

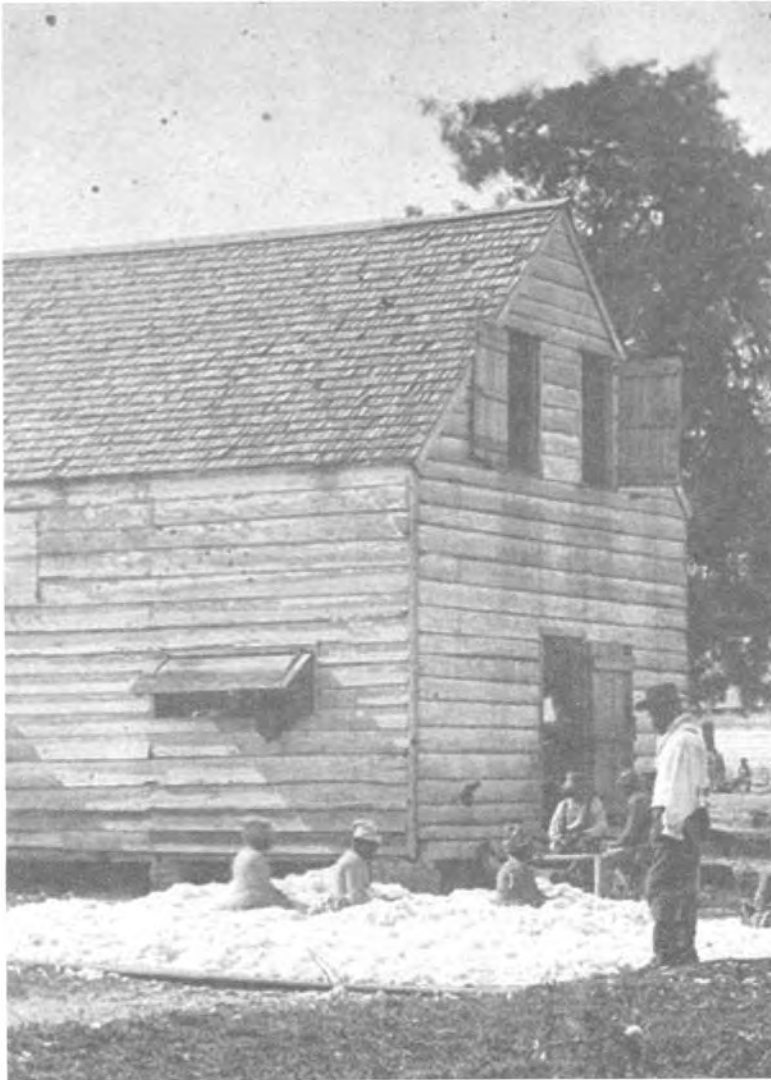


No. 217  
March 2011



# Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



## A Man Named Sam

His name was Sam. No middle name. No last name. Just plain Sam. For any traveler passing by the cotton fields on the outskirts of Huntsville, there was nothing to distinguish him from countless other slaves.

Simply another faceless slave, bent over in the hot sun picking cotton. A human chattel worth about five hundred dollars on the open market.

But if the traveler had paused in his saddle long enough to take a good look at this particular slave, he would have seen the face of a man destined to become one of the most controversial people in our country's history.

Also in this issue: Coach "Buck" Hughes

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*Domie Lewter*  
*Mae Lewter*

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# A Man Named Sam

His name was Sam. No middle name. No last name. Just plain Sam. For any traveler passing by the cotton fields on the outskirts of Huntsville, there was nothing to distinguish him from countless other slaves.

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Although historians can not agree on Sam's exact year of birth, most agree that it was probably around 1795. He was born in Southampton County, Virginia, on a plantation near Edom, owned by a planter named Peter Blow.

Peter Blow actually owned two plantations, one near town, and the other, a large spread of 860 acres, about twenty miles

away, near a community called Sweet Gum.

As was common in the days of slavery, Sam was raised on the same plantation where his master lived. This was not an act of kindness; it was pure economics. Young slaves grew up to become adult slaves, and adult slaves were worth a lot of money. Infant mortality among slave children was high, so Blow, like most other planters of that day, kept the infants near the "big house" so he could constantly monitor their health.

At the age of eight or nine, Sam was sent to Blow's other plantation. This farm was a typical cotton plantation, which meant that everyone had to work in the fields. Although children of that age were too young for much physical labor, they were nonetheless valuable for other chores.

Southampton County had been the site of several small slave uprisings, and Sam undoubtedly heard stories of them as he labored in the fields. Many of Sam's fellow workers were from Africa and it was their stories of a long-lost freedom that inspired many of the young blacks. Ironically, on a nearby plantation just seven miles from where Sam labored, another slave also grew up listening to the same stories. This slave, named Nat Turner, would also end up in the history books.

Peter Blow's father had been moderately successful as a cotton grower and plantation



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owner. Unfortunately, by the time Peter inherited the land, the already-poor soil had been depleted by years of continuous cotton growing. In 1814, 1815, and 1816, young Peter had to borrow money to keep the plantations going. Not only was the soil practically useless by now, the price of Virginia cotton had plummeted to an all-time low.

To compound his problems, Peter had acquired a habit of excessive drinking. Normally a well-spoken, quiet man, he became abusive when drinking. Unable to see his own faults as a poor businessman, he blamed his financial reversals on those around him, including his slaves.

By early 1818, Blow's creditors were demanding payment. He reasoned that the best thing to do was to go somewhere and start over again. He had been hearing reports of new land down in a territory called Alabama. This land was supposed to be reasonably cheap and fertile for growing cotton.

With a decision made, Blow began to sell off his Virginia holdings. Along with the land, he sold many of his slaves. Most of the money went to pay off creditors. He had no feelings for Sam the slave and therefore made arrangements to sell him

also.

When Sam's mother, Hannah, heard of the impending sale she implored Blow not to go through with it. Hannah was Blow's house servant and had been given to him by his father. Blow reversed his resolution to sell Sam, most likely because he realized he would need field hands when he got to Alabama.

Books of Huntsville's early history are full of descriptions of new settlers migrating to Madison County. In one instance, probably typical of the Blows, a writer tells of a family moving from Virginia with "the husband walking in front of an ox-pulled cart heavily

**"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar."**

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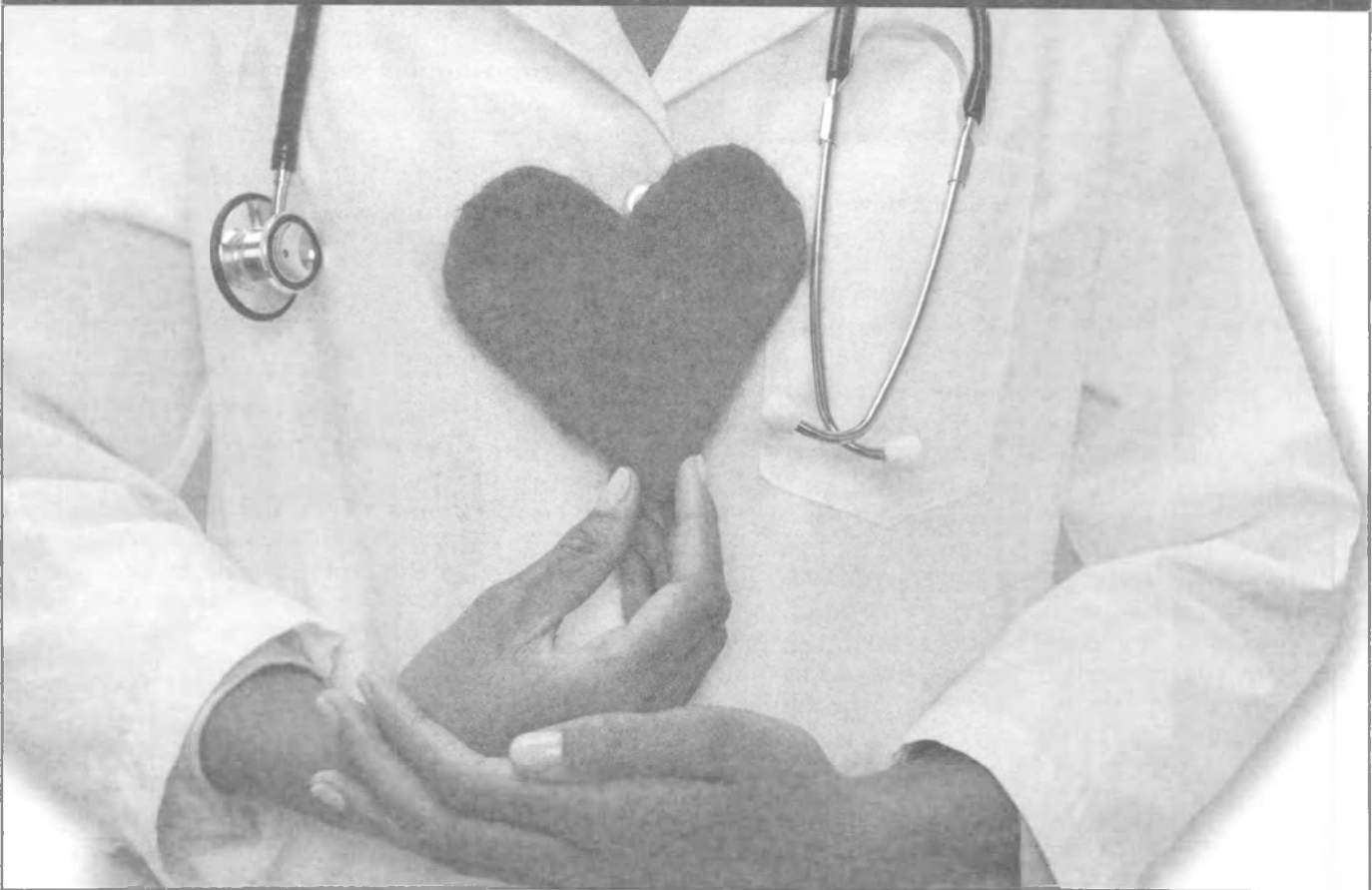


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laden with all sorts of household goods. Following the cart came the slaves, herding all types of fowl, milk cows, goats and other farmyard beasts."

On Oct. 5, 1819, Peter Blow purchased a quarter section of land from the United States Land Office for his new plantation in Alabama. Immediately, to be ready for the next planting season, he started Sam and the other slaves to clearing the land and erecting crude shelters against the oncoming winter.

Ironically, this quarter-section of land is now the home of Oakwood College, one of the most prestigious black colleges in the United States. When Oakwood College was founded, some of the students were housed in old log cabins that were originally slave quarters. Tradition has it that these cabins were some of the earliest buildings built on the grounds. If so, it is quite likely that some of the college students were housed in buildings that Sam helped

build.

Though now in a new land, Peter Blow's fortunes and disposition had not improved. He had not calculated how much time and money it would take to start a new plantation. His disposition was probably not helped any by Sam.

The slightly built slave had become "careless in dress, had a swaggering walk and a tendency to gamble," none of which endeared a black slave to a white master.

Whether it was the alcohol that Blow was consuming in prodigious amounts or Sam's troublesome behavior that caused Blow to begin to whip him, no one knows. Taylor Blow, Peter's son, in an interview with the St. Louis Dispatch, stated that one of his earliest memories was of being forced to watch while his father whipped Sam.

During this time, Sam met and began courting a young woman who was a slave on a nearby plantation. They were soon married. Whether they were legally married or merely "jumped over the broomstick" is not known. All records and memories of this marriage are lost in the mist of time. Nothing indicates what her name was or

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*Sam Keith, Huntsville*

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whether their union produced children.

