



No. 216
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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



If Things Had Been Different

I watched as she stumbled across the parking lot and onto the side of the highway where she stuck her thumb out. A minute later a car stopped and she was gone. The next time I heard from her was about six years later when she filed for divorce.

In a strange way I was relieved it was all over. With nothing else to do I got the bottle of Chivas Regal and two joints and settled down in a chair outside the room to wait. That was the first time I had ever really seen a sunset. It was fiery red, with orange stripes.

The cops pulled up just as I was finishing the last of the Chivas Regal. By that time I didn't care.

Also in this issue: The Story of Malcolm Miller

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*Dornie Lewter
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If Things Had Been Different

by Jimmy X.

In prison most conversations begin the same way ... "If things had just been different...."

Maybe that's the best way to start my story because if things had been different I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you.

I should have finished college. No one in the family had much of an education and Mom and Dad were hoping that I would eventually become an attorney or maybe even a doctor. When I enrolled in Auburn my father was the proudest person you ever saw. He had never been interested in sports before but now everything he owned sported "Auburn Tigers" bumper stickers or decals. "That's my son's school," he would proudly inform everyone.

The best laid plans can go awry however, and in this case it came in the form of Debbie, my long time girl friend. Debbie and I had been going together since we were both in Junior High. Everyone, including us, assumed we would get married someday.

I was home for the summer, working on a landscaping crew cutting grass, and looking forward to my last year of college. Debbie and I had been seeing each other almost every

night and had one of the best summers anyone could imagine, but when I picked Debbie up that night I could tell something was wrong. Before I even had a chance to pull away from her parents' home she burst into tears. It took a few minutes before she could tell me what was wrong - she thought she was pregnant. We were both devastated and spent the whole evening trying to convince one another that it was not the end of the world.

The next morning I picked her up and we drove to Tupelo, Mississippi and got married. Her best friend, Judy, went with us and afterwards we went to see where Elvis was born. Our honeymoon dinner was a pizza in Florence where we stopped to get gas. After buying the pizza and gas we had a total of \$7.34 cents left ... but we didn't care ... we were young and in love.

Our parents took the news surprisingly well. Debbie's father rented us a small house on Stevens Ave. and offered to pay the rent until I graduated and got a job. Dad cashed in some saving bonds he had been holding for years and gave us the money.

A week later, when Debbie had her first doctor's appointment, she learned it was a false pregnancy. Although we pretended sadness, we were all thrilled, including our parents. We were having the best time of our lives. Every night was a party, with loud music and



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friends dropping by with beer and pot. Almost every night someone, who had too much to drink, would spend the night on the living room floor.

Debbie and I, like every other kid in Huntsville, had smoked marijuana occasionally and didn't really see anything wrong with it except for the fact it was expensive. I was still working for a landscaping company and taking home \$129 a week so it didn't leave much for luxuries like pot.

A friend of mine, Dwayne, who worked as a short order cook at the Huddle House, put me on my first real connection. Dwayne had been buying quarter-pounds from a man who worked at a garage on Meridian Street. He was paying something like \$125 for it and would then break it down into ounces and resell it. He would easily double his money and have all the free smokes he wanted.

At the time I don't think we ever really thought about making money. It was all about partying. I would buy a quarter every couple of weeks and sell to my friends. There was always more friends than pot so there was no trouble getting rid of it. Whatever profit there was, we spent on more partying.

Mom and Dad had thought the whole time that I would be going back to college but I kept putting them off, saying I wanted to take a year off before finishing my education. At first they went along with me but as time passed I could see the sadness in their eyes as they realized it wasn't going to happen. When Dad bought a new car the next year, he didn't replace the "Auburn Tiger" stickers that he was once so proud of.

For my 23rd birthday my parents gave us a vacation in St. Petersburg, Florida. They had made us reservations in an exclusive hotel and gave us \$500 for gas money and incidentals. Dad was really hoping we would use the time to think about our future. Right before we left he told me he had been thinking about cashing in some more saving bonds if I decided to go back to school.

Those days in St. Petersburg were the best days of our lives. We spent every free minute on the beach and I marveled as Debbie's skin turned to a gold-

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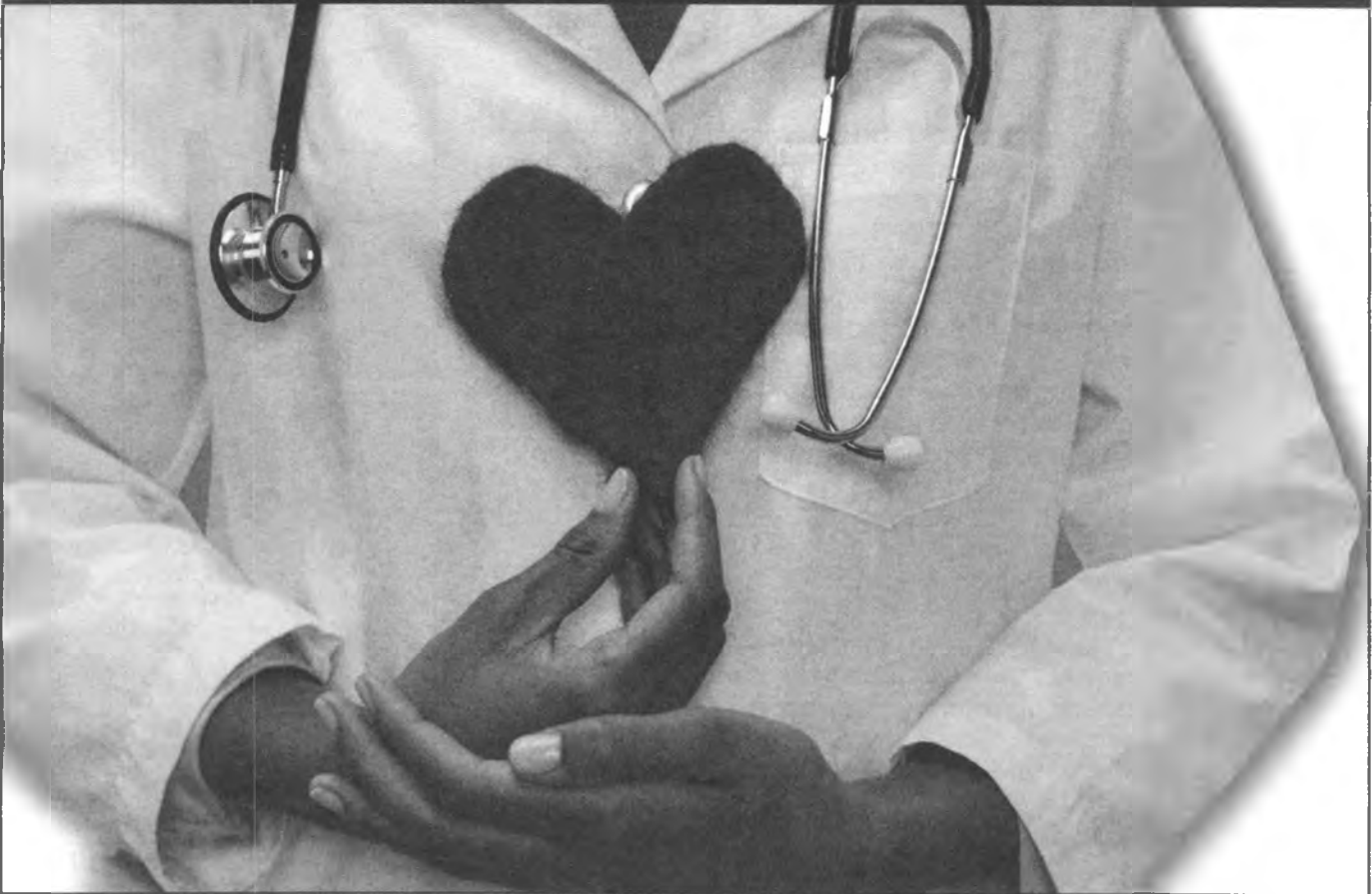


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en brown color that matched her hair. We were young, and almost innocent.

The day before we were to leave, we were in a fast food restaurant when Jerry, an old college classmate, walked in. He quickly joined us at the table and we spent the next several hours catching up. When the subject finally turned to him, he replied in a nonchalant manner, "I'm into weed." As we talked more we realized he was not dealing in nickel bags or ounces ... he was talking about hundreds of pounds.

Debbie brought the subject up first. "Do you think we could get a good deal on some?" We had already spent most of our money and had just enough left to get back to Huntsville, but were hoping we might get a bag to smoke on the way back.

Jerry laughed, and after finding out where we were staying, said that he would see us later on that night. Three hours later we were sitting in

our room staring at 25 kilos of high grade marijuana. That was the smallest amount he dealt in, he explained, and we could pay in a couple of weeks. It was more than we had ever seen.

On the way home Debbie and I agreed that this was to be a onetime deal. We would get rid of the pot, pay back part of what we owed our parents and put a little in the cookie jar for later on. We both promised one another this would be the last time.

It took about three hours to get rid of the load. When we got home we called a couple of friends and they called some more. Debbie was supposed to be handling the money but she was so spaced out on pot and pills she had no idea what was happening. In the end she just took the money, without counting it, and threw it in a cardboard box. After deducting what we owed Jerry and what we sold on credit we made about eleven thousand dollars. Not bad for a college drop out in the 1970s.

Three days later we were back in St. Pete, paying Jerry off and picking up another 25 keys. We got rid of this load almost as fast as the first one.

"Three weeks ago, my wife learned how to drive. This week, she learned how to aim it."

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It seemed as if everyone in Huntsville wanted pot. Business was so easy that we went to the Cotton Club one night just to have a good time and within an hour had made a deal to sell 50 keys. It was getting hard to explain our new found wealth to our parents. At first I told Dad we had won some money at a race track in Florida. Then I started telling him I was betting on football games. It all came to a head one day when Debbie's mother was at our house. Debbie was in the kitchen doing something when her mother decided to straighten up the living room. When she opened the closet door to hang up a sweater she almost tripped over five keys of pot. It was probably the first time in her life she had ever seen any marijuana but it didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out what it was.

That same evening we had what Dad called a family conference with Debbie's parents and mine. Debbie's father blamed the whole thing on me saying I led her into it. Mom wanted to pray about it. Dad didn't say hardly anything un-

til they started to leave, then told me that if he ever again had any reason to believe I was dealing dope then he would call the police himself.

