

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 14

"The Huntsville Parker: Historical Edition," 1900-1955

Image 1 r10_03-14-000-0201 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

Historical Edition

Lowenstein Fabrics

The Huntsville Parker

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

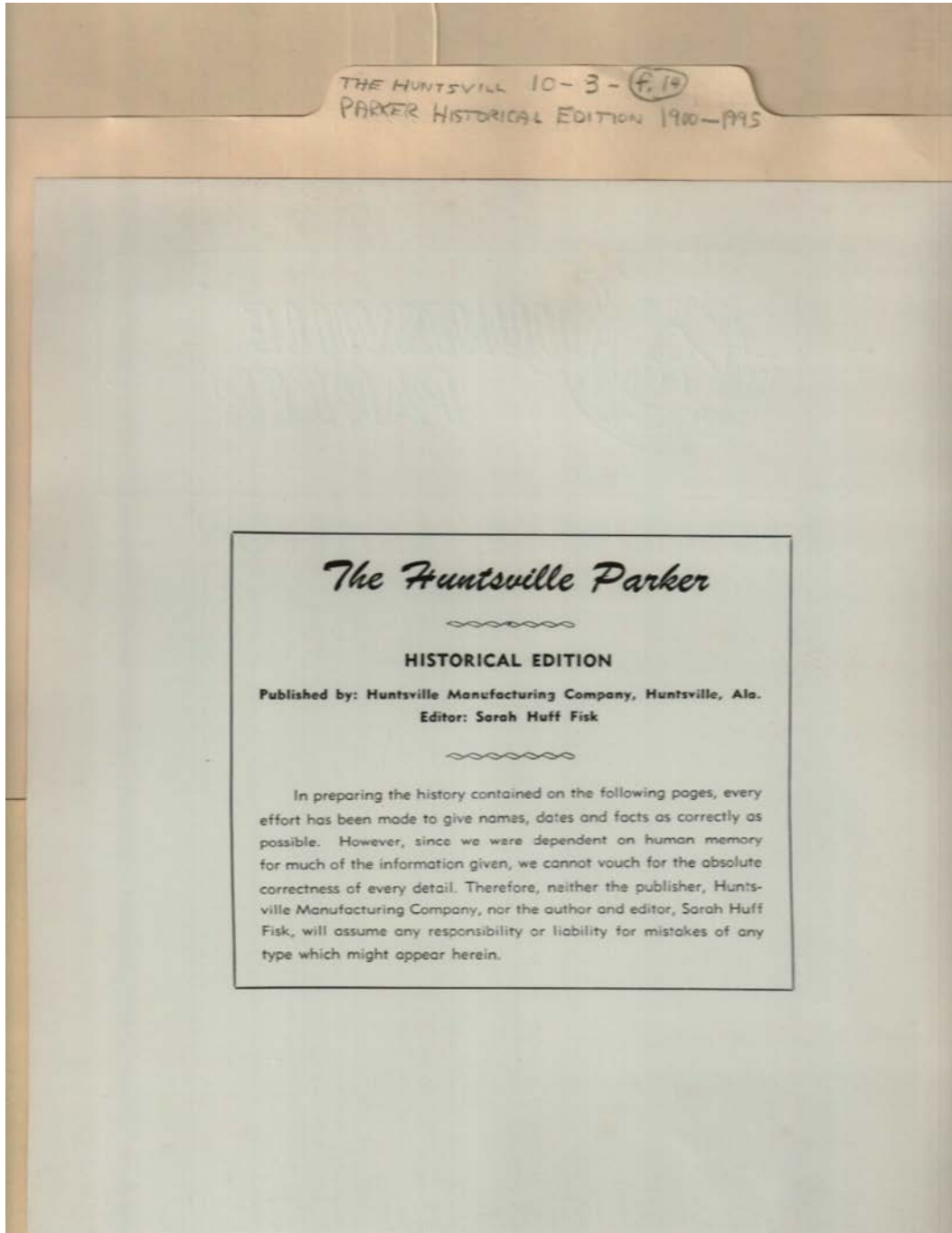
Dates:

Sep 1955

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 14

"The Huntsville Parker: Historical Edition," 1900-1955

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Names:

Fisk, Sarah Huff

Huntsville
Manufacturing Co.

The Huntsville Parker

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

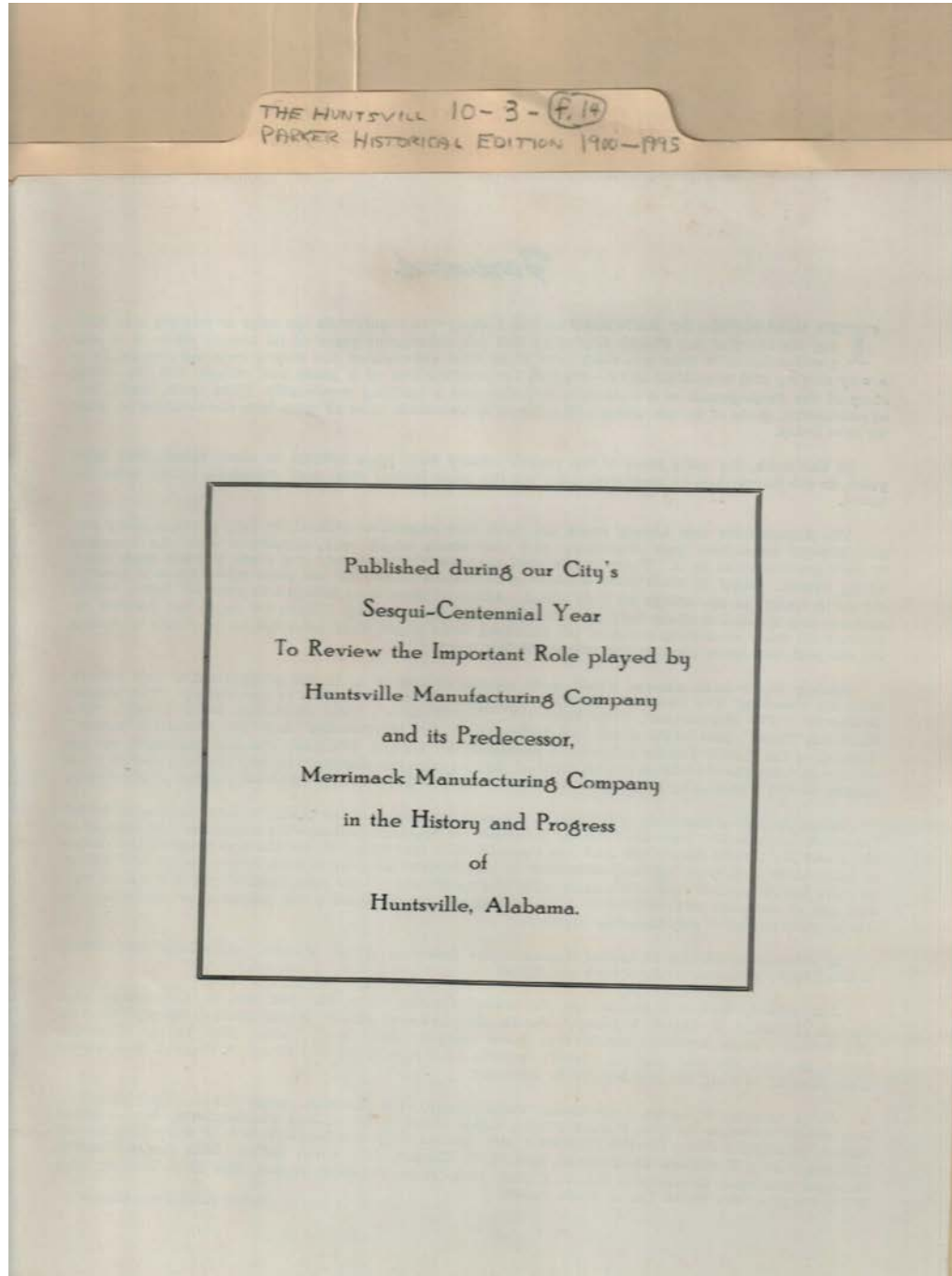
Dates:

Sep 1955

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 14

"The Huntsville Parker: Historical Edition," 1900-1955

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Names:

City's
Sesquicentennial

Huntsville
Manufacturing Co.

Merrimack
Manufacturing Co..

