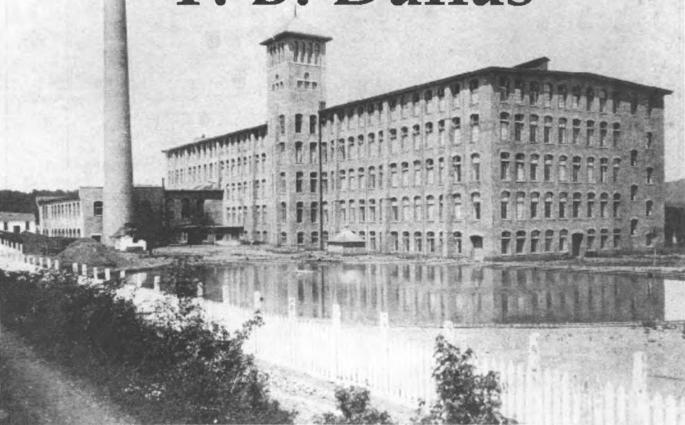


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The Life and Times of T. B. Dallas



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The Life and Times of T. B. Dallas

by Mike Kaylor

The horse hesitated as its rider once again guided it through the heavy undergrowth. For hours the horse and rider rode back and forth examining every feature of the terrain. Sometimes he would stop and take a notebook from his jacket pocket on which he would make notes. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity the rider paused atop a small rise to look over the land that he had spent the morning exploring. In his mind he could already see the huge brick buildings of a cotton mill, streets lined with houses and even stores selling whatever products workers might need.

It was a bold dream but no one had ever accused Trevanion Barlow Dallas of being shy.

Trevanion Dallas, or Trev as he was known to most people, was born Sept. 11, 1843, in Washington, D.C., where his mother had gone to be with her family during childbirth.

She had last seen her husband, Commodore Alexan-

"Only on a cruise ship will you pay hundreds of dollars a day to sleep in a closet."

Maxine

der James Dallas, about nine months before when he departed for South America. He was commander of the U.S. Navy's southern fleet, and his career was at its peak. Unfortunately the Commodore contracted malaria off the coast of Peru and died at the port of Callao in 1844. He would never see his son, Trevanion.

To say that Trev grew up in a privileged society would almost be an understatement. His mother's family had made their home in Fredericksburg, Va., just outside of the nation's capital where they were considered among the city's social elite. His mother's grandfather had been a nephew of George Washington, and her father's father was a wealthy landowner

Trev's father, Commodore Dallas, was the namesake of his father, Alexander James Dallas, who was a Philadelphia lawyer before serving President James Madison as Secretary of the United States Treasury. Another son was George Mifflin Dallas, ambassador to Russia and England before being elected Vice President on the ticket with James K. Polk in 1845.

Young Trevanion was studying at the University of Virginia when the Southern states seceded from the Union. While many of his relatives sided with the North, he chose to cast his fate with the newly formed Confederacy. He joined the forces of General



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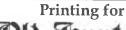
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Chase near Pensacola, Florida and was with the state troops who took possession of Forts Barrancas and McRae in 1860. He then enlisted in the Confederate army as a private and was in the command under General Braxton Bragg. He was one of the detail in the bloody night attack on Santa Rosa Island, and afterward served in the battle of Shiloh as a commissioned lieutenant of artillery. He later served in the army of Tennessee, where he was commissioned a captain. After almost four years of battle, and with the Confederacy crumbling all around him, he was forced to surrender at Greensboro, N.C., in April 1865.

As the sounds of the Civil War faded away, Trev, like thousands of young men of the south, found himself a stranger in his own land. Possibly too proud to ask for assistance from his northern relatives, he chose to make his life abroad. At the invitation of his aunt. Catherine Willis Murat, known as Princess Murat after marrying a descendant of Napoleon Boneparte, Trev made his way to Paris. Under his Aunt's patronage he quickly became a fixture in Paris' social circles which was the home of many Confederate expatriates.

Try as he might, however,

he could not escape the memories of battle. After wearing the Confederate gray for almost four long years, he still yearned for the discipline of military life and the roll of drums that preceded the battles.

Probably through Aunt's connections, he joined the Prussian army as an aide de camp when the Seven Weeks War with Austria erupted in 1866. Not much is known of his military career except that he appears to have won several decorations for bravery.

The war was short, but terrible in the human carnage it wrought. Possibly because of this, Trevanion hung up his

"Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell the name will carry."

Bill Cosby

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uniform at the end of the war and returned to the United States.

His family welcomed him home and through their connections he soon established himself as a prosperous banker in New York and Charlottesville. In 1869, he accepted a position in Nashville to work for a mercantile company called Hugh Douglas & Co.

He also found a wife there, the daughter of his new boss. He and Ella Douglas married May 11,1869, and she bore him a son, Hugh Douglas Dallas. Unfortunately, on a vacation trip to Pensacola, his wife drowned March 21, 1873.

Three years later he married Ida Bonner, the daughter of a prominent Nashville physician, a union that produced two sons and three daughters.

Dallas left the mercantile business in 1879 to establish a stock company to build a textile mill in Nashville. It was called the Nashville Cotton Mills and later became Phoe-

"If you really want to help the American theater, don't be an actress, dahling. Be an audience."

Tallulah Bankhead

nix Cotton Mills. The mill was hugely profitable and most men would have been satisfied with this success for a lifetime, but Trev Dallas already had other plans.

Freight charges were one of the largest expenses for a cotton mill, so Trev decided to locate another mill in the very heart of the cotton producing country -Madison County, Alabama. By doing so he was able to avoid much of the freight cost.

Trev was already familiar with Huntsville, having had spent part of the previous summer at the new Monte Sano Hotel. He also had an acquaintance with many of its leading citizens who were ecstatic at the thought of a large cotton mill to be located here. The North Alabama Improvement Company, a group of community boosters, generously agreed to give fifty acres for the site of the mill. The land, located about a mile outside the city limits, consisted of gentle rolling hills and was covered by a mixture of tangled undergrowth and shrub pines.

When it was announced in early 1890 that Trev Dallas was organizing a stock company to build a new mill here, the Huntsville Weekly Mercury pre-

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dicted:

This mill will be the largest and most modern in all of its appointments in the entire South and will make a line of fabrics heretofore not manufactured in the South... This mill will employ about 2,000 hands, and we can readily see if the usual ratio is maintained, will increase the population of Huntsville thirty-five to forty-five hundred people."

The news hit Huntsville like a bombshell. Huntsville's population was only 1,327 citizens, and such a large influx of people would strain its resources to the limit. Almost immediately speculators began driving up the price of land in and about Huntsville, while almost everyone with a spare room began making plans to rent it out.

Work commenced on building Dallas Manufacturing Company in the spring of 1891 as teams of laborers wielding axes descended on the land to begin clearing it. Other teams were busy laying out roads to the site. Within months hundreds of workmen were employed, creating almost a boom town atmosphere. With a severe shortage of affordable

housing in and around Huntsville, workers began erecting tents and temporary shelters built with scrap building material. By that fall a sizable shanty town had sprung up around the site, complete with makeshift stores and rooming (tent) houses.

Along with the shanty town came the usual problems as con-men, gamblers and bootleggers began making regular visits. Early newspapers carry many mentions of public intoxication, knife fights and brawls. The Huntsville police were powerless to do anything about this as it was outside their jurisdiction.

There is some evidence that the mill authorities attempted to get rid of some of the rougher elements with "vigilante patrols."

When construction of the Dallas Manufacturing Mill was finished in the summer of 1893 it was one of the largest buildings in Alabama, measuring nearly three hundred and fifty feet long, one hundred and fifteen feet wide and five stories high with a smoke stack that was visible for miles.



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Within the first several years the shanty town had all but disappeared as the mill began to build houses for its employees. The mill village extended from Oakwood Avenue, south to O'Shaughnessy Avenue and west to Dallas Avenue. There was such a rush to complete the houses that in many cases the employees moved in before the paint had even dried.

With the mill in operation, and the village beginning to take shape, Trev Dallas decided to build a home on Monte Sano, near the Monte Sano Hotel. For the next eight years he would alternate between living in Huntsville and Nashville, where he maintained a palatial

brownstone home.

Although he was immensely successful in business, his personal life left much to be desired. His two daughters by his first marriage had developed uncontrollable spending habits. Perhaps to make up for being away on business so much when they were growing up, he had encouraged their every whim when they were young. At first he would merely shake his head in frustration when huge bills for their entertainment and finery would arrive. Frustration turned to anger, however, as the bills became even larger, but even then Trev found it impossible to say no to them. If there was a bright spot among his children it was his son Hugh, who joined him at the mill as Assistant treasurer.

There was plenty to occupy his time, however. Besides running the mill, the Dallas Manufacturing Company was responsible for almost

"The only advantage of exercising every day is that when you die, they'll say 'Well, doesn't she look good!"

Linda Drake, Huntsville

every aspect of their employees' lives. In addition to being landlord, the company dictated many trivial matters such as how many people could live in a house, how many chickens the employee could have, what time the stores could open or close and even what color the buildings could be painted.

Beginning around the turn of the century, a company doctor provided medical care. In many cases the doctor's sole purpose seemed to be keeping the employees working. Even a broken leg was not deemed an excuse to miss work; one person, after being in an accident, was given a stool to sit on while he worked - at half pay. In more serious cases the employee was simply given notice to move.

The wages paid were small but as one person wrote, "Any-



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thing is better than nothing." In 1892-93 Dallas Mills paid on the average sixty eight cents for a twelve hour work day. Children, some as young as nine years old, were paid on average ten cents a day. For many people it was still better than anything they had before.

The Dallas Manufacturing Company in Huntsville had taken on a life of its own, and the founder was becoming less involved. He had always planned for his son Hugh to take over the business, but when Hugh died in 1900 he seemed to lose all interest in the company. Friends claimed the Dallas family patriarch never recovered from his son's death.

His last years were spent in his brownstone home on West End in Nashville near the cam-

"I'm so old that whenever I eat out, they ask for the money up front."

Seth Jordan, Athens

pus of Vanderbilt University.

Trev's daughters were part of the city's leading social circles, and their expenses were wearing on their father's finances. That, coupled with several bad investments, forced him to borrow money against his insurance policies and mortgage their residence in an attempt to settle the bills.

Trev fell ill in 1901 with arterial sclerosis and died 18 months later on June 19, 1902. A tall Masonic tombstone in Nashville's Mount Olivet Cemetery marks the final resting place of Trevanion Barlow Dallas

His widow sold the brownstone on West End and finally settled his debts four years later. A magnificent life of intrigue and excitement had ended with a quiet flurry of illness and litigation.

Over the years, working conditions at Dallas Mill improved. A school was built for the neighborhood children and several churches were found-

ed. In later years it was not uncommon for two and three generations of a family to be working there at the same time. For them the mill and Dallas Village had become a part of their lives.

Dallas Mill remained in operation until 1949. Most of the machinery was sold to a company in Brazil. After sitting empty for six years the building was leased to Genesco Shoe Company in 1955 which used it as a distribution center until 1985.

