

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Up at Fred's place the other night and really went through the most embarrassing moment of my life.

After a great build up by the drummer, I was going to sit in for him; I walked up to the band stand and fell into, over and about the whole set of drums. Brother, if you've never heard cymbals falling, drums rolling and kicking, you don't know what I went through.

After my wife and several others get me dislodged from this mess, I sheepishly went back to the table and sat down.

After this calamity I don't expect anyone to ever allow me to 'sit in' again for them but if they do, I want to be escorted to the drum throne by two able-

bodied men.  
Sorry Fred for the excitement and mess I made.

The country's biggest joke or hazard as the case may be is the do-it-yourself kit.

My wife bought a toy for our grandson with directions on it. She sat down and worked for a good hour on it, never completing and telling him that 'his Daddy could finish when he got there'.

Buck Brazier told me that he enjoyed the column and also that his son is a dentist in Tuscaloosa.

We started discussing old times and how hard it was to get a dime for spending money. About the only thing a dime is good for now is to call your parents collect for \$40 or \$50 to repair the 'jalopy'.

Ran into Buddy Love and told him I hadn't seen him in a year or two Buddy retorted that I must have been drunk as I talked to him last month. Well, if ignorance is bliss, then I'm a

'blister'.  
Met up with Gordon Wilcox at the barber shop several days ago and he said that he hadn't seen me in a 'coon's age'.

Seeing Gordon reminds me of Oscar Jackson at the Ford Place.

Saw Rube Zachero & didn't know that Louise was even sick until he told me. Sorry Louise and hope you can phone me some more news in the future.

Hank, J. D. Abbott and I had a long conversation the other afternoon and Colonel Lancer Von Dino was discussed. For you non-readers of this column, Colonel Lancer is a Great Dane puppy about eight weeks old and already weights 27 lbs.

Two goldfish in heated discussion: "OK. Wise guy. If there is no God, who changes the water every day?"

Bill Kennedy and his wife asked me why I didn't use 'dull as a crow' in my odd saying department. I have never heard of this saying but asked my 'bank teller' and her being 'sharp as a tack' said, "Yes, she had heard it." 'Otherwise', I would be 'dumb as doornob'.

Seeing Mr. Carpenter sitting in a booth by himself at the Fatted Calf the other night I introduced myself and sat down with him. I asked him where he was from and he told me Lineville.

We both had mutual friends in the Jacksons of Clairmont Springs and the Jordans of Ashland, Lineville vicinity. I forgot to ask him if he knew Dalton Ray of Ashland.

The topless waitress walked over to a customer and snapped, "Sir, please stop staring at me - this isn't my table."

The Pell City Quarterback Club's Annual Awards Banquet held at the Holiday Inn last Friday night was a huge success to an overflow crowd. In addition to St. Clair News-Ægis scholastic award to Dennis Abbott: James Dill, Back of the year award and as I had pre-

dicted, Rex Alexander not only won the Limeman of the year award but the WPHK Gerald Gossett Sportsmanship award.

Two new awards were given this year to the most deserving people I have ever seen awarded.

They were: Papa Panther, Happy Sam Cornett, who has followed the Pell City football teams through 47 years.

Mama Panther went to Georgia Gossett, who to anyone who stands near her at either a Junior High or Panther game can attest to.

Coach Pete Rich introduced the football team to a cheering mob and then made a short but witty speech.

Tom Bryan was the featured speaker and gave a 'shot in the arm' to all the Auburn fans present.

Bill Cornett, whom I haven't seen since 1961, which occurred in Knoxville, Tennessee, when Sam, Bill and the late 'Doody' Lowery went to an Auburn football game.

Our daughter tells us when she answered a doorknock which turned out to be the Ayon lady who said, "Pardon me lady but your doorbell is broke."

Talking with Frank Bynum's nephew, which brings back memories of the old pool room of long ago. His nephew said that Frank had recently came by his home and wanted him to lay the brick that Frank was going to build a home. What's the matter Frank, have you got too old to lay it yourself?

My secret ambition was to grow up and be a model for the long-handles which used to appear in the Sears & Roebuck catalog.

Just say, "Skinny sent me" and keep those cards and letters coming.

### Congratulated

First Student: "So the president just expelled you, eh? What did you say to him?"

Second Student: "I congratulated him for turning out such fine young men."

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THURSDAY NOV. 20th, 1969

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

The 1969 football season has come to an end for the Pell City Panthers and the Duran Dragons.

'Wait til next year' for the Panthers supporters is something real this time.

Their final two games showed the development of an offense which was lacking in their first eight games.

The Panthers are losing two of their big boys in Bob Mann and James Brady. However, the Junior High team which had a very successful year will furnish Rhoton and several other big boys for the 1970 season.

Was in Birmingham last week and 'so help me Hannah' I bought a 1968 car and guess the name of it, you're right, it was an American Rambler. I bought it at the O. K. Used Car Company which is owned by my brother-in-law, Ralph Clark., so to use the Jim Skinner Ford phrase, 'I beat any other deal', so no one owes Ralph \$100.00.

While at his home he showed some home movies of his Great Dane dogs & also his son, Wayne, who is President of his class and also Captain of the Ensley High football B team.

He is 15 years old weighs about 150 lbs.

Talked with Jimmy Nelson of Sutherlin Chevrolet Company and he seemed to think that his name should appear in 'the society column' of this paper and he promised that he wouldn't fall out with me or to even try to beat the Jim Skinner deal.

Was up at Larry's Country Club Cafe the other afternoon and it really is a nice place, located out in the country.

The kids are really something

"You mean some boy started bothering you?" asked the mother.

"Yes - - finally!"

\* \* \* \*

### MEMORY LANE:

Seeing Hubert Stokes watching a professional football game reminds me of his going to Louisville each year for the Kentucky Derby....Thursaon & Mrs. Starnes going to New Orleans each year for the Sugar Bowl game . . . When every boy had at lerst one dog but Charles Meehan had four or five tied under his house at all times . . . The time I shot Dwight 'Fox' Honeycutt with an air rifle. This happened at the spring behind the old Wesleyan Methodist Church. This church was built by the Frenchs, who came here in the early '20's . . . When a hundred lb. sack of cotton seed meal and a hundred lb. sack of C. S. Hulls were the regular order to be delivered to the company cow pasture every pay day . . .

\* \* \* \*

Watching the Walt Disney show and seeing a little twin-wing airplane doing its 'di-dos' brings back memories of the 'barnstorming' tactics of these same planes at every county fair it seems.

\* \* \* \*

Bumming a ride back to town the other day with Smith Willis and another fellow (whom I can't recall his name at this time) in his little Volkswagen.

Am just wondering if he is taking eggs for insurance premiums as he had about five or six dozen in the back seat.

\* \* \* \*

At the Quarterback Club Monday night it was suggested that the club start organizing in January for their big project.

Plans were also made for the banquet to be held tomorrow night at the Riverside Holiday Inn.

I may be jumping the gun but I'll bet that Rex Alexander wins another plaque, but the question is whether it will be the lineman or the back of the year. He has

already won two 'lineman of the week' awards this year and last Thursday night when Rcy Adams was hurt he swited over to Quarterback and rle 'Back of the Week' in the onta game.

\* \* \* \*

Just say, "Skinny sent i and keep those cards, let visits and telephone calls ing.

and 'so help me Hannah' I bought a 1968 car and guess the name of it, you're right, it was an American Rambler. I bought it at the O. K. Used Car Company which is owned by my brother-in-law, Ralph Clark,, so to use the Jim Skinner Ford phrase, 'I beat any other deal', so no one owes Ralph \$100.00.

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The kids are really something today. I stepped a teenager to explain why hair curlers shouldn't be worn in the street but he wouldn't listen.

Which reminds me of the old saying that 'our cow wouldn't give milk so we sold him.'

\* \* \* \*

During the recent snow storm Bob's gas logs at the Fatted Calf reminded me of 'hind' weather weather. And the talk watching the football game in color Saturday afternoon with 'Peanut' Hannah insisting that Bear Bryant has bought the Pine Harbor Motel and Resort so that he could walk on the water there. However, Charlie Bivins of Cleveland, Tennessee, here working on construction for the Coosa Valley Telephone Company, argued that Doug Dickey would meet him half way.

\* \* \* \*

Johnny DeGaris and Art Smith having lunch at the Fatted Calf and the main topic of the conversation was 2 o'clock feeding. They were too busy talking to even think of passing out cigars but both being a new father, we overlooked them.

\* \* \* \*

The teen-age girl was telling her mother: "It was terrible. I had to change my seat four times at the movie."

**TURN THE 'RADIO' ON:**

Brother the history of radio is the history of something I remember. The first radio that I can recall was homemade by George Simpkins.

Back in those days sound wasn't important except that every one wanted their radio to be heard at least one block away. The further away you could

or three or four.

KDKA was the first radio station to go on the air and everyone listened to it faithfully until KMOX in St. Louis started bringing Harry Snodgrass from the State Penitentiary in Jefferson City, Missouri to hear him play the piano once a week.

Amos and Andy, Lum and Abner and others were the idols of

sound. Someone discovered that if you put the hearing aid in a cup that more than one could listen.

\* \* \* \*

You should have seen me trying to hide my hotdog sitting between two gourmets, Bob Cornett and Sonny Martin. Just to get my lick in I asked Sonny the name of the delicatessen in New Orleans. Sonny replied quickly it was Solaris. He told me that they were out of business now because the family had died off. But when they were operating you could get anything in the foodline from canned rattle snakes to oyster on half shell.

\* \* \* \*

The other day Skad Skelton was kidding a younster about going to a dance that night. The little boy told Skad he didn't have a girl here in Pell City but did have one in B'ham. Skad shyly remarked "have her come out on the bus you know she can travel on half fare".

Norma Howell then told me that the coke was on her. This is the... ed since writing this... Now it's your chance to bribe me by subscribing for the paper. Just walk right up and say, "Skinny, I want to subscribe to the St. Clair News-Aegis" or if you can't find me, write to P. O. Box 85 or call 2088.

\* \* \* \*

**THINGS I DON'T REMEMBER:**

Bibb and Coon playing run sheepy, run or Wasson Harmon buying his first soda with ice in it. He did say that the ice was shipped from B'ham out here and was shaved off with an ice shaver. I do remember those old shavers that worked like a plane. Wasson said that when he got home he told his Mother about it and she seemed to be very happy.

\* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE**

name.

Pell City was the tops in the state in basketball when they played out of doors. Pearly Cook coached the high school team of baseball and basketball which was almost professional in this day and time. He kept players in the Morris rooming house and paid their rent out of his own salary.

Then football came along but Mr. Cook had already gone to teach at Boys High there. Professor Baird coached the first football team and you add yours. Mr. Sullivan and Ted Snead were the coaches in my day.

See you at the football practice grounds I hope.

Oct 23, 1969

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Those amazing Mets came in with flying colors much to the disappointment of the bigtime gamblers, but to the little man in the street, 'manna from Heaven.'

The confetti debris that fell on the streets of New York broke all records according to the garbage collectors' report. He said it 'outweighed' the return of Lindburgh who was another little man who accomplished the unbelievable just as the Mets did by dropping the first game and then going on to win four in a row.

It tickles the 'cockles of my heart' to see the supposedly smart money men to lose their britches to a team as much loved as the New York Mets are by every baseball fan in the U. S.

I remember seven years ago when the Mets came into the National League with Casey Stengel as manager. The New York fans who had lost the Brooklyn bums and the New York Giants to the West Coast took the Mets to their hearts and when they set a record for consecutive losses and when they finally started winning would boo them when they won a game.

\* \* \* \*

I am not only a 'square' but tone-deaf included.

The other day I was playing

try your luck with Jim on WFHK when one of the mystery artist was a group. After a couple of repeats. Jim Seals announced that the group was a household word. I called him and asked him if it was the King Sisters He replied, "No" but I though I detected a twinkle in his voice. Making another stab, I asked him was it the Lennon Sisters. & was my face red when at the conclusion of the program, he announced that it was the Beatles.

During this same program, Dave Jackson comes on with a commercial for the Iola Roberts' PTA auction to be held tonight.

Dave had been nominated for the ugliest mna for Pell City along with Harold King of the Peoples Bank. You can enter your husband in this worthwhile project for only a dollar and ten cents a vote will determine the winner.

They are also having a cake bake sale tonight.

\* \* \* \*

At the golf course the other afternoon 'Bull' Savage proved how unorthodox he was by driving off the tee with an iron & following up with a wood in number four hole.

I thought I had heard everything but Bull came through last Friday afternoon with a topper. He, Skad Skelton & Alton Dorough were playing on the putting greens which are numbered one to nine but after several rounds Bull asked to play it backwards. Alton and I went down to the Big Bull for coffee on this one and don't know whether Bull and Skad played it backwards or not.

## MEMORY LANE:

Wait's Lake and the big bass that hung out around the middle of the lake and the old girst mill . . . The shrimp gumbo at Jeb's in Birmingham was the best I have ever ate. Phooey on the new post office for tearing down this location . . . The old 'pest house' that stood on the right hand side of highway 78 . . . The 'Hoodlum and the Dood' were both local passenger trains on the Southern . . . When coffee pots were replaced by perculators . . . And scrambling out after pine, wood and coal for the stove. Some 'people' even had a range . . .

\* \* \* \*

One guy remarked to another, "I didn't know that your wife had false teeth." The other retorted, "That isn't the only false she has."

\* \* \* \*

Football fans were busy over the weekend by watching their favorite team do battle.

The Duran Junior High snatched a tie from the fire in the waning moments of their game with the Odenville "B" team. Sorry that I missed this one but was ailing over the weekend but will see you tonight at Alumni Stadium when the Duran Dragons take on Ashville in a return game.

\* \* \* \*

Ed Pearson of Arlington, Virginia came by to see me on his annual October visit to Pell City and the surrounding communities.

Sorry I didn't get to spend more time with him but I'm looking forward for some material that he promised to mail me.

\* \* \* \*

I had a delightful trip last Sunday morning with Hank, Helen and Stacey Harmon to get their Great Dane puppy. If love doesn't kill a puppy then Colonel Lancer is in the for the happiest time of his life as Stacey will shower him with affection.

Saw Lane at the golf course and he was very pleased also and especially with it's bright blue eyes.

Am sure that Beauty, Colonel Lancer's mother, doesn't mind

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Am sure that Beauty, Colonel Lancer's mother, doesn't mind and am durned sure that Rosa Mae Clark was glad to get rid of him as she has eleven more to feed and care for.

\* \* \* \*

Sam Willis has won first, second and third place in the football guessing contest at the Fatted Calf.

Will have to check in with Sam and pick a parlay with him on a Saturday.

\* \* \* \*

Watching the Bear Bryant Show Sunday afternoon and he was scolding his critics and especially the letter writers. So, if you just have to write a letter, just say Skinny sent me and keep those cards and letters coming.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Oct 30 1969

The big event in the past week for me has been in celebration of our fifth anniversary at the Fatted Calf last Friday night.

It came as a complete surprise to my wife when we entered the restaurant and her being very reluctant about sitting at a table with flowers on it. She said, "We couldn't sit there because it was reserved for someone." It had, for Mrs. Snider had decorated that afternoon and besides the flowers, was a beautiful corsage given to her by Mrs. Snider.

We left early because the racing and Auburn fans were coming in in droves.

Tranks Milton (Goldie) Roberson for the bottle of Bud.

We stopped at Dell's Hideaway on our way home and I finally got the chance to play the drums while Clara Mitchell (?) did a Go-Go dance, much to my delight.

Fred introduced me to Jerry

Phillips and he seems to enjoy it also.

The next big occasion was Thursday night seeing the Duran Dragons play Ashville again. I don't believe I have ever seen two more equally matched teams as they are.

Ashville won the game 6-0 but a long run down the sideline for a Dragon touchdown was called back on account of an infraction of a rule.

Ran into Marvin Burnham the other day and I'll swear that I had talked to him the week before but upon conversing with him I knew that it was his twin brother, Melvin, that I had chatted with.

He brought back fond memories of the trips the band used to take on the old White truck with solid tires.

Alliene Watson's younger sister, working in Judge Embry's office, is Charles Lockeridge's wife and must be very efficient as she has worked in this capacity for nine years.

Judge Embry and I strolled down to Macon's Taxi Stand to see Joe 'Rooters' recently bought car. During our conversation we were talking about someone and Mr. Embry re-

marked as Leiana ranuan useu- to say, "He doesn't have walking-around sense."

Mrs. Peoples of Wolf Creek Road called me the other day and reminded me of something that I have omitted from Memory Lane which was Mr. Gour-dine driving a horse and wagon with an umbrella up the highway to Pell City. Thanks Mrs. Peoples for your phone call. Hope you get one of those Great Danes that you called me about.

Saw Mrs. Eva (Howell) Davis having lunch at the Fatted Calf the other day. We both recognized each other at about the same time.

At the Dragon game the other night Jennie Mae Reece was at the gate and Mrs. Harvey Tollison told her not to speak to me or I would have her name in the paper.

Waitress: "Will you have some pie, sir?"

Customer: "It is compulsory?"

Waitress: "No, raspberry."

The above reminds me of my hatred for potatoes, period.

Have you ever tried to order oysters and not get french fries with them. I'll never forget going into a restaurant in Tuscaloosa and ordering a half fry and specifically telling the waitress I didn't want french fries. A few minutes later she brought the order out but along with it a salad bowl of mashed potatoes.

Talking to Gertrude DeGaris the other day at the Citizens' Sundry Shop and it brought back fond memories of the old home place.

I'll never forget Jack & his eggnog parties on Christmas which he made in a washing machine.

Cuzzin Woodrow wanted to know what part of a woman is her "yet." We never heard of that, so we asked him why he wanted to know.

He said he read in the paper the other day where a man shot his wife and the bullet's in her yet.

Up to the Riverside Commissary and ran into Bill Coleman and he asked me my name. I jokingly replied, "Do you mean before I was married?" Then seeing that Bill was sincere. I

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# Ramblin'

with

# Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Just watch that black smoke curl. It seems that everytime they have an excursion, I'm always broke.

These lines along with the philosophy of the Two Black Crows was one of the funniest records I have ever heard. When one asked the other, what did the worm get for getting up so early along with the black horses eating more than the white ones did and the other character asked him what did he attribute this to and the other replied, "He guessed the reason was, he had more black horses than he did whites."

All this was brought to mind by the old steam engine that came through Pell City last Tuesday. John Watson alerted me to it about thirty minutes before arrival. You didn't need much time as the engineer was blowing the whistle which could be heard all over the countryside.

This brought back fond memories to me of railroading in 'hey-day'.

Some thirty people including most of the post office staff were on hand for this gala occasion. My mind flashed back to the arrival of number 8 when M. L. Nelson and Mr. Fant would load and unload mail. Around Christmas time it would take 25 to 30 minutes to be finished. I can still hear the flagman hollering 'board' and the engineer would give a couple of toots and start those 'pile drivers' rolling.

Mr. Buckner was the conductor on the Southern for many years. He would come down the isle taking your tickets and if you were going a 'fur piece' he would give you a card to slip in the window or in your hat band, and it was a mark of distinction to get off the train at your destination and wear the hat band with the card in it to your hotel.

Ed Blair was down to watch the train go by and I'm sure

I said once before that I was the 'campus cutup'. I promise I'll forget my escapades if you will.

Saw Mrs. Nelson the other day and my memory drifted back to the days of she and Mrs. Love drinking coffee at Scotty's and talking with Margaret Farley.

With Halloween come and gone I hope that Elsie and Bobbie got back to Coal City for their Halloween party.

Elsie told my wife that she was writing me a letter and wanted me to print 'as is'.

Getting the letter Tuesday morning which was past my deadline I had the letter printed in it's entirety.

I hope no one ran into the same problem that the following man did:

"Mac" tells of a couple who sat at home, drinking, "with plenty of candy on hand for the trick-or-treaters . . . but the doorbell rang so infrequently that wife finally yawned: 'O Heck. I think I'll go to bed.'"

"Then, giggling to herself, she trotted upstairs, took off all her clothes, put on an overcoat and Frankenstein mask and sneaked

down the back stairs.

"Creeping up to the front door, she rang the bell . . . and when her husband appeared, she hollered, 'trick or treat;' and threw open her coat. This so startled him that he slammed the door on his hand, breaking four fingers."

Down at the Duran Junior High Dragon football game Thursday night and they got revenge for what the Talladega High did to their 'big brothers' last Friday night by beating them 14 - 8.

Pete Rich 'bummed' someone for a chew of tobacco and the man retored, "I don't have any tobacco, but I have some of the best dern rosin you ever put a tooth to."

It seemed to me the other day that I was looking at someone in his school days. It was Barnett Lawley, who is the 'spitting' image of his uncle, Ossie Lawley.

Ossie is now the American Oil distributor and his newest place of business is the old Woco Pep station of long ago.

Cecil Harris is now running it and I do believe that it is the

flagman hallowing beard and the engineer would give a couple of toots and start those 'pile drivers' rolling.

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Ed Blair was down to watch the train go by and I'm sure he remembers hoboining from Leeds to Eden and the train picked up speed and Ed jumped off tearing up the perfectly good seersucker suit.

Things I used to enjoy riding on a train was the 'butch'. He came up and down the isles hallowing out apples, oranges, bananas, fig newtons, cold drinks and magazines. But the biggest treat was the little lantern filled with hard candy that I would have traded my stone for.

The conductor sitting on the right hand occupying two seats to do his book work.

Sooner or later I knew it would happen. A policeman in Birmingham checking my wife's driving license asked if she was related to Ranager of the University of Alabama football team.. "No", she told him, "That our name was spelled with an e instead of a.

Usually after knowing someone for quite a while they would change it to Renegade and to make it worse, they will call me Mr. Viregar.

Ran into Jimmy Bearden and Nelson from the Chevrolet place at Dell's Hideaway and am sorry that I don't recall the man's name that was with Charlie Lockeridge and 'set us up' with Bud again.

'Fess' Locke was telling someone the other day about a football game at Jacksonville and at halftime the band was on the field and lo' and behold I was in front directing it.

Mildred Baines' husband (whom I can't recall his name at present) told someone about me helping out the cheerleaders at Montevallo.

So you see what I meant when

ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT 1811 1ST. AVE. SO., PELL CITY, ALABAMA 35125

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Ramblin' with Renegar
By: Ralph Renegar

Listening to the playback of the Panther-Thompson football game Saturday morning over WPHK Dale Collins and Bob Cornett doing the broadcast of the Friday night game which the Panthers won by the whopping score 36-6.

In the aftergame comments Bob was 'stealing some of my thunder' in memory lane. Bob recalled after the Ricky to Ronnie Adams' touchdown pass that some 22 years ago these twins' Dad, Waymond 'Shorty' Adams threw him a ball for the only touchdown pass of his football career.

It looks as though the Panther offense is coming around and in 1970 the Panther football team will be very good.

MEMORY LANE:
The old post office pen staffs

that laid on the desks near the inkwells . . . The old sulpher well at the Cook Springs Hotel and the odor from the water, smelling like a skunk had been through the neighborhood . . . The old transformers when they were first installed at the Avondale Mills and the ighting striking them everytime there was a cloud it seems . . . The old spittoons (cuspidor) that was filled with sawdust and I believe that one of these was attributed to the burning of the Hall Hill Schoolhouse . . . The old bell that hung in the First Methodist Church along with a couple of others in other churches which rang on Sunday morning . . . The old undergarments which were known as bloomers which the girls used to wear and the spats, celluloid collars, and straw hats were the men's attire . . . It's sure good that the ABC men are not looking for 'pot likker' makers at this time of year as the turnip green patches are being harvested and you just can't hardly cook turnip greens and not have 'pot likker' left over much to the delight of the toothless people in sopping cornbread.

Received a letter from Johnny Tuttle the other day and he sent me a set of pictures that he took of the Avondale School fire on March 24, 1923 and a picture taken in 1912 of the then C. C. Riley Manufacturing Company of Boston. It was taken from the mountain. It shows the mill school up real good. Also the gin and quite a bit of the Village which he will send me a print of in the near future I hope.

His brother, Howard, from Riverside, California has been visiting for a recent two-week trip. I don't remember Howard but I do remember Floyd, who lived here and left for California a long time ago.

Johnny said that he has all my 'Rambling' articles cut out. Thanks Johnny for this. I remember hearing someone say that you saved all of your Mill payroll envelopes so must have a 'slew' of those around your house also. Thanks, Johnny for the letter and pictures.

Alton Dorough and I went to the Big Bull the other day and we started talking about our five and six year old boyhood

memories. Alton recalled Fred Castle who lived on Popular Street and the Pair boys and I recalled the Muncher twins and the Strickland boys on Mulberry street.

Hilda Holladay and I were talking about a big gathering somewhere and Alton said that he bet no one in the crowd would walk a half a block to see a good chicken fight.

\* \* \* \*

A negro minister was preaching to his congregation one Sunday morning about going to heaven. He asked them each to stand up if they wanted to go. All stood immediately but one young boy. The preacher asked him didn't he want to go. The boy replied quickly, "Yes, but I thought you was getting up a trip for tonight."

\* \* \* \*

I didn't know that I was riding around with the world's champion the other day until Homer Smith told me of his feat at Sunset, Louisiana last January.

It seems that Homer won 11 of 12 cock fights in the short heel style with international competition. The keeper of the record told Homer that it had never been accomplished before.

\* \* \* \*

Was down at the Veterans' Hospital recently and went to the 5th floor south and asked if Stout was working there that day. They told me "No, he wasn't working there anymore and was my face red upon leaving the hospital and seeing pickets out front protesting the dismissal of Blevins Stout.

\* \* \* \*

Was at church Sunday and Father Bauler said that the tentative date for the completion of the Lady of the Lake Church would be Christmas Day.

Talked a little with James Brady, a Panther tackle. He is 6 ft. 5 in. tall and weighs well over 200 lbs. The only drawback to it is, he is a Senior

along with most of the Pell City linemen.

\* \* \* \*

The insurance man had his prospect on the hook and was proceeding briskly to the kill. "Now that amounts to a premium of \$6.90 per month on a straight life," he said. "That's what you wanted, wasn't it?"

"Well," said the customer wistfully, "I would like to fool around a bit on Saturday nights."

\* \* \* \*

Charles Abbott was elected Captain and Charles Robinson as alternate for the 1970 Quarterback Club at Monday night's get-together at the Rec. Hall.