I didn't reply to Dad but I knew he would never turn me in. He loved me too much.

Going back and forth to St. Pete so often was starting to get old. Debbie and I both were staying high most of the time; she was starting to get heavy into coke. Most of the time we didn't even know what day of the week it was. On top of this, we had a new customer in Birmingham who wanted all we could supply.

At about this time we had to move from our house on Stevens. Debbie and I had just crashed one night when there was a loud knocking on the door. When she answered it two guys with guns pushed their way into the house. After tying us up with electrical cord they robbed us of about seventy-five thousand dollars.

After that we stayed in hotels and motels most of the time in what ever city we happened to be in. We had answering services in a half dozen cit-

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ies and all our business was by phone. The way it worked was that everyone, depending on what they did, had the number of an answering service where they could call us and leave a message. If you were buying you had a number, if you were selling you had another number, etc. No one but me had all the numbers so no one knew all the business. You might say we had the first virtual business.

Life was getting crazy by then. One time I received a credit card application in the mail. As a joke I filled it out and mailed it back. Under occupation I wrote, "I sell dope." Weeks later I received a notice that I had been approved.

One of Debbie's cousins, Donald, in Atlanta, started working with us. He had a couple guys driving for him and within a month or so we were doing 500 keys a month. Before long we had customers in Nashville, Birmingham, Atlanta and Chattanooga. We had been used to doing maybe 25 or 50 keys a load but now with the demand we needed larger shipments. One load, of 2,800 keys, we picked up in New Orleans and shipped back to Birmingham in a horse trailer.

Money was rolling in faster than we could even count it. It was a cash business - you paid cash and you received cash. Sometimes Debbie and I would have as much as seven hundred thousand dollars packed in suitcases. Packing for a trip meant throwing bundles of cash into another suitcase along with your toothbrush. Anything else room service could provide. In three years

time we probably did about 9 million dollars worth of pot. That sounds like a lot of money but we knew guys in Florida who never counted money - even hundred dollar bills - they weighed the bundles on scales. Counting took too much time.

By this time we had moved to Tampa. The law knew what I was up to. They couldn't pin anything on me but they made it plain that they would, sooner or later. In addition, some of our customers were getting busted and started trying to make deals. All this stuff you see in the movies about guys not talking is just like Disneyland - it's a fantasy. Everybody and anybody would sell out their grandmother rather than do twenty years.

A lot of dealers stayed out of jail, or got shorter time, just by trading information. No one



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would admit it, but everyone I knew, myself included, had the business card of some detective in his billfold in case he ever had to make a deal.

I knew we had to do something. Debbie was getting in bad shape and I knew she needed to be checked into a rehab clinic but we were almost broke. We had made millions but it was all out on the streets tied up in deals or shipments

My main supplier, Jerry in St. Pete, had gotten busted by this time and almost all the other suppliers were dry. After days of working the phone I agreed to "promise" a load, worth almost two-million dollars, out of Galveston, Texas. To promise a load meant you agreed to pay for it in a certain time, normally two or three days or maybe a week. To be late on the payment could mean serious health problems. The guy selling, Manuelo, was a bad actor. Someone once told me that he had shot his own brother-in-law when he came

up short on a deal. I never had dealt with him before and was leery of the whole thing but Donald assured me he could take care of it.

A couple of days before the deal Donald flew out to Galveston to get everything ready. He rented a small warehouse on the edge of town surrounded by freeways on two sides and a large house trailer sales and service center on the other side. He next visited the trailer company where he purchased a used double-wide. The owner was happy to take cash and eagerly agreed to Donald's request that it be moved closer to the warehouse. Donald also contracted with him to have the trailer picked up in a few days and moved to Jackson, Miss.

The night of the deal, the pot was unloaded at the warehouse. Donald had hired a couple of loaders and late that night they started moving the marijuana to the nearby house trailers where, after carefully undoing the plastic covering its side, they stacked it inside among the furniture. A couple of hours later two drivers, with

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escorts, hooked up the double-wide and began the long drive to Jackson.

Donald had figured that two large trucks, pulling two halves of a double wide house trailer with escorts, flags, and flashing lights would be the last place anyone would look for marijuana. His plan was to get to Jackson first and hire two more drivers to take it on to Atlanta.

In the meantime, I was back in Atlanta trying to collect money to pay for the shipment. In three days Manueto would send guys to collect his money. We were staying in a hotel out near the airport and for the next several days it was almost like old home week as people stopped by to drop off money.

After packing the money in suitcases, I decided to take

Debbie across the street for a good breakfast. She hardly ever ate anymore and was bone thin. As we started going down the hall I noticed a guy dressed like a waiter, pushing a room service cart and talking into a microphone.

I knew right away something was wrong. The night before I had tried to get room service and the front desk told me they did not provide it - they didn't even have a restaurant. Debbie and I ducked into the open door of a janitor's room. Another door led outside to the employees parking lot. Running, half dragging Debbie behind me, we ran down the street until I saw a cab that I flagged down. The cab driver thought he had picked up a couple of crazies until I pulled out a couple hundred dollar bills and told him to drive. A

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couple of hours later we were in a motel north of Marietta.

We had no change of clothes or anything else. The only thing we had was Debbie's make-up case which she used as a pocketbook. It had a couple ounces of pot in it, some pills, an almost full bottle of Chivas Regal and a couple hundred dollars. We were dead broke and stuck in the middle of Hicksville, USA.

I called our answering service in Birmingham and learned that Donald had been trying to reach me. When I called him, he was frantic. The load had been ripped off somewhere. It had never arrived in Jackson. After I told him what had happened in Atlanta we both figured that someone had tipped the law off. Even more serious was Manuelo who would be expecting to be paid in full. Donald was still holding 30 or 40 thousand dollars in expense money and he promised to have a driver bring me part of it. We estimated it would take the driver 5, maybe 6 hours and in the meantime I would sit tight.

I next started calling my answering services. It was all bad news. People were being busted everywhere. The ones not busted were running. Manuelo had somehow gotten every one of the answering service phone numbers and had left threatening messages with each one of them.

I called Dad but that was a mistake too. He told me there had been all kinds of people there looking for me. Some of them were police officers but the others looked Mexican. I wanted to tell Dad I loved him but I didn't. I just hung up without even saying good-bye.

I was antsy and decided to call Donald back to see if he had heard any more news. When he answered the phone, the shock in his voice told me everything - he had not expected me to make any more phone calls. He had given us up. The only question was - who to?

When I hung up I told Debbie what had happened. She was in a drugged stupor and just stared at me for a minute or two until the reality finally set in. Then, pulling on her jacket,

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she said, "I'm outta here."

I watched as she stumbled across the parking lot and onto the side of the highway where she stuck her thumb out. A minute later a car stopped and she was gone. The next time I heard from her was about six years later when she filed for divorce.

In a strange way I was relieved it was all over. With nothing else to do I got the bottle of Chivas Regal and two joints and settled down in a chair outside the room to wait. That was the first time I had ever really seen a sunset. It was fiery red, with orange stripes.

The cops pulled up just as I was finishing the last of the Chivas Regal. By that time I didn't care.

At the trial every one of my friends testified against me. I don't really blame them. I would have turned against them too if I could have made a deal.

That was over twenty years ago. My lawyer keeps telling me not to give up. He says that with good time, and a whole lot of luck, I might be out in another twenty.

Funny thing, I can't remember what Chivas Regal tastes like anymore.

Ed. note: Jimmy was found guilty on 23 separate counts, including armed assault and conspiracy to commit murder. His last name is not used out of respect for his family, who still lives in Huntsville.

Old Huntsville Trivia

1807 - Religion comes to Madison County when Methodist Robert Bell holds the first camp meeting in Alabama at Indian Springs.

1809 - John Carter, newly appointed justice of the peace, has his hands full trying to find people to serve in public office. No one is interested.

1809 - In preparation for land sales, Thomas Freeman is hired to survey land in Madison County. Upon completion of the survey he had become one of the largest landowners.

1811 - Huntsville citizens are in an uproar about the dead animals being discarded into Indian Creek. They manage to get an ordinance passed, making it the first water pollution bill in Alabama.

1812 - Records show 916 families living in Madison County, along with 1,744 slaves.

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Written by Judge Taylor in the year 1890

Until 1804, a few Indian traders had passports from the Indian chiefs through the Creek and Cherokee Nations and some of these men had probably been at the Big Spring. It was a well known point to the Indians who told wonderful tales of the great creek gushing from the limestone cliffs that John Hunt came here for the express purpose of finding this spring and locating near it.

A few white families, without permission or hindrance from either tribe, quietly squatted here and by the year 1807 when the cession was made by the Indians, several families were located around the spring, among whom were Stephen Neal, the first sheriff, and Joseph Acklen, who was John Hunt's son-in-law and the Morgans, who were also related to John Hunt.

It is unfortunate that the citizens of this town have not been able to retain the identity of Hunt's first cabin. We only know that it was built on the bluff near the spring, some maintaining it was on the hill near the old McKay school house and others that it was on the bluff somewhere near Bank Row, which last supposition is improbable from the topography of that point when in a state of nature. Pioneers in building on localities like this never selected a point where they would have to go two or three hundred yards around a bluff to reach the water, but usually built nearer the level of the spring and along Henry Street seems to be the most likely place for a settlement.

By the year 1809 a settlement of several hundred was

located near the big spring running back to Pope's Ridge and down the Whitesburg Pike to the Township line. There were no buildings on what is now the public square which was a rough rocky knoll sloping on every side and with a large pond from the Powers corner to the jail.

Leroy Pope had already purchased these lands from the government and it appears that he laid out the town as shown in the plat sometime in 1810. It contained seventy-two lots, exclusive of the public square, the spring and the bluff west of the square, the whole town containing about sixty acres.

Pope sold the south half to the (town) commissioners but it appears that he donated the other half of the square and the jail lot as there is no record of any deed to them.

In deeding this land Pope stipulated that convenient ways should be kept open to the spring and no one allowed to damage it by obstructing its waters. The commissioners sold these lots rapidly and gave certificates of purchase to the buyers, but for some reason they, nor Pope, never gave a deed to the purchasers of these lots until about the year 1815. In the year 1811 the Land Office was transferred here and added to the importance and prosperity of the city. John Read was Register in the Land

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Office at the time of the transfer and came here about that time and went into the mercantile business in which he remained and prospered for nearly half a century.

