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Old Huntsville

HISTORY AND STORIES OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY



The Story of “Miss Mariah” Worley

Miss Mariah was married in 1922 and the marriage ended in divorce in 1923. She kept her married name until her death, but she always felt honored by being called “Miss Mariah.”

At some point after her marriage and divorce, Miss Mariah began living the way people lived many decades earlier.

Also in this issue: The New Hope Band

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**A Hardware Store....
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Domie Lewter
Mae Lewter

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The Story of "Miss Mariah" Worley (Bradford)

by William Sibley

On Aug. 26, 1889, Miss Mariah Magnolia Worley, the youngest of eight children born to Allison Woodville Worley and Rebecca Catherine (Moon) Worley, was born in Madison County, Alabama, probably in the Cave Spring community, east of Owens Cross Roads because that is the community where the Worleys and Moons have lived for many years.

When Mariah was a teenager she became a public school teacher. In those years a prospective teacher was required to take an examination and if that person "stood" or passed the examination, he/she could earn a license to teach. Those teachers who were licensed in this manner usually attended normal school or college during vacation from teaching school, working toward a degree or upgrading their certificates. This was the process that I think Miss Mariah used.

When I was teaching at Owens Cross Roads during the decade of the 1960s, Mrs. Mary

(McLemore) Buford, my former Sunday School teacher, was a member of our faculty. She and I were talking one day, and I said to her that the children of Mrs. Lola Hatfield (nee Moon) were students at our school and that their mother was my first grade teacher at Big Cove. Mrs. Buford said, "My first grade teacher at Toney was Miss Mariah Worley. Today, she lives the life of a hermit."

That remark naturally stirred my curiosity and I asked my Aunt Stella Sibley, a long-time teacher, if she knew Miss Worley. Aunt Stella replied that she did know Miss Worley and that she had seen her in Huntsville recently and each had recognized the other, although they had not seen each other in decades. Aunt Stella also said that Miss Worley was dressed the way people dressed in the 1800s. I learned from Aunt Stella that Miss Worley had a relative on our faculty and that relative was Mrs. Lorene Glover.

My curiosity was running very high by that time and I asked Mrs. Glover about Miss Mariah. She responded by saying, "Yes, she is a cousin of mine and she has chosen to live like a hermit." Both Mrs. Buford and Mrs. Glover told me that Miss Mariah was a brilliant person, but that she also was a very private person. I learned from those women that Miss Mariah kept up with current events, could name all of the Presidents of the United States,

"A two-year old is kind of like having a blender, but you don't have a top for it."

Paula Gentle, Athens



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and their party affiliations and that she also knew the names of all United States Senators and most, if not all, of the names of the members of the United States House of Representatives.

A 1906 edition of THE GURLEY HERALD reads, "Prof. A. S. Hodges and Miss Mariah Worley attended the teachers' institute last Sunday." All teachers were required to attend the annual institute, so this shows that Miss Mariah was teaching at the age of seventeen.

A 1909 edition of THE GURLEY HERALD reads, "Miss Mariah Worley, who has been teaching school at Toney, has returned home. We are glad to have her back." Miss Mariah would have been Mrs. Buford's teacher at some time between 1906 and 1909.

I have been told by several people that Miss Mariah was a teacher at DeBow's Point School, AKA Grayson's Point School, located three miles southwest of Gurley. I have a 1909 student body picture (with the teacher) of the one-room school, and I have been told that the teacher appears to be

Miss Mariah. I learned that she had also probably taught at the Worley School, located at Lowe, Alabama, a postal pick-up and delivery station, located near the point where the communities of Berkley and Cave Spring come together. One unique thing about DeBow's Point School is that it is bounded on the southeast by Keel's Mountain, which puts the school in a shadow part of the year and having no electricity, the school had to suspend classes early many times each year.

In 1954, a Gurley relative of Miss Mariah wrote to Miss Mariah, inquiring how they were related to each other. The Gurley lady had a family connection to this writer, and I was given a copy of the letter that Miss Mariah wrote in response to her cousin in Gurley. Miss Mariah's handwriting is unbelievably beautiful. One can look at her cursive writing and tell

The Good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose. But mosquitoes come close.



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that handwriting was taught as an art as well as a communication.

Miss Mariah's letter begins by telling her relative how she is so happy to hear from her and continues, "We sure had a tough time here this winter..." She relates that her brother, John William Worley (who lives nearby) was "nearly past going earlier. I keep 4 or 5 warm rocks in the bed with him at all times." She also visits him "4 or 5 times some nights and sit up some nights as much as 2 or 3 hours." Miss Mariah reports that she has been losing much sleep lately because she is "giving medicine, warming rocks, propping pillows, etc."

She reports to her relative at Gurley, "Yes, warm weather is about here. I've planted onions, cabbage plants, snap English peas and parsnips..." She plans to plant carrots and beets next week.

John William Worley died Sept. 12, 1954, one day short of his eightieth birthday. Miss Mariah had another brother, Joe Ben Worley, who lived near her, who died at the age of 83 in 1962 at the home of Miss Mariah.

Miss Mariah was married to a Mr. Bradford in 1922 and the marriage ended in divorce

in 1923. She kept her married name until her death, but she always felt honored by being called "Miss Mariah." At some point after her marriage and divorce, Miss Mariah began living the way people lived many decades earlier.

While I was teaching at Owens Cross Roads School, children would tell me stories about Miss Mariah and how they admired her and respected her. One of those pupils was Paul Honea. Paul and his sisters (and family) loved Miss Mariah very much and she also loved the Honea family. Recently, I located Paul by phone. He now lives out of state and we had a very productive conversation about Miss Mariah. Paul still recalls vividly his years of being a neighbor of hers.

The story I got from Paul is as follows. Miss Mariah taught Paul and his sisters that God had a purpose for all things He created, and that no snakes should be killed (near Miss

"Apparently, I'm supposed to be more angry about what Mitt Romney does with his money than what Barack Obama does with mine."

David Burge

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Mariah's house) except rattlesnakes and copper heads, and only because those snakes are dangerous. Other snakes do away with rodents and other garden pests.

Miss Mariah knew the sounds of insects, rodents, birds, reptiles, etc. and could identify those creatures by sound and by sight. She would not allow anyone to kill a spider because it was more helpful than harmful.

She always had a small herd of goats and she always drank goat's milk. Paul reported that he churned (hand-cranked dasher) many, many times so that Miss Mariah could make goat's cheese.

Miss Mariah made all of her clothes and her dresses were always ankle-length. She also wore only stout shoes.

She had her own beehives and robbed the bees herself. She sweetened everything she could with honey, but Paul reports that she occasionally bought a bag of sugar that lasted for months.

Miss Mariah had an old pump organ and would invite Paul and his sisters to come to her house to listen to her music.

Paul reported that it was difficult to do Miss Mariah a favor without her returning the favor. Each spring she would get Paul and his sister to climb into her attic and tear down the nests that the starlings had built there. She was afraid that her house would be infested with mites. Paul said that Miss Mariah would give them treats each time and he would always find two quarters at the bottom of the container. When one did a favor for Miss Mariah, her thought was always, "Much obliged."

Miss Mariah raised strawberries and blueberries and she shared those berries with the Honea family.

One day as my class was studying about farm foods and products, I asked if any of the pupils' parents or grandparents made hominy. One little girl reported, "Miss Mariah does."

Paul reports that Miss Mariah had a three-burner wood kitchen cook stove and that she heated the house by a fireplace. I personally have seen many short logs and stumps in her yard, and a horseshoe-pitching friend of mine told me that he once offered to split wood for

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Miss Mariah, but she thanked him and told him that she could take care of herself. Paul also said that she warmed her bed with rocks in cold weather, just as she did for her brother.

Miss Mariah had no well, but she had three rain barrels and would catch those barrels full of water for drinking, washing, etc. She always boiled out the impurities before using the water for drinking or cooking. Paul reports that his father and other neighbors dug a well for her, but the taste of the water was not good, so they pumped water to her house.

As Miss Mariah progressed in years, her needs became greater, and she felt that she was forced to get electricity (in the late 1960s) and a telephone for emergency purposes. She was approximately eighty years old at the time.

There are several words that could describe Miss Mariah. Among those words are amazing, brilliant, independent, remarkable, intelligent, and other positive words. I always wanted to visit her and interview her, but I respected her wish for privacy and I have always felt that I missed out on a great opportunity by not interviewing her. Mrs. Glover encouraged me to stop by her house, pointing out that she knew my people and would be glad to have me as a visitor.

Miss Mariah died on Aug. 19, 1987, one week before her ninety-eighth birthday. She is buried in Moon Cemetery in the Cave Spring community, east of Owens Cross Roads.

Wonderful Vidalia's

Did you know that the ancient Egyptians held the onion in such high esteem that civil officers recited their office oath while holding an onion, similar to how politicians swear oaths while placing their hand over the Bible today? The Egyptians considered onions fit for royalty and revered them for their perfect geometric exterior, with layer forming spheres within spheres.

During the Middle ages, onions were so valued they were even used as rent payments and wedding gifts.

Designer onions and storage onions are perfect for the health-conscious. In fact, studies at East Texas State University identified a chemical in onions that is very good for your heart.

A fresh Vidalia onion has a light golden-brown bulb and a white interior. Its shape is rounded at the bottom and somewhat flat at the top or stem end. Ordinary storage onions are darker, have a thicker skin and are generally more round or oblong.

Vidalia onions have a higher water and sugar content than other onions, making them susceptible to bruising, and therefore must be handled with care by the grower, retailer and consumer.

Since Vidalia onions are available only part of the year, sweet onion lovers buy them in quantity (50 or 100 pounds) and store them for extended enjoyment. The key to keeping Vidalia's for a long time is to keep them cool, dry, unbruised and separate from each other.

Baked Vidalia Onion Recipe

Peel and core the onions, place in a greased baking dish. Fill your onion cores with 1 tablespoon butter and a tablespoon of soy sauce. Cover and bake in preheated oven at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Remove cover, continue baking for an additional 15 minutes.

Each guest gets one onion.



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Daniel, age 8



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Crumbs from a Rich Man's Table

By Johnny D. Barnett

I was born in 1940 when times were hard. But some way Dad was able to keep my sister and me fed. We didn't have clothes like other kids but we always had something to wear. When World War II started you could only get a little sugar and lard. It was very difficult to get gas.

Dad was trucking ice, at the time, seven days a week. Come Christmas time Dad would cut a cedar tree for us to decorate. We had no electricity for lights but Mom would pop corn and we would string it all around the tree. It looked so good to us. For Christmas we got one stick of candy and an apple. We were glad to get that, some kids got nothing at all. Mom would kill a chicken

and make dressing for Christmas dinner. It sure was good.

As time went on the war ended and things got better.

All my memories came back to me today. I was at Hardee's when a kid came up to me and asked me if I would buy him a drink. I could see myself in that kid. He said the church gave him crackers and peanut butter.

I gave him more than enough money to help him out. He thanked me over and over again. Tears came to my eyes. I saw my young years all over again. He said that he didn't like to ask but needed help.

When I was young we didn't have much but at least we had a place to sleep and

food to eat. To him I was a rich man because he had nothing.

At that time I thought about the man in the Bible who ate crumbs from the rich man's table.

I had a heart operation in 2000 and couldn't work for two years. It broke me. I asked the church for help and they did. I didn't want to ask but I was down and had no choice. Now, I am at the church that helped me every Sunday morning and Sunday night unless I am sick.

I have not forgotten how hard life can be sometimes. But this I know, God will never turn you away.

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Interesting News Items from 1885

* Georgia's New Capital

Atlanta, GA Sept. 1 - The cornerstone of the new Georgia Capital was laid today with imposing ceremonies by Gov. McDaniel, on the behalf of the Capital. He reviewed the history of Georgia and made patriotic references to the war and to the present place and prosperity of the country. The ceremonies of laying the stone were conducted by John G. Davidson, Grandmaster of the Grand Lodge of Masons. The procession was a half mile long and twelve hundred Masons were furnished by a chorus of one hundred trained voices. Several Huntsvillians were in attendance.

