

1958

# *Minutes*

of the

**THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL SESSION**

of the

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## **UNION HILL ASSOCIATION** *of Free Will Baptists*

**Held With Christian Home  
and Panther Churches  
Near Hartford and Wicksburg,  
Alabama**

**Friday and Saturday  
October 24, 25, 1958**

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1959

## *Session*

**Will Be Held at**

***Slocomb and Union Hill Churches***

**Friday and Saturday  
October 23, 24, 1959**

**1959**  
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
**In The Union Hill Association**

**FIRST QUARTERLY SESSION—Bethel Church, Saturday night,  
January 24, 1959.**

Theme ..... Sunday School Is Big Business  
Sermon by ..... Bobby Gene Register

**SECOND QUARTERLY SESSION—Antioch Church, Saturday night  
April 25, 1959**

Theme ..... The League and Woman's Auxiliary, etc.  
Sermon ..... Trim Finch

**THIRD QUARTERLY SESSION—Panther Creek Church, Saturday night,  
July 25, 1959**

Theme ..... Missions and Christian Training  
Sermon ..... John M. Rich

**FOURTH QUARTERLY SESSION, ANNUAL ASSOCIATION—Slocumb  
and Union Hill Churches, Friday and Saturday, October 23, 24, 1959.**

Introductory Sermon ..... W. B. Hughes

**GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE UNION HILL FREE WILL  
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, 1958-'59**

MODERATOR, Rev. Bobby Gene Register ..... Rt. 2, Graceville, Fla.  
VICE-MODERATOR, Rev. Trim Finch ..... Slocomb, Ala.  
CLERK, Rev. Rufus Hyman ..... Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

W. A. MORRIS ..... Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.  
REV. W. G. DORRIETY ..... Rt. 3, Hartford, Ala.  
E. H. WATSON ..... Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.  
GUS SKINNER ..... Slocomb, Ala.  
MALCOM REGISTER ..... Rt. 2, Graceville, Fla.  
BILL BOTTOMS ..... Graceville, Fla.

**ORDAINING COUNCIL**

REV. RUFUS HYMAN, Chairman ..... Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.  
REV. BOBBY GENE REGISTER ..... Rt. 2, Graceville, Fla.  
REV. J. B. SMITH ..... W. Adams St., Dothan, Ala.

**MISSION BOARD**

RUFUS HYMAN ..... Slocomb, Ala.  
J. A. SEAY ..... Hartford, Ala.  
BILLY HATCHER ..... Hartford, Ala.

**ASSIGNMENT FOR COMMITTEES**

Nominations ..... Union Hill  
Auxilaries ..... Slocomb  
Christian Training ..... Panther Creek  
State of Churches ..... Bethel  
Ministerial Character ..... The Ordaining Council  
Finance ..... Union Hill  
Associational Plans ..... Rufus Hyman, Bobby Gene Register,  
Trim Finch, John M. Rich, W. G. Dorriety

## PROCEEDINGS Of The Union Hill Association

FRIDAY MORNING, October 24, 1958

The Thirthy-Eighth annual session of the Union Hill Association, which convened with Christian Home and Panther Creek, was called together by the Moderator, Wilburn D. Bell. Brother Bell conducted a splendid devotional with the singing of several good songs and prayer was by Rev. A. B. Cook, Rev. Rufus Hyman and brother E. H. Watson.

At this time, the Moderator appointed a devotional committee consisting of E. H. Watson, H. F. Farmer and J. O. Elmore.

Rev. A. B. Cook was appointed to bring the 11.00 message. After a song and prayer by Rev. Trim Finch, brother Cook brought a good message from Matthew 28:18-20.

Following the introductory sermon and closing prayer by Rev. J. A. Pettis, we had a splendid lunch hour with plenty of good food prepared by the ladies of Christian Home.

### FRIDAY AFTERNOON, October 24

At one thirty p.m. the body was called to order after a suitable song and prayer service.

Roll of churches was called and the following churches responded and delegates seated.

ANTIOCH—Mrs. Louise Bell and Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Elmore. (Letter to come in Saturday.)

UNION HILL—Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Farmer.

SLOCOMB—Mrs. E. L. Hidle and Mrs. Trim Finch.

BETHEL CHURCH—Gladys Byrd, Alice Sue Smith, Nancy Ryles, Alma Sellers, Ruth Tindel.

CHRISTIAN HOME CHURCH—Fairbee Collins, Mrs. Sussie Collins, Mrs. Vida Dorriety, Mrs. Nona Pettis.

By motion and second, delegates seated.

Roll of Ministers was called and the following were present: W. G. Dorriety, Rufus Hyman, J. A. Pettis, R. P. Jones represented by letter which was his report. Donald Elmore was not present as he lives in Missouri and is pastor of a church there. Licensed Ministers present: Zobbie Clark. J. A. Moon, absent.

Roll call of deacons and the following were present: W. D. Bell, H. F. Farmer, J. O. Elmore, E. H. Watson, Ott Turner.