On the south side of the square where Rand's and Sullivan's houses now stand John Brown and A. Jemison built brick storehouses which were the first on that side of the square. The old Bell Tavern, first owned by Clayton Talbot, twice burned and rebuilt, occupied the site of the Holding Block, east of the square, and at the time was the most pretentious building in the city.

The Struve Corner was first bought by one James Brock who built a house on it. The first Market house was near the old Bell Tavern and was moved to its present location about the year 1838. The first recorded sale of town lots was lot No. 57, sold under attachment at sheriff's sale and bought by C.C. Clay and Stephen Ewing for thirty-seven dollars. It is the lot which the Chapman building at the corner of Gates and

Henry now occupies.

West Holmes Street was known to the older settlers as the Western Road and on this street was the old school house a short distance below the intersection of Gallatin with Holmes.

On the north side of Holmes was the original Methodist church for which John Price donated a lot. From the junction of the Athens and Pulaski Roads a considerable village sprung up running north and east which was separated from Huntsville by the fields of James Clemens and Thomas and William Bran-

don, the latter reaching up Jefferson Street with their Negro quarter at Johnston's and Easley's corners. This suburb to the city was on land purchased by Henry Bill and was called Mechanicsville. James Barclay erected a mill near where Henderson Brandon's now stands and up the creek near Church Street James Clemens had a still house.

On the hill west of Henry Street south of the spring was the old McKay place where Mrs. McKay educated a large number of the ladies of Huntsville, keeping a school for



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twenty-five years.

The Badlums put up the first mill near the site of the old Adam Hall mill and they also had a baking establishment opposite the corner of Williams and Madison Streets opposite the Hollingsworth corner. Dr. David Moore also had a horse mill at the north side of his gin lot on Meridian Pike south of the Kennedy house nearly opposite the intersection of Walker Street and Meridian Pike.

In the year 1823 the trustees of Huntsville gave a permit to Hunter Peele to erect waterworks for use of the city, this contract stipulated that Hunter Peele in one year from date should put up a hydraulic wheel that would carry the water to a reservoir with sufficient elevation to supply the city with water, the reservoir to have a capacity of one thousand cubic feet, the pipes to be buried to a sufficient depth to keep them from freezing and also prevent obstruction

in building, and specifying that Hunter Peele was to have control of water rates and was entitled to the proceeds of the water tax.

Leroy Pope gave him the privilege of erecting a dam across the spring and building a house not over 20 by 30 feet at the dam to cover his machinery. At the commencement of the work Hunter Peele formed a partnership with James Barclay who was a practiced machinist and together they built the reservoir and constructed the waterworks and with the exception of steam power they are but little changed from their first construction.

If we could go back to 1809 and see the valley as our ancestors saw it the view would be quite a contrast to its present appearance. A mountain ridge thickly covered with cedar wound in sinuous course to Pope's Hill, then there was a depression until near the bluff over the spring there was

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a round rocky knoll. Out south and west was a vast expanse of low marshy swamp around the knoll from the Whitesburg Pike around the Meridianville Road interspersed with large ponds where the water stood and stagnated until late summer and gave a damp unwholesome appearance to the valley. On every side was a vast intermingled forest broken here and there by clumps of dead timber marking the clearings made by the settlers. In the distance could be seen here and there the brown log cabins of the town scattered on the opening made in the forest.

While this view was most unpromising, yet our ancestors with their usual foresight saw the germ of the future city and time, patience and perseverance gave their hopes fruition.

Woman Dies from Chewing Gum

from 1907 newspaper

Miss Elizabeth Goodwin, 21 years old of Birmingham, died today in Huntsville from lockjaw, a victim of her own habit of chewing gum almost incessantly.

For ten years she has been addicted to the chewing gum habit, and her jaws have worked continually, finally becoming cramped and then they clamped shut to open no more.

Her parents remonstrated with her but their scoldings were fruitless. In the corners of the house, under the tables and chairs, behind the bedposts they found bars where the girl had pasted them to use them again when she had no more money to buy fresh gum.

When the young woman became engaged several months ago her fiance asked her to give up the habit. He told her it made him nervous to watch her jaws moving constantly and Miss Goodwin made a determined effort to give up the habit.

She was unable to do so and several days ago was taken to the hospital suffering from lockjaw. Food and medicine were given her by means of a hypodermic syringe but she grew steadily worse.

Her parents could not bear to see their daughter in agony but her fiance remained to the last at her bedside.

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Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney



Congratulations to **Jane Paulson** who was the first correct guess for the Photo of the Month - she even knew to call the correct phone # for "Old Huntsville" as we had an incorrect number listed last month and apologize for that. Jane is a retired homemaker who knew **Charlie Cox** in the old days and says it looks just like him! Charlie is just as handsome as ever! Congratulations to Jane.

We want to send out a special hello to **James and Faye Bobo** of Athens - they can't believe this area has so much wonderful history!

So many of our readers are **pet owners** (or are owned by their pets). What you may not know is that there are several really good animal rescue groups and humane shelters that are in need of items to help make life more comfortable for their furry tenants - simple things like old newspapers to put in the cages, cat litter, cleaning supplies, towels, sheets, blankets, etc. Anything you can give will help them so much.

Happy Birthday to our Mayor **Tommy Battle** who had

an early December birthday - actually the same day that **Rex Reynold's wife Mary** had her birthday! Another birthday - **LeeAnn Rhoden's** handsome son **Nathan** turned 31 on December 4 - we are so proud of him, for lots of reasons.

We were very sorry to hear that **Carolyn Jennings** had passed away at the age of 80. She loved history and had taught in the Huntsville school system for nearly 30 years. She was a beloved Mom and grandmother - one of her granddaughters is **Becky Odom Parcus**, whose husband is **Curtis Parcus** of Dallas Mill Deli. We send our deepest condolences to Becky and the many family members & friends that Carolyn left behind.

D&L Bistro was rocking with an annual Christmas party hosted by **Rick & Linda To-**

liver, **John Bzdell & Margaret Watson, Dean Bowden and Lori Kaufman**. It was amazing that in spite of the snowy conditions, over 40 people attended the party and all had a wonderful time.

A little trivia for you - in 1914, bowling alleys were installed in the **Central YMCA** basement downtown. Many Huntsville High students worked as "pin-setters" to pay for their "Y" membership.

Fran Radzinski was 93 years old when she died right before Christmas. **Philip Radzinski** is her son and his wife is **Martha**. She was a beautiful Mom, grandmother and had 10 great-grandchildren. We send our deepest sympathy to Phil & Martha, and Fran's other family & many friends.

Lots of February birthdays. Our friend **John Henegar** turns 71 on Feb. 23. **Steven Clingan**, who is that fabulous cook at Lee Ann's Bar & Restaurant and owner **Lee Ann Rhoden's** brother, turns 48 on Feb 26.

Charlotte Clingan, Lee

Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This little girl has one of the prettiest smiles in the courthouse.



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Ann's sister, celebrated her 50th birthday on Dec. 20. Charlotte is recovering from a hip operation after breaking her hip on a cruise. She is doing GREAT and we think the world of her. She's got the best attitude.

When Huntsville got its 8-9 inches of snow this January it could have been a really bad situation, travel-wise. We in the south are not used to nor prepared for this type of weather. However, the main streets were pretty much clear after a day or so, even with freezing weather. Many folks who have recently moved here from up north commented that they were surprised to see that our roads were cleared faster than they are up north, with less snow! We are so very proud of all the long hours and hard work that our city workers put into trying to make our streets safe as soon as they possibly could. We say it month after month - **our city employees are the hardest workers and make us very proud!**

Speaking of hard workers, our mail carriers had alot of challenges to contend with this January also. In some higher areas I know it was impossible to deliver the mail for several days, but in most areas the mail arrived right after the snow.

Agnes Adcock of Huntsville was a gentle, talented lady who was a loving Mom, grandmother and great-grandmoth-

er. Many in Huntsville remember her skills with creating beautiful window treatments and custom drapery. She will be deeply missed by her sons **Butch Adcock, Greg Adcock** and **Mark Adcock** as well as their friends & family.

That extremely handsome **Leroy Cunningham** (of Cunninghams Furniture) had a Jan. 28 birthday and big party at Lee Ann's - there was such a crowd there including **Tony Mason**, who was one of the really good entertainers that people still love. When I asked Leroy how old he was turning, he said "I'm 6'1" and I have a 38 inch waste."

Sted Bradshaw passed away in January after a 3-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. Sted and her husband **Brad** lived in Huntsville for many years and loved raising their family and playing golf. Sted was an original communicant of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish of Huntsville. She is survived by her only son, **Edward Bradshaw III**, his wife **Brenda Pate-Bradshaw**, two grandsons **Jonathan Bradshaw** of North Dakota and **Tristan Bradshaw** and his wife **Jessica** of Pembroke Pines, Fl. The family loved her very much and she will be missed.

Brenda Pate-Bradshaw currently is living in Las Vegas and is so proud of her dad, **Robert Pate**, who lives in Lake Havasu

City, NV. At 86 years of age, Mr. Page is an avid golfer and has a standing golf date every Thursday. He loves to read and especially loves good history stories. Hello to Mr. Pate!

Don Fain stopped by for a visit recently - he owns A-1 Fain Plumbing and says that business has been on the increase after all of this unstable weather. His wife **Debbie** is the gardener in the family and can't wait to start planning her garden for this year.

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you and try to stay warm!

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RECIPES

Crock Pot Comfort Food

Italian Bean Soup

- 1 c. small dried white beans, rinsed
- 6 c. chicken broth
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 c. chopped fennel
- 1 t. chopped fresh thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- 6 mushrooms, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 t. black pepper
- 2 oz (1/3 c.) prosciutto, chopped
- 1/4 c. dry white wine

In your crock pot combine all ingredients except the wine. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours and beans are tender. Remove and discard the bay leaf. Stir in the wine and serve.