It was Father and Son night to an overflow crowd to watch the highlights of the 1968 Alabama football season brought here by Malcolm Laney. He gave a short talk and brought the house down when he told of the farmer who was late getting home one Saturday and his wife

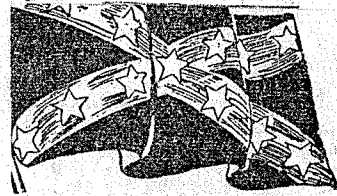
asked him why. He told her that when he got about half way home,, he picked up the preacher and his durn mules couldn't understanding a word of what he said after that.

Thanks to Edwin Holladay for supplying the entertainment of the meeting and will see you at the football banquet November 21 at the Holiday Inn.

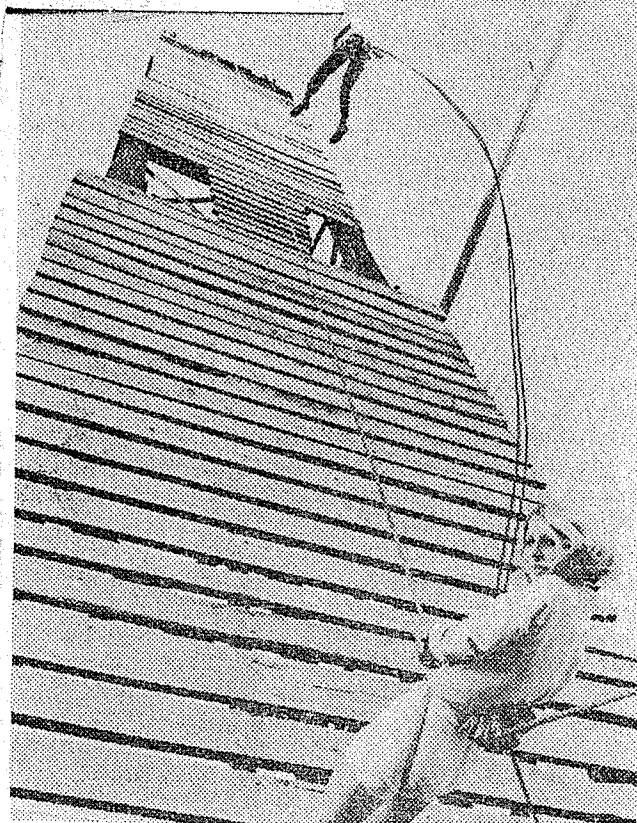
The 1969 lineman and back of the year will be announced at this banquet.

\* \* \* \*

Just say, "Skinny sent me," and keep those cards, letters, visits and telephone calls coming.



WEDNESDAY NOV. 13, 1969



# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

As my wife came out of Friendly Fendleys' place the other day I was walking up to meet her when a stranger (I thought) hailed her as a long time friend and turning and seeing me she seemed delighted. When she told us her name it didn't strike me until she told me she was my nurse at the Birmingham VA hospital.

Mrs. Haywood could readily understand my not recognizing her as she wasn't wearing white and was there waiting for Mrs. Eloise Balof whom is her friend also.

The Junior High football team defeated Odenville Thursday night 14 - 0. However, Hank, Helen and Stacey didn't get to see Clark play as my wife and I were going to my brother-in-law's house with them to see a whole 'passle' of Great Dane puppies which numbered in all, 13. They were born on the 13th of September and their eyes wasn't opened when we saw them.

These puppies are the rarest type of great dane known as Holoquin (I'm sure that the spelling of this word is incorrect). But dog fanciers will know what I mean.

I sure want to see them when they are about six weeks old and out of the dog house. My sister-in-law will be glad to get out of the dog house also as she has literally spent the day and night with these puppies feeding them from a baby bottle and a regular baby's formula.

Hank will get the first pick of these puppies and I know that Stacey will love him because

she was thrilled at seeing, the dogs' mother.

\* \* \* \*

Friday nights' football game was a thriller and all the old timers are celebrating Childersburg's close decision over Pell City, 13 - 0.

The game could have easily ended 7 - 7 a Childersburg was virtually handed their first touchdown on a bad snap from center giving them the ball on the 3 yard line.

James Dill broke away for about a 60 yard run and could have gone all the way.

\* \* \* \*

The homecoming parade was really clever. I understand that the Senior Class won the trophy for the best float. Miss Donna Deason was crowned Homecoming Queen during the half. The two runners up were also beautiful.

\* \* \* \*

Sunday afternoon Edwin Holaday asked me if I would like to take a ride above Riverside. Naturally, I jumped at the offer. We ride by the old Stine place and Logan Martin lake has really produced some beautiful spots along the Coosa.

We rode up behind Dr. Stewart's home and could see way down below Riverside for this hill.

Continuing on, we took the Lock 4 road and went out to Bats' Nest. Upon seeing Bats' Nest my mind flashed back to a least twenty-five years ago when Ed Brooks lived there. Edwin and I both racked our brain trying to remember Mr. Brooks' name.

Thanks for a nice afternoon Edwin.

\* \* \* \*

## THINGS:

Mrs. Barbara (Smith-Barber) spoke about how she enjoys this column to my wife at Hagan's drug store . . . Enjoyed the coffee break with Chick Moore on his patio. Mrs. Moore was busy canning pears so we let her stay

in the kitchen . . . Jeanette, who is my sister-in-law, and Horace's wife, the mother of Goozer (twintoes Renegar) Smith and Jimmie, James Calvin Renegar, is visiting Aunt Roxie Meehan and the girls this week . . . In last Saturday's "game of the week" the question was asked who got four hits in a four hit game.

The answer was Kid Elberfield in 1903. What old timer doesn't remember the antics of Elberfield when he was with Little Rock in the roaring twenties . . .

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of 'going to the dogs' my old crew manager of Atlanta gave me a ring the other day from one of the local business establishments and said that now he is selling dog collars, and other dog equipment. So the next time you buy a dog collar, think of H. E. Griffin.

\* \* \* \*

It seems that Judge Embry and I are going to have to find us another 'roosting place' as Robert Macon is moving his taxie, coal and gasoline business down to the Pure Oil station at 2020 Cogswell Avenue.

Joe 'Rooter' Warnix will go along Mr. Embry so don't worry about future trips, but we will have to get Reid Tucker to leave us a Birmingham News each afternoon.

\* \* \* \*

Can't think of any clever jokes this week so I will just have to settle as the Negro did in Talladega County when the Judge asked him if he was retired. He replied, "No, Judge, I'm just sleepy." (This joke courtesy of Chapell.)

\* \* \* \*

The Junior High football team will play at Alumni Stadium tonight. Talking with Johnny Truitt and Bill Howell at the Quarterback Club last Monday night and they are very pleased with this team. We will get to see them in action for the next five Thursday nights at home.

The big Panther team doesn't have it so easy as their next four Friday night games will be road trips starting tomorrow night at Columbiana. I do believe that you will see quite a bit of improvement with the Panthers and the Kittens.

\* \* \* \*

Just say, "Skinny sent me"

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Coaches Johnny Truitt and Bill Howell 'sided' the Duran Dragons on to a well coached Lincoln Junior High team and they ran 'rough shod' over the boys from Lincoln 28-12.

David Ledlow, Tim Coshatt, Grant Purdy and James Alverson through the middle over the tackles or around the ends for long gains behind the well versed line which is improving each week.

Clark Harmon wasn't called on to do much punting but when he did got off long booming ones which put Lincoln back on their 10 or 15 yard line.

Everyone in the stand was all smiles and saying to each other "wait til next year." I'm sure Pete Rich is 'drooling' over these young Dragons and some

of them are large enough to be playing with the Panthers this year.

The band and cheerleaders really sends the Dragons I believe.

Lincoln 'scatback' number 44 (I don't know his name but somebody from the Pell City coaching staff had better find out) as he will really bear watching. He got loose for a couple of touchdown runs in the third quarter before Johnny and Bill could plug a hole and get to him before he started turning outside. Once he passed the line of scrimmage he would and will go all the way.

See you next Thursday night when the Duran Dragons play in Alumni Stadium again.

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEMORY LANE:

Dr. Stitt 'riding' the officials in any sport that he was a spectator of . . . Remember the crowd that went up and down the sideline of a football game. I'll never forget up at Lincoln one day when someone yelled out "Cottonmillers" to the Pell City fans and Fred Deason retorted "Alright you cotton-

hoers." Amid many red faces this ended this type of ragging . . . The year Pell City was put on probation and fined a hundred or more dollars for beating up a football umpire. In order to pay the fine Higgenbotham allowed them to run a film and collected admission. Guess the title? You guessed it, "Kill the Umpire" . . . The time Pell City played Woodlawn in Birmingham and they had a cement sidewalk going across the field. Gad Starnes got his jaw broke in this game and if I'm not mistaken Malcolm Laney was playing for Woodlawn that year too . . . When Centre and Sewanee played football at Rickwood field: 'Blood' Miller hit Slim Carter at about the gate and a little riot almost broke out among the Alabama and Sewanee fans . . . We used to stay at the Belmont Hotel and when people would ask us where we were staying we pretended not remembering and saying it had a 'mont' on it, which we hoped led them to believe we were staying at the Redmont . . .

\* \* \* \* \*

Coming up Cogswell Avenue the other day when someone called out, "Hey Skinny, come here."

It was Johnny Graham in his Jewelry Store. We had a long chat and he showed me pictures of Laney and Jack Graham, both deceased and a whole 'slew' of pictures of nieces and nephews. I finally had to leave or hitchhike a ride home as my wife was waiting in the drug store for me.

\* \* \* \* \*

Speaking of bad breaks, the Panthers have had every kind in the book but a new one was added last Friday night when Bob Mann and his attempt to kick off, stumbled and fell on the ball. None of the old timers had ever heard or seen this happening before and I am just wondering if the rule book covers it.

Pell City did score on Columbiana which was the first time in seven consecutive games that they had been scored on.

Things will start 'jelling' for the Panthers one of these nights and when they do Pell City rivals had better watch out.

\* \* \* \* \*

THINGS:

When everyone in the city limits were supposed to work on day on the road so many time a year to pay road tax. This was gotten around by belonging to the Pell City Volunteer Fire Department. I was a member of this giant organization and the only thing that I remember about it was the T. Rennie and J. L. Ragland house fires . . . And holding fire wasn't the only thing that fire jars was used for . . . Do you remember when razor straps hung in almost everyone's kitchen with a mug and brush, a wash pan and the wooden bucket with a dipper in it were Pap tools to shave with. The razor strap came in handy for other things beside shaving.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Joyce Rhoton asked the other night to 'cover' Junior High football games this paper. I promised her I would so will have my 'storybook with me tonight when Duran Dragons play Columbia at Alumni Stadium.

\* \* \* \* \*

This column seem to be a ball minded this week, proper to get back in the groove week and talk to all us old timers.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just say, "Skinny sent it" and keep those cards and letters coming.

socks. And now we look at the blue jean boys and wonder where they got such ideas . . . Saw Lindsey 'Peanut' Smith the other day and he asked me where Horacé yas. He recalled Horace, Vernon Jones and himself working in the dye house for Uncle Tom Mungall . . . Charles Robinson passing out some cigars the other day and I knew it wasn't election year and he told me that his wife had just given birth to a 7¾ lb. boy at St. Vincents. As this paper goes to press, Father and Son are doing nicely . . . Pete Thompson rushing around doing Quarterback Club work and Willie Funderberg having a sheet in his barbership for reserved seats at Alumni Stadium

\*\*\*\*\*

Up at the Fatted Calf last Friday night after the football game I ran into L. N. Barber and Harvey Tollison. Thanks for the Budwiser, Harvey.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also thanks to Henry Mitchell's daughter for dedicating me a tune.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Who was the clown at the Ford place last week? He did a remarkable job and I just wonder if he was a local boy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hearing reports on radio, TV and in the newspaper about Korean and Vietnamese losing face at the peace talks and having seen some of the Korean and Vietnamese pictures on television and newspapers it wouldn't hurt a bit.

\*\*\*\*\*

Just say, "Skinny sent me" and keep those cards, letters, visits and telephone calls coming.

*Sept. 25, 1969*

## Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

A couple of trips to Ashville in one week was par for the course. I went over to Ashville last Tuesday night with Hank and Stacy Harmon to see Clark play football in the Junior High game. Clark did the punting for the Panther Cubs and he got off a couple of nice booming punts that set the Ashville team back quite a distance.

The final score 6-6 which left the Panthers winless for the season.

Friday night I went over with Fate, Mrs. Gossett and Greg to see the Panther 'Grownups' play the Ashville 'firstnine'. We

City?"

I am a newcomer myself. Just because I was born in Pell City and grew up here doesn't mean that I have lived here ALWAYS. I moved back in December 1968 which makes me a newcomer also.

Just kidding, Mr. or Mrs., whoever you are, I will mention at least two that you didn't have listed. They are R. M. Dorsett of Nationwide Ins. Co.; and Mr. Mizell of Diamond Jewelry Co. And the following ones you mentioned are:

Amos Hargett of Union State Bank; Mr. and Mrs. Brandli of Coosa Valley Tele. Co.; Art Smith of Coosa Valley Telephone Company; Ed Ash of Ash Real Estate; R. H. Ward of Martin Hospital; Robert Hall of Pell City Drug; Jack Hagan of Hagan Drug; Mr. Green of Dixie Fence & Construction Co.; Mr. Perry of Perry's Service Station; Mr. Baggett of Baggett Pontiac; Manager of Alabama Power Co. Manager of Liberty National

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Friday night I went over with Fate, Mrs. Gossett and Greg to see the Panther 'Grownups' play the Ashville 'firstnine'. We finally got a victory under our belts in a pouring rain which I hope will let up for the rest of the season.

The score was close, being 13 to 8. Seeing James Dill's long run for the second touchdown reminds me of a joke:

A man entered a horse in a race for eight year olds. The horse ran away from the field crossing the finish line by at least 25 lengths.

Stewards, track officials and everyone else rushed out to the horse's owner and asked why he had waited eight years to enter the horse. The man replied, "Heck, it took us seven years to catch him."

\*\*\*\*\*

Consarnil, I got another letter from 'sonny-moose' asking me "Why don't you write about some of the newcomers of Pell

City?"

I am a newcomer myself. Just because I was born in Pell City and grew up here doesn't mean that I have lived here ALWAYS. I moved back in December 1968 which makes me a newcomer also.

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\*\*\*\*\*

Had a long talk with my friend, Willard Patterson, the other day. Willard was telling me about Cousin Lon Bowman and he being in the hospital together.

It seems that one time Mr. Bowman was served a large irish potato and Willard getting a small one. Before Willard could complain to the dietitian Mr. Bowman settled it by telling him that "It was seniority my boy, seniority."

Mr. Bowman ran his slip and mule on Highway 78 back in the roaring twenties.

\*\*\*\*\*

## THINGS:

I remember our Junior and Senior Banquet when all of the boys wore red ties and red

Who was the clown at the Ford place last week? He did a remarkable job and I just wonder if he was a local boy.

\*\*\*\*\*

Hearing reports on radio, TV and in the newspaper about Korean and Vietnamese losing face at the peace talks and having seen some of the Korean and Vietnamese pictures on television and newspapers it wouldn't hurt a bit.

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Just say, "Skinny sent me" and keep those cards, letters, visits and telephone calls coming.



# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

School has hardly started when a teacher gave one of his students a spanking.

I am referring to Tom Calvin's football team defeating Pete Rich who was the line coach at Sylacauga several years.

Don't feel bad about it Pete as Frank Thomas ran into the same problem in his first year at Alabama. I believe that the Panthers will go on to roll up a successful year for you.

Over at Talladega last Saturday they had a reversal of form when the pupils gave a professor a spanking.

Maybe if Richard Petty and the rest of the PDA drivers had been wined and dined as Bill France was they would have been in the race last Sunday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dalton Vaughn invited me to go riding with him the other day. We went to places that I haven't seen in forty years or even thought about. The first stop was Huckleberry Pond. I'll never forget this pond because 'Sheik' Walker and I went duck hunting and I almost froze before the sun came up years ago.

Continuing the ride we passed by Arnold Springs which I'll never forget because of the buttermilk that sat in a spring house with big hunks of butter on it. I told Dalton that I thought Mrs. Eunice Pope lived there. Dalton not only confirmed this but told me three Pope brothers married three sisters.

On down the road Dalton pointed out his birthplace and

Thanks Mrs. Adams for the letter which I really appreciate.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FROM RAGS TO RICHES:

When 'Pied' Graham ran a lunch wagon through the mill and 'Gugaloos' were the means of exchange for the hamburgers and drinks that we bought from George Ray Franklin who ran the lunch wagon. For a dollar book we could get seventy-five cents cash. About the only thing that cash was good for in those days was at the bootlegger.

George Ray now owns the Dodge Agency here in Pell City.

This sounds like one of those Horatio Alger books but it actually happened. If you don't believe it, go by George Ray's Dodge Agency at 118 Comer Ave., North and see the Dodge boys.

\*\*\*\*\*

A couple of drunks drinking near a cemetery when they decided to go out and dig a grave. Going back into the bar and having a few more for the road one staggered out and fell into the grave. After a few minutes he began to hollow out "Help, help, I'm cold".

Finally the other drunk staggered out and heard him yelling that he was cold. The other drunk said, "You oughta be, you have done kicked all the dirt off of yourself."

\*\*\*\*\*

### BEG YOUR PARDON:

Ruth Franklin James is not the daughter of Pete but Will Franklin.

Five members of the 1925 class were left out of the recent column. They are Elbert Lowe; Joe and Alma Ingram; Red Hood and Agnes Dyke.

Mrs. Coshatt spanked my wrist because I said that the ladies' score in the Scotch two-some ran rather high. Sorry, Mrs. Coshatt, but I jumped the gun and left the course before you came in.

Pearlie Cook carried a group of young boys from the school down to about Eden or below to cut logs and try to make the road passable for a convoy from 'Camp' McClellan to Birmingham. Among those in this convoy was 2nd Lt. Dwight David Eisenhower. Hershell said that a book written by Gen. Eisenhower much later in life commented of road conditions in Alabama.

Highway 78 named the Bankhead Highway was the granddaddy of all highways built in the United States.

\*\*\*\*\*

Bud Preston is opening a mission in a building next to Love's Pontiac Building. He will take used clothing next Saturday from 8 til 5.

\*\*\*\*\*

Saw Frances Canada in the drug store last week talking to her baby sister, Kitty Jean. I haven't seen Frances in twenty years and didn't recognize her at first.

\*\*\*\*\*

A man sitting on a barstool having a drink and the more he drank the more realistic a grasshopper became on the adjoining stool. Finally he turned and asked the grasshopper if he knew there was a drink named for him. The grasshopper replied, "Do you mean that there's another grasshopper named Irving?"

\*\*\*\*\*

Did you realize that advertising is the lifeline to a newspaper. So the next time you buy something as advertised in this newspaper, just say "Skinny sent me." And keep those cards, letters, telephone calls and visits coming.

Mrs. Doris Dunaway.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Presley and Joe Golden of Birmingham visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles Golden over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Shannon of Birmingham and Mrs. Sue Love visited Mrs. T. R. Akeidge, Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Bowman visited Mr. and Mrs. Preston Spruiell, Jr., Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Drummonds, Pass Christian, Mississippi came to visit Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Croft and pick up their children, Frankie Lynn and Jeffery Drummonds, over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Ayres visited Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ayres and Mrs. Jean Acton of the Cahaba Community in Birmingham, Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde O'Barr visited Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Phillips, Ray and Jeffrey of Sylacauga, Sunday.

Suzanne Ledlow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ledlow returned to Jacksonville Sunday. She attends Jacksonville State University.

Mrs. Alan Terry and daughters, Nysa, Janet and Tina of Anniston spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barber vis-

**ST. CLAIR NEWS-AEGIS, PELL CITY, ALABAMA**

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ited Mr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald Yarbrough of Ashville, Sunday.

Mrs. Mollie Ball and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Bynam attended the homecoming Sunday, at the Church of God in Lincoln.

Mrs. Becky Macon spent the weekend with Mrs. Susie Tate of Cropwell.

Mrs. Becky Macons grandson, James O. Gowers, left Sunday night for a tour of duty in Viet Nam.

Cynthia Morrison left Wed- nesday for Hawaii for a weeks visit with her husband Frank, who is on leave from duty in Viet Nam.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bowman of Ragland visited Fannie Bow- man and Mr. and Mrs. Bertis Phillips, Sunday night.

Rev. Marlin Hodgens and family of Chelsea visited Satur- day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Alldredge.

100 Extra PLAID STAMPS  
WITH THIS COUPON AND PURCHASE OF \$7.50 OR MORE  
One Coupon Per Customer  
Coupon expires Sat., Sept. 20

PARKER WHITE REGULAR SANDWICH BUTTERMILK  
**READ**  
1 1/2 LB. LOAVES  
**79<sup>c</sup>**

Maybe if Richard Petty and the rest of the PDA drivers had been wined and dined as Bill France was they would have been in the race last Sunday.

\* \* \* \*

Dalton Vaughn invited me to go riding with him the other day. We went to places that I haven't seen in forty years or even thought about. The first stop was Huckleberry Pond. I'll never forget this pond because 'Sheik' Walker and I went duck hunting and I almost froze before the sun came up years ago.

Continuing the ride we passed by Arnold Springs which I'll never forget because of the buttermilk that sat in a spring house with big hunks of butter in it. I told Dalton that I thought Mrs. Eunice Pope lived there. Dalton not only confirmed that but told me three Pope brothers married three sisters.

On down the road Dalton pointed out his birthplace and a farm he owns there now.

Thanks for a pleasant afternoon Dalton.

\* \* \* \*

Received a letter from Mrs. Sid (Learlie) Adams and she seems to be enjoying the column also. She said I have another fan who is her granddaughter, Sarah (Carlisle) Sedgwick, who lives in New Jersey. I'll say, you do have a big family, Mrs. Adams, with '68 in all.

I'm sure glad that you're retired and a more deserving soul I have never heard of.

She went to work in 1903 and worked til 1956. I'll hastily explain Mrs. Adams that this is not as old as some people might think as the child labor law wasn't in effect then.

I don't believe I've ever mentioned Sid playing baseball. He was one of the best clutch hitters and out fielder that I have ever seen. Do you remember his nickname? It was 'Sloppy' but I'll assure you that his baseball playing never gave him this name.

I didn't even think that anyone even remembered by 'cheerleading days' when Robert and Waymend were playing football. I'll forget it if you will.

having a few more for the road one staggered out and fell into the grave. After a few minutes he began to hallow out "Help, help, I'm cold".

Finally the other drunk staggered out and heard him yelling that he was cold. The other drunk said, "You oughta be, you have done kicked all the dirt off of yourself."

\* \* \* \*

#### BEG YOUR PARDON:

Ruth Franklin James is not the daughter of Pete but Will Franklin.

Five members of the 1925 class were left out of the recent column. They are Elbert Lowe; Joe and Alma Ingram; Red Hood and Agnes Dyke.

Mrs. Coshatt spanked my wrist because I said that the ladies' score in the Scotch two-some ran rather high. Sorry, Mrs. Coshatt, but I jumped the gun and left the course before you came in.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Margaret (Goodgame) Fleming, of the Probate Judge's office, told me she enjoyed the column.

At the football game last Friday night Jimmy Hardwick and Bill Purdy told me they enjoyed it too.

Sammy (Mr.) Graham told my wife he reads the column and enjoys it too. Thanks Sammy and we missed you also.

\* \* \* \*

Watching the bands at half time going through their manuevers I do believe that the local high school band plays better music, tone wise, then the visiting bands.

This reminds me of a game that I saw at county stadium between Holt and Tuscaloosa County High. The band lined up and it was announced that they would now play The Alma Mater and everyone stood up silent when a drunk in the top of the stadium yelled out, "Play it pretty Leon".

\* \* \* \*

Ran into Hershell Love the other day and we started discussing the condition of the road from here to Birmingham.

He told me that Professor

\* \* \* \*  
A man sitting on a barstool having a drink and the more he drank the more realistic a grasshopper became on the adjoining stool. Finally he turned and asked the grasshopper if he knew there was a drink named for him. The grasshopper replied, "Do you mean that there is another grasshopper named Irving?"

\* \* \* \*

Did you realize that advertising is the lifeline to a newspaper. So the next time you buy something as advertised in this newspaper, just say "Skinny sent me." And keep those cards, letters, telephone calls and visits coming.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ledlow returned to Jacksonville Sunday. She attends Jacksonville State University.

Mrs. Alan Terry and daughters, Nysa, Janet and Tina of Anniston spent the weekend with Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Jones.  
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barber vis-

Sept 4, 1969

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Received a letter from Mrs. Winston Lovell who has been reminiscing of her senior class of 1925 and she wants to have a class reunion also. She lists the names of the '25 senior class which is:

Lucille Pope, Willine Masters, Maude Willingham, Mildred Balch, Mary Miller, Gladys Debus, Naomi Smith, Inez Cook, Ruth Zackie, Sara Colominger, Sara Fowler, Violette Truitt, Dot Evans, Eula Mae Cathy, Oberra Lee, Jessie Mathis, John R. Carreker, Jr., Norman Lovell, Durward Lovell; Winston Lovell, Alpha H. Walker, Elbert L. Watson, Hurshell Love, Herbert Love, Govan Florida, Ed Pearson, Joe Tucker and Harmon Gray.

She wants anyone who is interested in this to contact her at P. O. Box 696, Florence, Alabama.

Jessie since you have been reading the column so very much, you know I have been trying to get the senior class of 1926 to get together.

I believe that the answer to all of the old grads' would be attend the homecoming game Childersburg September 26. We might be able to work out a box lunch to be served by one of the orgs at the high school.



homecoming at this game.

You and Winston think this over and contact Naomi Smith; Ruby Zackie; Oberra (Lee) Gray and Harmon Gray; Her-shell and Herbert Love and Norman Lovell still live around Pell City.

Hope that we can get together in the near future. Thanks for the letter and hope that you get some mail from some of your ol. classmates.

### THINGS:

Do you remember the game where the umpires didn't show up and the long wait that the spectators had waiting for them to come from Gadsden . . . Got tired and a little hot watching the football practice the other afternoon so I strolled over and watched the majorettes going through their paces. They are prettier and I like them very much . . . Mrs. Adelle Parker told me that she saw her name in the column and seemed very pleased . . .

Had lunch down at Bud's Grill the other day and asked Lucille for the 'oil-room special'. She was too busy to fool with me so I ordered a straight dinner from Pat.

Ossie Lawley came in while John Watson and I were discussing the Pell City football team.