* **Decatur, AL** - The quiet of the Sabbath was somewhat disturbed at the report being circulated on the streets Sabbath morning of an assault made by Rev. L. Hensley Grubbs, Editor of the Decatur News, upon one Mr. Bennett, his printer. The particulars of the matter are somewhat concealed and as a result, quite a number of reports are in circulation.

The best we can gather are these: The printer was on his usual Saturday night drunk, and made some demands on Mr. Grubbs for money which he could not or would not comply with. Words passed, and finally the printer was collared and shaken up a bit. Being too drunk to resist, he submitted as best he could.

* An important case in law

The case of J. R. Stegall against the city for impounding his hogs was tried before Justice Figg yesterday but the justice withheld his decision until today. This case involves a nice point in law.

The defendant's counsel, Oscar R. Hundley, Esq., holds that the



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city has no right to take possession of the hogs without due process of law, it being in contravention with the Constitution of the state. And if the city had such a right it could not prevail in this case as the hogs escaped from the owner's premises or were let out, without the owner's knowledge.

The decision in this case will be of much interest to many of our faithful readers.

*** Advice to Women who Stoop**

Don't be taken in by the new Shoulder Braces. Nature furnished the needed braces to keep the shoulders in position, and when you use the artificial method these natural braces become weak for want of exercise. The best way to cure stooping shoulders is to carry a weight on the head a half hour morning and evening. Make the weight large. There is no other single exercise so valuable as carrying a weight on the head. A bag of sand weighing twenty pounds is a good beginning.

*** Huge Rattlesnake**

Will Weaver entered the offices of the Mercury this morning with a huge rattlesnake which measured four feet three inches in circumference. The snake had been killed a few hours previously by Squire Cornelius on A. J. Esslinger's place. It was adorned with thirteen rattles and a button.

*** The new residence of Mr. Jackson Rand on Randolph Street is nearing completion**

It will very soon receive the last finishing touch. It is a large ten-room building and promises to be one of the handsomest of the many beautiful homes for which Huntsville is so justly noted.

*** The Female colleges of our city**

The colleges are receiving new pupils every day. The prospects of both are very flattering. Our educational advantages are very superior and Huntsville

ought to be one of the greatest seats of learning in the state.

*** Query to the Daily Mercury**

"Please publish the names of all the policemen of Huntsville on the day and night force; and when they are changed from day to night duty; and what pay they receive per month. What was the population of Huntsville in 1880?"

Respectfully, a Subscriber

From the Mercury: "The names of the day force are Britton Franks, City Marshal; and Wm. Blakemore, Mounted Police. The night force consists of Z. P. Davis, Chief; A. E. Bailey and Signey Pentecost.

We have not learned what salaries they get. There is no change made from day to night that we know of. The night police come on duty at 8 pm and remain on duty until 5 am.

The population of Huntsville in 1880, as per the Census returns, was 4,998."

*** News from the Jail**

Capt. McGehees reports that his "boarders" are all enjoying good health, and taking every-

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thing cool - except their coffee - at the Madison County "hotel." They are all willing to be interviewed, and they all maintain that they are held in "durance vile" - without just cause. Very soon twelve of their peers will decide that issue for them.

*** Encounter with a Sting Ray**

Maj. Sheffield, of this town, was on crutches the other day receiving the congratulations of his friends, stating that he felt first rate and hoped to be able to throw his "wooden legs" away in short while. While in Mobile at the beaches, he waded into the water and had an encounter with a sting ray. The fish was about a yard wide, and the sting penetrated his leg about three inches. The first sensation was as if he had been pinched right sharply. He was about 200 yards from the shore at the time. Knowing himself hurt, he got back to shore as soon as possible. About halfway there the poison began to pass through his system, and the pain became terrible. When the stinger was pulled out the barbs spread out all around and lacerated the flesh, making a hole an inch wide.

"Ordinarily," said the Major, "a little whisky effects me very quickly, but on this occasion I drank over a pint of whisky - maybe a quart - and swallowed two doses of morphine, and all of it had no more effect than so much water."

"I groaned and grit my teeth mighty hard. I tell you it was

the most awful suffering a man ever could have had. I would have gone crazy if it had not let up when it did. The pain lasted 5 hours, and my leg swelled up like a watermelon. Since the pain stopped I have had a pleasant time. Everyone has been very kind to me."

***At the Justice's Court**

Esquire Figg had a case yesterday which was "a family affair." From the evidence it would appear that James Rutledge whips his wife. Mr. Rutledge admitted having "slapped" his other half, but not hard enough to hurt her. His Honor delivered a lecture bearing on the conjugal relations which should exist between "twain of the flesh" and explained to Mr. Rutledge that "slapping" was not in accordance with the teachings of the Apostle Paul, who exhorted husbands to love their wives. He drew a pleasing mental picture of a happy home, where love reigned supreme, where never a harsh word was spoken, where

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Ribs (1/2 Slab)
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Pork Sandwich
Turkey sandwich
Rib Sandwich

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all was peace and happiness and joy, and then he fined Mr. Rutledge seven dollars and a half.

*** Fighting Tornadoes**

A local man has thought of a way to fight tornadoes, which he has described in a letter to "The Scientific American". His plan is to blow them up with gunpowder. A keg of powder is to be kept to the southwest of the house or village to be protected. The reason for placing it at that particular point of the compass is because experience shows that tornadoes generally move toward the northeast.

When the dreadful funnel is first seen, Mr. Schultz would have a cool-headed man wheel the powder into line with the approaching storm. He would then retire about 100 yards to the northwest, wait until the devouring air monster was just over the keg and then fire the powder.

His idea is that, as it is a well known characteristic of tornadoes to take long leaps through the air, sometimes skipping wide reaches of country, a charge of gunpowder properly applied would give the tornado a lift that would save a village. He also believes that with a sufficiently large amount of the powder, with explosions properly timed, the tornado could possibly be annihilated.

Dilworth

*Mr. J. C. Dilworth, a highly estimated and generous citizen of Huntsville, died at his residence on Meridianville Pike, last evening at 6 o'clock. The deceased was beloved by all who knew him.

He bore his painful illness with the fortitude and resignation of the Christian soldier, and it is a grand consoling thought for his family that he is finally at peace.



Creme Brulee Cheesecake

by Nancy Holliman

Crust:

1 box Real Vanilla wafers, crushed
1/2 to 3/4 stick soft butter

Combine ingredients and spread over bottom and sides of a springform pan.

Filling:

5 (8-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese
1-3/4 c. sugar
6 eggs
2 T. flour
2 T. vanilla
3 egg yolks
1 c. whipping cream

Beat filling ingredients other than whipping cream for 5 minutes, then add cream at lowest speed of mixer. Pour into prepared crust. Place in cold oven and bake 15 minutes at 450 degrees. Reduce heat to 200 degrees and cook for 2 hours. Turn off oven and let cake sit overnight before chilling.

Topping: Right before serving, sprinkle light brown sugar over top of cake and place 4-6 inches under the broiler for 1 minute or so until brown. Watch carefully and rotate pan as necessary.

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Timeless Tips

* Get some of that good elephant garlic, peel and cut into pieces and place in vegetable oil for use later.

* Broccoli is very good for you, steam it briefly, then put in a bowl with a bit of margarine, lemon juice and chopped, raw Vidalia onions. Delicious!

* A small bag of sulphur kept in a drawer or cupboard will drive away red ants. Black ants hate borax powder - just place some at the point where they come into your home.

* The secret of good health is to eat lots of onions. The trouble is, keeping that secret a secret.

* Hosta plants are great for shady areas of your garden, and will come up multi-fold year after year. Plant them towards the back of the house, with smaller bushes and flowers in front.

* Branches of elderbush hung in the dining room will clear the house of flies. There is an odor in them that flies detest.

* If rats enter your cellar, a little powdered potash thrown in their holes or mixed with meal and scattered in their runways will drive them away for good.

* There is not a prettier walk than through downtown Huntsville - including Old Town, Five Points and Twickenham - during this season of the year. There are plenty of sidewalks, huge trees and beautiful old homes. Get yourself some good walking shoes and come on down!

* Cayenne pepper will keep the pantry and storeroom free from ants and cockroaches. If a mouse makes an entrance into any part of your dwelling, saturate a rag with cayenne, in a solution, and stuff it into the hole, which can then be repaired with either wood or mortar. No mouse or rat will cut that rag for the purpose of opening communication with a depot of supplies.

* To marinate your meat get some Ziploc storage bags. Clean your meat and place it inside the bag with your marinade - toss in fridge and change its position several times to get a good soak.

* Eggs for boiling should be as fresh as possible. A newly laid egg will generally recommend itself by the delicate transparency of its shell.

* To keep your breath smelling fresh when you can't brush your teeth, carry some mint tea bags with you. Chew on one after a lunch or dinner and your breath will be very fresh.

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Slim Lay:

A Winner Never Knocks, and a Knocker Never Wins

by Billy Stone

Through my mind's memory radio, I am beginning to hear static — now I hear "The Steel Guitar Rag" playing. It is the sign-on, sign-off theme song for the Slim Lay show. Slim is on the air again doing his daily, popular, country show from WBHP in Huntsville. Slim has been in Huntsville since 1953 and on WBHP since 1958. His show is heard three times daily, at 6 a.m., 11 a.m., and at 4 p.m. He has a gospel music show on Sunday at 9:45 a.m. It is the most listened to country and gospel music show in Huntsville and North Alabama. Slim is talking as if he is sitting in your living room. He makes every listener feel that they are his best friend in the world. He makes you feel like you know every one of his sponsors personally. Today he is doing his show from his home at "Mush Island" in Hazel Green, Alabama.

Adrian "Slim" Lay was born in Cullman, Alabama and his name became a household word in North Alabama for over 30 years. However, Slim had many detours along the way before he settled in Huntsville. Slim was an accomplished musician and his trail of music making took him too many places that any young, energetic, talented musician in country music would love to go. Slim got his first \$4.95 Sears and Roebuck guitar at an early age and won his first amateur contest at age 12.

Slim toured the U.S. with the Royal American Show as a young musician and later moved to Birmingham, Alabama

to work with Happy Wilson and the Golden River Boys on WAPI radio. After a short time in Birmingham, Slim moved to Atlanta to work with Lost John and the Kentuckians on a transcribed show that covered 285 stations across the country.

At the recommendation of the Grand Ole Opry's Bill Monroe, the Kentuckians along with Slim moved to Nashville, Tennessee. While working in Nashville, he joined a group on the Grand Ole Opry that needed a fiddle player and MC. While working at the Grand Ole Opry, he received a call from Uncle Sam and spent thirty-three months in the Army.

Through the years as a musician, he became friends with many great entertainers such as Hank Williams, The John Daniel Quartet, Milton Estes, Little Jimmy Dickens and George Morgan, all who were regular members of the Grand Ole Opry.

During his tour at the Grand Ole Opry, Slim married, had two children, and decided to move his family to Huntsville and become a disc jockey. While

working in radio, he became so popular that he was in big demand as master of ceremonies for many events throughout the country.

He honed his talent as a disc jockey and his show became the most sought-out program for advertisers in North Alabama. Slim's gentle kindness

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.

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transmitted through the radio waves and made him trustworthy. The listeners would buy anything that Slim recommended. He would give his sponsors more than their money's worth on the radio. He was a mentor to several young country and Gospel artists in the Huntsville area and always had a word of encouragement for them. He was a great friend to Curly Putnam of Paint Rock Valley, who wrote "Green, Green, Grass of Home", "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" and many other country hits as he pounded the streets of Nashville.

Slim died in 1973 from a rare disease and country radio has never been the same in Huntsville or North Alabama since then. I remember that only a few months before he died, he called me to come by his house to see him. At that time, I was working a part-time job doing a gospel music show called "The All Day Gospel Sing" and a recorded weekday show called "Top Gospel Music." He said that he listened to my show and loved it. What a compliment from one of the best in the business. When I arrived at his home, Slim was barely able to move but greeted me with enthusiasm. He said that he wanted to give me something, as he pointed toward a large rack of gospel music albums. He told me to pick out the albums that I wanted and take the rack that they were in, with me.