Afterwards the building sat empty for years with its only visitors being an occasional vagrant seeking a secluded place to drink a bottle of cheap wine. On July 24, 1991, the mill was destroyed by a fire that lasted three days.

With every passing year there are fewer and fewer people who remember Dallas Mill. There are even fewer people who remember Trevanion Barlow Dallas, the man whose dream made it all possible.

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Howard Jones

by Andy Myers

Near the dead end of Cleveland street, just south of the roar of 1-565, an old railroad maintenance path takes you through a tangle of thickets sparsely populated with young trees and several decades worth of decaying trash and colored glass bottles. The bustling sounds of the city immediately become hushed and an erie silence fills the air broken occasionally by a scurrying small bird or rodent. After a couple hundred yards the path opens up to a clearing that seems strangely maintained with dirt paths that seemed to have been swept daily.

Though I was only a quarter way through my thirteenth year my curiosity had led me down many abandoned paths,

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decaying buildings, and other derelict localities in downtown Huntsville. On that breezy spring day I quietly dismounted my bicycle and laid it on the path beside me to further explore this strange sight. The sunlight filtered through the new green growth around me as the the paved road disappeared around a curve and civilization seemed to vanish.

A short picket fence painted meticulously with bright shades of green and red outlined a well kept yard with carpet laid out and beaten down into the earth from years of foot travel. A small herd of cats darted in all directions leaving behind their meal of diced hot dogs. Behind the fence and carpeted yard stood a glorious structure two stories tall and tediously crafted, made from all sorts of discarded materials.





The structure had been devotedly painted with every shade available standing out in sharp contrast with the lush green of the woods all around. The building formed a U shape with two sun decks flanking each side and railing that lined the roof. My eyes traveled along every nook, studying in amazement the creativity and joy this structure reflected. In the side vard of the house a hundred or so bicycles were arranged in a pile ten feet high, next to that an equally large mound of aluminum cans. A glass topped table sat in the front yard surrounded by lawn chairs. An old guitar sat atop the table with several other items. One of the brightly colored doors was opened and a deep darkness seemed to fill the inside of the house. I walked closer to touch the picket fence and walk through the gate when a soft voice greeted me unexpectedly;

"Hey hon!" I scanned my surroundings to find the source of this voice, even turning around to look behind me. Suddenly I noticed movement nearby and a short older black man stood up and began walking toward me. His movements seemed to belie his appearance, he walked quick and with a youthful gait. A welcoming smile wrapped across his face.

"What you know?" He leaned against the fence as his aromas quickly filled the air with a deep earthy must. He wore an oversized darkly colored jacket that seemed to blend in with his surrounding in a sort of camouflage. His fingers peered out from the oversized sleeves. On his head he wore a beat up bud light hat colored the same earthy hue as his jacket and pants, curly white hair covered his face and the sides of his head.

I explained my curiosity with his house and and introduced myself. He smiled and let out a laugh, "Well hon, my

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but you know they are
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Vivian Kruse

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name is Howard Jones and I've made this my home for some thirty years now." His stories poured out freely with his voice raising and lowering in pitch as his sentences rolled out, almost always ending with a laugh or smile. He told me of his journey to Huntsville in the early seventies from Jacksonville, Alabama full of warnings about the dangers of beer and wine. He spoke of his onetime aspiration to be a professional piano player and asked me to tune his weather soaked acoustic guitar, his constant smile and quick wit always nearby. As the sky began to shift from the crisp blues of the afternoon to the oranges of evening, I bid Howard farewell and told him I would return.

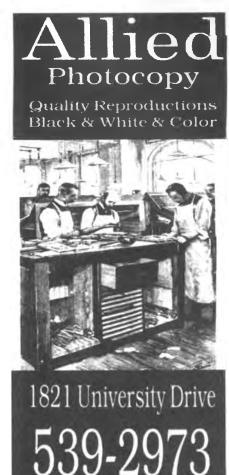
Not a week had passed before I was back amid the tangles of Howard's woods, this time bringing along several friends. Howard was busy sweeping the dust off his packed earth floors while a radio nearby played country music.

"Hey hon!" He greeted us, and on the same breath a story would began pouring out once again. He recollected his weekly events, about "Miss Esther" bringing his plate lunches every Sunday and of how much he loved the yams she brought.

His house would always be improved upon, new features he had collected on his daily rummaging adventures on his bicycle. He would lean against the fence and speak

of the "teenagers" who would drive down his path in their cars to "eat pie and drink beer". His house and the surrounding woods reminded him of his country childhood and he named his home, "Howard's Valley". He seemed to possess an esoteric language of nature as he spoke of sitting in a metal chair on his lawn while flies would buzz secrets in his ear and the raccoons would run up and sit in his lap.

I held onto every word he spoke, amazed that one man could be so disconnected from the mayhem of society yet possess such a live conduit to the natural world. He had no enemies, despite the occasional vandalism wrought on his house, and amid the tragedy of drug addiction and mental illness that so plagues the homeless community, a warm sense of optimism inflected his speech and daily work. On occasion his stories and anecdotes would sometimes be long and



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We began visiting him once a month or so, in the summers he would always be in his yard working, in the winter we would call out his name and his silhouette would emerge from the smoky darkness of his house.

On one visit we brought along a camera to snap his picture, though he was very adamant about not having his photograph taken, a superstition from childhood. He would also refuse to be measured for clothes even when church groups would offer him new pants and shirts. He told us once of a group that brought him soap, shaving cream, and razor blades. Smiling, he would say "what do you think they're trying to tell me?"

On one occasion he did shave his white beard into a mustache proclaiming with his self depreciating humor it was, "for the ladies". Howard didn't know how old he was or even the day of his birth, though he claimed he was "old enough to

be our grandpa".

And so it was for years on, Howard became like our living mythology. Our mantra became, "we should go see Howard". In the winters when the snow would fall we would make the trek back to his house to check on him. Amidst the winter wonderland, woodsmoke would be pouring out of his stovepipe, clinging close to the ground like a ghostly vapor.

He would be full of questions about the society he had left behind so long ago, asking about a calculator he had found and how it functioned. He would ask about television and about popular culture. He told us once that he had heard Elvis

was still living somewhere in seclusion, his theory being that he had merely relocated to the island nation of Cuba.

During my senior year of high school I became involved with a local homeless outreach church and met many more of the homeless community of Huntsville. Many of the older members would talk of Howard, or "old Joe" as they would call him. The last few times I visited Howard that winter he seemed to be growing older and our visits would be shorter. On several occasions he would be nowhere to be found and after calling his name for several minutes we would turn back and wait until our next visit.

One Sunday in January, during the announcements at the homeless church, the pastor mentioned that Howard Jones had died at his home of old age. The packed congregation nodded in silence and sipped on their styrofoam cups of coffee. With Howard's passing an age of America seemed to be passing as well, an aesthetic of simplicity and a pace of living that bred modesty.

Holding my own styrofoam cup of coffee, its heat warming my hands, I knew that even if I lived a full life and died an old man, I would never forget the humanity I saw through

Howard Jones.

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A Legend in His Own Time

Baseball history in Huntsville, like much of our history, is full of irony and untold stories. Perhaps one of the best tales of baseball is one of a young man who grew up over in Georgia and made his way to Huntsville in pursuit of a career

The young man was born near Royston, Georgia in 1886. At a young age he discovered the sport of baseball and immediately it became the passion in his life. This was in the days when every city, town and mill village had their own teams and professional players were almost unheard of.

At the age of nineteen the young man left home to pursue his new career. Walking and hitching rides on wagons, he made his way across the Southland, looking for the "Big Time," or so he thought. According to one report of the

day, there were so many baseball teams that the scores were no longer listed in the newspaper.

The young man sought out every sandlot team in town trying out for a position but was repeatedly turned down. One team offered him a position as an unpaid player, but he had to furnish his own uniform and glove. The young man had a glove but did not have the money to buy the uniform.

The manager of a local mill village team listened to the young man and then burst out laughing. "Son, you better go

on back home and get a real job. If you think you can make a living playing baseball, why, you're crazier than you look!"

Probably a large part of it had to do with the exorbitant salary he was asking... \$65.00 a

Disappointed, he left Huntsville after only a few days and eventually ended up in Detroit where he landed a job with a local baseball team.

This team went on to become one of the best known teams in baseball history and the young man, Ty Cobb, became a legend in his own time.



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A Ball of Fire

From a February, 1895 Huntsville newspaper

A vivid ball of fire, three times as large as the sun and equally as brilliant, shot through the heavens last night, at 11:05 o'clock.

The brilliant ball turned the city as bright as noonday and made many declare that its passage was attended by a rumbling noise and a slight shock, as of an earthquake.

Everyone who was awake at that hour saw the swift-moving meteor. It was of marvelous brilliance and passed close to the earth seeming to almost touch the housetops.

It was seen by every policemen on duty in the city and, in a few minutes after its flight, they were making sensational reports of it to the police station.

At the office it was seen by every one in the building. There was a vivid flash as of a powerful stroke of lightning. The whole earth was brilliantly lighted and the heavens were ablaze with splendor.

The meteor came out of the northwest and travelled toward the southeast. It shed a swath of light that extended in every direction as far as the eye could see and for several seconds the city was lighted as brightly as at the hour of noon.

The first impression was that it was a vivid flash of lightning, but a glance into the heavens dispelled that idea. The R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

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light was caused by a huge ball that seemed to have stolen the blinding light of the sun. The ball had disappeared before anyone could get an idea of its size or nature.

It was at first thought to be a local brilliant, but this was disproved before five minutes had passed. At the train dispatcher's office, three minutes after the meteor passed, the telegraph operators all along the line of the East Tennessee and Georgia Pacific began to send in reports of the night light.

The night watchmen claimed the ball of fire was so near the earth that it melted the snow on the roofs of store buildings; that the water poured off the roof of the post office block in

streams into the alley.

Jack Creecy, the night operator at the depot, it is said, was so terrified that he hastily extinguished the lights, seized his revolver, and jumping into the middle of the room, made ready to defend himself against what he supposed must be a gang of robbers with ball and shot before he realized his mistake.

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- T.H. Wade has added a complete line of furniture to his Undertaking business located at No. 8, Commercial Row.

- Ready made clothing and underwear. If you want the best for the less, call on A. Camp-

bell, at 5, Commercial Row.

- Two For The Price Of One -Phinney Undertaking Establishment.

- Donegans Barber Shop - I have a nice newly appointed Barber Shop on Holmes Ave., where I will be glad to see all of my friends and customers. I offer clean towels and sharp razors.

- S. Boyd - Purveyors of worn out clothes located at the corner of Church and Holmes. Anything may be purchased with cash.

"You know you're getting older when adult diapers are actually kind of convenient."

Kari Jackson, Arab

Timeless Beauty Secrets

* Tap your nails on a tabletop to encourage fast growth.
* Eat brown rice for your skin, it has amino acids that your body needs.

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Heard On the Street

by Cathey Carney

Congratulations to Nancy Grayson Van Valkenburgh, as she was the very first of hundreds of correct callers to identify the beautiful little girl in last month's Photo of the Month. The little girl was Huntsville's own Tallulah Bankhead. Nancy has been working hard on getting the Grayson Cemetery in Big Cove added to the Alabama Historical Commission Cemetery Register, and she was successful. Congratulations to you, Nancy!