Places:

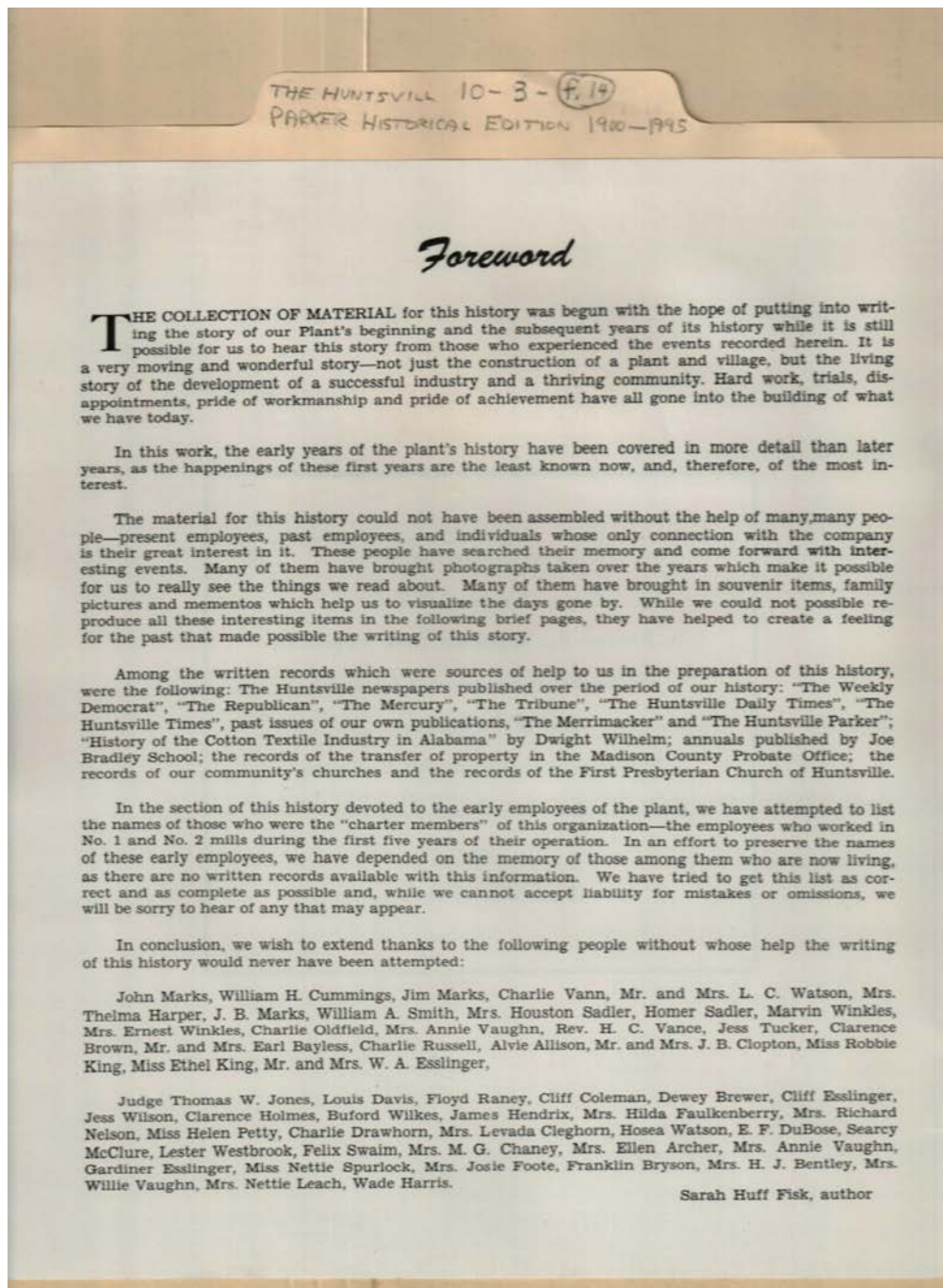
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Allison, Alvie	Cummings, William	Harris, Wade	Nelson, Richard, Mrs.
Archer, Ellen	H.	Hendrix, James	Oldfield, Charlie
Bayless, Earl	Davis, Louis	Holmes, Clarence	Petty, Helen
Bentley, H. J.	Drawhorn, Charlie	Jones, Thomas W.,	Raney, Floyd
Brewer, Dewey	DuBose, E. F.	Judge	Russell, Charlie
Brown, Clarence	Esslinger, Cliff	King, Ethel, Miss	Sadler, Houston
Bryson, Franklin	Esslinger, Gardiner	King, Robbie	Sadler, Houston, Mrs.
Chaney, M. G., Mrs.	Esslinger, W. A.	Leach, Nettie	Smith, William A.
Cleghorn, Levada	Faulkenberry, Hilda	Marks, J. B.	Spurlock, Nettie
Clopton, J. B.	Fisk, Sarah Huff	Marks, Jim	Swaim, Felix
Clopton, J. B., Mrs.	Foote, Josie	Marks, John	Tucker, Jess
Coleman, Cliff	Harper, Thelma, Mrs.	McClure, Searcy	Vance, H. C., Rev.

Vann, Charlie
Vaughn, Annie
Vaughn, Willie, Mrs.

Watson, Hosea
Watson, L. C.
Westbrook, Lester

Wilkes, Buford
Wilson, Jess
Winkles, Ernest, Mrs.

Winkles, Marvin

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 14

"The Huntsville Parker: Historical Edition," 1900-1955

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THE HUNTSVILLE 10-3- (F. 14)
PARKER HISTORICAL EDITION 1900-1995

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Names:

Index

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

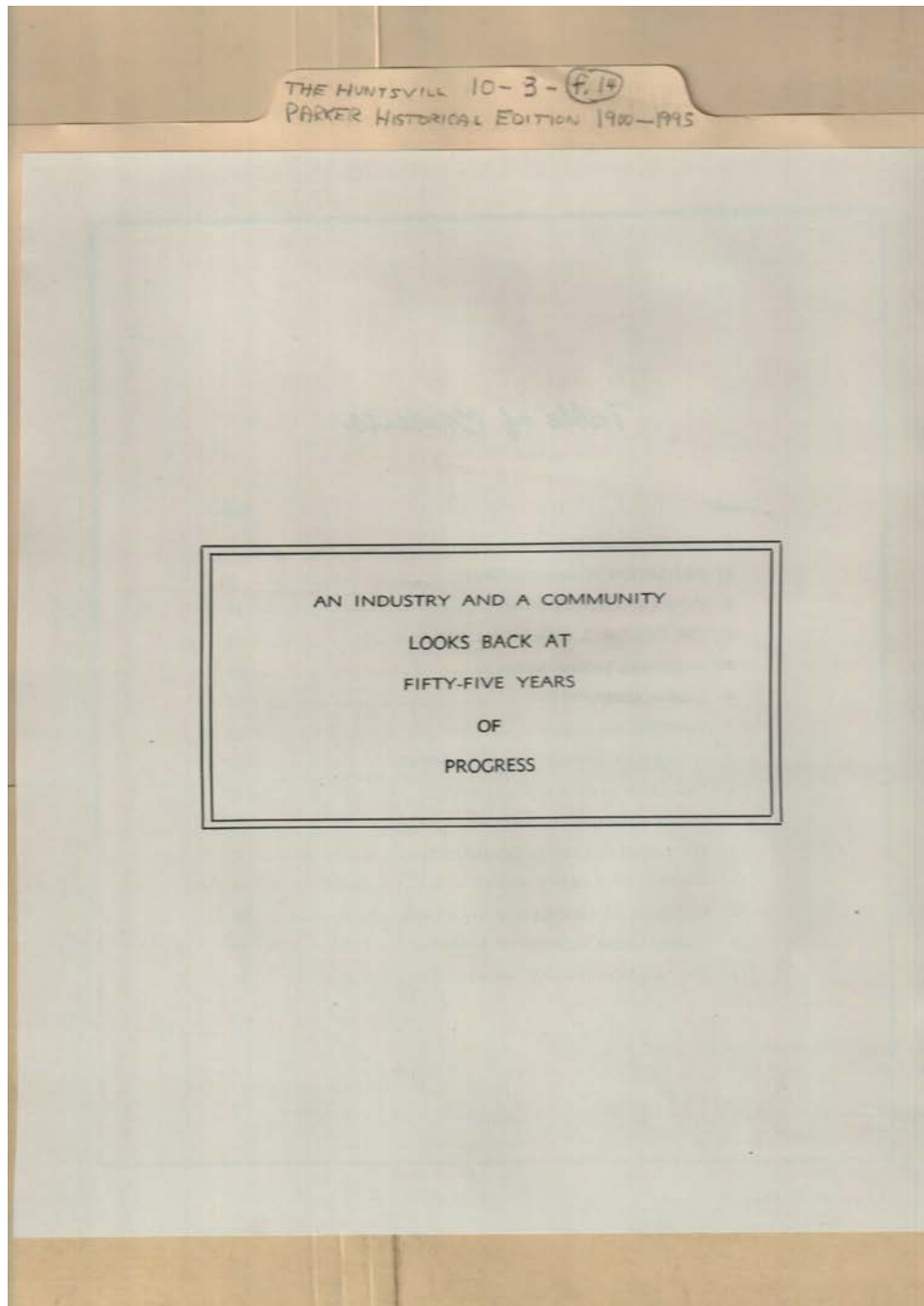
Dates:

Sep 1955

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"The Huntsville Parker: Historical Edition," 1900-1955

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Names:

55 years of progress

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

City of Promise

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Early Textile Mills

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Flood in 1898

Invitation to an
Industry

Places:

Huntsville, AL

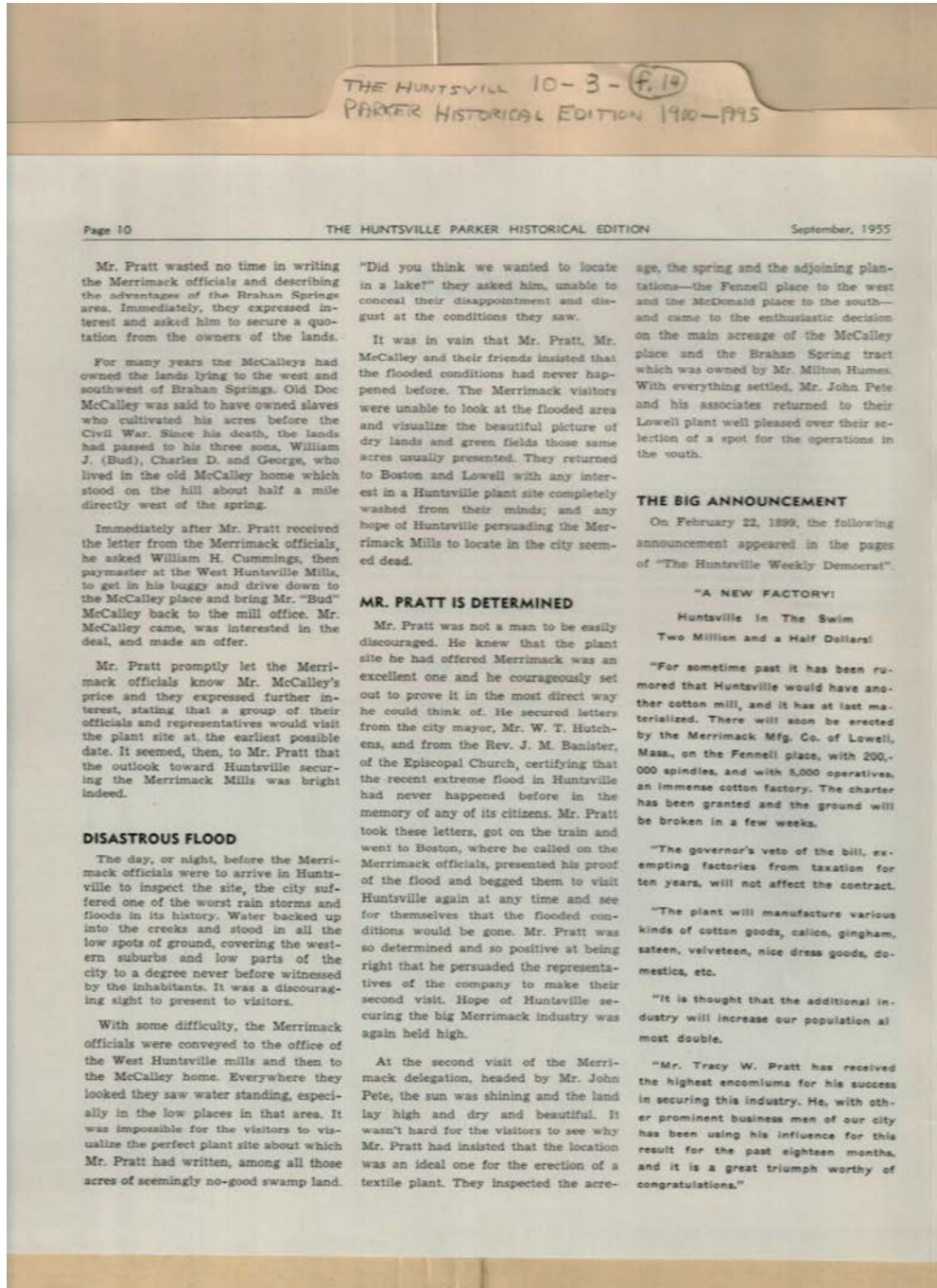
Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

A New Factory

Pratt, Tracy W.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Merrimack Charter

Plant site established

Triana Pike site

Places:

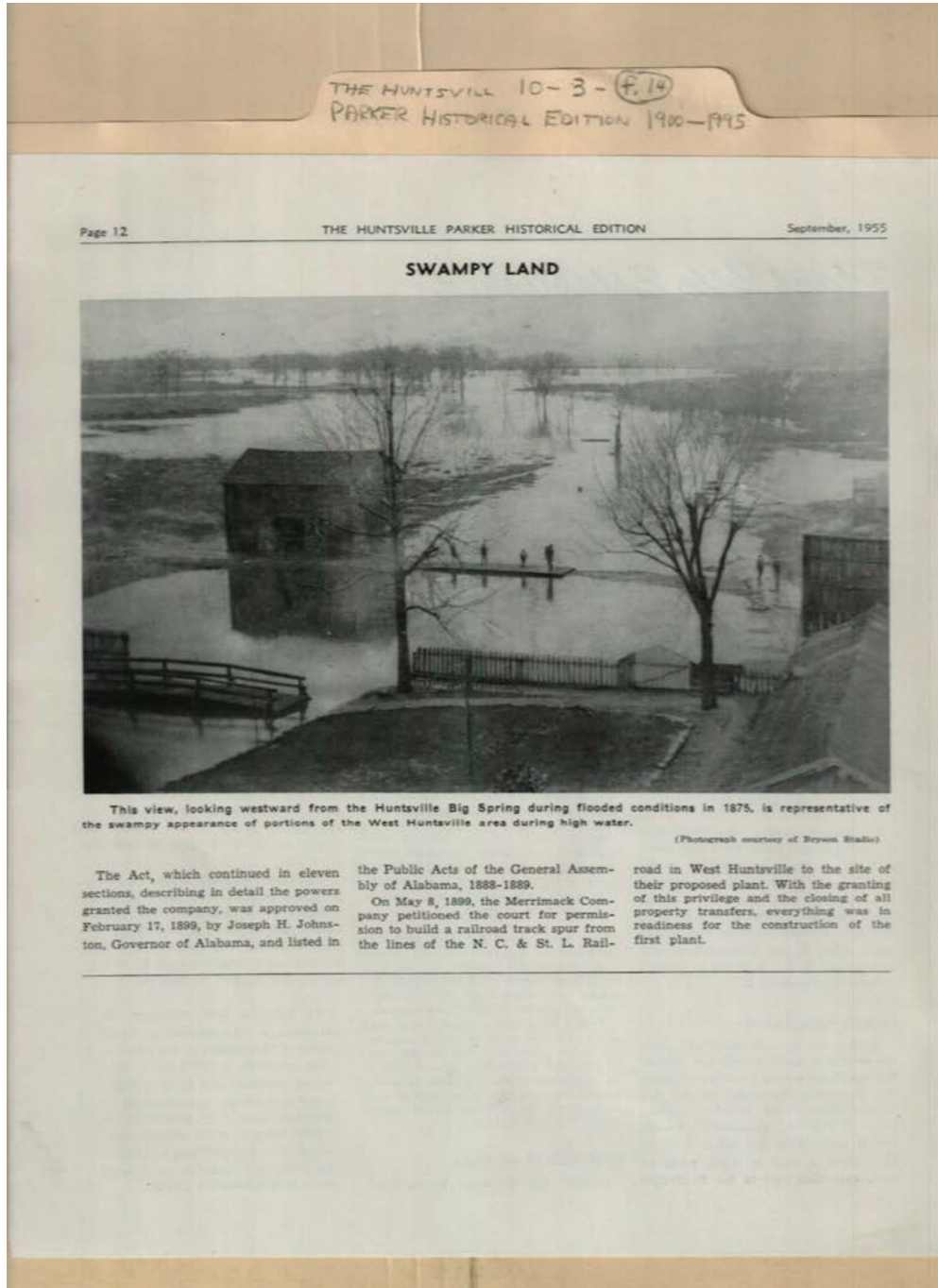
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Johnston, Joseph H.

Swampy Land

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

First Mill Built

Huntsville First Street
Car

Places:

Huntsville, AL

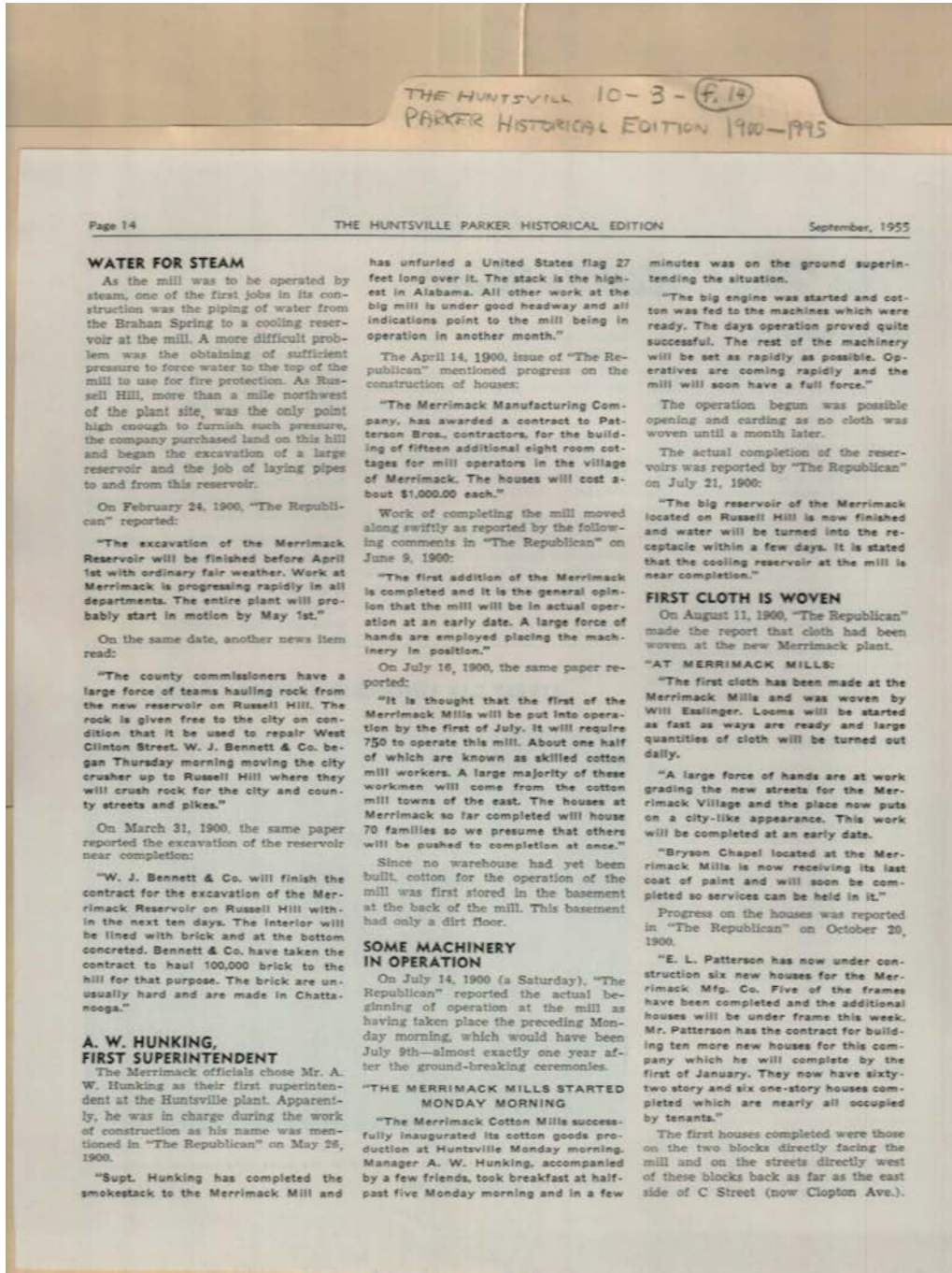
Types:

booklet

Dates:

1899

Sep 1955



Names:

First Cloth Woven

Hunking, A. W.,
Superintendent

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Cobb, Gordon

March, George,
Superintendent

Mill in Operation

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Biggs, Ernest
Bishop,
Bowers, Ewing

Buckner, Liege
Buckner, Will
Card Room

Cleveland, George
Coleman, Cliff
Lehman, Jake

Matkins, Harvey
Strickland, John C.
Vann, Willie

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

1905

Sep 1955



Names:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bell, Lester | Buckner, Nannie | Corum, Kelly | Hawkum, Lem |
| Berry, Lilly | Chaney, Charley | Dunn, Sam | High, Henry |
| Bigggs, Arthur | Chaney, Hettie | Early Workers in No. | King, Ann |
| Biggs, Elsie | Chaney, Jeff | 1 Mill | King, Ethel |
| Biggs, Ernest | Chaney, Lowe | Foster, Eard | King, Robbie |
| Biggs, Fred | Chaney, Tee | Foster, Joseph | King, Tera |
| Biggs, Katie | Chaney, Walter | Foster, Nathan | King, Thomas S. |
| Biggs, Lula | Cloud, Alec | Foster, Paul | Lehman, George |
| Buckner, Bessie | Cloud, Bert | Foster, Rob | Lehman, Henry |
| Buckner, Billy | Cloud, George | Fulgham, Sheriff | Lehman, Jake |
| Buckner, Licher | Cloud, Mert | Gossup, | Lehman, Jim |
| Buckner, Lizzie | Cobb, Gordon | Hambaugh, | Lehman, Will |

Lemley, Chatt
Lemley, Cherry
Lemley, Mattie Lou
Lemley, Sallie
Marks, James R.
Marks, Jess
Marks, Jim
Marks, John
Marks, Lida
Marks, Lilly
Marks, Walter

Marks, Will
Maynard,
McClure, Will
McNatt, Annie
Parker, Albert
Parker, Ann
Parker, Eb
Parker, Lilly
Parker, Minnie
Rose, Clevie
Rose, Mrs.

Rose, Rob
Rose, Sally
Russell, Charlie, Mrs.
Spencer, Lemer
Spencer, Marion
Spencer, Markham
Spencer, Vera
Spencer, Vesta
Steager, Bertie
Steager, Etta
Steager, Jessie

Steager, Shelby
Stolz, Luella
Talley, John
Talley, Mae
Talley, Maude
Talley, Mollie
Talley, Will
Taylor, Ida
Taylor, Jennie
Youngblood, Etta

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

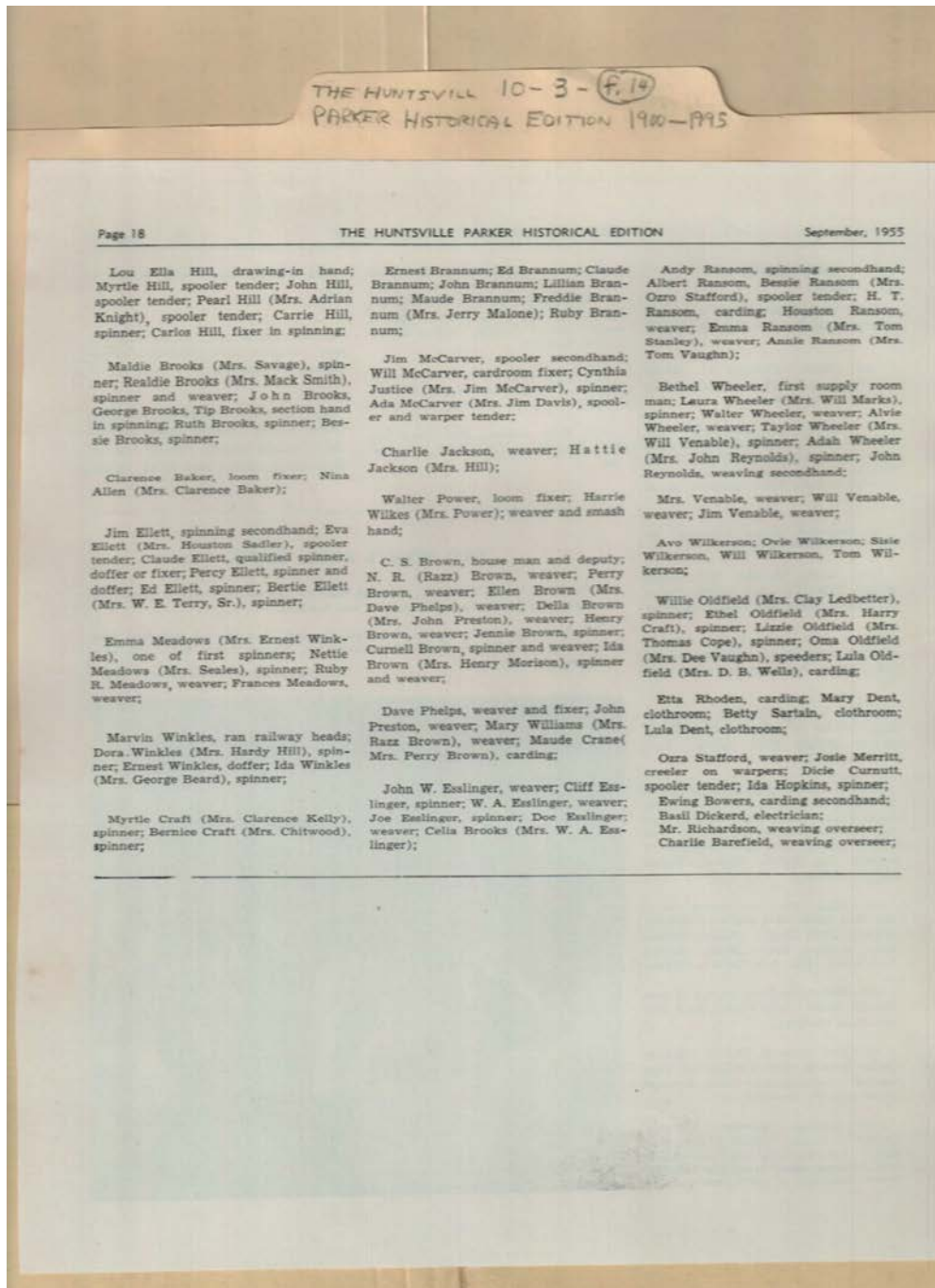
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Names:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Allen, Nina | Brooks, Bessie | Brown, Henry | Ellett, Bertie |
| Baker, Clarence | Brooks, Celia | Brown, Ida | Ellett, Claude |
| Barefield, Charlie | Brooks, George | Brown, Jennie | Ellett, Ed |
| Bowers, Ewing | Brooks, John | Brown, N. R. | Ellett, Eva |
| Brannum, Claude | Brooks, Maldie | Brown, Perry | Ellett, Jim |
| Brannum, Ed | Brooks, Realdie | Craft, Bernice | Esslinger, Cliff |
| Brannum, Ernest | Brooks, Ruth | Craft, Myrtle | Esslinger, Doc |
| Brannum, Freddie | Brooks, Tip | Crane, Maude | Esslinger, Joe |
| Brannum, John | Brown, C. S. | Curnutt, Dicie | Esslinger, John W. |
| Brannum, Lillian | Brown, Curnell | Dent, Lula | Esslinger, W. A. |
| Brannum, Maude | Brown, Della | Dent, Mary | Hill, Carlos |
| Brannum, Ruby | Brown, Ellen | Dickerd, Basil | Hill, Carrie |

Hill, John
Hill, Lou Ella
Hill, Myrtle
Hill, Pearl
Hopkins, Ida
Jackson, Charlie
Jackson, Hattie
Justice, Cynthia
McCarver, Ada
McCarver, Jim
McCarver, Will
Meadows, Emma
Meadows, Frances
Meadows, Nettie
Meadows, Ruby

Merritt, Josie
Oldfield, Ethel
Oldfield, Lizzie
Oldfield, Lula
Oldfield, Oma
Oldfield, Willie
Percy, Ellett
Phelps, Dave
Power, Walter
Preston, John
Ransom, Albert
Ransom, Andy
Ransom, Annie
Ransom, Bessie
Ransom, Emma

Ransom, H. T.
Ransom, Houston
Reynolds, John
Rhoden, Etta
Richardson,
Sartain, Betty
Stafford, Ozra
Venable, Jim
Venable, Mrs.
Venable, Will
Wheeler, Adah
Wheeler, Alvie
Wheeler, Bethel
Wheeler, Laura
Wheeler, Taylor

Wheeler, Walter
Wilkerson, Avo
Wilkerson, Ovie
Wilkerson, Sisie
Wilkerson, Tom
Wilkerson, Will
Wilkes, Harrie
Williams, Mary
Winkles, Dora
Winkles, Ernest
Winkles, Ida
Winkles, Marvin

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

New Community

Summer Street Car

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955

THE HUNTSVILLE 10-3-F.14
PARKER HISTORICAL EDITION 1900-1995



AT DINNER IN 1906

This photograph was taken at 149 Park Blvd. and shows Mrs. Ernest McCree, left, Mrs. Scott Holder, right, and the two Holder children. Mr. McCree worked at the mill office and was also a photographer. He is thought to have taken this photograph and also many others made at that time and earlier. The house where this picture was made had a platform on its roof for many years from which excellent long-view pictures could be made.