Therefore, as my memory's radio plays, I can hear Slim signing off the air as the "Steel Guitar Rag" plays in the background and he says, "A winner never knocks and a knocker never wins", and when you feel you have reached the end of your rope, tie a knot in it with a prayer, and keep on smiling". It was a principle that he lived by and he reminded his listeners every day for years to live by as well.

Slim was never a knocker. Moreover, I am glad that I turned my memory's radio on and Slim Lay was on the air.

Billy Stone wrote this 8 years ago. He has two published books available at Shaver's and Amazon: "Puppy Dogs and Country Girls Don't Belong on City Streets", and "When the Germans Invaded Big Cove."

"Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich, by promising to protect each other from the other."

Oscar Ameringer

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Heard On the Street

by *Cathey Carney*



Congratulations to the winner of last month's Photo of the Month, **Margaret McKenzie**. The photo was that of beautiful **Ann Franklin Schrimsher** and Margaret said she recognized Ann by that gorgeous smile! Margaret is a retired Librarian from the Huntsville Public Library where she worked for 20 years.

The Landscape mystery photo was a corner of the downtown YMCA and the first caller to identify that was **Kevin Clemons** of Huntsville. Kevin currently works for the city, is an 11-year employee in Traffic Engineering, Signs & Marking. Congratulations to you, Kevin!

Lots of babies were born in April and we wanted to wish a special Happy Birthday to **Jean Ayers** who had an April 10th birthday. This beautiful lady is the smiling face you see every time you visit Ayers Farmers Market on Parkway. Her daughter **Susan** loves her dearly and is the one who called to send this message out!

Another April birthday is someone many in the film industry are familiar with - **Anthony Balch**! He celebrated

with a rocking party at his home and in my opinion, Anthony looks as young today as he did 10 years ago!

Jeannette King Chaney of Decatur was a young woman who did so much for the performing arts in North Alabama. She was an award-winning performer and an actress and was known for her portrayal of **Annie Sullivan**, teacher and lifeline to **Helen Keller** in "The Miracle Worker". She died much too early and leaves parents **Jeanne & James King** of Huntsville, her daughter **Samantha Chaney**, sons **Paul Chaney** and **Benjamin Chaney**, husband **Cecil**, her sisters and many relatives and dear friends who will never forget her.

We can't say enough about our friends **Debra** and **Alan Jenkins**, who will be honored with the Arthritis Foundation's Annual Humanitarian Award for 2012. The Jenkins purchased

and completely renovated the Merrimack Hall on Triana Blvd. and now it is used for events, shows and dancing. The honor is very well deserved.

Happy Birthday to our dear friend **Linda Goldman**! Make sure **Darryl** takes you out somewhere special!

We hear that **Keller Williams Realty** is sponsoring a huge garage sale to benefit the **Downtown Rescue Mission**. It will be held May 12 at the Keller Williams office at 809 Shoney Drive. Find a treasure and donate to a great cause.

I met a really sweet lady recently at Maple Hill cemetery. **Tony Levine** was there on one of those beautiful days when the dogwoods were in full bloom and introduced herself to me. She loves the history of Maple Hill and was so interesting to talk with!

It's hard to believe that the **Golden K Kiwanis** have been helping children here in Huntsville for 25 years! The group of older, energetic gents are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year, and they have been in charge of distributing the "Old

Photo of The Month

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

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Hint: This "Mayor" knows alot about hair cutting.



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Huntsville" magazine for 21 of those 25 years. They say they are the oldest paperboys in the U.S.! They have raised over half a million dollars, all in quarters, for children here in this area. I'm so proud of each and every one of them.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 3 for the **Old Town Hidden Garden Tour**. There will be 12 gardens open that range from small to large, but every one is creative and will give you ideas for your own garden! You can get tickets the day of the event at the gardens that are open, or you may buy them at In Bloom, Brooks & Collier or Harrison Brothers.

Bo Jackson is a name many people know - as an all-star sports figure in both the NFL and major League Baseball and the 1985 Heisman Trophy winner at Auburn. Bo recently conceived the "Bo Bikes Bama" event to help victims of the April 27 tornadoes, to help his home state and to bring more awareness to the fact that we all need to help each other. He is enlisting other sports figures to take part in the ride, with cameras from ESPN following him, with the intent of raising \$1 million for tornado relief. The event is scheduled for Apr. 24-28 so by the time you read this it will have already taken place. I just want to say how proud I am of Bo and his crew and their determination to help others.

Congratulations to **Monte Sano** and its community! It

has been designated Alabama's first Certified Community Wildlife Habitat and residents are thrilled. It joins only 58 other communities in the nation to be certified. A special celebration was held at a ribbon cutting at the gatehouse, which was unused since the early 1950s but has now been turned into an education center. The gatehouse to Monte Sano was built in 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

We certainly feel for the established neighborhood that's near the dance studio on Whitesburg Drive. Many of those residents have been living there over 40 years and just want some peace and easy road access in and out of their community. They don't have it several times during the day now because of the traffic blockages caused by people parking & picking up those who take classes. If there is a zoning ordinance that says you've got to have a certain amount of parking spaces per sq. ft. of business, then the business needs to abide by that, just like other businesses have to. No matter whose mistake it was in the beginning.

Bill Nance was a name that many gardeners are very familiar with. His talent in designing beautiful and classical formal gardens was known nationally. His gardens in Twickenham, Old Town and other areas of Huntsville are just breathtaking. Bill passed away suddenly on April 20. He has left a huge

void in the gardening community and in the lives of his many friends, and we send our deepest condolences to his family and all who knew him.

May 2 is a special day for **Bill Leatherwood, Jr.** of Ole Dad's BBQ. He is celebrating his birthday with his family and friends and his wife **Rosemary** wanted to let everyone know how lucky she is to be married to such a special man.

All you **sweet Moms** out there - make sure your families pamper you on Mother's Day and let them cook for You!

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Deep South Favorites

Crunchy Chicken Pie

- 3 chicken breasts
- 6 ribs celery, chopped
- 1 3-oz. pkg. walnut pieces
- 1 3-oz. pkg. pecan pieces
- 1 8-oz. carton sour cream
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 c. grated cheese
- 1 9-inch pie shell, baked

Cook the chicken and cut into bite-size pieces. Mix all ingredients except for the cheese and fill the pie shell. Sprinkle the cheese generously over the top, sprinkle with a bit of garlic powder. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes at 300 degrees.

Hot Pineapple Casserole

- 2 15-oz. cans chunk pineapple and juice
- 5 T. flour
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. grated sharp Cheddar cheese

1/2 sleeve round butter crackers, crumbled

1/2 c. margarine, melted

Grease a 9x13 inch casserole and pour in the pineapple and juice. Add your flour and sugar. Next, blend 1/2 cup of the cheese, the crackers and melted margarine. Mix together, add the remaining cheese as a topping. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Cinnamon Cookies

- 1 c. butter
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 eggs, separated
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 2 t. cinnamon
- 3/4 c. chopped nuts

Cream butter and sugar; add egg yolks and vanilla. Fold in flour and cinnamon. Press dough on large cookie sheet; cover with nuts and press down.

Beat egg whites til frothy and brush top of dough. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Cut into strips while hot and remove from the cookie sheet at once.

Catfish Filets in Beer Batter

- 1 c. beer
- 2 c. flour
- 1-2 T. vegetable oil
- Salt to taste
- 2 egg whites, beaten til stiff
- 12 catfish fillets

Let the beer stand open for a couple of hours. Mix all ingredients, fold in the egg whites last, coat the fillets and fry. Serve with lemon wedges and chunks of Vidalia onion.

Banana Nut Bread

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

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- 1 c. ripe bananas, mashed
- 2 c. flour
- 1/2 t. baking powder
- 1/2 t. baking soda
- 1/4 c. buttermilk
- 1 t. vanilla
- 1 c. chopped pecans

Preheat your oven to 300 degrees. Cream the shortening and sugar. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each. Add the bananas. Sift your flour, baking powder, soda and salt together. Add flour mixture, then buttermilk. Mix well. Add the vanilla and nuts. Bake in a greased 5x9-inch loaf pan for an hour and 15 minutes. Cool; wrap tightly in plastic wrap. This will keep for about 2 weeks, and can be frozen.

Ritz Cracker White Chocolate Cookies

1 16-oz. package of white chocolate, 1 cup peanut butter, and 1 16-oz. box Ritz crackers.

Melt the chocolate in top of a double boiler. Spread the peanut butter between two Ritz crackers and then dip them in the melted chocolate. Place them on waxed paper until the chocolate has hardened. Chocolate can be tinted for parties.

Almond Cookie Bars

- 3/4 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. flour
- 2 t. sugar
- 5 eggs, beaten

- 2 c. sugar
- 3 T. almond extract
- 2 c. shredded coconut

Mix the butter, flour and sugar. Press into a 9x13-inch pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Mix the remaining ingredients and spread over the pastry. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Cool and cut into bars.

Fried Ice Cream

- 1/2 c. caramel syrup
- 6 oz. corn flakes
- 1/2 gal. vanilla ice cream
- Vegetable oil
- 1 12-oz. carton Cool Whip
- 12 fresh cherries, pitted

Mix the caramel with the corn flakes til sticky. Scoop out the ice cream and apply cornflake coating to cover the ice cream. Store any left-over coating in the fridge. Drop the coated ice cream balls in hot oil (enough to cover the balls) for 15 to 20 seconds. Place in a dish, top with whipped cream and cherries and eat immediately.

Fresh Strawberry Jam

Wash & hull berries. Measure berries and allow 3 cups of sugar for each quart of fruit. Place berries in pan and mash as they heat. Bring to boil and add sugar. Cook for about 20 minutes, stirring frequently. The jam will be thick.

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A Dream Come True: The Years 1911 to 1914

by James Record (1970)

Prohibition, horseless carriages and gold-darned flying contraptions likely had Madison Countians wondering what possibly could come next as the year 1911 rolled around.

Emmett O'Neal, the new Governor, had ridden into the Governor's chair on the prohibition issue as a champion of the "wets." It was never clearer than in August 1911 when Huntsvillians went to the polls and voted overwhelmingly in favor of reopening a liquor store after a few years of the "dries."

The new liquor store, this time operated by the City of Huntsville, opened on September 19, 1911. James L. Overton was Dispenser and W. Shep Allen was Purchasing Agent. The store would last until June 30, 1915.

Prices on Old Wakeman liquor in 1914 was \$1.00 a quart, and 25 cents for a half pint. Meanwhile, another 1911 Huntsville election saw voters approving a \$100,000 bond issue by a vote of 284 to 113 to build a new city hall. Following approval of the voters for a new city hall bond issue, the city gave up the old Market House, renting it to the firm of M. H. May and J. P. Cooney, who remodeled it for their dry goods operation.

By then, too, cars were becoming even more and more commonplace in Huntsville; a little more so than some considered safe.

Madison Countians in 1911 got their first state car license tags, and Sheriff Hereford was having a heyday doling out fines. In the county, however, he had a hard time deciding if someone was speeding, as the law established the state speed limit as "reasonable."

Like the highway daredevils of today, there were always those out for a hazardous race, "dragging," if you will, at fantastic speeds up to 25 to 30 miles per hour. One such race involved A. C. Elder, John V. Matthews and Dr. C. W. Kranz.

One year later, 1912, 60 cars left Nashville, with 58 arriving in Huntsville after a "fast" trip of seven hours and forty-four minutes. They were entertained by the Huntsville Auto and Good Roads Association, headed by Clarendon Davis.

One of the more unusual events in Huntsville's earlier history was sponsorship of the first "Flying Machine Show," in 1911 by the local Elks Lodge. The Gates biplane was featured. The Elks, ever active, in 1912, also sponsored



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what was billed as the greatest musical ever held in Huntsville. At the Elks Theatre, managed by Walter L. Humphrey since 1905, appeared the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra conducted by Emil Oberhoffer, using 55 musicians.

