



Two old friends met after 70 years when this picture was snapped. For Mrs. S. A. Hankins, perched spryly on the famous old "Texas" engine, recalled the thrill of seeing this Confederate "hero" for the first time when she was a tot of 5. The smoke stack reminded her of a coffee mill, she recalls in a story on this page by Jean Chalmers.

# Reunion After 70 Years! Mrs. Hankins Once Again Meets Famous 'Texas'

81-Year-Old Woman Recalls Thrill  
Of First Seeing Confederate 'Hero' Engine

By JEAN CHALMERS

Two old friends of the sixties—one of whom was a little girl when the other was "hero of the day"—met again Tuesday. They couldn't shake hands, for the second friend is the engine "Texas," famous in Civil War days for catching the "General," a Georgia locomotive which had been captured by Federal soldiers.

Mrs. S. A. Hankins, of Madisonville, Ky., was a lot of five when the "Texas" passed through Dalton, then her home, on a triumphant tour after saving the Confederate engine from the Yankees and preventing the State Railroad from being destroyed. This week at the age of 81, the spry old lady is visiting two nieces here, Mrs. W. A. Pope and Mrs. W. R. Brown.

"I remember the day the 'Texas' came through town," she recalled. "My mother and grandmother always did say I had the best recollection they'd ever seen. A man came to our house and told Mother to get the children together and go see the 'Texas' come through.

"We walked half a mile, and well I remember the crowd—they were lined up on both sides of the track. I remember that smokestack most of all—it reminded me of an old-time coffee mill. I didn't know exactly why the 'Texas' was so important at the time, but I remember folks talking about how it had chased and caught something the Yankees had stolen."

That was more than 75 years ago. The little girl grew up, married a minister and had several children. Then five years ago Mrs. Hankins was here visiting her nieces, who took her to the Cyclorama. Down in the basement of the building Mrs. Hankins took one look at the engine.

"Why that's the engine I saw when I was a little girl!" she said. "I recognize the smokestack." And sure enough, it was the "Texas."

Enthusiastically she climbed up on the old engine and posed for The Journal photographer on this latest visit.

"Y'all hush laughing," she would remonstrate her nieces. The picture taken, she climbed down easily and remarked, "If I had not fallen and hurt my hip last year, I'd be just as good as I ever was."

"I can't realize I'm as old as I am," she declared. She wears her gold-rimmed glasses only when she goes out—"to keep the wind out of my eyes. Sometimes go for days at home without them. I forget I've got them. I can thread a needle and read a book without them."

Mrs. Hankins, who will take off

for Hollywood in the fall to visit her "baby boy," on the electrical staff of Warner Brothers, lives alone in her house at Madisonville. A girl usually stays with her at night.

"Afraid? I reckon not. I never saw many Southerners who were!" Recently she stayed three months by herself, even at night.

In addition to her own seven children, two of whom she lost in the World War, she reared three grandchildren.

"I've done my share," she said. Until she hurt her hip she could beat any of her city nieces at blackberry picking, hiking and running.

She eats two meals a day—at 9 a. m. and 3 p. m.—and does her own cooking. She cans vegetables, preserves fruit and does the house work—"never have failed to," she commented.

Airplanes? She's never been up. "Nor never aim to," she said. "Automobiles are just as bad as airplanes. But trains? Now, they are different. They're all right, and Mrs. Hankins travels all over the country in them."

# Story of Railroad Train That Became War Hero

MADISONVILLE, Ky., April 4. (Special)—Mrs. S. A. Hankins, 80, while on a recent vacation to Atlanta, Ga., met an old friend, a Confederate hero.

The two hadn't met for more than 25 years and while the Confederates here had made all the noise at the first meeting Mrs. Hankins did all the talking at the second.

The hero, you see, was the Confederate railroad engine "Texas," as famous in the days of the War Between the States as Caver Jr., of Disney's "Dumbo," is today.