(Photograph Property of Huntsville Mfr. Co.)

BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

A general store was a necessity for outlying communities and the Merrimack Company lost no time in providing a building for this purpose. This building, probably finished about the same time as No. 1 mill, stood on the mill yard almost directly in front of the spot where No. 2 mill now stands. The company leased it to W. L. Halsey, who employed a manager at the location.

On August 3, 1903, J. B. Clopton took over as manager for Mr. Halsey. Other employees in the store were Scott Holder, Mr. Knight and Richard Day. Mr. Holder went about the community taking orders each day and Mr. Day made the deliveries.

No. 2 mill was under construction at this time and, since the store building was in the way, the company hired a well-known local house mover, Homer Middleton, to transport the building to a new location. Heavy rollers were placed under the store, ropes attached, horses were hitched to the ropes and began slowly to propel it down the Pike. Mr. Clopton kept the store open for business and so gentle was the process of moving that only one bottle was broken.

The building was brought to rest at the spot where it now stands, as the front section of the "Park Inn". Mr. Clopton operated it there until 1908 when he took over the McCalley Bros. store, also for Mr. Halsey.

Many houses were moved in those days, as houses were considered so much more valuable than land. When the Merrimack company bought the local acreage from the McCalley brothers, the deed stated that the big McCalley home was to be moved off the company land to a section still owned by this family south of the village. This transfer was made and the house placed at the top of the rise which Buena Vista subdivision now occupies. It stood there for many years, until after the company purchased the property in 1923 and took the old building down.



CHANEY DELIVER WAGON

Mr. M. G. Chaney operated a general merchandise store for many years in the community and his delivery wagon was a familiar sight on the streets.

In the background can be seen the picket fence which surrounds the mills and the paint and lumber sheds which then stood inside this fence. This photograph was made before 1920 when Triana Pike was paved.

(Photograph Property of Mrs. M. G. Chaney)

Names:

Business Establishments
Chaney, M. G.

Clopton, J. B.
Day, Richard
Halsey, W. L.

Holder, Scott,
Holder, Scott, Mrs.
Knight,

McCalley,
McCree, Ernest, Mrs.
Middleton, Homer

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Chaney, M. G.
Clopton,
Halsey, W. L.

King,
Lambert, Jerry
McCalley, Bud

Social Activities
Stewart, Francis
Stewart, Judge

Watson, Hosea
Watson, L. C.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Brooks, Celia
Buckner, Addie

Hazel, Annie
McGuire, Nettie

Picnic at Brahan
Spring

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

1914

Sep 1955



Names:

Building Mill #2

Hunking, A. W.,
Superintendent

Marsh, George T.
Pratt,

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Third Floor

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Corliss Engine

McNatt, George

Stephens, A. P.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Allison, Alvie
Baker, Ella
Cook, Squirrely
Estes, Bill
Estes, Geneva
Estes, Gracie
Hood, Dollie

Hood, Rosie
Kennamer
Johnson, H. C.
Lambert, Jerry
Matkins, Alvie
Matkins, Harvey
McClure, Dee

McClure, Pearly
Operation of #2 Mill
Rhodes, James
Roberts, Cynthia
Roberts, Lou
Roberts, Will
Smith, C. P.

Smith, Sabra
Smith, William A.
Vaughn,
Vaughn, Beard
Watson, L. C.
Winkles, Ernest, Mrs.
Winkles, Marvin

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Bradley, Joseph J.
Garner, John

History of Operations
1905-1945

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Cleghorn, Henry

View of #2 and Mill grounds

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Bradley, Joe

Bradley, Joe, Jr.

Elliott, A. D.

McKelvie, Henry J.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

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Names:

Allen, J. A.
Archer, George
Chaney,
Christian,

Growth of the
Community
King, Robbie
McClure,

Owens, Harry
Pedigo, Bob
Sneed, Sam
Street Car Line end

Ward, Jock

Places:

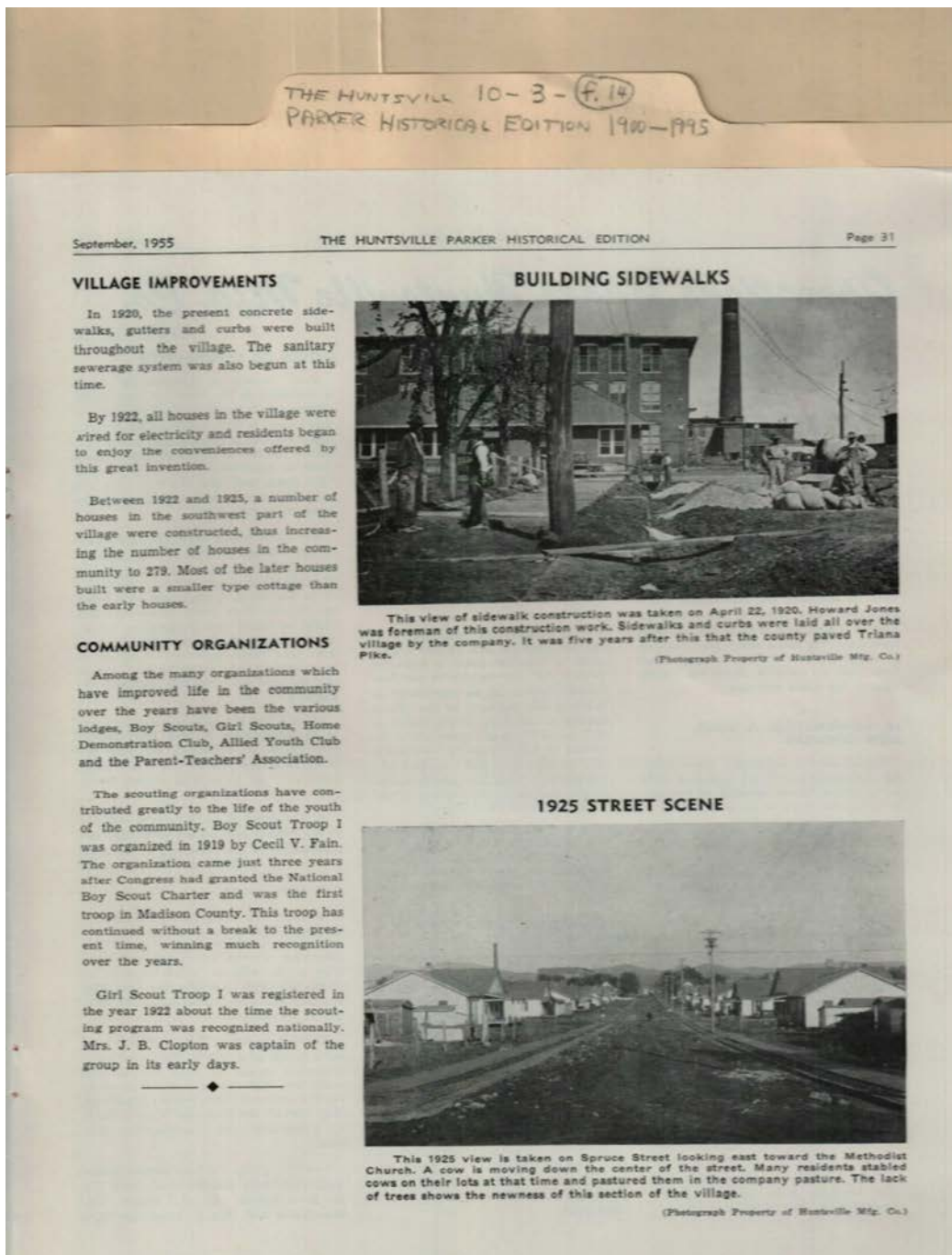
Huntsville, AL

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Names:

Clopton, J. B., Mrs.

Jones, Howard

Street Scene, 1925

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Elliott, A. D.
Huntsville Mfg.
Operations
Kletcher, H. G.