Smoked Sausage with Red Cabbage & Sweet Potatoes

- 1 small head red cabbage, thinly sliced
- 2 medium sweet potatoes,

- peeled, cut into 1/2" slices
- 1 cooking apple, peeled, cored, thinly sliced
- 1 lb. smoked sausage ring, cut into 1-inch slices
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 1/4 t. ground cinnamon
- 1/4 c. red wine vinegar
- Dijon mustard

In your crock pot, alternate layers of the cabbage, sweet potatoes, apple and sausage. In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, cinnamon and vinegar. Pour over the layered ingredients in the pot and cover. Cook on low for 7-8 hours and serve with hot fresh bread and mustard.

Sweet Potato Pudding

- 3 large sweet potatoes, cooked, peeled & cubed
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 3/4 c. whole milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 t. ground allspice
- 1/2 t. ground cinnamon

- 1/2 t. grated orange peel
- 1 T. softened butter
- Whipped cream
- Chopped macadamia nuts or pecans

In a food processor fitted with metal blade, combine the sweet potatoes, brown sugar, milk, eggs, allspice, cinnamon and orange peel. Process til smooth. Grease the bottom and sides of your crock pot with butter. Spoon in the potato mixture. Cover and cook on high for 2-3 hours and mixture is puffed, firm and edges begin to brown. Serve warm or cold. Top each serving with a dab of whipped cream and chopped nuts.

Fiesta Black Bean Dip

- 1 c. dried black beans, rinsed
- 1 quart water
- 1 onion chopped
- 1 garlic clove, chopped
- 1/4 c. fresh cilantro, chopped

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- 1/4 t. salt
- 1 fresh jalapeno pepper, seeded & chopped
- 1/4 lb. salt pork, coarsely chopped
- 3 oz. goat cheese, crumbled

In your crock pot, combine the beans, water, onion, garlic, cilantro, salt, jalapeno pepper and salt pork. Cover and cook on low for 8-9 hours and beans are soft. Drain and discard the water. In a blender or food processor process the drained bean mixture til almost smooth and spoon into a serving bowl. Sprinkle goat cheese over the top, dip chips into the mixture and top with salsa if desired.

Hot Cheesy Crab Dip

- 1 10-oz. block sharp natural cheddar cheese
- 1 8-oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 1/3 c. milk
- 1/2 c. dry white wine
- 1 7.5 oz. can crab meat, flaked and cartilage removed

Cut the cheeses into small blocks, combine with the milk in your crock pot. Cover & cook til cheese is melted, about 2 hours. Add the wine and crab meat. Cover and cook for an additional hour. Serve with wheat crackers, serve leftovers over rice or toast.

Corned Beef Dinner

- 6 carrots, peeled and cut into 1" pieces
- 6 med. potatoes, peeled & quartered

- 2 turnips or parsnips, peeled and cut into 8s
- 2 large onions, peeled and quartered
- 1 3-lb. corned beef brisket
- 5 c. water
- 1 small head cabbage, cut into 6 wedges

In your crock pot combine the first 4 ingredients and top with the brisket, fat side up. Pour the water over all. Cover and cook on low for 10-11 hours and meat is tender. Remove the meat and veges, keep warm. Turn pot on high and add the cabbage.

Cover and cook on high 30 minutes. Lift out the cabbage with slotted spoon, arrange on large platter with the corned beef and veges.

Dessert Fondue

- 3 t. butter
- 16 oz. Hershey's chocolate bars with almonds, broken
- 3 c. miniature marshmallows
- 6 T. milk
- 1 c. whipping cream

Rub crock wall with butter. Place candy bars, marshmallows and milk in the crock pot. Cover and cook, stirring every 30 minutes til melted and smooth. Gradually add whipping cream. Cover and keep warm for serving from 2 to 6 hours later. Serve with bite-sized pieces of pound cake, bananas, fresh strawberries, grapes, bread or mandarin oranges.



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Three Months To Live

She had always dreamed of her wedding day, thinking about how her handsome husband would take her hand in his, gaze into her eyes and pledge eternal love to her.

But, when that day came, and Mary Chambers took her wedding vows with William D. Bibb, they both knew she would be dead in three months.

Mary Smith Chambers was born in 1816, daughter of Dr. Henry Chambers, an early Alabama legislator who had been born in Virginia. Upon graduation from William and Mary College in 1808, he had studied medicine before coming to Alabama, a new territory at the time.

After serving as a surgeon on the staff of Gen. Andrew Jackson during the War of 1812, he made his home in Huntsville and was elected a member of the state constitutional convention in 1819.

The whole town took an interest in the fatherless young lady, Mary, constantly speculating as to who would make a perfect match for her. The local gossips, after exhausting their limited list of possible candidates, surmised that none were good enough for her. But that was before the dashing and handsome William Bibb appeared on the scene.

Bibb and his brother, David Porter Bibb, of Belle Mina, were both handsome, reckless, polished, and everything a young woman could want in a husband. Their father was Thomas Bibb, second governor of Alabama.

Whether by accident or intentional, both of the young people were invited to a party arranged by mutual friends. It was here the brothers met the beautiful Mary and her cousin, Mary Parrott Betts.

As the Bibb brothers courted the two cousins, the older people watched with approval. Relatives on both sides agreed that they were perfect matches. These courtships seemed the logical preliminaries to unions that would connect these three prominent North Alabama names.

It was to no one's surprise that the brothers proposed marriage to the damsels in the fall of

1834. The proposals were accepted breathlessly. It was to be the most elaborate double wedding in the history of Alabama.

Orders were sent to Paris for elegant hand-made wedding gowns. Both trousseaus were to be prepared of the finest materials and by the best designers possible.

Many parties feted the couples. Prominent citizens from here and adjoining counties celebrated the upcoming event extensively. The date, however, was yet to be set.

Christmas came and went with no word of the wedding day. January wore by. No one knew what was causing the delay, but the couples seemed as much in love as ever. The real reason for the delay was the fact that the wedding dresses had not arrived. Conversations circulated about the length of time required for goods to arrive from France by boat. The brides-to-be met each stagecoach as it rolled to a stop on the downtown square. They were disappointed time and again.

Finally, in early February, a large package arrived that definitely looked like a wedding dress container. However, when it was opened the girls were heartbroken to discover that only one dress had been made. The seamstress had run out of material.

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Days went by, then William Bibb and Mary Chambers declared their intention to marry at once, even though it meant there would be no double wedding. The other couple understood and arrangements were made for the ceremony to take place at the Chambers home. Excitement increased every day. There was a whirlwind of activity, with sewing, flower arranging, cleaning, cooking & and sending out invitations. Friends notified them that they were coming from many other states.

The couple was blissfully happy and the older folks envied them.

Then the unthinkable happened. A few nights before the wedding, Mary's old Negro mammy said to her and her cousin: "Let me make you some 'settling down' medicine so you won't be a bundle of nerves during all this wedding excitement. Gonna be a lot of handsome young men around here and you don't want your hearts a fluttering."

The girls just laughed. They loved their old mammy, who had taken care of them since they were born.

The old woman came back in a few minutes with a small glass of clear liquid.

"What is it, Mammy? Will it make us even more beautiful?" they laughed.

"Ain't nothin' but salts," she said. "Ain't gonna hurt you."

The girls couldn't decide who would take it first.

"You're the one getting married, you take it first," Mary Betts urged.

So Mary Chambers swallowed the liquid in one gulp, making a face for the mammy's benefit. But, as soon as she put the glass down, she knew something was terribly wrong.

"My throat hurts! What's wrong with me? Help me, Mary!" she pleaded.

While her cousin soothed her, the mammy dashed into the other room, to return a moment later with her face covered in tears.

"Oh, what have I done to you?" she sobbed.

The "salts" had come from a bottle containing oxalic acid. A doctor was summoned and, after examining Mary, rendered his opinion: she could only hope to live for a short time, about three months at the longest.

Instantly, the Chambers home was buried in a deep depression. William Bibb was overcome with grief upon learning of the tragedy. For days he never left her bedside. During this time, he abruptly announced that he and Mary

would be married immediately.

On Feb. 26 an entirely different wedding than that which had been planned took place. Friends and relatives, trying to act cheerful, watched as the Rev. John Allen, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, united Mary Chambers and William Bibb in holy matrimony. The poignancy of the moment was such that words could not describe.

Mary Bibb lived three more months to the day. After her death, Bibb erected the finest monument money could buy. It was placed above her grave in Maple Hill Cemetery and was the first mausoleum ever built in the cemetery.

It was built by a grieving husband as a tribute to his wife, a testimony to two young people who were very much in love.

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Holy Wood Found on Monte Sano

from 1912 newspaper

Local lumbermen have samples of the famous Chittim timber which has been discovered by government experts in Madison County, in the vicinity of Huntsville, and much discussion about the same is being indulged by the lumber people. The timber found is not very extensive, the forest of the same being but sparsely built up. The timber is supposed to be growing only at Jerusalem.

It was not believed that there was any of this timber anywhere. Government experts in looking over the Alabama forests investigated trees which natives were calling Chittim wood and they have pronounced it the real article. The timber, of course, will be preserved, and an effort made to bring about a growth. Here Chittim wood has been known to exist on Monte Sano since Huntsville was laid out in town lots nearly a century ago. Chittim wood was first hauled to town and sold as fire wood.



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Watercress cultivation began in New Market in 1907 when Foster DeWitt visited the area and became intrigued by the "wild" watercress growing along the banks of streams. This was one of the few places in the country where an abundance of fresh spring-water and limestone, combined with moderate winter temperatures, caused watercress to grow wild. DeWitt had spent much of his early life in Great Britain and while there was exposed to the plant as a culinary delight.

Greenstuffs in Great Britain were hard to come by in the winter months and watercress was one of the few plants available year-round. According to legend, an English officer started the custom of having watercress served in salads and within a few years it became a staple in every household. New York and Baltimore restaurants began serving watercress in salads in the early 1800s, but the cost of importing it from Great Britain was too prohibitive for it to become a widely used commodity in this country.

Foster hired local labor to dam a small stream on the land he had rented, creating a series of shallow ponds, much like rice paddies. By experimenting with water levels he found that a level of six inches was the most favorable for cultivation. In cold weather the water would be raised, with the constant temperature of the water protecting the plants from damage.

Where at first the local populace had been skeptical about the whole idea, they soon became enthusiastic supporters as orders for the watercress began pouring in from Northern restaurants. Within a few short years, as other people began cultivating the plant, Madison County became the major supplier to the world's markets. Train-car loads of cress were shipped from Huntsville, sometimes as often as four times a week, to points all across the country. Many

of these loads contained as many as one million bunches of watercress.