Eddie Lones owns Lones Electric but alot of folks don't know that he is a hugely talented musician, according to his friend Malcolm Miller. Malcolm used to run talent shows in the old days and Eddie was one of the young guitar players whom Malcolm admired.

We were terribly saddened to hear of the sudden death of Joe D. Walker, Jr. Joe and his brother Jeff own Southern Sealing & Striping and you never saw Joe without a huge smile on his face. Joe died of a massive heart attack on Feb. 23 at the young age of 63. We send our deepest condolences to his brother Jeff and Jeff's wife, Barbara Ann, Joe's children



Stephen Walker and Michael Walker with wife Kate, as well as his mother Jean Housman Walker of Huntsville.

We know that handsome Sam Huffstetler may look like he's only in his 60s but his wife Glenda threw him a fun surprise birthday party for his 79th birthday in March. Valley Hill Country Club was the site of the merriment and everyone who attended had a great time.

If you were to meet Lynda Hall, our Tax Collector, you would never believe that she has a 23 year old daughter! But she does, and her daughter is Jessica Paige Curington. Paige is not only a beautiful young lady, she's also a Marine! She is a Lance Corporal and just recently left the U.S. to go to Afghanistan. Be safe over there Paige and we'll see you when you get back!

Amanda Preston was just thinking about her sweet Dad and wanted to send him a special Hello. **Bobby Fears** is her dad and he lives in Huntsville.

Ashley Dinges is the Marketing Manager at Merrimack Hall and we were so proud to hear that she had won two Addy's (advertising awards) for the marketing of Merrimack's 2010-11 season (brochure, playbill and print ads). She is very young but is a hard worker and stays busy all the time!

We, along with all the rest of you, were just devastated to learn of the quake and tsunami that followed in Japan. I was there as a child and remember frequent earthquakes, but nothing like this. It just breaks our hearts to see the videos and know how little we can do to help. Everyone we've talked with is sending money to the Red Cross as they are over there now doing whatever they can for the people there.

Clyde and Doris Barclay just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at a party hosted by their son, John Barclay, daughter-in-law Debbie and Jerry Barclay. Clyde is one of the hard-working Golden

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 boy not only knows alot about the law, he's a well-known musician.



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K Kiwanis who does so much to help bring in money for the club's Children's Charities.

Another Golden K Kiwanian, Vic Grimes, just celebrated his 90th birthday - Happy

Birthday to you, Vic!

It's the tiniest little Post Office you'll see anywhere around here, but it's huge in the hearts of the residents who want to save it. Berns & Austin Miller are leading the fight to save the 50 year-old Ryland, Al 35767 post office from demolition by the U.S. Postal Service, which like everyone else is in a budget crunch. The residents of the Kyland community however use this little post office on a daily basis and it is so needed. The Millers were able to set up a Facebook page and website, and collected 517 signatures to

keep it open. We'll stay posted!
Beta Sigma Phi, Preceptor Alpha Gamma chapter, is a group of ladies who are all good friends and several of them had birthdays recently.

Sherry Taylor of Hampton Cove and Jane Smith of Huntsville both celebrated in March, as did that popular social hostess Linda Drake. Vivian Kruse had a late March birthday. Happy Birthday to these beau-

tiful ladies!

Community safety is on lots of people's minds lately with an increase of home and auto robberies. It's just common sense to hide your valuables if you HAVE to leave them in your car - why tempt

anyone? And always lock your doors - home and car. Community Watch groups are forming all over the city and it involves just being very watchful and if you see something odd in your neighborhood call this number, (256) 722-7100. Nancy Parmelee is a lady who heads up several Community Watch groups and makes a great presentation about common sense safety and how to stay safe.

We heard from **Kathy Ogle** recently. Kathy works for that handsome **Dr. R. DeJarnatte** and she told us that she and hubby **Frank** just recently celebrated their 41st year of marriage! And they still like each other! Her sister, **Jerri Smith**, had a birthday in February so Happy Birthday to you!!

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Lee Fanning of Huntsville, at age 86. Lee studied to be a nurse and taught many nursing students in her lifetime, who said that even though she was a hard teacher, she was fair and loved by all her students. We send our deepest sympathy to her sons Dr. John Fanning, Bill Fanning, Bob Fanning and Jim Fanning. I know they will always be so proud of their Mom.

The Senior Center on Drake offers classes in exercise and balance. **Martha Ann Reagan** was telling us that she met a 90 year old gentleman whose name is **Claude Howard** who actually led her class when the instructor was away. I love

these folks who stay active all the time, no matter their age!

Our good friends **Darryl & Linda Goldman** have a sweet new addition to their family -**Lily** is a fawn-colored French Buildog and she joins French bulldogs **Daisy & Tux**. We can't wait to meet her!

If you have children who just love trains, you've got to go by Southerland Station off Governors and check out the huge train layout in the middle of the floor. The biggest kid you'll find there is **Dick Metzger**, the owner.

Happy Easter to All!







Vera Tippett was Louie Tippett's Mom and he remembers how she loved being in the kitchen, cooking for her family. These recipes are some of her favorites, and from her friends at the American Red Cross Volunteers

Pork Chop & Cabbage Dinner

4 pork chops, cut 1" thick 1 T. oil 1 onion, sliced 1/2 c. dry white wine 1/4 c. packed brown sugar 1 T. white wine vinegar 1 t. salt

Pepper to taste 4 c. shredded cabbage

2 apples, cored & thinly sliced In a 12" ovenproof skillet, cook pork chops in hot oil til brown on both sides. Remove chops to warm plate, add onions to skillet & cook til tender. Stir in wine, brown sugar, vinegar, salt and pepper. Stir in cabbage and apples. Bring mixture to boiling and top with chops. Cover and bake in a 350 degree oven for 40 minutes and pork chops are tender. **Vera Tippett**

Fudge Pie

2 eggs 1/2 c. flour 1/4 c. cocoa 1 stick butter 1 t. vanilla 1 c. sugar

Blend all ingredients together thoroughly and bake in unbaked pie shell for 30-40 minutes at 325 degrees.

Julie Presson

Marinated Carrots

2 lbs. carrots
1 med. onion, thinly sliced
Slice carrots and cook in boiling
salted water til tender. After
cooking arrange carrots and
onions in layers in a bowl and
pour the following marinade
over them:

1 can tomato soup 1/2 c. mazola oil

1 c. sugar 3/4 c. vinegar 1 t. mustard 1 t. Worchestersh

1 t. Worchestershire sauce

Salt and pepper

Beat well in mixer and pour over carrots/onions. Let stand in refrigerator for at least 24 hours before serving.

Margaret Esslinger

Yum Yum Cake

2 eggs2 c. sugar2 c.l self rising flour2 c. crushed pineappleBeat eggs & sugar together,

Beat eggs & sugar together, add flour and pineapple. Stir up well. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes.

Topping:
1 c. sugar
1 stick butter
1/2 t. vanilla flavor
3/4 c. milk
1 c. coconut

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YOUR HOSTS: THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS Let butter, sugar and milk boil for 2 minutes, then add the coconut. Pour over cake while it's still hot. So Good!

Vera Tippett

Baked Pineapple

1 20 oz. can chunk pineapple, drained & juice reserved

1 c. grated Velveeta Cheese

2 T. flour

1 c. sugar 2 T. butter

1 c. bread crumbs

Mix pineapple & cheese. Set aside. Mix flour and sugar, add the juice. Heat til melted and mix well. Pour over pineapple and cheese. Melt butter and mix with crumbs. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Lorraine Ennis (Mrs. John M.)

Egg Custard 11/4 c. sugar mixed with 4 T. flour and pinch salt Add 5 eggs one at a time Beat well after each. 21/2 c. milk 1 t. vanilla

Butter pie plate heavily, add custard ingredients and bake at 375 degrees for about 45 minutes.

Jessie Wikle

Bon Bons

1 can Eagle Brand milk
1/2 c. butter, softened
2 boxes powdered sugar
1/2 lb. coconut shredded
2 c. nuts, chopped fine
Mix all together, put in

refrigerator one hour, roll into balls. Freeze balls, then dip in chocolate.

Vera Tippett

Jezebel

1 18oz. jar apple jelly

1 18oz. jar pineapple preserves

15oz. jár horseradish

2 T. dry mustard

Mix thoroughly and store in airtight container in the refrigerator. This is VERY HOT, but delicious on pork, ham or turkey.

Lois Bruce

Michigan Chicken

1 pkg. Pepperidge Farm stuffing (not cubes)

3 T. butter

1 c. chicken stock or broth

Mix above ingredients and press into 10" pan for crust. 1-3 pounds chicken breast,

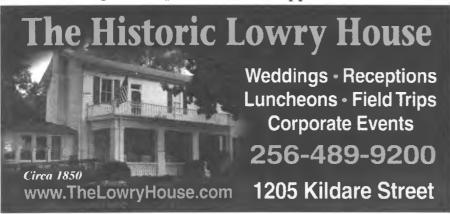
1-3 pounds chicken breast, cooked, boned and cut into chunks

1 can mushroom soup 1/2 pint sour cream

Spoon the chunks of chicken over the crust, then top with the soup and sour cream, mixed. Bake at 325 degrees for an hour. **Karen Voelker**

Mounds

1 14oz. pkg. coconut 1/2 c. sugar 1/4 c. melted butter 1 can Eagle brand milk Mix, chill, make balls & freeze. Vera Tippett







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The F.B.I. Files of Wernher von Braun

The following material was obtained from the files of the FBI and Army Intelligence as well as personal interviews conducted in Huntsville.

Director, FBI August 16, 1948 Special Inquiry

This is to advise you that by memorandum dated July 26, 1948, Mr. Peyton Ford, the Assistant to the Attorney General, advised the Bureau that it is the desire of the Attorney General that the Bureau conduct a thorough investigation concerning Wernher von Braun with particular emphasis on the internal security aspects of the emigration of von Braun into the United States for permanent residence.

The El Paso Division is requested to obtain all pertinent information concerning von Braun, including his living habits and all available derogatory information which would indicate whether or not his presence in the United States is or might be a threat to the security of

the United States.

With this note J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI, set into motion an investigation and surveillance that would last more than three decades and fill thousands of pages with facts, but also

gossip and often frivolous innuendo.

At the end of WW II, Wernher von Braun was considered to be the most eminent rocket scientist in the world. At the age of twenty he had been employed by the German military and within a few years was in charge of Peenemunde, a rocket research center in northern Germany employing over 15,000 people. Although employed by the military to build weapons of war, von Braun and his team of scientists shared the dream of space

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flight, something most people considered sheer fantasy at the time.

Among many other projects, his group of German scientists had developed the V-2 rockets used to successfully bomb London. For better or worse, the V-2s brought von Braun to the attention of intelligence agencies around the world. With the end of hostilities in Europe a mad scramble was begun to recruit von Braun and his team. Unfortunately, it soon became apparent that some of the Germans possessed what some people considered to be Nazi backgrounds.

Although many departments of the government were prepared to ignore this fact, and offer contracts of employment, President Roosevelt had earlier squelched the idea.