Lowenstein, A. L.
Lowenstein, Abraham
Lincoln
Lowenstein, Leon

Lowenstein, Morris
M. Lowenstein Co.
Merrimack Mfg. Co.
Ziskind, Jacob

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Air View of Mill
1954

Elliott, A. D.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Strike Postpones
Addition

Views of Mill 1955

Places:

Huntsville, AL

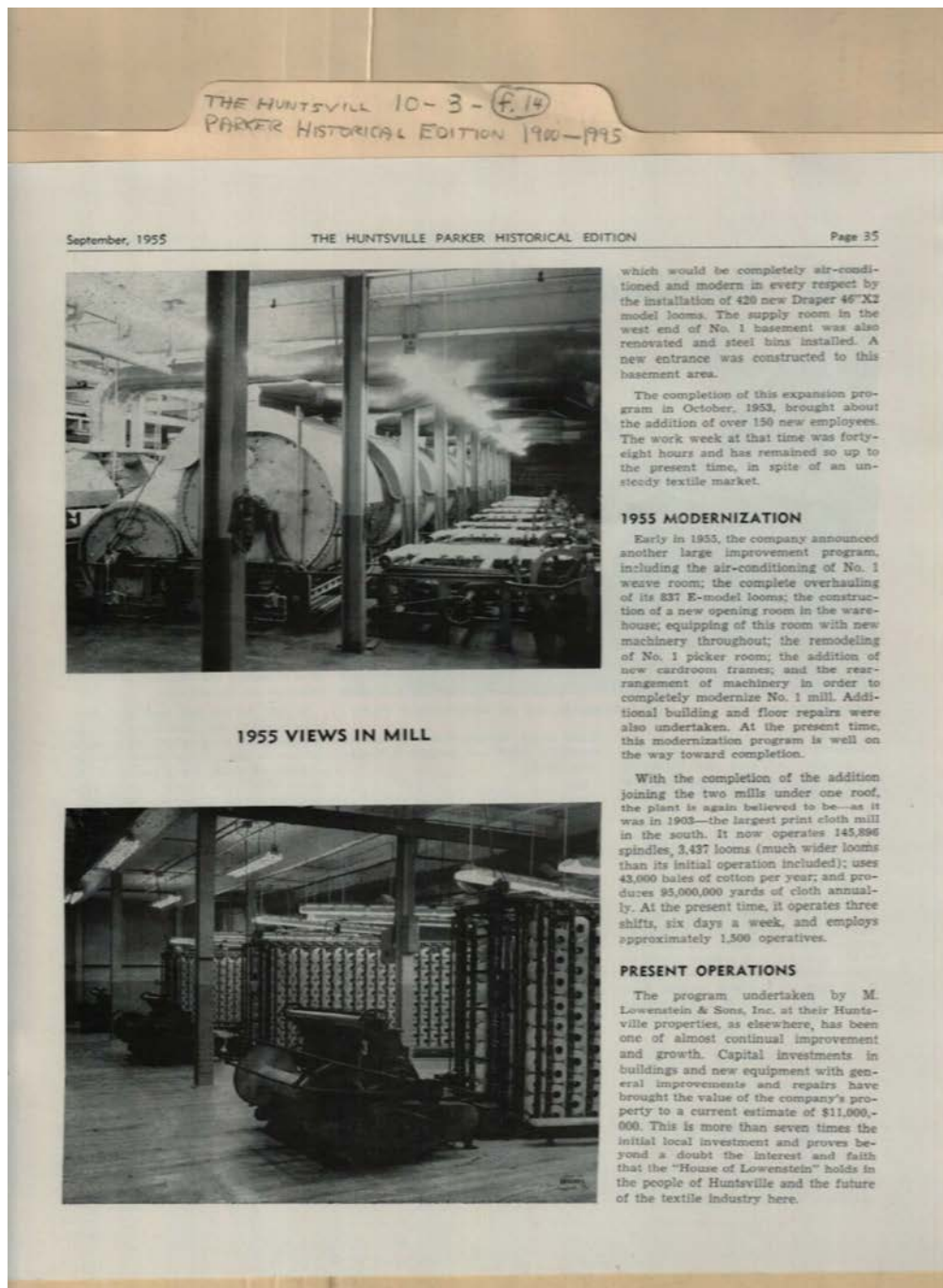
Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Views of Mill 1955

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Bradley, Joseph J.
Brougner, William E.,
Brig. General
Clopton, J. B.

DuBose, E. F., Prof.
Grote, Carl A.,
Doctor

Huntsville Park
Community
Lowenstein, Leon

Sale of houses to
Employees

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Bradshaw, Annie
Crutcher, Mae

Dill, Emma

Growth of Great
School

House, Jessie
Stewart, Judge

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Clopton, J. B., Mrs.

DuBose, E. F.,
Principal

Fain, Cecil V.,
Principal

Joe Bradley School
Laughinghouse, Miss

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



ERECTION OF SCHOOL AUDITORIUM IN 1928



This view shows the construction of the school auditorium and additional rooms in 1928. Expansion of Joe Bradley School was undertaken several times by Merrimack Mfg Co., after they built the first section in 1919. (Photograph Property of Huntsville Parkers)

ACCREDITED HIGH

By 1944, the Joe Bradley School stood as one of the finest accredited consolidated graded and high schools in the southeast. It had an enrollment of 800 students, 22 teachers and offered courses in Home Economics, Shop, Commercial, Sciences, Music, etc.

In 1946, the Lowenstein interests purchased the Merrimack properties and set about renovating the school as one of their first projects. This was a general repair and improvement program in 1947. In 1948, it included the excavation of the Home Economics and Shop Building and the construction of a concrete basement. The shop machinery was moved to this basement, leaving the upper floor for Home Economics classes.

COMPANY GIVES SCHOOL TO COUNTY

In 1951, the Huntsville Mfg. Co. made a gift of the entire school property and facilities to the Madison County School System. Official signing by A. D. Elliott, for the Huntsville Mfg. Co., and P. R. Ivy, chairman of the County Board of Education, took place on November 30th (a Friday). The value of \$300,000.00 was placed on the school and its equipment by W. E. Popejoy, business manager of the County Board of Education, and mill officials.

The class of 1951 was the last to graduate from the Joe Bradley School. In 1952, high school students from all the suburban areas of Huntsville attended Butler High School, the new consolidated modern high school in West Huntsville. Since then, the Joe Bradley School has included only grade school and junior high, issuing ninth-grade diplomas to its graduates.

Since 1952, the enrollment of Joe Bradley has grown along with the growth of the city until, with the opening of the 1955-56 term, around 900 pupils are expected to register for the nine grades offered. Prof. E. F. DuBose will serve his 34th year as principal during the coming term. The present school building has 24 classrooms, (including the shop and home economics departments), an auditorium, study hall, office and teacher's room.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Over the years, Joe Bradley School has been represented by many outstanding teams in the field of sports. These teams have won county-wide trophies and championships galore. For season after season the Joe Bradley football team "The Gamecocks" determinedly faced a much stronger foe, the Huntsville High School's "Crimson Panthers", for the first game of the season. This immensely strong city school was able

to field a team that could defeat "The Gamecocks" every time, sometimes by large scores. Every time until 1947—on September 19th that year, a strong Joe Bradley team, coached by Durwood Moore, at last bowed the heads of the "Crimson Panthers" winning by a score of 6-0, before a crowd of 5,000 spectators at Goldsmith-Schiffman Field in Huntsville. This was certainly one of the high moments of Joe Bradley's sports events.

In an effort to serve the community as a whole, the Huntsville Mfg. Co. has sponsored many activities through the school. Year after year, they have backed a recreation program for children and young people. This program includes outdoor sports, baseball, and other activities in the summer months and indoor recreation, basketball, and a "teen-canteen" program in the winter.

Around 1940, the Merrimack Mfg. Co. initiated a plant and community newspaper, "The Merrimacker", which was published through the school with Miss Edna Keel, high school English teacher, serving as editor. In 1946, the name of this publication was changed to "The Huntsville Parker". In 1952, when Joe Bradley School ceased to be a high school and Miss Keel left to teach at the city high school, Mrs. Burke Fisk, an office employee of Huntsville Mfg. Co., became editor. At this time, the focus of news-reporting changed from the school to the Huntsville Mfg. Co. plant. This "Special Historical Edition" is one of the periodic issues of this publication.

LOWENSTEIN SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1948, the newly formed Leon Lowenstein Foundation announced the awarding of an annual college scholarship worth \$500.00. This scholarship, open to close relatives of employees of Huntsville Mfg. Co., and renewable for four years on an annual basis, was awarded several Joe Bradley school graduates. Three of these students, Doris Cobb, George Wright and Arthur Boyanton, have received college degrees under the plan.

In reviewing this brief history of the community schools, particularly the Joe Bradley School, it is quite evident that the excellent and faithful work done by the teachers, the principal, and the students, over the years, has laid the ground work for the growth and improvement of the community and the progress of its industry.

Names:

Building Joe Bradley
School

DuBose, E. F.,
Principal

Fisk, Burke, Mrs.
Keel, Edna

Moore, Durwood,
Coach

Places:

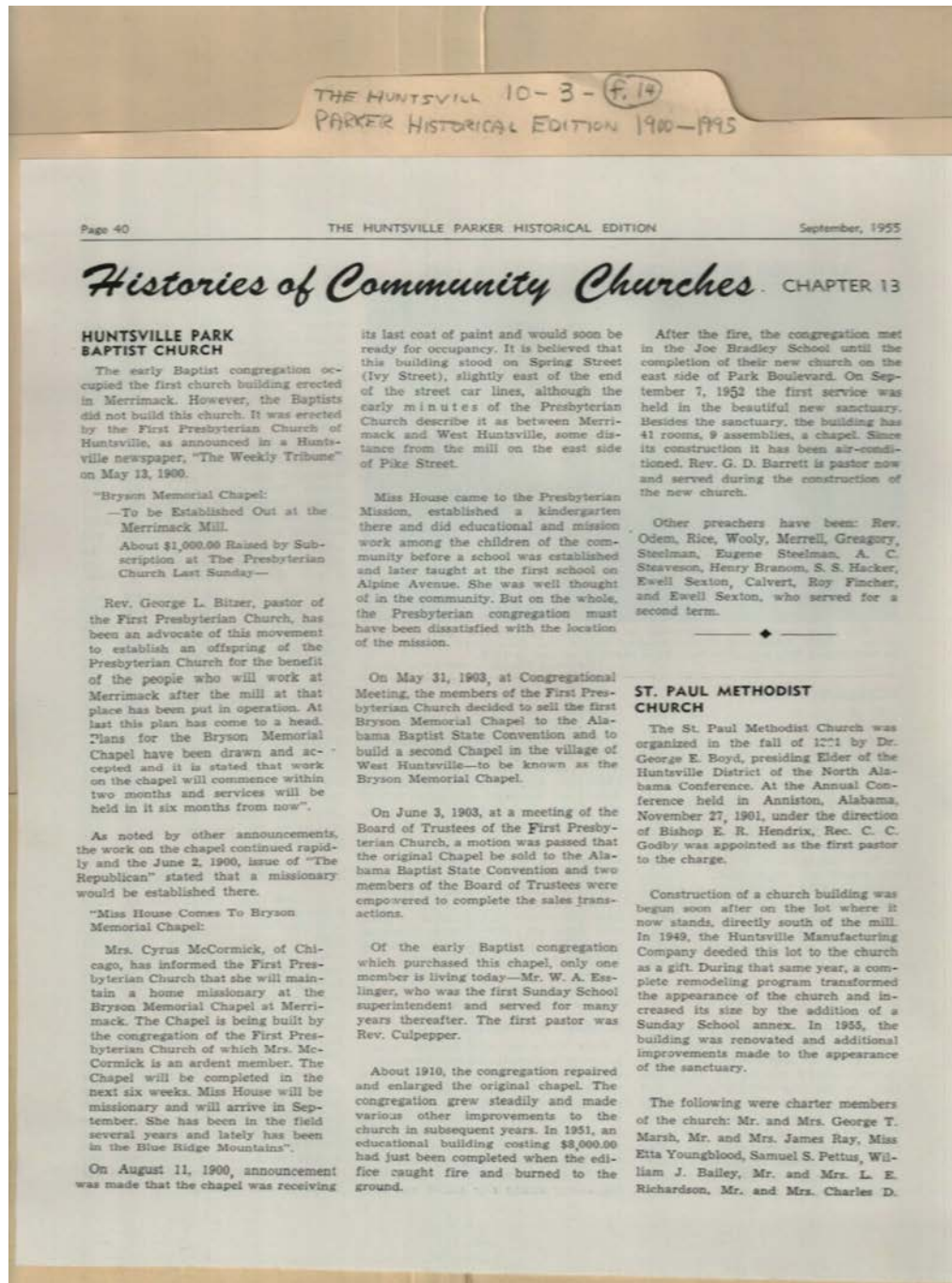
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