While new ideas were beginning to flourish in Huntsville, however, there were old problems in Huntsville apparently going unattended.

The Madison County jail, for instance, was condemned by the state prison inspector and the 25 inmates ordered transferred to the Marshall County jail until the local "disgrace" could be made livable.

Hazel Green and New Hope public high schools were opened during 1911 as well. To the south, the Lily Flagg Gin was going strong with R. L. "Cap" Adkins doing a bit of bragging about his electrified business. The gin was the first rural gin in Alabama operated by electricity. Adkins later sold it to Ed Warden, followed by other owners Aaron Bill and Joe Fleming.

Carlyle Davis, who had learned hypnotism from the famed Galvani at the Elks' Theatre, wanted to show off his new talent. It almost ended in the well-meaning Davis getting lynched. There was a gala affair at the local baseball field with the curious thronging in to see the mystic at work. More than 2,000 were at the field.

For his performance, Davis selected Ivan Benson as his subject. Before Huntsville and the world, Davis put Benson into a trance and told him a girl was drowning and to save her. Benson immediately dived nose first into a puddle of mud on the field. Folks considered the episode hilarious until they discovered no one could get Benson to stop "swimming" nose-down in the puddle. Davis discovered he knew how to get Benson into the trance, but couldn't get him out of it.

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The hypnotist headed for the hills, fearing he might find himself a victim of burning at the stake. A cool-headed Dr. Westmoreland finally cornered Davis in a hiding place, marched him back to the baseball field and told him to undo what he had done no matter how long it took. A rather muddy Benson finally snapped out of the trance under Davis' coaxing, but it was his last performance.

On the business front, Huntsville in 1911 gained its first oil company bulk operation, although the company had been in business for years in Huntsville. Standard Oil Company purchased land at the corner of Wheeler and Church Streets. Their 1912 manager was Lawrence R. Guinn. Too, the West Huntsville Cotton Mill resumed operations after two years of idleness, stated to have been "because of the high price of cotton."

D. C. Monroe, previously operator of a "tonsorial parlor" (barber shop), opened Huntsville's first office supply store that year, too, and Alabama Power Company began looking into the possibility of coming into Huntsville. In July 1912 officials met with city officials and took a 90 day option on the plant and franchise of the Huntsville Railway Light and Power Company.

The first office of Farm Agent was set up in Madison County with Robert S. McCrary and Clarendon Davis appointed to the post, jointly, to aid farmers,

a year later. The Madison County Inferior Court was also created in 1911, with Archibald McDonnell becoming Judge and J. L. Ferguson the first County Court Clerk.

The Huntsville Public Library, destined to come into its own within four years, was located during 1911 on the third floor of the Elks building.

Virginia McCormick again showed her humanitarianism in 1911 by presenting a hospital to A & M College, costing \$10,000. An operating room was later christened in February 1912 by Doctors H. D. Westmoreland and F. E. Baldrige. The William Hooper Councill Domestic Sciences building was also donated by Miss McCormick at a cost of \$19,000.

William L. Quick, father of the Quick Monoplane, meanwhile was trying to establish a flying company in Huntsville with headquarters at the Skinner garage on Clinton Street.

A local 1912 editor got into the act, glamorizing Quick's plane. He described the plane as a "new" type monoplane, patterned after the Hawk, having wings and a tail, with propelling arrangements patterned after the insect, consisting of a

vibratory propeller that made no revolution, but beat the air like the wings of a humming bird or fly. Quick has worked on it for nine years. He soon placed the plane back in storage again.

Competition came the same year, with a Curtis biplane put on exhibit in Huntsville as a benefit to raise funds for "The Mountaineers," a Huntsville baseball team. Joe Wiley reportedly was the pitcher.

In essence, the year 1912 was a relatively quiet year, with the new liquor store operating by the city fathers without controversy; electric cars roaming the area; and the county voting \$12,062 to the Van Dorn Iron Works of Cleveland to repair the jail, according to plans of architect Fred Ausfield; and exploration of the Huntsville Cave under the courthouse by T. W. Pratt and G. W. Jones.

During the year, eggs were 14 cents, hens 8 cents and butter 13 cents. Construction was slow, but it is known that at least 80 houses were built in Huntsville during the year.



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The Silk Stocking Club organized with 12 members. Mrs. E. L. Adams was the first hostess. The Huntsville Suffrage Association was also organized with Mrs. Virginia Clay Clifton as President; Ellelee C. Humes, First Vice-President; and Molly Shelby Pleasants, Second Vice-President. The Ceramics Club was active with Mrs. W. S. Frost, president; as was the Study Circle, headed by Mrs. Alberta Taylor. Girls of the county could belong to "Tomato Clubs," being able to win a \$100 award appropriated by the county governing body, for the best tomatoes.

The 1912 Grand Jury took its usual trips to county properties and found them in reasonably good condition, including the Pesthouse on Athens Pike, now under the supervision of George Mann, having six smallpox cases. They also journeyed to the county Poorhouse near New Market, consisting of six double log cabins, a mess hall, and keepers quarters. At the time there were 23 inmates.

Near the Poorhouse, New Market citizens took a step forward before the year was out, with the formation of the New Market Telephone Exchange under L. R. Esslinger, Dr. J. E. Walker, M. M. Cochran, and J. H. Walls. Residents of New Market, unfortunately, were not ready and the idea didn't get very far off the ground.

It might have been a dull year except for a confrontation

between Mayor R. E. Smith and Editor J. Emory Pierce. The two tangled in fisticuffs in a street fight. Mayor Smith, somewhat disgusted at losing his temper, fined himself \$10 the next day for fighting in the streets.

One of the earlier auto accidents was reported in 1912. Walter Wellman, in his flivver, and Joe Bradley, in his touring car, discovered that there was room for only one car to travel the narrow road, particularly when both were traveling down the middle in opposite directions.

The county was destined to have a new courthouse. The old building was found to be in such a ramshackled condition that a new building was planned, rather than additions to the old, which was found to be unsafe for additions, with exception of many 50 foot, 12 inch by 18 inch yellow poplar beams that were still preserved in excellent condition. Consequently, architect C. K. Colley and contractor Little-Cleckler Construction Company began work then in earnest during 1913.

There were great dreams of revelations into the past when demolition began and workmen tore into the cornerstone, expecting to find historical documents. They found nothing.

"Behind every great man is a woman rolling her eyes."

Jim Carey

In the meantime, while construction was underway, county offices moved to the Elks building, which had been taken over by Lena Garth the same year for nonpayment of mortgage by the local Elks Lodge.

Something new came to Huntsville in 1913, giving the Barnum and Bailey Circus the same year some real competition. Folks called the new thing the "Talkies." The movies with sound tracks were first presented at the Elks Theatre, only six months after the Edison breakthrough in the East in "talkies".

Beautification buffs were on the rampage in 1913. The unsightly ruins of the Huntsville Hotel, burned earlier, almost prompted a vigilante committee as the site was still left abandoned, charred just as the fire had left it.

Townpeople eventually forced owner J. E. Penney to be fined by the city for failing to clean up the ruins.

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post for the City Beautiful Club, organized in 1912 with Mrs. J. R. Jones as President, was the insistent demand that the citizens stop hitching animals to the courthouse fence. That same age old cry again! And they wanted a city auditorium, and they wanted — the list was endless; well-meaning, but hardly enough to bring prompt action from officials that some accused of spending their time trying to hide from the improvement groups.

During 1913, Huntsville got its first "whiteway" electric system, with Mayor Smith and E. C. Betts from the Chamber of Commerce signalling the switch-on.

While electricity was now common, it wasn't until 1913 that the Post Office got its first electric lights, replacing the gas lamps. The change may have been prompted by natural gas being shut off in Huntsville when the deep well flooded during the year.

At Gurley, too, changes were in store, compliments of W. J. Austiss of Scottsboro, who rented the old Gurley City Hall to install Gurley's first moving picture theatre. The same year, 1913, a Post Office was built at New Market.

Apparently the theatre was doing a booming business, even advertising Pabst Blue Ribbon, despite the probable efforts of the newly organized Madison County Women's Christian Temperance Union against the advertising. The Union was organized in 1913 with Mrs. R. Y. Geron as President. Their organization also brought to the forefront much talk and action about "houses of ill repute" and of "bottle clubs."

South of Huntsville, the beginnings of what would become Madison County's most exclusive Rod and Gun Club took shape. Pratt Harris, on behalf of others, acquired 200 acres around Byrd Spring for a Country Club. The area devel-

oped into what is today known as the Byrd Spring Rod and Gun Club and was not used for a Country Club, as such.

Also before the year was out, a formal cornerstone ceremony was held at the Courthouse, and the building was formally opened. H. C. Pollard, Worshipful Master of the Masons, presided at the cornerstone ceremony. The new Courthouse, 119 feet long, a brick and stone building two stories high, had a basement, four entrances and stone columns on each side. The building would remain practically intact for 50 years. But, for the Courthouse, there was that perpetual problem. There was still the hue and cry about hitching animals around the courthouse to the fence. But now the Market House operation had moved to the Square. Even the pet deer on the old Courthouse lawn would go. The small herd was given to Miss Virginia McCormick who transferred them to her Kildare estate.

Huntsville's claim to fame in the music world went unnoticed. In 1914, a little known former band director at

A & M College had an idea for a new touch for the music world. The Negro gentleman was W. C. Handy. The song? None other than the "Saint Louis Blues", credited with beginning the Blues craze in the U. S.

Auto hill races became popular. Jeff Terry won a 1914 race with Mr. Beckner of the Huntsville Taxicab Company coming in second. At least, though, the city had now decided that 10 miles per hour wasn't too much for a safe speed.

"Don't let a flattering woman coax and wheedle you and deceive you; she is only after your barn."

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Huntsville Manufacturing Company

This editorial was written in 1975 by Owen Hammett, Editor of "The Huntsville Parker" which was a Plant and Community newsletter published monthly by and for the employees of Huntsville Manufacturing Company.

Thanks to Teresa Hall for providing the material

Do you ever sit down and recall the "good old days"? Well, your editor did just that and then shared his memories with those present at the 25 Year Club meeting on November 23rd. You may be interested in what was said, so with several pictures of those earlier 25 Year Club meetings the memories and comments are presented here. We are happy to share them with you.

Twenty-nine is a good record for a service organization. You might say the 25 Year Club has been a member of the 25 Year Club, now, for about 4 years. Many of you - active and retired - remember the first meeting and have a perfect attendance record for the entire 29. I remember quite a few - the old recreation room now filled with size kettles, drawing-in equipment, offices, etc., was the earliest scene of these meetings - then they were moved to the Home Economics Room at Joe Bradley School. As I remember it we had real close communion there because of the space.

Now, at each of these meetings either a group of church ladies or the Home Demonstration Club prepared and served the food. Our programs followed about the same format

as they do today.

With the modernization of Joe Bradley School a lunchroom was added and our long and happy association with the several lunchroom managers began. When Joe Bradley closed we moved to Ridgcrest and hopefully will have many more years of happy association with the school.

I can remember some of our programs and while they have all been good, some have been better than others. We've imported speakers, had local speakers and used the home grown variety - such as Judge Dave Archer, outgoing Sheriff Jerry Crabtree and others.



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I particularly remember a talk made by the late Carl T. Jones, at the first meeting I attended in 1948, and, Mr. Buford Wilkes made some extemporaneous remarks at those early meetings that were humorous and at the same time carried a deep message. Also, at a couple of meetings Octava Smith played the piano and Mr. Clarence Holmes played the clarinet, to the delight and enjoyment of those present. Myrtle Masey, retired this year, can remember those early meetings because she helped prepare the meals. Those attractive school girls who helped serve the meals now have children of their own who would be old enough to act in that capacity.

My point here - and I suppose one is in order - is that continuity of service means putting down roots and becoming identified with something meaningful. You certainly would not want to identify with something that was meaningless. Our lives are built about these memories - and you know something? We very seldom remember those meaningless experiences, for any length of time. This is as it should be; we build and grow toward happier things as we profit from the meaningful things that we experience.

