Nov 21 - #8
#9
#10

Dear Sirs:

He visited the Memorial of Civil War - grounds & shared with one of the officials there about my great great Grandfather being on the Civil War & we had some letters of his written to his wife during the war - He asked us to send him copies of the letters - if he had stopped at Murfreesboro. He also gave us the envelope I am enclosing this in -

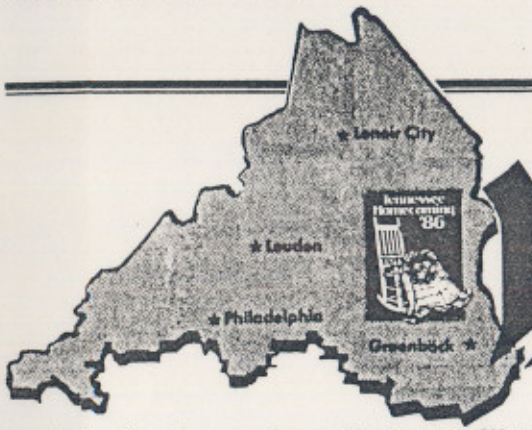
Enclosed is letter at Lauden & also mention of the battle at Murfreesboro - also an article written in Lauden paper after we had visited there.

He was in 18th Reg. Wis Volunteer - Inft Co D - He was from Mondovi Wis -

Hope you can use this information - We have 29 letters in all - during the whole war -

Sincerely
Marion L. Alf.

A Tennessee Press Association Award Winning Newspaper



News-Herald

Monday
July 8, 1985

Volume 101, Number 53
Loudon County, TN
25 cents

Serving Loudon and surrounding counties for nearly 100 years

drop in hospital deposits from '83-84, however.

State funds helped fill county coffers last year. Some $3 million in Foundation Program funds came into the county schools, which also received monies for many other programs also, including Basic Skills ($89,000), textbook funds ($43,114), and teacher aides ($16,646). Federal funds also played a part, with Loudon County

(See TAXES, Page 5)

Around town

Teresa and Richard McLeod expecting their first child in January...Rob Malin visiting the local hardware store...Charlene Sharp rescuing a kitten from a tree on Church Street...Congratulations, Connie Green, on your press award...Pat Boatner being missed still...Tom Peeler enjoying a July 4 parade...Mike Messing excited about a story...Bo Carey calling about some copies...Yvonne Lorig helping a friend in the manner she does so well...Louise Pierce expecting company...Connie Greene asking for Indian statues...Kathy Roberts planning a big July 4 weekend of rest...Terry McGill being friendly...Mike and Denise Wilson getting a new car...Chris Floyd being in charge of things during an editor's trip to Memphis.

willing to pay $24,000 for the

(See LRCDC, Page 5)

Civil strife

Historical letters reveal Loudon as war ravaged, impoverished town

By CHRIS FLOYD
News Editor

Residents of Loudon are justly proud of the beauty and prosperity of their city today, but the town presented quite a different picture to a Union soldier who found himself stationed there during the winter of 1864-65.

Although the war was winding down toward a victorious conclusion for his army, H.B. Row of Wisconson passed a dangerous, uncomfortable season in the war-ravaged town, where there was little to eat, "bushwhackers" and snipers all about, and the ever-present threat of two Confederate armies which for a time had the city cut off from its supplies.

Row detailed his impressions of the city in a series of letters to his wife, written from Nov. 26, shortly after his arrival in Loudon, to Jan. 8, after the Rebel bottleneck of the area had been broken, and it appeared the war would indeed be over soon. Rick Lovin, special projects director of the Loudon Regional Community Development Corporation, was given copies of the letters by Richard and Marion Alf of Minnesota, who visited the area recently. Row was Marion Alf's great-great-grandfather.

The beginning of Row's stay in Loudon was inauspicious, to say the least. His company arrived, after hard marches from Nashville to Chattanooga and from Chattanooga to Loudon, in mid-afternoon, and were forced to stand in ranks until sundown. Then they had to scramble to find a place to stay, set up their shelters and scratch up something to eat. Provisions were low, and poor, throughout Row's stay in the city.

"This is the hardest looking country that I have seen in a long time," Row wrote to his wife a few days later. "One acre of (Wisconson) land is worth 10 of this; it's nothing but hills and rocks." But even worse than the condition of the land, Row found, was the state of the local citizens.

"You can't imagine how things go here," he wrote. "The country is full of poor women and children,

> 'This is the hardest looking country that I have seen in a long time...the hardest looking human beings'

the hardest looking human beings I ever saw. Everyone we talk with says the same story; some (are from) Georgia, some from North Carolina, some from East Tennessee. Some say their father was killed, others pressed into the Rebel army and got back in the Union army.

"Some of the families live in the old cars that sit beside the railroad...Some (live) in the old steam boats that haint fit to run. Lots of them wear the soldiers' old shoes that they throw away," he wrote.

While the residents were reduced to poverty, the Union soldiers were faring only slightly better. "Haint drawed full rations since we started from Lacrosse. God only knows what I would have done if I had not had any money (from home)." The soldiers, who had not received their pay at the time, could not survive on their rations of hard tack and pork strips, and used their own money to buy what they could at the war-inflated prices.