Most slave families were close and there is no reason to believe that Sam's was any different. When one of his younger brothers died, Sam, for some unexplained reason, perhaps affection, began using his name. Now, instead of Sam, he insisted on being called Dred.

By 1821, Peter Blow finally realized he was not cut out for the life of a cotton grower. A few miles west of Huntsville, in Florence, fortunes were being made. The new town had attracted investors such as Andrew Jackson, James Madison, John Brahan, and LeRoy Pope. The more Blow heard about the new settlement, the more he became determined to move there.

Short of cash, as usual, Blow borrowed \$2,000 from John Jones of Huntsville until he could sell his property. As security, he put up his land and slaves. Fortunately for Blow, a buyer by the name of James Camp soon came along and purchased the land for \$5,000, enabling him to repay the loan.

While Blow was preparing to move, Sam, now known as Dred, was caught in a moral di-

lemma that had faced his people since the beginning of slavery: Obey the law of the land, move with his master, and leave his wife, or. ...? There was no other choice. Some historians have claimed that Dred tried to run away during his sojourn in Huntsville, but no proof was ever offered.

In the end, Dred moved to Florence with his master, Peter Blow, and his wife remained in Huntsville. They would never see one another again.

At first, prosperity smiled on Blow. He gave up the idea of being a cotton planter and opened a hotel bearing his name in Florence. The Peter Blow Inn was evidently a leased building, since there is no record of purchase.

In his 1876 memoirs, Judge William Basil Wood identified the inn as one of Florence's early hotels and wrote that Dred served in this establishment as the hosteler, or keeper of the horses, for the guests.

Taylor Blow, Peter's son, held a deep affection for the slave now known as Dred. Though much of this affection probably stemmed from the natural relationship that occurs

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*Jerry Seinfeld*

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when two people grow up together, one must wonder how much of it was caused by a mutual disliking of the elder Blow's drinking and abusive nature.

For the first time, it appeared that Peter Blow was going to be a success. His inn had become a popular gathering place for travelers and by 1827 he had grown prosperous enough to buy two town lots in downtown Florence. The first was purchased Feb. 28, 1827 from the trustees of the Cypress Land Co. Less than a month later, he bought the adjoining lot from Patrick Andrews. Today, a parking garage and a church occupy the lots.

Florence, like other boom towns, began to temporarily decline after its first spurt of prosperity. By 1829 Blow had decided to again seek his fortunes elsewhere. This time his sights were set on St. Louis, Mo., the great gateway to the west.

At 53, he no longer had the grandiose visions he had as a young man. Now he was satisfied to become the proprietor of a men's boarding house. He owned five slaves, including Dred, and employed them in his new business.

Within two years Blow had run up large debts and was forced to close the hotel. Though the town was full of single men looking for a place to sleep, he just was not a business person. Suddenly, on June 23, 1832, Peter Blow took sick and died.

When his creditors heard of his death, they all demanded payment from the estate. The slave named Dred, being probably the most valuable prop-

erty that Blow had owned, was seized and sold to satisfy the creditors' claims.

He was purchased for five hundred dollars by Dr. John Emerson, who was about to enter the military. Over the next decade, Dred traveled with Emerson, as his body servant, to numerous outposts throughout the west. At one such post, soldiers after observing Dred's small build (he was only 4 feet 11 inches) began to jokingly compare him with General Winfield Scott, a veritable giant of a man who stood well over six feet. The nickname stuck and Sam, the slave who had changed his name to Dred while living in Huntsville, became known in our history books as Dred Scott.

In 1846, Dred Scott filed a petition in the Missouri court at St. Louis. In his suit, Dred maintained that as he had lived



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in states and territories where slavery was illegal, he was therefore no longer a slave. His case would drag on in court for almost 10 years, capturing the imagination of every man, woman and child in the country.

The decision handed down by the Supreme Court, called the Dred Scott Decision, ruled against Dred and served to inflame the already hostile tension between the North and the South.

Most historians agree that the Dred Scott Decision helped to put the country on the collision course that led to the Civil War.

Dred Scott died on May 4, 1858, in St. Louis. On the preceding day, in a town 120 miles away, Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas resumed their arguments of the Dred Scott Decision in the fourth of their historic debates. Lincoln's arguments in this debate were a major factor in his winning the presidency of the United States.

### *Burnt Sugar Cake*

- 1/2 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2 1/4 c. sifted flour
- 2 t. baking powder
- 1 t. salt
- 2/3 c. cold water
- 4 T. burnt sugar syrup

To burn sugar, place 1 cup of the sugar in a skillet and heat over the fire. Stir til melted and light brown - be careful because it will burn to black quickly! Remove from fire and add 2/3 cup boiling water. Stir and place back on the heat and boil til it begins to thicken. This makes enough for several cakes and will keep in jars in a cool place.

For the batter, cream butter and 1/2 cup sugar together. Break the eggs in one at a time, beating all the while. Sift flour, baking powder and salt, add alternately with cold water. Add burnt sugar syrup last and beat well. Bake in a greased pan at 350 degrees for 40 minutes.

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# The Man With No Name

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

Apparently, the slave was born retarded, but had become a favorite of his master. Although able to perform simple

chores, the man was unable to care for himself. He slept in the main house, where someone could watch over him.

Mr. Hanner described the slave as a very large, but calm, person who was never known to tell a lie. His voice was low and his enunciation slurred. He never became angry or excited about any of the ordinary things of life. Like all other slaves at that time, he was unable to read or write.

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



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Some of the questions used in testing the slave were as follows: How much is 99 times 99?"

Answer: "9,801."

"How much is 74 times 86-1/2?"

Answer: "6,401."

"How many 9's are there in 2000?"

Answer: "222 with 2 over."

"How much is 321 times 789?"

Five-second pause. "253,269."

"How much is 7 times 9,223?"

"18,514,815," he shouted to the bewildered guests. A week later he was able to recall to the men what the last problem, asked him on that day, had

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

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

Finally, in a last effort to discredit him, one of the professors asked how many stars were in the universe. The slave jumped up, ran out of the room and never returned. Almost an hour later the professor found him hiding behind a woodshed.

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

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

*Dean Martin*

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professor.

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

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

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**Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.**

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*Maxine*

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# Coach Larry "Buck" Hughes

by Charlie Lyle

One of the great joys of life is to have one very good friend. In my case, it must have been Larry "Buck" Hughes. Coach Hughes was born in Northport, Alabama across the river from Tuscaloosa. Buck played football in high school and I understand he was pretty darn good. Of course, everyone especially Buck wanted to play for the Alabama Crimson Tide and this he did.

Buck was a very kind and generous person. He would give you the shirt off his back. Even though he was outstanding as a player, he never boasted or bragged about his accomplishments. I first met Buck in the late 1940's in my high school days. He was the football coach at Huntsville High. There was coach Milton Frank, coach Dildy and then coach Larry (Buck) Hughes.

Buck was good at recruiting. He went to Owens Cross roads and brought in players like W.C. Baker and Boots Ellett. Some how it was made possible that these guys took up residence in Huntsville. Books could be written about these fellows. With this kind of recruiting and add the guys that came back after the war like Ernest Brooks and others, Huntsville High had a winning team. A state title in 1946, I've been told.

Buck helped Clem Griska get his first coaching job at Huntsville High School. Coach Griska to this day has a very important job at the University of Alabama with some others like Mai Moore etc. When I drove Larry to the University, he always wanted to stop by and see Coach Griska as they were the best of friends.

Buck just did miss the glory days of Coach Wade's reign as he won some national champi-

onships. The California teams called our teams a "bunch of red necks". That was in the twenties from about 1923 until 1930. Well they beat the California teams and left one player to become a cowboy, Johnny Mack Brown.

When Buck was a junior at the university and the first day of spring training, he noticed a lanky new freshman that came to play and also to occupy the next bed in the dorm. His name was Paul Bryant. The first few days were grueling and tough. So tough that the freshman from Arkansas decided that farming wasn't too bad after all. But when he returned home and didn't meet his expectations of pursuing a college education even more hard work was given him. So, with some deliberation, he decided that hell, if he had to work that hard he may as well have the glory that goes with it. So back to the university he went and luckily he was reinstated. According to Buck's memory, Coach Bryant played end and the other end was "All American, Don Hutson". One thing that stood out in my memory, Buck never called Paul Bryant "Bear", and it was always Coach Bryant.

Buck said that his friend Paul kept missing change off his top shelf, (change was real

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money back in those days). Buck said that his friend brought a very large mousetrap and put it on the top shelf. Sure enough right in the middle of the night-----KA POW and one of his close friends was shaking his fingers in agony.

Football was sort of brutal in those days. Buck said one day at practice their coach was angry because the tackle on the defense kept going through the line. He told the offensive lineman he wanted that guy blocked. So he was blocked!!!!!!! But during the collision the defensive player lost some of his teeth in the other guy's head. The trainer poured water in the guy's mouth who lost his teeth and when the cold water hit his nerve endings, the player starting hollowing and yelling and running around the field. The coach cried out, "Somebody tackle that (son of a gun) while I pull the teeth out of this one's head!"

Buck was in the clothing store business for a while, but like many people with his background, he was just not cut out

to be a good businessperson. He was too generous and let people run up too much credit.

He told many stories about Coach Bryant, but it was only because I asked him to. He would sometimes be with him on conventions or trips and sleeping around him was impossible. He snored so loud no one could get any sleep around him. He detested flying and usually had a few snorts before he got on the plane.

One day when riding, he wanted to stop at Bryant's house. I asked him if he wanted to stop and talk to him and

he exclaimed, "No, he's got enough on his mind, without me talking to him." He needed to talk to Mrs. Bryant about a portrait. I don't remember what that was all about. One special day, Buck asked me to drive him down to the dedication of the Bryant Museum, I told him what a wonderful trip that would mean for me. So, we went!!!!

So many of the alumni were there from Harry Gilmer to Billie Neighbors. I was asked what team I had played on and not wanting to lie about the situation, I simply told any one that



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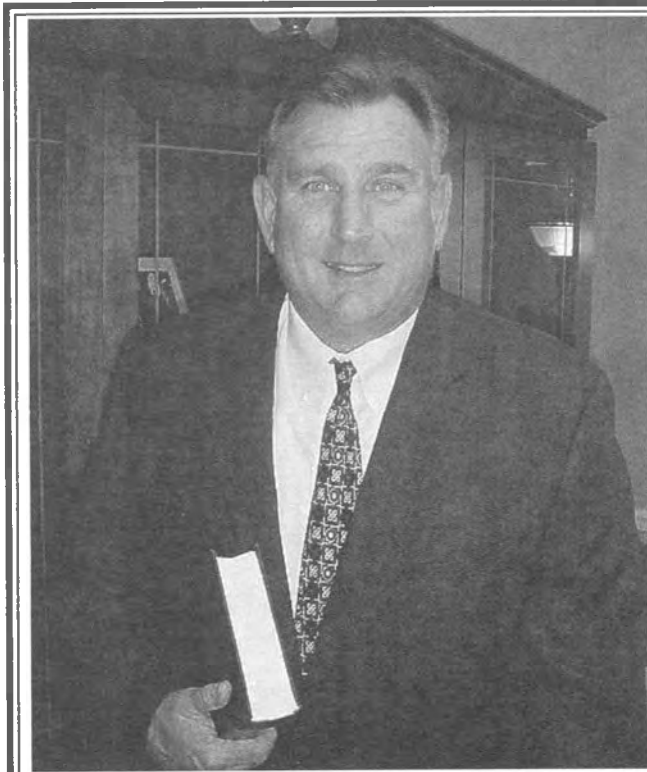
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asked that I was Buck Hughes' chauffeur.