What has all of this to do with the short trip down memory-lane? It's this - from my first year of service at this plant I think I sensed a certain something that the members of the

25 Year Club had and it could be detected as they went about their daily duties. You know what? I was jealous - I wanted the thing that I sensed they had. I wanted to belong and experience that feeling. They had pride in their jobs, their length of service, their homes, their churches and schools, their families, their community - they believed in what they were doing and they were an important part of the whole scene.

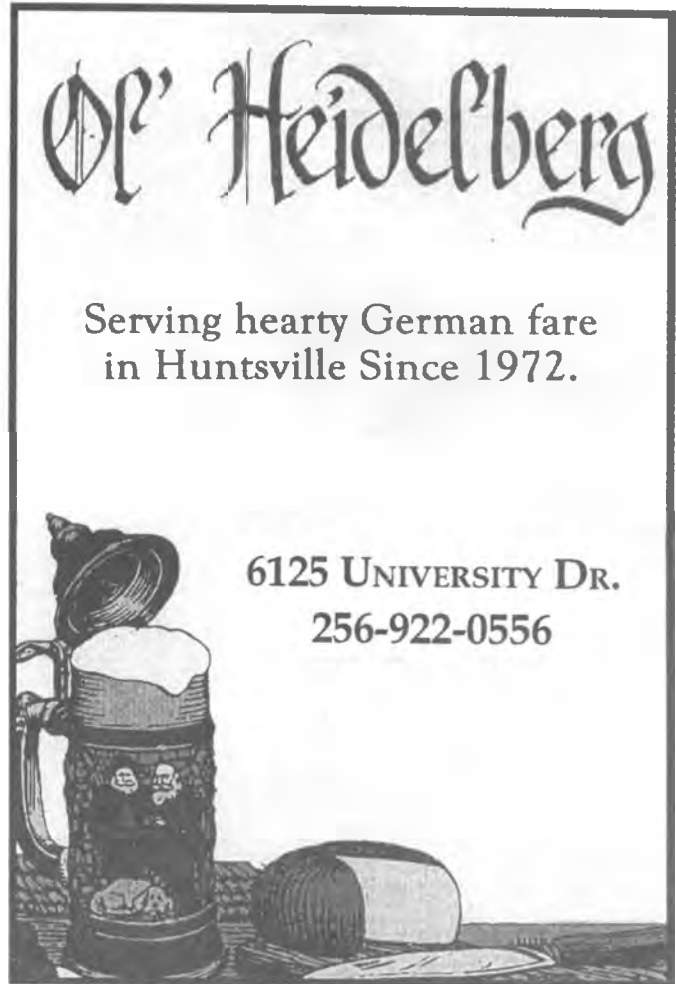
I coveted that then - no longer. I am experiencing, it seems to me at least, that same feeling that I sensed in the 25 Year Club members because I've been a member of this fine group for some three years now.

Humans have a social instinct - we have a desire to be a part of a group and to be accepted by that group.

Notice, if you will, that winners tend to associate with winners, people with dedication tend to associate with other

people who are dedicated, losers tend to gravitate toward others who are similarly inclined. The group here, tonight, is a group of winners - it is the best group anywhere. You have proven you are capable, willing and able to do a job. You are a group that I identify with, with great pride. If that sounds like bragging, it is. We work with a great group of people and we work for a great company.

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future is not as bright as it was at the middle of the year I think that in the near future, things will turn around and conditions will improve. I know that with people like you working for a company like ours we can weather this period of recession and continue in our great tradition.

Some Interesting Pastimes of Employees of Huntsville Manufacturing - 1975

How about a honey bee sting for your wife's rheumatism or half dime for a cup of coffee. Don't laugh until you've seen it. Many people here at the mill have been doing unusual and interesting crafts for quite some time and a few are going to be featured here.

We started looking for mill employees with unusual hobbies around the first of November and after a couple of days of photographing the hobbyists we came up with some devoted craftsmen and craftswomen.

* John Phillips, #2 Card, 1st shift supervisor, is a keeper of bees. We see him holding the bees up to the camera. He rarely gets stung. Elen Mae, his wife, will tell you there is nothing better to ease the pain of rheumatism than a bee sting. Let one of the bees sting you below the elbow and your stiffness is gone.

* For the last four years Mrs. Freda Gay, a warp spinner on the first shift, has been devoting her spare time to painting bottles. Freda uses a variety of paints on her differ-

ent bottle shapes. With small brushes she dabs on acrylic or crystal paint. Freda says Mrs. Butterworth bottles are in big demand and she can't paint enough of them. Many of the bottles, when viewed up close, have a starry or glimmering effect. This effect is dependent upon the texture of the bottles. A beautiful collection of bottles is the result of Mrs. Gay's time and effort devoted to a hobby she truly enjoys.

* Ralph McGuff, a head portable ty-in machine operator on the 3rd shift in the Weave Room, spends his leisure time collecting and separating old and rare coins. Ralph's collection includes half pennies, half dimes, two cent and three cent pieces and a half dollar dating back to 1817. Ralph is shown with a complete set of wartime nickels and pennies. Ralph's home was hit by the April 3rd tornado and many of his coins

were lost. He assures us that his coins are now kept in a safe deposit box at the bank to insure safekeeping. Anyone interested in coin collecting should get together with Ralph to exchange coins and coin tales.

* Then there is Lawton Hammett, a first shift loom fixer in the Weave Room, with his prize winning walking horse "Glow Boy". Lawton and his entire family are actively involved in walking horses and quarter horses. Lawton became interested in walkers a mere four years ago, but in that short time he has put together a vast collection of trophies and ribbons. After seeing "Glow Boy" pose

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for the camera we can understand the smile on Lawton's face, for this walker is a truly beautiful horse. Lawton and his son both agreed that horses supply hours of enjoyment, but there is also a lot of hard work in preparation for upcoming events.

* Ruby Brown, Front Office, displays an excellent example of handiwork with this decorative design of cross stitch. All this work is done with great regard for detail. Ruby spent about six months in her spare time preparing the quilt. She started cross stitching about six years ago. Other cross stitch items include linen table cloths and place mats. Great patience is required, for this is not a job that can be hurried.

* Lawrence Gray, a loom fixer on the second shift in the Weave Room, is a leather craftsman. Lawrence has his shop in his home. His work is customized to meet the buyer's special taste. He does both stamping and engraving. The majority of his work is on belts, sandals, moccasins and bridles. He hopes to expand into more saddle work in the future. Like father like son, Lawrence's five-year old son is already into the leather arts. He makes key chains and has his eye on bigger items. Lawrence tells us that the high cost of leather and tools makes leather work a craft only for those serious and willing to stay with it.



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As soon as you bring your fresh berries home - raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, blueberries - prepare a mixture of 1 part vinegar (white or apple cider) and 10 parts water. Pour your berries into the mixture and swirl around. Drain, rinse and pop in fridge. They will last twice as long because the vinegar kills spores and other bacteria that might be on the surface of the fruit. You'll be amazed!

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THE SOLDIER WAS A LADY

by Don McDaniels

Jennie Rodgers, a slim, somewhat plain looking Irish lass, had been born in Belfast on December 25, 1844 and to escape that country's famine, arrived in the United States as a shipboard stowaway. At the beginning of the War Between the States, she was living in Belvidere, Illinois. Dressed as a man and calling herself Albert D.J. Cashier, she enlisted as a private in Company G, 95th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Her Federal service began when the 95th was assigned to the Union Army of the Tennessee. Cashier's regiment participated in the Vicksburg Campaign (her name is listed on the bronze plaque on the Illinois monument), the Red River, Franklin and Nashville Campaigns.

Cashier's unit ended military service in 1865, taking part in the investment of Spanish Fort and Fort Blakely in front of Mobile, Alabama.

In August, Cashier returned with the 95th to Camp Butler, where the regiment was discharged after nearly three years of hard service. With her comrades, she received a hero's welcome in Belvidere. She lived in several towns in Illinois through 1869, finally settling in Saunemin to support herself by work as a farmhand and handyman. She kept her gender a secret until 1911, when her leg was fractured in a minor automobile accident and doctor called in to treat her discovered she was a woman. Realizing that 66-year old Cashier was too crippled by the infirmities of age to live alone longer, the doctor arranged to have her admitted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home in Quincy.

For several years authori-

ties there kept Cashier's secret until her failing memory and increasingly erratic behavior induced them to transfer her to the insane asylum at Watertown in March 1913.

During her later years, Cashier collected an invalid soldier's pension - \$70 each month. Through the Grand Army of the Republic, she stayed in touch with her old Army comrades, who never suspected her disguise until authorities at the asylum forced her to discard it. They recalled the slight, five foot-three-inch tall veteran as an amiable loner and a good soldier who, despite her small size, kept up on the hardest marches, handled a rifle with skill equal to any infantryman, and never shirked duty. That she was the same person who had served with the 95th under the name Albert Cashier was challenged when her secret identity became public late in 1913, but a special examining board at the Bureau of Pensions in Washington, D.C., upheld her

veteran's claim.

When Cashier died at Watertown in 1915, members of the local GAR chapter saw that she was buried in uniform with full military honors at the cemetery in Saunemin. Instances of women serving as soldiers in the ranks appear in both Union and Confederate literature. Those who were discovered or who confessed their genders were discharged and sent home, usually with their motives questioned and with their reputations or sanity in doubt.

Since women disguised themselves to enlist and carefully concealed their identities to avoid censure, evidence of their military service is sketchy at best. Cashier's is the only documented case of a woman fulfilling an army enlistment.

"Food, Love, Career and Mothers: the four major guilt groups."

Cathy Guisewite

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-Suck on a wedge of lemon anytime you feel queasy, whether on a plane or on the ground. Be sure and rinse out your mouth afterwards, lemon juice can eat through tooth enamel.

-If you do get motion sickness on a plane, sit as close to the front as possible. The tail moves more than the middle or front. Sit near a window and look out - this applies to riding in a car also - don't read in a moving car.

-Want to quit smoking? Cream of tartar has been known to clear the nicotine out of your system. Just mix 1/2 teaspoon with 8 ounces of orange juice and drink it before bedtime. Do this every night. You will find that your craving is not as bad during the day, and will reduce the number of cigarettes you want every day.

-Bee pollen works for healthy, shiny hair. Start eating just a few granules daily to make sure you're not allergic - then slowly increase the amount to a quarter teaspoon a day. Slowly work up to a tablespoon per day.

-Coarse hair can drive you crazy! Want to tame it? Wash as usual, then towel dry. Take a pint of plain yogurt and glop it on your hair, all over. Let it stay on for 15 minutes, then rinse with tepid water.

-Vitamin C can help a heart stay healthy. Eat foods rich in the vitamin - citrus fruit and leafy green vegetables - and supplement your diet daily with at least 500 mgs. of vitamin C.

-Age spots - I look at them as freckles but not everyone else does. To diminish them try pineapple juice. Make sure your skin is clean and oil free. Dip a cotton ball in FRESH pineapple juice and place on the spot for twenty minutes, then rinse with tepid water. Do this every day for a week.

-For men only - to prevent prostate problems and increase vigor - add a handful of raw pumpkin seeds to your diet once a day, raw or roasted sesame seeds are good too - 2 tablespoons per day. Wash them down with sarsaparilla tea - this combination is supposed to aid in sexual stimulation.

-If you realize that you just brushed up against some poison ivy and can get to cold water within 3 minutes, wash off the oil. Don't use soap, however, it seals in the oil and takes away the acid mantle that protects the skin. Taking an aspirin right away is said to help, also.

-By the way, if you think it's poison ivy but want to test it, do this. Take hold of the plant with a

piece of white paper, crush the leaves against the paper (don't get on your skin). If in 5 minutes the juice turns black, you've got poison ivy.

-Strengthen your memory with caraway seeds. Just crush a tablespoon of them, place in a bottle and every once in a while take a whiff.

-Don't give honey to children under one year old. The spores in honey can cause botulism.