Ossie told me that his Mother enjoyed the column and read it each week. Thanks Mrs. Law-

ley, and I'll grab you a hand full of leaves at the next curve Ossie.

Up at the Fatted Calf the other night when Bill France visited. I think he had to bend over to get through the door. He must be 6' 7" or 6' 8".

A night or two later my wife and I visited Mrs. Snider in her new dream house.

Went to Dell's Hideaway and a pretty waitress came to the table. Something about her looked familiar so I asked her name. When she told me that it was Dixie Hamil I couldn't believe it as the last time I saw her she was just learning to walk. My, how time flies.

Blondell and Fred have a nice place.

### FOOTBALL PRACTICE SIDELIGHTS:

The other afternoon under the shade of a tree we were watching coaches Rich, Mason and Watson putting the squad through a drill and Sam Cornett told one on Rev. Dan Kilgroe.

He said that a man couldn't sleep so he went to a doctor and he gave him quite a few sleeping tablets. In a couple of days the man returned to the doctor and told him he still couldn't sleep. The doctor then asked him, "If he woke up grouchy". The man said, "No, I just let her lie there and sleep."

The other half of the Goldust Twins, Will Henry Burke, came

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

At the conclusion of the Fourth of July Tom Cat Choir picnic someone suggested a Labor Day celebration. This threw the meeting into a revolt for as close to labor as most of the members had been was when their wives were having babies. One member commented "I have been living nigh on to forty years without laboring and I'll be durned if I start it now."

The meeting was gavelled to order by bumping two of the members' heads together. It was then explained to them that Labor Day was an off day for every working man. It was then grudgingly motioned and seconded that the meeting be held at the mouth of Dye Branch and the uniforms of the day will be Liberty Overalls.

### THINGS:

John Brewster playing a slot-machine . . . Repeating something a big liar said you would have to "set everybody up . . ." The old domino games and a golden grain tobacco sack hanging on a nail. And brother when you made a cigarette out of it you'd better be careful not to spill any out of it or you would

anger everyone in the house . . . The asofetida bags that hung around a child's neck to ward off colds, chills, fever and everything in the book I think . . . Pluto water was a laxative that people drank after getting over a bender. . .

In the army breakfast consisted of powdered eggs, hot cakes and chipped beef which was known as S.O.S. I thought I'd had it all until I mounted a troop ship & the navy handling the breakfast menu, added baked beans.

### MEMORY LANE:

When Bo Brindley and Pop Garrett played baseball here and Pop lived on Popular Street. They were both from Howard College (Samford).

Broadus Connatser played first base and went on to become a major league star. His name appears in the players' list as Bruce Cannatser. He changed from Broadus to Bruce when he was playing with the New Orleans Pelicans of the old Southern League. The reason I remember these vital statistics is that he stayed at our home during the summer months from the University of Alabama. He spent the entire summer work days painting a little picket fence in front of the hospital. I don't believe it was the hospital that attracted him but a pretty little nurse . . . A. T. Winkler playing right field and First base could really hit a ball. Wink played semi-pro ball

up in the Huntsville area before coming to Pell City . . .

Down at the golf course the other day and ran into Don Bain and Wasson 'Little Snow' Willingham. I recognized Don Bain but didn't Little Snow. I haven't seen either one in about twenty years but both are still looking healthy and spry.

Don used to court Ida Sue a long time ago. I remember seeing him pass the house on the way to Mrs. Houston's for his dates.

I met up with Hank Harmon the other day and he invited me to ride around the course in his 'go-cart' which I quickly accepted. Getting back to the clubhouse he asked me if I would like to take a ride in his plane over the race track. And in a jiffy we were off to the Pell City Airport with a youngster to take a spin. We flew over the track and could see a car speeding around it, testing tires. Then over to Talladega, back to Logan Martin Dam and too soon we were back on the ground. It may have seemed too soon for me but I don't think it was us. I think he was a little shaky for the youngster that went with since it was his first plane trip.

Kindly glad that I sold Hank those United Security Shares now. Thanks for a pleasant afternoon Hank.

A few days later Wasson Harmon asked me to go for a ride. He and John Ewing sat

in the front seat and Mac along with Tony (he is Was mascot) and I sat in the and we went for a tour of lake front.

We called on Gaines Willson who has a large spread the lake front along with Goodgame Trailer Park.

There must be something the neighborhood of 15,000 ple living from Riverside to Logan Martin Dam now.

September 5 will be homecoming for Pete Rich and Comp when he plays Fairfield at stadium here.

Pete has a large group and Bill Howell pointed out me that Will Henry Burke and Sam Cornett were out watch practice again. They both like the spirit of the squad like Will Glover's in his 'h day'.

Pete reminds me very much of Bill Harris who coached him in his high school days.

Pete has as his assistant James Mason, who was head coach at Auburn High School. It seems that when they were both playing at Southern Mississippi they agreed to get together and coach.

Pete comes from Sylacaug High where he was assistant coach.

Don't have the rest of the Pell City schedule handy but will run it in this column as soon as I do.

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Williams tee off and his drive carried far down the fairway. It didn't seem as far as the last time I saw him drive, however, thinking of the last time I saw him drive was twenty years ago when he was state champion and either southern champion or runner-up in driving. He gave a demonstration when Patty Berg played an exhibition tournament at the Tuscaloosa Country Club.

Talking to Edwin Holladay about Mr. Williams' driving ability Edwin told me that you should have seen him in 1945.

He is here building the eighteen hole golf course at the Pine Harbor Marina resort.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Keep those cards, letters and telephone calls coming.

# Ramblin'

with

# Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

I don't know how Wiggins, Mississippi is getting along for publicity today since Dizzy Dean was taken from the game of the week on television.

However, I do know that about 23 million other viewers must have been getting tired of Dizzy 'sluding' into second base and hearing him sing the Wash Cannon Ball as I was.

Baseball is better off for announcers who do not deliberately butcher the English language as Dizzy was doing.

Dizzy had the broadcast aimed for country-music lovers.

It's a pleasure now to me to hear guys like Kirt Gowdy, Tony Kuebel and others broadcast slanted toward the baseball loving public.

\* \* \* \*

## THINGS

When a tricycle was called a velocipede in the catalog of my youthful days . . . Seaboard Smith drinking coffee in the cafe at about 5 a.m. each morning . . . People advertising half quart sizes: To me a half quart is a pint and doesn't make it anymore-salable . . . Doc Hubbard, Hoke Rowan, and John Sutherlin being the first druggist that I can recall before J. H. Stokes.

\* \* \* \*

If you're at the golf course, be careful that you do not get a handkerchief. Pasted on the sandwich menu is a blue dot. I started to order one the other day and the person that waited on me reached down to get a handkerchief. I quickly told him that I was ordering a sandwich . . . The little boy went out and came back and told me that he had just gotten a drink of water out of the sink. This is the first time I had heard a drinking fountain called a sink in a long time . . .

\* \* \* \*

## OLD HOME WEEK

The other day standing in

John told him to turn over and I'll be burned if he didn't.

\* \* \* \*

Saw Country Boy Eddie in the drug store the other day and he wasn't doing commercials but he did say 'Hang in there' - several times.

Tom York played golf out on our course not too long ago.

I received a letter from a real estate company the other day trying to sell me some lakefront property they said that Bear Bryant owned some of this property.

So you see that the lakefront area is bringing in some real big names.

\* \* \* \*

Had a long chat with Dalton Ray the other day while he was with James Bukacek. He told me that he read the column every week and enjoyed it. Dalton is now at Ashland, Alabama.

We started discussing Clay County and Clairmont Springs in particular. Telling me that the old dance pavillion and swimming pool are still being used.

He is in some way related to the Jacksons. The Jacksons were running Clairmont Springs in 1924 and still are.

\* \* \* \*

## MEMORY LANE:

Buster Brown shoes and every little boy to about the age of two wore what was called A Buster Brown haircut. I think they are still using the picture along with the old phonograph horn with the bulldog in front advertising his masters' voice . . . Hagan Drug Store having signs nailed up all over Talladega and Clay County advertising 'Tom being ugly but honest' . . . Upchurch Drug Co. at Clanton, Alabama saturating that part of Alabama as Rock City does Chattanooga . . . The old lawnmowers then were manually operated . . . The good cooking that went on at Bat's Nest on the Coosa.

\* \* \* \*

Spent a pleasant Saturday afternoon at the golf course. Seeing the young boys of scout age playing golf was a real pleasure.

Hank and Helen brought Freida down for a round of golf after the store closed.

\* \* \* \*

All roads will lead to Pell City the weekend of the 13th and 14th to witness the Talla-

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\* \* \* \*

#### OLD HOME WEEK

The other day standing in front of the Pell City Grocery Store I ran into Lester Dickey and Curt Brazier and they told me that they enjoyed the column.

While we were talking, Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ (Kennedy- Black asked me who the boy was that won the Major Bowes national contest for whistling. I quickly told her that it was Richard (Dick) Gunthorpe.

This had slipped my mind in all my memory lane writing. Dick cannot only imitate birds but can carry a tune as well. He went on the road with one of the Major Bowes group. He won first prize on the night time show when Major Bowes was still living. It is now known as Ted Mack's Amateur Hour. And he still says, "Around and around she goes" for the opening of the show which must be up in the thousands by now.

I enjoy going up town and meeting friends like these.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. James (Hesterly) Willingham called me the other day that she read and enjoyed the column.

She wanted some help from anyone who has a picture of Renfro Willingham. She told me that she didn't have a picture for her two sons of their grandfather.

She said though in Mr. Willingham's effects that there was a partial history of Eden. One item that she recalls is the by-laws for city street tax to be worked out manually each year.

\* \* \* \*

John Levins was the barber in the bathhouse. One day a customer got a shave and after completing the shave, John asked him if he wanted his neck shaved. The man said,

cutting that part of Alabama as Rock City does Chattanooga . . . The old lawnmowers then were manually operated . . . The good cooking that went on at Bat's Nest on the Coosa.

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\* \* \* \*

All roads will lead to Pell City the weekend of the 13th and 14th to witness the Talladega 500. I think I'll go in the opposite direction to miss the crowd that will be here.

\* \* \* \*

Keep those cards letters and telephone calls coming.



August 7, 1969

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Rambling some more looking for an old Elson's Fifth Grade Reader which I failed to find but I did run across an old Minstrel Gags and men's jokes book which must have been published in about 1915.

I will give you a couple of examples of the wit of that day's time which are published in this book.

Mrs. Cohen — "I don't know what to do with Jakie, he always keeps me awake talking in his sleep."

Mr. Cohen (laconically) — "tie his hands."

And another 'gasser' was "I can't keep visitors from coming up", said William Winkle, dejectedly. "When I say you're out they won't believe me. They all say they must see you."

Well, put them off somehow," said the Editor, with a worried look. "Whatever they say you just tell them, 'That's what they all say! Be firm. See!'"

Yes, sir."

That afternoon, a lady called. She had hard features and an acid expression, and she de-

manded to see the Editor at once.

"Impossible", said William.

"But I'm his wife, persisted the lady.

"That's what they all say", said the boy.

With humor like being circulated, it's no wonder that Al G. Fields marches in B'ham with a big brass band leading it, playing trombone smears up to the Temple Theatre couldn't keep it alive.

The advertising in the book gives Jesse James, with the only pictures of Jessie, and his family in existence bought the whopping price of twenty-five cents postpaid. The other books and magazines sold for twelve cents to be paid out in one and two cent stamps.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ran into Raymond Springer and his wife the other day on their way to renewing their subscription to this paper. Both said they read the column and really enjoyed it.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Sue Barber also told me she enjoyed the column.

\*\*\*\*\*

The first beer that I ever drank (outside of near beer) I was treated to at Greenwood Cafe in Birmingham. It was 3.2 beer bought for me by Julius Mitnick.

Do you remember when Greenwood jumped the gun and started selling beer before the

state was legally wet? It was good, however, and I thoroughly enjoyed the ride into B'ham with Julius and Mr. Embry

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMORY LANE:

The crowd of people who went to Talladega to see Fincher hang . . . The old fish trap below Stemley Bridge and the number of people who sold fish, cooked on the bank . . . The old Chatauga tent that stood on the Courthouse Square for one week each year. And the show tent making it's yearly appearance to Pell City. And 'down east' was one of the tearjerkers . . . The old Boob Bransfield Show that made a weekly appearance at the Avondale School . . . Higgenbotham bingo games on Saturday night and the first winner was General Barber . . . When nearly every grocery store had a stalk of bananas hanging in it. I don't remember the price of them but I do remember spending nearly every dime I earned or was given to buy them with . . . When a man would come around with a Shetland pony to make pictures with . . . When every house had a trunk in it and a big wardrobe . . . Doc Stone being the dentist before Dr. Hixon.

\*\*\*\*\*

Received a note from another old classmate who is anxious for a 1926 reunion also. It is Irene (Carreker) Brindley who lives up on Sand Mountain and I envy her for the "tomato

ground of Eden. The Pat are one of the allied frth and, Willard, do you know Tabitha Brewer Ginn and Ginn probably drank water of the same creek because the record after they were married they moved to Manchester (one member of the family ser Winchester) Tennessee on Duck River. My grandfather and any record of came from Franklin County, Tennessee where Winchester, Manchester and the Duck River are located.

The Duck River at Winchester was no wider than Wolf Creek, and I have been seining in this River when I was a very small boy with my Daddy. I am browsing through this record book and from time to time will come up with more gems like this.

come up with some more famous 20 of '26. I don't think you will have too much trouble recognizing our former classmates; but, if you do, Miss Duke or Miss Johnston will straighten you out. Plan on inviting these two old teachers of ours to the reunion with us.

The girls of our class have survived better than the boys, as "Sheik" Walker, Alpha Walker and I are the only living members of this class. Glad to hear from you and hope to see you at a reunion in the near future.

\* \* \* \*

#### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

I saw Yam Yaryan steal second base . . . Being one of the few Alabamians who didn't see the Dizzy Dean — Ray Caldwell pitching duel . . . Little Leaguers changing pitchers from all positions. They must all warm up before the game starts . . . Last week's Bronco Tournament held here at Meehan Field was a must on my schedule. That is, until the Allstar Game came on television.

\* \* \* \*

Renfroe Willingham attending a tent revival on the Court House Square and after the evangelist had opened the sermon, he began to tell of his educational background. He said he was in Athens, Greece and learned Greek in three months. Renfroe patted the boys around him and said "fellows, let's go, he's done told a dam lie. I went to Howard (Samford) College two years and I still can't speak Greek."

\* \* \* \*

Ruth James told Wesson Harmon that she wasn't fat that she was just broad.

There is no doubt of Ruth James' Daddy being Pete Franklin because she is the "spitting image" of him.

\* \* \* \*

Going through the records of the Brewer, Douglas, Ginn, Presley, and allied families which I borrowed from Willard Patterson to get a better back-

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Rambling through my mail I ran across a letter which must now be over a year old that had gotten misplaced when I was in the hospital last year. It is from Col. Edward R. P. Pearson of Arlington, Va. He enclosed a check in it for a year's subscription to the St. Clair News-Aegis which I am returning to him with a letter of apology for this long lost letter.

Am glad that you were enjoying the column in the paper and remailing it to friends and kinsmen. Hope that this lost letter didn't decrease your interest in Pell City and the past things I am writing about.

Thanks for the offer to visit the Cherry Blossom Festival of April 1968 and appreciate your offer for free food and lodging.

The whole letter is interesting and you gave me plenty of food for thought.

Am going to talk to Laura Kate Gray about the DAR Library that you spoke of about the 1820 census of St. Clair County. Am sure she will be interested in this as Laura Kate is Librarian for the County.

The people you speak of communicating with, I know Anna Ekwurzel, McLaine Tilton, Howard Jones, and Miss Mary Mays.

Edward, Miss Mays bought Wasson Harmon's old home and plans to move back to Pell City. Why don't you come on in and get your feet wet in the

Coosa River again and move back with us. Logan Martin Lake has made Pell City one of the resort areas of the South.

A new race track is nearing completion and the first 500 mile race will be ran September 14. Look for around 200,000 people here that weekend.

\* \* \* \*

Was up at the Fatted Calf the other Friday night and met Mrs. Allen Weaver who told me she read the column and enjoyed it.

James D. (body shop) Richey must have been grounded as he was sitting down talking rather than strolling.

Those versatile Cornett boys are really a surprise to me. Bob sings with the band and I believe his theme song is 'Bill Bailey'. Bill taught dancing at Arthur Murray's. Bill is the guy who came up with a line. He didn't know the guy drank until he saw him sober one day.

\* \* \* \*

Inflation is on us because our grandson put a tooth under a pillow and the good fairy left him thirty cents. I suppose that having their halos cleaned has increased in price.

He came up with a good one that I had never thought of or heard anyone else speak of. His grandmother was reading him a story and came to the line "the little boy cried out", his ears perked up and he asked her what the little boy was crying about. She couldn't answer, neither could I.

Isn't it amazing what five year olds do and say now. However, it seems that toy guns are still first on their list.

\* \* \* \*

### MEMORY LANE:

Jim Carlisle and Uncle John being the two bass horn players in the band. Every picture that was made of the band in those days had Mr. Mungall with a high top beaver hat as the drum major . . . The training that I got marching in the band really came in handy when I

one of my chores . . . Uncle Tom Windsor checking cloth in the weaverroom and Mamma stamping tickets to go on cloth. This was another one of our chores as she would bring the warp number home with her and Horace would stamp the loom number and I would stamp the quality number of the cloth.

\* \* \* \*

Bibb Champion was telling me the other day about Dr. Claude Martin's way of pulling teeth before novacaine became in to being. He would have Big John Harris to sit in their laps and hold them down.

\* \* \* \*

One of the reasons I wouldn't want to be a big shot would be that I'd have to wear a coat and tie out in this 95 degree weather.

I felt a little sorry for Mr. Nixon on the Hornet watching the splashdown of the Astronauts where the water temperature was 80 degrees so it must have been a cool 100 degrees from where he was watching.

\* \* \* \*

It's surprising how little the average person knew about the moon until the recent trip. I would say that ten per cent of the people didn't know where the moonlight came from.

\* \* \* \*

The Bronco League is having a tournament here this week.

I attended the opening last Monday night and 'shades of Lefty Walker' I've never seen a bigger audience. The difference in this audience was that there was 500 umpires in the stands of Meehan Field from surrounding areas.

The first game was won by Oxford over Anniston and I do believe that this was the biggest 'foreign' audience that I had ever seen here.

The tournament will go on all this week and hope to see you at one of the games.

The proudest lady in the audience was the Mother of the little twelve year old hitting a home-

ospital last year.  
Edward R. P.  
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and Miss Mary

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you come on  
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James D. (body shop) Richey  
must have been grounded as he  
was sitting down talking rather  
than strolling.

Those versatile Cornett boys  
are really a surprise to me.  
Bob sings with the band and  
I believe his theme song is  
'Bill Bailey'. Bill taught danc-  
ing at Arthur Murray's. Bill is  
the guy who came up with a  
line. He didn't know the guy  
drank until he saw him sober  
one day.

Inflation is on us because our  
grandson put a tooth under a  
pillow and the good fairy left  
him thirty cents. I suppose that  
having their halos cleaned has  
increased in price.

He came up with a good one  
that I had never thought of or  
heard anyone else speak of. His  
grandmother was reading him  
a story and came to the line  
"the little boy cried out", his  
ears perked up and he asked  
her what the little boy was cry-  
ing about. She couldn't answer,  
neither could I.

Isn't it amazing what five  
year olds do and say now. How-  
ever, it seems that toy guns are  
still first on their list.

#### MEMORY LANE:

Jim Carlisle and Uncle John  
being the two bass horn players  
in the band. Every picture that  
was made of the band in those  
days had Mr. Mungall with a  
high top beaver hat as the  
drum major . . . The training  
that I got marching in the band  
really came in handy when I  
went into the army. I have  
seen drill sargeants almost pull  
their hair out trying to teach  
a guy to start out on his left  
foot . . . The old kerosene  
lamps that lighted the home  
and cleaning the chimney was

teeth before novacaine became  
in to being. He would have  
Big John Harris to sit in their  
laps and hold them down.

One of the reasons I wouldn't  
want to be a big shot would be  
that I'd have to wear a coat  
and tie out in this 95 degree  
weather.

I felt a little sorry for Mr.  
Nixon on the Hornet watching  
the splashdown of the Astro-  
nauts where the water tempera-  
ture was 80 degrees so it must  
have been a cool 100 degrees  
from where he was watching.

It's surprising how little the  
average person knew about the  
moon until the recent trip. I  
would say that ten per cent  
of the people didn't know where  
the moonlight came from.

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at one of the games.

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ence was the Mother of the little  
twelve year old hitting a home-  
run.

Tiny Windsor would have a  
fit if he could see the little boys  
chasing the foul balls and go-  
ing up to the concession stand  
and getting a dime each for  
them. Like Tiny, they nevr

lose a ball.

Keep those cards, letters,  
telephone calls and visits com-  
ing.

7-24-69

**Ramblin'**  
with  
**Renegar**  
By: Ralph Renegar

I have been watching television for the past thirty hours of the moon-landing of two of our Astronauts.

They went to get samples of old rocks and junk when for twelve dollars I could have gone

and got them a gallon of moonshine within five miles of Pell City and I would assure you that after two big drinks of it you would be able to glide around as one of the Astronauts was doing in a kangaroo hop.

Seriously this was the greatest feat ever observed by a half a billion people all over the world.

It seems that nuclear power and spaceships will predominate the last part of this century.

So if this column seems fuzzy and short to you this week, you can blame it on the moonshiners.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am tempted to give Bob Hall another picture frame because Mary Ruth didn't introduce me to Evelyn Pearson(?) on her recent visit here to Pell City.

\*\*\*\*\*

Do you remember when Minnie and Rose Gary came to Pell City from Germany and fitted right in with our school system and learned to speak English. The happiest man in Pell City was Tony Gary, their father, when Mrs. Gary and the two children arrived on the sacrifice on his part.

\*\*\*\*\*

Saw Clara Martin the other day and she didn't recognize me until my name was called out of a list I had signed. Mrs. Clara was Fred 'Spew Jones' banker as long she ran the store.

\*\*\*\*\*

I have recently been elected Historian for the American Legion. Will appreciate any help that you can give me pertaining to the history of the American Legion here in Pell City.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEMORY LANE:**

Elbert Lowe and the all-day singings with dinner on the ground on the old bridge which divided St. Clair & Shelby County. I remember attending one with him when we were both sophomores in high school. . . The brickbat tied on a string that Bibb Champion and some of his buddies used to aggravate a man running a cafe near the depot . . . 'Dude' Deason being a policeman . . . Austin Stone being a regular customer of Jack DeGarris . . . Billy Wilingham and his funeral director assistants . . . Building the water tower and seeing which one would be the fastest getting off at quitting time . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

Sorry to hear of Louise Zachero's illness. Louise is a faithful reader of this column and also a contributor to it.

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Sorry to hear of Louise Zachero's illness. Louise is a faithful reader of this column and also a contributor to it.

\*\*\*\*

ODD SAYINGS:

Sleep like a log; quite as a mouse; quick as a wink; pretty as a picture; hard as a rock; quick as lightning and like peaches and cream.

\*\*\*\*

Speaking of moonshine awhile ago Paul Turner is selling keys which are not charred. All he wants you to do is keep money in the doggone things.

\*\*\*\*

Keep these cards, letters, visits and telephone calls coming in.

lar, our dog, is a little saw but our grandson was glad to get him back home. But after Whitney got home he had a Mamma cat and three kittens to share his pleasures with.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Bobbie Stevens told me that Betty came to visit her from Huntsville on the Fourth and brought along her grandson who caused so much commotion in the hospital when he was born. Betty's indical twin sister, Barbara, visited her and was in the hall when Betty's doctor saw her. Not knowing Betty had a twin the doctor got excited, thinking Betty had got dressed, ready to go home without his permission.

#### THE FAMOUS DINNER PLACES:

Purefoy Hotel, where you could get all you wanted to eat for fifty cents . . . Bert Stone with three vegetables, a meat, a dessert and drink for twenty-five cents . . . National Lunch Room in Jacksonville, Florida with at least four of them located on Bay Street . . . Gluck's Cafeteria in New Orleans . . . Tubby Walton in Atlanta (where most everyone getting out of the Federal Penitentiary would pay him at least one visit) as he use to umpire baseball games there . . . The Chili Parlor that stood near the NC & STL depot Chattanooga, Tenn., Man, I can still taste that chili . . . Mr. Power's hot-dog stand in Leeds, Alabama with a sawdust floor . . . Shorty Williams (back younder) . . . Martin's Po-Boy sandwich. For a dime you could really get filled up. Back in those days a dime was real scarce . . . The new King Hotel in Piedmont which was a pitch til you win. Something like the

named, Walter Carter, and the saying went that he had as much as Carter had pills . . . The old kitchen and the four-eyed stove with two warming closets, usually had a couple of flat irons on it, getting warm for some pressing while Mamma was doing the cooking. This old stove also contained a hot water boiler which was dipped dry on Saturday night for the weekly night bath in the number two tub.

\* \* \* \*

Rev. W. J. Bryan made good his 90th birthday threat. This feat was seen by Virgil Compton and Preston Spruiell. Brother Bryant rode a bicycle down Cogswell Avenue on his 90th birthday. Just hope that I can walk to the table fire years from now makes Mr. Bryan's feet all the more outstanding. To me at least.

\* \* \* \*

Please do keep those cards, letters, visits, and telephone calls coming folks.

July 17, 1969

## Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Reading about Bob Cornett's recent trip to New Orleans with Sonny Martin and visiting The Chart Room, having a corned beef sandwich reminds me of the Tom Cat Choir's Fourth of July celebration and the 'iron skillet' being awarded for the best covered dish to Dalton Vaughn pertaining to the not-too-well-known vegetable, called chard. His dish also contained banana peppers.

I drug with some okra and tomatoes which Dalton had given me from his widely assorted garden. Everybody seemed to enjoy the chard and banana peppers more than they did the other dishes which were served.

Dalton didn't even know I

was back in Pell City until his sister-in-law, Mrs. Beulah Harris and his wife were discussing this column. He had not read it and I was quite shocked. You know it's here now Dalton so keep reading it.

\* \* \* \*

Had a telephone call the other day from Ira Callahan who gave me the name of the first car made in Birmingham. It was the Premo. He not only told me the name of the company which was Premier Company and occupied the building which later became the Stroud Holcomb Textile Mill. Thanks for the call Ira.