"I do not believe that we should offer any guarantees of protection. ... I think that any offering of guarantees would be difficult and misunderstood in this country and abroad."

After Roosevelt's death, a plan was developed whereby von Braun would be brought to this country temporarily "under the protective



custody of the JIA." (Joint Intelligence Agency)

"We were told," recalled one of the scientists, "that we would enter the country with the knowledge and approval of the President (Truman). We had no legal status, but we came under the auspices of the Army."

In a 1952 interview, however, President Truman stated, "He (von Braun) may have been brought over here by the Army, but I knew

nothing about it."

Von Braun and select members of his team were sent to Fort Bliss, Texas where investigators from different government agencies began an endless round of interrogations. The Germans were quizzed relentlessly about their backgrounds, their work, the Nazi party and contacts in the Russian zone. Von Braun answered the questions truthfully; he freely admitted to having joined the Nazi party and the SS. If he had done otherwise it would have been discovered immediately.

The Army had captured all of their records and background information and used it to double-check the scientist's replies. Every time a different, or wrong, answer was given, it would start another round of interrogations.

Although many of the Germans diplomatically described their stay at Fort Bliss as being "prisoners of peace," in reality they had no legal status. They had been brought into this country without visas, confined to a small area under constant surveillance and with their mail and phone calls censored. Von Braun, realizing that their ultimate fate might be determined by their actions, implored his team to observe the regulations.

El Paso Division, FBI Special Inquiry

Major Hamill advised that Magnus von Braun, the brother of Wernher, sold a bar of platinum for \$100. He admitted he had brought the bar to the United States in violation of the customs laws. Major Hamill stated that when this matter was brought to the attention of Wernher von Braun ... *he administered a severe beating to his brother.*

Major Hamill stated that from his conduct he had always thought Wernher von Braun to be very honorable ... and the violation of the trust by his brother and subsequent action strengthened his view.

In all fairness, it must be stated that Magnus von Braun had used the money from the sale to purchase food to send to his family in Germany where it was virtually impossible to obtain anything.

It was at first thought that government authorities would "pick the Germans' minds" for the information they had and then send them back to Germany. After a short while, however, the authorities realized the team's knowledge was so vast that short-term interrogations would serve no meaningful purpose. The only alternative was to keep von Braun in this country by letting him legally immigrate.

In February of 1947, the JIA submitted von Braun's name, and his background information, to the State Department for review prior to granting a visa. Samuel Klaus, the State Department representative, angrily denied the application pointing out that von Braun was an "ardent Nazi and a





security risk."

At the end of the war the Army had automatically rejected anyone who belonged to the Nazi party or the SS. After a few months this was changed when they realized that 1 out of 4 adult males in Germany had belonged to the party and many people had held honorary memberships in the SS and other organizations. To have excluded everyone in this classification would have made the recruitment of specialists virtually impossible.

The State Department, however, insisted on strict interpretation of the prior

policy.

The JIA then developed a plan to sanitize the records. A General in the United States Army approached J. Edgar Hoover and explained how critical it was that von Braun remain in this country. Hoover then ordered his agents to begin their own investigation.

In conjunction with the FBI, Army Intelligence and the JIA, von Braun's background was carefully gone over, with many questionable matters deleted or changed. Derogatory statements were ignored, or reinvestigated, until the findings suited the Army's purpose.

El Paso Division, FBI Confidential

It is noted that XXX (xxx represents a name that will not be made public) made statements to the effect that von Braun was, in his opinion, an avowed Nazi party member and that his opinion is based on von Braun's actions and talk and the personal impression he gained from conversation with von Braun. He also stated that he had learned from British Intelligence that von Braun held a commission in the SS and was personally decorated *by Hitler for his work on the V-2.*





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El Paso Division, FBI Confidential

In view of the information contained therein reflecting that XXX has no definite information ... no further investigation in this case is being conducted and it will remain in a closed status in this office.

The new dossiers, once they had been changed, were resubmitted to the State Department. Several of the Germans, after learning of the changes and fearing repercussions in the future, vehemently protested. The last thing they wanted were to be accused of lying at some future date.

Although it is impossible to know exactly what transpired, von Braun evidently had reservations too, as in the end he did not even sign his "new affidavit."

"We were told to not say anything," one German recalled. "If anything ever came up, they

said they would take care of it."

To clear up the problem of conducting personal interviews with people who might say something derogatory about the scientists, the FBI simply interviewed the Germans about one another. Many of the interviews read as if they were written by the same person.

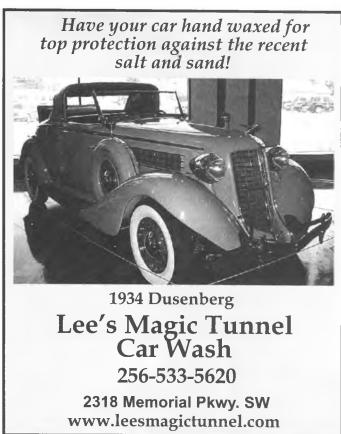
The new security application was quickly cleared by the State Department and in the winter of 1948 von Braun walked across the border at Juarez, Mexico where he applied for a visa to enter the United States. A few hours later, after receiving the proper documentation, he crossed the border back into the States as a legal immigrant. His new papers were duly stamped with Mexico being his entry point into the United

Even though the FBI considered the case closed, it continued to collect information about von Braun.

El Paso Division, FBI Classified

... under no circumstances does XXX recommend von Braun for citizenship, inasmuch as he felt von







Braun would never lose his Nazi sympathies. He stated, however, that he felt von Braun would be of a greater danger to this country if he became a national of some other nation rather than the United States. He felt von Braun's knowledge and capabilities were needed and that it would be dangerous to let him return to Germany or Russia.

In 1950, the government transferred the rocket program from Fort Bliss to Huntsville. For von Braun and his team members, it was a new beginning. Most of the scientists had lived and worked, under tight military control, on military bases since the 1930s. Citizenship, which was once thought of as merely a means to live in this country, took on a new meaning as the Germans began experiencing a new found freedom. Within a short while many had become members of civic organizations and were becoming fiercely loyal to their adopted country.

June 14, 1951
Internal Security, FBI
... The interview with the subject should be conducted by an

"If you are willing to admit you have faults, you have one less fault to admit to."

Seth Roberts, Arab

experienced agent in a discreet and tactful manner. ... In reporting the information received during this interview, the interviewing agent should include his comments and evaluation concerning the attitude, cooperation, and sincerity of subject ... as to his intention of obtaining United States Citizenship.

July, 19, 1951 Director, FBI

... von Braun and his wife have applied for their first citizenship papers and he stated they were looking forward to becoming American citizens. As previously stated, he has purchased a home in Huntsville, and mentioned that his plans at the present time are to reside in Huntsville, Alabama.

The United States was entering the Cold War period. Any allegation of Communist sympathies, regardless of how absurd, was investigated. When it was reported that von Braun

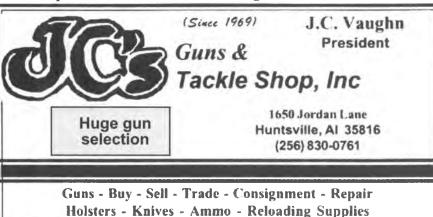
had been receiving the "Daily Worker," a Communist newspaper, the FBI, the Army Intelligence and Redstone Security launched an investigation.

> Nov. 20, 1952 Internal Security, FBI

... von Braun also stated he had never received the "Daily Worker" Communist newspaper, never read a copy of the newspaper, and had never received any literature which he felt was Communistic in any way.

Colliers Magazine, in 1952, had made von Braun a household name when they ran several articles about his quest for outer space flight. During the resulting publicity, someone leaked to Drew Pearson, a well known New York columnist, information about von Braun's membership in the Nazi party.

When Pearson published the allegations, it caused a minor





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uproar, with many people demanding an investigation. After a brief period of silence, the Army issued a statement that it, as well as the FBI, had investigated von Braun's past and had found nothing to justify the accusations.

Von Braun was questioned by several reporters about the allegations, but referred them to the Army. Already, he was caught in a catch 22. He could not deny the stories without lying but if he had confirmed them, he would be disputing the

very government that he worked for.

As Huntsville grew used to a smiling von Braun enjoying the benefits of living in a free country, there was another side they never saw. His every movement was monitored by different security agencies, he was forbidden to travel outside the country and even his friends were closely scrutinized.

Director, FBI Internal Security

... In addition he mentioned that perhaps the FBI ... would be interested to know that Wernher von Braun, scientist, was a house guest of XXX.

Once after moving to Huntsville, von Braun was riding in a car with a friend when suddenly he began to express frustration. "I don't like being treated like a foreign spy. Everywhere I go, the FBI has me followed. I can't even go to the bathroom without the FBI following me.

When his friend showed surprise, von Braun told him to look behind them. "That third car in the back has been following us since we left. It's FBI men. They're always around. My telephone is bugged, and the FBI reads more of my mail than I do. I hope someday they will trust me and leave me alone."

Director, FBI Internal Security

This office is now in receipt of information through the Post Office Inspector, Chattanooga, Tenn., originating from XXX, Postmaster, Vinemont, Alabama

as follows:

The Postmaster at Vinemont has had on occasion to notice a number of letters mailed at the Vinemont Post Office by a XXX, whose mail bears the return address of Dr. Wernher von Braun ... Huntsville, Ala. ... and on Oct. 6, 1953, a 13 oz. letter was mailed first class to XXX, London, England. Postmaster advised that previous letters were addressed to Sweden, Germany and some place in Florida ... it does appear that for some reason Von Braun does not wish that such mail pass through the Huntsville Post Office.

On April 21, 1955, in the auditorium of the old Huntsville High School, Wernher von Braun was sworn in as an American citizen. The FBI duly noted the event by carefully clipping the newspaper articles and placing them in his files. Later, when he received an award from Notre Dame, that clipping was also added.

Von Braun was finding out that the United States was a much different place than Nazi Germany, where Hitler could budget a massive rocket program on a personal whim. In the U.S., politicians controlled the budget and were squeamish about voting for anything that did not have public support. Von Braun and



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the Army realized this and began a massive publicity campaign to garner public support. By 1957, Wernher von Braun had become one of the best known men in the United States.

Hon. Edgar Hoover

... The latest issue of Life Magazine pinpoints the life and habits of Wernher von Braun, one of the great scientists at Redstone. ... This letter may sound farfetched to you, but when the Russians can kidnap several men in New York City in broad daylight, it would seem a simple matter for a fellow traveler to sabotage Von Braun's private plane. ...

Evidently Hoover had the same concerns as he forwarded a copy of the letter to the Secretary of the Army. The warning proved oddly prophetic considering what happened later.

Director, FBI Attempt To Wreck Plane Huntsville, Alabama

... von Braun was scheduled to take his test on instrument flying ... in preparation for this flight, the plane was completely examined and declared to be in perfect condition. XXX took the plane on a short test flight and when only a short distance from the airport the engine cut out. XXX said the engine cutout was caused by someone deliberately placing oil on the back side of the magneto post. It was common knowledge that von Braun was to take a test flight ... it would have to be someone who was familiar with the mechanics of an airplane ... no way for oil to get

there unless it had been placed there ... by placing oil in this position it would soon cause the magneto to become overheated and then result in the motor cutting out.