-Teething does not cause fever. If your child is teething and running a fever higher than 101 degrees, chances are he is sick.

-Got that bloated feeling? Eating a piece of watermelon right after the beans should help. Or take a tablespoon of Aloe Vera gel after every meal. If you're young and reasonably coordinated, do a headstand. Stay upside-down for about a minute.

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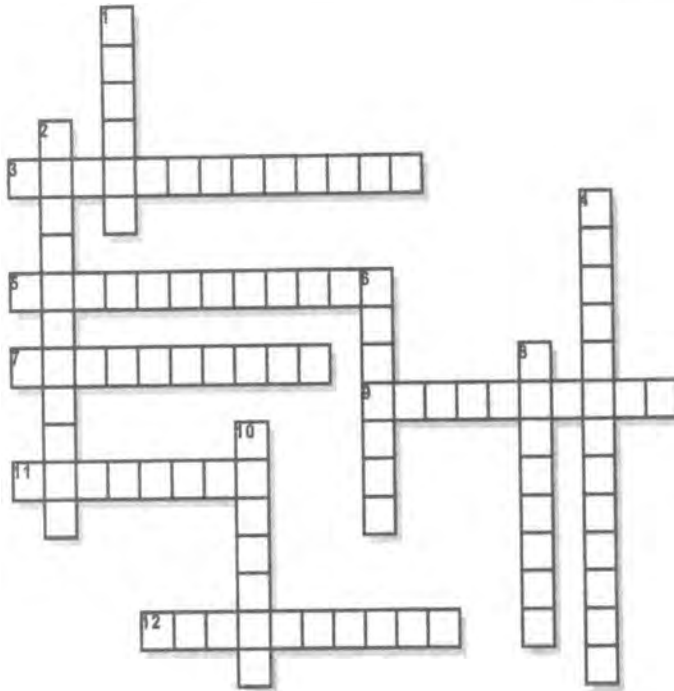


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Across

- 3 Five-foot three-inch veteran.
- 5 Beekeeper.
- 7 County speed limit in 1911.
- 9 She had beautiful handwriting.
- 11 He lied about his age to join the Navy.
- 12 Onions are a secret to this.

Down

- 1 Egyptians held these in high esteem.
- 2 They could use some new instruments
- 4 Make this with caramel and corn flakes (yum!).
- 6 He wrote D-I-V-O-R-C-E.
- 8 Tom and Joe picked this out from a magazine.
- 10 A&M band director.

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Strong Family Home

by the Strong Sisters - Charlotte Neal, Gertrude Watson and Linda Bennett

Our family home at 1207 Pratt Ave in the Five Points Area holds a lot of memories. This three story house was built in 1947. We had a large family that grew up there. There were Daddy (Lacy), Mother (Peggy), Grandmother (Mammy), Granddaddy Strong and five daughters: Charlotte, Gertrude, Linda, Betty, and Kathey. Our Mother passed away last year, leaving the last family member to vacant this home in over seventy years.

We remember when we were all young and Christmas was a great and wonderful time for us. We would take a walk to the Star Market and each get a box. We then took it home and decorated it with our name on it and put them under the Christmas tree. That way Santa knew who was who.

Speaking of the Star Market; as we grew up when our grandmother, Mammy needed something from the store she would call them and tell them what she needed and they would watch for one of us walking home from school and give it to us to take home. Of course on Saturday Daddy or Mother would go by and pay the bill.

We also put on a lot of plays in the big basement of our house. We would invite the neighbors and charge them a nickel. They always looked forward to the fun. We sisters were always into something. With so many women in one house our poor Daddy was spoiled and of course he spoiled us. He was so proud of his girls that when he wanted to introduce us to someone he would make us line up by age.

When we first moved into

our home Daddy and Mother rented the three upstairs rooms to three women that worked with Daddy. Our Daddy was the payroll chief for Redstone then in 1960 moved over to the NASA side as the payroll chief. Of course this made us have 10 women in the house. Now can you imagine the laughter and noise in this wonderful home? It was a wonderful and happy time but as we sisters grew older, it was nice when we got to take over the upstairs bedrooms. Our home was a great hangout place for our friends. You never knew who might be there and how many at any given time.

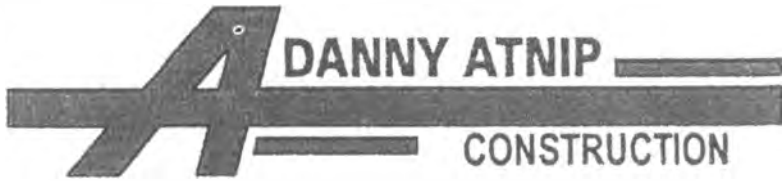
Our younger years were full of fun but it must have been a hoot when we started in our teenager's years. The boyfriends were always there and there were also dances at school.

Our activities were softball in the field next door or kick-the-can, biking all over the neighborhood, or playing dress up and walking around the neighborhood showing off our outfits.

Most of the sisters married at an early age (around 18 which was not young at that time). There were 6 granddaughters born in this family before the first grandson. Our father was adopted so therefore it had been 56 years before we had a blood male relative in the family. Of course since then we have produced many more. We now have five grandsons, nine granddaughters, numerous great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Not only has our Mother and Daddy passed away but we have lost our two youngest sisters in the last few years, but they leave us with wonderful children and grandkids to continue our memories with.

Even though the home has



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been sold it will stay in our life forever and we will always remember the great old Strong family home on Pratt Avenue. We hope the new owners will make as many memories as we have at this home.

We were all blessed with a loving close family and great friends that we are still in contact with after all these years.

badly, went home and suddenly died, seems to have caused the belief that he was poisoned. We strongly doubt the correctness of this conclusion. The fact that the vendor of the brandy refused to test the brandy afterward, by taking a drink himself, does not change our opinion in the least. It may have been mean brandy, as much of the brandy sold is.

It may have been adulterated, as much of it is. But we prefer, from accounts which reach us, to think he had no business with brandy at that time, and in his then condition, and died of some valvular derangement of the heart, or of apoplexy. There are moments in the lives of many men when a drink will prove fatal.



Huntsville Violence in 1915

Deadly Family Feud

Mathias Jolly was shot and instantly killed by Sam Green last Wednesday night at Brown's Bend on the Tennessee River. The particulars so far as we were able to gather them from persons in the neighborhood are about as follows: It seems that Jolly and his wife, who is a sister of Green's, fell out about some trifling matter, when Jolly slapped her in the face. The wife told her brother what had happened, when he deliberately took down a rifle that was hanging in the boat, and when Jolly saw Green go for the gun he jumped off the boat to the shore and fled. He had not gone more than 75 yards before Green fired and the ball went through Jolly, killing him instantly. All the parties lived on a trading boat on the Tennessee River, which was moored at the time to the bank of the river on the Limestone County side. Green is still at large, but the officers are in search of him.

Poison Brandy

The supposed poisoning of a young man named Childers, in the lower end of Morgan County, has caused some excitement. The fact that he was at a grog-shop and, after taking a drink, complained of feeling

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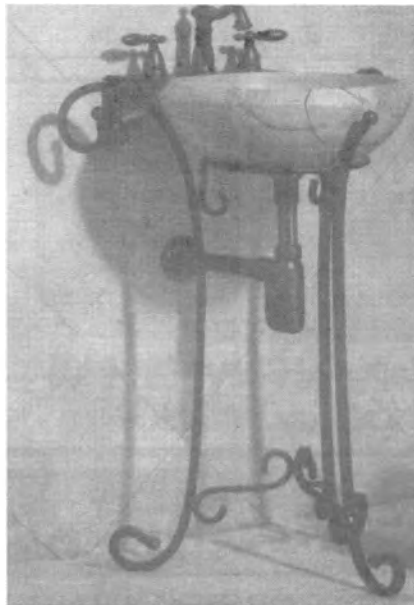
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MY UNCLE DOC

by Don Broome

I remember my Uncle Doc first because he had a habit, along with my dad, of embarrassing the womenfolk with their humor.

I knew from some dark wisdom in my childhood that my uncle Doc - Willie H. (Doc) Hales - had sailed into Pearl Harbor that morning of Dec. 8th to find total destruction. He was just 17, had lied about his age to be able to join the navy.

The Tour with the home port of Pearl Harbor was a dream assignment for an old country boy from the back woods of Mississippi. The USS Enterprise was the state-of-the-art carrier in the fleet. They were ordered to make ready to sail ASAP so were busy taking on supplies and using their aircraft to scout the area. Most activity in Pearl was around either making ready for the next attack that was expected or rescue work.

When I was about 8 years old I asked Uncle Doc what he'd done in the war. I think he said something about having to do it all. But the look on his face and his over all body language told me I shouldn't ask anything else. So all during my growing up, I felt like I was around this hero with a balding head, a ready smile and just every once in a while I'd get to witness his risking damnation to tell a funny story from work or a joke.

Uncle Doc retired from the Navy with 30 years service; one of the memorable assignments in his later service was training pilots to land on the flight deck. The trainees included the Blue Angels. We went down to Pensacola to see an air show that featured them landing and taking off and afterwards, we got a royal tour.

After his retirement from

the Navy, he went to work here in Huntsville for a defense contractor working in the Space industry. A man who grew up in the woods of Mississippi, a 7th grade drop out, a Project Manager in the Space industry. After 10 years he retired from that company when they lost their contract and was hired by Chrysler and was assigned to duties at Cape Canaveral, and so they moved to Titusville.

When my mother was about 75, I suggested that if she wanted to see her sister again it might be a good idea for us to take a

"I'm speeding because I have to get there before I forget where I'm going."

Old Geezer to policeman

few days and go for a visit. The visit was short in part I suppose from sibling rivalries that in old folks can be just as silly as in the young but during our talks, Uncle Doc showed me with pride

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an Annual that some WWII vets had put together of the history of the Enterprise during this period. It showed a young Uncle Doc on a bike on a shore leave. I asked what it was like, afraid that he wouldn't answer. He got quiet for a few minutes. He said, during the really heavy war times he and his teammate would have 4 hours on and 4 off manning an anti-aircraft gun on the edge of the ship.

After days of this it would be easier to just get a cup of Joe and lay down on the deck and get a little rest until you were on duty again.

Out of a sound sleep, my Uncle said he found himself 6 feet in the air from a suicide plane that hit the side of the ship at his station. His friend and the gun were gone. He had a little scratch and some bruised ribs. He was ordered to sick bay and waiting his turn was a guy propped on a chair, I guess that how you should say it when he was missing his lower half, he only had his top half. His hips down were gone. He appeared calm and in no pain. He asked Doc for a cigarette which wasn't permitted because of the ether and oxygen. He looked to the doctor and he nodded yes. He lit and handed it to the man who took a puff, said thanks and died. That's all he'd ever tell me about that time in his life.

I know he was in 18 of the 22 Naval battles in the Pacific that the USS Enterprise was involved in but nothing else. We all ought to be grateful for our Uncle Docs and Aunt Janes too. What they endured for us can never be known completely.



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Seen in Sewing ad

LOCAL NEWS FROM 1911

-Ladies Aid Society - Mrs. Charles Shaver, president - time of meeting Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

-Paris has been shocked. The French capital, the home of almost anything "ultra in fashions," has come a-cropper over the new trouser skirt. By some, this feminine contraption of apparel has been designated as the "harem-scarem." Paris blushed when it first heard of the skirt, but today that blush of modesty turned into the flush of anger.

A young woman attired in the newly made skirt walked along the Avenue L'Opera - the Avenue de L'Opera, mind you and was actually egged by a mob of disapproving Frenchmen until the police appeared and helped her escape in an automobile.

-A prominent citizen of New Market, C. C. Giles, was in the city last evening and marketed 620 dozen eggs, good ones too, at a price of 12 cents. Mr. Giles is one of the county's foremost citizens.