I didn't see Buck for quite a few years after high school days but we acquired a new relationship when we both started working for Ben Porter Real Estate.

One day he was trying to impress a farmer and took him to Boots Ellett's restaurant for lunch. He ordered a lobster to further impress him and when the waiter put it on the table, the farmer exclaimed, "By golly, that's the biggest crawfish I have ever seen!"

Most of Buck's life was rather sad. He lost his wife he loved so dearly when she was at a very young age and his daughter required continuous upkeep.

I will never forget the last time I saw Buck. It was at Humana Hospital and I feel sure that he knew I was there for him, but he died the next day in his sleep.

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# George Steele, Architect of Huntsville

No single person is responsible for more Huntsville landmarks and the city's architectural development than is Huntsville's own George Gilliam Steele (1798 - 1855). The importance of George Steele can only be fully appreciated when it is understood that there were very few architects in the country in the early 1800s. In fact, the only professionally trained, practicing architects were foreigners who had immigrated to the United States after they had received their training.

Steele was born in Virginia and from all accounts was a self-educated man. He moved to the thriving town of Huntsville around 1818 and began work as a brick-builder. His earliest known accomplishment in architecture is his home at 519 Randolph Avenue. Built in 1824, the home was based on the Federal style that was popular in Huntsville at the time. This style basically was interpreted as brick boxes with steep gabled roofs.

As a true visionary, Steele kept abreast of any shifts in architectural style and is generally credited with introducing new trends in his chosen field. By the early 1830s, he had introduced the Greek Revival style of architecture into his designs. This style had quickly become very popular in the nation as it was thought to be more representative of the spirit of the new democracy.

Some of Steele's work that survives to this day are the Feeney house, 414 Randolph; Yeatman house, 528 Adams; Cox house, 311 Lincoln; Cabaniss house, 603 Randolph; the First Alabama Bank on the west side of the downtown square; Mary Bibb Mausoleum in Maple Hill Cemetery; Oak Place on Maysville Road; Purdom house, 409 Randolph; the portico of the LeRoy Pope house, 403 Echols; Fearn house, 517 Franklin; and Figures House, 423 Randolph. Three notable examples of Steele's work that no longer exist are; the second Madison County Courthouse, the old Episcopal Church of the Nativity built in 1846-47, and the Huntsville Female College built in 1853.

After thirty years of changing the face of Huntsville, George Steele died on October 21, 1855, and was buried in Maple Hill

Cemetery. His obituary, as printed in the SOUTHERN ADVOCATE read: "He was self-educated - physically, mechanically, mentally, artistically. Of an iron will, indomitable energy and keen sagacity, he met difficulties but to overcome them and kept straight on the goal of merited success.

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# Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*

As several of our readers guessed, the sweet little girl with the big smile in last month's Photo of the Month was none other than **Lynda Hall**, our Tax Collector. **Brian Goodwin** was the first correct caller, and Brian works at the Courthouse downtown. Congratulations to you!

We met the nicest guy the other day. **Andy Myers** is a young man who is very interested in writing, and he is the nephew of our handsome buddy **Hall Bryant** (of H.C. Blake). Andy loves playing guitar and banjo and recently played solo in Germany, Switzerland, France, Holland and Italy. Pretty good for such a young guy!

**Rosemary Leatherwood** of Ole Dad's BBQ is remembering her sweet dad, **Billy Richardson**, who will have a March 10 birthday. Rosemary's husband is **Bill Leatherwood, Jr.** and he misses his father, **Billy Leatherwood, Sr.** who died in 1998 and did so much to get Ole Dad's started.

**Tom and Anya are Back!**



We sure do miss Chef's Table that used to be located on Cecil Ashburn Dr., but we found out that the owners, **Tom and Anya Chapman**, are now working at Cafe Berlin on Airport Drive! They have incorporated some of their Chef's Table dishes into the menu at Cafe Berlin and we can't wait to try it!

The **Golden K Kiwanis** are the retired group of Kiwanis here in Huntsville and for years met at the Senior Center every Thursday morning. They have recently moved their meetings to the **Downtown Rescue Mission** off Evangel Drive and visitors are ALWAYS welcome - they'd love new members too!

Happy Birthday to our friend **Gale Nichols** who has a March 13 birthday. Also to that handsome **Brandon Owens**, whose parents **Ken and Diane**

**Owens** live in Huntsville.

**Bill Drake** is a great-grandpa for the first time! His grand daughter **Amy Gillis** (hubby **Matt Bogue**) live in Arkansas, and the new baby is **Michael Bryson Bogue**. And Bill looks so young to be a GGpa!!

There is a new family member in the home of **Roger and Shaunnah Parton**, who live in New Market. Their beautifully baby girl was born Jan. 13, 2011 and her name is **Mahaley Elizabeth Parton**. Roger works at ColorXpress in Madison as a sales rep. Congratulations to the proud parents!

Have you been to **Lowe Mill Arts & Entertainment center** yet? I had never visited there til recently and now I go every weekend! It is so interesting, with hundreds of artists, craftsmen and women, photographers, etc. You can watch these artists work, and buy their pieces, or just people-watch. For anyone who hasn't

## 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 was born in Huntsville and became the nation's darling.



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been there yet, I highly recommend it, but you should plan on spending at least a couple of hours. And the best part - there is a little restaurant there called **Happy Tummy** that has really good food. They are open Wed-Sat from noon to 6 (Fri. hours 12-8). And take the kids and pets - you will NOT be disappointed!

I'm sure none of our readers remember the sixties as you're all alot younger than we are. But do you happen to remember that wonderful scent called **Patchouli**? I love it and when I smell it I am instantly transported back to those good ole days. A lady who makes the best Patchouli soap & lotion happens to have a table at Lowe Mill Arts Center, where I found her. She owns Rebecca Ann's Creations and has other scents, but I love that patchouli!

**Liz Ford** has a March 26 birthday and she is looking younger than ever!

We met a really interesting couple recently. **Charles Richards** lives in Hazel Green with his sweet wife **Ruth**. Charles spent 47 years in the ministry and was Director of Missions in this area for years. He is now retired and has written a book about the state of our country. They have son **Mike Richards** who works for TVA in Chat-

tanooga, Tn. Their 2 daughters are **Sandra Jones Benton** and husband **Jim** of Brentwood, Tn. and **Susan Richards** and husband **Greg**, who live in Fayetteville, GA.

**Steve Cotney** lived in this area for years, before moving to the Midwest with his wife **Kathy**. He was a 1967 graduate of Huntsville High and graduated from University of North Alabama in 1971. Steve died at the young age of 61 of massive heart failure, and leaves many friends and family with a huge void in their lives. We send our deepest condolences to wife **Kathy** and their children **Tamara Cotney-Holder**, **Jason Cotney** and **Jessica Grotewiel**. His mother, **Helen Cotney**, lives at Redstone Village.

We were so proud of our friend **Dr. Eugene H. Scott, D.D.S.** when we heard that he had been named as one of the 2011 Honorees for the **Rosetta James Foundation** at Alabama A&M. These people are elders who are honored for their extensive volunteer work in the community. We are very proud of you, Dr. Scott.

**Don Broome** is an artist, photographer and art framer in Huntsville who works out of his home. Since he has no overhead his prices are very reasonable, and tells us that

many other artists use him to frame their artwork. We love our small businesses and especially try to support our very talented local artists.

A special hello to our friend **Calvin Holder** of Huntsville. He's been sending us lots of good quotes lately!

Now is the time to dust off those sneakers and takes some good walks in the downtown area of **Old Town, Twickenham and 5 Points** - the houses are just so interesting! Happy **St. Patty's day** to you all.

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## Peaches in White Wine

- 4 peaches, peeled & sliced
- 2 c. white wine, chilled
- Sugar

Divide the peach slices among 4 large wine glasses. Pour 1/2 cup wine over each serving. Allow the wine and peaches to sit for a couple of minutes. Pass a bowl of sugar for those who desire extra sweetness. Eat the slices, then drink the wine!

## Melted Cheddar & Cumin Canapes

- 3/4 c. grated Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 c. coarsely chopped, pitted black olives
- 1/3 c. thinly sliced scallions
- 2 T. mayonnaise

- 1/4 t. ground cumin
- 1/8 t. ground ginger
- 3 dashes cayenne pepper
- 1/4 t. salt
- Melba toast rounds

In a small bowl thoroughly combine all ingredients except toast. Spread on toast rounds and broil for 2 minutes and the cheese begins to melt. Serve hot.

## Pepper, Olive & Onion Salad

- 1 large green pepper, cut into 1/4" strips
- 10 Calamata or black olives, pitted & quartered
- 4 thin slices of red onion, slices separated
- 1/2 c. canned chick-peas, rinsed and drained
- 2 T. olive oil

- 2 t. red wine vinegar
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1/4 t. ground black pepper
- 1 c. chopped fresh parsley

Arrange the green pepper, olives, onion and chick-peas on a small platter. In a small bowl, whisk the oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and parsley til blended. Pour over the salad and serve.

## Green Bean Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

- 1 lb. green beans
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 2 t. balsamic vinegar
- 2 t. fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 t. kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1/2 c. finely chopped red onion
- 2 T. minced fresh parsley
- 2 t. drained capers

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3 T. toasted sliced almonds

In a large pan of boiling water, cook the beans til crisp-tender, 6 to 8 minutes.

In a small bowl combine oil, vinegar, lemon juice and salt; season with pepper to taste and blend well. Drain beans in a colander, rinse under cold water to refresh and pat dry on paper towels. Place them on a serving platter and sprinkle with onion, parsley and capers. Spoon dressing over the top, sprinkle with almonds and serve.

### Saged New Potatoes with Parmesan

18-24 small new potatoes

Salt

1/2 t. crumbled sage

3 T. unsalted butter, melted

1/3 c. fresh grated Parmesan cheese

Place potatoes in a steamer and sprinkle with salt to taste and the sage. Steam for 15 to 20 minutes and potatoes are tender. Drizzle with the melted butter and sprinkle with cheese.

### Wild Rice with Scallions

8 oz. Wild Rice

3 scallions (white and tender green), thinly sliced

1 T. unsalted butter

2 3/4 c. chicken broth

1 t. salt & pepper

Wash rice in several changes of water, drain well. In a medium saucepan, saute the scallions in the butter over medium heat til softened, 2 minutes.

Add rice, broth and salt and bring to boil. Reduce heat to low, cover pan tightly and simmer for about 45 minutes, rice is tender and broth has been absorbed.

### Pears with Chocolate Sauce

4 oz. semisweet chocolate

6 T. milk

1/4 c. sugar

2 T. unsalted butter

1 T. orange liqueur or

1 t. vanilla extract

Pinch salt

8 canned pear halves in syrup, chilled (29-oz. can)

Place the chocolate and milk in top of a double boiler and heat, stirring, over simmering water til the chocolate is melted.

Add sugar and cook, stirring, for about 4 minutes and the sauce is smooth.

Remove from heat and add the butter, orange liquor (or vanilla) and salt. Stir til the butter is mixed in.

Arrange 2 pear halves in each of 4 dessert bowls. Spoon warm sauce over the pears & serve immediately.



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# Wayne Sharp

by Austin L. Miller

Down through the years Ryland had more than it's share of interesting characters. One of those was Edward Wayne Sharp. Wayne born in 1938 to Elmer and Audrey Sharp had two brothers and two sisters; Shirley, Phillip, Larry and Frieda. The Sharps were good friends to our family and one of our closest neighbors. Audrey and my mother were best friends all their lives.

Wayne was older than I but the age difference didn't seem to matter. Like many other Ryland boys through the years, he hated school and quit when he turned sixteen. Rejoined the army at eighteen, but was at home more during his three year enlistment than at his assigned duty station. Miraculously he still managed to get promoted to PFC and receive an honorable discharge.