By motion and second Ministers and deacons were seated and ministers who turned in reports were accepted. (For reports of Ministers see reports in back of this minute.)

Call was made for correspondence and the following responded. From Liberty Association of Florida Rev. A. B. Cook was accepted as a delegate and seated in this body.

By motion and second, Moderator appointed Suggestions Committee, consisting of Mrs. E. L. Hidle, H. F. Farmer and Miss Fairbie Collins.

At this time the devotional committee announced Rev. Trim Finch would bring the afternoon message, and Rev. J. A. Pettis for 11 o'clock message Saturday morning.

Brother Finch brought a fine message from Romans 12:1.

Services closed singing, "The Uncloudy Day", with the parting hand.

#### SATURDAY, 10:00 A.M., October 25

The morning service was opened with singing, "When We Get To Heaven", and prayer by Rev. John M. Rich.

The Moderator gave good devotional from Luke 15. He compared the Prodigal Son with a church member leaving his church for the world, coming to poverty and want, then coming to his senses and back to God and the church.

Moderator renewed call for churches and the letter from Antioch was read and accepted.

Call of Ministers was made and the following were present: Rufus Hyman, J. A. Pettis, Trim Finch, W. G. Dorriety, Bobby Gene Register.

Rev. John M. Rich was present from the Liberty Association. He is a pastor in our Association at Union Hill.

From East Alabama, Rev. A. T. Byrd.

By motion and second above visiting Ministers seated as delegates.

Deacons present: Malcom Register and Madison Peters. By motion and second deacons were seated.

Finance committee made partial report and it was accepted.

Committee on Standing of Churches and Character of Ministers was made but report was given back to committee to re-write and report back later in day.

Association went into recess for five minutes so committee could have time to finish their report.

After recess period, the committee made their report stating all our churches and Ministers in good standing.

Motion and second the report was accepted.

The Moderator placed Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bottoms and Mrs. Myrtle Bolin on suggestions committee in place of those who were absent.

Delegates present today that was not present Friday are as follows: From Union Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Burket Bolin and from Slocomb church, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bottoms.

By motion and second the Ordaining Council give a special report

on standing of Ministers, both ordained Ministers and licensed Ministers.

It being near the 11:00 hour and business session was called off until the afternoon business session.

The stand was filled by Rev. J. A. Pettis from Luke 12:31-33. The Minister stated this church was the first church he was called to in 1916. He rode a bicycle from across the line in Fla. This was a fine message. Closing by Rev. Trim Finch. Following the message we were served a fine meal with plenty of food by the ladies of the church.

### 1 P.M. SESSION, SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Opening song, "Won't It Be Wonderful There?" Prayer by Rev. Trim Finch.

Suggestions Committee made report and it was accepted by move section. (see reports).

Ordaining Council made their report and it was accepted.

Nominations committee made their report and by motion and second accepted. (See reports.)

By motion and second each church selected a member from their church for the Executive Committee. (See reports.)

By motion and second we had a five minute recess. After recess, motion and second quarterly sessions be held on Saturday nights.

Motion and second we give a "rising vote" of thanks to Christian Home and Panther Creek for kindness shown us while in their midst.

By motion and second we give vote of thanks to brother W. D. Bell, retiring Moderator, for his faithful service for last 2 years.

Rev. A. T. Byrd brought the closing message from James 2:17-20. The message was enjoyed by the body.

Motion and second to adjourn the 38th session. Thus came to a close one of the best sessions ever held in The Union Hill Association and to meet in annual session 1959 with the Slocomb and Union Hill churches, Slocomb, Ala., on Friday and Saturday, October 23, 24, 1959.

W. D. BELL, Moderator

Graceville, Fla., Route 2

REV. BOBBY GENE REGISTER, Vice-Moderator

Graceville, Fla., Route 2

REV. RUFUS HYMAN, Clerk

Slocomb, Ala.

## REPORTS

### OFFICIAL LIST OF MINISTERS IN THE UNION HILL ASSOCIATION

#### Ordained Ministers

J. A. PETTIS ..... Rt. 2, Bonifay, Fla.

R. P. JONES ..... Rt. 1, Slocomb, Ala.



RUFUS HYMAN ..... Slocomb, Ala.  
 J. B. SMITH ..... W. Adams St., Dothan, Ala.  
 BOBBY GENE REGISTER ..... Rt. 2, Graceville, Fla.  
 DONALD ELMORE ..... Missouri

#### Licensed Ministers

J. A. MOON ..... Rt. 3, Hartford, Ala.  
 ZEBBIE CLARK ..... Rt. 1, Carryville, Fla.

After much consideration, investigation and prayer, this list is prepared and all our minsters declared in good standing in The Union Hill Association.

Submitted by your Ordaining Council,  
 RUFFUS HYMAN, Chairman  
 BOBBY GENE REGISTER

### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON STANDING OF CHURCHES AND CHARACTER OF MINISTERS

We report all our churches represented and in fair standing as follows:

Union Hill  
 Christian Home  
 Bethel  
 Antioch  
 Panther Creek  
 Slocomb

We find our pastors in good standing.