\* \* \* \*

When I was playing in an orchestra in Clairmont Spring in about 1923 we would come to Shocco Springs every Thursday night and play for a dance there. We ate at Shorty's the Greek's place, and every week Shorty would comment on my growth by remarking, "Ain't he grow, don't he" This reminds me of the Lady of the Lake Church growth here in Pell City. They have added a new mass which will take place at 8 o'clock a.m. at 1701 Frist Avenue, South temporarily.

\* \* \* \*

After mentioning Miss Olera Mietzner I ran into her sister, Mrs. Bob Alverson and she told me she enjoyed the column also I feel that is a nice compliment.

\* \* \* \*

Whitey Robbins has finally gone home. My wife and I started to believe that he was the man who came to dinner. Yellar, our dog, is a little sad but our grandson was glad to get him back home. But after Whitey got home he had a Mamma cat and three kittens to share his pleasures with.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Bobbie Stevens told me that Betty came to visit her from Huntsville on the Fourth and brought along her grandson who caused so much commotion in the hospital when he was born. Betty's indical twin sister, Barbara, visited her and was in the hall when Betty's doctor saw her. Not knowing Betty had a twin the doctor got excited, thinking Betty

Purefoy.

Durn your soul Bob, you have put me reminiscing back forty-five years.

\* \* \* \*

Did you hear about the University football player who thought Peter Pan was something to put under the bed; looked in the lumber yard for a draft board; put iodine on his check because he got a cut in pay; wouldn't go out with his wife because she is married; thought no kidding meant birth control; studied for five days to take a urine test and thought a mushroom was a place to peck.

The above are the cleaner ones that Dave Jackson has made out for the Alabama players and Alumni for this section.

#### MEMORY LANE:

Bull Wright and his ox-cart team . . . The horses and mules that was used on highway 78 coming through Pell City was a big boost to everyone who had been battling to Birmingham in Model Ts & Chevrolts . . . The old World Creek Bridge getting out of proportion and flooding the whole countryside. Even WPHK suffered some of the damage before they raised the building . . . The old boiler room in the high school building and the erratic heating system given out on the first and second floor. I can still remember the whistling radiators that we backed up to on many a cold day. But we were fortunate as most of the rest of the town had little grates. I can still remember the janitor who was named, Walter Carter, and the saying went that he had as much as carter had pills . . . The old kitchen and the four-eyed stove with two warming closets, usually had a couple of flat irons on it, getting warm for some pressing while Mamma was doing the cooking. This old stove also contained a hot water boiler which was dipped dry on Saturday night for the weekly night bath in the number two tub.

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# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Not knowing of any violation of the law that I had committed I was surprised when Ruble Bowlin drove up with another man in a police car and called me to the door & asked me if I knew who this man was. I told him, "No," and this man handed me a Valentine card to Robert McClellan from Ralph Renegar which must date back to 1918 to 1919 at least.

It was Robert McClellan whom I had not seen in this length of time. He now lives in Washington, D. C. and was on his way to Huntsville to see a friend.

When Robert went into the drug store asking for me, Mrs. Bea Starnes asked Kitty Jean Smith what his sister's name was and she told her Ruth.

I guess you will call them flower boys now they hand out Valentine cards to other male friends. He told me he had one more Valentine card that was from Mary Edmunds and they both had been in the family Bible for forty years.

Telling Austin Smith about it the next day and he was very disappointed in not seeing him because he aided in his wedding in South Carolina in 1920.

Robert lived at the foot of Mulberry Street and lived at the top about five houses from him. Old faces like these make me happier than traveling and seeing new things.

Thanks, Ruble, for bringing him down.

The old baseball field that stood on the side of the highway and the Anniston team calling themselves "The Air-Stars", I believe. Coming to Pell City to play and Shorty Probst getting mad with the fans in the bleachers who were riding him and daring anyone out to come down and fight him. As big as he was, he didn't have any takers, I guarantee you.

This was the same field that

donkey baseball and anything else that came to Pell City that charged admission.

\* \* \* \*

## MEMORY LANE

The old outhouses that stood beside the high school building.

. . . The old garage that stood on the corner of where the hospital now occupies . . . The old Morris rooming house that stood next to it . . . Mrs. Zeller's boarding house and that Judge Steele and the other Judges staying there during court (I imagine with the highways as they are now the Judges would commute) . . . Mrs. Bell's old rooming house next to what is the St. Clair Motor Company now.

\* \* \* \*

Went down last Thursday night to see the St. Clair County Preview of the July 3rd State Fairground Sesquicentennial and towns from all over the county was represented.

The boldest stickout was Buck Dickerson's beard Buck just happens to be Mayor of Ragland also.

Pell City was represented by Otis Perry's daughter which came as a surprise to her.

Sitting in a boat with Sam Cornett and Rev. Dan Kilgroe whom I had never met before. He and Sam got to discussing high school athletics and going in for track now. This is the best news that I have had of Pell City's long range athletics program.

\* \* \* \*

Just got through chatting with Mrs. (Miss Olera Miezner and she brought back memories to me of my childhood.

I was pallbearer at her son's funeral which was the first ever conducted in Valley Hill. Two of the other pallbearers that she can recall was Handy Fant and John Martin.

Miss Olera is still just as full of humor as the first day I met her.

She brought back one memory of an old Jewett car being owned by Mrs. Martin. I suppose back in those days that there were more named cars than at any time of the history of the automobile.

Did you know that there was a car built and sold in Birmingham but for the life of me I can't remember the name of

Miss Olera is one of the people I'd like to visit sometime. And my wife thanks you also for saying so many nice things about me although she doesn't know you.

\* \* \* \*

Oh yes it's a funny feeling sitting around a lounge and bar without indulging. Went to Bob's Fatted Calf over the past weekend and listened to the live band which is a weekly occasion now. Bob told me that Dr. Seale Harris' son came down to sit in on the drums occasionally.

Hubert Owen's daughter who is nine years old sat in on piano and sounded right good. Hubert told me he had bought her a \$3,000 organ and in no time we should be seeing her on the Sunday Morning Show.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

I attended the homecoming at the New Hope Baptist Church last Sunday and brother, did they have 'vittles'. This is not exactly a fly by night affair as some of the men discussing it around while we were waiting and watching for the meal to be placed on the table said it had been going on nigh to a hundred years.

Mrs. Venora Bowman had just placed her tablecloth, iced tea, chocolate cake and about

a half loaf of bread on the dinner table. Upon seeing this, little George Roberson asked his Dad was that all the bread they were going to have. In a few minutes he was in for the surprise of his life when people started emptying baskets of enough food to feed the multitudes.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Glenn Lonergan for bringing me a chair out of the church to sit on.

This was my wife's first time to attend a homecoming and she had missed hearing the Bowmans under the direction of Austin Hazelwood having a Fa-Sa La singing.

Hearing the 500 Indianapolis Speedway the other Saturday with a speed of 156 miles winning it makes Barney Oldfield a

turtle. Remember when an officer would run you down for speeding, he would ask, "Who do you thing you are, Barney Oldfield?"

This is really a small world isn't it. Introducing my wife to Mrs. Buck Morrison and both having the first name, Aurelia, was astounding to each other

### DO YOU REMEMBER:

The old stovewood works that stood about where the ice house is now. . . The old coke oven that stood across the railroad tracks . . . The old canning factory . . . When every boy twelve years or younger 'Billy Boy' . . . When sheet music was played by a piano player and if you liked it you would buy it . . . When you saved tinfoil and balled it up. I suppose the same people bought this as the ones who gives wheelchairs for cigarette bands.

Hugh Holladay drove up the other day to see his Grandad. After he left I told Cannie that I didn't know Hugh was big enough to even drive. Cannie retorted, "Pshaw, with a few more pounds, he'd be able to 'tote' it."

In the prescription department of the drug store the other day I noticed four picture frames that Bob Hall told me that someone had gave him and he'd been busy for the past few years filling them up.

Let's hope that no one else gives him another one at least of that diminsion.

### MEMORY LANE:

The old frog pond that was established here for commercial growth of frogs. Man, he must have had some big ones in there as the deep croak would vibrate the ground almost . . . When the Sunday dinner was covered with a sheet to keep the flies and other 'varmint' away . . . When "roseneers" (roasting ears) were the pride of the garden and til this day I still crave them with chipped up onions, radishes, okra (and my wife likes squash). . . When Joe Adams and some of his cronies put a calf in the upstairs room-

Went down at Williard Paterson's the other Sunday and saw Ed Blair's initials carved in a stone with quite a few of the other Edenites.

Leonard Glidewell and his wife were talking when Leonard brought up the subject of Arthur Glidewell and a few of his friends taking on a professional wrestler whom they had ran down and after the mess was over, they were very sorry of it. Leonard said that the whole bunch was bruised up.

### ODD SAYINGS:

Up in the air, blind as a bat, wise old owl, glory be, I'll be juned, cat's pajamas, tight as a tick, don't take any wooden nickels, fly by night and never on a Sunday.

Mr. Embry showed me a letter with a clipping attach from Ewell Rowell.

The clipping was from Vulcan, a daily column of the Birmingham News, and he points out how Mr. Embry saved Pell City by firing a pistol in the air one night when he was just about sixteen years of age. (Mr. Keith was wondering what Mr. Embry was doing with a pistol that young. I'm interested why Mr. Embry was here to fire the fatal shot).

### THINGS YOU DON'T FORGET:

Staying at the Vondrome Hotel in Evansville, Indiana and playing a slot machine in the old Three-Tray and hitting a slot machine for twelve quarters. Brother, did I have homebrew to drink for the rest of the night and coming to in the mezzanine during the night . . . The Kimball House in Atlanta . . . The old Morris Hotel in Birmingham . . . The old Maxwell House in Nashville where coffee was good till the last drop . . . The old Battle House in Mobile which had D C current. The reason I know this is, the guy that I was staying with, carrying an electric fan to a pawn shop and being told what he had. He scurried out and returned to the hotel quick . . . The old ice-cream churn being cranked until it wouldn't move anymore. Then you knew you

adishes, okra (and my wife likes squash). . . . When Joe Adams and some of his cronies put a calf in the upstairs rooming house and about two o'clock the calf wanted out so Joe and them were kidded about putting a calf in a safe . . . When you went to call on a person at night, you knocked

returned to me . . . The old ice-cream churn being cranked until it wouldn't move anymore. Then you knew you had ice-cream but now it is done with an electric motor which holds down a lot of arguments . . . The old clearing of a band instrument through the pet clock to get rid of the . . . I have heard some guys . . . they they gurgled when they

blew it . . .  
I will say again, keep cards, letters, visits and telephone calls coming in.  
**MEMORY LANE:**

The old grocery stores with the candy jar sitting on the counter. A barrel of salt-mackerel was in the meat department consisted of a slab of salted meat, a side of bacon and hoop cheese. A kerosene pump and lamps with chimneys and wicks to go with them. And no store would be complete without a cracker barrel sitting near a pot-bellied stove. And a tobacco cutter to cut off a plug of tobacco . . . The Zeppelin going over Pell City early one morning. I can't recall whether it was the Hindenburg or the Shenandoah. But I do know that it was early in the morning because I had spent the night with Gad Starnes and we slept in his barn but old Slide' (a squirrel dog that would try to climb the tree to get to the squirrel) rushed out and the Zeppelin was coming over the hill making a terrific racket going over us. I suppose it was over us but everybody in the Pell City area thought that it passed over them also . . . The old Stemley bridge railroad crossing for the B & A was so rickety that passengers had to get off and walk across a trestle on the train that they were riding.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Jack Hazelwood called me and gave me some information about the depot explosion that I had never heard. He said it it blew a quart of whiskey out and broke Colonel Spears' leg without breaking the quart of whiskey. Jack Hazelwood is responsible for the veracity of this story. So in case of doubt, call Jack, not me.  
\* \* \* \* \*

(Tootie) Hare demands equal time with Charles Lockridge in this column. And when Tootie demands, I will give in, remembering his football days.  
Tootie is the Schlitz salesman in this area.

\* \* \* \* \*  
Howard Turner of the Pet and Variety Shop told me that they were running short of monkeys but if they ran out he will let

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\* \* \* \*

Howard Turner of the Pet and Variety Shop told me that they were running short of monkeys but if they ran out he will let them use Charles Wheeler until a new supply got in.

\* \* \* \*

Keep those letters, cards, calls and visits coming in, as this is the only way I have of knowing what you want to read.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Called Willard Patterson last Sunday for a friendly chat and doggenit I ran into a piece of news that I think is worth repeating.

Willard told me of a recent talk he had with Ham Turner. Ham was telling about the first train coming to Pell City and what a commotion it stirred. It seems that everyone had driven up with ox-carts to horse and buggies. And when the train pulled out everthing else went with it, it seems, including wagons. Ham said that his father told him things were scattered all over the place.

One old lady, standing near where the engine pulled up, huffing and puffing as steam engines did in those days, commented that it sounded like it was panting. One smart alec in the group retorted, "It should be, as it just ran all the way from Riverside."

Ham also recalls when coal oil (kerosene they used to the younger generation) and gasoline were delivered by horse and tank wagons all over the county.

Willard seemed to have trouble reading and he borrowed his wife's glasses.

Reaching for the moon is no longer an odd saying but a reality. It fascinates me how astronomers and scientists can figure out the pull of gravity around the moon and other pertinent things to our putting a man on the moon in July.

The moon does carry beautiful words though and I don't mean harvest moon or Carolina

moon or any other moons spoken of in a song.

The landing place of the new spaceshot is known as the sea of tranquility and lets hope that the name will carry the same meaning when other mortals get there.

Wasson Harmon was kidding Chappel the other day about getting sick and letting his wife do the work like mine does.

Chappel hastily replied, "I couldn't get by with that because McGhee would have a thermometer in my mouth in nothing flat."

Wasson was also telling about a man coming to the Big Bull and ordering a large piece of pie with two scoops of ice-cream and a cup of coffee. When the waitress brought the order to his table the man asked, "Where is the sacchrin?"

Mrs. Lonergan and Mrs. Holbrooks visited my wife the other day and tentatively got her to agree to hold a June WMU meeting on the last Tuesday in June.

If anyone has any place they would like to go that day give me a ring as I would be under the feet of several women and no manpower to help support me.

Mrs. Ruth Rich called me the other day and identified the poem. I had it right except for the spelling of the man's name. The correct spelling is Abou Ben Ahem and the author was Leigh Hunt.

She wants to know where she can get "The One Hoss Shay" from. Like me, she was fond of the rollicking humor of this poem.

### MEMORY LANE:

The auction sales with free barbecue and the man in the balloon. The one I remember most distinctively was Huffman, now a suburb of Birmingham. I was with the Avondale Mills

Band that day and we marched from lot to lot while the auctioneers scolded people for not bidding more for the lot being sold. About every hour he would tell a joke to pacify the crowd I think but at the end of the day we came home still hungry . . . The Merchants Convention being held yearly in Birmingham. I believe that there were more young merchants about sixteen years or younger in attendance than there was real merchants . . . Fatty Arbuckle being the comedian of all the short films . . . The old telephone that hung on the wall and I remember that our ring was three longs and two shorts. It didn't matter too much about the long and shorts because everyone on the line would grab the receiver down anyway . . . Dr. Martin's car and him riding in it and his knees sticking up over the doors . . . And the runaways that was called by the first automobile. The first car that I ever saw I ran about two miles to see. This was at Owl Hollow, Tennessee. And whether school was in or out, when someone heard Dr. Annalton's car coming or going, everyone would break for the road. To top it all off, one of my most admired heros, ran and jumped on the running board and rode about a half a block and then jumped off . . .

Lately I mentioned Jim Golden winning a car given away by the VFW brings back memories to me of the number of tickets I sold for this big event.

Having nothing better to do, I hung around Citizens' Drug Store almost all day. When a salesman (drummer) came to call on Jack DeGarris, Jack would slip me a book of tickets and before the salesman knew it, he was hooked for five dollars. Jack would pretend that he didn't know I was trying to sell the salesman a book and tell him to go on and buy it.

I'll bet that this car brought in more revenue than anyone before or after the day Mr. Golden won it.

### ODD SAYINGS:

Clean as a whistle, clean as a hound's tooth, sure enough, water over the dam, in a coon's age, slick as a whistle, sick as a dog, fit to kill, up in the air and light as a feather.

Speaking of living in Eden, I don't live sock-up in Eden. Fred Cook's favorite joke was he lived sock-up in sock town.

After a gang of boys had been trying to crank a car for about an hour, Johnny Meehan came to their rescue by asking if the key was 'onn'.

### DO YOU REMEMBER:

Going into Birmingham to watch vaudeville shows. I believe the Lyric was the first in Birmingham. And the Ritz was the last to be built, and I do remember it because Herman Timburg was the last act. You know that the last act was the star of the show or did you.

The night that Loveman's burned and people from Pell City were driving to Birmingham to see the fire.

My old stomping grounds, the Florence Hotel, burned about the same time.

The Talladega Courthouse burning and I was there the same night. Herbert Love, Red Hood and I went by Mr. 'Snap's' house. And then from there to Talladega to see a show.

Thurs. June 26, 1969 P.C. News

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

by RALPH RENEGAR

Received a note from Virgil Love's daughter which I appreciate very much.

Virgil enjoys the column and sends it along for you to read.

You were just a baby, I imagine when I came to Laurel, Mississippi while I was working and visiting your father and mother. I'll never forget your mother and father taking second year Latin which was Cicero.

Betty you have quite a few relatives around Pell City in the Turners and I had forgotten your Aunt Mary until you mentioned her in your letter. She really came to your rescue on your visit to Pell City. I'll bet that Mike could kick himself for not recognizing his Daddy's own sister's child.

Tell Virgil hello and would like to see him.

You speak of writing Ed Blair and know he would appreciate hearing from you right now as he is in ill health.

Have you seen the Alabama quotations that Dave Jackson is flashing around town of late which is real cute especially to Auburn fans.

Down to the golf course last Wednesday Dave was flashing it all around the clubhouse.

It seems that Auburn fans are the most ardent of all and waiting til next year for Alabama doesn't worry them a bit.

A little bit of powder and a little bit of paint makes a woman pretty even if she isn't used to be an old saying but now a little bit of powder and a little bit of paint doesn't do anything for a woman. She has to buy eye make-up, false eyelashes, false fingernails, wigs and a number of other things to bring her up to par.

Slick as an eel; slick as a button; cute as pie; water on a duck's back; wet as water; green as grass; all's not gold that glitters; blue as the sky and hard as nails.

Joe Namath is getting the 'go-over' that all successful athletes have to endure.

What surprises me is being so successful and in the money so much, why they would ever get tied up in the adverse publicity they do sometime.

It's a fifty to one chance in my book that Namath will be with the Jets come next October.

Sorry to hear that Margaret (Holladay) Gambrell has been in the Walker County Hospital.

## MEMORY LANE:

The old houseboat that stood tied up at the river bridge and known as the Ark . . . Noble Street in Anniston being the main drag & Quintard Street being one of the most exclusive residential streets in Anniston . . . The basketball court in the back of the old high school building and the baseball field across the street . . . The odor from Dye Branch reaching all the way to the river . . . The caves on Ballrock Mountain where the boys would hike each summer . . . And a week's stay at Winnataska for the same scouts. On the long trips like that we rode on Joe Willingham's truck. Mr. William was scoutmaster . . . The gobs of chocolate candy bars that Fay Love could devour at one sitting . . . The old runningboards that came equipped on every car and the rumble seats that went with them . . .

The Tom Cat Choir will hold their regular Fourth of July picnic and outing at the mouth of Dry Branch and uniforms for the day will be Liberty overalls.

A picnic lunch of Bologna, Vienna sausage, pickles and onions will be served at high noon (whatever high noon means).

We hope to have more fun

the beer strike is over with by that time.

Hearing the Little League discussed around the drug store I thought it was a family affair of a group of parents seeing their young ones in baseball uniforms until I started attending them this past week. Brother, you couldn't be more wrong in thinking this, as these little tykes play for keeps. And the baseball they are playing is really something to behold. I recognized Bill Howell and his youngster coming up for Bill to buy him refreshment. I think he's a red sock coached by Bubba Gray. These kids never question a decision on the field, however, I heard loud moans coming from the parents sitting in the bleachers.

Ran into Mrs. Velma Turner and she showed smartness by bringing a folding chair to watch her grandson play baseball that afternoon. Being a Turner and playing baseball for Pell City has been going on night for fifty years. Just hope that Randy develops into another (Scissors).

Ray Skelton's grandson looked awfully sharp to me.

Will see you at the ballgame come Monday afternoon.

## TALL TALES:

When I attended my church a couple weeks ago I ran into a man who told me that he discovered a hundred million dollars of uranium and the following summer he discovered an oil well.

Going on down to the New Hope Baptist Church a group of us were talking and one of the fellows said he owned a bulldog that would set birds.

I guess I had better start going into church before I hear anyone.

This being a time of year for schools to let out and hold graduation exercises reminds me of the county test that was held for the seventh grade class. I'll never forget my examination because I happen to remember Magna Carta an answer to one question. I do believe that this

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A picnic lunch of bologna, Vienna sausage, pickles and onions will be served at high noon (whatever high noon means).

We hope to have more fun at this outing than we did at the Easter rabbit watch. That is if

discussed around the table . . . I thought it was a family affair of a group of parents seeing their young sons in baseball uniforms until I started attending them this past week. Brother, you couldn't be more wrong in thinking this, as these little tykes play for keeps. And the baseball they are playing is really something to behold. I recognized Bill Howell and his youngster coming up for Bill to buy him refreshment. I think he's a red sock coached by Bubba Gray. These kids never question a decision on the field, however, I heard loud moans coming from the parents sitting in the bleachers.

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\* \* \* \*

The hardest to please people that I know of is the farmer. He's always wanting another

May 29, 1969

**Ramblin'**

with

**Renegar**

By: Ralph Renegar

Watching the baseball games between the Atlanta Braves and the New York Mets the other night on TV brought back fond memories to me.

Pitching for the Mets was Gary Gentry who flashed my memory back about thirty or thirty-five years to 'Wart' Gentry pitching for Pell City. He was one of the pitching staff of Bill Womack, Claude Lundy, Jake Poole, Toots Cospers and Lefty Walker for Pell City in the old Industrial League.

Eut head and shoulders above this entire staff would be Lefty Walker for this town or any other that I have ever known.

\*\*\*\*\*

The other day my wife said that she looked like the "wreck of the hesparus." I was going to use this as an odd saying until I thought of reading this poem along with "The One Hoss Shay" in my Elson's fifth grade reader.

Another poem that I can recall part of but can't place where I read it.

It goes like this:

Abdhul, Ben Adam, May your tribe increase, Awake one night from a deep dream of peace, and lo' and behold, An ancel was writing In a book of gold, And Ben Adams name Led all the rest.

If Miss Iola reads this column I am sure that she can recall it for me. If she doesn't, then I'll have to go staggering on my way, not knowing where the poem came from.

\*\*\*\*\*

After about five minutes of

used by me in the early thirties selling encyclopedias.

\*\*\*\*\*

Dr. Clayton told my wife the other day that he wanted to plant about 300 acres in gourds. She asked why he wanted that many gourds. He told her. "To make dippers to drink homebrew from."

She came out of the office flabergasted and asked me what did he mean by this.

I told her that to work gourds would kill them and that homebrew would work itself.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN:**

Wisdom corner was really wisdom corner. Mr. Alf Starnes, Mr. M. M. Smith, Mr. T. T. Harris, and Dr. J. O. Gray would gather around until old number eight would run . . . Mr. Cogswells old bulldog . . . Aunt Jane Jordan . . . Every city of importance, having a K. C. steak house. Back in those days the best steaks came from Kansas City . . . Seeing the crowd on the Courthouse Square during a steady down pour of rain last Saturday afternoon brought back memories of the car given away by the VFW in 1947 which was won by Jim

Golden are the two biggest crowds I have seen outside of kissing big Jim Folsom's appearance here with the mop-bucket parade . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Hammett tried to explain to me, "The story of the lost dollar". Naturally Mrs. Hammett, I knew the dollar was there somewhere which you'll have to admit that figures do lie. I still say that 3 x 9 is 27 plus 2 equals 29, doesn't it.

Ashville, Mrs. Evelyn McCraw of Birmingham, Mrs. Laura Archer of Ragland, Mrs. Sadi Haynes of Pell City and Mrs. Geraldine Spears of Douglas, Arizonia, 5 sons, Elbert Herrin of Denver, Col., Robert and J. M. Herren of Pell City and B. R. Herren of Birmingham, and Ralph Herren of Oakland, Cal-

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# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

It was quite the vogue in the early twenties for high school

sweethearts to get married.

This is the greatest deterrent to divorcing that I know of.

Ed and Ethel Blair, Sam and Sula Cornett, Virgil and Alice Love, Irene and Herschell Love, Son and Eva Harvey, are a few of the Pell City classmates that I can recall.

\*\*\*\*

It seems that I got a tiger by the tail in the column where I asked "what grows on hall

trees?". Naturally nothing grows on the hall tree that I had in mind, because it is a piece of furniture that is or used to hold hats and umbrallas.

However, I didn't have any idea of the scarcity of haw trees. This was a tree that was loaded with little red berries which I guess every kid has tried to eat.

Willard Patterson, who spoke of going to Gadsden to get the hall tree, will celebrate his 34th anniversary the 18th of this month. The reason I know this is that Mrs. Patterson called out to him to give me this vital piece of information while we were talking on the phone, which I overheard.

Happy anniversary, Willard and Mrs. Patterson, and I'm sure she will enjoy a lot more of them since she was only 15 whey they married.

\*\*\*\*

Johnny Cook had as much trouble making PFC in the Army as I did. It took an act of Congress to give us this high grade.

Maybe Johnny put out about as much effort as I did for a rating. I refused then, as I would today, of "brown-nosing" to get up the latter in the NCO field. I was in a regular Army outfit where the TO program had been established for years. It was about as hard to make PFC in my outfit as it was to make master Sargeant in the Air Force.

\*\*\*\*

### DO YOU REMEMBER

Wandering ball players and musicians . . . The trips to Jacksonville for the basketball tournaments . . . Womanless weddings and mock trials . . . When we used to make batteries (for the life of me, I can't remember the formula or ingredients that we used in making them) . . . The old well that stood in Eden about where Ginns's Store is now . . . The old watering trough and the . . . that stood in front of the

My dog Yellar has had an out of town visitor for the past few days.

Whitey Robbins from Auburn has finally made friends with him and they will now split a bone. In on the visit is Blackie, who leads them through the hills and mountain side surrounding our house but they always show back up at meal time.