Wayne was as rough as they came. At an early age my father nicknamed him "Rascal", a nick name that fit him well. People living close to Central school said they could hear him cussing on the play ground from their house when he was in the first grade. He spent most of his school days after about the third grade playing hooky. When he got into his teens he was arrested more than once in Huntsville for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct.

One Christmas Eve in the early sixties, during services at a Brownsboro Church, he got into a fight in the church yard and was badly cut with a hawk bill knife. He received a deep laceration from above his left eye down to his chin and another all the way across his belly. The belly cut almost killed him and the face cut left a big ugly scar.

Throughout much of his life, Wayne had three pastimes; drinking, cursing and women. Interestingly enough, women were attracted to him despite his rough ways and the deep scar down the side of his face. He was always involved with at least one attractive woman, some were single and some were

not. He also loved sports and Auburn football. His calling though was truck driving. He drove a tractor trailer truck cross country for many years and loved the work. Wayne may have had his faults but one of them was not laziness.

When I came home from Vietnam in December of 1966, everything was different. I was at loose ends and didn't seem to fit in anywhere. In January I had some business at the Veterans Affairs office and met Wayne about noon coming out of the brand new Madison County court house. He was on jury duty. We walked across the street to the east side of the square and ate lunch at the Little Gem cafe. The restaurant at that time was still run by Odell and Pauline Brewer of Ryland. To the familiar sound of billiard balls clicking together in the back room, we enjoyed the cafe's regular fare of greasy hot dogs and hamburgers washed down with a Double Cola.

After that we started going to movies, country music shows when one was in town or we sometimes just rode around going no where in particular. We seldom went to clubs in Huntsville, Wayne loved to drink but going to bars was not his thing or mine. He had a good job driving a truck cross country and was not drinking to excess. I started working for the State in

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Sheffield but came home every weekend.

Several Saturday nights during the winter of 1967, he and I drove to Nashville to the Grand old Opry. We toured the bars on Broadway before the show but never drank enough to get drunk. We watched the Opry at the Ryman until Marty Robbins closed it down at midnight and then visited the clubs on Printers Alley.

Without fail, on the drive back, he always wanted to stop at some girl's house he knew. It was a different place every time. At three or four in the morning, he never got anybody up except one time. The woman's husband came to the door with a shotgun and we had to run for our lives. After we were out of danger all he said was, "she told me he would be out of town!" Usually the sun was coming up when we got back to Ryland. A couple of hours later, I would hear him crank his truck and head out of town. He always gave several blasts on the truck's air horn when he passed by our mail box.

Later in the spring I started making new friends and came home less and less. He too found new interests and we soon went separate ways. But we stayed in contact and managed to talk from time to time.

When I retired from the government and reconnected with Wayne on a regular basis, the years of hard living, smoking and drinking had caught up to him. He had cirrhosis of the liver, stomach problems and emphysema. But with all his ailments I never heard him complain. The only way I knew about his health issues was from other people.

During 2003-2004, I was helping take care of my mother at home in Ryland and he would visit me often. We sat on the front porch and talked about old times and people we once knew. He was well informed on current events and as unlikely as it might seem was a staunch democrat. A strange thing about Wayne was that he never said one curse word when he and I were alone talking but as soon as somebody came up he would start cursing a blue streak. I was never sure what that was all about.

One afternoon he and I were standing alongside Dug Hill road in front of his house when a man stopped to ask for directions. After we told him we didn't know the place he was looking for, he got on his cell phone and said to his boss "there are two elderly gentlemen here that tell me there is no such place around here." His tone was condescending and did not set well. To which Wayne responded gruffly by asking me, "are you going to knock the hell out of him or do you want me to?" The man tried to apologize for calling us elderly but I cut him off and said, that's not the problem, we are offended because you called us gentlemen! He

got the message and quickly sped away.

The last time Wayne got drunk it almost killed him. In fact he was given no chance of survival but miraculously pulled through. Afterwards, he seriously told people that he wished he could get a liver transplant so he could go back to drinking. About a year after his illness, he said to me; "Austin if they had let me die last year, I would already have a year of seniority on you in hell!" That statement reflected Wayne Sharp in true form.

In December of 2008, I was at the home place in Ryland picking up pecans in the front yard when I heard the ambulance stop at his house. When I got there the paramedics were taking him out the front door. He died about a week later of lung cancer. The last time I saw him was at the hospital a couple of days before he passed away. He talked about how pretty the nurses were and I learned that they were in fact having trouble keeping him in bed and away

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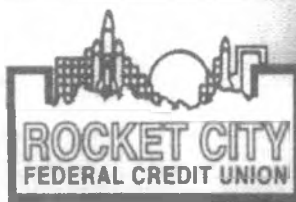
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from the nurse's station. He said he felt good and was not in pain.

Wayne and I were probably unlikely friends but I saw him in a light that most people didn't see. He was a loyal friend with a good heart. He joined Shiloh church as a teenager and although he never attended, he claimed it as his church the rest of his days. Wayne lived his life without pretense, what you saw was what you got and he made no apologies.

People around Ryland that knew him from childhood, including me, often said about him, "Wayne is a mess but he is our mess and we take him like he is!" When he was sober, I would have trusted him with my life.

## News from 1907

- Delsie Long, a young man from Marshall County, was arrested in the Whitesburg precinct yesterday and brought here to jail on a warrant charging bastardy. A warrant for the young man's arrest was sworn out in Justice Grimmitt's court by Miss Daisy Bowers, a young girl of the Whitesburg community, who claims that the man promised to marry her sometime ago. Long is not 21, she claims and his parents have refused to give their consent for him to marry her.

- Found - small black mule running wild on Steele Street - call paper.

- For Sale - The Petty cottage, situated on East Randolph Street. This must be sold and will be sold soon.

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# The Governors of Huntsville

by Jack Harwell

Naming a street after someone famous is a good way to ensure that they will remain famous even after they're dead. If you look at the names of some of the streets around Huntsville you'll see many examples of this. Andrew Jackson Way, for one, honors the general and president who passed through town in 1818 on his way to Horseshoe Bend to fight the Creeks. And many towns have a Washington Street and a Jefferson Street including ours.

It's also possible to have one street serve as a memorial to many persons and this is the case with Governors Drive. This route which runs through the medical district and out to West Huntsville was renamed in the 1950s to honor the Alabama governors who came from Madison County. Originally the street was known as Fifth Avenue and half a century ago marked the southern limit of the built-up area of Huntsville.

If you've lived here very long you can probably remember some of the Fifth Avenue landmarks such as the Fifth Avenue School or the Fifth Avenue Hospital which were located next to one another about where the North Alabama Rehabilitation Hospital now stands. The homes on the south side of the street between Memorial Parkway and Harvard Road were already there in the '50s, and some of them long before that. My father-in-law who grew up nearby can remember when the street was first paved and it wasn't that long ago. If you look closely you can see the old concrete street markers which still read, "Fifth Avenue W".

During the expansion which took place in Huntsville during the '50s, Fifth Avenue became very busy indeed. When the new Alabama Highway 20 was built to Decatur it connected to the west end of Fifth, and was known as Four Lane Drive. Eventually the decision was made to give the whole route one name and Governors Drive was created.

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Nine governors of Alabama were either born here, lived here or were closely enough associated with Madison County to be memorialized here. Few of these men are household names today yet they are still a part of our local heritage.

Alabama's first two governors were brothers William Wyatt and Thomas Bibb. William was a doctor and onetime legislator from Georgia when he was appointed governor of the Alabama Territory by President Monroe in 1817. Alabama was originally part of the Mississippi Territory which included all of what is now Mississippi and Alabama except for the coastal areas which belonged to Spain. When Mississippi was admitted to the Union in 1817, the area to the east was organized as the Alabama Territory. William Wyatt Bibb was the Territory's first and only governor.

Governor Bibb's first service to Alabama was to establish the border between it and Mississippi. When the latter became a state its representatives wanted to establish the Tombigbee River as the state line which would have given Sumter, Choctaw, Washington, and Mobile counties to Mississippi. Thanks to the efforts of William Wyatt Bibb,

the city of Mobile is today in Alabama and not Mississippi.

William Bibb was a delegate to the state constitutional convention in Huntsville in 1819. A reproduction of the building where he and the other delegates framed Alabama's constitution stands downtown, two blocks off the square. It is also where Bibb was sworn in as the first governor of the State of Alabama on November 9, 1819. The state capital was subsequently relocated to Cahaba; Bibb was the only governor to serve in Huntsville.

Alabama's first governor was also the first to die in office. William Wyatt Bibb died on July 10, 1820, of injuries resulting from a fall from a horse. He had served as governor for just eight months. He is buried at his family plot in Elmore County. His brother Thomas was elected to complete his two-year term.

Like his brother, Thomas Bibb had been a delegate to the constitutional convention. He

made his home in Limestone County near Mooresville. His home called Belle Mina, later gave its name to the surrounding community. During his term the name of Cahaba County was changed to Bibb County to honor his late brother. When Thomas Bibb died in 1839, he became the first Alabama governor to be buried at Maple Hill Cemetery.


The first native born governor was John Anthony Winston (1853-1857), who was born in Madison County in 1812. Winston first came to national prominence when he spoke at the Democrat National Convention in 1848. During his term as governor, he vetoed more than 30 spending bills, many of them authorizing state money for railroads, to which Winston was

**"Drink til she's cute, but stop before the wedding."**

*Pete Jennings, Arab*

**"If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?"**

*Evan Troup, age 7 1/2*



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opposed. His frugality with state funds earned him the sobriquet, "veto governor." The year after leaving office, Hancock County was renamed Winston County in his honor. During the Civil War he led the 8th Alabama Infantry for twelve months, seeing fierce action during the early campaigns in Virginia. After the war, he was elected a senator, but the Senate refused to seat him.

In addition to Thomas Bibb, four other governors are buried at Maple Hill. Clement Comer Clay (8th governor 1835-1837) was, like the Bibbs, a delegate to the constitutional convention. Originally from Virginia, he lived here from 1811 until his death in 1866. Before becoming governor he had also distinguished himself as the first chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. After resigning from the court, he is said to have fought a duel with a Dr. Daddy Tate of Limestone County, for unknown reasons. Both men survived, though both were wounded.

Reuben Chapman (13th governor, 1847-1849) was the first governor to serve his entire term in Montgomery, the capital having been moved there shortly before he took office. He came to Huntsville in 1824 and was admitted to the bar the following year. Chapman practiced law here for one year, then moved to Morgan County. He was extremely land wealthy, with holdings in Madison, Morgan, and Sumter Counties, as well as in Texas. Three days before his term as governor expired, the state Capitol burned down. He returned to Huntsville, and lived here the rest of his life. Chapman Elementary School (on Reuben Drive) is named in his honor.

Robert Miller Patton (20th governor, 1865-1868) was educated at Green Academy and was a founder of the Bell Factory.

Patton was the first governor elected under the post-Civil War constitution. His predecessor, Lewis Parsons, refused to turn the office over until ordered to do so by the Secretary of State. Patton's plot at Maple Hill also contains the remains of his two sons, Robert and William, both of whom were killed at Shiloh.

David Peter Lewis (23rd governor, 1872-1874)

grew up in Madison County and practiced law in Huntsville and in Lawrence County. When the Civil War broke out he opposed secession, although he signed the secession ordinance and served in the Confederate Congress. After the war, he changed his allegiance and was elected governor as a Radical Republican. When it came time to elect a senator to represent the newly readmitted state in Washington, there were two candidates, a Republican and a Democrat. The Democrat lost, and Lewis had to call Federal troops to the capital to enforce the decision. He later formed a separate state legislature to ensure that no more Democrats were sent to the Senate. Needless to say, his peers had few kind words for David Peter Lewis.

