



No. 230
April 2012



Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

The Ladies of Huntsville



The women of Huntsville gathered together in solemn council, for upon them the grim reality fell most heavily. How could they meet Gen. Mitchel's demand of their scant stores of food?

Even more desperate was the plight of their own kind. If Federal soldiers were this hungry, how was it with those poor boys in gray, cooped up within the old walls of the depot? They must be starving. It was unanimously resolved that this condition must be rectified.

A committee of two ladies was appointed to visit the General and obtain his permission for them to feed the prisoners.

Also in this issue: Remembering Don Mincher

Lewter's Hardware Store



In 1928 our great-grandfather, D.A. Lewter, and our grandfather, J.M. Lewter, started the family business in a small store on Washington Street. They believed in offering fair prices, treating each customer with special respect and hiring great employees.

We are the fourth generation, proudly carrying on the same tradition.

While our prices have gone up slightly and we have a few more employees, we still provide the same quality service our fore-fathers insisted on. We are the same family, doing the same business in the same location. Stop by and visit with us.

**A Hardware Store....
The Way You Remember Them**

*Domie Lewter
Mac Lewter*

222 Washington St - 539-5777

The Ladies of Huntsville

The excitement in the city was very great, as telegram after telegram gave the reports of what was taking place on the bloody battlefields of Shiloh, for many of our Huntsville boys were there. While they were absorbed with the news coming from the telegraph office, the people were taken by surprise by a carrier riding in hot haste down the Meridianville Pike, shouting to everyone he saw, "The Yankees are coming! The Yankees are coming!"

It was that fateful cry, long and fearfully anticipated but now suddenly sprung upon them that made livid the faces of women and children. The cooler heads among the men were trying to sift the truth from the excited horseman, when his report was verified by the coming of another galloping horseman.

Hardly had this validation of the truth settled upon the excited listeners, when the long whistle of an incoming train from the west was heard. "What train is that, and who are aboard it?" was asked with blanched lips. A few of the

older men rushed to the depot, and before the train stopped, saw that it was a military train with Southern soldiers aboard, bound for the east. Realizing the danger of the situation, one man rushed forward to the engine and shouted to the engineer, "Go on, go on! Don't stay, the Yankees are right here and will catch you."

The engineer looked back to the conductor who had also heard the warning, but who for a moment hesitated, weighing the report in his mind, then finally deciding from the earnestness and character of the man, gave a quick motion for forward to the engineer who quickly pulled open the throttle... it was too late. Before the steam pressed upon the piston, the train was surrounded by Yankee cavalry, who with leveled revolvers forced the engineer to close his throttle.

The train and all that it contained was now in the possession of the enemy. A company of Confederate soldiers were on board. These men had performed gallant service at Manassas and as a reward were given a furlough to their respective homes from which they were now returning. They were now few in number, without arms and surrounded.

The Yankees (Fourth Ohio Cavalry) took possession of them as prisoners and marched them into the depot – the same old freight depot that is there today.

As you slide down the banister of life, make sure the splinters are pointing in the right direction.



L. Thomas Ryan, Jr. Attorney At Law

2319 Market Place, Suite B
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Telephone (256) 533-1103 Fax (256) 533-9711

**ESTATE PLANNING, LIVING TRUSTS,
WILLS, PROBATE**

"No Representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."



Old Huntsville, Inc.
716 East Clinton Ave.
Huntsville, Ala. 35801

(256) 534-0502

Email - oldhuntsville@knology.net
Internet Home Page
www.oldhuntsville.com

Advertising - (256) 534-0502
Sales & Mrktg. - Cathey Carney

Editor - Cheryl Tribble

Gen. Manager - Ron Eyestone

Copy Boy - Tom Carney (in memory)

Contributing Writers:

Malcolm Miller

Chuck Bobo

All material contained within is copyright 2012 and may not be reproduced or copied in any form without written permission of the publisher. Old Huntsville, Inc. assumes no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts.

Printing for



provided by

Color Express

132 Jetplex Lane, Madison

256-774-3600

ELS

Professional Estate Liquidation

**Did you inherit it? Collect it?
We can organize it, Price it &
Sell it for you.**



**Life Estates,
Personal Property,
Real Estate,
Downsizing,
Relocation,
Business Closings,
Divorce, Asset
Reduction**

**Belinda @ (256) 603-1166
belindabuford@yahoo.com**

**Pat @ (256) 797-0196
patjeffries55@yahoo.com**

This regiment of cavalry was soon followed by the rest of the command of Brig. Gen. O.M. Mitchel, who took possession of Huntsville with its old men, women, and children, and for some time after ruled them with a rod of iron.

Before the war, Mitchel had been quite conspicuous as an astronomer and lecturer, but when he changed his science and literary career for a military one, he shook off the attractive qualities of mind and heart that belong to a scholar and assumed voluntarily the iron mantle of despotism. In his view, no man had a right to be a rebel, and in addition, no wife or child had a right to be the wife or child of a rebel. If they dared to continue as such, they ought to receive the just punishment that he was sent to administer.

His boast was that he would soon scourge them into submission.

In the disposition of his forces he had made a quick movement, took Huntsville by surprise and overwhelmed its citizens with pain and sorrow, for he fed his troops from their scant stores. His provision train was too far away. Bridges had been burned and no one could tell when his

wagons would arrive. In the meantime his soldiers must be fed. "They had fought bravely," he said, and were entitled to the best of rations and all the good things the country afforded. If they were given voluntarily, well and good! If not, they would be taken. The boys in blue knew where to find what they needed.

The women of Huntsville gathered together in solemn council, for upon them the grim reality fell most heavily. How could they meet Mitchel's demand of their scant stores of food? Even more desperate was the plight of their own kind. If Federal soldiers were this hungry, how was it with those poor boys in gray, cooped up within the old walls of the depot? They must be starving. It was unanimously resolved that this condition must be rectified.

A committee of two ladies was appointed to visit the General and obtain his permission for them to feed the prisoners.

"How do we make holy water? We boil the hell out of it."

Seen on church sign

YOU RIGHTFULLY EARNED IT. NOW RIGHTFULLY KEEP IT.

Looking to keep more of your income and cut your taxes? Then tax-free municipal bonds* may be for you.

*Bonds may be subject to state, local or the alternative minimum tax.



Call or visit your local financial advisor today.

Jana L. Wise
Financial Advisor

www.edwardjones.com Member SIPC

2000 Cecil Ashburn Dr. Ste 108
Huntsville, AL 35802
(256) 881-1583

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

WELCOME TO AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE AT
THAI GARDEN

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT
All Fresh Meats & Vegetables
No MSG - No Preservatives Used

Mon - Fri - Lunch 11 am - 2 pm
Dinner 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Sat - Dinner only 4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Closed Sundays

800 Wellman Avenue
(In Historic Five Points)

(256) 534-0122

H.C. BLAKE INC.

Plumbing, Electrical
Heating,
Air Conditioning

SERVICE IS OUR BUSINESS SINCE 1884

Hall B. Bryant, Jr.
Proprietor

534-0781

A difference you can trust.



Understand Your Arthritis

Dr. William Shergy, Rheumatology Associates of North Alabama
Dr. Howard Miller, The Orthopaedic Center



Friday, April 13 • 12 – 1 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church, Wesley Hall
Lunch will be served

FREE

Call (256) 265-8317 to reserve your seat by April 11.

Health screening provided by
Huntsville Hospital Health System Mobile Medical Unit
Please arrive early if you plan to participate in the screening.



In answer to their appeal, he granted a very generous denunciation of all rebels, especially female rebels. "Yes," he replied, "You may feed the prisoners, but you must feed my soldiers, too."

"Very good, General, but may we begin at once with our poor boys in the depot? They are starving. They have had nothing to eat since you came now, two days ago!"

"Starving? They deserve to starve. They have been fighting the Union Army in the east. They are a part of the same set," thundered the irate General.

The eyes of the sober matron twinkled a little and a smile played upon her lips as she replied, "Yes, General, we have heard that they were there."

The brows of the officer narrowed, remembering that these were the same brave Confederate troops that had carried the day at Manassas. Churlishly he muttered, "and for that you want me to feed them?"

"Yes, for that we want to feed them. But, General, all brave soldiers feed their prisoners."

The scowl upon the general's features smoothed a little as he caught the pleasant smile upon the lady's comely face.

"Well, take your order for

permission to feed the prisoners. What else do you want of me?"

"A pass, please," she replied, "for messenger and provisions."

The General signed to an officer in the rear. "Adjutant, write a pass for female bearer to deliver provisions twice a day to prisoners."

He turned away to other business. The pass was written and received. The two ladies who had remained standing in that august presence bowed their thanks.

It was with a quick step and a light heart that the two ladies left the headquarters of Gen. Mitchell and hurried down the street. Hardly had they left before they noticed a young Negro clad in a Yankee's blue coat. After recognizing the figure as Joe, one of their house servants, the ladies burst out laughing, exclaiming, "Why, with that blue coat he looks just like any other Yankee."

The friends walked on

"Ancient Rome declined because it had a Senate - now what's going to happen to us with both a House and a Senate?"

Will Rogers

CLOUD NINE

AMTA In-House Massages

Terese Stevens, LMT

Alabama License #992

Swedish

Neuromuscular

Deep Tissue

Phone: 256/337-6989

Gift Certificates for All Occasions

In business 10 years!

Windsor House

Nursing Home / Rehab Facility

Our team approach to rehabilitation means working together to enhance the quality of life and by re-shaping abilities and teaching new skills. We rebuild hope, self-respect and a desire to achieve one's highest level of independence.

- *Complex Medical Care
- *Short Term Rehabilitation
- *Long Term Care

Our team includes Physicians, Nurses, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, Activity Director and Registered Dietician

A place you can call home...

4411 McAllister Drive

Huntsville, Alabama 35805

(256) 837-8585

Licensed & Insured

Michael's Cabinets Inc.

Custom Cabinets & Countertops

2106-D West Ferry Way
Huntsville, Al. 35801

(256) 489-2427

Michael Clay * Jeff Worley

Over 30 years experience

Hartselle Indoor Flea Market

Hwy. 31 South Hartselle, Al. Sat. & Sun. 9-5

Come see us at Hero World Collectibles!

All Different types of T-Shirts - S.E.C. Merchandise.

All Styles of caps, wallets, jewelry, belt buckles, comics, purses, etc.

Thank you for your business with us this past year and God Bless you and your family.

thoughtfully for a few moments when the first speaker exclaimed as though talking to herself:

"Good, we'll do it sure." Then, "Joe, Joe," she called out to the servant. "Stop there, I want you."

The boy stopped at once at the command of his mistress' voice. He turned back to her, a little scared at his being thus caught.

"Joe, where did you get that coat?" The boy hesitated and with an apologetic grin, replied: "I got him from a Mr. Yank; he give him to me."

"How did he come to give it to you?" was the stern question.

"He give him to me for cleaning up his horse and rubbing up his saddle, and shining up his boots and his spurs."

"Very well! You are sure that he gave it to you? Are you very sure?"

"Yes, missus; I would be scared to wear it if he didn't."

"Very well, then. Now listen, I don't want you to wear that coat on the street. I want you to take it right home and give it to Aunt Susan to take care of for you. Do it right away. Do

you hear?"

"Yes, missus. I'll take it right home."

That evening, before the sun went down, an irregular procession of ladies, beginning at the eastern side of the town and adding to its number as it passed the different houses, proceeded to the depot. Some had with them servants carrying baskets and others carried their baskets themselves. All the baskets were loaded with provisions covered with napkins or papers to screen their contents

There was some trepidation in their ranks caused by their unusual errand and the uncertainty of their reception by the soldiers of their avowed enemies. All were brave at heart and willing to face all opposing obstacles to accomplish their purpose.

Reaching the platform of the depot, they found the first large enclosed door guarded by a squad of blue-coated soldiers. The other doors were tightly closed. The soldiers stood at attention. Two pair, a little distance apart, crossed bayonets, thus making two arches under which the procession was per-



SOUTHERN HOME & HEARTH, INC.
Since 1981

Primo

It's a grill, smoker & oven all in one!

The ONLY ceramic cooker made in the USA

We invite you to our showroom to see the Primo, Kamado Joe and our line of grills and grilling accessories, as well as dry rubs & sauces.

Southern Home & Hearth

2611 University Dr.
Huntsville, AL 35816

**256-534-1715 or
256-534-8199**

www.southernhomeandhearth.com

We do Lay-Aways

HALL BROTHERS MOVING

Huntsville's Choice for Local & Long Distance Moving

Experience - Efficiency - Integrity

- * Office Relocation
- * Records Storage
- * Guaranteed Pick-up & Delivery Dates
- * Owner on Every Job
- * Commercial & Residential
- * Licensed, Bonded & Insured
- * All Types
- * Free Estimates
- * Packaging & Crating
- * Antiques & Pianos
- * Load & Unload



539-5322



We Still Believe In Customer Service!

mitted to pass.

The leader of the ladies was a handsome woman - large and imposing in appearance. She had laughing eyes and a smiling countenance. She was perfectly fearless of danger. She was one who had given her sons to the army. Her large house (now unhappily one of the things of the past) was ever open to shelter a Confederate soldier. She was not afraid to express her wants to a Federal General as she had this day, nor to Federal soldiers with bayonets.

She stepped forward under the arched bayonets to the officer of the guard, and smilingly presented him with the General's order. He read it blushing and deferentially stood aside motioning her to enter, which she did with her servant. She turned and bade the others follow. This they were ready to do. Soon they all found themselves on the inside and were cheering the artillery boys with smiles as well as with sustenance.

The grey-coated boys appreciated both, and for a time, were happy. The officer of the imprisoned command held a little confidential conversation with the leading lady, and arrangements were soon made that resulted in lessening, to a considerable extent, the number of Confederate prisoners in the old depot.

Among the prisoners was one who was a superb violinist. He was said to be unequalled in the Army of Virginia. His violin had gone home and back with the furloughed violinist. The chief diversion of the company was in his music and in the resulting dance of the lively lads when the spirit was on them.

The supply of food settled into a routine. The next evening, a little before the expected coming of the food supply, the spirit of music and dance was on the imprisoned soldiers.

An empty box near the center of the depot furnished a seat for

the violinist. A rattling piece of music from his instrument drew the attention of everyone within a considerable distance. A large detachment of Federal soldiers were camped nearby to furnish guards for prisoners and stores. Quite a crowd of idle soldiers soon gathered upon the platform.

The Confederate boys drew near their musician. Soon, some dance music set their feet and bodies in motion, and then the dance was on. It was such a dance as the blue coats had never seen. As the music quickened and varied, so too did the dance. Soon the eager crowd outside the guard pressed near to see and hear. The guard itself with its good-natured Corporal became absorbed and interested in sound and motion and allowed the numbers outside to press within the doorway.

It was at this time that the deputation of food-bearers arrived. The officer at the door passed in one old colored woman with a large basket carelessly covered with a cloth. He lifted the corner a little and scanned the loaves of bread and buttered sandwiches, dropped the cover and motioned her to return and take in the other baskets and return them, as he now would permit but one person to enter.

A plank partition at that time

separated a room at the north-east corner of the depot from the rest of the building. Inside of this the baskets were quickly carried and emptied by the eager hands of the prisoners.

Within the first basket, well wrapped in a newspaper, was a large blue overcoat and cap. A young artillery man, the first selected to run the blockade, was soon enveloped in this overcoat and surmounted with the cavalry cap. Watching his opportunity when the Federal soldiers about the door and who had gradually encroached within the building were absorbed with the dance and music, he quietly stepped out of the little room and sauntering along the



Spry Funeral and Crematory Homes, Inc.

Family owned and operated since 1919

(256) 536-6654

Valley View Cemetery

open with 100 acres reserved for future development

(256) 534-8361

"Your proctologist called - they found your head."

Wife overheard talking to her husband in the doctor's office.



InterSouth

properties

"Leasing and Managing Huntsville's Premier Office Buildings"

Phone (256) 830-9160
Fax (256) 430-0881

- * Highland Office Park, Phases 1 & 2
- * Park West Center
- * University Square Business Center
- * 8215 Madison Blvd.

Visit us at www.intersouth-properties.com



Don Broome Studios
7446 Clubfield Cir.
Huntsville, Al. 35802

Ph: 256- 880-3497
656-1457

I use acid free materials and buy close out moulding. No overhead means I can charge less and still make a good profit.

My Artwork will be on exhibit at the main branch of the Huntsville Public Library starting in April.