On Nov. 28, he penned a few lines "to let you know how I feel on the subject of war. They may all say they like it, but for my part, I don't. Every day gets worse." The soldiers were bedeviled by constant rain and the thick mud, and many were packed into "Anderson's large brick building" (located near where the Don P. Smith Chair Co. building now stands). Officers were billeted in confiscated homes, but Row was generally pleased with them, as they were "good-natured fellows."

Disaster struck Row in late November when he lost his wallet on a Loudon street. Food was getting more and more scarce, and he would often go a day or two without eating. "Could not find anything to eat," he wrote on Dec. 3, after a trip to Philadelphia, where Confederate soldiers had lost a battle, but burned the bridge and drove railroad engines into the river to prevent the Union army from capturing them. "Last night, I found an old negro woman. She baked me a corn cake for 25 cents...just mixed it with water, no salt nor nothing else but a little dirt, I guess."

Food was only one of Rowe's problems. He had to serve picket duty for 24 hours at a stretch, no easy job when Rebel guerillas prowled the countryside, trying to pick off the invaders one by one. The guerillas operated throughout the area, Row wrote to his wife.

"A lot of bushwhackers got in a small town about 30 miles below

(See STRIFE, Page 6)

Bank gallery, said Marketing Manager Jean Short. The women on the [illegible] identified yet.

Strife

(Continued from Page 1)

here and killed some of the citizens. But the (Union) soldiers was hurried out there and caught 5 of them and hung them right up," he wrote. The Union army had a stern rule for dealing with the Confederate irregulars — "Every Union soldier that they kill, (the Union army) shoots 4 guerillas for the same," Row said.

Just after Christmas, Row and his company were at perhaps their lowest. The Rebel generals Hood and Breckinridge were pressing in on the Union position from the west and the east. Hood cut the rail link to Nashville, which stopped communication and hindered the flow of supplies. "The soldiers are growling about their rations," Row wrote on Dec. 28. "We are down to quarter rations. I would have starved (after losing his wallet) had not some good friends lent me some (money)." He asks his wife to send him money from home. "It is hard enough to be shot at, and I don't want to starve."

His spirits were lifted after the New Year, however. "We had five inches of snow and it is on the ground still, but...today the sun shines bright and clear." The Hood-Breckinridge pincer had been snapped open, and every day brought "good news from the South" about Gen. William Sherman's triumphant march to the sea. But even better than that, Row finally received a letter from his wife, dated Dec. 8. After reading it, he began thinking about home — local politics, the crops, the neighbors, and his children.

"I suppose you think I am homesick by the way that I write sometimes," he wrote on Jan. 8, his last letter from Loudon. "But not so; I never shall let that overcome me. I will stand my time out if I live and be true to the Union. But sometimes it looks so dark and dreary. You say that is so lonesome there; try and comfort yourself, for I think that if you could see some of these women and children, you would think yourself a happy woman. God only knows how they do live. Lots of children here are entirely barefoot and almost naked and (have) hardly anything to eat.

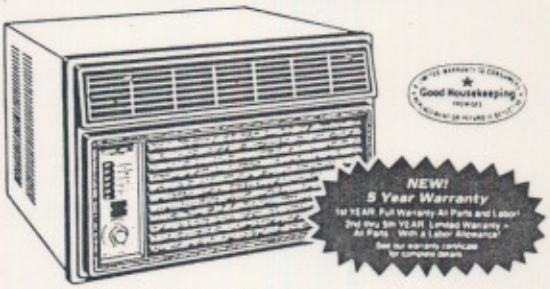
"Tell the children to read their little books...my hardest times is to write," Row concluded. He said he could not put down all that he had been through, but would tell her about it if he ever saw her again.

As it turned out, Row survived the war, said Richard Alf. He returned by riverboat up the Mississippi River, to Elma, Wisc. His youngest son was waiting there for him, having taken a wagon-load of grain from their farm 25 miles away, selling it off to pay for a place to stay while he passed the days in wait for Row.

After several years of farming, Row moved to Eau Claire, Wisc., where he opened a grocery store, Alf said. "All of his prayers and dreams (of getting home) were answered. He lived a long and full life," he said.

stay Cool this summer

with a Carrier Room Air Conditioner



Carrier engineers have designed these room air conditioners for less burden on your wallet and for more efficient performance. A new kind of excellence. We believe that Carrier stands for quality. And value. So that year after year you can count on Carrier room air conditioners for the best cooling comfort you can buy.

17,000 BTU As Low As $499

Models available from 5,000 BTU to 23,000 BTU

WILBURN True Value HARDWARE

The area's most complete hardware and home center

Employed with bank 3½ mon
Duties Include: Teller operati
Location: Lenoir City Main Off
Married to Craig

RIGHT H

We love our h
of it for so ma
betterment of
Because we ar
made here at

This means be
friends. Stop i

Specia

The Piggy ba
for yours at ou
lasts!