

Round Up Spotlight: Henry Center

Just down the hill from the First Methodist Church on West Lincoln Street, the Henry Center sits as a beacon of light to those in need in our community. Nearly every day of the week, someone at the Henry Center is ready to accept a donation or to provide basic necessities like food, clothing, and household goods to those who need them.

At 10 a.m. each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, members of the Henry Center pick up the food donations that will fill their pantry; then, from 10 until noon, they prep the food bags that they will distribute when the Food Pantry opens its doors from noon until 2 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

Those who arrive for assistance on Thursday can also shop from the Clothes Closet, which offers gently-used clothing, household items and children's toys. But "shop" isn't quite the right word for this process, because at the end of the line, there is no bill to pay: the Henry Center provides these items free of charge.



Youth Educator Megan Dauzat



The TUA Round Up Program was established in 2020 as a Community Assistance Fund to be used to help those less fortunate in the community. Through the program, TUA customers donate an average of 50 cents per month by allowing their bills to be rounded to the nearest dollar. The change that's collected is placed into the Round Up Program Fund, administered by the TUA Board of Directors each January.

From monies collected in 2023, the program fund makes a recurring \$550 payment to Henry Center each month.

Rural Route 4 Storm Shelter

There was nothing like a Saturday morning adventure, especially if it meant a trip to the big city. Gadsden, Alabama seemed like a big city to a nine-year-old country boy from Rural Route 4, although it really wasn't that big. I went with Mama B to see her doctor in Gadsden about every fourth Saturday. She was being treated for rheumatoid arthritis, a terrible disease she had been fighting most of her adult life. It meant riding down the "four-lane" from Boaz with the windows down on the 1959 rose-colored Impala. I could stick my head out the window and let the wind blow through my flat-top haircut. And to my delight I could sometimes get the attention of an 18-wheeler, and the driver would respond with a lengthy blow from his horn.



Phillip Burgess

(Continued on back)

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Cross Connection Prevention

What is a cross connection?

A cross connection is any actual or potential connection between the drinking water supply and any source of non-potable water, or water of questionable quality that could result in contamination of the potable water system.

Common examples of cross connections include a garden hose submerged in a pesticide, potable feed water to an industrial process, or a submerged outlet of an irrigation system.

For the drinking water supply to become contaminated, three situations must occur.

1. The potable water supply piping must be unprotected (or improperly protected) from a cross connection;
2. A physical cross connection must be made between the potable water supply piping and a contaminant source; and
3. Backflow conditions must occur.

Though all three situations do not commonly occur at the same time, it is not unusual for conditions to exist that support backflow conditions.

Contact TUA for a cross connection survey. TUA personnel will come to your home or business and check for cross connections. If you have questions, visit us online at tub.net or contact TUA Cross Connection Specialist Jeff Austin at 571-7171.

(Continued from front)

Our route took us by Republic Steel, and Mama B always pointed out that was where Daddy Grand worked. I imagined I could see him, hard hat on his head and safety goggles protecting his eyes.

After getting her shot Mama B would sometimes stop at the downtown Woolworth's store. There was a snack bar in the rear of the store, with red bar stool chairs up and down the counter. A hamburger and a "co-cola" cost fifty cents. Mama B would rummage around in her purse and could usually find enough quarters for us to treat ourselves while sitting at the lunch counter.

Near the stairs leading to the lower level of the store was a sign I didn't understand. It was orange, and inside a circle were three upside down triangles. I asked Mama B what it meant. She told me it was a sign for a "fallout shelter."

I had never heard of such a thing. But they would become familiar sights in the 1960s as something called the "Cold War" progressed. I learned about it from the Huntley-Brinkley news report on NBC. The United States and Russia were at odds, and both had nuclear weapon capabilities. Schools began having drills where children practiced getting under their desks and covering their heads with their hands. Looking back, I wonder what benefit that exercise would provide should there have been a nuclear war.

In 1962, Russia tried to deploy ballistic missiles in Cuba, only about 90-miles from the United States. The United States also had deployed missiles near Russia, in Italy and Turkey. Tensions ran high. For more than a month the world held its collective breath as the two superpowers stared at each other. Folks wondered which one would blink first.

On a November day at the height of the tension, I was in Pa Burgess' cotton field near the pecan orchard playing while the adults picked cotton. The whir of a helicopter caught my attention, and I looked up into the sun to see it. A few minutes later there was another one. And another. And another. Soon the sky was filled with them. Later that night we learned that the U.S. military had gone on alert and men, women and equipment were being positioned around the country in case there was a nuclear war.

It was a scary time. Thankfully, cooler heads prevailed, and war was averted. I haven't seen a fallout shelter sign in a long time. It would be okay with me if I never saw another one.