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Names:

Bailey, William J.
Blitzer, George L.,
Rev.
Boyd, George, E.
Esslinger, W. A.
Godby, C. C., Rev.

Hendrix, E. R.,
Bishop
History of
Community
Churches
House, Miss

Huntsville Park
Baptist
Marsh, George T.
McCormick, Cyrus,
Mrs.
Pettus, Samuel S.

Ray, James
Richardson, L. E.
St. Paul Methodist
Youngblood, Etta

Places:

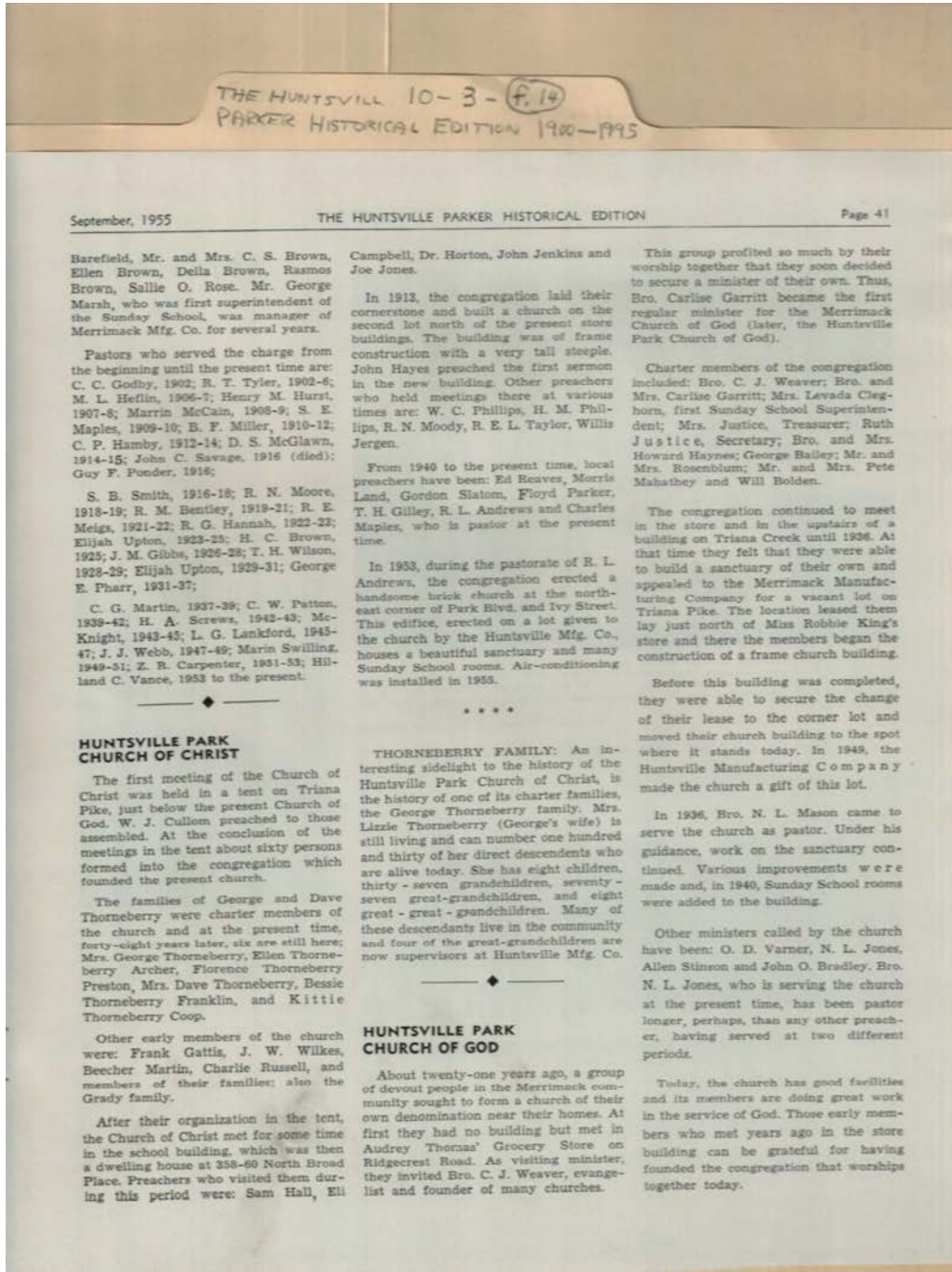
Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Andrews, R. L., Rev. | Brown, H. C., Rev. | Gilley, T. H., Rev. | Huntsville Park |
| Archer, Ellen | Campbell, Eli, Rev. | Godby, C. C., Rev. | Church of Christ |
| Thorneberry | Carpenter, Z. R., Rev. | Grady, | Huntsville Park |
| Bailey, George | Cleghorn, Levada | Hall, Sam, Rev. | Church of God |
| Barefield, Charles D. | Coop, Kittie | Hamby, C. P., Rev. | Hurst, Henry M., Rev. |
| Bentley, R. M., Rev. | Thornberry | Hannah, R. G., Rev. | Jenkins, John, Rev. |
| Bolden, Will | Cullom, W. J., Rev. | Hayes, John, Rev. | Jergen, Willis |
| Bradley, John O., | Franklin, Bessie | Haynes, Howard, | Jones, Joe, Rev. |
| Rev. | Thorneberry | Rev. | Jones, N. L., Rev. |
| Brown, C. S. | Garritt, Carlisle, Rev. | Heflin, M. L., Rev. | Justice, Mrs. |
| Brown, Della | Gattis, Frank | Horton, Rev. | Justice, Ruth |
| Brown, Ellen | Gibbs, J. M., Rev. | | King, Robbie |

Land, Morris, Rev.
Lankford, L. G., Rev.
Mahathey, Pete
Maples, Charles, Rev.
Maples, S. E., Rev.
Marsh, George T.
Martin, Beecher
Martin, C. G., Rev.
Mason, N. L., Rev.
McCain, Marrin, Rev.
McGlawn, D. S., Rev.
McKnight, Rev.

Meigs, R. E., Rev.
Miller, B. F., Rev.
Moody, R. N.
Moore, R. N., Rev.
Parker, Floyd, Rev.
Patton, C. W., Rev.
Pharr, George, E.,
Rev.
Phillips, H. M.
Phillips, W. C.
Ponder, Guy F., Rev.

Preston, Florence
Thorneberry
Reaves, Ed, Rev.
Rosenblum,
Russell, Charlie
Savage, John C., Rev.
Screws, H. A., Rev.
Slatom, Gordon, Rev.
Smith, S. B., Rev.
Stinson, Allen, Rev.
Swilling, Marin, Rev.
Taylor, R. E. L.

Thorneberry, Dave
Thorneberry, George
Tyler, R. T., Rev.
Upton, Elijah, Rev.
Vance, Hilland, C.,
Rev.
Varner, O. D., Rev.
Weaver, C. J., Rev.
Webb, J. J., Rev.
Wilson, T. H., Rev.

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Types:

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Dates:

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Church Groups

Dickerson, Mammie
Taylor, R. E. L., Rev.

Tyler, R. T., Rev.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Allen, Nina
Dent, Lula
Dent, Mary
Oldfield, Ethel

Oldfield, Lula
Remodeling Church
Buildings
Rhoden, Etta

Sartain, Betty
Sartain, Clara
Spencer, Lemer
Watson, L. C.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955

THE HUNTSVILLE 10-3-F.14
PARKER HISTORICAL EDITION 1900-1995

A Brief Local History Of Baseball

CHAPTER 14

EARLY INTEREST IN BASEBALL

Over the period of the last half century, baseball has been, without doubt, the one sport most enjoyed by the great majority of people. Interest in the game was especially high in the early days of the century in the smaller communities where few forms of entertainment were available.