I have over 100 frames for close out so come and take advantage.

wall, joined the blue coats near the door. When all was ready the music and dancing ceased, and the gray-jacketed boys were called to supper. All was then confusion; and the bayonets of the guard pushed out the rabble of blue coat onlookers near the door, and with them the sheep in wolf's clothing.

Reaching the platform, the young man dropped out of the squad of blue coats and struck into the street heading to the courthouse. This he had hardly reached with he was met by a boy who, turning to the left, piloted him to a large house near the outside of the town.

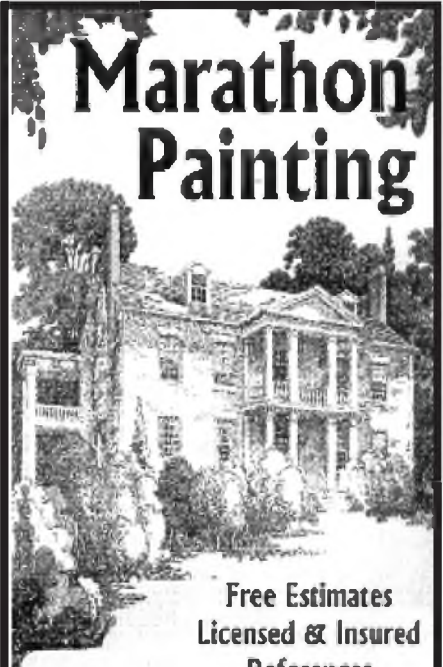
Here he turned over his cap and coat and was given a good supper and portable lunch, furnished a place to sleep until nearly daylight. A guide passed him between the pickets and gave him directions how to safely reach the Confederate lines across the Tennessee River.

The next afternoon and for several succeeding afternoons as long as prudence permitted,

that basket with its enclosures went to the Confederate prisoners, where the same scene was enacted and other prisoners were allowed to escape.

This practice was continued for several weeks until the remaining prisoners were transferred to prison camps in Illinois where they set out the rest of the war in captivity. According to legend, one of the escaped Confederate soldiers returned to Huntsville after the war and married the young lady responsible for his rescue.

Today, there are few signs left in Huntsville to remind one of the events of that day. The grounds which once held the tents of the Union soldiers guarding the depot are now occupied by LeeAnns Bar & Grille and Bryant Bank. The old depot has been placed on the registry



Marathon Painting

Free Estimates
Licensed & Insured
References

We Specialize in Historic Homes
John M. Bzdell 326-8053

Salon Bella

Audra Wilson
Expert Hair Care

Booth Space for Lease - Great Location at Church & Pratt



1701 University Dr.
(corner Church and Pratt)
(256) 534-5002



LAWREN'S*
809 MADISON STREET
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

BRIDAL REGISTRY

China, Crystal, Silver, Pewter, Table Linen, Cookware.

Decorative Accessories, Invitations and Announcements, Lenox China & Crystal, Fine Linens & Cottons For Bed & Bath.

of Historical Buildings.

Perhaps the only clue that it was ever used as a prison are the interior walls, where, if you ask a guide to show you, you can still see the graffiti from a day over a hundred years ago when bored Confederate soldiers wrote their names on the walls.



City News in 1911

- For Sale - an eight-foot walnut store wall case. Phone 308 or see Edwin Hall.

- Lost - Ruby broach given to wife by her deceased husband - lost near the courthouse steps. Woman is heartbroken, finder please contact the paper.

- A chimney at the Dement residence was blown down last night. During the early hours of last night, while the rain and windstorm was at its worst, the north chimney of the residence of Mrs. C. C. Dement on West Holmes street was blown down. The occupants of the house and nearby neighbors were greatly frightened at the noise, but no one was hurt.

Cave in of Dirt at the Residence of Mr. Newt White Last Night

What was said to be one of the old time ice houses, which were usually built under ground, caved in last night at the residence of Mr. Newt White on Adams Avenue. The cave in was on Locust Street and to a depth of about ten feet.

- For Rent - one 7-room house with all modern conveniences. Walker Street. Apply to J. N. Mazza

- Lost - diamond ring wedding set last seen on Clinton Street - thrown into the road by husband - reward offered. Apply to the paper and ask for Susan Eichner.

City Council Meets Last night

Several important items were discussed last night as a full membership was present.

* An ordinance to prevent the use of screen or colored glass in the fronts of soft drink stands was adopted. A violation of the ordinance carries with it not less than \$10 nor more than \$100.

* The matter of employing a milk and meat inspector was referred to a committee composed of Adams, Oldfield and Wall.

* Several bids were received for the rental of the city's south half of the unused part of Maple Hill cemetery. The city's rental on same was placed at \$80.

* A number of protests were read from property owners against the assessment for paving on Madison Street. The protests were filed but the assessments were sustained.

"Thanks to the Internet, you can get hopelessly in debt without even leaving your house."

Maxine

Now there's another four-letter word associated with moving and storage.

Easy.

PODS is a whole new way to move and store that's a lot less stressful and a lot more convenient. With PODS, you can take your time moving or storing your belongings. We deliver a POD right to your door, you pack it at your own pace and we deliver it anywhere coast to coast or to our dry and secure warehouse. It's that simple.

Consider it moving and storage on your own terms, without the time-constraints, deadlines or cursing.



1-888-776-PODS
www.PODS.com

Ayers Farmers Market

SPRING PLANTS ARE HERE! BEAUTIFUL ANNUALS, BEDDING PLANTS, VEGETABLES, FERNS & HOUSE PLANTS

We have eggs, cheeses, candies, canned goods and delicious local honey from Bill Mullins as well as Bingham Hams

Phone 256-533-5667

Fresh, local produce tastes better and is good for you!

Open Mon-Sat 8am - 6pm; Sunday 8am - 5pm



Located at the SE corner of Governors & Memorial Parkway

DON MINCHER, HUNTSVILLE'S "MR. BASEBALL"

by John Pruett

Editor's note: Don Mincher, Huntsville's "Mr. Baseball," died on March 4, 2012 at the age of 73. This column was published in The Huntsville Times on June 11, 1973, a few months after Mincher retired following a 13-year career in the major leagues.

On the horizon beyond the outfield fence, purple rain clouds drifted lazily across the sky. A brief shower had already come and gone, and the trees behind the scoreboard glistened green and wet.

Although it was an hour until game time, a few spectators were arriving at Huntsville Park. One elderly fan carried an umbrella, but it was obvious it wouldn't be needed. The dark clouds were moving away, disappearing behind the stark brick walls of the nearby Huntsville Manufacturing building. Soon it would be dark.

Don Mincher slouched serenely in the home dugout, quietly savoring a plug of Red Man. He was dressed in the stylish red and white uniform of the Huntsville Independents. A red cap with a white "H" perched rakishly on his head. His green Oakland A's warm-

up jacket clashed badly with the red.

It was late Saturday afternoon. The Independents, always one of the Alabama's best semi-pro baseball teams, were preparing to play the Huntsville Metros. Don Mincher, once a member of the American League All-Star team, was preparing to play in his first game since last fall's World Series.

On this night, Don Mincher would be a pitcher.

Out on the damp grass, the Metros were taking infield practice. In the dugout, Mincher was answering a sports writer's questions.

"No, I don't miss it a bit," he said, referring to the grueling glamor of a professional baseball career. "I'm enjoying being home, being with my family, eating my meals at home, working at my business. I'm enjoying life again."

"I don't regret retiring from baseball when I did. The game wasn't fun any more. It was time

Allied Photocopy

Quality Reproductions
Black & White & Color



1821 University Drive

539-2973

Free Attorney Consultation for Bankruptcy

The Law Firm of

MITCHELL HOWIE

Legal Services - Probate - Estate Planning - Wills

256-533-2400

No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

EL PALACIO OF MEXICAN FOOD

"Sizzling Fajitas Are Our Specialty"

VOTED HUNTSVILLE'S BEST MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Delicious Lunch Buffet Mon.-Fri. 11am to 2pm

EST. 1966

Complete Take-out Menu and Banquet Facilities

Hours Mon -Thurs 11am - 9pm

Fri & Sat 11am -10pm

Closed Sunday

256-539-6075 · 256-534-9161

FAX 256-536-4639

2008 MEMORIAL PKWY SW



O'LE DAD'S BAR-B-Q



"It's Cooked In The Pit"

Bill and Rosemary want to wish their beautiful daughter Jamie Woods a Happy Birthday. She will turn 34 on April 14th. Jamie is a proud mother of



two wonderful boys - Austin, 13 and Chase, 11 and was Blessed with a wonderful husband, Allen Woods.

Jamie has brought so much into our lives. She has been a School Bus driver for the past 3 years and has been lead bus driver for 2 of the 3 years for her area. Jamie also works for her Mom and Dad at Ole Dad's. Jamie you are my best friend and our wonderful daughter.

Ole Dad's BBQ is a big supporter in the Fight for a Cure for Muscular Dystrophy. Jamie and Allen's two boys have Muscular Dystrophy. Please give to MDA and let's find a cure for our two grandsons.

Jamie, you enjoy your day!
Love,

Hours of Operation:
Closed Sunday and Monday
Tues - Fri 10am - 8pm
Saturday - 10am - 7pm

Bill & Rosemary Leatherwood, owners
256.828.8777 - 256.828.8778

O'le Dad's Bar-B-Q menu

O'le Dad's Main Course

- 1/2 chicken plate
- Pork plate
- Rib plates
- 1/2 Chicken Plate
- Ribs (Slab)
- Ribs (1/2 Slab)
- Whole Chicken
- Whole Shoulders

Sandwiches

- Pork Sandwich
- Turkey sandwich
- Rib Sandwich

Sides

- French Fries
- Potato Salad Pies
- Baked Beans
- Green Beans
- Hushpuppies
- Salads
- Chicken Fingers

Also Serving...

- Hot Dogs
- Hamburgers Slaw Dogs
- Chili Dogs
- Cheeseburgers

14163 Highway 231/431 North
Located in the beautiful city of Hazel Green

to get out."

"Tonight, I don't know. Maybe this'll be fun. If it is, I guess I'll play some with this team from time to time. Not out of town, though. My wife says she won't let me make any more road trips."

Mincher grinned, apparently amused by the thought of a "road trip" to Ardmore or Pulaski.

"But I'm hoping tonight will be fun," he said. "I'm kinda looking forward to it. I haven't pitched in 17 years, not since the seventh grade. But I've always wanted to be a pitcher."

Shortly before game time, Mincher excused himself and wandered off toward the bullpen to warm up. "My catcher probably won't need a glove," he joshed. "He could catch me bare-handed, or maybe with a Kleenex."

When the game began, it soon became clear that he wasn't exaggerating. Mincher, although an imposing figure at 6-4 and 220 pounds, threw like Bobby Riggs. Mostly, he lightly served what he preferred to call "sliders and change ups."

"He's just flicking it up there," said Independents manager Jim Talley ruefully. "This could be serious," deadpanned player-coach John Dudley.

But in the first inning, Mincher retired the Metros one-two-three on two grounds and a fly to right field. "That's the way to throw smoke past 'em, Donnie!" yelled Max Burleson from the Independents' bench. Everybody laughed.

The Metros got to Mincher for a run in the second inning, then scored three in the third on an infield grounder and a whistling double by shortstop Robert Erwin. "We're gonna have to get a pitcher in there," fretted Talley.

"I gotta start getting my slider and change up over," said Mincher as he came to the bench. "They're murdering the

fast ball."

In the Independents' half of the third inning, the lights in the park flickered off briefly. "Now let me pitch!" roared Mincher. "I guarantee that fast ball will be live now!"

"I don't care much about seeing you pitch," said a teammate, "but I sure do want to see you hit." Indeed, that's really what everybody in the park had come to see. Here was a man who hit 200 home runs in the majors. Even back in high school at Butler, he was the greatest slugger in North Alabama. "If he gets his pitch, he'll hit it clear to Jordan Lane," said Burleson. "I just hope he doesn't kill anybody out here."

As it turned out, Mincher did neither. He slashed a sharp

AMISH FOLK MEDICINE

* FOR BAD ALLERGIES, CHEW HONEYCOMB TO DRY A RUNNY NOSE AND UNBLOCK CONGESTED SINUSES.

* FOR BEDSORES, MIX WHITE SUGAR WITH AN UNBEATEN EGG WHITE AND APPLY TO THE SORES.

* TO PURIFY YOUR BLOOD, DRINK 8 OZ. OF BEET JUICE DAILY

* IF YOU HAVE COLD SORES, DRINK SAGE TEA DAILY

* IF YOU HAVE LEG CRAMPS AT NIGHT, YOU'RE NOT GETTING ENOUGH CALCIUM.

* TO INCREASE YOUR FERTILITY, BOTH MEN AND WOMAN, CONSUME 1 TABLESPOON DAILY OF BOTH CARROT SEED OIL AND WHEAT GERM OIL.

* IF YOU HAVE DANDRUFF, RUB A SMALL AMOUNT OF PURE COCONUT OIL INTO THE SCALP DAILY.

* FOR HEADACHE, SOAK A CLOTH IN ICE COLD VINEGAR, SQUEEZE OUT EXCESS, THEN BIND AROUND YOUR FOREHEAD.

Center for Hearing, LLC

7531 S. Memorial Parkway Suite C Huntsville, AL 35802
Phone (256) 489-7700



Maurice Gant, BC-HIS
Board Certified Hearing
Instrument Specialist

- Free Hearing Tests and Consultations
- Zero down financing with low payments
- Competitive pricing
- Service and repair of all brands and makes of aids
- Hearing aid batteries
- Appointments - Monday thru Friday from (8:00 am until 5:00 pm) and Saturday upon request

00508041

HEART OF DIXIE[®] Popcorn & Supply Fun Food Equipment & Supplies

We also carry equipment & supplies for Sno Cones, Shaved Ice, Nachos, Chips & Cheese, Cotton Candy, Funnel Cakes, Lemonade, Candy Apples, Hot Dogs, Deep Fryers, and **Much, Much More!**

Visit our showroom for the largest array of equipment and supplies in the South.

Perfect for Little League baseball - football games - basketball games - concerts - festivals - carnivals. Free delivery!!

Toll Free (877)828-3270 - Local (256) 828-3270 - Fax (256) 828-4393

191 Darwin Road - Huntsville 35811
www.heartofdixiepopcorn.com

single past first base in his initial trip to the plate, but grounded out twice and walked twice in subsequent appearances. "Tonight, I'm a pitcher, not a hitter," he told somebody in the dugout. He still didn't look quite like a pitcher as the game progressed, but suddenly the Metros weren't doing much.

Twice, they rapped into crucial double plays. Overanxious, they left runners stranded on the bases every inning.

They started popping up and hitting harmless bouncers. Some even struck out. "Hey, Donnie," kidded right fielder Ricky Davidson in the sixth inning. "You're not getting older, you're getting better."

In the bottom of the seventh, Mincher puffed a cigarette in the corner of the dugout and wearily mopped his head with a towel. "I'm enjoying this," he said. "I'm tired, but I'm having fun. These kids swing that bat pretty good. I think they're gonna start getting to me. Talley better get somebody ready."

But Mincher, despite several shaky moments, lasted the final

two innings. The Independents won, 6-4. Mincher had gone the full nine innings, allowing 12 hits and three walks. Somehow, he struck out six.

"Just call it a brilliant 12-hitter," said Mincher, happy as a kid. "That's something I've always wanted to do - pitch nine innings. Maybe I missed my calling."

"Naw, I don't think so," cackled Max Burluson.

Mincher finished a smoke and strolled to the dressing room door. "Well, I'll see you guys later," he said, lightly waving a hand. Outside, two of his children were waiting.

"You gonna be sore tomorrow, Dad?" one of them asked.

Don Mincher wrapped his arm around the child. "Uh, huh," he said. "I sure am."

Together, they walked slowly into the warm night.

"I only know the names of two angels - Hark and Harold."

Gregory, age 5

West Station Antiques

Come visit us in Owens Cross Roads at the Historic Hornbuckle Garage on old Hwy 431.

Phone (256) 725-BOOK (2665)

**Books - Paper Items
Postcards - Linens - Quilts
Pottery - China - Glassware
Sterling Silver - Jewelry
Furniture**

*Visit us at our website:
www.gibsonbooks.com*

**3037 Old Highway 431
Owens Cross Roads 35763**

256-725-BOOK (2665)

**New Hours: Thurs - Sat 10 - 5
Sun - 1 - 5**



Cliff Hill

Attorney At Law

* Social Security Disability * Personal Injury
* Workers Compensation

"Helping You Is Not A Job - It's Our Mission"

929 Merchants Walk
Huntsville, Al

(256) 534-4502 Office
(256) 534-4503 Fax
(256) 233-3328 (Athens)

No representation is made that the quality of legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.

