil War generals could claim Huntsville and Madison County as their birthplace. Oddly enough, they were evenly divided – four on each side. Without a doubt, the most distinguished were Confederates John Hunt Morgan and Edward Dorr Tracy. Tracy was a courageous leader, and his war record deserves to be better known.

A first rate fighting man, Edward Dorr Tracy (1833-1863), was a native of Macon, Georgia. However, he made his home in Huntsville from the mid 1850s. A lawyer by profession, he had graduated from the University of Georgia at the age of seventeen. In 1855 Tracy married Ellen Steele, a daughter of George Steele, Huntsville's noted antebellum architect. In April 1861, Tracy went to war as captain of a company of Huntsville volunteers known as the "North Alabamians."

The unit went by rail to

## Looking for My Wife

from 1872 newspaper

I am searching for my wife, Nancy, a former slave who was sold to a merchant in Huntsville sometime in 1862. We lived on the Massey plantation near Franklin, Tenn. until Mr. Massey sold us off. She is about 35 years old and dark skinned with a large scar on forehead. Contact me in care of this paper. George Massey


Georgia, where it became Company I of Col. Egbert J. Jones' famous 4th Alabama Infantry Regiment. In July 1861, Tracy led his company at the Battle of Manassas, Virginia, but shortly thereafter accepted the position of major in the 12th Alabama Infantry. In October 1861, he became lieutenant colonel of the new 19th Alabama Infantry, serving under then Colonel Joseph Wheeler. Tracy commanded the 19th Alabama at the Battle of Shiloh, having his horse killed under him. He was next sent with his regiment to East Tennessee to reinforce General Edmund Kirby Smith's Army. Recommended for promotion by Smith, Tracy was commissioned a brigadier general on August 16, 1862.

General Tracy commanded a brigade of five Alabama regiments: the 20th, 23rd, 30th, 31st, and 46th.

He led his men into battle for the last time at Port Gibson, Mississippi, on May 1, 1863. Fatally struck by a minnie ball,

Tracy "fell near the front line, pierced through the breast, and died instantly without uttering a word," wrote one of his men.


Since Huntsville was then threatened by Union cavalry raiders, General Tracy's remains was buried in Macon, Georgia. The Huntsville hero was interred with both military and Masonic honors.



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# News from the Year 1923

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Adolph Hitler Arrested

Nov 12. Four nights ago in Munich, Adolf Hitler, the National Socialist leader, tried to whip up a coup against the German national government. He failed and today he is under arrest.

Hitler learned that other leaders would address a rally in the Buergerbraukeller, a vast beer hall, and decided to kidnap them. Hitler entered, posting a machine gun crew to bar the door. Climbing up on a table, Hitler fired a shot from his pistol into the ceiling. He got instant attention, and he used it to pro-

claim, "The National Revolution has begun."

Hitler took Kahr's place as the speaker, and then forced the Bavarian leaders to join him in a private room. With gun in hand, he tried to persuade them to turn the Bavarian dictatorship into a national one.

Next morning, after the fiasco of the Beer Hall Putsch, Hitler and Ludendorff led a column of storm troopers toward army headquarters to join Roehm. They approached through a narrow street blocked at the end by police. Somebody

opened fire. Sixteen police and Nazis lay dead or dying, many more were hurt, and the crowd scattered, including Hitler.

Today, Hitler was found about 40 miles from Munich in a villa belonging to Ernest "Putzi" Hanfstaengl; a Harvard graduate, a former art dealer in New York and a supporter of Hitler's Nazi Party. Hitler was not injured except for a grazed shoulder, apparently hurt as he hit the ground when the shooting started in Munich.

Hitler reportedly tried to shoot himself while police were pounding on the door. This is expected to spell the end for Hitler's small Nazi party. Already reports have been received indicating the party will be banned.

### Chief of Police in Jail

Mobile, AL, Dec. 26: Former Chief of Police P.J. O'Shaughnessy, previously arrested on six charges of conspiracy to violate the prohibition laws, growing out of federal indictments, was rearrested today on a federal warrant, charging him with conspiracy to violate the prohibition law with Robert Johnson. Bond in the latter case against the chief


was fixed at \$5,000, making the total bond that the ex police official is under \$28,000. Johnson has been arrested and is out on a \$5,000 bond.