Whitey belongs to our daughter, who is visiting also.

\*\*\*\*

Sam Cornett met the "Cather

## LAWN CARE IS A "SNAP" . . . WITH A SNAPPER COMET!!



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gets the job done... adds to the FUN!

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Whitey belongs to our daughter, who is visiting also.

Sam Cornett met the "Cather

girls", whom Sam not I haven't seen in 30 or 40 years. I'm sure neither remember me.

Their father and uncle ran the two newspapers in St. Clair County which are now the one you are reading since the merger. Mr. Bays ran the Pell City Progress and Mr. Belton ran the Ashville Aegis.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mother's Day came as quite a surprise to me too.

In addition to my wife getting an orchid, from our daugh-

ter I received a much appreciated telephone call from Mrs. Bess Davenport from Eufaula. She is Andrew Willis' daughter and telling Mary Collins about

it, she told me that Mrs. Davenport, sings in the choir of an old church in Eufaula.

# Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Lying here listening to the radio started me to thinking of the 20th Century. It makes me proud that I was born in it.

Do you realize that things we take for granted today were unknown in the early part of this Century. The automobile, the airplane, radio, television, washing machines and everything else you can see around you has been invented or produced in vast quantities since the early twenties.

Out of this however, I believe that the radio is the most important of any of them.

K.D.K.A. was the first station ever to broadcast. After this came K.M.O.X. or St. Louis, Missouri.

And do you remember that each week the station would broadcast from Jefferson City Penitentiary the piano playing of Harry Snodgrass. And I think that it won him a parole or either a pardon from this institution.

The other well known stations back in the twenties were W.H.O. of Des Moines, Iowa; W.L.S. of Chicago (and some people say that Sears & Roebuck owned this station and that W.L.S. meant World's Largest Store); W.S.M. of Nashville with the Grand Ole Opry being started there; W.S.B.; W.L.W.; W.W.L.; were some of the other stations that I recall.

The Amos and Andy Show, the Lum and Abner Show, Fibber McGhee and Molly, the W. C. Fields, Fred Allen and George and Gracie Allen were some of the other shows that I recall hearing.

And another thing the silent movies and some of the best stars bit the dust when sound came in.

I have to list airplane as my second choice. From the dinky little planes of World War I to the super sound of today is taken for granted now.

We are hoping to be landing on the moon by the latter part of this year which makes me kinda sorry that I was born in the early part of this Century. But if I had been I wouldn't have known how to appreciate a

ny telling it. It seems that Margaret Dickerson killed a cat and placed it in a shopping bag to get rid of. The trash can in front of the store was near a policeman and she carried it on in the store intending to get rid of it later. After placing it on the counter for a few moments she heard a commotion in front of the store and rushing up to a woman who had fainted. Sure enough the package in her hand contained the dead cat.

If you doubt this or don't think it is funny, call Pete Fambrough.

\* \* \* \*

## A GOOD FRIEND:

Old Butch just laid down and died one night. Butch is the dog who stood on the back of Cannie Stine's truck wherever it went. If there is a hereafter for dogs, I am sure Butch made it for being faithful to his Master.

\* \* \* \*

I went to visit Addie Ham the other day and she looks as good to me now as she did when she worked with Mama. Addie never worked for anyone. She always worked with them.

Tom Ham, her late husband, worked for Papa along with Paul Mahafey.

In fact, they were Papa's right arm almost in maintaining the city water system.

\* \* \* \*

If you read this column how about sitting down and writing a fivecent postal card to me that you enjoy it. In the meantime keep those cards, letters, telephone calls and fish coming. If there is any doubt of where I live to deliver the fish, call me at 2088 and I will go meet you.

\* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \*

**ODD SAYINGS:**

Slow poke; red in the gills; a day's rest; good manners; and a fly in the ointment.

\* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE:**

Pat's Place . . . The old oil mill and the stink that it made turns me against cooking oil . . . The old ice wagon and Hill Robertson going up and down the street delivering ice to people that weren't physically able to get it themselves . . . The old water hydrant at the foot of Hall Hill . . . The playground back of the school . . . The old fireplaces and carrying out the ashes . . . Sedden Creek and the picnics we had there on April Fool's Day . . . When you threw in an outdrop your thumb stuck out . . . Cook Springs and the dance pavilion that we used to ride 39 too . . . And the sulphur water that you had to drink for a chaser.

\* \* \* \*

Tommy (Walker) Brown called Lorene Nixon and told her that she was coming back to Pell City in the latter part of May. So it seems that the Walker girls are going to have a reunion.

\* \* \* \*

Enjoying a sabbatical afternoon Johnny and Polly Meehan paid us a visit this past weekend.

If you ever have a joke that

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**Ramblin'**  
with 4-17-69  
**Renegar**

By: Ralph Renegar

Glancing over the Chamber of Commerce pamphlet on Pell City being the fun hub of North Central Alabama isn't the first time that Pell City has been known as the 'hub city'. In fact, in January of the 1890's Pell City was known as the hub of the South.

This was taken from the early life of Pell City printed in the Pell City News in 1951 in the letter of Bays D. Cather. During the late 1880's the Georgia-Pacific Railroad was built from Atlanta to Birmingham. This railroad later became a division of the Richmond and Danville Railroad which was later taken over by the Southern Railroad.

Then the old East and West from Cartersville, Georgia to Pell City and a short line of the B and A from Talladega to Pell City.

The first newspaper in Pell City was Pell City Echo, started by W. S. Griffith. The old Pell City Land Company must have had some interest in the Echo because full page advertisements taken out by the same company referred to Pell City as the hub of the South.

Then the crash from the railroad boom of the early -1880's.

Among those that went down in the crash were Tracy City, Tennessee, South Pittsburgh, Tennessee and Fort Payne, Alabama. They must have all survived however.

It was during this period that Sumter Cogswell, his wife, Lydia Cogswell and Captain T. C. Plowman organized the Pell City Realty Company.

1902 was a dry year for the farmers and most of them sold out and moved to Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. During this same year the Pell City Court House and the textile mill were built.

These two projects cost a

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Among those that went down in the crash were Tracy City, Tennessee, South Pittsburgh, Tennessee and Fort Payne, Alabama. They must have all survived however.

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1902 was a dry year for the farmers and most of them sold out and moved to Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma. During this same year the Pell City Court House and the textile mill were built.

These two projects cost a million dollars for labor and material. Can you imagine what these two projects would cost today.

During this same time having a Seaboard Airline Railroad purchased the East and West Railroad tied into Atlanta which took in Coal City and Ragland. And the dynamite that was shipped into Pell City for the tunnels of the railroad ran into quite an amount.

One day in November the depot had a large shipment of

dynamite and powder on hand. The depot caught on fire and all of this dynamite caught on fire. And the explosion wrecked Pell City on the south side. Dr. J. T. Brown of Riverside, Dr. Turner of Cropwell and Dr. M. W. Laney of Eden pitched in to help out in this holocaust.

Let's hope that the new fun hub doesn't blow up as the other hub did.

\* \* \* \*

Seeing the headlines of different champions visiting our cities reminds me of Arthur Callahan when he said that it was strange you never saw where at first a world's champion broom sweeper ever visiting any town.

Speaking of Arthur reminds me of all the Callahan houses that have been built on the old Coal City road.

And Laney 'Shine' Drummonds remodeling homes in the village and then moving on to another house.

\* \* \* \*

Saw Ervin Kendricks out fishing the other day and having quite a chat with him. On the same afternoon I saw Roy and he told me about how good the bread smelled in front of the bakery which we ran where the Pell City Motel is now.

\* \* \* \*

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

A scant, which was just what the name implied. The bottles were so thin that they would hardly stand up by themselves . . . The old Try-Me bottles . . . The stools at the drug store tables that you pulled out and sat on . . . Do you remember when an outside toilet was known as a closet. The reason I remember this is so vividly is that I was in Lindale, Georgia visiting Mr. Mungall's son, Wattie. I asked one of his sons where the closet was and he carried me to a door and opened it and sure enough it was a closet full of clothes.

\* \* \* \*



# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

By: RALPH RENEGAR

Visiting Mr. Embry's office the other day on a semi-business-social call I wanted to turn over to him a damage suit against Son Harvey. We have been living behind Son for almost two weeks now and he hadn't called on us once. I told Mr. Embry that Eva had called on us and he said I didn't have any suit against him then.

The very next day Mrs. Vivian Thomas called on us with the Welcome Wagon welcome. She said that Son Harvey had told her our names. This is one of the greatest things that has ever happened to my wife since being in Pell City.

She called on the participating merchants which are: The Ash Agency; Coosa Valley Telephone Company; DeGaris Rexall Drug Company; Food Center Grocery; Hagan Drug Company; Jefferson Home Furniture Company; Pell City Cleaners; The Peoples Bank; and St. Flair Federal Savings and Loan Association and enjoyed them all.

Son runs the City Sewerage System and Mr. Embry and I started discussing Pell City's first water supply, first gas supply and paved streets. Mr. Embry is the (daddy) of all of them. I remember Papa and Mr. Embry talking about how Pell City did get them.

Did you know that Pell City was the first municipally owned Southern Natural Gas System in the State of Alabama.

Mr. Sumter Cogswell was the Mayor and also one of the prime movers in getting water, gas and street paving in Pell City.

Mr. Embry and I started talking about his father's career as Circuit Solicitor. The story that made a national magazine article was where he convicted a man of killing his wife and giving him a life sentence. After about two years of his serv-

ing cloverine salve (Mrs. Thompson showed me a box of cloverine salve at the drugstore the other day. I started to ask her if she sold twelve cans would she get an enlarged picture like they use to give . . . Uncle Dick Morgan being a crack-shot with a 22 and having only one arm . . . And Norman Vaughan working at the ice house and being known as 'mouthy' . . .

\* \* \* \*

Ran into Jack Hazelwood the other day and we started reminiscing and Roy 'Little Man' Singleton came into the conversation. I had just left 'Fess' Locke and he told me that he and 'Little Man' had sat down and figured out the number of times that Roy had cut his hair. It was over 600, 'Fess' said.

Jack and I discussed the time that we left 'Little Man' to cook breakfast at his home while we went down to Eden to get more refreshments. When we came back 'Little Man' set out a pan of some of the best biscuits I have ever eaten. He told us that he made them himself. About the time we had devoured the whole pan, someone from Miss Lucy's house came over and asked us how we enjoyed them. Telling us that Miss Lucy made them, not Roy.

Jack told me that he was in the drug store one day getting Pluma to make a milk formula for him. She asked him how many children he had and he told her about ten. She asked him was he a catholic and he told her, "No, just careless".

We recalled many incidents of 'Little Man' and his sense of humor. Hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't mention Roy's name to me.

\* \* \* \*

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Mint Springs and the children carrying water to the Eden school house from it.

The King Tut dresses of the early 1920's.

Mr. Bramlett's record shop and the old phonographs that you had to wind by hand.

Miss Nettie Nealy's store. Gad Starnes could get all the candy that Miss Nettie had if he asked for it.

The old cigar store and the gas-burning flame that you

'em."

\* \* \* \*

The 'civic award' of the week goes to Mrs. Orr (Litz) Starnes. She is flying an American Flag at half-mast this week.

I'll bet that this is the only flag in the county being flown from a private residence. Either at half-mast or any other way.

\* \* \* \*

## PLAY BALL:

I received a call from Floyd Green the other day and he not only recalled the home-run hit by Reid Tucker but furnished me the details. Reid pinch-hit for Floyd in the last of the ninth against Sylacauga on the Fourth of July.

Mollie Brazier was pitching for Sylacauga that day and he was always a nemesis of Pell City and it was often said that they could just throw Mollie's cap out on the mound and beat us.

George was the umpire back in the days when an umpire stood behind the pitcher's mound. To save squabbles from the pitcher, catcher and batter, George called them thin. I'll never forget hearing George yelling out, "Ball by a quarter of an inch."

\* \* \* \*

Went down to Ingram Manor Sunday afternoon and visited Uncle Clem and Aunt Annie, Johnnie Evans, George Adams and Mrs. Embry.

\* \* \* \*

I had rather be a big frog in a little pond than a little frog in a big pond. But it is heck to be a little frog in both ponds.

So keep them calls, letters and visits coming.

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\* \* \* \*

#### ODD SAYINGS:

Ornery, spellbound, coin-a phrase, bat out of Hades, dead pig in the sunshine, struttin' like a peacock, scarce as hen's teeth and clean as a hound's tooth.

\* \* \* \*

I left out Lorene Nixon's name in mentioning the people who brought me divinity candy. Sorry Lorene, but really appreciated it.

#### MEMORY LANE:

The marble games played next to Dad Russell's stand . . . And when it rained they would 'teach on through' at the high school . . . The chinese checker games with Mr. Bramlett, Ben Hardwick and Jim Honeycutt playing on the sidewalk next to the old post office . . . The old bicycle pumps . . . Daisy air-rifles which were won by sell-

breakfast at his home while we went down to Eden to get more refreshments. When we came back 'Little Man' set out a pan of some of the best biscuits I have ever eaten. He told us that he made them himself. About the time we had devoured the whole pan, someone from Miss Lucy's house came over and asked us how we enjoyed them. Telling us that Miss Lucy made them, not Roy.

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The old cigar store and the gas-burning flame that you could light cigars from.

\* \* \* \*

The look of disgust that came across Bob Cornett and Sonny Martin's face when they were seated in the drug store I asked if they were discussing 'grub'. I think Sonny said, "No, they were discussing food."

\* \* \* \*

Getting along with the class reunion is a must for me.

I'll assure you that we had the ugliest class rings ever fostered on a senior-class.

I wonder if one of the girls doesn't have one stashed away among her souvenirs that she could bring to the meeting. Also, any old photos that she has tucked away of her school days.

I have several made with Miss Duke and a group of us boys and her pulling my hair.

I am appointing Jessie Armstrong and Rebecca Davis to get in touch with the other members of our class and decide upon a meeting place and time. So as Coach Ted Snead use to say, "Go out and get

us.

George was the umpire back in the days when an umpire stood behind the pitcher's mound. To save squabbles from the pitcher, catcher and batter, George called them thin. I'll never forget hearing George yelling out, "Ball by a quarter of an inch."

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4-10-69

**Ramblin'**  
with  
**Renegar**

By: Ralph Renegar

had one of the prettiest morning glory fields ever grown around Winchester, Tennessee.

\* \* \* \*

At the last regular meeting of the Tom Cat Choir held on St. Patrick's Day with all the little elves and the little green men (pink elephants and lavender alligators were disbarred) a heated argument arose about the Easter Bunny.

It was decided that this Easter we would watch a rabbit all night long to see if it really laid eggs.

No eggs were laid and we decided to give this vital information to the news and radio media. When up strolled a 'smart alec' Tom Cat Choir member and told us that we could have watched this rabbit til judgement day because it was a buck.

Weary eyed members made their way home til next Easter.

\* \* \* \*

Seeing Cannie Stine teaching his grandchildren to operate a cultivator makes you proud to be an American. Cannie and his grandchildren are making a garden just west of our house.

The only farm experience I ever had was when I chopped cotton for about three weeks during my teens. If Mr. Finch hadn't stopped me I would have

I think Horace learned to run the scales on the trombone and that was about all. He was known as a 'horn toter'. Unfortunately playing drums you could never fake, I thought, But seeing the drummers in the rock n' roll band who doesn't even know how to hold the sticks makes me wonder.

The combined Avondale Mills band used to gather in Birmingham at the Avondale Mills there and eat in the band hall and then journey down town to hear John Phillip Sousa's band in concert. We also had the privilege of shaking hands with President Warren Harding, Senator Oscar Underwood and a whole host of other dignitaries.

The birds on the courthouse square made us kinda happy that cows couldn't fly.

Bibb Champion and Mr. Eatman in the blacksmith's shop with J. H. Lewis.

\* \* \* \* \*

**WHAT A PLEASANT SUNDAY AFTERNOON:**

Visiting Mrs. Snider the other Sunday and going through the scrapbook seeing pictures of Jack De Garis, Charlie Fay and 'Little Shorty' Ogletree brought back pleasant memories.

The following Sunday my wife and I drove down Wolf Creek Road and instead of making a left turn we made a right and lo'and behold, we ended up going over and around Double Oak Mountain and coming out at Leeds.

This was good experience for her even though she didn't think so. I told her that this was an obstacle course for her since she had just gotten her driver's license.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE . . . .**

Miss Katchom, music teacher at the high school, on piano, Frank Miller on trombone, Charlie Brown Fowler on fiddle and I on drums, played in the 'pit' of the Vernon Davis Theatre for three days of the film, Birth of A Nation. About the only tunes Charlie Brown knew and the rest of us too I guess were Salty Dog, Down Yonder and Chicken Reel . . . The Bottling Works that stood on the corner of Eccles and Howard Avenue and the old one bottle at a time foot pedal that Mr. Honeycutt ran . . . The old warming closets that stood on the stove in the kitchen which we rushed to after school . . . And the old iron-glass curtains that took the place of the glasses in the auto today. And a little later, the rumble seats . . . The old ice wagon that used to make the rounds everyday and a dime's worth of ice in those days would be about all you could afford or needed. It was paid for by the ice book that was sold to you by the mill . . . Mrs. Ag Vines used to make ice cream for us youngsters but before we could eat it we had to eat a bowl of rice to keep from

Feb. 13, 1969  
**Ramblin'**  
 with  
**Renegar**  
 By: Ralph Renegar

I have been living 'high on the hog' this week. Tuesday night I attended the V.F.W. meeting and ate steak. Wasson Harmon gave me two wild rabbits and I brought them home and have been snacking on some for the past few days. (O, yes, if you have any wild ducks or quail give me a buzz, (also wild rabbits).

While at the meeting several of the members had Mr. Norton cornered with tax questions. Al-

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While at the meeting several of the members had Mr. Norton cornered with tax questions. Also Edwin Holladay being consulted legally and I thought to myself professional men never seem to get away from work and darn if I didn't catch myself consulting Dr. Coshatt about glasses. And speaking of glasses do you remember when people used to clean them with a big dollar bill with gold threads running through it. Now heck a dollar bill is about as useless as a hog having side pockets.

\* \* \* \*

If negro people have so much rhythm why do they have so many children. O, yes, I did steal this line from the Smother's Brothers. But in the same week Rowan and Martin came up with the same line and Turn-On used it this same week. So you see I am traveling in big company with this theft.

\* \* \* \*

I am going to take this opportunity to thank J. D. Abbott and Dee Hyde for the wheelchair that they let me use during my convalescence.

Answer to last week's question is GO.

at the high school, on piano, Frank Miller on trombone, Charlie Brown Fowler on fiddle and I on drums, played in the 'pit' of the Vernon Davis Theatre for three days of the film, Birth of A Nation. About the only tunes Charlie Brown knew and the rest of us too I guess were Salty Dog, Down Yonder and Chicken Reel . . . The Bottling Works that stood on the corner of Eccles and Howard Avenue and the old one bottle at a time foot pedal that Mr. Honeycutt ran . . . The old warming closets that stood on the stove in the kitchen which we rushed to after school . . . And the old iron-glass curtains that took the place of the glasses in the auto today. And a little later, the rumble seats . . . The old ice wagon that used to make the rounds everyday and a dime's worth of ice in those days would be about all you could afford or needed. It was paid for by the ice book that was sold to you by the mill . . . Mrs. Ag Vines used to make ice cream for us youngsters but before we could eat it we had to eat a bowl of rice to keep from hurting our heads . . .

\* \* \* \*

### DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN:

Do you remember Miss Edna Rose, Mrs. Martha (Mungall) Winkler, Miss Odell Jones, Tommy Miekul, and Horace Renegar used to play in the band.

Jack De Garis, Charlie Ray and 'Little Shorty' Ogletree brought back pleasant memories.

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# Ramblin' with Renegar

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At the March 4th V.F.W. meeting a joint resolution with the American Legion was adopted 'to clean up the litter' drive conducted March 15th. The two memberships cleaned up 19th Street from Cogswell Avenue to Highway 231.

At a discussion of the litter problem drastic measures were suggested. Edwin Holladay said

that prosecution would be the answer. He and Talmadge Fambrough could neither recall a case ever being made against anyone.

Everyone at the two meetings pledged themselves or their families to ever throw litter out of the car again (my wife say's "That means you too.")

I can pledge that the Tom Cat Choir is 100 per cent behind this drive also.

This reminds me of a joke I heard.

It seems that a state trooper saw a man throwing a beer can from his car. He overtook the man and after scolding him he asked him, "Do you want to pay a fine or go back and pick it up?" The man hopped in his car and the trooper told

him, no, he meant for him to walk back. After getting about 200 yards, he picked up a can but the trooper told him that wasn't the one. After repeating this two or three times he finally picked up an old rusty can and said, "I know this is the one because my wife has been wanting me to throw it out for several months."

\*\*\*\*

The other day when I was shopping at the Fort McClellan commissary Wasson Harmon asked one of the employees if Joe Feldser was working. The employee replied, "He comes on DUTY at 2 p.m."

Wasson and I couldn't figure out whether this was a military term or whether Joe didn't do much work.

\*\*\*\*

Upon moving to my new address Bud Preston was the first to come to see me and I hope it will be a long time before the last time he sees me. Bud is the friendly undertaker.

\*\*\*\*

Received a call from Mrs. Velma Turner the other day. Thinking about Miss Velma in her courting days going on a stroll on a Sunday afternoon with a wide brim hat.

\*\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Knight came by to see me the other day.

I was born in the house adjoining Miss Mae. Her beautiful red hair is white now but just as pretty. Mr. Arthur asked me why I never did speak of Bill Springer. If it hadn't been for him mentioning it, I would never have thought of Mr. Springer again.

They both agreed that I was the noisiest kid in the neighborhood, beating on tubs, pots and anything else that I could get a sound out of.

\*\*\*\*

Joe Adams came by to see me and told me about a history that he has of Pell City. I am sure going to go up to Joe's and look at it in the very near future. Joe reminded me that he played third base before ever pitching.

Mae (Luker) Goodgame called me the other day and told

The string at the ice house that they tied ice with. I have never seen any string like this since the ice house closed . . . Ab Crowe walking off the pitcher's mound when the infield made a lot of errors during an inning . . . Rubinoff at the pool-room bothering everyone with his habit . . . Kite flying when you made your own kite with flour paste. . . "Lassas Trombone" played by R. W. (Jazz) Wiggins . . . The George Southwell Band book, "Little Rastus" was one of the tunes and it had a three bar baritone solo. The reason I remember this is I was in the beginner's band and could hardly wait to play it . . .

\*\*\*\*

### OLD SAYINGS:

Pig in a poke . . . Continental dam . . . Bill of groceries . . . Tinkers dam . . . Lunch pail . . . Pedaling . . . Worth his salt . . .

\*\*\*\*

Ran into Austin and Margaret Farley the other day. Margaret is just as full of life as she's always been. Told me to remind everyone that she used to be an operator at the old Central office and after that worked at Scott's cafe.

The other night I heard Pete Fountain playing something the announcer called "The American Boy". The only similarity that I could recognize between "The American Boy" I used to play and his rendition was the name.

\*\*\*\*

I called 'Dub' Hazelwood the other night and asked if he was still 'living in the vineyards'. He assured me that he and El both were.

\*\*\*\*

Sitting by Roy Banks the other night, he told me that he enjoyed the column but didn't remember much of memory lane because he was raised in Ashville. No wonder Mr. Banks as it was a good day's drive in a Model T from here to Ashville.

\*\*\*\*

### THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR:

When your wife tells you that she will be back in a minute.

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Mae (Luker) Goodgame called me the other day and told me that she had found a 'chaperone' for our class reunion.

She ran into Miss "Inez Duke" at the teachers' convention in B'ham last week. She said Miss Duke looked very good and would be glad if the class of '26 could get together sometimes.

Miss Duke lives in B'ham now.

\* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE:**

The old Seaboard depot and the little passenger car that ran from Coal City. It had several nicknames and one of those 'the hoodlum' I think . . .

Pig in a poke . . . Continental dam . . . Bill of groceries . . . Tinkers dam . . . Lunch pail . . . Pedaling . . . Worth his salt . . .

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**THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR:**

When your wife tells you that she will be back in a minute, then jumps out and puts a nickel in the parking meter.

\* \* \* \*

If you know of any V.F.W., American Legion or World War I veteran being in the hospital, please get in touch with me. So keep those cards, letters, telephone calls and visits coming.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

After eating oysters with wild rabbits and a few quail I now weigh 110 pounds 'wringing wet'.

At the V.F.W. meeting the other night while eating steak I overheard Dr. Coshatt and Hubert Owens talking about a Fatted Calf. I butted in and asked what did they mean by a Fatted Calf. They quickly told me about the restaurant and lounge being owned by Bob Cornett.

After thinking the matter over, decided to see if Bob could add some weight to me. He told me "Yes, but the stakes would run a little high." This didn't phase me as I was desperate for some more weight.

He suggested that I eat at least one steak a week with him. Knowing Bob being a gourmet he wouldn't steer me wrong.

I went up last Friday night for my initiation. The crowd was jumping so I settled for a shrimp cocktail and a bottle of bud.

Charley Lockridge is the route salesman for Budweiser and he came over and introduced himself and had a Budweiser sent to me. And a few minutes later brought me another.

The live band playing didn't have a drummer so as usual in my teens years I grabbed out a couple coins and started beat rhythm (I thought). However, no one seemed to notice this added attraction so I gave up and threw in the coins.

Sam and Sula came in at about 10:30 and Sam and I discussed old times while the youngsters were enjoying the present day treat.

At about 11 o'clock us oldsters were getting sleepy and took off to home.

Thanks also Velma for your courtesy.

The next day I went back to

that the picture was really there but some culprit had stolen it during the night.

Goldie Roberson came over and told me that he enjoyed my column and this was a far cry from the Mulligan stews held at Eden to the up-to-date lounge of Bob's.

Grady Bryan also gave me a big hello.

Mr. and Mrs. Fate Gossett were dining and Mrs. Gossett spoke of my memory lane (Mr. William Biggers was her Grandfather). They invited my wife and I to come down and look over WFHK which we are going to do as soon as we get through moving. We also have a few other visits to make to Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Ragland, Mrs. Wasson Willingham and A. G. (Shorty) Ogletree.

\* \* \* \*

Received a call from Mrs. A. G. Keller about the old picture. She is the daughter of George Simpkins and she very much wants to see it.