Much of the data the FBI collected on von Braun raises more mysteries than they solve. When Khrushchev visited the United States in 1959, six pages of data, labeled "Classified" and entitled "Khrushchev In The United States" were placed in von Braun's files. When they were released under the Freedom of Information Act, the file was completely blacked out. Another memo, also blacked out and dealing with Internal Security, Germany, was entitled "Reactivation of Nazis."

An idea of the extremely



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tight surveillance von Braun was under is suggested by the following entry.

Director, FBI Secret

XXX had told him that a brother of von Braun's in Germany had suggested to the subject that he get in touch with Wernher von Braun who might help get him a job ... about 18 months ago he telephoned long distance to von Braun ... and that shortly afterwards he was interviewed by the FBI. ...

Also in the files is an invitation from Senator John Sparkman inviting Hoover to the premier of "I Aim At The Stars," a movie based on von Braun's life. Although it is not known if Hoover attended, in a later memo, Clyde Tolson, Assistant Director of the FBI, declined to have von Braun talk at a FBI breakfast, writing "von Braun is a phony, and the director agrees."

By the early 1960s, confidence in our government's policy was at an all time low. The Russians were beating us in space and we had just suffered the embarrassing debacle at the Bay of Pigs. To counter this, President Kennedy proposed a bold new national incentive of placing a man on the moon by the end of the decade. The attention of the free world was immediately focused on Huntsville, Alabama as people everywhere looked to von Braun and his team of German scientists to salvage American prestige.

Director, FBI Confidential

... states that von Braun is a German and will always remain a German. ... states that von Braun exhibits an arrogance and aloofness characterized by his racial pride.

"Some guy ran into my front fender, and I told him, 'Be fruitful and multiply,' but not in those exact words.

Ironically, at the same time the FBI was gathering derogatory information about von Braun, they were also enlisting his help, apparently for purposes of espionage.

Director, FBI Espionage

... many of these people have contacts in the Russian zone. ... many of the scientists make trips to Europe to confer concerning missiles and therefore would be possible subjects for this type of program von Braun has become very Americanized and in the past has mentioned that he would try to find



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out anything that is required and would completely cooperate insofar as setting up anyone who would possibly be considered for such a program ... the scientists are completely under the control of von Braun and generally look to him for guidance and control.

Many politicians and people in private industry resented the fact that von Braun, a German, was in charge of the space program. Files began to surface concerning his past.

> Director, FBI Confidential

... von Braun was a member of the following German organizations:

NSF - National Socialist Air Corp

NSDAP - Nazi Party SS - Schutzstaffel SS Riding School

Once the documents became

public they created a furor. Enterprising reporters from around the world began digging, searching for any morsel that would sell more papers.

One writer ran a story about von Braun not returning to Germany, in 1947, to testify in a war crimes trial of an associate. The same story claimed von Braun was wanted in Germany for De-Nazification hearings.

The author neglected to point out that von Braun was

under the control of the Army at the time and they had refused to let him leave the country. Even though, he submitted a written statement that was presented at the trial. Virtually ignored was the fact that the associate had been found innocent.

Another reporter dug up a story about von Braun being named a professor, and later receiving a high medal, from Adolph Hitler personally.

All of the accusations could

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have been explained easily in a few short sentences if someone had spoken up. Von Braun had been a member of the Luftwaffe Reserve. As a high ranking official, he had been required to join the party in 1937, a time when Germany was at peace and few people had the slightest idea of the horrible excesses which was to follow. He had received an honorary membership in the SS from Himmler for his work on the rocket program, which would have been difficult, if not suicidal, to turn down.

members of the rocket team later explained von Braun's actions. "Germany, in many ways, was like the United States. You could support your country without liking the president. The difference was that as a US citizen you are entirely free to express your opinions. İn Nazi Germany, you lost at least your freedom, and possibly your life if you did so."

Another scientist explained it differently. "Don't kid yourself, we were at war. Our cities were being bombed daily. When the V-2s hit London there was an opening of Champagne bottles."

For von Braun, however,

"A cynic is a man who, when he smells flowers, looks around for a funeral."

H. L. Mencken

there was no explaining. The government, of which he was now a citizen, had instigated a cover-up years earlier and to have said anything would have exposed the government's actions, as well as jeopardizing the future of the space program.

Despite being under constant surveillance and enduring relentless attacks on his character, von Braun had nothing but praise for his adopted country. When one person wrote him, suggesting that severe measures be taken with people who One of the most esteemed opposed national interests, he wrote back, "Years of direct exposure to the Hitler regime, and its excesses, taught me a few unforgettable lessons and made me solidly opposed to any form of government which would deprive man of human dignity."

Wernher von Braun

Subject had dinner and two drinks at Murray's Restaurant on west 47th street at 7:15 until 8:20. Subject was accompanied by two males, one known and one unknown. Subject returned to hotel approximately 9:00 and did not leave room for the rest of the night. More information on unknown not available at this time.



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In private, however, von Braun was willing to talk. When an acquaintance wrote him about the accusations, von Braun replied, "... yes, I was a member of the Nazi party and the SS. I would appreciate it if you would treat this as confidential ... for the sake of NASA."

A high official at NASA offered his view. "We lied when we brought von Braun over here, and then told him to keep his mouth shut. Can you imagine him holding a press conference to explain why he joined the Nazi Party? That would have been the end of him and the space program. The poor S.O.B., didn't have a chance! He just had to stand there and take it. People say von Braun used us, but the truth is ... we used him."

Urgent, FBI Domestic Intelligence

Source advised that a group of concentration camp survivors picketed Wernher von Braun, NASA official who attended a ban-

quet. ... Twenty-five pickets paraded from 5 to 7 PM carrying signs referring to von Braun's Nazi background.

In 1968 an enterprising reporter uncovered documents from von Braun's 1947 background investigation. After comparing the files to the official records from Germany he realized they had been altered, and assumed von Braun had done so. The following story was entitled, "Nazi Lies!"

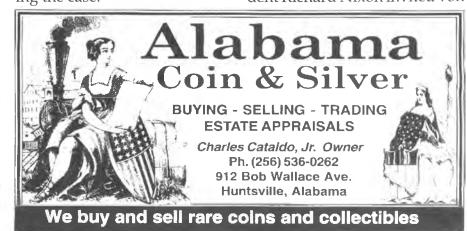
"That was hardest for von Braun," recalled one scientist, "to be called a liar. The only time I ever mentioned it to him, he told me to be patient and everything would work out."

Von Braun had suffered in silence, for decades, for the dream of sending a man to the moon. In 1968 the huge Saturn V rocket was at Cape Canaveral waiting to be launched. All systems were go and it would have been virtually impossible to kill the program at that point. Von Braun, realizing this, seized the opportunity to do something he had waited years for. The German government had quietly been investigating rumors and collecting documents concerning the case.

In 1969 he appeared at the German Embassy in New Orleans to answer the accusations. The Embassy was supplied with the relevant files from the FBI, the CIA, the Army, and the German Archives. After days of intensive probing and questioning, Wernher von Braun was completely exonerated.

It barely made the news.

Several months later in July of 1969, Wernher von Braun saw his lifelong goal of putting a man on the moon come true. To honor the occasion, President Richard Nixon invited von





Braun and his wife to a dinner at the White House.

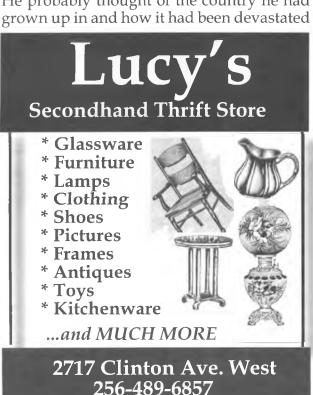
Secret John Ehrlichman, Counsel to the President

Reference is made ... in connection with the White House Affair. ... Dr. Wernher von Braun ... was subject of investigations conducted by the FBI in 1948 and 1961 ... information was developed that he received an honorary SS Commission as a Lieutenant and had been a member of the Nazi Party. ...

He had worked for the United States for twenty-eight years, placed a man on the moon and was the Director of Marshall Space Flight Center with a budget of 1.5 billion dollars and 8,000 employees, but to the FBI he was still a Nazi.

In 1977 President Ford awarded von Braun the National Medal of Science. He was in the hospital, his body wracked with cancer, and unable to attend the White House ceremony. Later a friend visited the hospital and gave him the medal.

As von Braun looked at the medal, he probably remembered when he was a small child dreaming of building a spaceship someday that would carry men into outer space. He probably thought of the country he had grown up in and how it had been devastated



by war. And he probably thought of his adopted country, a former enemy, which had given him the

They said a tear rolled down his cheek as he laid in the hospital bed with the medal clutched tightly in his hand.

Wernher von Braun supported his native country in a time of war, and for that he bore the stigma of Nazism for the rest of his life. When all the accusations are finally put to rest, perhaps historians will look at the man and discover who he really was ... a loyal German citizen, who became a great American hero.





Old Huntsville Trivia

1808 - Stephen Neal is appointed Madison County's first sheriff. He and Thomas Freeman are also named justices of the peace.

1843 - Madison County has 23,070 cattle and 8,714 horses.

1885 - City attorney office is abolished, but is re-established a vear later.

1918 - Huntsville is growing by leaps and bounds. We have 10 firemen and 10 policemen.

1919 - Fisk community near Hazel Green is bombarded with five-inch hail.

1941 - Hopper Hardware

store is established. They sold 107 kerosene lamps in their first six months of business.

1943 - Joe Tidwell opens his grocery store and J.C. Jamar is publishing the city's newest newspaper, the Huntsville Weekly Mirror.

1945 - Waterman Airlines begins regular flights to and

from Huntsville.

1946 - City council takes a chance on modernization and sells the city's last mules and wagons to C.A. Floyd for \$200.

1958 - Secretary of Defense Charles Wilson is hanged in effigy by Huntsvillians who blamed him for Russia being first to launch a spacecraft.

1972 - Chattanooga psychic Doc Anderson appears on Channel 31 News and predicts the upcoming wounding of Gov. George Corley Wallace. Movie actor Denver Pyle is at the seer's side as the prediction is made. Anderson had predicted many other major events, among them the death of F.D.R.



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Teenagers Now and the Way It Once Was

By Malcolm Miller

I have been seeing ads on TV and also on the internet concerning teenagers who have nothing to do and are bored to death and need something to do. Some even announce on their Face Book page that they are bored. Frankly this is a bunch of bull! Teeenagers in today's society are so blessed with every kind of gadget, sporting equipment and things to entertain them that it baffles me to no end how they can complain of boredom.