THE 1943 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL TEAM

by John Medlin

During the 17th year of my life, I was, as always, on a baseball team from the Lincoln Mill Village. The year was 1943 and we played at Lincoln Park on Meridian Street. Each year there were at least four teams from Lincoln Village. They were the Cardinals, those boys in the new village area; the Yankees, those boys from around the Cottage Street area; the Browns, those boys from streets south of the Lincoln Mill; and the Phillies, boys north of the Lincoln Mill. These groups made up the baseball teams of the village. We would play against each other all summer.

In those days there were no Little League ball clubs and so the older folks who had actual baseball knowledge and who lived in the Village would get all of the kids organized and form these teams.

Every year the best players of the four teams in Lincoln Mill Village would be selected for the American Legion Baseball team who would then represent the Mill Village in other games. In 1943 we were invited to play in Lanett, Alabama.

While we were in Lanett we were on the way back to the Armory where we were staying when a policeman began to follow us. The person driving did not have a license so before the policeman got to the car, Alton Berryhill leaped over the seat and

into the driver's seat. He was the only one who had a driver's license. Once the policeman saw who we were he let us go without a ticket.

We played for three games and in the last game we lost our pitcher, Paul Carroll, when a ball hit him on the shoulder when he was at bat. He was the best pitcher we had and afterwards everyone, including me, took turns pitching. I always played short stop and had never pitched a game. One ball was popped up to me while I was on short stop and I started to holler, "I got it, I got it" and the ball landed right in front of me. None of us had ever played under night lights before.

In the 9th inning, J.W. Ivey was put in as our pitcher. He was wild and walked 2 or 3 men. After the first half of the game, Frank Williams, who was one of the managers, started changing pitchers. In the top of the 9th inning, Lanett made 19 runs and in the bottom of the 9th they scored another 2 runs, beating us 21-3.

Regardless, we still had a great time.

Each year at the end of the baseball season, Mr. Milton Peeler, the Mill Superintendent, gave a banquet for the teams at his home on Meridian Street. There were player awards given

out to the Most Valuable Player and other types of awards.

The rock wall around Mr. Peeler's home was a meeting place for the young ball players and many nights I have enjoyed sitting on the wall with my friends rehashing the day's events.



R.G. NAYMAN CO. INC.

RG N

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

General Contractors
Residential & Commercial
Specializing In
Fire Damage Repairs

*"A Contractor You Can
Trust"*

533-9016



Cotton Patch Antique Mall

15664 Highway 231/431 North
Hazel Green, Al 35750

(256) 539-4788 or (256) 828-5562

Shirley & Rooster

Clark Electric Co.

*Serving North Alabama and Huntsville
since 1939*

"No Job Too Small"

(256) 534-6132 or (256) 508-0403



OLD SOUTHERN SUPERSTITIONS

- If your child isn't growing fast enough, have him stand next to an oak tree and cut a notch in it right above his head. Then put a lock of his hair in the notch and he will begin to grow quickly.
- If your child has thrash, have a preacher blow in her mouth and she will get better.
- If a very sick person wants to know their true condition, they should touch a piece of bread to their lips and throw it to a dog. If the dog won't eat it, they have only a short time left to live.
- If a baby is allowed to see her reflection in a mirror, she will be cross-eyed. Keep mirrors away from children for the first year.
- For a snakebite, take a frying chicken, split it and put it on the wound. The chicken will turn green as it draws the poison out.
- If someone you know snores, you can stop it by placing his or her hand into a bowl of water while they sleep.
- For a case of sunstroke, take a lock of hair from the person's head and throw it into a stream which flows north. This will cure the sunstroke.
- To cure a sty in the eye, rub an engagement ring across it. Or, go to a crossroads and say three times: "Sty, leave my eye and go to the next one who passes by."
- If you pull a tooth and throw it on the ground, if a dog walks on it you will grow a fang.
- If you pull a tooth and put it under your pillow, the next morning you will find a new dime where your tooth was.
- For varicose veins, drink sheep-sorrel tea.
- If you have warts, plant a pea for each one and they will disappear.
- For bad chills, dip a string in turpentine and tie it around the waist.
- If you are superstitious, you know that the first thing that must be placed on the dining table after the cloth is the salt shaker, and it must be the first thing removed.
- To stir another's cup is to invite strife into the home.
- To fold your table-napkin after a meal is a certain sign that you will never return to the house.
- If bees nest in the roof of a house, the girls of that house will not marry.
- When you drop your comb, if you will put your foot on it, your wish will come true.
- If a rooster crows on the back steps, a neighbor will die.

Follow your dreams! Except that one where you're naked in church.



Murray Moving and Storage
201 Green Cove Road
Huntsville, AL 35803
881-0661

We are a family owned and operated business for 50+ years. We take great pride in moving your household and know that each piece and box is valuable to you. We treat each house as if it were our own. The secret to our success is to do the job right the first time. Most of our customers are repeat customers.

Call for a free estimate.

(256) 881-0661

For All your Real Estate Needs!

With Us it's all about You!

MARY ELLEN *PETERS* Company

Search all homes For Sale at
www.MaryEllenPeters.com



256-797-0203

RE/MAX ALLIANCE



- service above and beyond your expectations

Heard On the Street

by *Gathey Carney*



Congratulations to our winner of the Photo of the Month for March - the handsome boy was **Johnny Johnston**, a very popular speaker and writer of stories. The first person to call was **Bill Loveday**, who was born and raised in Cedar Gap. Congratulations to you, Bill!

And the winner of the Landscape mystery of March was **Louise Manning** of Huntsville. She is retired after working for 39 years as Legal secretary for Huntsville company Lanier Ford. Louise is 86 years old and remembers lots of Huntsville history. The mystery picture was the remaining wall of what used to be the Emory Pierce home in the triangle at Holmes, Andrew Jackson and Pratt. Louise remembers how beautiful that home was years ago. Congratulations to you!

Sandi McNaught of Harvest wants to send a special hello to her in-laws, **Milton** and **Sue Smith** of Galax, Va. They are both retired and love to explore bookstores. Sue is a gardener with beautiful flowers & herbs. They love trying new recipes and anything pertaining to his-

tory, so they sound like people I would like!

Most everyone has been in **Gibson's BBQ** over the years, but not many know that in April Gibson's is celebrating their 56th Anniversary! **John Paul Hampton** told me they started in the location just down South Parkway where Ben Porter is now, were there for 18 years and moved to their current location on South Parkway where they've been for the past 38 years. To say thanks to all their good customers they are giving away a piece of their luscious pie every Monday and Tuesday with lunch and dinner. My all time favorite is the Peanut Butter Pie but they're ALL good.

We want to send out a good ole Southern Hey to **Bernadette Roth**, of Southbury, CT and **Bill Roth**, of Bluehill, NE. Lots of folks have moved from Huntsville and still miss it, many more have never been here but want to visit. Huntsville is such a great

place to live.

It was amazing to be at Stanlieo's Subs on Jordan Lane the day that **Herman Cain** visited with **Kathy Peterson**, to support her in her campaign for President of the Alabama Public Service Commission. No matter what your politics are, Herman Cain is an incredible speaker, and was really positive in his remarks.

It's a very interesting fact to note that once a neighborhood sets up a **Community Watch** group, the crime rate goes down. What happens is that the residents are very watchful, and report anything unusual to the police. The criminals don't want to be watched, certainly not caught, so they avoid these neighborhoods for the most part. Stay vigilant!

Kathy Ogle wants to send a special Happy Birthday message to her sister **Jerri Smith** on her 65th birthday 2/7/12 - "I Love You!"

Also, **Kathy** and her sweet hubby **Frank Ogle** just celebrated their 42nd anniversary in late January - congratulations to the lovebirds!

John Bzdell and **Margaret**

Photo of The Month

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

Call (256) 534-0502

Hint: This sweet girl is a great cook and knows all about Dallas Mill history



Ruth's Nutrition

Let us Help Create a Healthier, Happier You!

Herbs - Vitamins - Massage - Reflexology
Natural Foods - Clinical Herbalist
Auricular Therapy - Magnetic Therapies
Electrodermal Testing - Children's Products



7540-P South Memorial Pkwy
Rosie's Shopping Center
Huntsville, Alabama

(256) 883-4127

Open Mon - Sat
info@ruthsnutrition.com

Watson took their first trip to Hawaii and loved it! Welcome back you two!

A reader asked a question that you, our readers, may know. He's trying to find out about a story written about a post Civil War criminal and his gang of "Buggers". The leader was apparently caught, hung, and buried next to the entrance to the Florence, AL cemetery. Anyone? If you know, call me at 256.534.0502 or email me.

Althea Culps is another history nut that we hear from, there is so much interesting history in this area!

Happy Birthday to that hard-working **Liz Ford** - she's the best grandmother Ever!

We were so sorry to hear of the death of **Jim Mock** of Decatur. He was 88 years old, and the founder of Mock Electronics which is still operating as the oldest electronics store in Huntsville. He had a great life, and we send our condolences to his wife **Gemma**, daughters **Gloria Oliver** and her husband **Bill**, and **Barbara Compton** and her husband **Tommy**. Also to his brother **Bobby Mock** and sisters **Doris Hendricks** and **Bernice Yarbrough**, as well as many other friends & family.

It was great to see Huntsville Police Chief **Mark Hudson**, Sgt. **Mark Roberts** and Officer **Johnny Hollingsworth** collecting drugs recently. There are so many who have prescription drugs that are either old or not

needed anymore, and we sure don't want to ever flush them and add them to our water system. Hanging on to them also makes you a target for theft. So twice a year there occurs what is called **Prescription Drug Take-Back Initiative**, when people bring their old drugs to a couple of locations in Huntsville and Madison and turn them in. The plastic caps are all recycled and the pills are disposed of safely. **Huntsville Green Team** also takes part in this, as does **Partnership for a Drug-Free Community**. This was the most successful collection to date. We will let you know when the next event takes place.

In the meantime, to dispose of them, you can take the pills out of the containers, mix them with kitty litter or coffee grounds and put all in a Ziploc bag, then throw it into your regular trash.

This year's **St. Patty's Day Parade** was best ever, with the most beautiful weather and 95 entries. We stood in front of the Kaffeeklatsch coffee shop with grandkids in that beautiful cherry tree that stands out front.

Lt. Col. Phil Brooks just landed back on American soil, in late February, after his 5th tour of duty in Iraq, Bosnia & Afghanistan. His wife **Lori** and kids **Wes** and **Amelia** were SO happy to see him. He and his family now live in Ft. Hood, Tx. Among his many friends, good friends **Barb** and **Chuck Saunders** were thrilled to see him back safe and

sound.

John S. Epps worked for 35 years at Thiokol Chemical Corp. and many people still remember him from those days. We were so sorry to read that he had passed away, at the age of 83. He was an outgoing, sweet man who had a smile for everyone. We send our deepest sympathy to his wife **Ann**, who became his girlfriend at age 16, as well as to his sister **Charlotte McGlohon**, and his sons **John, Robert, Stephen** and **Bruce**, as well as his daughter, **Elizabeth Ann**.

Have a beautiful Easter with your families, and stay safe!

*Blinds, Shutters, Drapery,
Woven woods, Cellular,
Roman Shades & More*

**Your Total Window
Treatment Provider**



Bus: (256) 650-0465

Aesthetically Pleasing

Interior Window Treatments

Visit us at:

www.randsblinds.com



United Fire, Smoke & Water Restoration

America's Finest

24/7 Emergency Service

256-533-7163

www.united-specialist.com





Great Depression Recipes

Homemade Noodles

Combine:

- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 t. salt
- 2 T. milk

1 c. flour or enough to make stiff dough

Roll very thin on floured board; let stand 20 minutes. Roll up loosely; cut into strips. Spread out to dry 2 hours. Cook or freeze. To dry freshly made noodles hang over the back of a towel-covered chair.

Fried Green Tomatoes

Slice partially ripe tomatoes 1/2 inch thick. Dip in egg and crackers or pancake mix. We used bread crumbs in the 30s. Fry in bacon fat.

Gourmet Golden Squash

Cook squash until tender and drain, use about 3 pounds.

Mash and stir in:

- 2 t. butter
- 1 c. sour cream
- 1/2 c. grated onion
- 1 t. salt
- 1/4 t. pepper

Mound in an ungreased casserole. Bake in 400F preheated oven to heat through.

Bubble & Squeak

Of Irish origin, this dish became popular during the Depression because of its good taste and available ingredients.

Fry: 3 strips bacon, cut up - remove from pan. Saute 1 medium onion in bacon grease; add 2 cups or more of coarsely cut up cabbage. Return bacon to the pan and stir often. When cabbage is wilted, add 2 cups leftover potatoes. Pat down to make a large pancake, fry brown on one side, and turn and brown on the other side.

Cream-Fried Squirrel

Soak pieces in salt water, drain. Add fresh water and boil until tender. Fry in heavy cream and season to taste.

Applesauce Cake

Cream:

- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 c. brown sugar

Add:

- 1 c. applesauce

Sift:

- 2-1/4 c. flour
- 1/2 t. soda
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. cinnamon

Gradually beat applesauce & dry mixture into the sugar mixture. Add 1 cup chopped walnuts. Pour into medium size pan and bake 1 hour at 325F. Now you can frost it with Caramel frosting (follows).

It's our 56th Anniversary!

Please celebrate with us! During the month of April you get a free piece of pie with each lunch or dinner plate, Monday & Tuesday.

Open for breakfast, lunch & dinner. Featuring a full menu and the best country breakfast in town!



Kids Eat Free!

Every Monday night Kids eat Free!

One child, 10 and under, eats free from our new kid's menu with each paid adult entree. Offer good for Dine-in only.

3319 MEMORIAL PKWY. SW 881-4851
Dine in or carry out & our famous breakfast
8412 WHITESBURG DR. So. 882-0841
Dine in or drive thru & our famous breakfast

Gibson's BAR-B-QUE

YOUR HOSTS:
THE SANFORDS & HAMPTONS

Best Caramel Frosting

Mix in sauce pan:

- 2 T. butter
- 1/3 c. milk
- 2/3 c. brown sugar

Bring to a boil stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add vanilla and enough powdered sugar for good spreading consistency. Frost cake when it is cooled.

Molasses Butterball Cookies

Beat: 1 c. butter

Beat in: 1/4 c. molasses

Add:

- 2 c. flour
- 2 c. walnuts, chopped fine

Shape into 1 inch balls. Bake at 325F for 20 minutes, cool and roll in powdered sugar.

Oven Chicken

Melt: 1 stick butter

Add:

- 1 T. salt
- 1 T. sugar
- 1 T. mustard

Pour over the chicken in baking pan. Bake for 2 hours at 350F. Enough for 2 chickens.

Mushroom Potatoes

- 1 lb. fresh mushrooms, sliced or chopped
- 1 lg. onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 2 T. soy sauce
- 2 T. water
- 6 med. potatoes, baked

Combine everything but the potatoes in a large skillet and simmer til onions are transparent. Serve over potatoes. Only 141 calories per serving!

Dream Bars

Cream:

- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. butter

Blend in: 1 c. flour

Press into ungreased 9" pan. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 375F.

Beat 2 eggs, then beat in:

- 3/4 c. brown sugar
- 1 t. vanilla extract

Mix in: 2 T. flour

- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. salt

Spread over crust. Add:

- 1 c. walnuts
- 1-1/2 c. coconut

Bake for 15-20 minutes at 350F.

Friendship Recipe

Take 4 parts genuine interest in the other fellow. Strain to remove any bits of curiosity. Add what tastes in common you have and pleasant conversation as it seems to be needed. Stir at unexpected intervals with a kind act and cook until rick and smooth.

This will keep indefinitely, but should not be stored away. Keep it handy and use daily.

THE HISTORIC LOWRY HOUSE



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW FOR YOUR SPECIAL EVENT IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING!

CALL (256) 489-9200 FOR INFORMATION

1205 Kildare St.
Huntsville, Al 35801



IN BLOOM
five points

Gifts - Cut Flowers

Plants & Accessories

Weddings - Parties

We deliver fresh flowers locally

256-533-3050

Ron Cooper
Mark Kimbrough
504 Pratt Ave.
Huntsville Al. 35801

Rolo's

Restaurant With The Trains!



975-E Airport Road

883-7656
Country Cooking

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Mon. - Sat. 6:30 am - 9:00 pm
Closed Sundays

VIOLENT TIMES IN THE EARLY 1900's


by James Edsel Webb

So pervasive was election fraud that there is no way of determining if a particular election was honestly won or lost. The pervasive belief that "everyone was doing it" – stuffing ballot boxes, tampering with absentee ballots, buying votes, and paying other peoples poll taxes - lifted dirty politics to the politics of acceptability. Many of the most important people and the least important became one in a mutual corruptibility.