An interesting sidelight to watercress cultivation is that as the plants flourished, so did the snakes. Some of the ponds became so infested with water moccasins that laborers refused to work around them. John Derrick earned the dubious distinction of being the only "bounty hunter" of snakes in Alabama's history when he was hired by the landowners.

Colder winters and the expense of shipping were cited as the two primary reasons the business declined here in Huntsville. With the advent of air freight the railroads discontinued most of their express freight trains. Watercress became too expensive to ship by air and too perishable to ship by regular freight train.

As late as 1960, one could still see a sign at the edge of the city limits proclaiming: "Welcome to Huntsville, Watercress Capital of the World."

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An Interview with Frank James

From 1884 Huntsville newspaper

The latest accession to the list of our local sojourners is the last of what is known to the history as the James Band - no less a personage than Frank James himself. He was brought here last Thursday from Missouri by two United States Deputy Marshals and turned over to Marshal Hinds.

Having had all his state cases in Missouri disposed of finally, Frank James was immediately taken in hand by government officials and brought here to answer a charge of conspiracy to rob Postmaster Smith at Muscle Shoals.

As soon as it was noised about that the distinguished outlaw was in the city, quite a throng of curious bodies went to the Calhoun building where they got a glance of him.

"There he sits with a thin, cornsilk moustache, and smoking a cigar," said a bystander to the scribe. The scribe at once

proceeded to make mental notes of the supposed bandit, and had succeeded in making a good mental photograph, when the said subject arose and quietly walked out of the house and across the street to one of the neighboring saloons. It was one of the Missouri deputy marshals!

Next we turned to the true, and veritable Frank James, a man five feet ten and one quarter inches high, seeming taller than what he is (for he only weighs about 130 pounds) with dark hair, a clear, firm, earnest eye and quite quick and almost nervous in his movements.

He looked travel worn and when seen several days later, in his cell at the jail, there was a marked difference for the better in his appearance. He is rather pale, but by no means a cadaver standing in stockings ready to jump off into the great elsewhere in a jiffy. His extreme pallor is suggestive of a want of sunshine. Since October of 1882,

he has not enjoyed the bounding, buoyant life of a dashing freebooter, but has sickened over with the damp of prison walls. His life has undergone a change!

A glance reveals the fact that his chest is his weak physical point, but he is not yet on the perilous edge of the grave. He informed our scribe that his natural weight was not over 140 pounds. He has a dry, comfortable cell at the jail and thinks he is stronger than he has been for some months past.

He thinks he would like Huntsville, whose beauties of scenery and charming air were already familiar to him. He had been to Huntsville several times before, but had not tarried here for more than a day or two at a time.


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Seen in church bulletin

"Congress authorizes direct deposit of formerly illegal political contributions to campaign accounts."

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He had likewise traveled through on the Memphis and Charleston road several times and had admired the mountain fastnesses of Jackson county. Concerning his case, of course, we did not expect him to say much.

He said that he had employed Gen. L.E Walker as his local attorney and expected that Governor Charles P. Johnson, of Missouri, would be on hand to attend his trial. His habit was to get the very best counsel to be had, and then leave everything to them.

Yes, he always slept well; slept as easy as an infant, went to bed about nine o'clock every night and did not get up until half past ten next morning. He found that sleep had all the health giving powers so often ascribed to a thousand and one nostrums.

His circumstances had been indeed a hard school.

He would not try to make bond, he reckoned, as it was but a short time till the April term of the Federal court and his friends had already been exceedingly kind to him. He could make it easily if he chose to. He did not wish to tax his friends any more than he found actually necessary. He hoped the local press would at least, not go out of its way to pound him, and prejudice his approaching trial. Every man is entitled to an unprejudiced trial.

With quite a merry twinkle he said that he thought the entire press owed him a large bounty, for he had furnished them food for gossip and reflection for twenty years, and they had often taken the privilege of placing him a thousand miles distant from where he really was.

When the scribe bade him "good morning," he extended a cordial invitation to the scribe to call again as he had always been a good friend to the "quill-drivers" and had never interfered with one of them. The scribe has a vague suspicion that there was another twinkle in his eyes this time, as he said he had never "troubled" any newspaper man.

Alas! What great mistakes even the greatest among us sometimes fall into!

Old Tips for Heart Health

- * A glass of champagne or white wine daily helps to strengthen your heart.
- * Peppermint tea will help soothe occasional heart palpitations.
- * Eat Wheat Germ daily or take a 400 I.U. Vitamin E capsule.
- * Eat onions often - they are said to help with all kinds of heart problems.
- * Of course, Omega 3 Fish oil is very beneficial if you don't eat sardines or salmon.
- * Drink the juice of one-half lemon in a glass of water each morning - very good for ALL body functions.

These tips do NOT replace professional medical attention.

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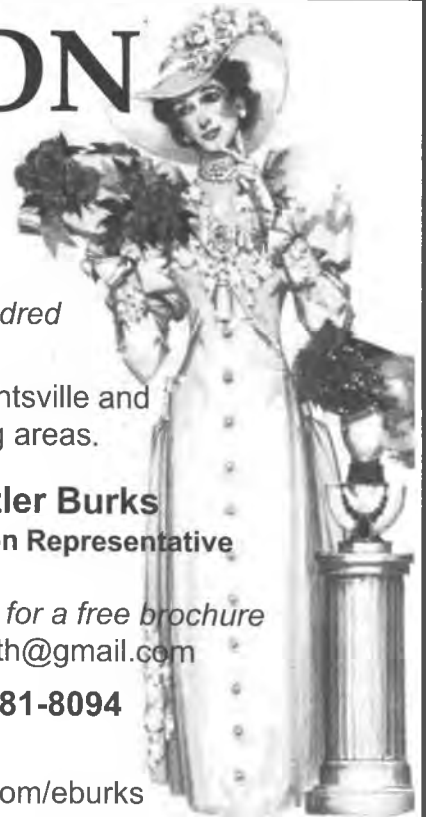
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Their Lives Paid The Awful Penalty

Women Meet Grim Reaper at End of Ropes

from 1897 newspaper

Swinging from ropes tied to a rail, supported by two trees, on the roadside a short distance from Jeff last Wednesday morning, were the two cold and wet bodies of Mollie Smith and Mendy Franks. The awful sight was seen by a passing mail carrier who gave the alarm and had the neighbors cut the ropes.

The hanging bodies gave indication that a dastardly crime had at last been solved.

In April of this year, Joshua O. Kelly, an esteemed citizen of Jeff, was taken ill and died in a horrible manner as a result of poisoning. The following day, as a party of eleven mourners were maintaining a vigil around the coffin, they too were seized by violent convulsions after drinking coffee served by a servant.

Several days later, it began to appear that there was a plot to murder the whole family. After breakfast that morning, the family and household servants became violently ill and showed every symptom of being poisoned.

The persons affected were fourteen in number.

From the first, suspicion was attached to the two women, Mollie Smith and Mendy Frank who were employed in the Kelly household. A close watch was placed over them. Mollie Smith, the older of the two women, had been a servant in the household for some time and it was immediately noticed that she alone escaped being poisoned when all others were affected.

At the time J.O. Kelly died, Mollie claimed to be sick also, but the physician decided she was shamming. Yet she found an opportunity the next day to poison the coffee of the sad mourners gathered around the departed's coffin.

The Smith woman was placed under a close surveillance and further efforts on her part to poison the rest of the family were unsuccessful. How-



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Henny Youngman



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"I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix."

Dan Quayle

ever, she persuaded the younger woman, Mendy Frank, who was employed as a household girl, to do the evil work for her.

Tuesday night, Mollie Smith was captured while making her way to Tennessee. She wore a pair of men's boots and was taking herself away from the neighborhood for good and all. The men who captured her took her back to the home of her partner in crime, Mendy Frank, and confronted them with their crimes.

It seemed as if a crowd of men had been waiting for the first move to be made. It is said that men of all ages to the number over twenty crept out of every fence corner. Mollie Smith was morose and refused to talk. Mendy made a full confession telling all the details of the crime and implicating another person. She said she had been persuaded to do the deed.

Mollie Smith, she said, poisoned the family the first two times, and after being placed under close watch, was unable to do anything more.

Mollie then persuaded Mendy to place rat poison in flour from which biscuits were made for breakfast. Mendy said the poisoning had been carefully planned. She threw the poison in the flour while carrying it from the back room to the kitchen.

Having heard the confession, the lynchers proceeded in their gruesome work. A large rail was placed in the forks of two trees, giving the rail a vertical position. Ropes were then tied around the women's necks, the end thrown over the rail and willing hands jerked the bodies into the air. In this position the bodies were left in the cold wind and rain.

The members of the mob who did the lynching are unknown. The stories of the scenes at the hanging have been leaked out and are public property.

Jennie Burwell, a woman living on the Kelly place, has declared that she knew that Mollie Smith and Mendy Frank had tried to poison the family and did not care to tell on them. She was given three days to get out of the country and left shortly afterwards on a west-bound train.

The residents of the community, both white and colored, are satisfied that the right parties were executed and that justice has been done.

Old-Fashioned Beliefs

- You should always carry an acorn in your pocket, to bring you luck and ensure a long life.
- Ivy growing on your home will protect you from witchcraft and evil.
- If your nose itches you will soon be kissed by a fool.
- It is bad luck to close a pocket knife unless you are the one who opened it.
- If you dream of a fish, someone you know has just gotten pregnant.
- If your lover gives you the gift of a knife, it means the relationship will soon end.
- To dream of a lizard means you have a secret enemy.

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The Man Who Lived in a Log

from 1927 newspaper

Mr. Frank Coe, inventor of the Coe's tractor wheel, is at present using a hollow log on the side of Monte Sano mountain as living quarters pending completion of the first of a series of cabins for which he has plans.

The log is located several hundred feet from the new Monte Sano road which will be formally opened tomorrow on the old stage coach road which runs off the east side of the mountain.

Although the log was originally hollow, Mr. Coe has improved upon it until it is more comfortable than a Pullman berth. With the use of fire he has enlarged his quarters, impro-

vised a small screen door and a wooden door over the two and a half foot entrance. Near the entrance he has two small holes on each side which enables him to look out in both directions.

By closing the screen door he is protected from insects while at the same time a lantern hung at the entrance furnishes sufficient light for reading or writing which he has a great deal of.