When I was a teenager we had to make the best of what we had. It is definitely hard for children today to understand this. With no electricity, no phones and most of the time not even a radio to listen to we had to improvise and make things to play with to entertain our selves. In winter when it was too cold most of the time to be outside we played dominoes, checkers or maybe mumble peg. We usually didn't have a store bought checker board so some one would draw a checker board on a card board box. No checkers? No problem, we would use bottle tops for checkers and when we needed a king, simple, just turn the bottle top upside down and put another top inside it. Mumble peg could get a little difficult if you lost. In order to play you needed a two bladed knife. Each player would spin the knife on a wood surface and you got points by how the knife stuck in the wood, more points for landing on one blade and fewer points landing on two blades. When the game ended the winner would drive a large match in the ground and the loser had the unfortunate task of pulling the match out with their teeth.

Summer time brought many more ways to entertain ourselves, first of all those of us who lived on farms were kept busy with farm work unless it rained. When we weren't in the fields we could always get up a ball game in a cow pasture or in the city on a vacant lot. Equipment to play with was a real problem but we made do with what we had. Hardly any one had a ball glove and whoever owned a ball of any kind usually got to pitch, if they didn't they would take their ball and go home. We also

played basket ball, there was some kind of hoop fastened to a garage or smoke house wall and I don't remember ever owning a real basket ball. But someone usually came up with some sort of air filled ball usually kind of small but we used what we had and enjoyed it.

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a swimming hole some where in a creek or river and none of us bovs owned swim trunks so naturally we always went skinny dipping. My favorite pastime was fishing and still is now though I haven't been able to go in a long time, hopefully I can go some this spring.

The point I have been trying to bring out is that youngsters today are fortunate to have all the things that I never dreamed of having when I was growing up. Although children today have Wii, TV, text messaging, cell phones, computers, good sporting equipment - many of them still find themselves with nothing to do. How many people today remember how to play blind man's bluff? Not many I'll bet.

I want to close this column on a personal note if I may. My good friend and well known song writer Curly Putman has just released a new CD and all the proceeds from the sale of these CD's will go toward a scholarship in memory of Curly and Bernice's grand child who passed away a few years back. So if you would like to order one of the CD's and make a contribution, e-mail me at slimmiller7@ knology.net. I will have more information on how to order the CD by the time this issue comes out. Curly is joined by Dolly Parton and some other stars on the CD.

I am certain this CD will be treasured by fans of Curly's previous great hits.

Do you know of any Old Huntsville stories that have never been written? Complete discretion assured. Stories must be true and accompanied by factual records or evidence.

Call Old Huntsville



Dangerous Jitney Drivers

from 1915 Huntsville newspaper

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

At dusk this practice is indeed a most dangerous degree when numbers of jitneys and others who know better, run their cars without lights. The police, no doubt, will cause somebody a great deal of trouble when some hapless

soul is run down.

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The Death of General McCook

Paper by Mrs. Annie B. Robertson at Huntsville, Ala., 1902

The death of Gen. Daniel McCook, the Ohio brigadier who lost his life near Huntsville during the early part of the War between the States, was the subject of a historical paper read at the last meeting of the Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy by Mrs. Annie B. Robertson. The paper contains data of historical interest given by Capt. Frank B. Gurley, of the Confederate army, who was the central figure of the tragedy and was condemned to death by the United States army court-martial for firing the shot. Captain Gurley is still living at Gurley, Alabama.

Asked by our hostess to contribute an article, I give one of local interest which, I believe, has never been made public from the Southern standpoint. Therefore I have gotten these

facts from the one person yet living who can give them, and I think it only just to the 4th Alabama Cavalry, and Company C especially, that the truth should be told by their side and preserved by the Virginia Clay Clopton Chapter, U. D. C.

Frank B. Gurley, having been commissioned captain of cavalry by the order of the Confederate Congress, raised a company in Madison and adjoining counties of one hundred and fifteen men. In the spring of 1862 he was sent to watch the enemy in North Alabama and Middle Tennessee, taking with him about thirty men, with orders to report to Gen. Kirby Smith then at Chattanooga. Thinking he had not men enough for the work, he returned to the command and asked the commandant to let Capt. J. M. Hambrick with thirty



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men go back with him into the enemy's lines, which request

was granted.

I asked Captain Gurley for dates of the skirmish in which General McCook (U. S. A.) was killed, and I give his answer in his own words: "I can't give dates — I had no way of knowing dates — I did not know when Sunday came. We lived on what we could get and slept where the enemy would let us."

It was in the spring of 1862. soon after the return of the companies to North Alabama, Captain Hambrick in command by right of seniority. I quote again from Captain Gurley: "I learned by slipping around among the few people who would take the risk of being my friends that a drove of beef cattle had been taken from the citizens of Limestone and Madison Counties by the Federal troops and would pass along the Limestone and Winchester road." Captain Hambrick, with sixty-six men all told, thought that, as the road on which cattle would pass was through a barren woods, they might scatter the cattle and pick up quite a number of them.

Going north, they reached the Limestone road, when Captain Hambrick halted the command and Captain Gurley was ordered to move west to see if the cattle had yet passed. They soon came in sight of some Federal soldiers in the distance, the captain and men would retire, the enemy following. When they would stop, the bluecoats would do the same, thus tailing them until they were in firing distance, then the shooting

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began. Soon the Federals gave back, they shooting back and the Confederates at them.

The dust soon became so thick that they could see only the hindmost men. This continued for about one-fourth of a mile, when a school wagon going "full speed" came in sight. Soon the wagon ran under some overhanging limbs, tearing off the top. The wagon was driven by a negro. Two white men

were on the back seat. One was in full uniform, and the other in his shirt sleeves. Captain Gurley and his brother were in advance.

F. B. Gill, James Mason and James Campbell following closely. When within about fifty yards. Captain Gurley fired three shots at the officer in uniform. The wagon was halted, and on reaching it they found that the man with his coat off had been wounded, one ball

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passing through his body. Now as the shooting had been at the man in uniform, the killing of General McCook was an accident.

When the rest of the command came up, Captain Gurley turned the wounded man, who proved to be General McCook, his staff officer, Capt. Hunter Brooke, and the wagon over to Captain Hambrick, and he and his men continued in pursuit of the enemy. In about a half mile they ran into a divided column of Federal infantry, which did not fire at them, although they passed the head of the column.

Seeing the situation, Captain Gurley ordered a retreat, reporting to the commanding officer. There was no further fighting. Captain Gurley says: "Why we were not pursued we never knew, and thought strange the Federal cavalry should abandon their commanding officer. General McCook had been left, presumably, to protect railroads in the rear of the Federal army that had moved toward Chattanooga to intercept General Bragg's advance into Kentucky. McCook's last encampment had been at Athens, Ala., and he was moving his brigade toward Winchester, Tenn., to join the Federal army in pursuit of

Captain Hambrick had ordered the wounded general to be taken to the nearest private house. Dr. J. C. Steger thinks it was Mr. Crutcher's. He was attended by his own surgeon and staff officer, and the family did all they could to give relief. Soon afterwards smoke was seen in several directions, and it was learned that the Federals were burning the houses of citizens

along the road.

Capt. Hunter Brooke, U.S.A., who was a prisoner, suggested to Captain Hambrick that he should be permitted, under guard, to go and use his influence to stop the wanton destruction. He was sent with Lieutenant Gibson as guard, and did succeed at the time. Dr. Steger says: "But after General McCook's death, which was in twenty-four hours, the entire premises of those who had sheltered him were burned, and a sick man, seventy-five years old, with the ladies and children of his family, was made homeless."

Capt. Hunter Brooke was held for about two weeks, and then exchanged for a Confederate officer of equal rank. A few days after this incident Captain Gurley and troop, passing through Huntsville, were received as heroes.

Cheers, tears, and flowers were showered on them; even Captain Gurley's horse was wreathed with flowers, the whole community joining in the laudations.

The troop remained two or three weeks in North Ala-

bama, and then joined the other three companies somewhere in Middle Tennessee, and were organized with a battalion by Captain Russell, under General Forrest, into the 4th Alabama Cavalry, and remained under Generals Wheeler or Forrest until surrendered by the latter at Gainesville, Ala., May, 1865.

What Captain Gurley suffered after his capture sometime later – aye, even after peace, as it was called - would take another paper to relate. After our own President and Senator C. C. Clay, I suppose no Confederate soldier suffered more than our own gallant Captain Gurley. I myself know how he refused money, even gold, as scarce as it was at that time, for the corn and hogs on his place, saving it for those who had followed him into the war and the widows and children of those who had been killed in his company.



Paul Bolden

by Austin Miller

I don't normally write about people that I don't know personally but in this case I am making an exception. Paul Luther Bolden was born at Hobbs Island, Alabama on May 15, 1922. He died May 21, 1979 at the age of 56 and is buried in Moon Cemetery at Owens Cross Roads.

Paul was born into a very poor family that barley eked out a living share cropping. Life was hard for sharecroppers in Alabama during the twenties and thirties. When he went into the Army in 1942 his life was very likely much better than what he knew in his growing up years. At least he had plenty to eat, good clothes to wear and an easier job than working in the cotton fields back in Alabama.

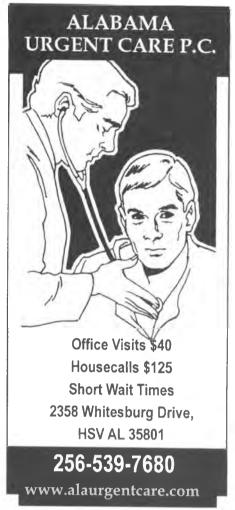
Apparently he took to soldiering like a duck takes to water. He went in as a private and came out three years later as a Master Sergeant. My Uncle Malcolm Miller knew Paul personally. Uncle Malcolm said he was a slender, soft spoken man with light brown hair who was so quiet and shy that he seemed to fade unnoticed into the background. There was no indication before World War II that Paul Bolden would one day receive the nation's highest military decoration for bravery in combat.

Mr. Bolden won the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his actions on December 23, 1944, at Petit-Coo Belgium. You can go on line under the name Paul Bolden and find his Medal of Honor citation. It is also posted with his picture in the Hero's hall of fame at the Madison County Courthouse.

When Paul returned home in late 1945, a parade in his honor was given in downtown Huntsville. In those days you would have been hard pressed to find one adult in the county that did not know the name Paul Bolden. But times change, Huntsville grew into a city and now you couldn't find more than a few that ever heard of Paul Bolden.

Also, there is another World War II Medal Of Honor winner from Huntsville that most people haven't heard about. His name was Cecil Bolton: Mr. Bolton was not born in Madison County and didn't live all of his life here, but enlisted while he was a resident.

There is story about Paul going for a job interview at Redstone Arsenal. According to the story, an interviewer was giving him a hard time about his job qualifications. After all, he had no apparent skills other



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than leading men in combat and killing Germans! To make matters worse he was being treated in a condescending manner. The colonel in charge overheard the conversation and angrily went to the interviewer and shouted, "What's wrong with you, this man is a Congressional Medal of Honor winner and qualified for any job here!" With that he took all the applications, except Mr. Bolden's, and threw them in the trash and then said," Now he is your most qualified applicant, hire him!"