In 1911, Huntsville changed its government from a Council/Alderman/Mayor format to a three man City Commission. This was seen as a mistake when it was learned on January 16, 1917, that certain city employees were getting free water, there were delinquent street improvement assessments, and water bills and the city clerk was authorized to hire additional help to "get caught up". The downturn in the economy might have caused difficulty for any type of local government. In this case, the citizens voted on August 1, 1916 to return to the Mayor and Alderman council form of government.

In all of the corruption there was a pivotal event of a whole series of events occurring before and after it. This was the murder of Probate Judge William T. Lawler on June 14, 1916. This undoubtedly contributed to the change of government. This era was summarized by James Record, County Commissioner, as follows: "Murder, mayhem, blackmail, shootouts, bootlegging, election contests and suicides were all part of the most damning period in Madison County history and before turmoil settled, almost all of the county officials and judges were tainted by it".

Earlier in the year, Lawler had narrowly won re-election in an overheated campaign against David D. Overton, one time Huntsville Police Chief who resigned his current position as Circuit Court Clerk to challenge Lawler for the Probate Judgeship. Overton was later convicted of the murder but claimed self defense. The known facts are few. The Probate Judge's body was found near the Aldridge Creek Bridge, weighed down with railroad iron and pockets stuffed with iron bolts. There were two bullet holes in the chest and repeated blows to the head. On March 20, 1917 Overton escaped from the Jefferson County jail with six other prisoners and was shortly after gunned down.



**ROCKET CITY
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**



MAIN OFFICE
2401 TRIANA BLVD.
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35805

BRANCH OFFICE
200 WEST SIDE SQ., SUITE 48
HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

OFFICE HOURS:
MON, TUES, THURS, FRI
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY
8:00 A.M. - NOON


WWW.ROCKETCITYFCU.ORG

Each member account insured to \$100,000

by National Credit Union Administration

MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Cafe Berlin
APERITIFS

IT'S EUROPEAN!

964 AIRPORT ROAD - (256) 880-9920

In the course of events from Lawler's murder to Overton's death, Shelby Pleasants, prominent and esteemed attorney and former state legislator and Sheriff Bob Phillips committed suicide. Also, Huntsville Police Chief A.D. Kirby and a patrolman resigned.

Like the bulls eye of a target, the Lawler murder was at the center of a whole series of activities that encircled it. Events that occurred long before and long after would have the murder as the pivotal point, as though all the dirty water that flowed in the county from 1900 to 1940 swirled around and around and eventually was sucked into the Aldridge Creek slough along with the body of Probate Judge Lawler. A decided stench of bootleg booze remained.

It was this kind of environment that greeted James Ansel Webb and Lizzie Azilee McLees in 1928 when they came to Huntsville and for about 25 years thereafter. The author James Edsel Webb remembers the grinding poverty where there would be no money for some people for months. In the case of the tree nursery and farm where James Ansel was the foreman, the company many times could not make the payroll and the company practice of issuing chips (Company script) for use at the company store was stopped for some employees. James Ansel stored molasses made on the place and between vegetables grown, molasses and cornbread, the employees and ourselves survived. Discussions about the going price to vote a certain way were overheard. There were bootleggers, whether the county was dry or wet. There were various notorious night clubs with various killings. Laura's and the White Castle are two that I remember.

A Mathis family - Bert, Ethel, and children Vivian (Male), Lester, and Lillian -

Serving Fun Food and Great Spirits for the Best Customers in the World!



Check the Entertainment on our website www.leeanns.biz

Fax #256-489-9313

Behind the Red Caboose on Church Street

256-489-9300

15 TVs - 4 H.D. Wide

Private Conference Room

Food served inside and on the patio

Available for holiday parties

Huge Menu of Delicious Foods prepared by our own chef, including over 70 items & Daily Specials:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Steak Philly | Fried Potato Cakes |
| Catfish Fillet | Calamari |
| Chicken Cordon Bleu | Pork Chop Nuggets |
| Monte Sano Chicken | Fried Mushrooms |
| Fajitas | Jalapeno Poppers |
| Cheese Sticks | Chicken Fries |
| Fried Zucchini | Corn Nuggets |
| Quesadias | |
| Chicken Philly | Sauteed Shrimp |
| Classic Club | Fried Green Tomatoes |
| Filet Mignon | Fried Okra |

Featuring Rudy Mockabee every other Wednesday
 Karaoke with Brian every Tuesday night
 Live Entertainment on the Patio
 Tuesday - Saturday
 Closed Sun and Mon





AVERBUCH
Realty Co., Inc.

7500 MEMORIAL PKWY. So. #122
 HUNTSVILLE, AL 35802
 BUS. PHONE 256-883-6600
 FAX 256-883-6650

Steve Cappaert
 Broker - Associate
 CELL 256-651-7517

STEEVCAPPAERT@KNOLOGY.NET

ran the company store (Huntsville Wholesale Nursery) during part of the 1940s. It is not clear about Lester. He would clerk in the store for a while and then disappear for long periods of time. He would return "tattered and torn" eventually and work until he decided to go out on another foray.

Bert eventually built himself a room in the back of the store where he could evidently get away from Ethel and stay drunk for days on end. The Mathis children's cousin, Ernest Mathis, was a tougher customer than Lester and managed to get into more trouble. I went hunting with Ernest in his car which was full of buckshot holes. Ernest had run to the other side of his car to get his shotgun and his adversary managed to get the car shot up, but not Ernest. The man was not so lucky. It was said that Ernest shot him. I do not recall if that particular person died or not.

One Saturday afternoon I was at the company store for something and was playing a game of checkers, probably with Lester, on the counter by the stove. A well dressed black man came into the store and about a minute later A. League had picked up a poker and put a big gash in the black man's head, and got into a scuffle that knocked the stove pipe off and caused a heck of a mess.

The black man departed only to return with a law officer, to come back and get the man's cap lost in the fight. Nothing

was said or done about the fight and injury. League said that the man got smart with him.

James Ansel picked up J. D. Fearn, a black man who had been off serving time for murder. Papers were signed and it is not clear exactly what was happening. Maybe his time was up and he was being released or perhaps being released on bond or custody. Anyway, J. D. worked on the place as long as I can remember without any problem. Of course, no one gave him any trouble. J.D.'s brother Boat, father of 6 or 7 children, was as reasonably successful as person could be in those days. He got into a fight evidently in a crap game and was hit with a lantern. The glass globe broke, cut a terrible gash in his neck and he nearly bled to death.

Boat renovated an old car and rode about in it. His family could pick a bale of cotton a day. He'd let me drive the tractor while he sat in the shade undetected until I tired.

Another person, whose name I do not recall, cut his wife to death.

In those days, one chore was to "bud saplings", meaning to take a hybrid tree and implant a bud into a sapling and create a

particular type tree. In doing this, a very sharp knife was used which the laborers carried in a small knife holster on their belts. A fight broke out at the store between a white guy and a black guy for what seemed no particular reason. Anyway, the white guy grabbed his knife and swung at the black guy. He lunged forward as he swung expecting the black guy to leap backward. Instead the black guy jumped forward to grab the white guy. The result was that the white guy's arm went around the black guy's neck and came on around to cut himself. I thought it poetic justice.

A family lived nearby whose man of the house was a Deputy Sheriff. His son ran a theft gang for some time until he was finally caught and sent to jail.

The above violent times were in the 1940s.



A Hand-Waxed Shine gives a protective finish!



1934 Dusenber
**Lee's Magic Tunnel
 Car Wash**

256-533-5620

2318 Memorial Pkwy. SW
www.leesmagictunnel.com



www.LittleTobaccoStore.com

Cigarettes - Cigars - Snuff
 Chewing & Pipe Tobacco

\$3.29 Copenhagen Original & Long Cut

\$1.85 Copenhagen LC Straight & Wintergreen

\$1.85 Skoal X-Tra

804 Wellman Avenue
 Next Door to Thai Garden 256-520-6481

Low Prices

5 POINTS

HOLMES AVE. →

PRATT AVENUE
★ STAR MARKET
WELLMAN AVE.

★

TIPS FROM LIZ

* When your gray hairs are becoming more obvious and you have a couple of weeks to go before you have it colored, part your hair in a zig-zag rather than a straight line. The grays will be much less obvious!

* Aloe lotion has good results with arthritis sufferers. Just rub the lotion onto the spot that hurts, and the pain will be diminished. Be sure and buy a lotion that is at least 70% aloe (like you find in Garden Cove on Pratt Ave.)

* If you like mushrooms, buy them sliced rather than whole - you don't have to wash them as they are pre-washed. The whole ones need cleaning.

* There is lots of news lately about the dangers of microwaving food in plastic as the ingredients in the plastic may leech out into your drink/food, etc. Buy ceramic or microwavable glass containers to put your food in, don't heat it up in the plastic container.

* If you must drink tap water out of your sink, only drink from the cold side as the hot side has more lead in it.

* You can use your favorite face lotion as a cleanser. Just rub the lotion onto your face at night, then scrub with a wash-rag that you've dipped in warm water. Clean!

* Many folks have trouble sleeping (especially now with

economy worries). Some tips:

- Keep your bedroom colder at night - most people sleep better in cooler temps.

- Warm milk and honey does the trick for many people - your grandma was right!

- Take a hot shower right before going to bed.

- Wear warm socks at night.

- Reading a book or magazine works with lots of people, especially if your book is boring.

* I found that when I slept on my stomach with my face pressed into the pillow, I had more wrinkles in the morning. And some didn't go away! So now I sleep on my back, so the wrinkles can move away from my face towards my ears - no more fine line wrinkles!

* Our small businesses are really struggling now. Instead of spending your money at the big box grocery, restaurant & clothing stores, why not shop at

the locally-owned stores such as Star Market, Rebecca's, Propst, Lewter's, etc.? We need to always support local businesses!

* People who eat 2 apples a day have less anxiety, fewer headaches, clearer skin, fewer colds, not as troubled by arthritis, and more mental stability when it comes to stressful situations compared to people who don't eat any apples at all.

* When your nose is stuffed, rub your ears vigorously til they feel like they're burning. For some odd reason, it seems to clear up stuffiness.

* When you are somewhere and need to be alert but find yourself getting drowsy, press your elbows against your sides, or press your knees together, hard. Do this for just a few seconds. Your blood circulation will increase, making you feel more energetic.

**A fool and his money
can throw one heck of
a party.**

Cunningham's Variety Store

Shabby Chic
Lamps
Patio Furniture
Stone Garden decor

Living room pieces
Desks
Dressers & small tables
Wicker and Rattan

Plants & Annuals & Wicker at
Bargain Basement Prices!

707 Andrew Jackson Way, just north of Mullins
256-536-3071 Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-4

Linda's
**PRINTING
SERVICES**
INCORPORATED

*More than
meets the eye!*

256.534.4452

Toll Free: 877.534.4452

Fax: 534.4456

3308 Seventh Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35805
www.lindasprinting.com
linprint@lindasprinting.com

Remembering Don Mincher

by Austin Miller

After I retired in January of 2003, I decided it was time to come back home to Huntsville. We had a good offer on our house in Douglasville, Georgia and all we had to do was find a house here that met our needs. Easier said than done, we got a realtor and began looking. We searched all over town and couldn't find a suitable place that we liked. Finally we gave up in desperation and decided to stay in Georgia. This lasted about six months.

One night when my wife and I were out for dinner; it suddenly came over me that after 40 years of living away, I had to come back home. Our children were gone, I didn't have a job, my best friend in Georgia had died and at the time we weren't active in church. There simply was no reason to stay and there was every reason to move to Huntsville. All of my family was here and my ancestors had lived in Madison County for generations.

The next day we came to Ryland to do some work at the home place. We had planned to go back to Georgia when we finished, call our realtor, Jean Watts, and schedule a time to come back and try again to find a house.

As we were leaving late in

the afternoon, we decided to make a quick drive through Saddletree. Shortly after we got into the subdivision we found a house for sale that caught our attention. It looked good from the outside and there was a lady in the front yard cutting the grass. We stopped and when she saw us she shut off the lawn mower, walked over to the car and invited us in to look at the house.

My wife later said she could tell we were not in Douglasville because in the Atlanta area you would never invite strangers into your home that just drove up in front of your house.

The lady's name was Pat Mincher. I had heard of her husband Don but not being an avid baseball fan and not living here for so many years, I didn't know much about him. I did know that he was a baseball player. When we went in, Don was sitting on the sofa in the living room eating a sandwich.

Pat did most of the talking and showed us the house. She took us to an upstairs room that had a mural of a baseball field covering one entire wall. She said they mostly used the room for Don's baseball memorabilia but in preparation for

selling the house it had all been moved out.

We liked the house, called Jean and made an offer before we left town about 8 PM that night. The next day we put our house on the market and it sold in four days, we were finally headed home.

Before we moved, our son Christopher came home on leave from the Navy and wanted to see the house. We made arrangements with the Minchers for a visit. They were both very cordial and friendly. Pat talked about going to All Star and World Series games as the wife of a player. Don didn't say

"The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility."

Seen in church bulletin

Frazier Home Inspections Inc.

Inspections performed according to ASHI Standards
Johnny Frazier, Inspector
AI License #HI-1047

Cell (256) 603-8430
Home (256) 534-0277



Before you buy a home - have it inspected by a professional

Ms T's E-Juices for Electronic Cigarettes

A 21st Century alternative to smoking!

Hundreds of Unique Bakery Flavors to try! Various nicotine levels are available, including none at all!

Vapor looks and feels like cigarette smoke, only without the toxins, smell, or lingering smoke.



A MUCH cheaper alternative to tobacco!

website: <http://www.mtsbakery.com>
phone orders/info: (520) 784-9630

Mark Magnant

256-539-1084 UAH degree
mrmagnant@knology.net



Diagnosis and refresh of computers. Spyware & virus removal. Tutoring available. Senior Discount Available. In-home consultation and flexible schedules.

Computer Problems?

much but my son asked him what he missed about being a major league baseball player; he laughed and said, "Having somebody to carry my bags!"

Then he said "I want to show you what I am most proud of." He got a ring out of a jewelry box and handed it to both of us to look at; it was his World Series ring. After we left Christopher said, "Dad, he is the first major league baseball player I ever met." The same was true for me.

The closing was relaxed and went smoothly, while we waited for the lawyer to come in we talked about the way it once was in Huntsville and how things had changed. He and Pat told us that we were moving into a great neighborhood filled with good neighbors.

After the closing they gave us their telephone number and told us to call if we had any problems. The number came in handy a few days later. After they moved out we stayed in the house a couple of nights before we moved our furniture. We needed to take care of the utilities and put down new carpet.

It was the last of July 2005 and as hot as blazes. To my chagrin, the air conditioner wouldn't come on and we didn't have a warranty. I called Don and told him that I knew he didn't have any responsibil-

ity for the house anymore but I was wondering if there was something I was missing or doing wrong. He said "I don't know but I will be right over; don't worry about not having a warranty, I never had a problem with the air conditioner and I sold you the house in good faith. What ever is wrong, I will take care of it!"

When he came over we couldn't find the problem. He told me to call Garri-sons and send

him the bill.

A funny thing happened on the way to get under the house to look at the system, I bumped my head on top of the doorway entrance. He said, "I meant to warn you about that, I must



Bennett Nurseries

Shopping with us is like a walk in the Park!

At Bennett Nurseries, you'll find a relaxing, park-like atmosphere. Here you can get ideas from our landscaped display areas, and walk through acres of greenhouses. Music plays in the background and refreshments are served. Please shop with us today.

Get your Roses before Mother's Day, most of them will be gone after that date.

**Come see our Unusual Annuals
Get ideas for your garden from
our Display Gardens**



7002 Memorial Parkway No.
Huntsville, AL 35810
Next door to Across the Pond



**Guitar • Banjo
Mandolin**

**Sales • Instruction
Repair**

309 Jordan Lane
Huntsville, AL 35805

**Tel: (256) 430-4729
Fax: (256) 430-1081**



Do you need to settle an Estate?
Downsizing or moving to a smaller home?
Clean out and organizing your garage or attic?
Organizing and running your Estate-Garage-Yard Sale?
Let us clean out - pack up - sell off or donate your items!
Got loose ends to tie up? Let Loose Ends help tie them up tight!
Visit us on the website at: looseendsbymj.com
Email: mjailor@looseendsbymj.com

**MARY JIM AILOR
256-658-2718**

have bumped my head on that door a hundred times."