For the "Texas" caught the "General," a Georgia locomotive which had been captured by a



Mrs. Samantha Angeline Hankins, Madisonville, Ky. Note the glasses are only for "dress up." Actually Mrs. Hankins reads and can even thread a needle without them.

band of Yankee soldiers.

Back in Madisonville after her 75th. Dawn South Mrs. Hankins said: "Meeting the 'Texas' for the second time was the biggest thrill in my life and one of my greatest surprises."

The meeting raine about like this—

Mrs. Hankins was down in Georgia visiting her two nieces, Mrs. W. A. Pope and Mrs. W. R. Brown.

"They took me around to see the sights," Mrs. Hankins said, "and when we walked into the museum, Cycloorama, at Atlanta, I exclaimed, 'Why that's the engine I saw when I was a little girl at Dalton.'"

"I was born at Dalton, Ga.," she added, "and it was here that I first saw the 'Texas.'"

"My father was away fighting for the South. War talk was running high especially about the 'General,' a crack locomotive of the 60's which a band of Yankees had seized and headed for Chicago.

"The 'Texas,' loaded with a crew of Confederates, was dispatched to try and overtake the 'General.'"

"A few days later a man came to the house and told my mother to hurry and take the children down to the railroad tracks. He said the Confederates had made the capture and the two locomotives of which that area was so proud were making a triumphant run through Dalton.

"We walked a half-mile to the station and I remember the crowd—people were lined up as far as I could see on both sides of the track.

"Then soon they came. First the 'Texas' with its big smokestack which looked like a coffee grinder and then the 'General.' They were blowing their whistles, ringing bells, and people along the tracks were all shouting.

"I didn't know why the 'Texas' was so important at the time but I remember folks talking

about how it had chased and caught something the Yankees had captured."

Back in Madisonville, Ky., Mrs. Hankins said, "Seeing that old locomotive brought back a lot of memories to me.

"Shortly after the war my father, although he had been wounded in battle, moved the family to Tennessee and later to this county (Hopkins).

"I remember the day we arrived in Madisonville aboard the L. & N. As I remember there were only 32 or 40 houses in Madisonville then and Bill Nesbitt's Livery Stable was the center of all activity.

"That's where the farmers and their families all gathered when they came to town and where the news of that day was exchanged."

Today Mrs. Hankins lives at 764 W. Broadway, Madisonville, Ky., where she spends most of her time sewing and reading.

Although she will be 81 next April 2 she lives alone and does her own cooking—but she says, "Three meals a day are just the same so I have only two, one 9 a. m. and the other at 5 p. m."

What about the war? Mrs. Hankins.

"Well, I'm not afraid I reckon I never saw many southerners who were."

## TRI-STATE TALES

### Forest Ranger Has "Petty Girl" Auto-graphed by Artist

IN THE OFFICE of District Forest Ranger D. W. Hickox hangs an original "Petty girl."

It's inscribed personally to the ranger from Artist George Petty. Hickox and Petty are old friends. They met in the northern Wisconsin woods where up to a few months ago Hickox was a ranger.

Petty besides being a skillful artist is just as handy with a high-powered rifle and he holds the record for logging the largest bear in the northern woods.

#### CCC AIDS WAR EFFORT

WHERE CCC camps are still operating, you'll find the boys doing work that is closely related to the war.

For example the Tell City CCC has collected over to the job of logging out certain kinds of trees from the huge Housier Na-

tional Forest Purchase Unit that are vitally needed to naval work.

#### BEAR WITH US

THESE EARLY Quakers in southern Indiana were tough customers if you take the story of Raymond Stout, Paul banker, about one of his ancestors, John Stout.

John Stout came to Indiana in 1811 establishing his home in the Paul hills.

In looking the records of his farm one day he was attacked by a bear. But the "Stout" farmer promptly dispatched the animal with his rifle, and slung the carcass over his shoulder marched home.

The bear weighed 224 pounds!

*Sent this a good picture*