Finally, there is Edward H. O'Neal (1882-1886), born in Madison County in 1818. Like

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John Winston, he led an infantry unit in the Civil War (26th Alabama). His son Emmett served as governor from 1911 to 1915. Until recently, the O'Neals were the only father and son governors in Alabama history.

These are the men whom Governors Drive is intended to honor. But the story would not be complete without the mention of one other name. When the street was first expanded a suggestion was made that it be named in honor of the incumbent governor, "Big Jim" Folsom. But Folsom himself rejected the idea as inappropriate and suggested instead the name Governors Drive. In that way the name honors him as well.

## Horrible Discovery at Bird's Spring Human Skeleton Found 15 Feet from Entrance, Arousing Much Interest In Late War!

*from 1888 Huntsville newspaper*

On Monday evening last, Mr. G.A. Lippincott, of this city, accompanied by his brother in law, Mr. Hicks, started to explore a cave at Bird's Spring on the property of S.W. Harris and their exploring tour satisfied them enough to warrant another, and a more searching one to take place at an early date.

One of the curiosities of the cave trip was the discovery of a skeleton near the main entrance of the cave, the skull, and several bones of which are now on display at the office of Mr. Harris on Eustis Street.

A Mercury reporter saw the skull last evening which was that of a full grown person, but how the owner of that "dead head" came to inhabit the cave is a matter in which the field of conjecture is wide.

During the late great unpleasantness both armies alternately camped on the Harris property and the bones now exposed to view may be those of some stalwart soldier of one of those armies.

How he came to be buried in a cave will probably never be revealed in this world, but the ghastly, grinning skull reveals the fact that the Bird's Spring cave has been trod by mortal feet before Mr. Lippincott and his kin explored it.



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# The Diary of Nadine Turchin, Wife of the Mad Cossack

*Nadine Turchin was the wife of Col. John Turchin, whose troops were responsible for the sacking of Athens. He later appeared before a court martial in Huntsville, presided over by James Garfield, where he was found guilty. Through political intervention the charges were later overturned and he was promoted to the rank of General.*

July 14, 1863 Huntsville, Alabama

On the 12th our camp at Salem was broken up at sunrise, and the 1st Brigade of the division marched off, following the road to Huntsville where the 2nd Brigade had been sent the previous day. We were at the head of the column under the command of General Mitchel. The commander of the cavalry (Stanley) was at the head of the two divisions.

Having marched 16 miles, we encamped for the night at New Market, an old town lost in the midst of cornfields and forests, depopulated of its men. The next day, in rainy weather and on a very bad parish road, we continued our march under torrents of rain. With painful efforts we advanced the enormous distance of six miles. On these six miles we had to cross three streams swollen by the rain. Then we were forced to stop for the night some 12 miles from Huntsville. The First Division, which was ahead that day, went on.

In this camp of sorts we rested somewhat; then foragers were sent out into the country to bring in all horses, mules and male Negroes that could be found. For at last we were in the territory that

the President's Emancipation Proclamation had freed. Since then, we are all busy here with the seizure of items of Rebel property, mentioned above, and it seems up to who will take the most mules, horses and Negroes.

Yesterday morning we crossed the twelve miles separating us from Huntsville, and after a long delay at the gates of the city we came to camp a hundred paces from there. The headquarters of the division was lodged in a shaded enclosure with beautiful old trees that Southern landowners have the common sense not to cut down on their property.

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*Janie Southerland, Athens*

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landlords and other influential people of Georgia and Alabama who flee the heat of their plantations, unhealthy during the summer months.

At present it is empty of most of its population, Bragg's retreat having been a signal of departure for all those who hate the North and do not want to be molested by the soldiery of the Abolitionist army. However, Huntsville does not lack inhabitants. I believe the worst of them have stayed.

No news from the Army of the Potomac; our postal service is very badly organized, nothing reaches us, no mail, no newspapers - and that when there is a railroad, and trains are running no farther than thirty miles from here, and when there is constant

communication with the army headquarters.

In these last marches across the country I retraced with some pleasure places through which we went last year with much discomfort at the head of our infantry brigade. I found the country more beautiful, fields and forests were the same, climate just as excellent. The Secessionists had deserted in large numbers; our troops were not as much insulted as previously

because the Rebel spirit was dampened by terror.

July 18. Huntsville, Alabama We have been here for four days, and these four days have been occupied marvelously. Each day the cavalry is sent out in different directions wearing itself out, traveling rugged mountain paths, confiscating horses, mules and Negroes. You would think that through these procedures our resources would increase from day to day. But

"I believe we should all pay our taxes with a smile. I tried that, but they wanted cash."

Sam Huffstetler

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this is not so!

For today they are busy making restitution of what they had taken yesterday, and the harmless inhabitants of the regions, who decide to bring to town a few bushels of corn, obtain what you may call a "protection," that is, a paper covering their property that is not specified. This allows them to add that of their neighbors - exempt from all confiscation.

In this manner people who would sacrifice their last penny for the cause of the rebellion receive a guaranty of security from the Union generals, and may keep their thousands of bushels of grain for "their own army," this is the expression generally used in facing the Union Army.

Just today, after dinner, I overheard from a short distance a conversation between some of our officers and a Secessionist lady who came to claim her personal property. The lady, an audacious female, as they all are in the face of our cowardice, was prattling, laughing, and intermingling her conversation with the following phrases: "Most certainly, I would sacrifice my last (penny) for our own cause, but I find it very difficult to have to give up my property for an enemy cause."

**If someone leads but no one follows, is he just out for a walk?**

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# The Wade Brothers, the Buggers and a Slave Named Sandy

by John Crow

Times were good in the Tennessee Valley. If a man had a trade and didn't mind some hard work, he could carve out a pretty good living for himself. Then the war came. Most historians barely mention North Alabama in their commentaries about the War Between the States. Since no major battles were fought here, it was considered a backwater of the main conflict. To the people of this region trying to survive during these perilous times, whether they were pro-union or secesh, it was no backwater, but rather a permanent struggle against constant and unseen dangers. Sometimes a hero would emerge from this struggle. This is a story about the times, a family, and just such a person.

William "Billy" Wade and his younger brother John Dickie had seven other brothers and sisters besides themselves. Their parents, Richard and Sarah, owned a tobacco plantation in Virginia where the boys grew up.


When he was 21 years old, Billy decided it was time to fly the nest and seek his own fortune. In 1828 he and his neighbor friend Samuel Adkinson took off for Nashville. Both young men were skilled millwrights and

Nashville was a bustling young town, so they figured they could put their skills to good use there. Sure enough, there were plenty of opportunities where they could put their mechanical aptitudes to good use.

In 1830, Billy was living in Lauderdale County, Alabama and had developed a fair trade

at building bridges and iron furnaces. Billy's brother, John Dickie, turned 21 in 1835 and left home to join up with his brother. John Dickie was also a skilled millwright. The two brothers started their own contracting business and began to expand their trade.


Sometime prior to 1838 the boy's mother, Sarah, requested her sons to come home to Virginia for a visit. While there, Sarah gave to John Dickie \$1500. To Billy, she gave a slave named Sandy. Sandy's grandfather had been brought to Virginia on a slave ship from Senegal on the



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**Erma Bombeck**



coast of northwest Africa. Sandy himself was an intelligent man with striking features. He had thin lips, a narrow nose, a fair complexion, and sandy colored hair. He was a skilled shoemaker, and accomplished farmer, and also a millwright.

When the Wade brothers and Sandy returned to the Tennessee Valley, Billy and John Dickie cut a deal with John R. and S. S. Henry to build a bridge across the Tennessee River. The bridge was to be located east of Florence and was to connect the north bank of the Tennessee with the town of Bainbridge with wooden piers. While the construction was in progress, the Wade brothers had a disagreement. As a solution, Billy purchased his younger brother's interest in the contract. Part of the purchase price was Sandy. Billy completed the bridge and it was the first one across the Tennessee in this part of the country. Unfortunately it didn't stand very long after its completion, for a flood washed it away.

During the ensuing years prior to the Civil War, the Wades settled their differences and went on to establish a profitable business. They acquired substantial land holdings in North Alabama and Tennessee, and Billy, with the help of Sandy and John Dickie, built a town house at 219 West Tennessee Street in Florence. Sandy planted a maple tree and two pine oaks in the front yard and a maple tree at each end of the house.

These were good times for the Wade brothers and Sandy. In addition to their contracting business, they both now had plantations to run as well as wives and children to support. John Dickie's plantation was at Iron City and was known as "Little Egypt" because even in drought years when corn would be in short supply, the neighbors could always borrow or buy corn from John Dickie's place.

These were busy times for Sandy as well. John Dickie was often away on business, and Sandy was left in charge of not only running the plantation at "Little Egypt" but also another one at Waveland (Cloverdale). As if that weren't enough, Sandy was given the proxy father role of correcting the little Wades. The Wade children could be a handful at times as illustrated by the following incident.

John Dickie had built a Christian church for his slaves. The preacher was a slave named Big Sam. Big Sam would preach twice on Sundays, once during the day, and once at night. It was during one of the evening services that the Wade boys and some of the younger slaves stealthily secured the doors and window shutters to the church, while

one of the boys snuck up to the church attic. Big Sam was really getting into his sermon which was about the Children of Israel and the Walls of Jericho. Just as the congregation was worked up to a religious frenzy, the Wade boy in the attic blew a conch shell for all he was worth. The congregation, upon hearing Gabriel's horn, exploded into a mass confusion of arms, legs, and congested bodies trying to get out of that church. Unfortunately there were some minor injuries and Sandy had to tell John Dickie when he returned home late that night. John was pretty well upset and had Sandy get the children out of bed and tan their little backsides.

Life went on, some of the children grew into

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young adulthood, but then, which is so often the case in life, events occurred which shattered the tranquil existence of Billy, John Dickie, and Sandy. The South's secession led to civil war. As was the case with many of the inhabitants of North Alabama, the Wade brothers were opposed to the war. It wasn't a question of being pro Yankee as it was of being antiwar. The family was split, however, as Billy Wade's son, Samuel, enlisted in a Confederate cavalry unit, and John Dickie's son, Andrew, enlisted in a Union regiment.

Life for the inhabitants of North Alabama was very difficult during the War Between The States. The region was occupied by Union forces, off and on, for most of the war. For the farmers and towns people trying to eke out a living, this

created untold hardships. Under Union occupation, livestock and foodstuffs were often confiscated for the Union army, regardless of a person's political persuasions. To carry on what was once normal commerce between towns now required special passes from the Union generals, which may or may not be granted. Even if one were to secure a properly authorized pass there was no guarantee that one could successfully reach one's destination with person and property intact. There were always Yankee patrols who weren't always too kind to "reb" civilians, particularly if the Confederate raiders had been active.

Then there were the Confederates, whether regulars or partisans, who were always in short supply of everything. Sometimes they might pay for

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*Jerry Blaine, Scottsboro*

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what they confiscated with Confederate money or scrip. The only problem with that was that you couldn't buy anything with it. To make matters worse, if a neighbor had a grudge on you all he had to do was to inform whichever authority was in power at the moment that you were aiding and abetting the enemy and your might find yourself in some filthy jail, or worse, at the wrong end of a dangling rope.

There was one other variable in this survival equation, and it was the most dangerous and vicious of all. These were the roving bands of ruthless outlaws that indiscriminately stole, pillaged, raped, and murdered the poor inhabitants of North Alabama. They were made up of deserters from both Armies, common criminals, and any other low life that cared to join. Besides preying on the weaker civilian population, they would sometimes bushwhack the quartermaster and payroll wagons of either Army and thus were hunted by both Union and Confederate Army patrols. In North Alabama they were called Buggers.