In Huntsville and Madison County there are schools, highways, overpasses and buildings named after every one from astronauts to slain police officers. The only place named for Mr. Bolden is the Military Veterans Museum off Airport Road. That is of course good, but it is not enough! There is nothing in the city or county bearing Mr. Bolden's name with the level

of visibility normally afforded Medal of Honor winners. Is our hometown hero any less deserving than Alvin York who has a large statue on the State Capitol grounds in Nashville or others that are prominently honored by cities and communities through out America? In Madison county there is not one school, prominent public building, busy overpass or thoroughfare named in honor of Paul Bolden! This is especially

hard to understand in a military community that takes pride in the way it honors veterans.

I am not very optimistic that this will change. Bill Easterling, the popular columnist for the Huntsville Times, took this on a few years ago to no avail! It is my hope though that one day soon our elected officials will see fit to honor this native son in a way that is commensurate with what he did for his country.





Busy Session Held by City Council Last Night

from 1906 Newspaper

- The city council held an interesting meeting last night and passed several ordinances that are of interest to the gen-

eral public.

- Mayor Smith stated that on the advice of John Wesley, a paving expert, the entire cost of the paving will be passed on to the property owners. The paving ordinance was changed effective immediately.

- An ordinance was also passed providing for the grading of the extension of Locust Street, laying the street with concrete gutters, stone curbs and granifoid sidewalks.

- Permission was granted the owners of the little frame building on Washington Street occupied by the Davis tin shop for roofing the building with

- The members of the Fire Department will be allowed vacation for the summer.

- The Hospital Association stated that an annex is being erected to the city hospital and permission was asked for the right to remove this new

structure when the lease of the association runs out. This was granted.

- By a vote of the council, water meters will be placed on the pipe furnishing water to the

livery stables.

- Homer Rodgers was arrested for beating a mule belonging to a neighbor. In his defence he said the mule had wandered into his yard and would not

- The street committee, to which was referred the matter of extending Green and widening Cruse Alley was reported favorable on both propositions. The recommendation of the engineer was that the new streets be made 46 feet wide but the committee reported in favor of 60 foot streets. City Attorney Murphy was directed to proceed with the condemnation of abutting property as provided by Section 21 of the city code. The committee expressed the opinion in its report that the widening of the alley and extension of the street would add from 20 to 100 per cent to

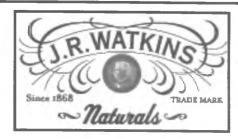
"I'd rather be strongly wrong than weakly right."

the property that is now

cut off from communication with the streets.

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News from the Year 1912

News from Huntsville and Around the World

Titantic Survivor Examined Passenger says not enough life boats

New York, May 2: Senator enough boats. Smith, of the Titanic Investigating Committee, today examined a first steerage passenger of the Titanic. He swore positively that the ship's officers made an effort to lock the steerage passengers on their own deck following the collision. Steerage passengers who protested were knocked down by the deck steward, but they later smashed the gate.
The witness was Daniel

Buckley, aged 21, who emigrated from Cork, Ireland.

He declared that the first the steerage passengers knew of the accident was when the water began rushing into their quarters. They were in bed.

He said: 'We rushed upstairs but could find no life preservers. Not one of us had any. After the gate was smashed, we had as good a chance as any of the passengers but there were not

> "The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why fish don't drown, I don't know."

> > Bobby, age 6

When we launched the sixth boat, a few of us got in, as there were few women left. An officer ordered us to get out. A woman whom I afterward learned was Mrs. John Jacob Astor put a small shawl over me. I stayed in the bottom of the boat and was saved."

Local News

Huntsville - The Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, headed by J.P. Cooney, announced today that it is raising membership dues to \$1 per month.

- Horace Deavers reported shooting a hog thief yesterday near New Market. All persons are warned to be on the look out for a tall light-haired, thin white man dressed in overalls and carrying a healthy load of buck shot in certain parts of his body.

Mayor and **Editor in Fist Fight**

Huntsville -Mayor, R.E. Smith, and J. Emory Pierce, editor of the local newspaper, were involved in an altercation yesterday after meeting on the streets and exchanging insults.





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The Mayor had taken exception to certain articles recently printed in the newspaper, and after meeting Emory on the sidewalks in front of the courthouse, took the opportunity to voice his displeasure.

One witness claimed the mayor made certain remarks about Emory's ancestry, whereas the editor promptly begin thrashing him with a walking cane. The pugilists were separated without serious injury.

The mayor fined himself ten dollars in city court the next morning for losing his temper.

Grand Jury Makes Report

Huntsville -The Pest House on Athens Pike was found to be in satisfactory condition with only six smallpox patients in residence.

The county Poor House near New Market has 23 inmates living in six double log cabins, with a mess hall.

Congress Passes Income Tax Law

Washington, D.C.: Despite fiery opposition from Southern lawmakers, Congress today passed the 16th amendment, making a Federal Income Tax the law of the land.

Lawmakers were finally swayed into voting for the amendment after receiving promises that the new law would only affect the top two percent of the population.

"The average working man," insisted a New York Senator, "would feel absolutely no effects from the tax. The burden will be put entirely upon the wealthiest two percent who can most afford it."

Leaders from both parties gave assurances that the tax rate would never be increased and that the money raised would be spent entirely on reducing the deficit.



"I've gotten alot heavier as I get older, because I have so much more information in my head."

Sue Pearson, Athens



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Growing up on Green Mountain

by Patsy Sloan Stallings

Although I have been away from Huntsville for many years, it will always feel like home to me. I love to drive up on Green Mountain and revisit the past. The million dollar mansions and beautiful exposed valley views are intriguing. The number of residences and the population has multiplied by thousands. Much more than this has changed since my first encounter with the mountain.

In 1947, my family bought eighty acres of land where the road reaches the top. The acreage was on both sides of the road and was completely covered with trees and bushes. There was no building of any kind. The road was steep and winding, as it is today, however its surface was gravel and there were no guard rails. Intimidating? You bet, for those who had always lived on level ground. It was never explained to us why Mama and Daddy took my brothers, Phillip, who was 16, and Doug, who was 10 and me to the mountain. An older brother, Buddy, went with us. Buddy had been away from

"Hymn Singing outdoors tonight at 7pm - bring your blankets and be prepared to sin."

Seen in church bulletin

us for several years and had recently returned.

We rented a small house from a man named Leonard Castle who lived on the mountain. We lived there until Daddy and Buddy built our house. The Castle house had one bedroom, a kitchen and a lean-to room across the back. Some of the windows had wooden shutters instead of glass panes.

The first year must have been hard living in that small rented house. I don't remember it that

way because I was only 14 years old. Every day held a new adventure. Mary Ann Castle and I visited almost all the families. We explored

many caves. We had heard about a man who was accused of killing a Fleming woman who lived at Lily Flagg. He had escaped the law and hid out on Green Mountain. We looked in all the caves for signs that he had been there. If he had, we found no signs of it.

Buddy lived in a tent on the site where our house was to be built. Once he brought a man home with him who had been drinking and was wearing a very .stained dress suit. Mama



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heated water in our wash pot and boiled his suit. We dried it by the stove while he took a nap. He left clean and dry but his pants had shrunk up halfway to his knees and his coat sleeves were up to his elbows. He didn't say a single word while he was there.

Buddy and Daddy had a truck rigged up with a cut-off saw. They cut trees, took them to a sawmill in Big Cove and had them sawed into lumber. The two of them built a house for us from those raw materials. That house is still standing. Buddy's widow lives in it. Our new house had three bedrooms, a living room, a dining room and a kitchen. There was a fireplace in the living room and a wood burning cook stove in the kitchen.

There was no electricity so we used kerosene lamps for light and washed our clothes with a rub board. Water was carried by hand from a spring under the edge of the mountain top. I can remember running up the path with a bucket of water in each hand hurrying to hear Sterchi's Jamboree on the radio. I loved Hank Williams and Eddy Arnold! There was not a lot of water left in the buckets when I got back to the house.

The black mountain earth was so warm and fertile anything planted would grow. We had a strawberry patch, an orchard and a vegetable garden that yielded everything we needed for a quick lunch or jars and jars of preserved food for the winter.

There were not a lot of Green

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tomato is a fruit - Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.



Mountainers when we got there. There was a very old couple named Bell. When I visited her, Mrs. Bell let me see her steropticon. It was an antique thing very similar to a view master. I liked it.

Across the road from the Bell's place was the Cowan's place. They were Duke and his wife, Ella, Duke's daughter Mary Jo and his son James Earl. They had a windmill that ran a generator which provided power for a battery to run a radio. Duke didn't allow anyone else to listen to the radio, but he listened to the world news.

They had preserved a lot of food from their gardens during past years and showed me that they had stored and kept food from seven years all the time under their house. All food over seven years old was thrown away.

The Castle's place was next. There was Leonard and his wife Mary and their daughters, Mary Ann and Kathleen and their son, Marvin. Mary Ann and I had what we called a club in the attic of their garage. There was a wooden box full of salted pork in the attic. I had never seen salted meat before. Our meat was always smoked.

The first place on the south end of the mountain belonged to a family named Baker. Mr. and Mrs. Baker had several sons, who were always formally dressed in public. They had a daughter who had married Mary Castle's brother. His name was Harmon. They also lived on the mountain. There was a wonderful damson plum

Hospitality - the art of making your guests feel like they're at home, even if you wish they were.

tree growing by their front door. It's the only one I have ever seen. The Baker's house was spotlessly clean. There was only what was needed, little for comfort that I saw. Their floors had been scrubbed with lye water so many times that the wood planks were white. Their daughter's house was just as clean, but she had some beautiful crocheted items such as little shoes and cups and saucers on end tables. They were starched very stiff.

There were three brothers named White. Ike and Laura had a daughter named Olene Case. I think she lived with them. Another White brother was Lawrence. He and his wife had some sons. One of them was named James. He was the only one I knew. Lawrence drove our truck for us when Buddy left to go somewhere else to work. The third White brother was Emmett. He and his wife, Nora, had several children. There was Martin, Inez, Junior, Boyd, a son in the Marines named Marvin and another daughter named Lorene. Buddy and Lorene White married and had several children. Their children

"I LOVE a good meal... so I don't cook!"

Maxine



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are James, Ann, Sue, Marilyn and Lori.

My brothers, Phillip and Doug and I walked down the mountain and caught the bus to go to school. The bus stop was at the foot of the mountain across the valley on the south side. In the good weather is was not too bad. The trip up in the afternoons was a trial at the best of times. However, we knew where all the wild grapes, persimmons and black haws grew.

On Saturday mornings it was customary for someone with a truck to pick up anyone who wanted to go to Huntsville. We always wanted to go. We would be dropped off at the courthouse and the truck would be left in the A&P grocery store

parking lot. We would all gather there around 5:00 for the trip home.

We would hang around the courthouse and sit on benches. If the weather was bad we could sit in the basement. The restrooms were there and there were lots of wooden benches to sit on and read old National Geographic magazines.

Country groups made music and sang on the courthouse steps and people threw coins to them. Politicians made cam-

paign speeches and men traded knives and told tall tales. The women sat round and talked about quilting and canning.

Sometimes Mama

and I would go to the Twickenham Hotel and have a cold plate lunch. It was a real treat. There was ham and assorted cheeses, olives and little red tomatoes among other treats. Then we had ice cream sundaes. A little shopping was done during the day and last was the grocery shopping at the A&P just before leaving. It was a job choosing supplies to last an entire week.