A.E. Sampson, an architect, is Mr. Coe's only companion. He is cooperating with Mr. Coe in an architectural way and expects to open an office in Huntsville soon.

The first of a series of cabins which will be known as "Coe's Roost," is under construction a short distance from the log. When completed Mr. Coe says "the latch string will always be open to right thinking people."

As Mr. Coe traveled east 36 years ago, he has decided to face all the cabins in that direction.

Plans are also underway for two other cabins on oppo-

site sides of the ravine, and a short distance from Coe's Roost to which Earnest Thompson Seaton and Albert Payson Ter-bune, the noted writers, and who are friends of Mr. Coe, will be invited to occupy.

Mr. Coe is noted as the inventor of the tractor wheel bearing his name. More than a year ago he left his home in New York for Miami, Florida. His wife and two children were called from this earth a short time before. After engaging in the building game in Miami for one year he arrived in Huntsville, on April 10.

Mr. Coe states he will spend the remainder of his days on this spot on Monte Sano.

Ed. note: Shortly after this story appeared in the newspaper, the weather turned cold and Mr. Coe, with no explanation, disappeared from Huntsville forever.



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Huntsville Sidewalk News from 1885

- New Colored Church -The colored Cumberland Church laid the corner stone of their new church building on church Street Saturday evening, with interesting and appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Evening Star Lodge No. 6 A. F. & A. M.

- Judge Thomas C. Barclay is rapidly improving on the airy and healthful altitudes of Monte Sano.

- We are glad to see Mr. C. H. Halsey, the popular proprietor of the Huntsville Hotel, out again, after several days of illness during the past week.

- Catch the thief - Stolen last Thursday night from Thomas Gore near Huntland, Franklin County, Tenn. a black horse mule. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for the return of said mule and ten dollars for the apprehension of the thief. The lucky man can address the Mercury or Thomas Gore, Huntland, Tenn.

- Dr. J. J. Dement has added another to the list of his building enterprises which have contributed so much to local property, by contracting for the erection at an early date of a handsome

brick store, 86 x 100 feet, on the present site of Wright's Boarding House, between the Dement Block and the store of J. R. Kress. The store has already been engaged and will be filled by parties from abroad, with a stock of machinery and agricultural implements.

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

- A party of young ladies and gentlemen left the city yesterday morning in vehicles for the Mountain. Among them were Misses Shelby White, Corinne Goodman, Mary Newman, Nona Winter and Lula Goodman; Messrs. R. J. Lowe, J. I. Darwin, A. F. Murray, Dr. Allen Green and Prof. C. C. Thatch. They spent a most enjoyable time up on the Mountain.

- The new residence of Mrs. Van Valkenburg, which is in rapid process of erection on Franklin Street, is unique in the beauty of its architectural design, and promises, when completed, to be one of the handsomest in the city.

- If any one thinks that Huntsville is not assuming the airs of a metropolitan city, let them look into our market any morning between 4 and 5 o'clock.



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Letters from a Soldier

June 4th, 1862
Huntsville, Alabama

Miss M. J. Kirkpatrick:

I was glad to get your letter and to hear from home, the first time for a long, long time. I have had good health, generally speaking.

I like soldiering very well yet. We had a very good march from Fayetteville to here (Huntsville). We are encamped about a half mile from town. This is the prettiest town I ever saw. It is as big as Evansville.

Our company and two more went down the Tennessee River, and we had some fun. We crossed the river and went five miles on the Cedar Mountain to hunt the Secesh. We could not find any though so we got some hams and shoulders of meat and chickens and came back.

We stayed there three days. There has been a fight, where we crossed the river. We are back at camp, now. I think we get paid off tomorrow, and I expect to send a little money home. I will send home all that I can spare.

We can't get provisions very easy now. We have to haul it sixty miles.

We have not been in a fight lately. I was surely sorry to hear that Bob was wounded and had to come home. Tell Bob that I wish he had a new eye and that gun of his and that he was in his old regiment!

Then that would help to put the war right through. My respects to one and all. So no more now. I remain your brother until death.

August 11, 1862

Dear Sister,

I am well. I was glad to get your letter and to hear from home. I was on provost guard yesterday. I tell you we have had a hard time.

We have been living on half rations for about a month, but that do not make me tired of soldiering.

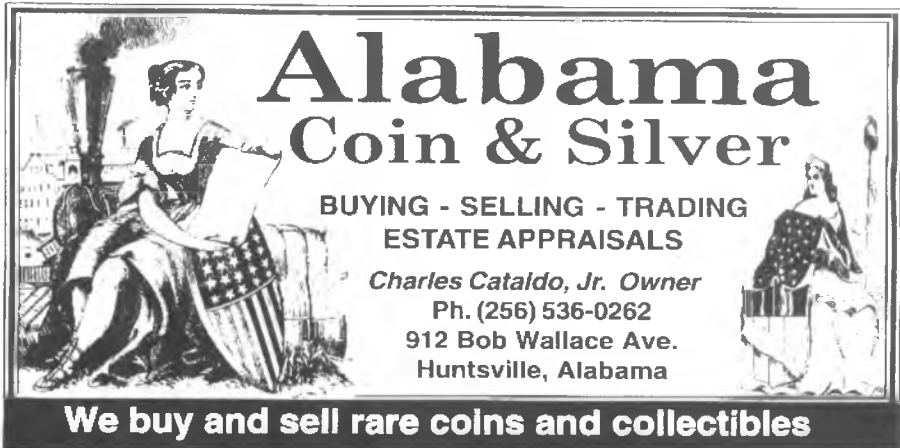
We have been living on corn and chickens and peaches all the time and apples are plentiful. We don't have to work, for things are different and negroes do the work and we are getting

to eat.

The boys would like to have a discharge to get home to see their mammies. I would to, if I knew it would crush the rebellion. I am a better soldier than you perhaps think. You may think I am in the guard house every day, but that is not so.

It is so awful hot here that you can mix up flour and lay it in the sun and it will bake quicker than if you put it into the oven. We don't need fire any more, we cook all by the sun.

Tell all the folks in the country I want to see them and talk to them about this war, and get



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them to enlist, for this is worst time in the world.

Well now, Martha give my best respects to all the girls and boys and tell them I am the same old George and always intend to be.

I remain your affectionate brother, until death.

June 8, 1863

Dear Sister,

I like this place very much. Since I wrote you, our company has been out on picket ten day, just got in, and are going in the morning.

We received our pay yesterday. Stone and I have been partners since we joined at Camp Vanderburg. He wants to buy him a new watch and I think I will lend some money to him.

There is not much stirring here just now. I kept my coat and everything I had, and I am going to send my dress coat home, and also a pair of trousers. I want you to lay them away in the drawer and have them for me, and I will get my likeness taken, and send to you.

I have no time to write for we are under arms and have been for twenty-four hours. We are called minute men, and we have to be ready at a moment's notice, night and day to go anywhere we are called. We had to sleep last night with our accoutrements on, and knapsacks rolled up.

So no more at present, from your brother until death,

George Kirkpatrick

News from 1911

- Pick Roden, the king of moon shiners of Marshall county, was yesterday sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and fined \$700.

- For sale - my residence on Walker street, or will exchange for farm property. Price reasonable Apply to Robt. L. Adair, care of Henderson National bank

- Lost - Pair kid gloves at the Elks building during dance Tuesday evening. Finder phone 418 or return to Miss Donnie Dillard.

- For rent - two cozy little bedrooms at reasonable prices. Gentlemen preferred. Mrs. James Lines, 207 East Holmes St.

- For sale - a secondhand 2 horse wagon in good running order; also 2 sets double harness. Apply to Mrs. S. E. Sibley, East Randolph St., opposite Butler's School.

- For rent - 7 room modern cottage on Walker Street - apply to J. N. Mazza

- Wanted - a good nurse and house keeper. \$10 a month in addition to board and room.

- For rent - my residence on Adams Ave. - furnished or unfurnished. Possession given at once. For terms apply to Mrs. Chas. E Lane

- For rent - two upstairs rooms or one large room down stairs. Suitable for light housekeeping within a short distance of the square. Apply to 314 Randolph Street.

- Mr. Knott had to pull a Huntsville-bound auto out of the Mill Creek at Fisk Friday morning. Water too deep.

- Will Land, aged 15 years old, died at the Lowe Village yesterday evening at 6 o'clock. The remains were carried to Hurricane for burial. The deceased leaves a widow.

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It Didn't Work, Your Honor

Huntsville attorney Dea Thomas was in court trying to convince the judge that his client deserved probation.

The judge, Danny Banks, listened to the arguments and then looked at the paper work on the prisoner. Much to his dismay, the man had a long rap sheet and had spent much time in jail. Judge Banks was amazed that Thomas would have the audacity to ask for lenient treatment for someone who was such an obvious risk.

"Mr. Thomas," the judge asked, "How can you justify asking for this man to be placed on probation?"

"Your Honor," Thomas replied with a straight face, "Every other time my client has appeared in court before this he has been sent to jail and so far that has not seemed to work...."

New Goods

We have just received and are now opening in our brick house an assortment of goods which we are determined to sell very low, at best value - we will barter for all kind of homespun, beeswax and tallow. James White's iron works are now in complete operation & by the first rise of the Holstein and Tennessee rivers, we shall receive a large quantity of iron and castings and will always keep a constant supply on hand.

White and Read, Huntsville
July 14, 1814

"I have been on so many blind dates, I should get a free dog."

Rich Mayfield, Madison

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Gurley, Alabama

The Railroad Town

by Jack Harwell

In the last century the railroads held the position that the interstate highways have today. They were the principal means of intercity travel, much faster and certainly more comfortable than the covered wagon. As is the case with the interstates, a city's access to the rail lines could determine whether it would prosper or become an isolated backwater. In many cases, towns would appear where there were none before the rails were laid. Such was the case with Gurley, Alabama.

The land where Gurley is located was bought from the Cherokees in 1817, and white settlers moved in soon thereafter, even though there was no town there at the time. The area was taken into Madison County in 1824.

John Gurley came to Madison County from his native South Carolina. He had fought with Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812; his father had served under General Nathaniel Greene in the Revolution. In 1830 Gurley bought a quarter-section (160 acres) on the county line, through which Hereford Road runs today. He bought another quarter-section in 1834 two miles away on Hurricane Creek, where he built one of the first mills in the lower Hurricane Valley.