The Wade brothers tried to carry on and make a living amongst all this mess. Sometimes they were engulfed by it. In 1864 Billy Wade was able to secure a pass from Yankee General William Rosecrans that allowed him to go to Nashville, conduct some business, and return. Billy was able to procure some supplies, medicine and foodstuffs for himself and many of his neighbors. On the way back he ran into a Federal regiment that, under the direction of their colonel, took everything he had. By Billy's account that amounted to three loaded wagons and 11 mules and harness.

Determined to get the property

back, Billy once again went to Nashville to see General Rosecrans. The general wrote a letter to the colonel of the regiment that took Billy's property, asking for an investigation. He also wrote out a pass for Billy to go to Pulaski, Tennessee where the regiment was billeted. While he was in Nashville, Billy also checked on seven bales of cotton that he had with a buyer there. Even though cotton was at a premium sell price, Billy figured he didn't have time to tarry if he was going to get his property back, so he left without selling the cotton.

When Billy got home, he tried to round up some men to go to Pulaski with him. Word was out at that time that the rebel General Forrest was camped on the Tennessee River, and was also headed toward Pulaski. Because of this Billy couldn't get anyone to go with him, so he decided to call the trip off for the time being and go back to Nashville to sell his cotton.

While on the road to Nashville, Billy discovered that the culprit Yankee regiment was ahead of him. His first impulse was to leave the

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road and hide, but then he reasoned that the letter and pass from General Rosecrans would protect him. Sure enough, he ran into the Yankees and was brought before Col. Spalding, the regimental commander. The good colonel didn't bother to read Billy's papers, but stuffed them and Billy's book into his pocket. What followed next is best described in Billy's own words, "... in a few minutes I was taken off of a very fine riding mare worth \$170.00 and my pocket book had \$760.00 in it. It was 20 minutes from the time I met the Federals until I was penniless, shoeless, and without any hat to wear on my head." Billy was taken to Pulaski and thrown in jail. He languished there for 9 weeks. Finally, during Confederate General Hood's advance toward Nashville, Billy and some other prisoners were overtaken by the Confederates and finally released. Billy had been in captivity a total of 11 weeks.

Billy did make it to Nashville and back in the Spring of 1865. He had been on a cotton selling trip for himself and John Dickie. Apparently it had been a successful trip for he brought back \$12,000.00, mostly in gold. He had brought the gold back through Union lines by concealing it in a hollow oxen yoke.

When John Dickie received his share of the gold, he hid most of it in the family cemetery. The rest he concealed in a hollow oxen yoke that was hung in full view on the barn. The rest of the gold he stashed under the stairs of his home. It wasn't too long before news of such a large amount of money became public knowledge.

On the night of April 9,

1865, the Buggers paid "little Egypt" a call. The scoundrels were dressed in Federal uniforms, probably captured in a raid, and at first claimed to be members of a Union regiment stationed close by. They roused John Dickie from the house and demanded to know where the gold was. Seeing that their threats were having no effect on

him, they decided to play a little rougher.

In the front yard of the house was a large T-shaped hitching rack. The leader of the Buggers snarled out orders, and before he knew it John Dickie found a noose around his neck with the other end draped over the top of the hitching rack and being pulled taut by the Buggers.

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drive, why do bars have  
parking lots?"**

*Phil Sanders, Arab*

Again the leader demanded to know where the gold was. John Dickie rasped out that it was in the bank at Nashville. At a signal from the leader the rope tightened, and John Dickie found his feet off the ground and blackness closing in as he gasped for breath.

While all this was going on, Sandy, who had remained concealed, decided he was going to have to do something to save his master. He quickly grabbed fifteen year old little Johnny Wade and told him to go fetch his older brother Andrew's bugle. While Johnny was off doing that, Sandy quietly rounded up the other children and some of the slaves. When Johnny returned, Sandy led his little army up to a knoll behind the house and out of sight of the Buggers.

Sandy whispered his plan to the group and at the proper time, Johnny sounded the charge on the bugle and shouted to the top of his lungs, "Charge them men and give no quarter!" The rest of the group then let out

a hair raising Rebel yell. Upon hearing all of this, the women folk down below on the front porch screamed, "The Rebels are coming! The Rebels are coming!" The Buggers were thrown into a state of fearful confusion. Their leader decided that the local climate wasn't exactly healthy anymore, and he and his men jumped on their horses and rode hell for leather away from there. Meanwhile, poor blue faced John Dickie was left dangling, feet kicking, and hands clawing at the rope around his neck. The women quickly cut him down, and Sandy and son

Johnny were able to revive him.

It wasn't long after the encounter with the Buggers that the Civil War came to an end. John Dickie gave his former slave, Sandy, a section of land for his own. Sandy built himself a home and settled down with a wife in 1870.

Years later the house was torn down to make room for another building. The two pine oaks and the maple tree that were planted on the property by Sandy are still standing, silent tribute to times past, good and bad, and to unsung heroes.



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

# Heard On the Street in 1905

\* An older man, too drunk to walk, was arrested this afternoon by Officer Bullard on a charge of drunkenness. The old man was too intoxicated to walk alone and he was hauled to the city lockup in a delivery wagon.

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

\* The city street force and Superintendent Murphy are making improvements in various portions of the city. California Street is being graded and put in good condition. Granitoid pavements are being placed on Locust Street.

\* Foot bridges are being put down wherever needed. Good use is being made of the street force and the convicts who are sentenced to hard labor are required to do the good work.

\* Mr. Murphy said today that he was looking for the arrival of the material for paving

the square any time, and when it does arrive here then his job will begin.

\* The Police Court record is again broken. The fines, forfeitures and sentences in the police court this morning broke all previous records amounting to \$590 or something more than 1180 days of work for the city. Dave Pointer was fined \$5 for using profane language in the

presence of females. Lacy Clemens was fined \$5 for leaving a team unhitched. R. Dervis, drunk and disorderly, was fined \$20. F. L. Gates, drunk, was fined \$10 and John Sutherfield for drunk and disorderly and for carrying a pistol was given a term of 60 days. L. Larkin, Lake Walker, H.H. Harris, Dave Jordan and Will Allison were fined \$10 each for drunkenness.

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# Old Landmarks

by Ruby Crabbe

The train whistle tooted and the thunderous roar of the rails sang through the air like the long wailing sound of a thousand wolves caught in the hunters' traps. The train tracks ran between two landmarks on Meridian Street, with E.P. Miller's feed store on one side and the Bon-Aire Restaurant on the other side. E.P. Miller was in the real estate business as well as the feed store business. My husband, Isaac Crabbe, worked 47 years for Mr. Miller. He was the electrician, plumber and painter for Mr. Miller's real estate business. During cotton ginning season Isaac also operated the gin that was located on Marion Street.

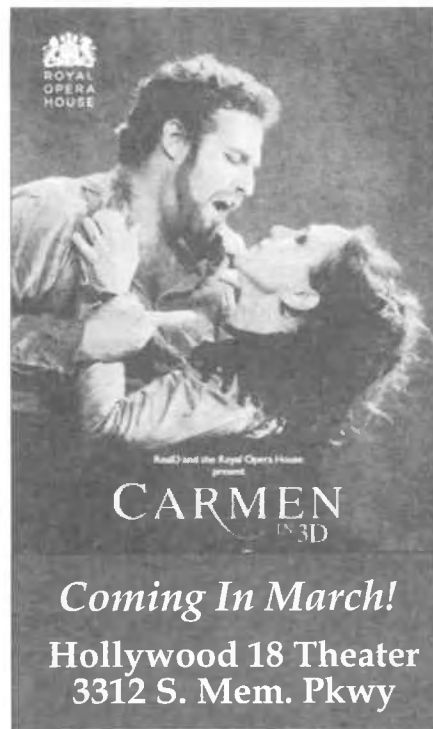
Livestock feed from Miller's feed store has been put in about every farmer's barn in Madison County. His line of canned goods has graced many a table in Huntsville and surrounding areas. Mr. Miller was in business for fifty-four years at the place better known as Miller's Crossing. Prior to E.P.'s taking over the business, his father Press Miller and his uncle Frank Miller ran the business.

The Bon-Aire restaurant cooks filled many a stomach with the fine food they prepared. The homemade rolls were the best this side of the Mason-Dixon line. During the years I worked at the Bon-Aire, I saw thousands of people leave that place with a well-satisfied

look on their faces. I worked for Mr. Rob Hicks, and he, along with his daughter Sis, son Olan and Olan's wife Joyce were the nicest people to work with. Of course, we had our little ups and downs - what place of business doesn't become more lively when there's a spat now and then? Mr. Hicks was very firm about one thing - there was to be absolutely no alcoholic beverages of any sort allowed - he wanted his restaurant to be the best family place around.

Now the overpass has blotted out the scenery where the Bon-Aire and the feed store used to be, but it can never blot out the memories of those two old landmarks. So many things have changed in Huntsville and Meridian Street is no exception. A person could get lost driving down a street he's driven down since he was knee-high to a

duck. For sure, Meridian Street will never be the same.



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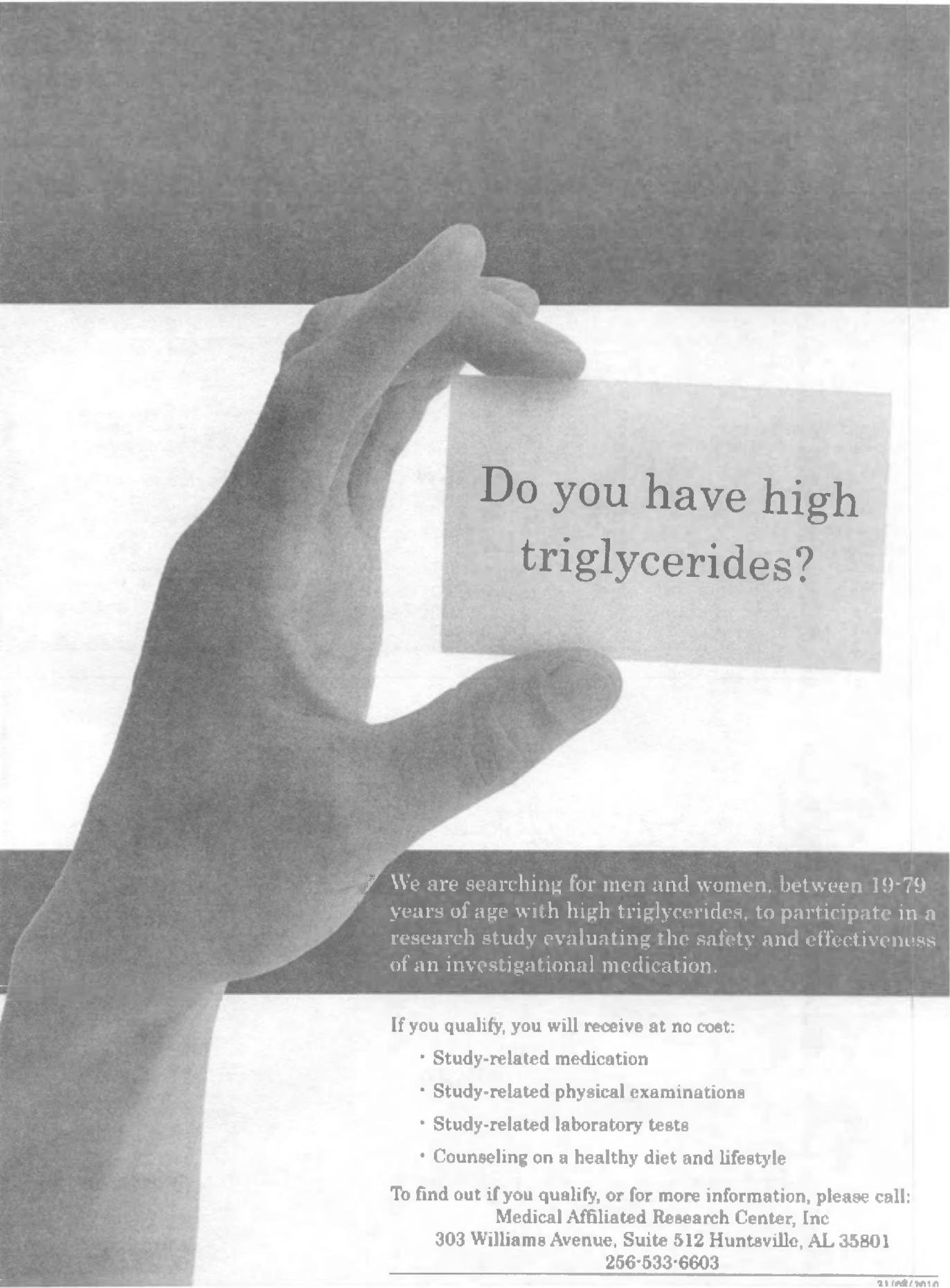
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*Johnny Carson*



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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# A Rebel To the Last

from 1864 newspaper

The suburbs of Huntsville and the lands for some distance around the town are being fast denuded of timber. The beautiful groves are fast disappearing under the ruthless axe of the invader. There is scarcely a fence around any of the grounds in the vicinity. In all parts of the town there is similar evidences of destruction, but not to the same extent.