\* \* \* \*

## MEMORY LANE:

The old gasoline tanks that were pumped up into a ten-gallon container. It wasn't any 5 7/8 tank, it was five or six-gallon flat . . . Whit Starnes, Elbert Lowe, Claude Deason, Mannie and Earl Stine and Joe Sims were some of the football players of yesteryear that I remember playing Columbiana . . . The R.E.L. Doby store which Buck Lewis used to call the 'alphabet store' and the big sawdust pile that stood near it . . . Tom Mix, Art Acord, Jack Hoxie and Al Jennings were the cowboy stars that we used to scramble to get in to see. If we were fortunate enough we might buy a bag of peanuts or a bag of crackerjacks WITH THE PRIZES at Dad Russell's stand . . . The trip to Panama City with the baseball team when we searched all night for John Willis and 'Nig' Alverson spraying everyone with a spray gun. (I know one character that remembers this is, Johnny Turner.) . . . Remember the old steam engines and their trouble getting over Denman Grade



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The next day I went back to see if the place was really as nice as I thought it had been when I gave it a quick inspection Friday night. I told Sam about a picture being in the little boy's restroom that I wanted him to see. He came out after about two minutes looking confused and told me he didn't see any picture in there. This confused me and I thought, "My gosh, has this two bottles of beer got me seeing spots on the wall?" Betty came around at about this time and told us

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\* \* \* \*

#### MEMORY LANE:

The old gasoline tanks that were pumped up into a ten-gallon container. It wasn't any 5 7/8 tank, it was five or six-gallon flat . . . Whit Starnes, Elbert Lowe, Claude Deason, Mannie and Earl Stine and Joe Sims were some of the football players of yesteryear that I remember playing Columbiana . . . The R.E.L. Doby store which Buck Lewis used to call the 'alphabet store' and the big sawdust pile that stood near it . . . Tom Mix, Art Acord, Jack Hoxie and Al Jennings were the cowboy stars that we used to scramble to get in to see. If we were fortunate enough we might buy a bag of peanuts or a bag of crackerjacks WITH THE PRIZES at Dad Russell's stand . . . The trip to Panama City with the baseball team when we searched all night for John Willis and 'Nig' Alverson spraying everyone with a spray gun. (I know one character that remembers this is, Johnny Turner.) . . . Remember the old steam engines and their trouble getting over Denman Grade

\* \* \* \*

I had a big surprise Saturday night when I received a telephone call from Wasson (Little Snow) Willingham. It has been twenty years since I have seen him and hope that he comes to see me.

I am sure that we hatch up a lot of memory lane itself for the future.

\* \* \* \*

Being 'rainbound' in the drug store Saturday afternoon waiting for a taxi, I drifted back to talk with Stokes but Carrie (milking time) Payne stopped me and told me that Louie asked her who humpty-dumpty was.

Then Mrs. Thompson asked me if I remembered the big catch of buffalo fish that her Dad, Joe Fowler made. I believe she said that he caught 107 pounds and sold them to employees at the mill. Then Mrs. Isbell asked me if I knew how fond beef tripe that Mr. Alvin Inzer was.

About this time the cab arrived and I carried home a sack of bones for my dog, Old Yellow.

I am moving to 114 - 11th

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Searching through some old pictures I ran across one of the 1904 'brass band of Pell City'. The reason I know it was 1904 is that 1904 'boxcar' letters were printed on the bass drum.

Naturally I wasn't able to identify anyone of the band except Gordon Mungall, J. C. Meehan, Jess Edmunds, and George Simpkins.

I showed the picture to Wasson Harmon and his ears perked up. We decided to visit O. C. (Onse) Woods and let him identify as many as he could. We took M. L. Lewis who is a brother-in-law to Mr. Woods to direct us to his home.

Upon seeing me Mr. Onse gave me a bear hug. I hadn't seen him in nearly fifty years. He started me in the band playing a snare drum when I was about eleven years old. After quite a bit of conversation we showed him the picture. He was just as amazed by it as we were. He identified most of the members with himself playing baritone when he was about sixteen.

I had never been around Mr. Lewis very much before and for some reason I had him pictured as quite a solemn man but after about five minutes hearing him talk, I changed my mind. He is humorous and witty and kept us laughing all the way there and back.

Wasson and I were in the drug store with Dennis Sisson sitting at the table when Else Scott came by and had a few words with us.

Wasson told me that he had Mrs. Ward's grandson with him when the child picked up a saccharin tablet off the floor and several people were alarmed that it might be poison. Grandma Norma Rose told them not to be afraid, that it was only

In discussing old times Mr. Ragland used an expression that I haven't heard in years. He said that Papa used to buy a 'bill of groceries' from him every payday. He also mentioned attending a postmaster's convention in Texas and that he called C. R. Fay when he went through New Orleans. I remember Mr. Fay and despite good or bad times Mr. Fay rolled his own with Bull Durham.

\* \* \* \*

Received a note from Sula Cornett and she was telling me about Samme Sue asking who I was. You are right Sula. I saw Samme Sue when she was very small.

In fact, Sula, when you and Samme Sue were spending the night with your Mother, Sam and I went into the bottling business. We bottled a whole churn of home brew and put it in a tub with ice and turned right around and removed the caps by drinking it. We had quite a bit of help though, as we invited all of the male neighbors of Eden to come help us.

Sula, I got a kick out of the trick that you and Ruby Zackie pulled on the two handsome guys from the Eufaula band. I can imagine their letdown when Ruby finally showed her swimming ability.

Yet, I remember Hazel Cowan and in the class poem, I mentioned that she was little but loud. I suppose the modern day kids would call her mighty mouse instead of 'the brain'.

\* \* \* \*

## MEMORY LANE:

Bill Biggers, Jess Patterson and Jake Webb were three of our holiday policemen . . . The pool room ran by Bob Gunter . . . The old spring known as Blue Spring which people said didn't have any bottom . . . The livery stable, where you rented horses and buggies for your ride in the country . . . Mr. Ed Love's drive-it-yourself Model T fords . . . Will Rich and Pete Cates running a taxi in front of the drugstore . . . The operaettas directed by Miss Devore with Charles Fay and Sarah Crump being the Eddie and McDonald of their day. We carried this operaetta to Lincoln

When we played hide and seek, drop the handkerchief, and spin the bottle in the afternoon or late evenings. Then after supper, we would really go all out with run sheepy run. By that time it would be almost 8 p.m. We would then get a washpan and sit on the back door step and wash our feet, then to bed.

When W. T. Starnes was nicknamed 'Fee'.

When Reno cigarettes sold for ten cents a pack.

When every post and barn had an Arbuckle coffee sign on it.

When Jim Manning was the mascot for the band and Tiny Windsor was bat boy for the baseball team.

\* \* \* \*

## ODD SAYINGS:

Pud'n — tane; much oblige; cold turkey; on a binge; and dry goods and notions.

\* \* \* \*

The best public relations job is done by the U. S. marines. I don't know who has this account but brother, do they get results.

Listening to television and radio you would believe that 525,000 G.I.'s were supporting the Ninth Marines.

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of public relations, the Tom Cat Choir 'had me on the rug' for not getting any publicity in this column.

They threatened to take my beer allowance away and put me on home brew if I didn't get their names in the paper. So March 17 is St. Patrick's Day and we'll all line up and get a streak of green painted on our backsides. For the rest of the day we will conduct ourselves as any good irishman would by having a 'beer bust'.

\* \* \* \*

## DID YOU KNOW?

That I am about running out of 'memory lane' material. So if you read this column, will appreciate you dropping a note or card to me or give me a ring on the telephone.

This isn't Dean Martin speaking.

\* \* \* \*

## FAMOUS LAST WORDS

(blackwood that is)

Meehan, Jess Edmunds, and George Simpkins.

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I received a call from J. L. Ragland at two minutes til seven. The reason that I'm so sure the time is correct is that Mr. Ragland's clock struck seven while we were talking.

Mr. Ragland asked me if I heard it and I assured him I did and then he told me that the clock was about as old as he was. Mr. Ragland will be ninety April 17.

In fact, Sula, when you and Sammie Sue were spending the night with your Mother, Sam and I went into the bottling business. We bottled a whole churn of home brew and put it in a tub with ice and turned right around and removed the caps by drinking it. We had quite a bit of help though, as we invited all of the male neighbors of Eden to come help us.

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The livery stable, where you rented horses and buggies for your ride in the country . . . Mr. Ed Love's drive-it-yourself Model T fords . . . Will Rich and Pete Cates running a taxi in front of the drugstore . . .

The operaettas directed by Miss Devore with Charles Fay and Sarah Crump being the Eddie and McDonald of their day. We carried this operaetta to Lincoln for a one night stand (only) . . .

The ferry crossing at Riverside. We used to walk the railroad trestle to get on the Talladega side of the Coosa where the original Ark was docked. You could get all the fish you could eat for fifty cents . . . Willie's Cabins and the Silver Inn were the fighting spots on the west side of Pell City.

**DO YOU REMEMBER?**

Windsor was dat boy for the baseball team.

**ODD SAYINGS:**

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**FAMOUS LAST WORDS**

(blackwood that is)  
Four no trumps  
Five clubs.

Jan 11-1968 Page 2  
St. Clair News-Record

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

The other week when I decided to move back HOME, I called "Walt" Wasson Harmon to help me look around.

He told me about a redone house in the back of "Dad" Russells' stand. I knew where it was by this description, but would you have?

It still stands out as the corner of where the village began. Just across from where the old fountain was. If you don't know now there is no purpose in explaining it more fully.

I remember on paydays Dr. Martin would down two or three hot dogs before going to the mill gate to collect.

Dad Russell was the father of Mrs. Jim Honeycutt.

\* \* \* \*

Rook Skelton had a barber shop on the other side and as far as I know he gave me my first 'store-bought' haircut.

\* \* \* \*

DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN:  
Every small town had a band and a ball team?

My Uncle John Meehan was the haven for these characters. He was the weave room boss and everyone landed working there. I'll never forget George Gunthorpe. I met him in Talladega where the Pell City band played an entire week. I introduced him to Simon Wesley Floyd and he came home with us.

I still remember "Dynamite" Dill who would stick his head out of the window and yell "Hello Baldy" to my Uncle Pat. This would send him into a fume, I expect if he could have he would have broken the 'jack' he was carrying to the blacksmith job where Mr. Lewis was working.

\* \* \* \*

FROM LITTLE ACRONS: W. J. Vinson tells this one on Johnny DeGaris and Jim Singleton. Both had a slight speech impediment which goes with all four-year-olds.

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Johnny asked Jim, "Sot your name?"

Jim replied, "Sot you say?"

\* \* \* \*

Talking of Marijuana pops and glue sniffing you haven't been anywhere until you have had an all night "Vita-Wine" binge.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The State of Alabama,  
St. Clair County  
At Pell City No. \_\_\_\_\_

**IN CIRCUIT COURT  
IN EQUITY**

FLOSSIE JANE MIXON,  
Complainant,  
vs.  
REXDEUS BUFORD MIXON,  
Respondent.

By this cause it being made to appear to the Register by Flossie Jane Mixon, that the Defendant is a non-resident of Alabama, and that his post-office address is unknown, and further that in the belief of said affiant, the Defendant is of the age of twenty-one years. It is therefore ordered by the Register that publication be made in the St. Clair News-Aegis, a newspaper published in Pell City, St. Clair County, Ala., once a week for four consecutive weeks, beginning with the said Roxdeus Buford Mixon to plead, answer or demur to the Bill of Complaint in this cause by the 31st day of Jan. 1968, or in thirty days thereafter a decree Pro Consequenter may be taken against him.

Done at office in Pell City, Alabama, this 11th day of Dec. 1967.

Ann W. Love, Register.  
14, 11, 18, 25, 1968

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

**LONNIE BROWN**

est colony in America, but also the turbulent period when it was the political headquarters for Virginia patriots.

Mr. Brown, along with the other Corporate Award Winners, will leave from the Birmingham Airport January 10 and will arrive back in Birmingham on January 12.

Accompanying the party will be President J. Craig Smith, Executive Vice-President Donald Comer, Jr., Vice-President T. Wendall Morriss, Directors of the Zero Defects Program Graham M. Byrum, and Public Relations Director William G. Irby.

**Rambling  
With Renegar**

By: Ralph Renegar

**DID YOU KNOW:**  
That the first oysters ever delivered in this town I delivered them.

My Dad used to order oysters by the gallon which arrived on Friday and then on Saturday morning. Mr. Mungall, Mr. Thornburg, and those things stick out in my mind just as if had been yesterday. Oh Yes, not every Saturday as every two weeks were payday and the off Sundays we would have salt mackerel-soaked overnight and cooked in milk.

**WITH APOLOGIES TO  
THE CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

Were all the 59 to 64 men in town? I went to the Lions Club New Year's Eve dance. It being so dark I didn't recognize a soul. Brought back memories of Mr. Ray's dances (Alou's name). Dr. Earl Martin would always give us a five dollar rebate for just one more time.

**A DAY IN THE  
COUNTRY COUNTRY  
CLUB THAT IS**

At the invitation of "Daisy Queen" Dorchin I was told how to get to the CC. Upon arriving there I found "Daisy Queen" Dycus already for action. Never being around a CC before I was astounded that 500 is a good score. I was told this by Skad (Pool room) man. I settled back for some huffing and puffing but all I heard was loud groans when a man would put down his cards.

I believe it will be oysters for me Sunday at breakfast.

**Joseph Burttram  
Buried Friday**

Joseph Burttram, age 72, of Rt. 2, Ashville, Ala. passed away Wednesday, December 27.

Funeral services were held Friday, December 29th, at 2:00 p.m. from the Cool Springs Church. Interment adjoining cemetery. Kilgroe directed.

Survived by the widow, Mrs. Bessie Mae Burttram, 2 sons, C. W. and Terry M. Burttram, 1 daughter, Mrs. Sarah E. Hill all of Rt. 2, Ashville, father, J. E. Burttram of Rt. 2, Ashville, 5 brothers, D. H. Burttram of Ashville, E. W. Burttram, Frank Burttram and B. K. Burttram all of Springville and Fred Burttram of Palmyerdale, Ala., 7 sisters, Mrs. Earl Coker of Birmingham, Mrs. Sabra Boden of Atlanta, Mrs. C. T. Coven of California, Mrs. Jewell Lumpkin of Columbus, Ohio, Mrs. Rose Mary Pope of Camp Hill, Ala., Mrs. Delma Billingsley of Gadsden, Mrs. W. L. Honeycutt of Trussville, 3 grandchildren, 1 great-grandchild, step-mother, Mrs. J. E. Burttram.

**Walter Simmons  
Buried Friday**

Funeral services were held Friday, December 29th, for Walter A. Simmons, age 82, of Rt. 1, Odenville, who passed away Tuesday, Dec. 26th.

Services were held from the New Lebanon Baptist Church at 2:00 p.m. Interment adjoining cemetery. Rev. W. D. Frink officiated. Kilgroe directed.

Survived by the widow, Mrs. Ellen Simmons, 3 sons, Fred Simmons of Shirley, Mass., Jackson and Jerry Simmons both of Rt. 1, Odenville, Ala.; 2 daughters, Mrs. Ellen Campbell, of Ragland, Mrs. Betty Herron of Birmingham; 4 brothers, Charlie, Lonnie, H. P. Simmons all of Rt. 2, Odenville, Rufus Simmons of Cleveland, Ala., 1 sister, Mrs. Maude Turner, of Rt. 2, Odenville, 3 stepsons, Tony, Ben and Sam Polo.

**Mrs. Willie Lewis  
Buried Last Week**

Mrs. Willie Mae Lewis, age 86, of Pell City, passed away Saturday, December 16th.

Funeral services were held Monday, December 18th, at 3:00 p.m. from the First Methodist Church. Interment Valley Hill Cemetery. Rev. W. L. Cole officiated. Kilgroe was in charge.

Survived by 1 son, John D. Lewis, 1 daughter, Lisa Barnes, several brothers and sisters, 4 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

**Roger Mathis  
With Marines  
In Vietnam**

VIETNAM — Marine Lance Corporal Roger D. Mathis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jessie Mathis of Rt. 1, Cropwell, Ala., has reported for duty with the First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment, First Marine Division in the Republic of Vietnam.

The primary mission of his battalion is to search out and destroy enemy forces operating in South Vietnam. They accomplish this through daily patrols and ambushes as well as large scale operations.

The unit is also engaged in a civic action program designed to assist the Vietnamese people in completing self help projects, such as the building of wells, culverts, small bridges and schools. Equipment and materials for the projects are made available through the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund. Marines in Vietnam provide the know-how and guide the Vietnamese people in carrying out these projects.

**No Place**

A New England epitaph reads: "Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and no place to go."  
-U. S. Coast Guard Magazine.

Feb. 27, 1969

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Watching the television of late and the student riots, the long haired bearded men and the ill dressed women are disgusting to me.

I used to be an old campus cut-up myself. I was one in high school and college. I remember the Birmingham Southern-Howard football games each year when the Birmingham Age-Herald ran a score of the heads being shaved a week before the BIG GAME.

I remember the fight that we had at the foot of Owenton Hill when I cleverly blocked a brickbat with the back of my head. Stars fell on Alabama after this until the next morning when Papa and Dr. J. V. Howell came to see me.

After this we went down town and grabbed freshman caps off of the opposing student bodies head and ran to safety. By the following week everything was smooth and all campus disorders were forgotten.

Now it can be told after about forty-four years I am sure that I can tell this now in safety.

During my high school days beyond turning over the out houses on Halloween night my only memory is when we grabbed a 'furriner' one night who had dared come from Ragland to Pell City to court one of our girls. I don't remember where the scissors came from, "Do you Hershell?"

We cut the long, flowing blonde locks of the 'furriner' who was Ralph Stockberger who had come to court Johnny Mae Mode.

I remember Otto Eckwurzel was among the bunch that helped out in this dastardly deed. But for the life of me I can't remember any of the others so

rately who the culprit was. She said that finally Newman 'Shiek' Walker confessed.

No, Rebecca, I do not recall this too vividly but I do remember John Mays and 'Buzz' Walker broadcasting nails in the auditorium and hearing them rattle on the seats. These nails came from little kegs sitting in front of the hardware store which were pilfered during our lunch hour.

I remember Rebecca that you had the neatest handwriting of anyone I'd ever seen.

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of being dumb, I was seventeen years old before I knew that humpty-dumpty was an egg. And I was twenty-one years old before I knew the Tutwiler Hotel was in Birmingham.

Getting off the train and getting three blocks from the terminal station or Fifth Avenue was all I could afford.

\* \* \* \*

### MEMORY LANE:

Mrs. Yordy riding a bicycle to give music lessons . . . And the Johnson sisters who taught music at their house in Eden . . .

Miss Lilly Guy and Miss Minnie Gunter teaching school. Mr. Guy driving from Eden to Pell City in a Model T to his jewelry shop . . . Roy McKee and his Dad delivering papers with a horse and buggy . . . S. W., Bull' Floyd driving a studebaker car from Mayfield, Kentucky to Finger, Mississippi (I remember this because I was with him) and brother did we get stuck in gumbo mud. Floyd finally got the thing here on a flat-car. And I think he traded it for an Apperson Jack-Rabbit Eight. He didn't have the best cars in town but he did have the biggest one s . . . Gaither Love and 'Dusty' Lewis riding around in Gaither's Model A coupe . . . The Mulligan stews held at Eden annually. I never was invited to one of these but I did eat fish at Charlie Evan's home in Pell City which was sained from Wolf Creek.

\* \* \* \*

### WANTED TO BUY:

ories of Grady Locke standing on a chair and playinng 'When You and I Were Young, Maggie' when he was about twelve years old.

Grady went on to become one of the best trumpet players in the U. S. He played at the Steven's Hotel in Chicago and with name bands from all over the country.

Lewis Simpkins is now the band director and has been for a long time at Sylacauga high school.

Frank Miller was one of the best piano players I have ever known. Just hum three or four bars of any tune and Frank could play it. He played by ear but his ears were distinctive on account of him always playing in the right key.

Joe Stone played saxophone in and around Montgomery for the past thirty--five years I know. I think Joe has a band in Montgomery now.

So you see that the Avondale Mill band of Pell City has turned out some of the best as Ethel pointed out.

Excuse me Miss Black, for being rude while I was talking to you but Ethel and I sailed into conversation and I forgot to even thank you for telling me you enjoyed the column.

I heard a good cure for a cough and a scratchy throat the other night. Merle Haggard gave it to Ralph Emory on W.S.M. It was honey, lemon juice and Jack Daniels. He didn't tell how to mix it but I imagine that the 2-1-4 oz. would get the work done faster than a less amount of Jack Daniels.

My sister-in-law visited my wife and I this past weekend.

And while they were together talking little girl talk I was snacking on divinity and fudge brought to me by Mrs. Elsie Wadsworth. Her sister, Bobbie, came with her and we laughed and talked for a few minutes.

She also brought me (some-

thing new to me) cookies known as sand tarts. I believe Elsie said that the recipe called for ½ cup sand and that Martin refused to eat them.

Thanks Elsie and Bobbie and I'm guarding it piece by piece as our little grandson did when his Mother received a Valentine box and he thought it was all for him.

A. L. Truitt called me the other morning and I enjoyed the conversation with him.

Mr. Leroy was handicapped by having only one arm, however, this proved to be no handicap to Mr. Truitt. He played pool, drove a shift-gear car and umpired baseball games with the best of them.

Mr. Truitt and R. C. (Crip) Gravette were both sturdy men that the country needs more of today.

Mr. Gravette was policeman here for many years. And brother, when he told you to go, you better go.

### LITTLE BULL AT THE BIG BULL:

Seated around the table the other day were Mike Harvey, Charles Abbott, Alton Dorrrough and I discussing old times and we all agreed that Hugh Loneragan could get more magazines for a nickel than anyone else in town.

Charles and I both admitted pilfering a few from Jack DeGaris.

Time was getting late so I had to leave but I'll meet you at a bull session in the near future.

Listening to the Grand Ole' Opry now brings back pleasant memories of 1930 to me.

I stayed at the Clark rooming house which was next door to the National Life and Casualty Company which was the home of the Grand Ole' Opry then and now.

I ate at a pie-wagon in front of the building.

This was just across the street from the Capitol Annex.

Papa and Dr. J. V. Howell came to see me.

After this we went down town and grabbed freshman caps off of the opposing student bodies and ran to safety. By the following week everything was smooth and all campus disorders were forgotten.

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I remember Otto Eckwurzler was among the bunch that helped out in this dastardly deed. But for the life of me I can't remember any of the others so in a case of a reprisal it will only be me Hershell Love and Otto.

Rebecca (Watson) Davis called me the other day and we discussed our high school graduation class. Rebecca came from Easonville for her final year of high school at Pell City.

She asked me if I recalled a big fire-cracker being set off in the classroom and Mr. Balch questioning every student separately.

Johnson sisters who taught music at their house in Eden . . .

Miss Lilly Guy and Miss Minnie Gunter teaching school. Mr. Guy driving from Eden to Pell City in a Model T to his jewelry shop . . . Roy McKee and his Dad delivering papers with a horse and buggy . . . S. W., Bull' Floyd driving a studebaker car from Mayfield, Kentucky to Finger, Mississippi (I remember this because I was with him) and brother did we get stuck in gumbo mud. Floyd finally got the thing here on a flat-car. And I think he traded it for an Apperson Jack-Rabbit Eight. He didn't have the best cars in town but he did have the biggest one . . . Gaither Love and 'Dusty' Lewis riding around in Gaither's Model A coupe . . . The Mulligan stews held at Eden annually. I never was invited to one of these but I did eat fish at Charlie Evan's home in Pell City which was sained from Wolf Creek.

**WANTED TO BUY:**

One good used home in or near Pell City with a G.I. loan of about \$10,000.

I figure by putting this ad in the column it doesn't seem so impersonal and not only that, but it doesn't cost me anything I hope. (Ed please don't axe this one.)

What are they eventually gonna do with the old Cropwell school?

I remember forty-five years ago of going to Cropwell with the Pell City basketball team with Harmon Gray, being the star. And I do believe til this day that Harmon could play on anyone's basketball or football team.

Last week when I carried this column to the St. Clair News-Aegis office Ethel Blair and I struck up a conversation about the old bands and then I remembered that she was a member of the band that I spoke of having the privilege of shaking hands with president, Warren Harding.

She jolted my memory about Horace and Ed bucking the line to shake hands with him also. Sure has been a lot of water over the dam since then hasn't it.

She also brought back mem-

pointed out.

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And while they were together talking little girl talk I was snacking on divinity and fudge brought to me by Mrs. Elsie Wadsworth. Her sister, Bobbie, came with her and we laughed and talked for a few minutes.

She also brought me (some-

seated around the table the other day were Mike Harvey, Charles Abbott, Alton Dorough and I discussing old times and we all agreed that Hugh Lonergan could get more magazines for a nickel than anyone else in town.

Charles and I both admitted pilfering a few from Jack DeGaris.

Time was getting late so I had to leave but I'll meet you at a bull session in the near future.

Listening to the Grand Ole' Opry now brings back pleasant memories of 1930 to me.

I stayed at the Clark rooming house which was next door to the National Life and Casualty Company which was the home of the Grand Ole' Opry then and now.

I ate at a pie-wagon in front of the building.

This was just across the street from the Capitol Annex.



**Ramblin'**  
with  
**Renegar**  
By: Ralph Renegar

**GROUNDHOG DAY:**

Last Sunday morning a group of us Tom Cat Choir members decided to watch for a groundhog. After much discussion we decided that the best place to watch would be near an ice plant or some other place which would keep beer cool. After three or four bottles each we became very alert.

Not seeing a groundhog after about an hour, someone suggested that we pour beer in the hole to flush him out but this was quickly vetoed because our supply of beer was running very low. So we did the next best thing. We covered the hole with a paper sack and decided that he wasn't coming out anyway so we journeyed to the nearest Tom Cat Choir member's home and played poker until several of us got a little seasick (or was it beersick) and decided to adjourn the meeting until Valentine's Day.

\* \* \* \* \*

O' Yes, while I was wandering down Howard Avenue I left out the T. T. Harris Five and Ten Cent Store. And when they saw Truman Wynn coming they would grab the "out-to-lunch" sign and close the door.

Do you remember when a Five and Ten Cent Store was really a five and ten cent store at all.

\* \* \* \* \*

**GOOD OLE DAYS:**

I remember learning to ride a bicycle by coming off the hill at the spring.

work at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa and we used to swap gossip and I always gave her a copy of the St. Clair News-Aegis each week. Just kidding Barbara.