The isolation that John Gurley enjoyed between Keel Mountain and what would later be known as Gurley Mountain was disturbed somewhat in 1851 when the Memphis and Charleston Railroad began pushing its tracks through the valley. The railroad purchased the right of way from Gurley, he being the owner of the land along the best rail route. Before long Gurley and his neighbors were treated to the sight of passenger trains passing by their doors on their runs back and forth between Huntsville and Chattanooga.

The old steam trains had to stop frequently to replenish their supply of water. Hilly terrain, such as exists east of Huntsville, caused the engines to

use water at an accelerated rate. So the Memphis and Charleston built a "filling station" - a water tank on the land it had bought from John Gurley. Water for the tank was piped from a spring on Keel Mountain, over a mile away. Exercising commendable practicality, the railroad called it "Gurley's Tank."

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stop attracted business to the area. A town grew up around the tank, and Gurley's Tank term "tank town" to describe a place that was so small that it was little more than a water tank for the trains. The term, considered pejorative by some, would have applied to Gurleyville in the mid-19th Century. But the town had not yet been eclipsed by its neighbor to the west, and more and more businessmen discovered that Gurleyville was a good place to live and work.

John Gurley and his wife, Matilda, had four children; three sons, Franklin, Thomas and John, and one daughter, Jane.

Franklin and Thomas both enlisted in the Confederate cause, Frank joining a cavalry company at New Market. His unit later became part of the Third Tennessee Cavalry, under the command of Nathan Bedford Forrest. It was while serving with this unit that Frank Gurley was involved in an incident which nearly destroyed both his life and his reputation.

On August 5, 1862 Gurley, now a captain, led two companies against a Union patrol that had been reported north of New Market. The Federals were under the command of General Robert McCook of Ohio, who was riding in a wagon rather than on horseback due to a bad case of dysentery. The Confederates shouted an order to halt, and began firing when the order was ignored; the Union troops would later claim that they heard no such order. Gurley fired four shots from his service revolver at the wagon which contained the fleeing men.

The first three bullets missed; the fourth struck the Ohioan in the side, inflicting a mortal wound. McCook was taken for treatment to a nearby farmhouse, where he was later visited by Gurley, but died the next day. Gurley put the incident behind him.

To Northerners, particularly those in Ohio, the story was different. The story spread, or was spread, that Gurley had shot McCook from ambush, rather than in a combat situation. The McCooks were a popular and well-known family in Ohio, and demands were made for Frank Gurley to be tried as a war criminal.

On October 21, 1863, Gurley and his men were surrounded and captured at Brownsboro, Georgia. Frank's brother Thomas was taken prisoner at the same time. With the "murderer" now in Union hands, the Army moved quickly. After a brief trial, Gurley was sentenced to hang, but the death sentence was suspended by the officer-in-

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charge, General Frank Thomas. Not long after, in a bizarre display of bureaucratic incompetence on the Union's part, Gurley was freed as part of prisoner exchange.

Frank Gurley survived the war and returned home to the town named for his father. But the U.S. Government was not through with him yet. Perhaps feeling that it had been cheated of the pleasure of hanging the rebel officer, the army sent troops to arrest Gurley at his home in November 1865. They had no trouble locating him; he had been elected sheriff of Madison County the previous month.

Again Captain Gurley, C.S.A., was tried and convicted for the death of Robert McCook. His execution was set for December 2, just nine days after his arrest. But again, Gurley would escape the noose through the intervention of a Union general, Ulysses S. Grant. President Andrew Johnson suspended the sentence of death on Grant's

recommendation. The following April, the War Department dropped all charges against Gurley. One year after Appomattox, Fank Gurley's war was finally over.

Although the terms of his pardon forbade him serving as sheriff, Gurley spent the rest of his life in civic affairs. He died at his sister Jane's home in 1920, and was buried in Gurley next to his brother Thomas, who had died in 1901.

Frank Gurley had lived to see his town's most prosperous days. In 1909 Gurley's population had reached 1,200. There

was a newspaper - the Gurley Herald. A school which was built by the Presbyterian church in 1893 later became Madison County High School, the name by which it is still known and a branch of the Tennessee Valley Bank was established at Gurley in 1892.

There were other businesses, too. Gurley had four saloons, which did brisk business with residents of nearby Jackson County, which was then dry. One of Gurley's hometown heroes in the early part of this century was a William Graves "Lena" Styles. Styles was born

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in Gurley in 1899 and died there in 1956. As a young man he had played for Connie Mack's Philadelphia Athletics from 1919 to 1921 as catcher. In his five-season major league career he played in 77 games and batted a respectable .250. In his final year, with the Reds in 1931, he recorded 21 hits.

Like many small towns, Gurley eventually fell victim to changing times. The road to Huntsville was paved, and the railroad became less and less important to the town.

Over the years, fire destroyed many of the businesses, most of which were never rebuilt. The bank closed in 1934. The town's relationship with Huntsville changed as more and more people began to commute there to work, particularly after World War II. Then, in 1968, local telephone service to Huntsville became available.

The Gurley exchange had been part of Southern Bell since 1905. Now people could call Huntsville numbers as easily as their neighbors'.

Eventually even the highway shifted away from the old center of town, as U.S. 72 was widened and straightened for travellers to and from Chattanooga and the large cities of the East. It is likely that Gurley's future growth will be determined by land developers selling lots for houses.

"Whoever called it necking was a poor judge of anatomy."

Groucho Marx

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Deputy Assaulted In Gambling House

from 1879 newspaper

Clarence Jamar, formerly a deputy sheriff, was assaulted in a gambling house on Jefferson Street last night and beaten by four men in the employ of the house.

The incident started over a rigged faro game which the house has had in operation for some time.

The gambling house which has been in operation day and night has now been closed.

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The Great Depression

By Malcolm Miller

There is much talk these days about having a depression like there was in the nineteen twenties and thirties, because the economy is in really bad shape. I truly hope this nation don't have another time even close to the way it was back then.

It would hurt much worse today than it did back then because about every one today, even the poorest among us are so much better off with all the modern conveniences that we take for granted.

You see back then, even most folks who lived in town had a vegetable garden and many of them raised chickens and some had milk cows. These days even a lot of the big farmers don't bother with these things and they go to the grocery store for every thing they need to eat. Therefore, if we have a depression these days they would be totally unprepared like the rest of us.

The great depression of the nineteen twenties and thirties didn't seem to bother my family too much because we raised at least ninety percent of what we ate. The only thing my folks bought was flour, baking soda, coffee, sugar and salt. When we ran out we just had to make do with what we had.



I have seen my Papa boil coffee grounds over and over till they turned white and when we ran out of sugar that was no real problem because we had

sorghum molasses that had turned to sugar by this time. When we ran out of flour for biscuits we ate corn bread and corn meal gravy for breakfast. That's where the phrase saw mill gravy came from. Can you imagine folks living like that today?

We heard about Wall Street failing and the banks going broke but that wasn't a big concern, because all the stock my family owned was walking around the barn yard and if my Papa ever had a dime in a bank I never knew about it.

I don't recall ever sleeping

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A black and white photograph of a hand holding a rectangular card. The hand is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the thumb and index finger gripping the top edge of the card. The card is held up against a light background. The text on the card is centered and reads: "Do you have high triglycerides?".

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on a mattress till I was about ten years old. The home demonstration club, I believe, got the women in the community together at Central School and taught them how to make mattresses. Until that time I slept on what was called a straw tick, unless I was fortunate enough to get to sleep on a feather bed.

A straw tick was made by sewing together enough fertilizer sacks big enough to cover a bed and filling it with straw. The first few times you slept on it it was round and you could roll off if you weren't careful, then after you slept on it a few nights you made a hole in it that got deeper and deeper and when it really got rough was when we had company and there would be three people sleeping long ways in the bed and because

Since I was the youngest of seven brothers, I had to sleep across the foot of the bed. I can really relate to Jimmy Dicken's song about sleeping at the foot of the bed. One line says, "With

cold toe nails scratching your back and the foot board scrubbing your head, I can tell the world you ain't lost a thing never sleeping at the foot of the bed".

So folks, when you complain because of things like the power going off or the refrigerator or the microwave not working just think how it would be without all the things we think we can't live with out.

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Robert Johnson & Fred Stevens Charged with Murder Farmer Killed While Getting Water From Well

From 1902 newspaper

News of the killing of John Byrd, a farmer, by Robert Johnson and Fred Stevens, reached the city from the Monrovia precinct Monday morning. The two men came to the city after the killing and surrendered to Sheriff Rodgers, who had no warrant for them at the time. The sheriff told them to appear for preliminary trial before Judge Stewart in the early afternoon, which they did.

It seems that Byrd has for sometime past been getting water from a well on Johnson's place and last Saturday afternoon when Byrd's boy went for the water, Johnson told him that he could get no more supply as the well was getting low and it was liable at any time to go dry.

The boy returned home and told his father what Johnson had said. Byrd then got a bucket and a double-barrel shotgun and said that he would go and get the water anyhow as he must have it. He was accompanied by his wife, son, father and two or three others.

Johnson and his brother-in-law, Stevens, saw the party coming and armed themselves. When Byrd came within hailing distance they told him he must not come to the well. Byrd came on anyway and leveled his gun at the two men who were

standing in the door of Johnson's home. Johnson opened fire with a pistol, none of the bullets taking effect. Stevens then fired the shot gun and Byrd fell immediately dead, his chest riddled with shot. Some of the shot struck Mrs. Byrd in the arm and badly wounded her. Byrd was shot twice.

Warrants for arrest of Johnson and Stevens were sworn out by the dead man's father and a preliminary trial was held before Squire David Phillips, who held the men for further investigation.

Their regular preliminary hearing was held by Probate Judge Stewart Monday afternoon and Judge Stewart bound the defendants over to await the action of the grand jury. Their

bonds were fixed at \$1,000 and were made easily. All of the parties to the tragedy are well known in the Monrovia neighborhood. They have many relatives in that locality and were all known as peaceable citizens.




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News from the Year 1956

News From Huntsville and Around The World

Martin Luther King Found Guilty

Montgomery - Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has been found guilty of orchestrating the Montgomery, Alabama, bus boycotts, but he vows to continue the protest by using "passive resistance and the weapon of love." King's conviction follows a hectic month of developments in race relations in the South.