-Mrs. William Kresh and little daughter of Birmingham, who have been the guests of Mrs. William Dilworth, on Meridian Street, will return to their home this week. (Feb 26, 1911)



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The New Hope Band

by Charlie Lyle

It was in 1954 and I had just gotten out of the Army. It was time now to get back to work. For starters that would be teaching private music lessons at Robbins Music Center on Jefferson Street. My first student was a young girl named Mary Martin. She played clarinet. A second student started taking drum lessons. Her name was Sandra Maples. A few lessons later Ms. Dora Martin came to me and said, "Mr. Lyle, it is a long trip back and forth from New Hope for us. Would you come to us if we got eight to ten students."

This was a beginning of something important and a milestone for music in the county. This was a beginning of the county band program. Fortunately or unfortunately most aspiring musicians go to college majoring in music in order to be a great soloist. They end up usually as a music educator, primarily to make a living.

About this time a Ms. Ford at Gurley started a group and called me to teach them like I was doing at New Hope. Well, most everyone can count, especially money, and it was quite obvious that I was doing very well.

An outstanding parent who helped bring all of this together was Ms. Jo Ann (Tabor) Butler. She and other parents banded

"My wife and I always hold hands. If I let go, she shops."

Ken Sheridan, Arab

together and practically forced James Bell, a County Commissioner, to go with some others to Mr. Almon, the County Superintendent, to plead for a school band director. Mr. Almon looked kinda shaken. He knew that he had been had. He knew that he had to act on their wishes and he was an awakening a sleeping giant. Because if he let Gurley and New Hope have a band director, he would have to give virtually every school in the county a band director. Other schools in the county wanted to get their band programs started, too.

The band started rehearsing on a regular basis during the end of the summer. The children started picking cotton about this time and didn't have to go back to school until later in the fall. The band was very small in the beginning. There were beginners and more advanced players. We were not capable of meeting much competition and this point. However, the band did quite well marching. We did a few

parades marching in half time shows for the new football program.

We realized that we needed to draw attention to our band. New Hope was called the Indians. I decided to dress our band in new uniforms and majorettes in Indian dress. I went directly to Anadarko, Oklahoma to buy squaw headbands, with one feather and a full headdress for the head majorette.

Once during a parade

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downtown, I saw a man put his hand up to his head and, spitting a plug of tobacco exclaimed, "where are those damn Indians?" This made it all worthwhile.

One of my favorites that caught my attention was Henrietta Butler, whose feet would not even touch the floor. I asked her where her brother, Jaybird, was and she said, "he had his tonsils taken out".

I got married at this time to my beautiful wife of forty-eight years, Janet Moore.

This all came about because I had one of the very best group of band parents that I could ever wish for. Everybody in New Hope not only supported the band, but also were really excited about it. One of these people that was behind the band was Dr. Carpenter. The doctor was well-known in the county and was a doctor who still made house calls. If a teacher made an office visit, he would say, "I don't charge teachers" and if a patient had no money he would tell him to bring him eggs, chickens, turnip greens or put money in the can located just outside his door the next time he came down his way.

His brother Pigg was another story. Pigg had the best basketball team for miles around. He had a bad habit of sleeping in the classroom and you could hear him snoring down the hallways. He told his students to put their heads on their desks, to be quiet or to get their homework. Times have changed!!!!!!!

The Christmas parade in New Hope became a very

important event for everyone. Most everyone participated.

To bring things up to date, the band is now having a big problem with buying certain instruments that most people can't afford. Especially saxophones, tubas, bassoons, oboes, and many percussion instruments that all bands have to have. Like so many

programs, they are in desperate need of money.

This band was the premier band in the county. If you can help them with their program, please contact Michael Aycock, the schools band director at 256-723-4226. Thank you so much for your help.

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SATURDAY, MAY 5th @ 3:00 P.M. = Eddie from PA will here for this sale--hauling his typical variety of furniture, glass, and other collectible items. Local Estate items will also be up for this sale, including several Advertisements, Coins & Money, Chippendale-Style DR Suite Pieces, and MORE!

SATURDAY, MAY 26th @ 3:00 P.M. = Tony from Ohio will be hauling down 2 loads for this date. Plus, a Local Estate from Florence, AL includes a Davis Cabinet Company "Lillian Russell" Bedroom Suite and 2 Vehicles in addition to the rest of the estate's furniture and household contents.

*For pictures, listings, details, and directions, log onto www.auctionzip.com ~ Auctioneer I.D. #5484. Call us for questions & inquiries!

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Tweetie's Pet Tips



* Take the toys that belong to your indoor kitty and swap them up - take a few favorites away from her for awhile, then return them later - it'll be like having a brand new toy!

* I hate to add this one, but my owner made me. If you attach a suction cup bird feeder to your cat's favorite window, hungry birds will provide hours of entertainment. But be sure the feeder is high enough so that predators (like those nasty outdoor cats) can't catch them.

* Don't leave your dogs unsupervised around a pool of water - many dogs are not good swimmers and you don't want to lose a pet from drowning!

* If you live in a high-rise apartment and have a pet, be sure he can't get out of the window when you have it open on a sunny day.

* Leave a ping-pong ball in the empty bathtub and watch your cat make it sail around the curves of the tub.

* Tigers and chimps love this game. So do cats. Feed both ends of a length of parachute cord into a box through small holes. Tie a toy or large knot on each end. When your cat tugs at one end, the other

end mysteriously comes to life. For multi-cat households, run the ends into separate boxes.

* Later on in the summer, please leave pets at home when you head out to fireworks displays. The blasting can prove traumatic to most pets, whose ears can be very sensitive to sound. Even unexploded fireworks can be hazardous, due to the chemicals in them.

* Use cardboard boxes as beds, dens, tunnels and mazes for cats. They love to hide.

* Remember that hot asphalt is very painful to your dog's paws, if you can't walk on it, neither can she!

* The plastic bags with handles that you get at big box and grocery stores can prove dangerous to inquisitive cats who could get their necks caught in them.



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From the Desk of Tom Carney

“JOE”

by Tom Carney

“Seven knots of wind blowing in a northeasterly direction. For the first time, the weather has been good. After leaving Gibraltar nineteen days ago, it has been one storm after another. If it had not been for the doldrums in the Red Sea, I would not be making the Atlantic passage so late in the season. It has been almost two years since I left Newport in my 28-foot sailboat. Sailing down the Eastern Seaboard, I made my way across the Gulf of Mexico and down through the Panama Canal. I have seen sights that most men can only dream about. I have been caught in a force ten gale in the Pacific, picked fresh fruits in Tobago, and entertained at the Sydney Yacht Club in Australia. So many miles. Sri Lanka, Singapore, Suez, Malta – oh, please, merciful God, let me live until I finish my voyage. My body is so tired.”

Joe never finished his trip around the world. He died almost two years ago of muscular dystrophy. He was confined to a wheelchair the last years of his life, unable to take care of even his most basic needs.

I first met Joe about five years ago when my construction company was doing some work on his parents' home. His speech was slurred



and he could not move by himself, but you could detect an alertness in his eyes when you spoke to him. I got in the habit of stopping by to see him when I was in the neighborhood.

As I got to know Joe better, I began to speak of my dreams. For most of my life, it had been my dream to sail around the world. I began to leave maps and magazines with him. He had me order a sexton. As weak as he was, he could not use it but would sit for hours holding it in his lap with a faraway look in his eyes.

The day came when he started to dream about making the trip by himself. He knew that his body could not do it, but there was no reason why he could not make an imaginary voyage. I helped him pick a sailboat out of a magazine. We read all the information about navigation equipment and picked the kind best suited to his needs. He stocked his boat with all types of gear and provisions that he thought he would

need.

Finally, he cast off. He had postponed his departure several times because of the weather forecast. He had plotted his course so that he knew exactly how long it would take him to get to any point. When visiting with him several weeks later, I found him downcast. He had been keeping track of the weather in the Gulf, and a major storm was brewing. He was not sure how his little ship would handle it. The next day he was happy again – the storm had veered off in another direction.

As the little ship made its way slowly around the world, you had only to look at Joe to see that his health was failing rapidly. Other people became interested in his voyage. When he dropped anchor in Pago Pago, we had a party in his hospital room

“For fast-acting relief, try slowing down.”

Lily Tomlin

complete with coconuts and fresh fruit. He celebrated Christmas eating Indonesian food and watching movies about the pyramids as he sailed into the Red Sea.

The walls of his room began to fill with nautical charts, ropes, sea-shells and pictures of faraway exotic ports. Every day his excitement grew as he logged the distance his boat had traveled. He would order foreign newspapers and sit next to his bed while we read aloud the weather forecast for that part of the world.

After leaving Gibraltar, he knew that he did not have much time left. His condition had been growing worse. The doctors said there was nothing else they could do. Joe began to take chances. He picked the shortest route even though he knew it was the most dangerous at that time of year. He began to carry more sail in storms. The weather radio stayed on 24 hours a day.

Joe died while he was still six hundred miles out in the Atlantic. When they found him, he had his navigation charts clutched in his hands. His Coast Guard radio was turned to the weather channel, but it was turned off.

When we buried Joe, we buried the sexton with him.

It was later that I began to understand why Joe started to take chances near the end of his voyage. He did not want to die, sick in a hospital bed. He wanted to die at sea.

Originally published in December of 1991, in the "Old Rhode Island," one of the fifteen franchises sold by "Old Huntsville" Magazine.

Written by Tom Carney

A Story About Loyalty

Halfway between Charleston and Kansas on Illinois Route 16 at the turnoff to County Road 124, a small black dog of questionable parentage took up residence one warm day in the summer of 1966.

It was not uncommon for owners of unwanted pets to let their animals loose on the less traveled county roads, but only the crudest person would put an animal out on a busy highway.

There was something about the little black dog that indicated he had been cared for and loved by someone at one time. He wore a collar which bore no name or any identifiable marks. Neighbors believed he had jumped out of a car window, perhaps to chase a rabbit, and his family must have driven on without taking note of the incident.

Illinoisans in this area are hardworking, no-nonsense, realistic people. Yet they readily adopted Blackie. He was not a particularly friendly animal and never seemed to really appreciate the food that kindhearted neighbors brought over to him.

He was an animal obsessed, and it was almost as if he were chained to that corner where he spent the rest of his life. He just sat and waited patiently for his master to return.

Newspapers from nearby cities printed his picture and urged his master to come forth. Reports from as far away as Chicago carried Blackie's story. A group of Chicago firemen donated money to buy the dog a beautiful 3-room doghouse which was placed in a field 10 yards from the highway. Still, no one came.

The weeks rolled into months. Then, one day in early February, Blackie lay dead on the corner where he had patiently waited for so long.

The Associated Press carried the obituary of Blackie. People from many distant cities sent money for Blackie's burial. A retired Army Captain donated a tombstone and an unidentified man gave money to mark the spot with a small statue of a dog. Donations totalling over \$5,000 were placed in a special fund to be used by the Kansas Animal Shelter.

Blackie is a part of the rich heritage of the Illinois prairie because one summer day he was involved in a seemingly insignificant incident. Perhaps his master never knew of Blackie's vigil. But hundreds of lives have been touched by Blackie's love, dedication and loyalty.

On his tombstone, these words are inscribed:

"Blackie - Feb 6, 1966 - Know ye Now True Loyalty and Love"

My father told me this story and showed me the grave site in 1967. I visited the grave again recently and it is still well-kept with bouquets of plastic flowers.

(Editor's Note: In early 1995, Charles Kurault told Blackie's story. The story caused many more people to make the trek to Illinois to see the grave. Thanks to Shirley Mohler of Huntsville, Alabama for submitting this story.)

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Memories of My Hometown - Huntsville, Alabama

by Marcella Thompson Hargrove
Buford, Ga.

I was born and raised in Huntsville and really haven't found any place as comforting as the old Huntsville. Growing up in Alabama was a sweet experience. Everyone knew who you were, so you had better be nice.

I remember my first year at Fifth Avenue Elementary School on Governors Drive as a very happy time. We walked from Vanderbilt Circle, where I lived at the time and felt very safe. All the kids on that street walked together. I went there from first to fourth grade. We moved to Redstone Park down the Parkway to Farley. This was a neat experience as it was a mostly military housing facility, although some who had not been in the military also were allowed to live there. I met many new friends there and still talk to some of them.