The funny part is on the way out he bumped his head, too. He said, "Well, I guess that makes 101 times." There was nothing much wrong with the air conditioner; the technician fixed it in about 30 seconds.

Don called that night and asked how much he owed; there was a service charge and he insisted that I send the bill to him. I told him I would but never did. I knew by then that we had bought our house from an honest and honorable family.


The last time I saw Don was either last year or the year before. He was waiting to pick up a prescription at Star Market. He had on a sports jacket with "Minnesota Twins" lettered on the back. I don't remember much of what we said but we shook hands and had a pleasant exchange. I do remember him saying he and Pat had enjoyed living close to their church, the Mayfair Church of Christ.

I can't say I was a friend of Don Mincher's and it might even be a stretch to say that we were acquaintances, but I was saddened when I learned of his passing. I have been most interested in the stories on the front page of the Times. One called him the "King of Baseball" and another,

"Mr. Baseball."

I can't vouch personally for what kind of baseball player he was, but the newspaper stories about the kind of man he was is right in line with how I found him to be when my wife and I bought our current home from him and Pat.





Mack Yates Agency, Inc.
411-B Holmes Ave. NE
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

In Business Since 1974

William M. Yates, CLU
Life, Health, Disability
Long-Term Care, Annuities, and Group

Ph: (256) 533-9448
Fax: (256) 533-9449

E-mail Address:
mackyatesagy@bellsouth.net



Screen Printing

(256) 551-0849

**T-Shirts
Uniforms
Embroidery
Promotional
Items**

**Signs
Mesh Banners
Vehicle Lettering
Trophies**

Locally owned and operated since 1995. All garments decorated in-house by qualified local professionals.

We proudly serve schools, churches, businesses, sports leagues, special events, and much more.

Mention this ad with any new order and receive 10% off!!

www.shortstop.biz

TAKE A STEP BACK IN HUNTSVILLE'S HISTORY. Recently, we have acquired some of Huntsville's first screen printed images. We have reproduced four of the many vintage designs which were originally screen printed by a Huntsville resident approximately 65 years ago. These designs are printed on high quality 100% cotton t-shirts.



White with black imprint - \$12.00*



White with black imprint - \$12.00*



White with black imprint - \$12.00*



Black with white imprint - \$12.00*

*Plus applicable sales tax and shipping

Order via email at sales@shortstop.biz or call us at 256-551-0849



Local News in 1911

- C. S. Griswell, a one-armed man of this city, this morning sent a load of bird shot into his left breast by pulling the trigger of a gun with his toe. Family troubles are said to have been the cause of his suicide.

- Mr. J. M. Oldfield and his daughter Miss Ora were thrown from their buggy while en route to the mill neighborhood yesterday afternoon. Mr. Oldfield was injured about the shoulders, while his daughter escaped being hurt. The animal was frightened at something in the road and ran up the side of the embankment.

- The Old Huntsville Hotel walls will be torn down. The walls left standing as the result of the burning of the Huntsville Hotel recently will be torn down, and men were seen today putting up scaffolds to do the work.

- For Rent - a new 4 room cottage at the corner of Pratt Avenue and 6th Street for rent cheap - apply to J. E. Pierce.

- Young boy dead on Walker Street - John F. Childers, Jr., the three and a half year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Childers, Sr. died at 5:30 o'clock at their home on Walker street after an illness of several days. The remains were carried to Gurley this afternoon, where interment will

be made in the family burying ground.

- For Rent - a good small farm, three miles from Huntsville. Has a good house and splendid barn. The right party can get a bargain. See Dr. I. P. Wyatt

- Fred Peeden is very ill of consumption at the home of his parents on Holmes Street.

- Lost - an amethyst ring, on Randolph Street, between Butler's school and Grahams Pharmacy. Finder return to this office and receive reward.

- Miss Daisy Ducks is dead. She was aged 17 years and died at the home of her uncle, Mr. J. N. Bogett, this morning at 2:15 at the Abingdon Mill Village. Funeral services will be conducted from the residence by Rev. M. Marlow with interment in Maple Hill Cemetery.

- Many friends of Lena Baites will learn with regret that she is sick at her home on Walker Street.

- The continued rain from

Saturday night through Sunday flooded the lowlands of the city and did considerable damage in the way of flooding the lawns and washing away foot bridges. In the Patton Grove neighborhood the waters were especially high. The Spring Branch was way out of its banks and so was Pinhook Creek. Likewise this was true in east Huntsville, where ditches and other low places were completely under water.



Op' Heidelberg

Serving hearty German fare
in Huntsville Since 1972.

6125 UNIVERSITY DR.
256-922-0556

Star Market and Pharmacy

Old Fashioned Service & Courtesy

**Your Friendly Neighborhood
Pharmacy & Grocery Store**

Located in Historic Five Points
702 Pratt Ave. - 256-534-4509



A HOBBS ISLAND FAMILY

by Brenda Franklin

I was born in October of 1952, as the eighth child of eleven children (6 boys and 5 girls) to Lloyd Elton Eubanks and Inez Bradley Eubanks. My father worked on Redstone Arsenal in Civil Service as a painter. We lived at the Four Mile Post. My dad held prayer meetings in our home. People would come to listen to him from everywhere - he was never ordained as a Baptist minister but 6 of his brothers were.

Dad was very tall - 6'8" - always had a smile on his face and always had something interesting to say. Raising all those children on \$107 a week must have been difficult but we always had food for everyone! Dad built my mother her first home on Little Mountain Road in Hobbs Island. It had 4 bedrooms, running water and a bathroom. We had the prettiest pigs and chickens, and some cows. Our garden was always full of vegetables and fruit, and there was plenty to share with others. People would just drop by to see us and they'd always eat with us of whatever was on the table.

When my dad got sick with tuberculosis in 1960, Dr. Huber said he would have to be committed to the hospital. I remember all the children had to take shots so as not to catch TB. We only got to see our dad a couple of times a month, and we missed him. All the children were still at home, and we thought the world had come to an end. Due to the lack of money, we lost our home one year after Dad had built it. We were in debt to the hilt with no money coming from anywhere, and all the electricity and utilities were cut off.

Aunt Clara Pullen & Uncle

"A sure sign of getting older is when your wife says, 'Let's go upstairs and make out!' And you answer, 'Pick one, because I can't do both!'"

Sean Price, Scottsboro

AVON

SINCE 1896

CREATING BEAUTY FOR OVER 100 YEARS!

EARN EXTRA \$\$ - BECOME AN AVON REP TODAY!

SERVING HUNTSVILLE AND SURROUNDING AREAS

CALL OR EMAIL ME FOR A FREE BROCHURE

AVONLADYELIZABETH@GMAIL.COM

ORDER ONLINE AT WWW.YOURAVON.COM/EBURKS

(256) 585-1193

ELIZABETH BUTLER BURKS
INDEPENDENT AVON REPRESENTATIVE



Now Showing in **April 2012**

"An hour of stories and conversation to feed your soul."

The Talk of the Town

SHOWING: Thursday, April 5th

Why Did I Survive?

Questions from natural disasters and other scrapes with death

SHOWING: Thursday, April 12th

Lifetree Classic

To heaven and back

Exclusive film of the author of the NY Times best seller *Heaven Is for Real*

SHOWING: Thursday, April 19th

Living Online

Provocative thoughts from the author of "Is Google Making Us Stupid?"

SHOWING: Thursday, April 26th

Overcoming WORRY

Practical help. Simple solutions.

SHOWING: Thursday, May 3rd

"THE ALIENS ARE COMING"

What if it's true?

Latham United Methodist
Thursdays @ 6:30 PM
109 Weatherly Road, Hsv. AL 35803
Childcare will be provided
LifetreeCafe.com | 256-881-4069

LIFETREE CAFE
"Doing life. Doing good."

Elbert helped us when they could, other people started calling welfare agencies for us like Christmas Charities. We were getting some help in 1967 and moved in to Pete Webster's house that was located in front of the Huntsville Speedway, at \$20 a month. We had a garden and raised animals the people gave us. We were getting one pair of shoes apiece, one toy and one dress - Dad said that's all we could take because other people needed things too.

When Dad finally came home from the hospital - with no TB - we were so happy. He had mustard gas in his lungs from the painting he had done on Redstone Arsenal and only had one lung left. He was in and out of the hospital several times a month and in 1974 started drawing \$108 a month as his retirement check from Civil Service. He was in bad shape and could only get out of bed a little at a time.

Soon a man came to our home, this man was an attorney. He told my father that he could take his case to court on my Dad's behalf and get his home back, and get him money to live on for the rest of his life. I was 17 years old at the time, and was working. I fully understood what this attorney was telling my Dad, and he understood it too, but he was a very proud man. He looked up at the attorney and with tears in his eyes said, "Listen to what I say. Daughter, do you want to stay here or leave?" I told him I

wanted to stay. He turned back to the attorney and said, "I did a really good job of raising these eleven children. I will not sue someone for money that I didn't earn myself. This is a faith of God. If it's my time to go to my Savior, so be it. He put me here and He'll take me away. I live with no regrets in my life and I'm very proud of my family. No one here is hungry or doing without clothes. So, no thanks."

The attorney left shortly after that. I was still living at home when my Dad died June 25, 1974 at the Medical Center Hospital, at 67 years old. He was buried in Bush Cemetery in Cloud's Cove, Madison and the Reverend Shelby Gurley and Laughlin Funeral home conducted the services. The funeral home couldn't hold all the people that came to pay their respects, and the procession to the cemetery was 2 miles long. Brother Gurley had to wait 30 minutes for people to get to the grave site.

My mother lived on less than \$200 a month after that until she died in July of 1987. I've been here on Hobbs Island for 51 years.



SCOTTY FIX IT

LET ME HELP YOU WITH ANY TYPE OF HOUSEHOLD REPAIR JOBS!

- * PAINTING, 1 ROOM AT A TIME OR WHOLE HOUSE
- * PLUMBING INSTALL & REPAIRS
- * WATER DAMAGE TO ANY PART OF YOUR HOME
- * ELECTRICAL REPAIRS OF ALL KINDS

(256) 503-2922 OR
(256) 539-7348

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE
LICENSED & INSURED

EMAIL SBSMITH@HIWAAY.NET
VISIT WWW.SCOTTYFIX.COM



**"Son, you've got a good engine,
but your hands aren't on the
steering wheel."**

Bobby Bowden, coach

Slinkard Woodcraft, LLC

Greg Slinkard

111 Benson Circle - Huntsville, AL 35806

Office 256.859.4020 - 256.653.1703

visit us at www.slinkardwoodcraft.com

SPRINGTIME

by Malcolm W. Miller

There is definitely something very special about the coming of spring, and I feel sure that the feeling has to go back to my boyhood days on the farm.

When I was a boy it felt that spring of the year really meant a new beginning in so many different ways. After the long hard winter of half freezing most of the time (unlike our winter this year), the old fire place just couldn't keep those tenant houses warm, especially when there were cracks almost big enough to throw a cat through. Also there was no heat at all in most of the bedrooms.

When the spring weather started to break it seemed like it would perk everything and everyone up. The old hens would start singing and start laying. The garden was in the process of being planted and you could look forward to the fresh green vegetables after going through the winter eating dried peas and canned goods.

A nice by-product of plowing up the garden was finding the big fat juicy red worms that the little catfish and perch down at the creek seemed to like so well. Spring of the year also meant that very soon you could be pulling off those "long handle" drawers that your parents made you wear faithfully all winter long; and, of course, it

meant you could pull off those old worn out brogan shoes and go bare foot all summer long. Those are what we call the "good ole days."

The approach of spring also meant the end of another school year, and even though I knew I would have to spend most of the summer in the cotton field, to me even that was a welcome relief from the day-to-day grind of going to school. And believe you me, it really got hard to sit in a classroom when the weather started to break and the windows were opened. You could smell the honeysuckle and other spring flowers blooming, and hear the birds singing.

That is when I would just sit there and day dream about how the fish would be biting down at the creek, until the teacher would come along and whack me across the head with a ruler and snap me back into reality.

It seems to me that the bitter

things in life are only there to make us appreciate the sweet things that much more. You have to brave the thorns to get to the beautiful rose, the biggest juiciest berries are always hidden behind the briars, the biggest apples are always on the highest branches, and to me all the late winter ice and snow just makes the coming of spring that much sweeter.

There is one thing that I recollect about the coming of spring that surely leaves a bad taste in my mouth, even when I think about it today and that was the good "cleaning out" that my mama thought I had to have every spring. Needless to say, that was accomplished with the aid of a big dose of castor oil. Oh well, like I said, the bitter only made the sweet that much sweeter, and to me the spring time of the year is a very sweet time.



Having Pillow troubles?
 If you are a side sleeper,
 buy a firm pillow. If you
 change positions a lot,
 buy a soft pillow. If you
 sleep on your back, buy a
 medium pillow.

REGAL VALUE DAYS

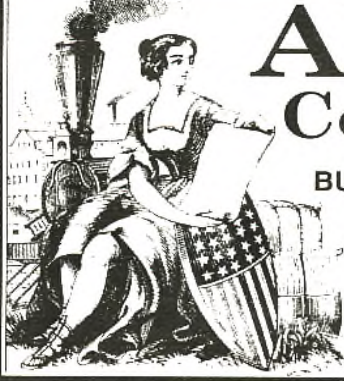
Great big movies. Nice small prices.

Additional 3D or IMAX up-charges may apply. Holidays may be excluded. Only at participating theatres. See REEmovies.com for complete details.

**Regal Entertainment Group's
 Hollywood 18
 Presents
 \$6 Tickets
 All Day Monday-Thursday**

**Plus additional benefits with
 your Regal Crown Club Card!**


For more info call the box office
 at (256) 883-1101 or
 go to www.regmovies.com



Alabama Coin & Silver

**BUYING - SELLING - TRADING
 ESTATE APPRAISALS**

Charles Cataldo, Jr. Owner
 Ph. (256) 536-0262
 912 Bob Wallace Ave.
 Huntsville, Alabama



We buy and sell rare coins and collectibles

NEWS FROM AROUND NORTH ALABAMA - 1911

Decatur Man Gets his Foot Mashed

Attempt to Board Moving Train is Cause of Accident

Douglas McGilton, of Decatur, in his attempt to board a moving freight train here, had his foot caught and badly mashed. He was taken to the hotel, where his wounds were dressed by Dr. R. E. Sherrill. Mr. McGilton came down on Train #3 with some other young men to see friends. He wished to reach home earlier than he could by waiting for Passenger Train #3 and thought he could ride on the freight. He was carried home and is reported doing well.

Woman Dies and then Falls in Fire

Body is Found in the Fireplace, Badly Burned

News reached Florence from Rogersville, in the eastern part of this county, of the horrible death by burning of Mrs. Mary Crow, a well-known widow. Mrs. Crow lived alone and was cared for by Mrs. McLemore, a tenant on her place. Mrs. McLemore had built a fire for Mrs. Crow, who had complained of a chill, and after an absence of just under an hour came back to find Mrs. Crow in her room, partially in the fireplace and burned to a crisp.

It is supposed that she died of heart failure and fell into the large fireplace in her bedroom. Mrs. Crow had been eccentric since the death of her husband and insisted on living alone. She was twice a widow and childless. A brother, W. H. Page of Rogersville, is her only surviving relative.

Southern Railway's Large Water Tank Goes to Pieces

Regular flood time arrived on North Jefferson Street about 2 o'clock this morning when too much pressure caused the Southern Railway water tank to burst. The whole tank came down except the platform on which the tank stood. There was no damage save the possible cost of the tank, about \$1,000, which will be rebuilt immediately by the railway company. An emergency tank relieved the situation.

Walnut Pudding

- 2 eggs
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 1 T. plain flour
- 1 t. baking powder
- 1 c. broken walnuts
- 1 c. dates, pitted

Beat eggs, sugar, flour and baking powder together thoroughly. Stir in the walnuts and dates. Pour batter into a buttered baking dish and set in a pan of boiling water. Bake for 30 minutes at 350 degrees. Let chill, serve with whipped cream.

FOR FASHIONS FINISHING TOUCH...

The little things really do count. Earrings, a belt, bag, hat or pin are the little things that complete the big picture of fashions.

Treat yourself to a beautiful spring outfit! You deserve it!

Rebecca's

*Fashions & Custom Accessories
710 Pratt Avenue
539-3876*



Tenders!



Where the chicken is kickin'!

Dine-in or Carry-out!

Yes! We Cater!!!