Maybe a past like this one is not worth revisiting, but I like

to do it anyway.

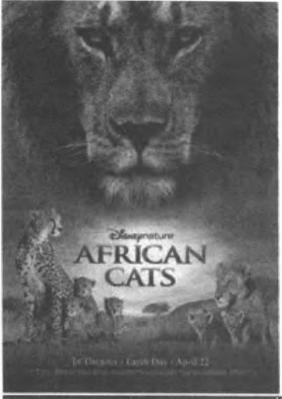


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A Letter from Mom and Dad

Anonymous

My Child,

When I get old, I hope you understand and have patience with me. In case I break a plate, or spill soup on the table because I'm losing my eyesight, I hope you don't yell at me. Old people are sensitive...always having self-pity when you yell.

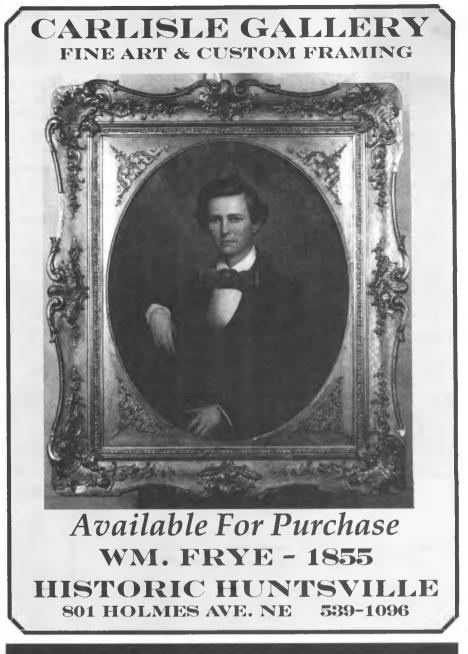
When my hearing gets worse and I can't hear what you're saying, I hope you don't call me "Deaf." Please repeat what you said or write it down. I'm sorry, my child. I'm getting older. When my knees get weaker, I hope you have the patience to help me get up, like how I used to help you while you were little, learning how to walk.

Please bear with me, when I keep repeating myself like a broken record. I hope you just keep listening to me. Please don't make fun of me or get sick of listening to me. Do you remember when you were little and you wanted a balloon? You repeated yourself over and over until you got what you wanted.

Please also pardon my smell, I know I smell like an old person. Please don't force me to shower, my body is weak. Old people get sick easily when they're cold. I hope I don't gross you out. Do you remember when you were little? I used to chase you around because you

"Only a government that is afraid of its citizens tries to control them."

John Adams





didn't want to take a shower.

I hope you can be patient with me when I get cranky, it's all part of getting old. You'll understand when you're older.

And if you have some spare time I hope we can talk, even if it's just for a few minutes. I'm always by myself all the time, and have no one to talk to. I know you're busy with work. Even if you're not interested in my stories, please have time for me. Do you remember when you were little? I used to listen to your stories about your teddy bear, no matter how many times you wanted to tell it.

When the time comes and I get ill and bedridden, I hope you have the patience to take care of me. I'm sorry, if I accidentally wet the bed or make a mess. I hope you have patience to take care of me during the last few moments of my life.

I'm not going to last much longer, anyway. When the time of my death comes, I hope you hold my hand and give me the strength to face death.

And don't worry, when I finally meet our Creator, I will whisper in His ear to Bless you, because you loved your Mom and Dad. Thank you so much for your care.

With much love, Mom and Dad



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Memories of the River Bridge

by Georger Swartz (from a 1931 interview)

As the river bridge (bridge on South Parkway) is nearing completion (1931) and will soon be dedicated, I believe it is fitting that the present day generation should know something of this site's early period of importance to the Tennessee Valley, especially Huntsville. John Ditto, in the fall of 1802, came down the Watauga trail from some point in Virginia, stopped where the present site of Huntsville is today, and built a lean-to pole shack against the river where General Cook's army is shown to have crossed at John Ross ferry, where Chattanooga is today. He was also enroute to the Creek country, touched the Coosa River at Ft. Armstrong, and down the meanders of the river to where he joined Jackson at Littaflichee above Ft. Strother on the Coosa in the eastern Mississippi territory, now eastern Alabama.

James White established a salt house at a point where the present bridge heels on the north bank of the river today. This was about 1828. He was called Salt White, because of his salt trade, by the early steamboat men. Capt. Mathew Mohan married Betty Cooper in 1830. She was a daughter of the proprietor of Cooper's tavern, then located at the point today where the Huntsville city hall stands. This property was the first sold by the commissioners

"When buying & selling are controlled by legislation, the first things to be bought & sold are legislators."

P. J. O'Rourke

of Huntsville and bought by John Reed, who paid \$715 for it. Later a tavern was built and run by the Coopers. Miss Cooper was in Roes Seminary on Roes Mountain, now Monte Sano since given that name as a development project. Capt. Mohan had learned the shoals trade as a flat boat pilot beginning in 1812.

He met the girl at the tavern. As these shoals pilots would come up the Watauga trail from the point where it branched off the Natchez trail at Colbert's ferry, they would stop at the tavern. After Capt. Mohan married he took his bride to Ditto's Landing, and was warehouseman for James White for several years.



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After steamboats were built he ran on the river above the shoals. He went on them and was the first flat boat shoals pilot to qualify as a licensed pilot by the steamboat inspection service from Ditto's Landing to Eastport Landing, Miss., at the foot of the shoals. This was in 1852 after Congress passed a bill Aug. 30, 1852 compelling all officers of steam vessels serve three years and qualify to get licensed. Capt. Matt K. Mohan, son of Matthew and Betty Mohan, lives today at Hartselle, Ala., and is 92 years of age. Hence, the above information.

I have known two early and steamboat men who knew John Ditto personally, Capt. Tom Miller, and Jesse Allison. These men told me much about Ditto's Landing in 1807 and 1809, and the first steamboat over the shoals in 1828. She sank on Bird Iron shoals two miles below Ditto's Landing in the early 1830s, was raised and rebuilt into the steamboat Enterprise at John Ditto's boat yard on the river bank below the present ferry boat landing today.

Ditto's Landing road was an important thoroughfare and much traffic was engaged over it, taking all products from Huntsville to the river to be shipped south. Flour was a big item shipped in via Ditto's Landing road. There was an inspector kept at Ditto's who in those days was called a flour inspector, really was a surveyor of customs in a simple way. Hunter Peel's map of 1825 shows the Ditto's Landing road, which is now called the Whitesburg Pike, since the landing took that name about 1833.

"The Supreme Court has ruled they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. They couldn't find 3 wise men and a virgin."

Jay Leno

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Place 2 tablespoons of finely chopped lemon verbena or lavender into 2 tablespoons warmed glycerin. Place in a warm place for several days. Strain and finely grate 12 tablespoons of unscented soap or soap flakes and melt in top of a double boiler. Remove from heat and add the scented glycerin to the melted soap. Add 1 tablespoon of honey. Mix well and pour into greased molds.

Allow to set until the soap is cool and hardened.

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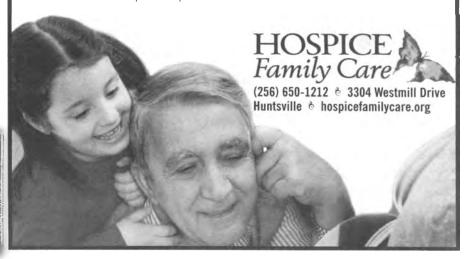
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Civil War News from Jackson County

Huntsville Daily Confederate, Feb.13, 1864

Recent advises from Jackson County, Ala., represent the terrible devastation throughout the county, except where there are mountain defiles and fastnesses favorable for guerrilla operations. We are told that Maj. Lemuel G. Mead is operating in that county with five companies, and with good effect — that he, recently, captured and brought out 20 prisoners. He remains, with his men, in the county and subsists them there, at points, where it would be dangerous for the Yankees to travel and they are discreet enough not to attempt it.

There are three Tory companies there — one raised in Jackson County, the Captain of which is Ephraim Latham, who deserted from the 50th Ala., (in which he held the rank of Lieutenant,) about a year ago. The other two companies are from DeKalb County, Alabama. The Yankees feel contempt for them and stigmatize them as the 1st Alabama Tory Battalion.

We are told that one of the miscreants, Sample by name, not long since, went to the house of Elias Barbour, a true Southerner, and beat Mrs. Barbour with a hickory stick, and only desisted when her daughter, heroically, seized an axe and drove him off. We are, also, told that an old "Rebel" woman, living near Bellefonte, was struck by a Yankee, with a stick, on the back

of her neck, breaking it.

One of the parties from whom we get our information, represents that he was under arrest at Stevenson and had an opportunity of learning the sentiments of Sherman's Corps on the question of re-enlistment, and they, generally, declared that they would not re-enlist.

Another said he did not believe over ten men would sign the enlistment papers again.

"I remember when Google, IPod, email and modem were unheard of, and a mouse was something that made you climb onto a table."

Sandi Henderson

Tassies

6 oz. cream cheese

1 c. butter

2 c. flour

2 c. brown sugar

3 T. butter

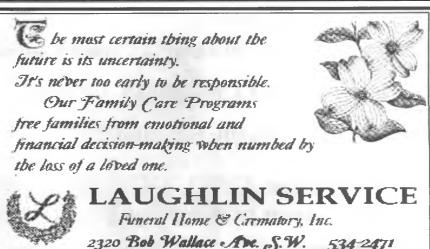
3 eggs

3 t. vanilla extract

1 c. chopped walnuts

Blend cream cheese & butter, gradually add flour to form a smooth dough. Refrigerate in bowl for 1/2 hour. Meanwhile blend sugar, butter, eggs, and vanilla together, stir in nuts. Lightly grease mini-muffin tins. Form pastry into small balls and press into tins to cover bottom and sides of each cup with thin layer. Add filling to fill 3/4 of shell. Bake at 325 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Lift tassies out of muffin tins when cool.







HUNTSVILLE, AL 4008 University Dr. (Just west of Jordan Ln.) 830-0069 DECATUR, AL 1711 Central Pkwy. 584-0069



UPCOMING

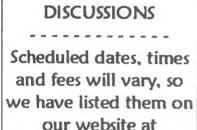
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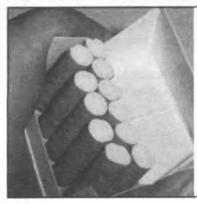
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Jonathan Lucroy, G#21

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Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

- 1. Growing up in the Rocket
 City: A Baby Boomer's Guide (over
 200 photos/illustrations) by Tommy
 Towery \$15
- 2. Remembering Huntsville: 131
 Vintage Photographs by Jacque
 Reeves \$16.95
- 3. Reflections from the Front Porch: Mayberry Stories in Madison County by Harold Fanning \$13.99
- **4. Echoes of the Past: Old Mahogany Table Stories** by Nancy
 Rohr \$15.00
- **5.** Life in the Skillet: Lessons from Lick Skillet, Alabama by Harold Fanning \$13.99
- 6. An Alabama School Girl in Paris, 1842-1844 by Nancy Rohr \$17.95
- 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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