\* \* \* \* \*

Since I have been living in Eden the people who I have ran into all are as friendly as Pauline (nee Jones) Baker. Pauline and I were classmates at Pell City High and one of the memories I have of said school is a plate which was sold by P.T.A. which proves that the Harper Valley P.T.A. has never been around much.

\* \* \* \* \*

Speaking of springs, do you remember Spout Springs where Fatty Box lived and the old white truck with solid tires used to carry the band to Talladega for baseball games when Earn Turner, known as "Scissors" or "Tarbucket", was playing centerfield.

And they finally chirted the road from Stemley Bridge to Talladega and people would drive from here to Talladega for a Sunday afternoon excursion.

\* \* \* \* \*

**OLD SONGS:**

Do you remember when any tragedy or success was put to music such as Mary Fagan, The Titanic, Floyd Collins or Lucky, Plucky Lindbergh was the eagle of the U.S.A.

I wonder how many will remember a song that's been written in the past year or so with a few exceptions that will be remembered such as Stardust, Tiger Rag, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Down Yonder, You Are My Sunshine and a host of others that room doesn't permit us to mention.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reading about Astronaut Lovell's flight into Birmingham reminds us of another great trip by train into Birmingham by

mind as when Patty Nell fell from the 'new' hospital sun porch and broke her leg.

\* \* \* \* \*

**DO YOU REMEMBER:**

When Uncle Henry Starnes would call Mr. Virge Smith off to ask 'Has anyone seen Joe Laney?'

When Pell City High football team would go to Birmingham on the passenger train to play Simpson the next day.

This is the time that Herbert 'Bur' Love discovered a fire and led the entire football team to First Avenue and Twenty-Six Street where it was discovered to be the steel furnace pouring steel.

When F.D.R. took out after Martin Barton and fish.

When a cistern held rainwater for the weekly wash. Some people till this day will argue rainwater gets clothes cleaner.

When the mill paid off in money every two weeks at noon on Saturday and boy did those hamburgers (five cents each) taste good off of 'Pied Graham's, lunch wagon.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE:**

Tea cakes were the big cookies that everyone used to bake

Sitting on the trestle after the show had closed down with Alton Dorrough, Buck Lee and myself almost every

... with comp ons. ured typew or C stand

### GROUNDHOG DAY:

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Do you remember when a Five and Ten Cent Store was really a five and ten cent store at all.

\* \* \* \* \*

### GOOD OLE DAYS:

I remember learning to ride a bicycle by coming off the hill at the spring.

I remember learning to drive a car by getting my Dad's Model T and driving down the alley behind Uncle John's house; but for the life of me, I can't remember how I learned to swim. I do believe, however, that it was in Wolf Creek when somebody pushed me in and told me to sink or swim.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mrs. Stevens called and told me that she enjoyed the column and read it every week to her Mother.

Mrs. Stevens is the Mother of identical twins. But Betty is my favorite because she used to

Pauline (nee Jones) Baker. Pauline and I were classmates at Pell City High and one of the memories I have of said school is a plate which was sold by P.T.A. which proves that the Harper Valley P.T.A. has never been around much.

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I wonder how many will remember a song that's been written in the past year or so with a few exceptions that will be remembered such as Stardust, Tiger Rag, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Down Yonder, You Are My Sunshine and a host of others that room doesn't permit us to mention.

\* \* \* \* \*

Reading about Astronaut Lovell's flight into Birmingham reminds us of another great trip by train into Birmingham by the nation's first hero back in 1927 when Lindbergh was greeted at Legion Field by an overflow crowd, which was attended by all of the Comer Bands, which I was a member of the Pell City Gertrude Comer Band.

\* \* \* \* \*

Received a note from Mrs. Stine in which Ethel mentioned the baby parades and dressed up 'fit to kill' baby carriages held on Hall Hill where box suppers and oyster suppers were held each month.

Yes, Ethel, I do remember the Fourth of July runaway which isn't as clear in my

team would go to Birmingham on the passenger train to play Simpson the next day.

This is the time that Herbert 'Bir' Love discovered a fire and led the entire football team to First Avenue and Twenty-Six Street where it was discovered to be the steel furnace pouring steel.

When F.D.R. took out after Martin Barton and fish.

When a cistern held rainwater for the weekly wash. Some people till this day will argue rainwater gets clothes cleaner.

When the mill paid off in money every two weeks at noon on Saturday and boy did those hamburgers (five cents each) taste good off of 'Pied Graham's, lunch wagon.

\* \* \* \* \*

### MEMORY LANE:

Tea cakes were the big cookies that everyone used to bake

Sitting on the trestle after the show had closed down with Alton Dorrcugh, Buck Lee and myself almost every

. . . The old Oliver typewriter with odd keyboard. This same company made plows and wagons. I wonder if they ever figured out a touch system for this typewriter . . . Ben Summers or Goin' Summers was the standing joke about Mr. Ben.

\* \* \* \*

**QUESTION FOR THE WEEK:**

Do you know the most famous word or phrase that came out of World War II which you see in print or hear everyday of the year. (Answer next week.)

\* \* \* \*

I get amused talking to someone and mentioning their grandchildren. They will automatically get their billfold out and start showing you pictures of the same.

more than one-half his total support for the year.

**Q — What's the rule on Social Security benefits, are they taxable?**

**A —** No, Social Security benefits are not taxable and do not have to be reported. They should be considered, however, in determining total support of a person who is a recipient of such benefits.

**Feature Announcement for Newspapers Using Question-and-Answer Column on Federal Income Taxes**

Are you up-to-date with the information you need to file your income tax return? Do you know how to handle the surtax, medical insurance deductions, and amended tax returns?

As an aid to (area) residents in filing their tax returns the (name of paper) will carry a weekly Question-and-Answer column beginning (starting date).

This column is prepared by the Internal Revenue Service to help taxpayers understand tax law and filing requirements. The answers to taxpayers' ques-

begin preparing to file now. Most taxpayer errors, according to IRS statistics, occur in the last minute rush to meet the filing deadline. For best results, follow these columns for tax advice, file early, and recheck your return carefully before mailing it in.

**1868 Alabama Beef Income Up From 1967**

AUBURN — Indications are that Alabama cattlemen beefed up their earnings in 1968 with a \$7 million increase over their 1967 income.

"At an estimated \$112 million, Alabama's 1968 beef income was the second highest on record," says Dr. J. W. Gossett, Extension animal science division chairman. "The record year was 1966, when beef income reached \$122 million."

Gossett credits the income gain to a two to four per cent rise in beef prices since 1967 and an estimated five per cent increase in production.

"Because of stepped up stocker and fattening operations," says Gossett, "Alabama cattlemen produced an estimated 560 million pounds of beef in 1968, compared to 534 million pounds in 1967."

Southern states, adds Gossett, produced two per cent more calves last year than in 1967, compared to a one per cent increase nationally.

mistakes? Are they usually in the store's favor? What causes them? What effect do they have on your food budget?

There has been some research done on the subject. According to Miss Dorothy Overbey, Auburn University Extension specialist in consumer education, results and estimates vary, but it appears that you can expect a checker to make a mistake somewhere between one and five per cent of the time. In other words, if you bought 100 items, one to five of them would be misrung.

Some of these errors came from hitting the wrong key. Some resulted from poor price markings so that the checker had difficulty in reading the right price. Some occurred when the customer bought only part of a multiple-priced unit and the checker had trouble figuring the correct amount to charge.

**Economize**



**Ramblin'**  
with  
**Renegar**

By: **Ralph Renegar**

**SKULE DAYS:**

The first school I attended was at Owl Hollow, Tennessee. The schoolmaster's name was Mr. Higginbotham and the grades ran from primer on up. And I did actually walk about three miles to school each day.

I saw my first car while I attended this school.

Mama fell off the haywagon and told Papa we had to move back to Pell City.

The first school I attended at Pell City was on Hall Hill, and

which said mortgage was later transferred to Kelley Castleberry and said default continuing, the undersiged will sell, at public outcry, to the highest bidder for cash within the legal hours of sale in front of the Courthouse door at Pell City, Alabama on the 13th day of February, 1969, the following described property:

Situated in the county of St. Clair and the State of Alabama, to-wit: Four acres in the Northwest corner of the SE¼ of NW ¼ of Section 20, Township 17, Range 1 East.

Proceeds of said sale will be distributed as provided in said mortgage.

**KELLEY CASTLEBERRY**  
Transferee

**STARNES & HOLLADAY**  
Attorneys for Mortgagee

1|16, 23, 30, 1969

brother I do mean hill. People tried to climb this in high in a Model T but no one succeeded so Mr. Will Turner and Mr. Thompson placed two iron 'stobs' in the middle of the road.

My first teacher was Miss Martha Weir. Her sister, Miss Sadie Weir taught before I started to school. Miss Bell Mungall was another teacher with Miss Sadie Weir.

Then Miss Iola Roberts came to Pell City and I finished Hall Hill School with flying colors getting a diploma signed by Carl Q. Baxter, which to this day I have hidden somewhere among my souvenirs.

Miss Roberts had us to stand in front of the school each morning and salute the flag and pledge allegiance to our country.

Mae Luker, Lanney Graham, Alton Dorrrough, Joe Stone and Mabel Bowen are some of my fellow schoolmates.

\* \* \* \* \*

**T V MISGUIDE:**

The callope in the Nixon parade reminded me of a circus which I hope the next four years doesn't come true . . . How can television announcers criticize long hair when some of their top men are wearing long, thick sideburns resembling the civil war days.

\* \* \* \* \*

Will Rogers must have had Etowah County in mind when he commented "that as long as they can stagger to the polls they'll vote dry."

\* \* \* \* \*

I am sure that I have at least one fan in Walker County. According to Mrs. Holladay, Margaret (nee Holladay) Gambrell reads this column faithfully.

\* \* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE:**

The speed bumps along Com-

er Avenue . . . the central office (for you young squirts central office means telephone office) and it used to be above the Pell City Drug Store . . . Pearly Cook coaching a basketball team at Pell City High and they played their games out of doors at night on the courthouse square . . . Do you remember the oil well found on the high school grounds and the man who came here who wore hightop boots to examine the well and I'll be darned if he didn't almost organize a stock company for the said well . . . And Lonnie McSwain driving a taxi and meeting trains yelling out to the passengers, which were mostly 'drummers', "Only fifty cents to the oil fields".

\* \* \* \* \*

If I had all the weight offered me since I got down to one hundred pounds, I would now weigh 1890 pounds.

\* \* \* \* \*

**POT POURI:**

The above title proves to me that I'm going swanky. I know that the Tom Cat Choir would never approve of this, so let's just call this Dis and Dat.

The bath house that used to stand near the mill office and John Levans was the barber and his Daddy repaired shoes.

The old ice house that stood at the mill entrance and I can still see Mr. (Uncle Tom Mungall) sitting on the steps waiting for the call whistle. I would just be getting off from a twelve hour shift filling batteries.

We were rather fortunate in those days as we had electric lights. And the town 'dudes' didn't. They did turn them off at midnight.

And Henry Walker coming around to pick up celluloid colars and have them back by the

next Saturday or Sunday for sho.

\* \* \* \* \*

Just thinking about the old baseball teams and Lefty Walker. I don't recall of seeing or hearing of him 'being batted out of the box'.

\* \* \* \* \*

I wonder what the cartoonist who draws Dick Tracy will have the moonmaid doing when the astronauts arrive on the moon.

\* \* \* \* \*

**DID YOU KNOW:**

That the Hershey Candy Company has never spent one penny for advertising.

I will make this the first and last poetry that you will ever see in this column but looking through some pictures brings to mind the following:

I don't believe that on Mullberry

There was a baby ever born  
That didn't have their picture made

With Uncle John's big bass horn.

**Ramblin'**  
with  
**Renegar**

By: Ralph Renegar

Did you ever get "bugged" over a word or a phrase?

Well, I did. The word is depot. The de poe rhymes with poe (the Edgar Allen Poe type). Or depo rhymes with (the po-boy sandwich type).

The Springville fire brought this to mind when one of the local announcers on national hookup commented on the depo fire. A few nights later I heard Bob Hope paying tribute to one of his audiences and he called it depoe regiment.

Now we all can't be right can we. I remember Higg and I kidding Fred Wycoff about running a depoe on the depo reservation.

So I got down my faithful Noah Webster dictionary and it gives two ways of pronunciation. And that's about all. So I then delved into my encyclopedia and heck, it didn't even have the word depot listed. But I couldn't expect much of the encyclopedia because it was published by Funk & Wagnall. (You remember the Literary Digest being published by this very same company and in a poll they chose Alf Landon to defeat F.D.R. in the presidential election.

\* \* \* \*

Visiting at the Ingram Manor Nursing Home I ran into Johnny Evans and Hazel Dycus. Mrs. Dycus told my wife about how much coffee I drank when I was younger at her place.

I wish for both of them and the rest of Ingram Manor a speedy recovery.

Mrs. Embry was out the day I visited there.

And then the same afternoon I visited the Pell City Curb Market and Ann Pruitt recalled the coffee I drank at the Pell City Drug Store when she was working there.

\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Wasson (Miss Jeanette)

ly Louis is my Butcher.

\* \* \* \*

MEMORY LANE

Do you remember John Graham when he was a policeman of Pell City. Oscar Jackson yelling out fond hellos to people passing his Ford place.

The square dance in the pavilion and Doc Adams calling the dance with a cap in his hip pocket or Dill Cornett calling the dances at Chula-Vista.

And the little plane that force landed here in 1918. My grandmother was sure that it was a German spy that came in to poison the reservoir. And I did without water for at least six hours. By that time I had already gone to see the plane and the poor guy who was trying his best to keep people from tearing his plane up further. In some way dummy Thornton had already relieved the man of his goggles.

sandwich type).

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\* \* \* \*

Mrs. Wasson (Miss Jeanette) Willingham called me the other day and told me how much she enjoyed the column.

With compliments like this, it's like saying, 'Sick-em to a dog'. So if you enjoy reading this call me or send a card and as Dean Martin says, 'Keep them cards and letters coming'.

\* \* \* \*

Stovall Florida says his pepper isn't as hot this year and it took almost a two-gallon bucket to heat a five-room house.

\* \* \* \*

Friendly Fendley runs a Standard Station. — Friendly Sammy is my Postman and Friend-

German spy that came in to poison the reservoir. And I did without water for at least six hours. By that time I had already gone to see the plane and the poor guy who was trying his best to keep people from tearing his plane up further. In some way dummy Thornton had already relieved the man of his goggles.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

*Jan 16, 1969*  
HOWARD AVENUE AS

## REMEMBER IT:

At the foot of Mullberry street  
had Russell's stand. Miss Jen-  
ie serving five cent hot-dogs &  
r. Martin eating three or four

each Saturday morning before  
he went to the gate to collect;  
Rook Skelton's barber shop;  
Arthur Steed's store; across the  
street 'the fountain'; down to  
Mark Jones' bicycle shop; Kos-  
sack's cleaning and pressing  
club; Wasson Willingham; then  
on up to the old progress build-  
ing (this was the home base of  
the paper you are now reading);  
next, the N. R. Shockley store.  
Looking from the front of it and  
seeing Mr. Shockley at the rear  
cash register seemed like a  
mile to me. Then, the George  
Saylor's store. This is where

savings. This amounted to al-  
most three dollars that I col-  
lected in buffalo nickels for  
helping Mrs. Edmunds keep a  
fire around her washpot. And  
numerous other jobs I could  
pick up on Mullberry street  
Then the Maxwell building and  
to this day, I don't know why it  
was named the Maxwell build-  
ing. Next, R. C. Gravette's  
hamburger and hot dog stand.  
Then, the Pell City Drug Com-  
pany where J. H. Stokes has  
been druggist for 'nigh on' the  
past forty years. Then across  
the street to the courthouse with  
each office having a grate in  
it. One Sunday Gad Starnes and  
I went to his Dad's office in the  
courthouse. We built a fire and  
lit up two cigars and rared  
back at his father's desk like  
lawyers and you don't know  
what 'tobacco sickness' is until  
you've had it. Next, the City  
Hall with the calaboose in the  
back of it. O' yes, do you re-  
member the calaboose that sat  
in the back lot of Mr. Saylor's  
store. Across the street and  
back down Howard Avenue, the  
Ford Motor Company; then the  
Pell Bank & Trust Company  
building; which was short lived  
on account of the trust part of  
it. Then across the street the  
Pell City Hardware Company  
owned and operated by Mr.  
Moore, Claude Alverson and  
Hardy Cornett. Then the old  
Pell City theatre which I visited  
weekly to see the adventures of  
the 'Iron Claw'. Then across  
the street to Mitnick's store.

This is my memories of How-  
ard Avenue and I know you  
have lots of them yourself.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sitting in the car while my  
wife does the shopping brings  
people to the window to speak

he was about five years old  
when he told me about earning  
a dime one time and going into  
a store to buy some chewing  
tobacco. About the time the  
clerk started cutting it for  
him, his Dad walked in with  
two five-gallon cans of kero-  
sene when Glenn rushed over to  
the candy counter and said, "I  
want some of this and some  
of that."

At the Highway Patrol Driv-  
er's License office there was a  
young girl filling out her appli-  
cation for a learner's permit.  
When instructing her how to  
fill it out she came to the sub-  
ject of eyes he told her to put  
two and before he could stop  
her, darn if she hadn't already  
did it.

Joe Rumore owns a hunk of  
stock in WVOK. Wonder what  
WYDE's excuse is for Duke.

## DIS AND DAT

After the beating of Alabama  
on December 28th and the South  
beating January 4th it's official  
that Bear Bryant can't walk on  
water . . .

## MEMORY LANE

Do you remember when the  
grocery stores in Pell City had  
salesmen come to your home in  
the morning and take your order  
and deliver it in the afternoon.  
. . . Do you remember the old  
tree sitting in the middle of  
the street in front of the post-  
office . . . and the pole sitting  
in the middle of Howard Ave-  
nue . . .

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Arthur Smith called me  
the other day and while we were  
talking on the phone she men-  
tioned that something should be  
done in the way of amusement  
for senior citizens. Doggonit, I  
just thought about my recent  
birthday and I'm now a senior

my Dad traded mostly. He and Mr. Saylor always bet a stetson hat on each presidential election. This stetson was always a "John B" variety. What that meant, I still don't know. Next, W. P. Lovell market in the old wooden building that sat across the creek and Sam Halpern occupying the other part of the building. Then on up to Union State Bank where I kept my savings. This amounted to almost three dollars that I collected in buffalo nickels for helping Mrs. Edmunds keep a fire around her washpot. And numerous other jobs I could pick up on Mullberry street. Then the Maxwell building and to this day, I don't know why it was named the Maxwell building. Next, R. C. Gravette's hamburger and hot dog stand. Then, the Pell City Drug Company where J. H. Stokes has been druggist for 'nigh on' the past forty years. Then across the street to the courthouse with each office having a grate in it. One Sunday Gad Starnes and I went to his Dad's office in the courthouse. We built a fire and lit up two cigars and rared back at his father's desk like lawyers and you don't know what 'tobacco sickness' is until

to me that I never dreamed of seeing. For instance, Raymond Watlington came up to see me. T. D. Scott came up and spoke and Mrs. Orr Starnes did likewise. Lewis Turner has a good word for me every time he comes out of Pell City grocery seems like.

#### SENSE OF HUMOR

I was kidding Glenn Lonergan about his tobacco chewing when he was about five years old when he told me about earning a dime one time and going into a store to buy some chewing tobacco. About the time the clerk started cutting it for him, his Dad walked in with two five-gallon cans of kerosene when Glenn rushed over to the candy counter and said, "I want some of this and some of that."

At the Highway Patrol Driver's License office there was a young girl filling out her application for a learner's permit. When instructing her how to fill it out she came to the subject of eyes he told her to put two and before he could stop her, darn if she hadn't already did it.

Joe Rumore owns a hunk of stock in WVOK. Wonder what

citizen so I'm wholeheartedly for a program to be started in bridge, horseshoe, dominoes, checkers, etc.



Feb 15, 1968

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

## THIS AND THAT

In last week's paper I read where Andrew Morgan had died. This name struck a bell with me and after reading down I found that he was the brother of Mr. Ed Morgan.

The name was "Judy" Morgan of the famous Punch and Judy Show, promoted by Mungall, Renegar and Morgan. This trio was a sight.

Doug Mungall handled the circulation; Horace Renegar, promotional director; and Judy, whose only job was to put up tents and feed the calf, goat and pigs (the pigs were owned by Mr. Joe Edwards.) These animals composed the sideshow of the circus.

\* \* \* \*

Do you remember when half the population of Pell City turned out on Sunday nights for the arrival and departure of train No. 39.

Albert (Son, Turner) Harvey would grab a handful of old newspapers and sell them like hot-cakes to the people who crowded the door to see what the excitement was.

After lingering around, the people in cars made their way home while 'us on foot' would cross the street to Gravette's Restaurant, where we were treated. It was known as the Frank Brown hamburger. Brother if the firm of Mungall, Renegar and Morgan had had enough sense to promote a chain of Frank Brown hamburger stands, they would be well off today.

\* \* \* \*

This trio of promoters brought a live boxing match to Pell City. They stayed at the Morris Hotel where all I could hear was a guy strumming a ukulele and singing "Bang Away Miss Lucy".

The fight was at the ball park which was in front of the mill.

telling me about Terry. He has the job that I have always wanted.

He is one of the sportswriters on a Chattanooga Daily Paper.

\* \* \* \*

I will never forget the look on Carrie Payne's face when I told her that it didn't stop raining during milking time in the Phillipines. They have a monsoon season there. Carrie told me before I left Pell City that it always stopped raining twice a day for milking time.

\* \* \* \*

Charles Robinson told me the other day that he enjoyed this column.

Charles is the son of John Robinson who was one of the best friends I've ever had.

And seeing John in action in the courtroom he was a real "booger".

\* \* \* \*

And then there was the guy who ran himself nuts trying to throw his old boomerang away

restaurant, where we were treated. It was known as the Frank Brown hamburger. Brother if the firm of Mungall, Renegar and Morgan had had enough sense to promote a chain of Frank Brown hamburger stands, they would be well off today.

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This trio of promoters brought a live boxing match to Pell City. They stayed at the Morris Hotel where all I could hear was a guy strumming a ukulele and singing "Bang Away Miss Lucy".

The fight was at the ball park which was in front of the mill. About twenty people showed up for the big event.

\* \* \* \*

After leaving the Starnes' Cafe we would usually pass by the Yellow Hammer Hotel where G. P. and Miss Absilly sat on the porch.

We then went to the Seaboard railroad bridge and sat shooting the bull for about an hour.

\* \* \* \*

The loud noise that George Gunthorpe made when Bud Gravette shot his famous scatter-load shot in pool still rings in my ear.

\* \* \* \*

Seeing Skad Skelton loading his drink box reminded me of the first cocoa-cola I ever drank.

Mr. Honeycutt bought the drink machine from Fatty Box's father and started making "dopes" to drink.

Did you know that cokes were called dopes all over the South until the cokes of the Eastern part of the nation won out.

\* \* \* \*

#### WHO IS IT?

His name was John Fusher. However, I doubt that over five people in Pell City knew him by this name. He had a nickname and we're going to guess who he was.

#### CLUES:

(1) He was pushed into the dipping vat that was located in another lot adjoining Dad Russell's stand.

(2) "He got up on me wrong side."

Answer (next week).

\* \* \* \*

#### PROUD MOTHERS

Talking the other day with Mrs. Bob (Ruth) Hardwick was

12-19-68

# Rambling With Renegar

by Ralph Renegar

Through the valley of death  
rode the gallant 600.

I wasn't one of the 600 referred to in the above passage but since last March I have been through the said valley numerous times it seems.

I was operated on last March in the VA hospital in B'ham and they removed my entire stomach. Brother, I have really had it for the entire 1968 it seems. I went from 170 lbs. down to 84 lbs. and my 'fighting weight' is now 100 lbs.

Thanking everyone for their kindness, especially Mrs. Snider and Wasson Harmon for chauffeuring me around; also Mrs. Lonergan for her delicious pie and cakes.

\* \* \*

Gad Starnes told me that when he was on the freshmen squad of the UA that boys from New Jersey and New York would say, 'Let us go to Alabama and see Pohsedena.'

I seems now how everyone is saying, 'Lets go to Miami to see Havanah.'

\* \* \*

About parallel parking. I often wonder how many people can parallel park. I would say that the ratio would amount to 40% or less. And I often wonder if all the highway patrol can do it.

\* \* \*

'Seeing Mothers and Fathers wanting their children to be doctors or lawyers reminds me of a woman I knew that wanted her son to make a living with pencil behind his ear.'

\* \* \*

## THINGS I'VE BEEN MISSING

The Christmas Parade last Sturday night was one of the best I have ever seen in Pell City and it seems that approximately six thousand other people thought the same.

The joint meeting of the VFW and the American Legion is really for hungry folks (I wonder if the old saying, 'The army travels on it's stomach applies here.) Steaks, french fries and salads were galore.

Let me suggest that if you are not already a member of one of these organizations, then for Gosh Sakes, join. As you will get about twelve steak dinners a year. And remember, you can bring your 'ole lady' too for no extra cost.

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

This column, Rambling With Renegar, is a direct descendant of the "Tom Cat Choir", by Skinny et-al this was in 1925 and the et-al came from Miss Inez Duke, my latin teacher. That is about all the latin I remember except "Et tu brute".

The charter members that I still recall were Floyd (editor) White, who ran the Pell City News in those days. T. D. Williams, Sam Cornett, Ed Blair, Bud Gravette and any others who do remember a Tom Cat Choir.

To be a charter member now (one must) witness a wrestling match or saw one on T.V. 20 points for both, 10 points for one.

Saw a stock car race in person or on T.V., 20 points for both, 10 points for one.

Fixing to leave the house when your wife shouts out "you are not going out without a bath or a shave are you?" Both 20 points, one 10 points.

1929— the depression years— if you used the bag of golden grain hanging in little man's barber shop. 20 points, if you didn't waste any, only 10 points.

Uniform for the day "liberty brand over-alls. We will meet at the mouth of Dye Branch for lunch.

If you can make 30 points then you are qualified for a "Tom Cat Choir" card.

\* \* \* \*

George Ray (Dodge Boy) Franklin told me he enjoyed reading this column—so did Melvin Burnham. After Melvin left I asked which one was he, Melvin or Marvin. Fred Jones told me it was Melvin because they were brothers-in-law.

\* \* \* \*

## COURT HOUSE GOSSIP

In the sheriff's office the other day talking to Coon "High Man" Smith.