533-7599

800 Holmes Ave.

Five Points

464-7811

Madison

On Hwy. 20 - Across from Walmart

Some of the best tastin' chicken anywhere!

Rural Healers of the 1920's

An excerpt from the memoirs of Victor Nunnelley by Phoebe Nunnelley Terry

Health care of the 1920s and earlier in rural Alabama was vastly different from what we know today, and would be looked upon by most as voodoo or witchcraft. It was a strange mixture of home remedies, and individuals with unexplained, almost magical, powers. Just how far back these methods of health care go I wouldn't attempt to guess, but my honest opinion is that some, if not all, came over on the Mayflower. Scoff at it as you may, some of the early remedies which were frowned upon and finally outlawed by the American Medical Association have never been recaptured by the very ones who helped to stop the practice. By that I mean the doctors themselves.

I'll relate here about the two Estes sisters, Laura Jane and Julina. One could draw out fire and both could stop the flow of blood. These sisters married two brothers named Durham. Laura Jane married Uncle Will Durham and Julina married Uncle Onnie. They were no kin to me; everybody in the commu-

nity called them "Uncle." They were hardworking, law-abiding citizens, well respected in the community. Both couples lived to a ripe old age and raised a big flock of kids.

I had no experience with Laura Jane except hearing what people would say who saw what she could do when it came to stopping blood. People who witnessed this ability all said it was miraculous.

No matter how fast the blood flowed, the instant she was told the name of the person who was bleeding – they didn't even have to be in sight of her – the blood would stop instantly. Some said that a certain verse in the Bible had something to do with it. It was also claimed that she could transfer the power to stop blood to another person before she died. But if she did there was never any sign of it, and I know every one of her surviving relatives. None of her daughters claimed to know one thing about it. Nor does anyone else in this county that I've ever heard of.

But it was Aunt Julina who really made a believer out of me when it came to drawing out

GLASS

For Any Purpose

PATTERNS
FOR—

**Table Tops
Dressers
Radio Tables
Desks
Mantles
Counters
Etc!**

All edges ground
and polished.

Call 364 and let
us make you an
estimate.

**Huntsville
Glass & Paint Co.**

(Original ad from Jan. 30, 1940)

Offering
Historical Quality
Restoration Glass

*Serving our good customers
for 70 years*

256-534-2621
2201 Holmes Ave. NW




Open Mon-Sat 10am - 6pm

For Kids of All Ages!

BROWSE THROUGH HUNDREDS OF OLD-FASHIONED
TOYS AS WELL AS MODERN ONES!

(256) 213-7069

Ask About our Frequent Buyer Program
for Great Savings on Incredible Toys

 "Like" us on Facebook-
Love us in person!

TheToyPlaceDowntownHsv.com

Directions: Located at 110 Cleveland Avenue
between the Dog Park & Furniture Factory. From
Pratt Avenue go South on Church Street then East on
Cleveland - we're on the left after the railroad tracks!

Get Off That Ladder *For Good!*



Get Gutter Helmet®
Save 30% Now!

NEVER CLEAN YOUR GUTTERS AGAIN®

Triple Lifetime Warranty

Thousands of adults are injured every year from falling off ladders. Don't let yourself or someone you love be one of them. Gutter Helmet® will get you off the ladder for good. Did you know that clogged gutters could cause big problems? Wood rot, mold, and wet basements are all caused by water seeping into places it shouldn't. Gutter Helmet® has been designing and engineering gutter systems for over 25 years and its patented design has stood the test of time.

256.417.5752 OR info@gutterhelmetofalabama.com

Gutter Helmet Systems of Alabama



*Call for more details. Must be presented at time of estimate. Offer subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offers and/or promotions. Void where prohibited by law. Not responsible for typos or misprints.

America's #1 Choice for Gutter Protection!

fire. I'd lived close to this family all my life, except for the times when I was working away from home. I had heard all about Julina's reputation as a burn doctor, but I was still skeptical. I believed that her treatment was most likely for someone who "almost" got burned — that is, up until about 1955.

Uncle Onnie and Aunt Julina lived about a half-mile from me at the time, and I was renting some land right close to their house. I was plowing corn one day with a two-horse cultivator. I carried my sweeps (cultivator blades) to the house to sharpen them when I went to my noonday dinner. I liked to keep them very sharp and had done this many times. I had this electric forge on which I heated one side of the sweep at a time and then hammered it out sharp on an anvil.

The forge was outside and the sun was shining. Now, you can't tell when iron is hot just by looking at it in the bright sunlight. Both sides of the sweep had been heated, which gave it a dull, bluish color. I had pulled it out of the forge, when something else got my attention. I picked it up and made the serious mistake of taking hold of the side that was still red-hot. My hand made a frying noise and the smoke went about two feet high. The sweep stuck to my hand and I had to sling it loose.

Well, I knew at once that it was by far the worst burn I'd ever had. And the next thought that come to mind was that I was in the middle of a crop and would not be able to hold the plow handle. The pain was so intense that I just turned around a time or two, then got in my car and started down the driveway. I thought at first of going to town, but I knew it would take half a day to see a doctor, if at all.

By the time I reached the county road, I thought of what one of Julina Durham's sons, Luke, had told me about a man

who was working at a syrup mill and fell into a pan of boiling syrup. He only managed to keep from going all the way in by throwing both hands into the boiling syrup to hold his body out. Luke said his mother was at the mill at the time and that she drew the fire out leaving the man without so much as a blister. I thought to myself, "boiling syrup is mighty hot." Then I turned toward the Durham place instead of town. When I got to the house Mrs. Durham was standing in the doorway just like she was expecting me. I said, "Mrs. Durham, I don't know if you can help me or not. I've really got a bad burn."

In a kind and gentle voice she said, "That won't be a bit of trouble." She then took my hand in both of hers and her hands felt as cold as ice. The pain stopped instantly. She did some kind of mumbo jumbo, then said, "Wait about fifteen minutes and I'll draw it again." I walked out on

the back porch where Mr. Durham was sitting in the swing. By that time the pain was coming back fast. Every place my hand had touched the red-hot sweep was burned stiff as a board, and had turned a dark brown color.

When she called me back in, the same thing occurred as the first time, except that the pain did not return as severely as it had before.

Any kind of burn always left me with a blister, so I said, "I need to plow; can I put something like lotion on it to keep the skin from breaking?"

She told me that the skin wouldn't break, to just go on back to work. I asked, "What about wearing a glove?"

She answered, "It won't hurt

"The only qualifications for a lineman are to be big and dumb. To be a back, you only have to be dumb."

Knute Rockne, Notre Dame

A DANNY ATNIP
CONSTRUCTION

156 IMPORT CIRCLE • Huntsville, AL 35806

852-1221

FIRE AND WATER DAMAGE REPAIRS
ADDITIONS AND REMODELS

ATEC
PEST CONTROL
SUPPLY COMPANY

Pest Problems?

Use what the Pros use to get rid of
termites, roaches, ants, spiders, mice,
snakes & fleas.

Get your supplies today!
(256) 533-6754
3804 Governors Drive M-F 7-5, Sat 8-Noon

anything, but it won't help anything either."

I just couldn't get it out of my head that the hand was going to blister, as any other burn would have done. But she assured me that it wouldn't, and it didn't!

That's not the end of the story, either. None of her family ever had a blister from a burn. Since her death twenty years ago, I've never heard of any other person who had the gift of drawing fire, nor do I expect to. I think her oldest son Grady summed it up best when he said, "It don't make sense, but it works."

The controversial madstone was supposed to have power over rabies. I had no actual firsthand experience with the madstone, as the rabies vaccine had already been perfected by the time I came along. But I have listened to some people who were born around the turn of the century and before who believed in it wholeheartedly. Also I have read several articles on the subject which corresponded identically with what these local people had to say about it.

Personally, I doubt that the stone had any real merit or curative powers. But I will relate here what the ones who believed in them had to say about the application. This madstone was a stone that was formed in the stomach of a cow or deer. They varied greatly in size. I don't remember ever hearing any "deadline" on how long a person had to get to this madstone treatment after being bitten by a rabid animal, but I do remember the procedure itself quite clearly.

It went like this. First, the stone was soaked in warm whole milk. Then it was applied directly to the wound. If the animal was rabid, the stone would stick to the wound for several minutes and then fall off. Then the application was repeated for as long as the stone would adhere to the wound — usually

about three times. If the animal was not rabid, the stone would not latch on, thereby guaranteeing the patient a clean bill of health.

Come to think about it, I never have read or heard of a person being treated by a madstone who contracted the disease. But on the other hand, there was at that time no lab test that would tell if the biter was really a car-

rier of rabies or not.

During the twenties and thirties all babies had to have the services of a "thrash [thrush] doctor" at one time or another. Whether the people endowed with the power to "cure" the affliction were effective or not, the condition itself was real enough. Thrash is a painful, inflammatory condition of the mouth and stomach. The baby was in

Perfect Turf^{inc.}

Professional Turf Care Company

256-704-5687

www.PerfectTurf.net

P.O. Box 4994 Huntsville, Al 35815

"Because You Deserve It"

**President - Jerry O. Smith
State Certified Applicator**

Application Programs

Weed Control

Fertilization

Insect & Disease Control

Fire Ant Control

Tree & Ornamental Care

Grub Control

Grow-in Programs

Athletic Programs

**Ask About Our 52 week
Fire Ant Guarantee**

KITCHEN • BATH • FIXTURES PLUMBING SUPPLIES



PARK SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.

FOR KITCHENS & BATHS OF
DISTINCTION

4736 Commercial Drive
Huntsville, Alabama
256-837-4036

Visit us on the web @

www.parksupplycompany.com

or come by and visit our
8,000 square foot Showroom.

We are a distributor of plumbing products and supplies,
as well as accessories, fixtures and furnishings
for your Kitchen and Bath.

We carry faucets, sinks, lavatories, toilets, towel bars,
cabinet pulls, door hardware, kitchen and bath accessories.



STYLE ELEGANCE FUNCTION

distress until he could be carried to the local thrash doctor.

There were several different things that qualified a person for this title, none that the people involved could have any control over, but purely matters of circumstance. One qualification was that the future thrash doctor could never have known his or her father.

I would probably have never known nor cared anything about it, but my older half sister was a bonafide thrash doctor. And most certainly not by choice, I can assure you. Not by a long shot! Although she was not much more than a child herself, no mother in our community ever doubted her expertise, and to my knowledge there was never any need for a "follow-up" treatment.

None of us at home ever spoke of her as "half sister." But in this case I'll have to mention it, since her father's death before she was born endowed her with the gift of curing the thrash. We younger kids used to tease her by calling her "thrash doctor," adding to her reluctance to practice her art. When a mother would come to the house with a young patient, my sister would run into the back room. Then Mama would take the baby and follow her, telling her in no uncertain terms to "doctor" the baby. I never saw that actual operation performed, but was told that it consisted merely of the doctor blowing a breath into the baby's mouth.

I have never gotten up the nerve to ask Sister if she got an outside doctor for her own kids. But I won't forget what a mad bluster she could put up when one of us kids called her "thrash doctor." We just knew that she would wring our necks if we didn't run!

My father told me that when he was growing up in the 1880s and '90s, no degree was required for practicing medicine. He

said that anyone with a little imagination and a few pills and remedies could become a doctor overnight. Now, this policy may not have extended nationwide, but in rural Alabama and Georgia of that day, it was common practice.

My father lived in the period when both people and horses were bled to "purify the blood" – probably by the same doctor! Believe it or not, there were also specialists in those days. When I was a small boy during the 1920s or perhaps the early 30s, a cancer specialist passed our house at intervals. Anyone who saw this man would never forget him, for his mode of travel was vastly different from anything I have ever seen before or since. Horse and buggy rigs were common during this period, but nothing like the one this man had.

He drove a large black horse hitched to a buggy, which in itself was not unusual, but ev-

erything about his rig was coal black. The horse, the high top buggy, the harness, the man's suit and hat were all black as midnight. I guess the most unusual thing was the elaborate

Neals Pressure Washing

WE CLEAN IT ALL!

**Painting
Home Repair
256-603-4731**

Licensed & Insured

Proud Member of
the BBB



Quick Care

"When Minutes Matter"

- Colds, Flu, Fever, Coughing
- Sore throats, ear aches
- Sinus infection
- Sprains, strains, fractures
- On site X-Ray
- Cuts, burns, lacerations
- Headaches and Migraines
- Bladder or kidney problems
- Flu shots & Vaccinations
- Other Urgent Care Needs



Hours Mon-Sat 10am - 8pm
Sunday 12 pm - 6pm

We take Blue Cross Blue Shield & Medicare. 2 medical doctors on staff, as well as 2 nurse-practitioners

717 Pratt Avenue, in Propst Drugs at Five Points

Phone 533-1268 Fax 1-800-450-4931

www.quickcareofhuntsville.com

harness trappings. The horse was totally surrounded by a kind of network that reached from his midsection almost to his feet.

The straps of this harness arrangement seemed to be about three feet long, about three inches apart and made from some sort of very flexible material. They looked to be about a quarter inch of diameter. Each strap could move from bottom to top according to the movement of the horse.

I never knew the man's idea about the harness arrangement, but I believe it was intended to repel flies. It might have helped with some types of flies, but in the middle of horsefly season, I have seen giant horseflies so aggressive that they would try to eat a bulldozer. Nothing would faze them short of death.

The doctor sat far back under the black canopy of the buggy, never speaking to anyone, looking straight ahead like a statue. All I ever knew of this one was when he passed, someone would say, "There goes that old cancer doctor." I've never found anyone who knew where he came from, nor where he was going. But evidently he had a pretty good practice, for he made his rounds for years.

The other cancer doctor was a woman. Her maiden name was Highsaw, but she married a man named Swafford. I do have some knowledge of her success with cancer. My father-in-law, James Henry Holaway, had a bad cancer on his lower neck just above his back. His son Claude was carrying him for treatment in Birmingham. After several trips Claude told me that he had been informed by the doctors that he was not to bring Mr. Holaway back, that he couldn't be helped. It was at that time that he started going to this woman who had the reputation for curing cancer.

To the best of my recollection, this occurred sometime in

the 1940s. Anyway, the law was making some strong efforts to stop this kind of practice, which they termed "quackery." Mrs. Swafford told my brother-in-law that the law had been after her and that she was afraid to treat his father.

He argued that it could be done without the knowledge of the law, so she finally agreed to take that one final case.

I don't remember ever hearing exactly how many trips Mr. Holaway made to her house for treatment, but I don't believe it was more than two or three. He told me himself that he had never felt such pain as when she put the treatment on.

He was completely cured, but there was a sinkhole in the back of his neck where the cancer had been. He lived on for years after that and finally died in 1957, but not from cancer.

I worked on a job with Mrs. Swafford's grandson many years after this occurrence. He said that yes, he could remember the

law coming out to their house and nearly scaring his poor grandmother to death. He also said that as far as he knew, she got her remedy out of the woods.

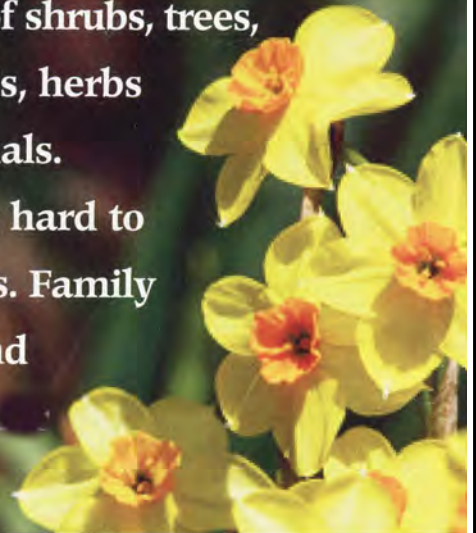
As a result of this expedience and others, I am convinced that society was successful in eradicating the self-taught doctors who knew some things that modern medicine has yet to catch up with. The last of these "doctors" took their secrets with them when they died.



Your Full Service Garden Center

Full line of shrubs, trees, perennials, herbs and annuals.

Including hard to find items. Family owned and operated



 **Earth Touch**

8515B Whitesburg Drive South
Huntsville, Alabama
256.880.3808

Licensed - Insured - References

M S Masonry

Repairs
Pavers
Curbs
Walk ways
Blocks
Stone
Stucco

"No Job Too Small"

Michael Sylvester
(256) 694-2469



LUCKY LUCY

by Steve Johnson

Ricardo Montelbaun Rodriguez Johnson. Lucy for short. My dog.