The soldiers are Regulars for the most part, and under better discipline than formerly, and being prohibited from entering private houses or lots, without special leave. Not a single Negro company is stationed there or has been organized there. Negro men, women and children are quartered in Greene Academy. When Governor Chapman was ordered out of

his home for refusing to take the oath, and was on the eve of starting, he received notice that the family must vacate the house in a specified time and it was said that he was ordered not to remove any of the furniture, and that Negroes were to be quartered there, but the latter needs confirmation.

Thurstan Lumpkin, a citizen of Huntsville who was sent to the Nashville Penitentiary, several months ago for telling the Yankees that he believed that they were stealing Negro

men to carry them North and improve the Yankee breed, is reported to have died there, a short time since.

It is said that he was a Rebel to the last and denounced the Yankees almost, with his dying breath.

**"If life were fair,  
Elvis Presley would  
still be alive and all the  
impersonators would  
be dead."**

*Johnny Carson*

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# Happenings from the Year 1905

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

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

\* By reason of an open switch on the Southern railway freight train No. 306 - J. Edward, engineer and switch train No 431 with Conductor Miller in charge - collided on the side track on Meridian Street late yesterday afternoon, wrecking and derailling two cars of the regular train, demolishing the pilots of both engines, smashing the front of a car and the trucks of the end of the switch train. No one was hurt.

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

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

\* R.C. Smallwood, sixty years, died last night at his residence in the Lowe Mill Village of pneumonia.

\* The bursting of a water main leading from the city pumping station to the stand-pipe caused no end of trouble Saturday and Sunday. A leak was found in front of the Schiffman Building on the southeast corner of the square early Saturday morning and a force of men set to work to dig down and make the necessary repair. The job was bigger than they thought it to be. When the hard crust of the macadamized street was removed, the escaping water burst forth and flooded the street.

\* The flood washed out a bed down the gutter and being unable to get in the storm sewer at Randolph Street, passed on down to Clinton and flooded that corner. No damage whatever was done by the flood.

\* The daily newspapers of the city are the chief sufferers because they had to depend on

water power to run the presses. The Evening Banner was caught half through with its editions and city subscribers were furnished with the paper in an unusual form. The Evening Tribune, which had gotten into trouble at its own plant and was depending on the Mercury plant for publication, was unable to get out at all



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**Bob Hope**

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# News from the Year 1938

## News From Huntsville and Around The World

### Hitler Invades Austria

Adolf Hitler, who left Austria in his youth as a penniless artist, was cheered by thousands as he returned to Vienna today to announce the "Anschluss," or union, of the country with Germany.

Hitler was driven to the Austrian capital from Linz, where he had set up his temporary headquarters. Forty tanks led the way, and police cars filled with officers brought up the rear.

Along the route, Nazis from all over Austria cheered the man who once pledged that Austria's borders were inviolatable.

Hitler stood in the open car for most of the drive wearing his brown storm trooper uniform and returning the nearly hysterical salutes of his ardent supporters. Many of them waved banners emblazoned with swastikas. Some of the Na-

zis had stitched the symbol into the middle of the Austrian flag.

"What we are experiencing at this moment," Hitler proclaimed in Vienna, "is being experienced also by all other German people. Whatever happens, the German Reich as it stands today shall never be broken by anyone again and shall never be torn apart."

Hitler has already signed a decree making himself the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of Germany and Austria. All soldiers in Austria must swear allegiance to the Nazi leader, who is now the Fuhrer of more than 70 million people.

### Dizzy Dean Traded

The baseball world was stunned when the Cardinals traded Dizzy Dean to the Chicago Cubs for three players and cash. It seemed clear that the Cards were trying to unload their "problem child." Dean was voted most valuable player in the National League in 1934.

### Wrong-Way Corrigan Lands In Dublin

Douglas G. Corrigan, the daredevil American aviator who had been forbidden to make a solo transatlantic flight, landed in Dublin today, explaining with a straight face that his compass misled him into believing that he was flying from New York to California. Corrigan says he flew in clouds when he took off from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, and his compass said he was heading west. He adds that he realized his mistake only when he sighted land at the end of the 28-hour night. U.S. and Irish officials say he will get little or no punishment although he broke the rules of both countries, earning the nickname of "Wrong-Way Corrigan".

**"My wife and I always compromise. I admit I'm wrong and she agrees with me."**

*Freddie Amos, Madison*

**"You know you've gotten older when you sit in the rocking chair and can't get it going."**

*Jane Tippett*



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# Minimum Wage Set at 40 Cents an Hour

President Roosevelt has signed the Fair Labor Standards Act, which establishes a minimum wage of 40 cents an hour and a maximum work week of 44 hours. The new regulations will apply only to those American businesses engaged in interstate commerce.

Five days ago, the President signed the Recovery Spending Act, allocating over \$3.7 billion for the employable jobless.

Roosevelt punctuated that signing ceremony at his Hyde Park, New York, home with a prediction: The national income will increase to \$60 billion, up from previous estimates of \$50 billion. The President also emphasized that for every man or woman employed in a public works project, about two and a half other workers are employed in the private sector.

# NBC Thrills Millions In First Nation-Wide Radio Hook-Up

Will Rogers and stars across the nation enthralled an audience of millions tonight.

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He then introduced Al Jolson in New Orleans, who sang "California, here I come" and other hits. Next, Paul Whiteman and his orchestra in New York performed Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue." Finally, the spotlight fell on Chicago, where Fred and Dorothy Stone sang duets.

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**Old Huntsville**  
HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

*Celebrating twenty years of stories about  
Huntsville and Madison County*

Distributed by the



**Golden K Kiwanis**

Ordinary Seniors Doing EXTRA-ORDINARY Work  
For Young People in Huntsville and Madison County

# General Household Directions from 1900

- If possible have the washing done on Monday, as there is no more sure sign of a poor housekeeper than to delay the washing till the latter part of the week, when it can be as well done on Monday but for the lack of energy and decision.

- Let there be no neglected corners in any part of your establishment. In some homes, the front rooms are kept nice, while others are in a disorderly state.

- Inspect your cellar and wood-house often, and let every place be kept neat.

- You can best purify water by straining it through a sieve or flowerpot, in which are poured pounded charcoal and fine sand.

- To keep a turkey in its enclosure, clip the outer wing feathers at the top - just one side.

- To wash your black silks, warm some beer, add some milk to it, then wash your silk in this liquid, and it will give it a fine color.

- Children should not be permitted to use spices with their food, to avoid acquiring a taste for them.

- Apples should remain out of doors in barrels till the weather becomes too cold. Pick them over occasionally, as one defective apple may injure the lot.

- When a cask of molasses is bought, draw off a few quarts, else the fermentation produced by moving it will burst the cask.

- Soup should never be permitted to remain in metal pots, families have sometimes been poisoned in this way.

- Use of a little salt in sponge

cake, custards, and the articles used for desserts made of gelatin, rice, sago, tapioca and macaroni is a great improvement, giving both body and flavor.

- The best means to preserve blankets from moths is to fold them and lay them under the featherbeds that are in use, shaking them occasionally.

- Bread and cakes keep moist in a tin. A closet, called a safe for keeping food in the cellar, is an important convenience for keeping meat, bread, milk and butter.

- To extinguish a chimney on fire, throw upon it some handfuls of flour of sulphur, or stop up the aperture of the chimney with a very wet blanket, and the flames will soon be extinguished. Water will increase the flames.

- To keep your eggs fresh all winter, take them as soon as they are laid and brush them with olive oil. Dry thoroughly, and put them in a box with layers of bran or ashes. Cover the box tightly, to entirely exclude the air.

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### ***Huntsville, AL***

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### **Groups We Support**

Alabama Science Fair, Everybody Can Play Playground, Blount Hospitality House, Boy-Cub Scout Troop 400, Children's Advocacy Center, Court Appointed Juvenile Advocate, Downtown Rescue Mission, Huntsville Achievement School, Huntsville-Madison County Library, Reading Is FUNDamental-Head-Start Huntsville, Riley Behavioral & Educational Center, Huntsville Salvation Army, Second Mile, Toys for Tots, Madison County Special Olympics, Veteran's Memorial Museum

and scholarships for

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When you buy **Old Huntsville** magazine from the paper racks and 'Honor' boxes the 50 cents you pay supports the activities above

Clyde BARCLAY, Don BISHOP, Chuck BOBO, Bill BROWN, Neil COCKER, Gordon DISON, Al FARRAR, Vic GRIMES, Jack GROSSER, Wilbur GRUNWALD, Ed HARDIN, Jim HOWELL, Hartwell LUTZ, Henry MATTERN, Bob MIDDLETON, Hank MILLER, Bob OVERALL, Darwin OVERHOLT, Roscoe ROBERTS, Dendy ROUSSAU, Don ROYSTON, Bill RUSSELL, Reggie SKINNER, Bob SMITH, Don SLAGLE, Walt TERRY, John VAUGHN, Jim WEBB, Ray WEINBERG, Jim WHITE, Sam ZEMAN

# The Russel Erskine Hotel

More than nostalgia - the Russel Erskine Hotel still stands as a monument to a bygone era, a time when Huntsville was young and growing. Now that there are other and newer monuments and skyscrapers, the Russel Erskine Hotel has taken a lesser, but still significant, role.

Albert Russel Erskine was the onetime president of the Studebaker Corporation. Though he did not have an important financial interest in the hotel, it was named for this local person with national prominence.

According to local folklore the hotel ran into financial trouble before it was ever completed. In an attempt to raise more money the owners came up with a plan to name it after Erskine, a local hometown boy made good, hoping to interest him in investing in the venture. When the hotel was dedicated Erskine came to Huntsville, listened to the speeches honoring him, ate the free food, drank the free liquor, stayed in the free suite and then went back to Detroit without spending any money!

As each city has its prominent hotel - the Russel Erskine was "the place to go" in Huntsville, Alabama. Officially opened on January 3, 1930, in the midst of the Great Depression at a cost of 1.5 million dollars, it was and still is a splendid building - 12 stories high and 132 rooms. It became one of Huntsville's leading attractions and immediately became a popular spot for conventions and travellers.