**"You know you're getting older when it takes longer to rest than it did to get tired."**  
*Sam Keith, Huntsville*


### Writers

Send us your memories to be published in Old Huntsville magazine. Stories must be about Huntsville and have factual basis. Please do not send original manuscripts. Send to:

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# King Tut Treasures Found

More splendors have been uncovered in King Tutankhamen's tomb by Howard Carter and his excavation crew.

It was believed nothing could be more exciting than the discovery last January of the pharaoh's personal effects within the outer shrine; yet a second shrine within the first was detected, and it houses even more precious goods.

The excavators found the door to the inner shrine with its clay seal intact. They carefully pried it open to reveal a room no eyes had seen for 3,370 years. Facing the men as they stepped inside was a huge alabaster urn laced with gold and silver. Mounted upon it were two godlike figures representing upper and lower Egypt. The neck of this vase is cracked, possibly due to an acidic reaction with its former contents.

In two corners of the room

are several staves, a scepter and a mace. These are gilded with gold.

As the excavators cast their lights about, they sighted religious scripture, also etched in gold, lining the walls.

The meaning of the other hieroglyphs will remain a mystery until the philologist Dr. Alan Gardiner arrives to decipher them.

## More People in Prison

Montgomery - An Alabama Prison report shows that more people are being convicted of crimes. The detail of the report follows: "Thirty-nine prisoners were sentenced for grand larceny, and 33 for burglary. There were 21 new prisoners sentenced for murder in the second degree, and 17 of assault to murder. Five of the 230 new prisoners were convicted of having more than one wife."

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# Huntsville's Pioneer Newswomen

by Stephanie Troup

In 1885, John Withers Clay was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage and forced to leave his publishing duties at the Huntsville newspaper he purchased in 1856, the Democrat. In his absence, his two daughters, Virginia and Susie Clay, took over the responsibility of publishing the paper.

At the time it was very unusual for women to work in the journalism field, and the work was hard. The sisters were responsible for gathering materials, writing all the articles and editorials, and setting the type before they could print the pa-

per. Then there were the daily office chores to be done. The sisters had to split and carry the firewood uptown to make the office fire, clean the office, and carry water from the public hydrant on the square.

As single women, they did not have the standing in the community that married women did. The paper allowed them a voice to speak out about a variety of issues that other women in their position would not have had the opportunity to do.

The Clay sisters saw the newspaper as the moral conscience for Huntsville. They felt that they were in a unique position to be able to comment on and write what was on other people's minds in the community. Years earlier John Clay had chosen the motto for the newspaper, "The people must be heard, and their rights vindicated."

His daughters carried on this theme when they took over publishing duties.

The sisters had strong opinions and had the courage to voice them through their editorials. Some common issues that attracted their moral indignation were the practice of cock fighting and the lack of a public library in Huntsville. They wrote, "We have heard nothing in regard to the proper officers of the law arresting cockfighters and bringing them to justice. Do they lack moral courage to enforce the laws of our state, or are they guilty themselves?" and, "Huntsville needs a public

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*Seen on kid's Science exam*

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library. Let someone start the ball rolling."

The women also admonished city fathers who were trying to abolish music education from the city schools. They argued that is where children learned to sing patriotic songs of their country.

If the city leaders were neglectful in their duties, the publishers of the Democrat were quick to point it out. Comments such as "We have heard nothing recently about a bridge being built across the creek on Clinton Street," and, "The condition of the cemetery is a disgrace, not a path decent for a lady to walk on, it's so filled with weeds," were common.

As the years went on, the women expanded the paper to include more worldly news. The front page contained articles related to world, national and state politics. The inside pages were reserved for local news and any subject that caught the interest of Virginia and Susie. The sisters often contributed personal recipes and poems as well. Other competing papers at the time might have sold more copies and been more up to date, but the Democrat contained any and all local news important to the community.

On the inside pages, the births, weddings and deaths in Huntsville were announced under a heading called "In The Garden of Life." These pages also included updates about the Clay family's happenings. The sisters might have included news about visitors they had entertained at their home, trips they had taken, and personal family anecdotes. The ladies decided what other social items in the community were worth reporting and included those as well.