She came into my life in November of 2005. I saw her running around in the parking lot of my scrap metal business in Huntsville. She was just a puppy, and I remember thinking how cute and playful she looked. I did not realize at the time that the heathen she was with was abusing her, and had done it in our parking lot before. He seemed o.k., and I'm glad that neither me nor some of the guys that frequent our business saw him do it.

I saw him leave without Lucy, and wondered what was going on. She ran from everybody, and somehow wound up in the fenced-in lot at the business next to us. A kid that worked for me at the time managed to catch her, but she would have nothing to do with me. I got her to eat some food, and it was obvious she was starving, and severely abused. One of my men said the guy had beaten her in the front seat of his truck, and she escaped and ran.

Lucy won my heart without even trying. I would lure her into our building at closing time every day. During the day, she roamed around our parking lot and was spotted as far away as Jordan Lane. Our area is not a good place for dogs. The morning of the fourth night, when I approached the door, I heard her whimpering. When I opened the door, she was all

over me.

The longer she stayed at our shop, the more attention she drew. People were asking for her, but none that I would even consider. Some guy and his wife who were regulars and had young kids asked for her. I turned them down, so they just took her anyway.

Thank goodness, one of my guys had their cell number. I had already called the Sheriff's dispatch and talked to a sympathetic lady. My heart was crazy broken. These people actually answered when I called their number, and brought her back. They had a good act, and seemed surprised by my anger. Hopefully, you don't know these type people's mind set.

The next crisis with Lucy was when a huge black guy, whom I had been told bred and fought Dobermans, just picked her up and was walking out the door. One of our guy's tried to stop him, and he just shoved him aside. I ran him down, and he gave her to me. I shudder to think of what he was going to do with her, but it was not pretty. Fighting dogs need to know the taste of

blood.

At that time, my parents were still actively involved in our business. They had Chin-Chin, a Japanese Chin, who spent the day with us at our office. Chin-Chin, who is 100% spit-and-gristle, was getting old. Lucy was a lively young dog, and way too aggressive for Chinnny. He was to old to hang, so I had to come up with something to do with this odd-looking little dog.

I was married at the time, and she was not thrilled with

~ SINCE 1934 ~

C.T. GARVIN

FEED & SEED, LLC.

Holistic Pet Food

&

Spring Plants

AVAILABLE NOW!


Locally Owned!
Big enough to serve you, small enough to care.

- Chef Jeff Herbs
- Seeds by the ounce & pound
- Mulch, topsoil, sand & stone

256-534-5637


2215 Holmes Ave. - Huntsville
www.ctgarvins.com

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.



BILL POOLE REALTY

Commercial Brokerage



REALTOR®

Bill Poole

100 Church Street, Suite 525
Big Spring Summit
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Office 256-533-0990
Cell 256-651-1349
Fax 256-534-1234

EMAIL bill@billpoolerealty.com

the idea of a dog. Finally, I just put her in my truck and took her home. We were going out that night, and Lucy ran out the door. She just flat disappeared. There was nothing we could do, so we went and met our friends. I figured she would either be killed or find a good home. When we arrived home, there was Lucy on the back porch. She was glad to see us, and finally had a loving home.

My original name for her was Lucky, after the character in my all time favorite TV show that ran on FX. My wife vetoed that. We compromised on Lucky Lucy, and agreed to call her Lucy. Sadly, that is one of the few things we could ever reach a compromise on. She grew to love her, too.

Neither of us had a pet in a while, so potty training soon became an issue. Lucy must have been an outside dog, and was used to going whenever and wherever she pleased. She also peed whenever she got excited. I tried and tried to get her housebroken. It did not help that I could not bring myself to spank her. She ruined a lot of rugs, and my wife was hammering me to get rid of her.

Finally, even though it broke my heart, I made the decision to take her to the Ark, a local no-kill shelter. I got my wife to give me one more day, but I knew in my heart that this wonderful little dog would have to go. The next morning, she ran to the door, and did her business outside. I was thrilled. You would have had to been there to know what a miracle that was.

We thought Lucy would get up to about ten or twelve pounds. She is probably a Dachshund Terrier mix. She just grew and grew. Lucy goes about twenty-five pounds now. She has a bark that would drive Ghandi to violence, and will tree a squirrel with the best of them. She's fast as greased lightning. Lucy hates cats, but has ac-

cepted Felix, a stray I picked up near my hometown of Leighton.

My wife and I divorced, and Lucy stayed with me. She has jealousy issues with Felix, but they play well together and keep each other company while I work long hours. Lucy walks with me daily, and is good company. I feel blessed to have her.

Nothing in my life seems to

ever be easy, and Lucy was no exception. All of the crazy stuff that happened with her just makes me love her and appreciate her all the more. I had no intention of having a pet, but the hand of fate pushed her my way.

Thank God for the little small favors.



**SPARKMAN MARBLE
AND GRANITE**

*HUNTSVILLE'S OLDEST FAMILY OWNED
MONUMENT COMPANY SINCE 1892*

**1111 WELLS AVE.
HUNTSVILLE AL 35801
256 534 ~ 0971**

*Huntsville's Freshest Sandwiches
to Grab'n Go or Sit-A-Spell!*



Specializing in
**Deli Lunches &
Box Lunch Catering!**

*Open for Lunch
10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.*

Call Ahead for Pick-up Orders
256.489.DELI

500 Pratt Avenue
(Next to Habitat for Humanity)

Stir-Fry Pasta

by L. Joe Austin, Huntsville Hospital

From "Welcome Back", Huntsville Hospital's 1895-1995 Centennial Cookbook

- 1 cup chopped green onions (optional)
- 10 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 teaspoons salt
- Soy sauce
- 2 cups sliced carrots
- 4 cups sliced mushrooms
- 3 cups finely chopped broccoli
- 1/2 cup water
- 6 chicken breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1-1/2 (7-ounce) package rotelle

Saute green onions in 1 tablespoon of the oil, 1/2 teaspoon of the salt and dash of soy sauce in wok. Remove from wok. Repeat procedure to cook carrots. Remove from wok. Saute mushrooms in 2 tablespoons oil, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon soy sauce in wok until cooked through. Remove from wok. Repeat previous procedure with broccoli, adding 1/2 cup water. Steam, covered, for 4 minutes. Remove from wok.

Rinse chicken; pat dry. Cook chicken with 3 tablespoons oil, 1 teaspoon salt and 1 teaspoon soy sauce for 3 minutes or until cooked through. Cook pasta with remaining salt using package directions. Combine all cooked ingredients in wok. Pour 2 tablespoons oil and 2 tablespoons soy sauce over cooked ingredients. Toss to mix well. This dish is great for a luncheon. Flavor is enhanced if prepared ahead and reheated.

YOU CAN WIN A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO "OLD HUNTSVILLE" MAGAZINE.



JUST BE THE FIRST TO IDENTIFY THE LOCATION OF THIS "PIECE" OF A BUILDING.

HINT: LOCATED ON A LARGE BUILDING IN TWICKENHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

THE FIRST TO CALL AND TELL US WHERE IT IS WINS A YEAR OF "OLD HUNTSVILLE."

CALL (256) 534-0502



AUCTION

ANTIQUES~FURNITURE~COLLECTIBLES~GLASSWARE

SATURDAY, APRIL 21st, 2012

 * NO PHONE BIDDING! *
 * MAJOR CREDIT CARDS *
 * ACCEPTED! *

B & W AUCTION
 356 Capshaw Road
 Madison, AL 35757
 (256) 837-1559 or (256) 837-8377

 * CLIMATE-CONTROLLED *
 * SMOKE-FREE FACILITY! *
 * BUILDING WILL BE FULL! *

OVER 600 LOTS !!
OUR BUILDING WILL BE FULL!!

Eddie from PA will be back in town with another great load. Plus, other Local and Out-of-State Estate Items and Consignments. Over 600 lots including China Cabinets, Breakfronts, Bookcases, Sideboards & Servers, Several Chests & Dressers, Sets of Chairs, Beds & Bedroom Suites, Dining Room Suites, Sofas, Game Tables, Miscellaneous Tables & Stands, Advertising Items, Great Glassware Items, Mirrors & Frames, Lamps, Lots of Smalls, Tray Deals, and other Miscellaneous & Unique Items. Reserved Seating, Clean Restrooms, and Concessions are available. Previews can be made during the week prior to the sale date. Pictures and a more complete listing can be found by logging onto the website below.

*For pictures and directions, log onto www.auctionzip.com ~ Auctioneer I.D. #5484

Wilson Hilliard, ASL #97

Bill Ornburn, ASL #683

Charles Thorpe, ASL #392

Tweetie's Pet Tips



* Don't make your dog walk on extremely hot pavement, cement, wood, etc. The pads of his paws are tender and if it's too hot for your feet, it's too hot for his, too.

* Your kitty does not like to use a dirty litter box. Be sure and clean out the box daily, the clumpable litter is great. Tweetie wanted to point out here that birds never require a litter box and they pride themselves on keeping very clean.

* If you have a puppy who is teething, instead of having him chew on the walls, furniture, shoes, etc. just get a couple of washrags, soak them in water and put a few in the freezer. Your puppy will like the cold on his gums and when it thaws out, have another one ready in the freezer.

* If you have allergy problems, your dog could be bringing in pollen on her feet. Be sure and wipe off her paws to make it more pleasant for yourself!


* Cats are extremely curious and will climb into everything. Be sure and watch carefully when you are putting clothes into the dryer, or food into your freezer, or items into your washer or dishwasher. Your

cat could be in there and would be in for quite a shock!

* Some cats enjoy walking outside on a leash. You can find a harness at the pet store. Just make sure it's not too loose, so that if startled, the cat gets out of the harness and may be difficult to catch.

* If the harness doesn't work, there are cat and dog strollers that allow you to get your exercise but keep the pet safe inside the netted area. The stroller should have large wheels to allow it to roll smoothly over grass, sidewalks, etc. This is one area where spending a bit more money will get you a better item.


* Tweetie says, "Buy more Parakeets! They make the best and most entertaining of companions."



*Berryhill
Funeral Home*

**Huntsville's Newest & Most
Modern Facility**

*Personal, Professional service
Serving all Cemeteries
Honoring all burial & cash policies
Honoring pre-need transfers
Crematory*



2305 Mem. Pkwy North
536-9197

J.C.'s

(Since 1969)

**Guns &
Tackle Shop, Inc**

J.C. Vaughn
President

**Huge gun
selection**

1650 Jordan Lane
Huntsville, Al 35816
(256) 830-0761

**Guns - Buy - Sell - Trade - Consignment - Repair
Holsters - Knives - Ammo - Reloading Supplies**



A Pioneer In Natural Products
Since 1868, Offering a
Complete line of Natural and
Organic spices, extracts,
Home care & personal products.

Independent Watkins Associate

Janie Denis

Associate No. 380303

(256) 520-2110

www.yesicanvanilla.com

From the Desk of Tom Carney

THE MILL STRIKE

by Tom Carney

In mid-July, 1934, after months of mediation and agitation, nearly 4,000 Huntsville cotton mill workers went on strike as part of a nationwide walkout that quickly ensnared America's entire textile industry.

The strike brought violence to the streets in the form of killings, kidnappings, assaults, shootings, and bombings.

A cloud of fear hung over Huntsville like poisonous vapors seeping into the hearts of the populace. No man, woman, child, home, or business was safe. Living here was dangerous.

Mill owners across the nation refused to negotiate, threatening to hire strike breakers to quell any riotous activity by the strikers.

Then on July 17, the Fletcher Mill opened at the regular hour of 6 a.m., but was forced to close within three hours. Noisy strikers were clamoring in the street outside the mill and it appeared that major violence would erupt at any second. Sensing the severity of the situation, the nonunion employees chose to leave their jobs rather than confront the raucous pickets.

Police and deputies armed with tear-gas rifles and machine guns were called to the scene as the strikers grew more unruly, but the crowd dispersed when the officers arrived.

Merrimac was the next mill to close as strikers, under the

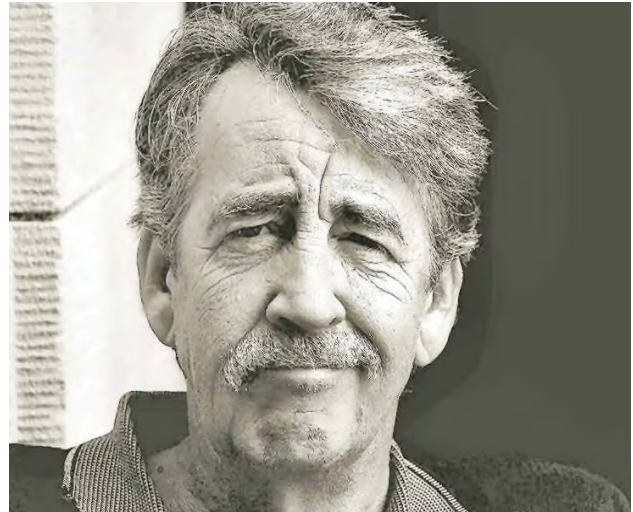
leadership of state union organizer Albert Cox, went through the building telling workers to leave. The mill emptied in minutes.

Lincoln and Dallas Mills closed that same morning when the night shifts came off duty.

John Dean, representing the United Textile Workers of America, urged strikers to maintain picket lines and prevent the mills from running.

Carloads of strikers, armed with shotguns, pistols, knives, baseball bats, and anything else that could serve as weapons, cruised the streets shouting and waving their weapons, intimidating anyone who might have had thoughts about going to work.

A meeting of the Dallas Mill workers was held at the old Methodist church on Humes Avenue. Monroe Adcock, the President of the Dallas local union, presided and urged that no destruction of mill property take place during the strike. He also pleaded that all union members refrain from using intoxicating liquors while the strike was in progress.



The following day reports of trouble sent police racing to the Admiral Braid Company. A crowd of a few hundred men had gathered outside the plant when it was reported that an attempt was going to be made to move a load of merchandise. The report was false and the crowd dispersed without incident.

On July 30, special deputies guarded the Tennessee River bridge between Decatur and Huntsville as rumors indicated that a motorcade of more than 500 striking textile workers from Huntsville were en route to Decatur in an effort to urge the textile workers there to join the strike.

The deputies managed to turn the strikers back but everyone knew that it was just a matter of time before violence would explode.

Earlier in the day, three union men were attacked on

"I offer my opponents a bargain: if they will stop telling lies about us, I will stop telling the truth about them."

Adlai Stevenson, 1952

a street corner near the Good-year fabric plant in Decatur. The aforementioned union local head, Monroe Adcock, was shot in the leg, and Isaac Bullard and Burnice Rigsby were injured in an altercation with three unarmed men. Special guards were placed around the Goodyear plant.

Early Sunday morning, August 6, John Dean, leader of the strike in Alabama, was kidnapped from his room on the sixth floor of the Russel Erskine Hotel by four men and taken at gunpoint to Fayetteville, TN. During the ride he was beaten about the head with a pistol. His abductors, in a bizarre move, then registered him at the Pope Hotel where he managed to, according to the porter, initiate a call to his friends in Huntsville. In less than an hour a dozen automobiles, filled with armed men, arrived in Fayetteville to rescue their leader.

Instead of returning to his hotel, Dean went into seclusion at the home of George Davis on F Street in Merrimac Village. Armed guards were placed around the house to prevent further kidnapping.

During the time of Dean's abduction 400 angry men, most of them carrying guns, gathered near the Russel Erskine Hotel. They had heard of the abduction and were seeking the men responsible. The Mayor sent a large contingent of police to the hotel, preventing the mob from getting out of hand.

Strikers set up roadblocks at each road leading into Huntsville. Automobiles going in and out of the city were stopped by strikers brandishing weapons who said they were looking for the kidnapped man, not knowing that he had returned and

was in hiding.

The situation was becoming serious. Many citizens were afraid to leave their homes. Gangs of armed men roamed the town looking for would-be strike breakers and terrifying everyone with whom they came into contact. Sometimes as many as eight carloads of strikers would slowly caravan through downtown.

With strikers demanding that the city take action, Solicitor (District Attorney) James Price announced that the Grand Jury would meet the following Monday and that a warrant had been issued in the kidnap case. Fearful that the crowd would take the law into its own hands, the Sheriff refused to name the persons involved until the arrests had been made.

Monday morning found a large crowd assembled downtown awaiting the day's events. In an act of bravado, Dean drove in from Merrimac and casually breakfasted at the Central Cafe downtown while armed bodyguards patrolled the sidewalks out front.

Meanwhile, the Grand Jury returned an indictment against James Conner, a mill worker. When word spread that the owners of the cotton mills might

h a v e
b e e n
r e s p o n s i b l e
f o r
D e a n ' s
k i d n a p p i n g ,
t h e
p e n t -
u p
f u r y
o f
t h e
s t r i k e r s
e x p l o d e d .