Besides the convenience and availability of a large hotel in Huntsville, visitors noted the "completeness" and

"exquisiteness" of the furnishings in 1930. It was also noted that such modern conveniences of the day as an electric fan and an RCA radio were in each room. One satisfied guest, Dr. George Alden of Massachusetts, wrote the hotel saying that the Russel Erskine was the best appointed and gave the best service of any hotel during his trip. The Russel Erskine became the shining jewel of Huntsville.

It was Huntsville's best advertisement and many balls and gatherings were held in its splendid ballroom and banquet rooms.

In the decade of the 1940s, the Russel Erskine grew and prospered with the development of the Army's newly founded Chemical Warfare Arse-

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**"The third graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement this Friday - all are invited to attend this tragedy."**

*Seen in church bulletin*



nal. Rooms during the war years were easily filled and the guests were more than adequately served by a staff of over 100 persons. High ceilings, chandeliers, an inviting comfortable lobby with scurrying bellmen, entertainment, fine dining on tables with white linen tablecloths, and a barber shop on the premises seem uncommon to the average traveller today - but the Russel Erskine was the premier hotel in North Alabama. It was before the widespread use of motels, "no frills," and budget accommodations.

After the War, as the Nation's economy sputtered - the Russel Erskine was merely changing gears. In 1949, with the advent of the Rocket Center, the hotel again had no problem filling rooms. The hotel contin-

ued its success throughout the 1950s, and in 1955 the Russel Erskine commemorated its 25th anniversary with a week-long celebration. From 1937 until its closing, the hotel turned a profit each year.

But as motels began to be built on the perimeter of the city, the hotel not only had to deal with competition - but also a change of taste and choice of potential guests. In the 1960s, the movement of commercial activity away from downtown areas in many American cities hastened the demise of many hotels and businesses. The stately Russel Erskine Hotel, so proudly rooted on Clinton Avenue, could not move with the new development and economic opportunities outside its downtown site. Measures to

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uplift and revive the hotel were short lived. But even after the heyday of the hotel, people and organizations still came to fine luncheons and meetings there. In March of 1971, the Russel Erskine Hotel closed its doors to transient guests. Its only business thereafter was to cater to conventions, civic clubs and special accommodations.

Many well-intentioned plans of a succession of owners to revive the hotel were unsuccessful. Consequently, the hotel was auctioned off to the First Alabama Bank in 1975 for \$300,000, which included the furnishings. Interestingly, this was far less than the construction cost of \$1,500,000 in 1929. If this was not indignity enough to the landmark hotel, in May of 1979 its contents went on sale. For thirty days the hotel was opened to the public to buy whatever they wanted.

The First Freewill Baptist Church bought the ballroom's main chandelier and the lobby's four metal chandeliers within the first half-hour of the sale. Visitors and buyers rummaged though the halls of the once proud hotel, looking at price tags on the furnishings, and eventually removing the trappings of the hotel. Perhaps they bought for their own use, to resell, or to obtain a precious keepsake of the place that held for them a fond memory of a "Cotton Ball," an unforgettable evening for a debutante, or honeymoon. By any account, it was the wake of the hotel.

Ironically, in 1978 the Russel

Erskine Hotel was considered as a county-state work-release center for the Department of Corrections. Reportedly, a proponent of the idea said that, "It looks like the building was just built for this purpose."

Finally and happily on September 15, 1983 the Russel Erskine reopened its doors as a high-rise complex for the elderly and disabled. Renovated for \$3.6 million by local business people working with the Huntsville Preservation Authority the memory, the brilliance, and the hotel building itself has been revived.

Huntsville's premier landmark of the 30s and 40s remains,

except now it serves to house its residents permanently - not as temporary guests.

While the new tenants still share much of the same ambience of this venerable building as the former occupants, still there is a distinction between a hotel and a high rise apartment house. But one fact is indisputable, the new residents still have magnificent views from their windows and its residents have lived in a part of Huntsville's history.

**"A planet is a body of Earth surrounded by sky."**

*Seen on 2nd grade test*

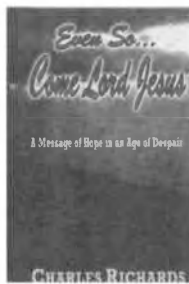


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### Lemon Cream Pie

- 1 c. graham cracker crumbs
- 2 T. butter, melted
- 1/2 c. boiling water
- 2 oz. lemon gelatin
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 lemon
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 8 oz. whipped topping

Mix graham cracker crumbs with butter and press into bottom of 9" springform pan. Mix boiling water and gelatin til dissolved. Cut cream cheese into small cubes and add to gelatin. Zest 1 lemon, set aside. Juice lemon to make 3 tablespoons lemon juice.

Combine lemon juice, zest, cream cheese mixture and sour cream with whisk. Fold in whipped topping and pour over crust, Chill til set, at least 30 minutes.

**Tribute to  
John M. "Butch" Cryder  
Jan. 4, 1946-Feb. 22, 2010**

As life goes on without you  
And days turn into years,  
It holds so many memories  
And a million tears.

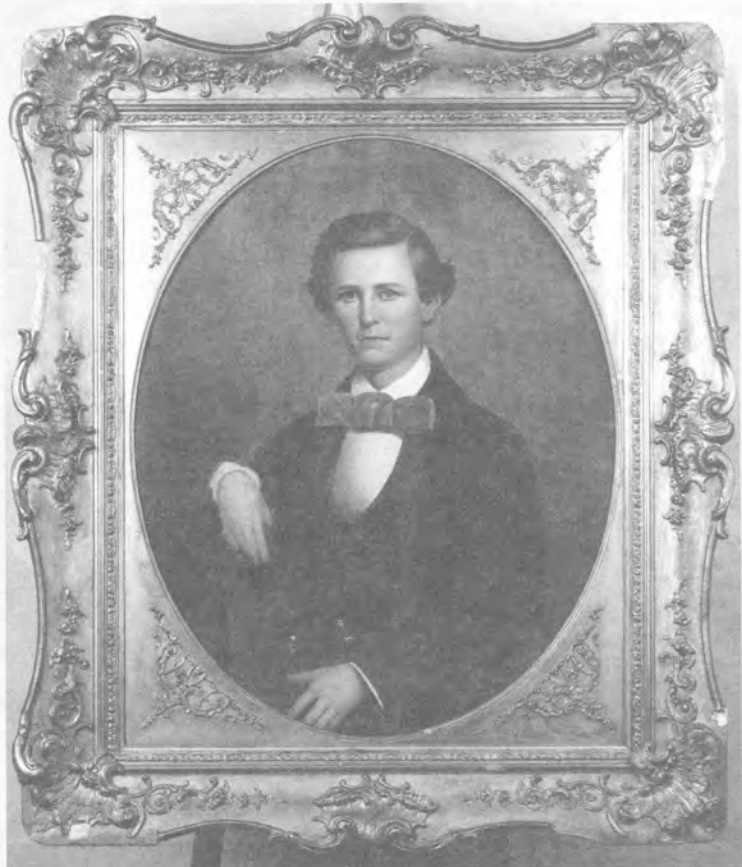
Remembering you is easy,  
We do it every day.  
Missing you is a heartache  
That never goes away.

Butch passed away a year ago at Huntsville, Alabama where he was born, and chose to return to in his teens from Adrian, Michigan. No one loved Alabama more than Butch and he absolutely loved football. We miss him every single day.

From Mom Sara Haggard, sisters Tammy and Leslie, brothers Rick and Bobby and other relatives & friends.

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# News from 1881

\* A very unfortunate difficulty occurred at Madison last Tuesday in which Horace Clay was stabbed in the neck with a small knife by Joseph McDonald, son of Col. McDonald of Athens.

\* The store of Walker Bros., which is located near the railroad on Meridianville Pike, was entered last night between 11 and 2:30 o'clock by burglars and quite a quantity of goods carried away.

They effected an entrance from the rear door by pounding it open with an axe, and carried off Arbuckle coffee, flour, soap, snuff, salmon, candy, sausage and tobacco.

As soon as Mr. Walker opened the store this morning and found that he had been

robbed, he notified the police who were soon at the scene and arrested a negro who lives near, and suspicion points to two other negroes who also live in the vicinity of the store.

Between \$25 and 30 worth of goods were stolen.

\* Home Destroyed - by fire last Sunday night - News of the total destruction of the home of County Surveyor Walter Jones's home at Greenfield has just been received here. The particulars were not given.

\* Lonnie Carter, the accommodating rural mail carrier on Route No. 2, had a smashup yesterday. His horse became frightened at a N.C. & St. L. train near Bell Factory, and tore his buggy into kindling wood. He was uninjured himself.

\* Repair Shop - I have opened a watch, clock and jewelry repair shop at Dr. J.D. Humphrey's drug store and solicit the patronage of my friends and

the public.

\* For rent - three rooms to a couple - rent reasonable. Call or address Mrs. J.T. Jones, 322 Randolph Street.

\* A meeting of the stockholders of the Huntsville Savings Bank and Trust Company, held at its office today; the following directors were elected: S.J. Mayhew, A.M. Booth, Lawrence Cooper, M.R. Grace, T. W. Pratt, C.C. Anderson and J.R. Boyd.

The Directors were very much pleased with the growth of the business of the bank - the deposits amounting to \$53,400.

This is a splendid showing for this institution. The Directors will hold a meeting on Wednesday for the election of the officers.

**"I was so poor growing up, if I wasn't born a boy, I'd have had nothing to play with."**

*Rodney Dangerfield*



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Vilson Hilliard, ASL #97

Bill Ornburn, ASL #683

Charles Thorpe, ASL #392

# Old Irish Superstitions

- \* If someone stumbles at a grave it is considered a bad omen. If you fall and touch the ground you will most likely die by the end of the year.
- \* If the nearest relative touches the hand of a corpse it will shout out a wild cry if not quite dead.
- \* A crowing hen, a whistling girl and a black cat are considered very unlucky. Beware of them in your home.
- \* A sick person's bed must be placed north and south and not cross ways.
- \* An iron ring worn on the fourth finger will ward off rheumatism.
- \* Drinking boiled down carrot juice will purify the blood.
- \* It's very unlucky to ask a man on his way to fish where he is going. Many would turn back knowing it was an evil spell.
- \* It is good to meet a white lamb in the early morning with the sunlight on its face.
- \* The spirit of the dead last buried has to watch in the churchyard until another corpse is buried. Duties include carrying water for the dead that are waiting in Purgatory. This keeps them very busy. Purgatory is a very hot place. This superstition has been known to cause fights when two funeral processions try to enter the same churchyard at the same time. No one wants their loved one to be the last buried and have to perform these duties.
- \* It is very unlucky to accept a lock of hair from a lover.
- \* If you want a person to win at cards, put a crooked pin in his coat.
- \* If the palm of your hand itches you will be coming into money. If it's your elbow you will be changing beds. If you ear itches and it is red and hot, someone is speaking badly of you.
- \* If you want to know the name

of the person you are to marry, put a snail on a plate sprinkled with flour. Cover the plate and leave it overnight. In the morning the initial of the person will be on the plate, traced by the snail.

\* Do not turn off a light while people are dining. If you do there will be one less at the table

before the year is out.

\* Whoever kills a robin red-breast will never have good luck, even if he lives to be a hundred years old.

\* If you are chased at night by an evil spirit, try to get to a stream of running water. If you can cross it no evil spirit will be able to follow.



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- 7. Historic Photos of Huntsville: 199 Vintage Photographs** by Jacque Reeves \$39.95
- 8. Hidden History of No. Ala.** by Jacquelyn Procter Reeves \$19.99
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