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From the Editor...

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From the Editor...

War brings together people whose lives would normally take separate courses. In preparing this Anniversary of World War II issue a similar phenomenon has taken place. The most important event in Huntsville's history in 1941-5 was the advent of the Arsenal. The date was July 3, 1941. Although the announcements by Senator John Sparkman brought the chilling reality of war closer to Huntsvillians, their immediate reaction was jubilation at the prospect of a quickened economy. There would be work for all comers, and come they did.

Dr. Kaylene Hughes is the Senior Historian at the U.S. Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal. She captures the excitement of those times and lays the groundwork for this issue. Her contribution to *The Quarterly* is timely as well as significant. Kaylene has removed much of the mystery surrounding the Arsenal.

Pam Rogers, a public affairs specialist for the Army Missile Command at Redstone Arsenal, gives readers a closer look at the Chaney-Goddard House.

Three who answered the call for Arsenal workers were Nancy and Tom Dickson from Memphis and John McDaniel from Georgia. Their recollections make compelling reading. I quoted liberally from them in *Historic Huntsville: A City of New Beginnings*. Now *Quarterly* readers will have the opportunity to read their unedited manuscripts.

I asked John Shaver to write memories of his grandparents' house where the Dicksons found lodging. And I asked Huntsville Attorney Mark McDaniel to introduce his father's memoirs.

Another approach I wanted to investigate was the effect of the war on Huntsville High School. While perusing old "Red and Blue" newspapers, I read a letter written to Annie Merts, beloved mathematics teacher. The author was a 1943 graduate stationed in Pennsylvania taking an intensive Air Force training course. The letter impressed me so that I went to the *year book*, looked up Dick Dickson and on the second try, found its writer. Upon meeting with Dick and his wife Arlene, I learned that he fit into this *Quarterly* picture in more ways. He grew up in the house next door to the Moorman's on Holmes, he served as Scout Master to young John Shaver, and he became an architect (that special profession this *Quarterly* holds in high esteem). Furthermore, his mother wrote a letter to General Patton and received a reply. This connects his story to John McDaniel's, who is pictured with Generals Bradley and McCarthy and Karl Malden while working on the film "Patton."

The Huntsville High School 1943 year book is excerpted to give an idea of how vital the war was in the daily life and thought of young Huntsvillians. It comes as no surprise that the student leaders of the Classes of 1941, 42, 43, 44, and 45 are now the city's leaders, putting into practice the lessons of good citizenship that they learned in those war years. To them and their teachers, this *Quarterly* is dedicated.

Elise Stephens