I remarked that today was Ground Hog Day.

Coon replied, "Yes, he knew this and it also was Johnny DeGarris' Birthday. When he told me Johnny's age it floored me— why it seems only yester-

20 points, one 10 points.

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me— why it seems only yester-  
day that Jack would walk home  
to lunch and Jack would yell  
out "sis pot" come here and  
Jackie would scurry in her  
Daddy's arms.

\* \* \* \*

#### FAMILIAR VOICES

Mrs. Singleton coming to the  
door calling Ponda, Arvilla and  
Savannah come on home and  
you would see little tow-headed  
youngsters coming in every di-  
rection to get home.

\* \* \* \*

#### MEMORY LANE

Ran into Johnny Tuttle with  
each of us pushing "food wag-  
ons. Johnny was the first 'shut-  
ter bug' I remember in Pell  
City— and the picture he made  
of the school house burning  
down was and is a masterpiece  
of good photography.

\* \* \* \*

Discussing snuff eating with  
Arvilla, Buck Rich and Norma  
(Tall Tales) Howell.

I told about loading up with  
Eruton's and it even got in my  
ears at the old spring at the  
back of the church. That was  
the last of the snuff habit for  
me.

I glanced over to Norma and  
told her she didn't remember  
the spring.

"I do too", she retorted, "Un-  
cle Bibb used to carry me to  
milk and squirt milk in my  
mouth".

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

By: RALPH RENEGAR

The other night I called Was-son Harmon (who is my chief source of information) and asked him Fred Miller's brother's first name. He couldn't recall it but suggested that I call Irene Honeycutt and ask her. Irene not only supplied me with Mr. Miller's first name but told me Mr. Miller was a Justice of Peace and married her Father and Mother.

Mr. Fred and Mr. Miller both use to deliver mail in horse and buggies. Back in those days R.F.D. meant rural free delivery but we have certainly dropped the free from R.F.D.

Congress and Senate are al-ways arguing about the post of- fice's losing money. Who cares?

If we are going to tax people for mail delivery, why not put all the highways on the toll fee also.

Mr. Fred had a feist dog which was "murder" on gopher rats.

## DO YOU REMEMBER:

The old Star and Durant cars being sold at the garage where the hospital now stands . . . Cloverine salve which was high-ly recommended for everything from the gout to the botts . . . Every boy worth his salt had a fur catalogue . . . Pennsylv-ania Grit and Chicago Ledger being sold by every kid, it seems, in town. However, the Pennsylvania Grit is still being published. When I was at Moun- tain Home, Tennessee kids were running over each other trying to sell them. . . The time the band played over WBRC but I wasn't allowed in because they didn't use drummers.

The other Wednesday after- noon, I visited the golf course |

pitching staff of Pell City . . . Dewey Trotter coming to Pell City with a "Scrub Team" from Lincoln and striking out 21 men . . . \* \* \* \*

## MAIL CALL:

This must be the next best thing to hearing PAY DAY to AC 2 Bobby D. Burnham, Box 30, USNS, EPO, NYC, 09571.

I received a letter from Bob- by the other day and was real glad to hear from Keflavik, Iceland. I'll assure you that I won't tell any "long handle" jokes, Bobby.

As far as you being a young squirt, boy do we need 'em now.

I called Hazel (Ma) Dycus and told her about hearing from you & each time hearing played Muskrat Ramble she would do a jig. She admitted to it but gave you a promotion. She said that you were a curb boy, not a dishwasher.

Most of the old gang of "Monday morning" quarter- backs have gone but I do see Sam Cornett occasionally.

No, I don't have the '53 Ford that you spoke of.

From the mail that I have been getting, Frank Miller ap- pealed to a lot of people. No, I didn't know anything about "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You" but I will check with Shave R. Rich and find out the details.

Tiny Windsor has been dead several years now and most of the baseball players you mentioned are also dead.

Bobby, Bob Cornett is still keeping them flying and will get out the Fatted Calf for you when you come home eight months from now.

I received a letter from Mrs. L. Rugenstein. She is Lefty Walker's youngest sister, Lou- ise. She now lives at Pontiac, Michigan and so does Bertha (Lefty's wife). Bertha is a nurse at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

Louise, I certainly appreciate

getting a letter from you also. Received a letter from Mrs. Bernice Asbury who now lives at Longbeach, California. Also a picture, that I didn't know was in existence, of a five- piece band with Frank Miller at the piano and me on drums.

In those days I must have had Rambling on my mind, too, because of the Rambling Owls in boxcar letters on the bass drum which was made at Clairmont Springs in about 1924.

Mrs. Asbury's home was at Springville and her maiden name was Bernice Beason. She was a girl friend of Frank Mil- ler's also. She attended Loulie Compton Seminary with Jim- mie Sue Shockley when she was about sixteen years old.

Jimmie Sue is now with In- ternal Revenue Service in B'ham and Frank Miller died about five years ago.

Bernice, I appreciate the pic- ture and will take good care of it and return it to you as soon as possible.

When I first started this col- umn, I decided to never publish an annoyous letter for fear that people would think I was making up the letters.

However, I received a letter the other day which was so full of interesting items and a sense of humor that I am going to break this rule one time.

She speaks of Thomas Rich walking up and down the road and sounding like a sawmill and following it by yelling "whoo 'ee, an't it fun."

She also remembers going to school at Riverside on a hill and she would have to walk an extra mile through what then was called Buzzard Roost to school when it rained.

She remembered Mr. Laney, the depot agent, had three sons; Haskel, Malcolm, and Jones Blair. Jones Blair must have been the cut-up of the family by opening the river drawbridge and Mr. Laney caught it just before the freight

train ws due. Mr. lowering the bridge school ad gave and Mis Burnett never ge from him ped him ime anc and he ver wc Mr. Lane really cried too.

The old aw bri for the steboat, brought sujes Georgia.

She also ill, her brother old dren to Pelly i the year anc t winter shoes, the big treat, Martin's dru, Dr. Martin w, she'd ever kno for thousands and buy them cream each. Mr. Shockley's out the day.

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The other Wednesday afternoon, I visited the golf course and a big sign saying, "Dog fight today." I knew they had eagles and birdies around the golf course but I never heard of a dog fight. I started to come home and get "Old Yellar" and enter him!

About this time, Hilda Holladay came out and told me that it wasn't actually a dog fight but people playing golf. Golf is a game where you hit a ball as far as your can and then jump in a go-cart and run it down.

I like the go-cart riding but hitting a golf ball evades me.

\* \* \* \*

"I'se got fo aces."

"I'se got fo aces",

"What's yo high card?"

\* \* \* \*

#### MEMORY LANE:

The pavillion at Riverside where people would go for July 4th barbecues and picnics . . . The old baseball field that stood next to Highway 78 and Reid Tucker winning a game for Pell City in the 9th inning by hitting a homerun. . . . Monk Willingham playing ball for Little Rock in the old Southern League . . . Claude Brown and Rance Hardy was the

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NEWS-AEGIS, PELL CITY, ALABAMA

\* \* \* \*

I had a strange feeling the other day when I was seated at the drug store counter drinking a coke and right next to me Charlie Lockridge was drinking a glass of milk.

However, a couple of days later I met him at the Fatted Calf and he introduced me to Cotton Gullledge who is a Budweiser distributor also. I told Mr. Gullledge about the doctors putting me on Budweiser when I was a patient in the hospital. He told me about three severely burned men in another hospital and two of the three were drinking Budweiser also.

This proves that three out of four hospitalized men prefer Budweiser.

He also told me that the drinking Budweiser lived and the other died. So when your nurse tells you to drink your Bud, you had better do it.

\* \* \* \*

I received a call from M. L. Lewis the other day and he told me about an old watering trough that stood at the foot of the fountain. He said that people bringing cows to market which was selling for about two cents a pound drove their cows to the trough and made them drink as much water as possible so their weight would be up.

\* \* \* \*

Well, I have finally found a graduation invitation listing the names of class '28, who were: (May 19, 1926 3 o'clock Wed.,) John Robert Dyke, Jr.; Ralph P. Renegar; Hugh Teague Longergan; Alpha H. Walker, Alfred Gaston Starnes; Jessie Carolyn Williamson; Edith Irene Love; Mildred Davore Huggins; Vivian Ruth Ginn; Kate E. Savage; Irene Carreker; Laura B. Willingham; Vi-

da Belle Vaughan; Robert Newman Walker; Sara Elizabeth Crump; Annie Rebecca Yarbrough; Rebecca Elizabeth Watson; Charles Ross Fay, Jr.; Mavis E. Ingram; Jimmie Sue Shockley.

MOTTO: What we are to be, we are now becoming. FLOWER: Rose COLORS: Crimson and white.

Jessie Armstrong furnished me the list and she is all for a class reunion also.

Just thought of another chapter we could have. Mrs. Jim Bass Embery known in those days as Miss Eva Johnston who was our English teacher and one of the best I believe who has ever taught at Pell City High.

If your name appears on this list, please get in touch with me and let me know how you feel about a class reunion.

Thanks, Jessie, for bringing

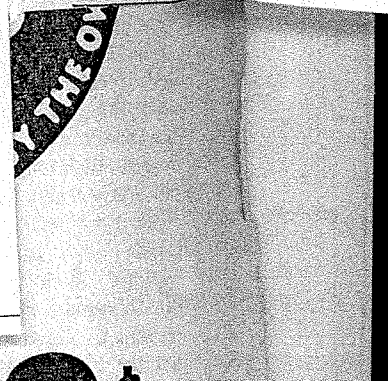
the invitation over to me the other night.

\* \* \* \*

Received a call from Willard Patterson the other day and Mr. Patterson enjoys the column also.

He remembers the Mulligan stews held at Skeeter Park and the moon-light requisitioning of corn, chickens, and anything else that was needed.

He promised to furnish me with more information about Eden as soon as he gets through abstracting a deed.





Feb. 29, 1968

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

The other day standing on the street a boy passed by us with his hair down to his ears. I started to comment but someone spoke up and said, "He is a local boy." Does that excuse him as the Beatles and all the long hairs should be excused.

I believe that if he had had a childhood such as mine he would be a different boy.

Things he is missing are being kidded when you quit wearing short pants and start wearing long ones . . . Or making a kite out of flour . . . Or cutting a broom stick off and making a peg stick out of it . . . Or making a wagon out of some old cogs found in a trash pile

and riding down a steep hill.

**BASEBALL TODAY**  
Rich Alverson and Joe Adams with catchers, Tattler and Iron Ree. The foregoing batteries were Fourth of July treats in my childhood also.

Do you remember the home-run that Reed Tucker hit in the late innings of a ball game or Monk Willingham playing professional baseball at Little Rock with the old Southern League.

Claude Lundy and "Wart" Gentry playing at Meehan Field . . . Or the Sunday that Pell City went through North Birmingham to get Luman Harris to go to Buck Creek that afternoon. The guy who he replaced that afternoon was Lefty Walker, who in my opinion could have gone higher in big leagues than Luman did if they had moved 18 looms and Jake Poole with him.

"Who was that lady I saw with you last night Rastus?"  
"That weren't no lady, that was my wife."  
"I have a question Mr. Inter-

loctur".  
Yes Mr. Bones, what is it?—  
If the foregoing brings back memories of the old minstrel shows which used to visit Birmingham, namely Al G. Fields, each year I am glad.

We used to have minstrel shows at the school house on Hall Hill and Fred Cook and Boss Armstrong were the end-man and teamed up with Mannon Spradley to sing and they were darned good.

Speaking of the good old days, I can remember that only one car sat on the Mill grounds for the night shift who worked.

This Model A cut down belonged to Will Henry Burke. And every payday Saturday morning we would take off to Gray's Camp and spend the weekend there playing dominos and poker. We didn't have much money but we sure had a lot of fun.

Do you remember the call whistle that blew each morning at ten till five to wake the employees up? It could have

been heard all the way to Eden Sounds but maybe someone in Eden me who worked in the Mill. That was double (the garr  
had been turned off at mid night. This may not seem very important now but back in those days the town doods didn't have any lights at all.

Speaking of baseball, I believe that I will pick an old-timers ball team and see if all agree. Jim Hunevutt, 3rd base; Doc Adams, shortstop; Wheeler Harris, 2nd base and Vester Garrett, 1st base.

For my out field I would have Derrill Pratt, left field; Earl Turner, also known as "Tar Bucket" and "Scissors", center field and A. T. Winkler, right field.

For my catcher I would have to go along with Tattler.

### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I was wrong last week when I said that my Dad ran the first bakery in Pell City. Norman Adams called me on the phone and told me that Mr. Goodwin ran the first bakery. And he was perfectly right.

I remember Mr. Goodwin's baker and his name was Nix. In fact, he taught me how to roll hamburger buns. Thanks Normy for the help in correcting this mistake.

Norman was at Talladega with the band that I spoke of about George Gunthorpe. He even remembered the name of the theatre. It was the Elks.

Bill Howell and Woyman Adams are accused of cheating in w. as in rock. Bill, Woyman and I all realize the superiority of men over women in card games. So stop cheating boys and give the girls a break.

I am not so sure tho. that it is rock that they are playing.

**MEMOR**  
The old to stand now bring me.

Gad Sta build a fi fice. One pla of ci and smok sickness sickness I g

cigar. I for dinne eat. I i noon rec

Quit lo bor's sho to the d Clair No have to or writé subscrip As De them le

And who ha both lu

been heard all the way to Eden but maybe someone in Eden worked in the Mill. That was when the lights came on which had been turned off at mid night. This may not seem very important now but back in those days the town doods didn't have any lights at all.

\* \* \* \*

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\* \* \* \*

Bill Howell and Wayman Adams are accused of cheating in rook. Bill, Wayman and I all realize the superiority of men over women in card games. So stop cheating boys and give the girls a break.

I am not so sure tho. that it is rook that they are playing.

Sounds a little like poker to me when they say they played double or nothing at the end of the game.

\* \* \* \*

**MEMORY LANE**

The old court house that used to stand where the new one is now brings back memories to me.

Gad Starnes and I used to build a fire in his Daddy's office. One Sunday we got a couple of cigars and retired back and smoked some. Brother sea-sickness or no other kind of sickness was as bad as the sickness I got from smoking the cigar. I got home just in time for dinner but was too sick to eat. I laid in bed all afternoon recovering.

\* \* \* \*

Quit looking over your neighbor's shoulder or rushing down to the drugstore to buy the St. Clair News-Aegis when all you have to do is call me at 8-2088 or write me at box 85 for your subscription.

As Dean Martin says, "Keep them letters and cards coming."

\* \* \* \*

And then there was the guy who had double pneumonia in both lungs.

what is it?—brings back old minstrel to visit Burl G. Fields, ad. ve minstrel ol house on ed Cook and ere the end-up with Man-ing and they good old days, hat only one l grounds for o worked, ut down be- enry Burke. ay Saturday d take off to d spend the ying dominos n't have much re had a lot ber the call each morn- e to wake the t could have

did you?"

#### A PLUG

My wife was telling her brother, J. B. Clark, about these articles I write and he said, "Put my name in one and I'll believe you."

He brought us a nice fat hen which tasted very good during the X'mas season. By the way, his wife is a niece of C. C. (Gus Stine). She was Barbara Camp. Now I can't plug all my wife's brothers and sisters, she has ten; but I will plug one other, Ralph Clark is the O.K. Used CAR dealer in B'ham.

Feb 1, 1968

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

#### REMINISCING

Bill Gray and I were sitting on the first tee as J. T. and Ray teed off—after they were out of sight we both admitted as golfers we would make good ditch diggers.

Discussion of Bill's family, and all of his children have made good. Finally rummy came into the conversation and Bill said he did not play any kind of cards anymore since the "famous" Spanish Garden raid during which Bill made a new door to the Garden which wasn't there when Mr. Ashley, Jackson, Owens, and Pat Cornett shoved in the front door and swooped down on our penny poker game.

Bill got away clean into the night while J. B. Walker and I had to sign our own bonds.

Then Bill recalled Mr. Noble who traveled out of Anniston and on each trip to Pell City Boyer, Bill, Charlie and I would play poker at Mr. Fay's residence.

#### X'MAS IS OVER

I have been parking on the streets in front of the meters, paying no attention if it read "violation" or not.

Someone told me that the meters were not being read in Dec. or Jan. but today I got a violation slip—so good-bye '67.

#### BOOK REVIEW

The Specialist — by Chick Sales—back when I read this book I got a lot of belly laughs.

When I first read the book the subject was a problem—his one and two seaters he described in building the masterpieces was sheer art.

And to think of all the ones I turned over on Halloween still sticks in my mind.

#### BRIGHT SAYINGS

Sam Dycus was asked by a lady in B'ham where he worked. She exclaimed, "Oh, you are a barber?". Sam replied "You didn't think I was a shine boy".

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

## POT POURI

The first bakery in Pell City was ran by my Dad.

The bakery occupied the old building that sat across the creek. His helper was E. G. Hill, who learned to bake at Talladega College.

After a short time in this building we bought the two-story building from Chess Alverson which is now the Steak House and Pell City Motel. Competition got heavy and we had to get a wrapping machine. Then later people started having sliced bread so we folded up and closed.

We had a bread box which we ran a tea kettle on an oil stove with a pine "oin" into the bread box to create steam.

"Shurf" Long came tearing in one day with his search warrant for a still. Papa blew his top at first then laughed when he realized how ridiculous it was.

\* \* \* \*

Overheard in the drugstore was Bob Cornett and Peggy Turner planning a class reunion.

Sure wish that my class could have one before we all die off.

\* \* \* \*

Hugh Williamson was telling me that Amelia Ann has a scrap-book with some of my old columns in it, have to look it up sometime.

\* \* \* \*

Raymond Sykes was the first to identify last week's mystery guest. He was Hobo John.

\* \* \* \*

## LEARNING THE HARD WAY

I came storming on the field and asked Coach Braswell if he could learn me to play football. He put me in my proper place when he told me that he might be able to teach me but I would have to do the learning myself.

\* \* \* \*

I was drinking ice-tea one day at Clairmont Springs where I spent the summer playing in a band. Ralph Peters reached over and bent the spoon in my tea glass so that I wouldn't get hit in the eye this way.

\* \* \* \*

One of my teachers, and I

Embry, asked me what other kind of dentists there was besides tooth dentists. I confounded the issue by saying there was Dennis McGraw. But believe you me, these three constructive criticisms has stuck with me ever since.

\* \* \* \*

## A DAY AT THE LIBRARY

I am going to spend a lot of time in the library in the City Hall building. Laura Kate Gray is the librarian and is interested in the history of Pell City. She has little reference work and is in need of a lot more. Aunt Jane Jordan has been the main topic we have discussed so far.

We were reminiscing about old times and we both agreed that Mrs. Alf Starnes had a keen sense of humor.

Laura Kate seems to be so much older in her conversation than she really is.

I can still remember passing their home late in the evening when Mr. Eatman would call out "hello there Rafe". I would then go up to his porch and sat listening to him talk by the hour.

He was really a stronger democrat that I am if that it is possible.

\* \* \* \*

Will see you at the library when you have anything important to discuss about the history of Pell City.

\* \* \* \*

## THE MERCHANT OF PELL CITY

(with apologies to William Shakespeare)

T. T. Harris ran the first ten cent store that I can recall. Mr. Harris would get busy and put his "gone to dinner" sign as soon he saw Truman Wynn approaching . . . Zack Laney ran a store just across the street and he would put out his vegetables and hang a stalk of bananas in front of his store much to the delight of Mr. Harris' big white bird dog . . . Joe Sims used to deliver groceries and I would catch a ride with him and we would go to Mr. Doby's store where I bought my first package of cigarettes which were named Reno . . . This Joe Sims was the same that Buck Lewis used to say "Has anybody seen Joe Laney?" by Henry Starnes. Buck called "R. E. L." Doby alphabet Doby . . . N. R. Shockley, Bud Martin, George Barber, Arthur Steed, M. L. Lewis, Bob Gunter and George Saylor.

Mr. Saylor sold 16 lbs. to a

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

## POT POURI

The first bakery in Pell City was ran by my Dad.

The bakery occupied the old building that sat across the creek. His helper was E. G. Hill, who learned to bake at Talladega College.

After a short time in this building we bought the two-story building from Chess Alverson which is now the Steak House and Pell City Motel. Competition got heavy and we had to get a wrapping machine. Then later people started having sliced bread so we folded up and closed.

We had a bread box which we ran a tea kettle on an oil stove with a pipe "in" into the bread box to create steam.

"Shur?" Long came tearing in one day with his search warrant for a still. Papa blew his top at first then laughed when he realized how ridiculous it was.

\* \* \* \*

Overheard in the drugstore was Bob Cornett and Peggy Turner planning a class reunion.

Sure wish that my class could have one before we all die off.

\* \* \* \*

Hugh Williamson was telling me that Amelia Ann has a scrap-book with some of my old columns in it, have to look it up sometime.

\* \* \* \*

Raymond Sykes was the first to identify last week's mystery guest, He was Hobo John.

\* \* \* \*

## LEARNING THE HARD WAY

I came storming on the field and asked Coach Braswell if he could learn me to play football. He put me in my proper place when he told me that he might be able to teach me but I would have to do the learning myself.

\* \* \* \*

I was drinking ice-tea one day at Clairmont Springs where I spent the summer playing in a band. Ralph Peters reached over and bent the spoon in my tea glass so that I wouldn't get hit in the eye this way.

\* \* \* \*

One of my teachers, and I do believe it was Mrs. Jim Bass

kind of dentists there was besides tooth dentists. I confounded the issue by saying there was Dennis McGraw. But believe you me, these three constructive criticisms has stuck with me ever since.

\* \* \* \*

## A DAY AT THE LIBRARY

I am going to spend a lot of time in the library in the City Hall building. Laura Kate Gray is the librarian and is interested in the history of Pell City. She has little reference work and is in need of a lot more. Aunt Jane Jordan has been the main topic we have discussed so far.

We were reminiscing about old times and we both agreed that Mrs. Alf Starnes had a keen sense of humor.

Laura Kate seems to be so much older in her conversation than she really is.

I can still remember passing their home late in the evening when Mr. Eatman would call out "hello there Rafe". I would than go up to his porch and sat listening to him talk by the hour.

He was really a stronger democrat that I am if that it is possible.

\* \* \* \*

Will see you at the library when you have anything important to discuss about the history of Pell City.

\* \* \* \*

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Mr. Saylor sold 16 lbs. to a peck regardless that everyone

Jan 25, '68

# Ramblin'

with

# Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

## LITTLE TOWN USA

The small things that we take for granted each day is what makes Pell City the big-hearted town it is.

After first moving here I didn't know quite what I wanted to do—but friends have already fixed that up.

Last Saturday afternoon my glasses frames came apart in a dozen pieces. Knowing Dr. Coshatt was closed noon Wednesday I rode by his home and asked when he would be in.

Mrs. Coshatt took the pieces & went to the office & fixed them for me. She wouldn't accept a dime for her help to me. So thanks Mrs. Coshatt and a great big "hole in one" — for you Dr. Coshatt.

It's these little things at almost any time of the day or night.

## KNOW THE ANSWER

Who were known as One-Eyed Connelly (1), Speck (2), Old Coon (3), Blue (4), Buttermilk (5), Seaboard (6)?

ANSWERS ARE: (1) One-Eyed Connelly, Ed Blair, (2) Speck, Rich, (3) Old Coon, Sam Fowler, (4) Blue, Doug Mungall, (5) Buttermilk, Robertson, (6) Seaboard, W. F. Smith.

## MEMORY LANE

Do you remember the Chat-tauga and Tent Shows that came every year? It seemed more realistic to me than the present day shows (Including the red-haired girl that did the yodeling).

When the big show came to an end the M. C. would then announce that for 25c more, they would see a concert. Men will now pass among you "concerts tickets, concerts tickets", apples, oranges, fig newtons and cold drinks.

## 1923 DRAG RACE

My entry would have to be Mr. H. B. Guy (the jeweler). Brother, when he left Eden with that whistle in his mouth neither man nor beast got in his way until he arrived at his shop here in Pell City.

Otto Ekwurzel could imitate Mr. Guy singing "I believe I could fix that watch".

# Ramblin' with Renegar

By: Ralph Renegar

Jan 18, 1968

## FIRST THINGS FIRST:

Mrs. Roy Holladay was the first to mention this column to me. (Seemed to have enjoyed it.) Then came Johnny Turner, of PC Gro., who told me he liked oysters — try some for Sunday breakfast, Johnny. Then Lester Smith and Dan Barber, of Jefferson Home, who said they both kinda liked it. This spurred me on for a sale I was fixing to make anyway. Then came James Seales, Courthouse Janitor, who waved me down as to how much he liked it. This makes you feel good.

## THE "PEALLY BIG" (ED SULLIVAN) FIRE:

After reading of last week's praise of the fire fighters by Bob Cernett it reminds me of the big fire. No it wasn't the school building which stood on Hall Hill.

Lucky for you that you weren't around those days — much less being the President of Avondale Mills.

It was the coldest day that Pell City had ever had and ice froze from the trees which caught most of the water in the first place. Every one crowded into the two-floor construction and all of the valuable pieces were tossed to the ground while grown-ups carried the blankets and mattresses to the floor and out on the grass.

Damage to the home was about \$750 and the furniture was all ruined. Bull Floyd had the dubious honor of being Chief of the Fire Department at this time.

I did salvage one piece of material after the wrecking crew had finished. It was the old wall-cranking phone.

## THINGS NOT TO DO:

Call anyone on the phone from 8:30 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. This is TV's masterpiece "Peyton Place. By the way, things that can't be repeated.

(both dead and alive) we got around to the main topic, it seems, about the "BEAR". Don't worry, folks, he'll be around counting his money while we are cheering dear ole Bama and Auburn.

After a few minutes my close neighbor, Frank Alverson, came in and Frank told us about his trip during the holidays when he and Frank Embury Roberts came back to Florida.

In some manner the subject of Draft beer came up. To hear Sam tell of the large "COORS" (draft beer) on his trip to Arizona and Frank expelling on the make of draft in Florida, formed a comparison. I am sure they both followed orders of the State and "Stood up for Alabama". Do you know that is a state violation to stand up in Alabama and drink beer!

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## **CORNER DRUG**

### **BULL SESSION (s):**

Upon getting to town at about one o'clock I was able to find Sam Cornett and went in to speak to him. We were soon joined by Pete Thompson, Dennis Sisson, and Wasson Harmon.

After discussing everybody

about his trip during the holidays when he and Frank Embry Roberts came back to Florida.

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