On March 1, the board of trustees at the University of Alabama "permanently expelled" Autherine Lucy, the Negro co-ed who by federal court order was granted admission to the school. The trustees, in defiance of the court, ousted Miss Lucy on the grounds that she made "outrageous, false and baseless accusations" against college officials. The trustees charged

educational discipline would be jeopardized if Miss Lucy was allowed to accost them verbally with impunity.

On March 5, the Supreme Court ruled that its 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, which outlawed segregation in public schools, extends to tax-supported colleges. The civil rights decision came after the University of North Carolina refused to admit three Negroes on the basis of their race.

Ike Elected To Second Term

Washington - President Eisenhower won a second term in the White House today in a landslide victory over Democrat Adlai E. Stevenson. The 66-year-old hero of the Normandy invasion is the first Republican in this century to win two successive presidential elections. He won 41 states to seven carried by former Illinois Governor


Stevenson and he polled 25 million votes to the 18.3 million cast for his opponent. The Eisenhower landslide - the largest since Franklin D. Roosevelt swamped Republican Alfred M. Landon in 1936 - swept Richard M. Nixon into another term as Vice President.

Yankees Win World Series with No-Hit Game

New York - Breathless, spine-tingling baseball history was made two days ago as Don Larsen threw the World Series' only no-hit game. In fact, the New York Yankee was perfect, conquering every Brooklyn Dodger hitter he faced. Asked after the 2-0 victory if he had made any special preparations the night before, the big right-hander said, "Why, no. I did just like I always do. Had a few beers and went to bed around midnight." The Yankees captured their 17th World Series today with a 9-0 win over their crosstown rivals.

"God loved the birds and created trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages."

Jacques Deval




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Grace Kelly Weds Prince of Monaco

Monaco, the miniature monarchy, was the scene of a royal wedding today. Prince Rainier II wed actress Grace Kelly in a Roman Catholic ceremony. Over 1200 guests attended, including dignitaries from 25 nations. The groom wore a uniform of his own design, a black suit with gold cuffs. The bride wore ivory taffeta and a 125 year-old lace veil. The gown will be sent to the Museum of Art in Philadelphia, the bride's hometown.

The Princess starred in a few Hitchcock films. One was "To Catch a Thief," made in Monaco last year. There she met the prince, somehow overlooking Gary Grant.

"Give me a woman who loves beer and I will conquer the world."

Kaiser Wilhelm

Patterson Wins Title

New York - Floyd Patterson, at the tender age of 21, has become the youngest man ever to hold the world heavyweight boxing title.

Patterson knocked Archie Moore down twice before the referee stepped in to halt the bout in Chicago Stadium. The time was two minutes, 27 seconds of the fifth round. Patterson put Moore away with a textbook left hook. Moore stirred at the count of 6 and got to his feet at 9, but he had nothing left. Patterson pelted him with a furious barrage and it was all over.

The two were fighting for the right to succeed Rocky Marciano as world heavyweight champion.

Last April, Marciano retired undefeated. Many critics claim Marciano was the best fighter to ever hold the title, a claim that Patterson may have a hard time living up to.

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Malcolm Miller

by Austin Miller

Malcolm Wayne Miller grew up on tenant farms in Ryland during the great depression. At seventeen, near the end of World War Two, he joined the Navy and left the farm to serve his country. After boot camp at Great Lakes, Illinois, he served on a ship in the pacific and was honorably discharged about a year after the war ended. Back at home, he went to work at General Shoe and learned that there were other jobs that were not much better than share cropping. The pay was low and the work was drudgery. But as bad as it was, jobs were hard to find in 1946 and he had to make a living.

His life changed in the mid-fifties when Huntsville began to grow and the Post Office needed more letter carriers. Malcolm passed the postal exam, a very difficult exam in those days that many failed, and got a job as a city mail carrier. This was a turning point in his life. But he didn't settle for one job at a time. For many years, in addition to working at the Post Office, he cut hair and sold everything from vacuum cleaners to sewing machines door to door. In his youth, one of Malcolm's dreams was to be a rural mail carrier. Good pay, riding in a car all day and being respected in the community looked mighty good to a poor young country boy toiling in the cotton fields.

Getting such a job seemed an impossible dream for Malcolm but sometime impossible dreams come true. In the early seventies, he was appointed as a rural mail carrier in Madison County. The timing of his job as a mailman provided him

a bird's eye view of the vast changes that occurred in Huntsville and Madison County. This fact, and his being born in 1927, gave Malcolm a unique perspective on Huntsville's growth and history. He knew Huntsville in the great depression, how hard country people lived in the thirties and what it was like in the mill villages. He saw first hand the change of Huntsville from a sleepy little cotton town to the Rocket City.

But Malcolm is much more than his jobs and the history he has seen. He is a songwriter, musician and singer; stand up comedian and short story writer. I have never known a person with more charisma. He can walk into a room full of strangers, make a comment or two and within a matter of minutes everybody in the room will be engaged in conversation. For years he wrote a regular article

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for the Madison County Record; in recent years he has become a popular writer for the "Old Huntsville Magazine." Several of his songs have been recorded. One was "Suzie's Poodle Dog" which was popular in the fifties. Another, "The Snuff Dipper", was recorded by Mike Schneider and has played regularly for years on both radio and TV.

He has great presence before an audience and has entertained at schools, Fourth of July Celebrations and other venues around North Alabama for more than 60 years. At various times over the years, he has performed on local radio and TV programs. For a long time, in the forties and fifties, he was a regular on the Jimmy Orear show, a local radio program on WBHP.

One Saturday morning, at age six or seven, I was sick with the measles when the show came on. It made my day when they introduced Malcolm, and the first thing he said was, "I dedicate this song to my nephew, Austin Miller, who is home sick in bed today."

He knew the great country singers of the past, most of whom are now in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Once he was pitching a song backstage at Joe Bradley School to Cowboy Copas when he noticed a skinny man wearing a cowboy hat standing close by. When he finished the song, the man walked over to him and said, "You got a good song there boy!" The man's name was Hank Williams.

One of Malcolm's best friends in the music business is Curley Putman from Paint Rock Valley, now a resident of an exclusive suburb of Nashville. They got acquainted when Curley played the guitar for

Malcolm when he recorded "Suzie's Poodle Dog" at what was then WHBS.


There was a time when Curley was poor too. After Malcolm got on at the Post Office, he sometimes bought Curley's lunch at Mullins Cafe because he didn't have money to eat. Most people may not have

heard of Curley Putman but everybody knows his songs; such as, "The Green, Green Grass of Home", "My Elusive Dreams", "DIVORCE" and "He Stopped Loving Her Today" just to name a few. "He Stopped Loving Her Today", recorded by George Jones, has been voted the second best country song of all time.

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Of all his myriad of activities, Malcolm is probably better known as a barber. He never set foot in a barber school but cut hair in Huntsville for about sixty years, most of the time at Bill and Jerry's, located on Governors drive next to Butler Terrace. It is an old fashioned barbershop and people come from all over the county. Jerry and Bill's is a man's Barber Shop where you can still get a seven dollar haircut and good conversation on any subject from politics to sports. When you leave people can tell that you have been to the barbershop. It isn't that they don't do trims or fancy styling; they just cater to their clientele.

Malcolm and his first wife, Mary Frances, raised three fine children together; a daughter,

Marie, who teaches school in Anniston, a son who is an executive with the Post Office in Huntsville and another son Tommy (T. A. Miller) who is a sergeant at the Madison County Sheriffs Department. Tommy followed in his father's footsteps as an entertainer and once played in Hank Williams, Jr.'s band and is a well-known nightclub singer in Huntsville.

Malcolm had the potential to make it big in Nashville but made a decision that family responsibilities were more important. He is a man of faith who served for many years as an elder at the Huntsville Park Church of Christ. I believe that God judges us on what is in our hearts and I don't know anybody that has a bigger heart of more heart than Malcolm. His

greatest contribution and the one that, in my opinion, places the most stars in his crown is the countless people he has helped over the years. One example of many is that he has given thou-

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sands of free haircuts to people shut in at home or sick in hospitals or nursing homes.

Retired from everything except enjoying life with wife Lois, writing, entertaining, fishing, gardening and working in their store, Malcolm now lives in Monrovia. Of all his many interests, fishing may be his number one passion. Not too long ago, I read an old letter he wrote to his parents during World War Two. Most of the letter was about him fishing over the side of his ship while it was docked at Guam. Last month, he turned eighty one and his love for fishing hasn't waned a bit in all those years.

Malcolm has strong opinions on just about everything and is not hesitant to verbally express his positions. You will always know where he stands on any subject or topic. The world has changed many times in his lifetime but Malcolm's core values of family, country, work, friends, heritage and love for Ryland hasn't changed. Another thing that hasn't changed is his heroes. He has the same ones now that he had as a child. They are his six older brothers, one of whom was my father.

Very Old Health Remedies

(Not recommended without your Doctor's advice)

* For a toothache - Mix Rooster snuff with water and put it on the tooth that is hurting.

* When a person sticks a nail in their foot, make a fire from old wool rags you have put in a bucket. The rags won't burn with a flame but will smoke. Put the foot over the top of the bucket and cover with a quilt. Let it smoke for several hours.

* If you have a puny person in your family - file off some of the iron rim of your wagon wheel. It will be almost powder. Give a pinch daily - is a good tonic to build you up.

* If you have a sty on your eye, rub it nine times with a gold wedding band that belongs to someone else. Not your own.

* If you have a fever blister, kiss the next red-headed boy you see (or girl) and it will go away.

* If your dog has warts, just change his name and they'll disappear.

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Old-Tyme Superstitions

- * If you say good-bye to a friend on a bridge, you'll never see him again.
- * When you move, never take your old broom, it will bring bad luck.
- * If a robin flies into a home through a window, death with shortly follow.
- * You MUST get out of bed on the same side that you got in or you will have very bad luck.
- * When a bell rings, a new angel has received its wings.
- * Placing a bed north and south will bring serious misfortune.
- * If you make a bedspread or quilt, be sure and finish it, or marriage will never come to you.
- * An acorn at the window will keep lightning out of your home.
- * To protect yourself from witches, always wear a blue bead.
- * A loaf of bread should NEVER be turned upside down after a slice has been cut from it.

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