R u -
m o r s

that downtown stores were going to be dynamited caused additional deputies to be brought in, but the day passed without incident.

Threats against the indicted Mr. Conner caused guards to be placed at his home. They were called off that same afternoon when it was realized that Conner had left town for parts unknown.

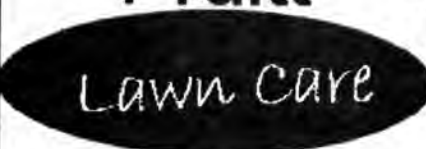
Cars were not permitted on streets where union leaders lived, unless permission was first obtained from the strikers. Armed guards were maintained throughout the night and augmented the following morning by additional strikers.

The Thomas Mill, forced to shut down when the strike began, reopened despite threats from the strikers.

Before the plant could begin operating at full capacity, it was invaded by a gang of strikers from Merrimac Mills and Erwin Mills, despite protests by the foremen. The workers were quickly assembled and ordered by their leaders to quit work and leave the building by the spokesman of the strikers.

William Fraser, manager of the Thomas Mill, later identified the leader as Henry Parmlee, the Union Leader at Merrimac. Fraser said the strikers

Pruitt



Lawn Care

Sammy Pruitt

Ph. 256-990-0058

email: emtspruit@aol.com

One Time Cuttings & Scheduled Services Available

Cutting, Edging, Blowing, Shrub Trimming, Debris Cleanup, Pressure Washing

Residential and Commercial References Available

Ask about our fence, deck and access ramp pricing

Military, Healthcare Providers, and Public Safety Discounts

ignored the "posted" signs displayed at the entrance to the mill.

On August 13, the kidnap charge against Conner was stricken from the docket of the Grand Jury and a lesser charge of "whitecapping" was entered. Whitecapping was defined as "an act to prevent and punish the formation or continuance of conspiracies and combinations for certain unlawful purposes." Trial was set for Nov. 28, but was continued until Feb. 19, 1935, when the matter was dropped.

Random acts of violence continued. No one was safe.

On Sept. 3, three charges of dynamite damaged the grocery store of Mrs. R.W. Atkins on Pike Street in Merrimac Village. The explosion brought a crowd to the scene.

Shortly before daybreak, strikers were brought out of their beds by bugle calls and gunshots. The armed men rushed into the city from Lincoln Village after being told of trouble at the Fletcher Mill. They returned home when everything was found quiet.

A group of young women decided to ignore the picket line and return to work, but they were pushed to the ground by the angry strikers. Ignoring the girls' screams of protest, the strikers produced a pair of scissors and proceeded to roughly cut their hair.

A short while later, residents of Lincoln watched the strange sight of four bald-headed girls being paraded down Meridian Street.

The same day, gunshots were fired into the storefront windows of businesses downtown who were suspected of being sympathetic to the mill owners. An automobile belong-

ing to a Union organizer, was burned while it was parked in front of the courthouse.

City officials, frantic by this time, asked that a federal mediator be brought in. Something had to happen. Huntsville could not continue living under a cloud of terror.

Judge Petree, mediator, and his staff arrived in Huntsville and immediately went into a conference with Union leaders. After the meeting at the Davis house, where John Dean had established his headquarters, Petree then conferred with the officials of the Erwin Mill, which had been trying to reach an agreement for several days.

On Sept. 22, before the mediator could work out a compromise, the great textile strike ended. National Union leaders had reached a settlement.

Almost as quickly as it had began, the violence ended.

Thousands of Huntsville textile workers responded to the Union leaders and returned to work.

Peace had returned to Huntsville.

No charges were ever filed against anyone for the hun-

dreds of acts of lawlessness committed during the strike. "It was," as one old-timer remembers, "as if Huntsville just wanted to forget."



**Five Points
Hallmark Shop**
Gold Crown Hallmark Store



Hermitage Pewter
Collegiate Glassware
Ugly Dolls
Jim Shore
Archipelago Products
Corinthian Bells &
Chimes

(256) 534-5854
716 Pratt Avenue in
5 Points

John's Jungle Gyms



Forts - Gyms - Swings - Slides

4008 Holmes Avenue (256) 837-4761

A Rebel in Blue

Of all the Civil War veterans that called Huntsville home, Maj. S. F. Sweinhart must have been the most unusual.

Major Sweinhart was a member of an Ohio volunteer regiment and had participated in some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. While stationed in Alabama, he was captivated by the warm climate and the natural beauty of the Tennessee Valley.

When the war was finally over and the soldiers had stacked arms for the last time, Major Sweinhart moved to Huntsville, determined to make it his home.

Feelings were running high at the end of the war, so it is not surprising that he was greeted with scowls and bitterness.

"Damn Yankee," the Huntsville natives would say as they passed him on the streets. "Damn Rebels," the Major would mutter under his breath, while looking straight ahead.

But time has a way of healing all wounds and as the Major grew into old age, he began taking his place on the old courthouse bench, reliving and refighting the battles of his youth. A seasoned Yankee officer and old Confederate veterans, reminiscing with nothing in common except the blood spilled on battlefields years before.

Slowly the town began to accept the old soldier and the scowls he used to encounter on the streets turned to smiles. Sweinhart became involved in community affairs and became active in veterans affairs. Of course the only other veterans in Huntsville were ex-Confederates. In 1927 Major S. F. Sweinhart was awarded the highest accolade ever given to a Yankee by Confederate veterans. The story can best be told by a newspaper article of the day.

"He was invited to dinner this week to attend a dinner given by the Daughters of the Confederacy

to members of the Egbert Jones Camp of Confederate Veterans at the home of Robert A. Moore, acting adjutant for the Third Brigade, Alabama Division. He was welcomed with hand clasps and smiles. After dinner, the old veterans invited him to attend their business meeting. When discussions lagged a little, Maj. Sweinhart, who had remained in a corner deep in thought, rose and stood at attention. 'Men,' he said, with a shake in his voice, 'I've lived down here so long I feel like I belong here.' His voice quivered again as he added, 'And by golly, I want to belong to

you.' The Confederate veterans gave a hearty cheer, and one of them proposed Maj. Sweinhart for membership. The proposal was accepted immediately and 'the Major' was accepted as a member of the camp by unanimous vote. He now belongs to the Egbert Jones Camp of Confederate veterans and is believed to be the only Union soldier in the country who has experienced such a transformation."

When Major Sweinhart died, an honor guard consisting of Confederate veterans stood guard during the funeral ceremony. His body is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery, next to the other veterans he had grown to love.

Brookshire Health Care Skilled Nursing Facility

4320 Judith Lane
Huntsville AL 35805
(256) 837 1730 Fax (256) 430 3287

*Committed to Compassion
Striving for Excellence
Serving Responsibly*



Our Team Includes:

Physicians, Nurses, Physical Therapist,
Occupational Therapist, Social Worker, Speech Therapist,
Activities Director and Registered Dietician.

Short term rehabilitation, long term care, & complex medical care:

Whether the need is for short term rehabilitation,
or whether you would like to make Brookshire Health Care Center
a home for you or your loved one,
we look forward to hearing from you.



POTTERY STUDIO

**Wheel Throwing, Handbuilding,
Workshops & Kid's Classes Ongoing**

*Studio Memberships Available - Upcoming Raku,
Pit Fire & Wood Fire Events. Come Join Us!*

We serve Home Schoolers and those with special needs.

Email us for more info: tvag.info@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/pages/TVCAG-Pottery-Studio

8006 Old Madison Pike Ste. 15 Madison, AL 35758

FREE!

**Come test drive the studio!
Every 3rd Saturday from 1-3PM**

FREE!

Handy Summer Tips for You

Who Owns this Bike?

If you purchase a new bike for your child, place his picture inside the handle bar before placing the grips on. If the bike is stolen and later recovered, remove the grip and there is your proof that you own the bike.

Flexible vacuum

To get something out of a heat register or under the fridge, add an empty paper towel roll or empty gift wrap roll to your vacuum. It can be bent or flattened to get in narrow openings.

Reducing Static Cling

Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place a pin in the seam of slacks and - voila - static is gone.

No More Mosquitoes

Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.

Take baby powder to the beach

Keep a small bottle of baby powder in your beach bag. When you're ready to leave the beach, sprinkle yourself and kids with the powder and the sand will slide right off your skin.

Easier Thank You's

When you throw a bridal or baby shower, buy a pack of thank you cards for the guest of honor. During the party, pass out the envelopes and have everyone put their address on one. When the bride/new mom sends the thank you's, they're all addressed!

Conditioner

Use your hair conditioner to

shave your legs. It's a lot cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair. (This may not be relevant to those men that do not shave their legs, or don't use conditioner on their hair).

Good-bye Fruit Flies

To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2" with Apple Cider Vinegar and

2 drops of dish washing liquid, mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!

Get Rid of Ants

Put small piles of cornmeal or grits where you see ants. They eat it, take it "home," and can't digest it so it kills them. It may take a week or so, especially if it rains. But it works & you don't have the worry about pets or small children being harmed by those bad poisons!



Everything USED!

- * Scales
- * Cash Registers
- * Safes
- * Locks
- * Keys
- * Something you might need

Email for information: richjunk@att.net

or call Jim at
(256) 316-2666
or (256) 852-7727

Senior Caretaker

Care for Seniors

Doctors Appts.	Light Meal Preparation
Beauty Salon	Medication Reminder
Grocery Shopping	4 Hour Minimum

Excellent References

Rai Harris **256-776-3923**

Southern Sealing & Service, Inc.

Specializing in sealing & striping. We do parking lots, handicap parking and driveways.

Call for free estimates
Cell (256) 316-2200
Ofs. (256) 881-8337



Jeff Walker, Proprietor

Suffering with IBS?

We are conducting a clinical research study of an investigational drug. If you meet the following criteria, you may be interested in participating in this clinical trial.



- you are between the ages of 18 and 70
- your IBS symptoms are predominantly diarrhea related
- you have had frequent abdominal pain associated diarrhea for at least 6 months

Participants will receive study drug and exams at no cost. Reimbursement for time and travel may be available.



Medical Affiliated Research Center
303 Williams Avenue
Building 5, Suite 512
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-564-7175

AN OBITUARY IN NAME ONLY

by Michael Rhoden

My mother and step-father were killed by a drunk driver in Mississippi last year. I had already lived through the passing of my father many years ago, my beloved uncle, and my grandparents soon followed in line. The chain of family that I had grown up with is falling apart. It has almost rusted away now.

Being an only child, no brothers or sisters, I have learned to deal with loss. I do not deal with it well all the time. Some lessons are harder to learn than others. My own wife and children have had their lives changed by the tragedy last year also. We are a different family now. Stronger in ways, more determined, but also realizing our losses. Change is not easy for some people. But, it depends on what kind of change it is; whether or not it was expected. This was not expected. For us, it was not easy at all.

This particular change came through tragedy, but it continues to amaze us how many blessings have come through it. Those blessings are mystifying. We have cried tears of sorrow and then tears of joy. Sometimes, all at the same time. There is not a definition for those kinds of tears.

The chain of family that I grew up with inspires me. The things that I've learned, the

things I've experienced with my family will never fade away. Even though there are links in the chain that are missing, I still feel the connections. I still feel like they surround me in an almost ghostly manner. There are times when I wish those ghosts would reach out and touch me and speak to me and tell me what I need to know and do; to advise me in the way I should go.

I still pick up the phone sometimes to dial my mother and then stop myself when I remember that she will not answer. Ideally, there should be phone lines, or email, or text messaging to Heaven. I think it would be a sin if families did not know each other over there. Families are strength.

In our daily struggle with our own humanity, let us remember the truth of the matter is that life never ends. Life is eternal, whether it is through spirit or memory. I can go back in my memories and feel the pride I had in my father

when he sang with his gospel quartet, The Joymen, (he sang bass, I sing tenor). I can feel the strength and love that he gave to me in everything he did and everything he taught me.

I can go back and remember the power of will that my mother had after he died. I don't think that I have ever seen a woman that strong. She remained strong through another marriage to a wonderful man who made me, my wife and children, his own. My mother was the anchor that held us strong and fast after my father died.



Old Huntsville
HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

Celebrating twenty years of stories about
Huntsville and Madison County

**A Subscription to
"Old Huntsville"
magazine makes the
perfect gift for your-
self or a loved one!**

**\$23 a year, a new
issue each month.**

**Send check &
address info to
716 East Clinton Ave.,
Huntsville, AL 35801**

**"Beginning in April your
assistance benefits will be
discontinued. Reason: It has
been reported to our office
that you expired in February."**

**Letter from Georgia Dept. of
Public Aid**



*Express Wash with
Free Vacuum
Starting at \$6*

Lee's Express Wash

1220 Memorial Pkwy. NW - (256) 532-2107

**Mrs. Ford
House Cleaning**

by appointment only

256-417-7136



She was my father's anchor also and he would have been the first to admit it.

When they print obituaries, I don't think it is fair that lives with so much meaning and grace are whittled down to just two or three paragraphs. Like the dash between the birth date and death date on a tombstone, or a name on a wall full of soldiers' names, so much life cannot be described or honored just by a few small words. It's completely impossible to do so. But, sometimes all we have are a few small words.

We've now moved into the house that my parents built, having inherited it after the accident. We have tried to make it our own, while respecting how we knew it before. I grew up in this house across the river from New Market. I sometimes sit in the rare moments of quiet that a parent gets with two lively children and just listen. There is a delicate balance of the past and the now. And if I am quiet enough, and I close my eyes, I can reach back and hear the voices of those I've lost and remember that although links in the chain are missing, the love that created those links are still as strong as ever.

Wherever you find an ending, a beginning of some sort usually follows. Endings are not meant to be defeating. But, they should inspire us to go forth and try harder to be more than we were before. To bank on lessons learned and memory of family and relations.

To bank on love.



"The doctors examined my head and found nothing."

Dizzy Dean after being hit in the head by a ball in the 1934 World Series



**Laughlin Service
Funeral Home, Inc.
& Crematory**
Serving Families since 1868

*Locally owned and operated
Now in our 3rd generation*



John Purdy, President
Loretta Spencer
Sarah Chappell



2320 Bob Wallace Ave.
www.laughlinservice.com

(256) 534-2471

Steve Hannah, Pre-Planning Specialist
www.preplanning.info/laughlin.com

Each day is a gift.


ALL HOSPICES ARE NOT THE SAME. Hospice Family Care is Madison County's only not-for-profit hospice provider and was one of the first hospices to open in the United States.



**HOSPICE
Family Care** 

(256) 650-1212 • 3304 Westmill Drive
Huntsville • hospicefamilycare.org

Railroad Station Antiques

315 Jefferson Street
Uptown Shopping In Downtown Huntsville

Open Daily 10 - 5 Sunday 1 - 5

Located in the historic three-story, 23,000 square-foot Lombardo building and featuring over 80 dealers

20% Sale on Everything!

Come celebrate Spring with a good new book at a great price, at Shavers!

Shaver's

Top 10 Books of Local & Regional Interest

Books at Shaver's include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Alabama | Grand Ole Opry |
| Antiques | Kathryn T. Windham |
| Architecture | Local Authors |
| Art | Madison County |
| Aviation | Poetry |
| Cemeteries | Railroads |
| Children | Southern Literature |
| Civil War | Space |
| Cotton Mills | Sports |
| Decorative Leather | Tennessee |
| First Editions | Tennessee Valley |
| Fishing & Hunting | Theology |
| Genealogy | World War II |

1. *Growing up in the Rocket City: A Baby Boomer's Guide* (over 200 photos/illustrations) by Tommy Towery \$15
2. *1861 Civil War Map of Huntsville (with historic points of interest)* \$4.95
3. *When the Germans invaded Big Cove* by Billy Stone \$16.95
4. *Historic Huntsville (2002 edition)* by Elise Hopkins Stephens \$35
5. *Rocket City Rock & Soul* by Jane DeNeefe \$18.00
6. *When Spirits Walk - North Alabama Ghost Stories* by Jacque Reeves \$16.95
7. *Changing Huntsville 1890-1899* by Elizabeth Humes Chapman \$10.00
8. *Remembering Huntsville: 131 Vintage Photographs* by Jacque Reeves \$16.95
9. *Days Gone By: Cotton Mill Village Life* by J. Curtis Lovvorn \$16.95
10. *Historical Markers of Madison County* \$18.95

AND MUCH MORE!!!

Railroad Station Antiques - (256) 533-6550

Shaver's Books - (256) 533-7364 Email shaversbks@comcast.net