From those early days to the present time, baseball in this community has received the enthusiastic support of the mill management, who over the years have provided ball parks, playing equipment and operating funds to whatever degree possible. As a result, the teams sponsored have been outstanding in the sport.

The first mention of a Merrimack ball team was found in "The Mercury" on April 22, 1903.

"MERRIMACK BALL TEAM"

"The Merrimack baseball fans have an excellent team to play this season and are looking forward to some interesting games with East Huntsville and other nines. The Merrimack team has purchased a first class outfit from Humphrey & Sons and will begin practice at once".

EARLY DIAMONDS

The first baseball diamond was a cleared plot of level ground slightly southeast of the Methodist Church. This spot was probably used until 1905 or

1906 when the location was changed briefly to the west side of Triana Pike, on the hill north of the present Baptist Church.

In 1908, the diamond was located slightly west of Brahan Spring on the north side of Spring Street (Ivy Street). No seats for spectators were provided at any of these early ball fields. Members of the 1908 team all worked in the Merrimack Mills. Games were played only on Saturday afternoons.

EARLY TEAMS

Members of the 1908 team were: Gordon Cobb, 1b; Clarence Baker, 2b; John Watley, ss; Charlie Drawhorn, 3b; Mack Taylor, rf; Claude Seagroves, cf; Mack Smith, lf; Forest Cruse, p; Trice Esslinger, p; Henry Henderson, p; Glover Faulkenberry, c. The equipment they used, uniforms and all, was about the same as used by the 1906 team pictured in this history.

It wasn't long after that until the ball diamond was moved again—just across the road this time. Here it stayed for a while and was then moved closer to the Spring on the same side of the road. Seats were provided for players at this diamond and since it was convenient to the end of the street car line, games were attended not only by community fans but by visitors from Huntsville and other suburbs.

One of the outstanding teams that played at this location was the 1917 team, who had a record of 38 wins, with only 7 losses. Members were: Grady "Lens" Styles, c; Gordon Cobb, 1b; Clarence Baker, 2b; Charlie Joplin, ss; Bill Ohls, 3b; "Scotty" Carter, lf; Orville Sparkman, cf; Hosea Watson, rf; Lester Westbrooks, Sr., utility; Merritt Wikle, p; "Bull" Sanford, p; and Rans Killingsworth, p.

About 1926, the diamond was moved to the hill west of the Merrimack Village. Here, a grandstand with a top was built and excellent facilities were provided. Many of the players on the teams that played at this park were recruited from colleges or were outstanding players who had their eyes on the minor or major leagues.

THE MERRIMACK BASEBALL TEAM IN 1906



One of Merrimack's earliest teams. Their complete equipment is shown in this picture, three bats being all they owned. Uniforms were red shirts, caps, socks and heavy quilted pants.

As far as they can be recognized from the photograph, the members shown were as follows:

Front row, left to right: Gordon Cobb, mgr; young Cobb, mascot; Henry Henderson, p; J. J. Bradley, Jr., bat boy; Seal (Pete) Bowden; John Clark, c; unknown.

Second row, left to right: E. E. (Eb) Parker, cf; Royden Gibson; unknown; J. J. Bradley, Sr.

Third row, left to right: R. P. Weeden, 2b; unknown; Albert Parker; Erby Shasteen; Oliver Talley; unknown.

(Photograph Property of Huntsville Mfg. Co.)

Names:

Baker, Clarence
Baseball History
Bowden, Seal
Carter, Scotty
Clark, John
Cobb, Gordon
Cruse, Forest
Drawhorn, Charlie

Esslinger, Trice
Faulkenberry, Glover
Gibson, Royden
Henderson, Henry
Joplin, Charlie
Killingsworth, Rans
Ohls, Bill
Parker, Albert

Parker, Eb
Sanford, Bull
Seagroves, Claude
Shasteen, Erby
Smith, Mack
Sparkman, Orville
Styles, Grady
Talley, Oliver

Taylor, Mack
Watley, John
Watson, Hosea
Weeden, R. P.
Westbrooks, Lester,
Sr.
Wikle, Merritt

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Baker, W. C.
 Bragg, Tom
 Bryant, Floyd
 Burns, George
 Carter, Buck
 Carter, Mack
 Case, Sam
 Coggins, Cliff
 Emm Ells Baseball
 Team
 English, Charlie

Fanning, Rip
 Faulkenberry, Jimmy
 Fleming, Pete
 Gallagher, John
 Gant, Bill
 Gault, John
 Hammonds, Fred
 Hill, Harold
 Kelley, Floyd
 Laughter, Shep
 Letts, Fritz

Mathis, Jim
 Merrimack Baseball
 Team
 Michael, Bill
 Mincher, Donnie
 Newton, Ben
 Price, Shelby
 Robinson, Goose
 Sprowl, Lefty
 Stanfield, Ralph
 Stewart, Bill

Talley, James
 Terry, Phil
 The Huntsville
 Parkers
 Watson, H. T.
 Watson, Johnny
 Westbrook, Lester
 Sonny

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

photograph

Dates:

Sep 1955



Names:

Baseball Trophies
Bayless, Bobby
Bragg, Tom
Burns, George

Craft, Bobby
Daniel, Abie
Gant, Bill
Gaught, John

Hammonds, Fred
Limbaugh, Joe
Mincher, Donnie
Stewart, Bill

Westbrook, Lester
Sonny
Wright, George

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

Dates:

Sep 1955

THE HUNTSVILLE 10-3 - (F. 14)
PARKER HISTORICAL EDITION 1900-1995

The "Million-Dollar" Band

CHAPTER 15

In the summer of 1925, a group of musicians in the Merrimack community met at the home of George Davis with the idea of organizing a band. They invited Mr. John Hay, an experienced band director to assist in the organization and he became their leader.

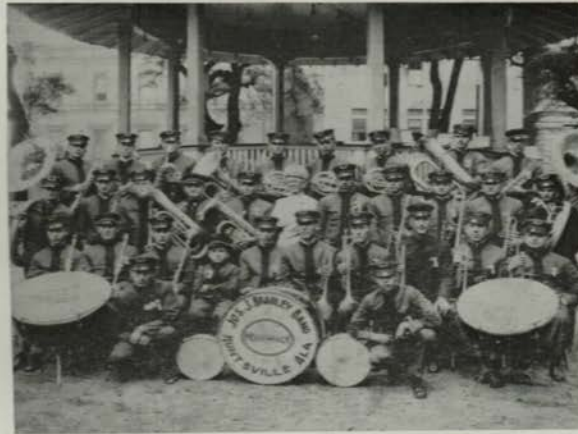
Since musical instruments were very expensive and many members of the band could not afford to own the instrument they played, especially the larger instruments, the band appealed to the Merrimack Mfg. Co. for financial help. Joseph J. Bradley, Jr., who was agent of the mill at that time, took immediate interest in the organization. In acknowledgement of his assistance, the group called itself the "Joseph J. Bradley, Jr. Band".

The band played their first concert in the fall of 1925 in the Joe Bradley School auditorium, which had just been completed. They had a very fine reception and, after that, played numerous concerts and took many trips with local organizations. They played a number of years at the Madison County Fair and also the Lincoln County Fair.

The group performed at the local celebration in honor of the Confederate Veterans held at the famous estate of Miss Virginia McCormick. United States Senator Almon was guest speaker and compared the band favorably with many of the great musical organizations he had heard play.

J. Emory Pierce, editor of "The Huntsville Daily Times" referred to the Merrimack Band as "The Million Dollar Band" and thus it became known throughout the area. It was called on to perform at most important ceremonies and played for the dedication of three bridges — Decatur, Whitesburg and Scottsboro.

THE "MILLION DOLLAR" BAND



At the time of this photograph, the band had come to Mobile with the Knights Templars and was playing a concert in Bienville Square.

Members were, beside drums, left to right: Paul Ray and Virgil Lovell, Jr.

First row: Walter Holmes, Clarence Baker, Clarence Holmes, Hilden Holmberg, Oland Marks, Hiram Williams, Alfred Phillips, Red Smith, S. W. Walker, Jasper Pogue.

Second row: Ocie Cloud, Bill Rigsby, Greene Phillips, Stanley Parton, Lidge Tuck, Mr. John Hay, director, Authur Boyanton, Albert Smith, Loew Oldfield, Charlie Oldfield, Jeff Bayless.

Third row: George Davis, Edwin Phillips, Jess Wilson, Jim Potter, Herman Watley, Harvey Parks, F. B. Alexander, Harrison Williams, Linwood Bayless.

(Photograph Property of Charlie Oldfield)

The band made numerous trips with the local Knights Templars. They played in Decatur, Montgomery, Mobile and Dothan with this group. In the early days of radio, they played over Station WSM in Nashville with much success.

The group disbanded in 1934, having given hours of enjoyment to many people and made "The Million Dollar Band" a musical group long to be remembered.

Names:

Alexander, F. B.
Almon, Senator
Baker, Clarence
Bayless, Jeff
Bayless, Linwood
Boyanton, Authur
Bradley, Joe, Jr.
Cloud, Ocie
Davis, George
Hay, John

Holmberg, Hilden
Holmes, Clarence
Holmes, Walter
Lovell, Virgil, Jr.
Marks, Oland
McCormick, Virginia
Oldfield, Charlie
Oldfield, Loew
Parks, Harvey
Parton, Stanley

Phillips, Alfred
Phillips, Edwin
Phillips, Greene
Pierce, J. Emory
Pogue, Jasper
Potter, Jim
Ray, Paul
Rigsby, Bill
Smith, Albert
Smith, Red

Tuck, Lidge
Walker, S. W.
Watley, Herman
Williams, Harrison
Williams, Hiram
Wilson, Jess
Million Dollar Band

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

booklet

photograph

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Sep 1955

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Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

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