One memorable series of stories published in the Democrat was called "Old Mahogany Table Tales." These were family stories related in a very chatty, homey manner, as if a family was sitting around a table re-counting their passed down family stories. These tales came not only from the Clay family but other prominent Huntsville families of the day as well.

The sisters' opinions evolved with the times, as did the paper's content. For instance Virginia and

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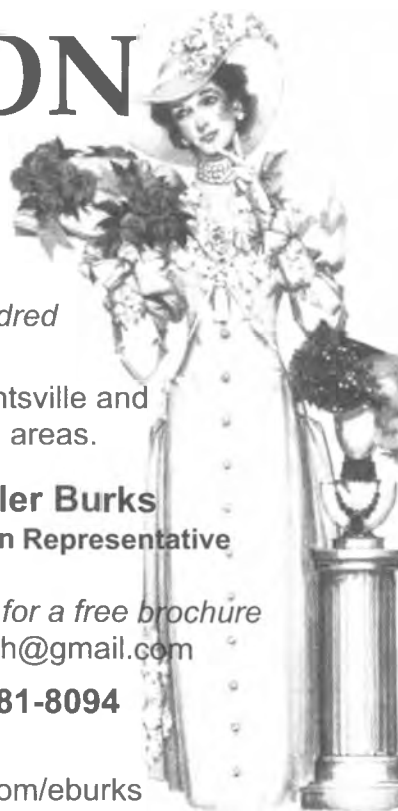
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Susie were at one time strongly opposed to women gaining the right to vote. However, they changed their opinion on that matter, influenced by their aunt, Virginia Clay-Clopton and socialite Elielee Humes. Through the power of the newspaper the Clay sisters were able to add their voices to the growing number of those speaking out to support women's suffrage. They also had the courage to print about their admiration for a progressive local author, Norah Davis, whose books offended many old-time Huntsvillians.

Virginia Clay died in 1911 at the age of 49 after a prolonged illness. In her obituary in the Democrat it was said that she possessed "vitality, energy, indomitable will to do, devotion to family and friends, always faced the sunshine and left the shadows behind" and that her "mental and physical labors were those of a man."

After her sister's death, Susie continued to publish the newspaper alone until 1919 when it was sold.

By the end of their careers, the sisters had gained confidence and prominence and had affiliated themselves with the Alabama Press Association and the National Editorial Association.

Through their hard work and example, they paved the way for other women to follow them into the journalism profession.

**"I remember I was so depressed I was going to jump out a window on the tenth floor. They sent a priest up to talk to me. He said, "On your mark..."**

**Rodney Dangerfield**

# Old Huntsville Trivia

1808 - First whiskey distillery opens in Huntsville, located next to the Big Spring, and its products are sold by the barrel.

1809 - Land containing the Big Spring is sold to Leroy Pope for \$23.50 per acre.

1820 - The first tin can is sold in Huntsville. L.B. Williams reports throngs of people in his store to see the novelty of "Food in a tin can."

1835 - The courthouse is sold at auction for \$419.00. Jesse Scott was the auctioneer and Jones Fant, a surveyor, was paid \$5 to find the exact center of the square.

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# The Church with the Beer Sign

One of the stories of Old Huntsville that has almost been forgotten is the one about Faith Presbyterian and Cambron's nightclub.

As Huntsville began to grow in the late 50's, so did the need for more church space. A recently formed congregation of the Presbyterian Church had been meeting in members' homes and anywhere else they could find space to worship. As the membership grew, so did the need for a permanent meeting place.

The answer to their dilemma came one Sunday evening when Charley Motley, a member of the congregation, was driving down Whitesburg Drive.

Noticing a nightclub by the name of Cambron's, Charley paused and took a long look at it. Due to the Sunday Blue Laws of that time, nightclubs were not permitted to open on Sunday. "What a waste", Charley thought, "All that space not being used on the one day of the week when we could really use it."

It's hard to shock most nightclub operators, but when Mr. and Mrs. Motley walked in the darkened club and asked per-

mission to use it for a church, Mr. Cambron was flabbergasted. "Ruby, come here", he said to his wife, "you gotta hear this."

As Mr. Motley explained their need, Mr. Cambron shook his head and decided, "Why not? If they're willing to help clean the place up on Sunday mornings, it will help me out too."