Daddy was in the process of getting a house built on Andrew Jackson Way at that time, so by then I had a twin brother and sister, Dale and Gale. We loved it there at Redstone Park and didn't want to move back to town, as we called it. We could play and ride bikes there with very little supervision. Times were very safe and no child would be harmed because everyone looked out for each other. Another reason we loved it

there was because Granddaddy Thompson had a farm just down the road, which is now Chaney Thompson Road, his and another farmer's namesake. We also went to the Baptist church that my dad, his family and other families built on the highway across from Farley School. The church is still in operation today as Hillwood Baptist Church in southeast Huntsville on Kohler Road.

We moved into our new house on Andrew Jackson Way when I was about 9 years old. There were many good times there and, believe it or not, the house is still there on 72 Highway, now I-565. We went to Rison Elementary School and Lee High School. Lee only went to grade 9, so I had to go to Huntsville High School.

In those days there were no rich or poor preferences toward children. We were all one big family. All the doctors, lawyers, and preachers' kids went to school together. There were only two high schools then, Huntsville and Butler. We had some real football games in those days, but no guns, or drugs. Just get mad at the winner, then go to Jerry's for hamburgers and see who would drive through and who had the

best car. Times were fun and wholesome then. The skating rink on Traylor Island was another hang out and you could be dropped off by your parents and they would know you would be safe.

I was in the band and that

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Mae West

was a great thing back in those days cause Huntsville High Band with Mr. Sloan as our Director was a thing to be proud to be a part of. We won lots of contests, marched in many parades, and went on many band trips. My most memorable one being the band camp at Al Capone's mansion in Miami, FL. I think that was the best time of my school years. We had a ball. It was a scary place and the boys kept the girls scared and screaming all the time. We worked hard on the marching field during the day and ran from ghosts at night. Mr. Sloan was a great leader and our parents helped us to raise money to do all those fun things.

We celebrated our 50th class reunion in 2011, and it brought back so many memories that I wanted to share them. Huntsville is a wonderful place to call your hometown and I still love to drive by the cemetery and see the beautiful grounds there.

My mother and daddy, Aubrey and Mildred Thompson, are gone on to their reward now. They called Huntsville their home all their lives and are now resting in beautiful Maple Hill Cemetery.

Useful Tips

* Eating low-fat protein at lunch time will help you avoid mid-afternoon slumps. A good example is a serving of lean meat or seafood, or drink a glass of skim milk.

* People who suffer from headaches at night or early in the morning find that they are often related to sleep disorders. 55% of people who sought treatment at a headache clinic for these kind of headaches had treatable sleep problems.

* For every additional 10 grams of dietary fiber you consume daily, you reduce your risk of cardiovascular disease by 29%. Cereal fiber is especially good.

* Women who smoke may

go through menopause up to 8 years earlier than non-smokers.

* Set a deadline for each mundane task you have, then challenge yourself to get it done by then. You're more likely to do so if you make it a personal challenge to yourself.

* When you've had a bad day, write down your feelings. It can help you relieve stress. Ranting and raving on paper can help you get things off your chest, so you can calm down and look at the situation more objectively.

* To keep your teenagers heading in the right direction - talk to them every day. Get to know their friends. Keep in contact with their teachers and their friends' parents. Take action if you notice warning signs of drug abuse, alcohol abuse or

depression. Watch for drops in grades and sudden changes in moods or activities.

* Having a gun in the house increases the risk of homicide among teenagers and young adults more than threefold, and it increases the risk of suicide more than tenfold according to a pediatric study done in Illinois.

* Writing to-do lists actually improves your memory because it frees up "brain space" for more important things. Another useful trick: Distract yourself when you're stymied, such as when you can't find something you're looking for. Think of a completely different topic, then return to your search a few minutes later. You're more likely to find the lost item.

* Don't drink fruit juices during a workout - drink water.

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Growing Up by the Weatherly Spring

by Bob Baudendistel

Back in the mid 1970s, life in the southeastern sections of Huntsville carried lots of fun and adventure. One of the most unique places to visit had to be the Weatherly Spring which fed a small pond with its year-round crystal clear waters. What made this cold water spring seem so unique was the fact that it was located well out in the open valley and not back against the foot of a mountain as most all of the springs typically were. Instead, this watering hole seemed to pop up in a wooded area out close to the main channel of the Aldridge Creek.

Back before Bailey Cove Road was extended south of Weatherly Road and directly adjacent to the spring, its waters flowed out across an open channel and into the main creek. As young adventure seekers, we would often go hiking out near the spring and across the open pastures as the spring offered the perfect swimming hole for relief from the hot summertime weather. Wildlife was plentiful in those days as were many larger trees.

I have read some papers about the spring and learned that it had always been regarded as a popular campsite, hangout, and even a more permanent homestead throughout the history of the area. Native Americans who once lived down at the Tennessee River often travelled up through the Aldridge Creek Valley in search of food. The spring offered them a rest stop for water during their travel.

After the first Caucasian settlers worked into the area, the spring was said to be where the Scottish immigrant Peter Weatherly built his first cabin. A stone wall was also erected right at the spring to help retain water for

his agricultural uses. Peter later purchased hundreds of acres of nearby land during the public land sales. Clear running water was considered a highly valued resource back in these times, therefore living close to a spring such as this was considered vital.

Another neat piece of history relating to the spring took place during the ravages of the Civil War. The Union Army occupied a camp site way up the valley close to the foot of Monte Sano. Whenever the word got out that the Feds were marching through the valley towards the river, a young sharecropper who lived on the Weatherly Farm was tasked to go jump in the pond right at the spring, and stir up a bunch of mud from the bottom.

This transformed the pond and its clear running stream into an unattractive mud hole, and so whenever the Feds would come marching through looking for a

potential rest stop with a watering hole, they just kept right on going. The Weatherly Family used this strategy throughout the war, as it seemed to work quite successfully.

Beginning in the early 1960s, as new residential subdivisions were being built all around the spring, the City of Huntsville later built Willow Park in the immediate vicinity and included a concrete walkway over to the spring along with several park benches. These efforts helped to preserve the spring and the natural beauty that surrounded it.

The rest of the park area includes a playground, soccer fields, picnic pavilions, and tennis courts. While taking a short walk over to find the spring today, one will still find the year-round flow of crystal clear waters rising from beneath the surface just as the first people to see the spring did long ago.



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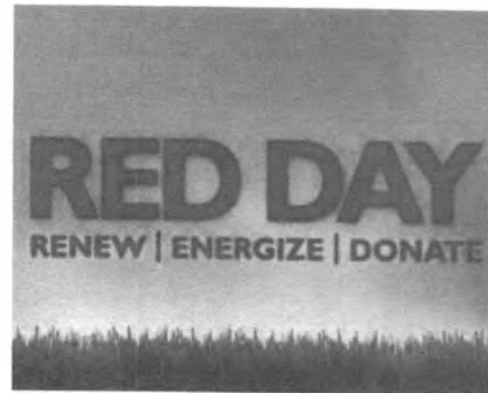
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The Day Our World Changed

by Malcolm Miller

December 1941 was a chilly sunny Sunday and that afternoon three buddies and I were riding bikes in the Salty Bottom community off Highway 72 west of Gurley. My friends were Charlie Gossett, Muley Taylor and Elroy Phillips. Suddenly our fun, care-free day was interrupted by a lady running out of a house yelling; "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor!"

At that time none of us knew where Pearl Harbor was but we soon learned it was in Hawaii. The first thought that came to me was the fact I already had two brothers in the Army, Gib and Louis. I was only fourteen years old at the time and little did I realize that before the war ended, five of my parents' seven boys, including me, would be in the military. To the generations that followed World War II this is all ancient history, but for me and the few others that served, who are still alive, it seems like only yesterday.

At that time our country was just pulling out of the Great Depression, a time when I could stand on our front porch in Ryland and watch the freight trains pass with men hanging all over them. These men were not bums or hobos, they were desperate men going from town to town trying to obtain work of any kind to try to feed their families. Now most of them would soon have jobs because the military draft had already been set up, drafting men for one year. Therefore, it wasn't very long till every able bodied man over eighteen years old would be getting a draft notice.

This brought about a great change in our lives. Up until this time, in almost every household, the husband worked to make the living while the wife stayed home, cooked and cleaned and took care of the children. Suddenly thousands of husbands and fathers

were drafted into the military and the wives had to go to work to make the living. Those wives, who did not get work, babysat for those who did. That is the first time I had heard of a babysitter.

Women going to work brought about one of the major changes in our society, once the ladies started working away from home, most of them never wanted or were not able to go back to staying home and raising a family. Huntsville Arsenal had been built and since most all the able-bodied men were in the military the women, mostly housewives, were hired to make chemical warfare weapons.

Anytime you walked around downtown Huntsville you could see women walking down the street with their skin died different colors from the chemical they

were working with and some of them were permanently disabled by poison gas getting into their lungs. With the United States at war there seemed to be no choice in these things.

There were so many other changes in our way of life due to the war; so many things were rationed and other things you could not get at all because they were needed in the battlefield or needed by the soldiers. Everyone had to have stamps to buy sugar. One grocer and meat market on the north side of the square was caught selling sugar for black market prices to the moon shiners to make whiskey; also he was putting embalming fluid in hamburger meat to keep it fresh. He was a real patriot.

You had to have stamps to purchase gas. With an A stamp you could only get a very few gallons. Our family got D stamps



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because we had a farm tractor. My brother Paul and I were the only ones at home in 1944 and we would occasionally take a five-gallon can down to the store, fill it up, then put the gas in our A model Ford. We were not the only ones that would do this. People did a lot of things to keep things going here in the States.

Paper was also rationed and magazines and newspapers were encouraged to use as little as possible. If we were lucky enough to have wrapped Christmas gifts, the paper was folded up and saved for the next Christmas. Think now of the mountains of paper that is discarded each day.

Tire manufacturers no longer made tires of any kind for civilian use so that is when they started recapping tires. They weren't very good at first and about half the time the recap would not stay very long. If you got a big hole in a tire they would vulcanize it. We had to do this to a front tractor tire and from then on every time the tire turned over there was a big bump.

The car manufacturers stopped making all civilian vehicles shortly after the war began because the companies had to start making military vehicles, so it really kept the mechanics busy keeping those old clunkers running. Many families left at home did not have family cars.

I recall after I was discharged from the Navy in 1946 I had a few dollars saved and went to the Ford dealership, Ray Auto. At that time the only car on the show room floor was a 1929 A model Roadster with a rumble seat in back, they were called Grandma seats back then. I paid them three hundred dollars cash for it. My parents had saved the money for me that I had sent them as an allotment while I was in the Navy. What would that car be worth now?

Some of the changes during and after the war were immediate and some came about over time. For instance, before World War II, we really never heard of a nursing home, there was only the Poor

House up at the edge of the mountain at the end of Hermitage street. Only a person with no living relatives and completely incapacitated could go there and from all I heard back then it was a really bad place.

Back then if a person was elderly or unable to care for themselves they were cared for by their family. Someone lived with my parents from the early days of their marriage, first my Dad's mother then my Uncle Curt's wife then Uncle Curt and finally my grand mother on my mother's side. There was never a thought at that time of putting their family members anywhere other than their own home.

Another thing that changed after World War II - every business in Huntsville closed on Sunday. There was a law called the blue law and you could be arrested for opening on Sunday, also every business in downtown Huntsville closed at

five p.m. sharp and on Wednesdays at twelve o'clock. Many businesses today would have a hard time abiding by these laws.

Remember, I said some of the changes came about a little slower. Women did not wear slacks and jeans back then. I have in my possession a group picture of all the employees of the General Shoe Co. plant in Huntsville made on August 9, 1955 and, of the probably three hundred women workers in the picture, only three women have on slacks.

I am very proud to be a part of what has been called the greatest generation and, as I am in the twilight of my life, I only hope that I have helped someone somewhere along the way. We all know that all of the men that were called into war after December 7, 1941 certainly helped everyone more than any of us can imagine.

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