Over the next several months, a routine was estab-

lished by the Faith Presbyterian Church that had to be unique in the annals of church history.

Church members would arrive early on Sunday morning and begin sweeping the floors. One person was assigned to empty ash trays, while others would clean table-tops and carry out trash. One member was even assigned the task of unplugging the juke box and turning off the neon sign

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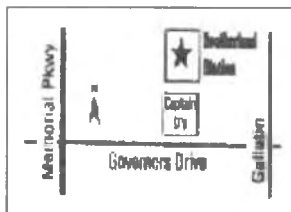
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that proclaimed Budweiser the "King of Beer."

The membership continued to grow, with Cambron's being the only nightclub in Huntsville with Bibles and textbooks stored in the back room.

One oldtimer tells a story about a man who was in the habit of drinking too much on Saturday nights. After much persuasion, his neighbor finally talked him into going to church one Sunday morning, and as they got out of the car in front of Cambron's, the man paused, as if in reflection. "I've heard that guilty people always return to the scene of the crime," he said, "but isn't this just a little ridiculous?"

When Mr. Cambron offered to sell the property for \$1,000,000, with no money down, the Church quickly accepted the offer, becoming the only Presbyterian Church to ever purchase a nightclub.

**"I've learned that making a living is not nearly the same as making a life."**

*Jeremy, age 57*

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## News From Huntsville in 1907

- Hon. Jere Murphy is having a new flight of stone steps laid in front of his handsome residence on East Holmes Street. Mr. Murphy already has the handsomest residence on that street and the stone steps will add yet more to its beauty.

- Butler Kyser Oil Mill has found a site in Huntsville. The plant will be located on the Karthaus Lot on Dallas Ave. near Southern Railway. After looking over all the available sites of the city and adjacent territory, the Butler-Kyser Oil Co. has chosen a location on Patton Street and Dallas Ave. across from the Dallas Avenue Baptist church and the Wade Mattress Factory. The site is one of the best pieces of ground for the purpose in the city. It is flat and near the Southern Railroad, which has already secured a right of way

and permission from the city council to build a sidetrack from the main line along the short street running from Meridian st. to Dallas Avenue.

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ecuted a deed to the Butler Kyser Co. yesterday and the company will proceed at once to award contract in the building construction. The company expects to enter business by the time the next crop of cotton begins to move in.

- Hon. James H. Ballentine has purchased the law office of Hon. Robt. E. Spragins on Eustis Street. Mr. Ballentine was to have purchased the office of Dr. McDonnell a few weeks ago but the deal fell through at the last minute.

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- Wanted - good home to a house salesman. Good pay, permanent position with board for horse and buggy. L. A. Hipp, Manager, 220 Holmes St.

- Mr. R. W St. Clair, of Hurricane was among the visitors to the city Monday.

- Mrs. Robert Lyons died yesterday morning at her home in Huntsville after a lingering illness of two or three years. She had been a patient sufferer and having lived a consistent Christian life, did not fear death at all. Mrs. Lyons was formerly Miss Lizzie Noblin of Hazle Green. Her husband and one son survive her. The funeral will be conducted from the residence this morning. Interment will be made in Maple Hill Cemetery.

- Lost - Red milkcow. Burnt place on back; find and return to M. M. Maynard, Humes Ave., and receive reward.

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# A Bitter Legacy

No one in Huntsville, in 1902, was surprised when they learned the Rodgers and Ricketts families had been involved in a gun fight. The families had been feuding for years; so long that most people had forgotten what the feud was originally about.

The latest incident began when the elder Rodgers was accosted by members of the Rickett family while on his way to town. Harsh words were exchanged and both parties returned home to "gather their kin-folk."

Late that evening Jim Ricketts and Halbert Rodgers met on the banks of the Flint River. Both were armed with shotguns.

Hatred between the two families was so great that both parties immediately began firing.

The first blast caught Ricketts full in the chest and neck. A second later Rodgers fell to the ground grievously wounded in both legs.

Though Rodgers and Ricketts would live many years after the gun fight they would both remain crippled for the rest of their lives.

Jim Ricketts and Halbert Rodgers were both only thirteen years old.

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