By CHRISTIAN HOME  
 and BETHEL CHURCHES

### REPORT ON SUGGESTIONS

We the Suggestions Committee offer the following:

1. That each delegate from a sister church bring a small lunch or covered dish to each session of the Association so that the host church will not be too heavily burdened.
2. That all ministers and deacons be urged to attend all Associational meetings, unless providently hindered.
3. That a new executive Committee be elected, one member from each church. Standing rules.)
4. Good literature in our homes, a good Sunday School in our churches and other auxiliaries.
5. That all churches have preaching services on Saturday nights preceding preaching day and conference once a month one night during the week rather than Sunday.

## REPORT OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We recommend the following plans to help the work of our churches in the Association:

1. That the Association be held in four quarterly sessions.
2. That the Association meet in three quarterly sessions per year for promotion and inspirational fellowship, and such subjects as Sunday and our Auxiliaries, Educations, Missions, etc., be taken up and the fourth session which is the annual session be used for a greater portion for business.
3. That each church send 10% of all S.S. and church offerings to these quarterly sessions to be used to advance the work of our denomination and the churches that do not use the 10% plan send free will offerings instead, and this money be divided as follows: 25% be retained in the Association for Associational purposes, and 75% be given to Ala. State Cooperative Plan. Also all our churches give special offerings to The Children's Home, Eldridge, Ala.
4. That the officers of the Association serve for all quarterly sessions also.
5. That the Nominations Committee select a place for all the sessions and also a speaker so it can be placed in the minutes of this Association.

II. We nominate the next session of the annual Association to go to Slocomb on Friday and Union Hill church on Saturday, Oct. 23, 24, 1959.

The first quarterly session be held with Bethel Church, the second quarterly session with Antioch church, and the third quarterly session with Panther Creek church.

Speakers for the different sessions are as follows:

First quarterly session, Bobby Gene Register; Second quarterly session, Trim Finch; Third Quarterly session, John M. Rich; Fourth annual session, Bonnie Hughes.

By UNION HILL CHURCH

## REPORTS FROM MINISTERS

J. A. PETTIS: "I have not served any church, or married anyone, nor baptized anyone, due to my health. However, I have preached a few times".

R. P. JONES: "Due to poor health I have done very little work. Preached seven sermons and conducted one communion service."

BOBBY GENE REGISTER: "Served Antioch on 1-3 Sundays. Conducted 1 revival. I have accepted Pleasant Hill for full time another year."

RUFUS HYMAN: "Received seven into church by statement or letter. Baptized none. Organized no churches. Conducted 1 revival. Conducted 2 funerals. Served 1 full time church and received \$400.50. Sold many Bibles and Christian helps."



Trim Finch: "Preached 150 sermons. Received by letter 10. Baptized 2. Served 2 half time churches, Slocomb and Bethel, will serve Slocomb and Antioch another year. Received \$700.00. Married 1 couple.

W. G. DORRIETY: "Pastored one church, baptized none, performed 1 marriage, conducted 3 funerals. Received \$153.71. Held 1 revival and helped in 3 other meetings."

#### REPORT FROM UNION HILL CHURCH

Unon Hill had Rev. J. B. Smth as pastor until he resigned. Then Rev. John M. Rich called as pastor '58-59 year. In Sunday School 90. Preaching days, 2-4th Sundays. Paid Pastor \$200.00. Paid Coop. Plan \$105.00. Paid to evangelists \$154.00. Value of church property \$25000.00. Sent for Associational purpose \$10.00.

MRS. HARMON FARMER, Clerk

Rt. 2, Bonifay, Fla.

REV. JOHN M. RICH, Pastor

Chipley, Fla.

#### REPORT FROM BETHEL CHURCH

Received by baptism 2. Received by letter 2. Loss by letter 1. Loss by death 1. Paid Orphanage \$25.00. Paid pastor \$250.00. In Sunday School 25. Meeting days 1-3 Sundays. Value of property \$2500.00. Sent for Associational purposes \$10.00.

REV. TRIM FINCH, Pastor

Clyde Windham, Clerk

Hartford, Ala., R.F.D.

#### REPORT FROM CHRISTIAN HOME CHURCH

Had Rev. Lee Mixon as pastor. In Sunday School 32. Preaching days 2nd Sunday. Received by baptism, none. Received by letter, none. Loss by death 2. 43 female members and 19 male members, Total membership 52. Sent for associational purposes \$10.00. Value of property \$2500.00.

MARIE TURNER, Clerk

Black, Ala.

#### REPORT FROM ANTIOCH CHURCH

Had Rev. Bobby Gene Register for pastor. Paid \$25.00 to pastor. Paid for evangelist \$15.00. No increase of membership reported. Membership 65. Value of property \$3000.

BOBBY GENE REGISTER, Moderator

MRS. KATIE REGISTER, Clerk

Rt. 2, Graceville, Fla.

## REPORT FROM PANTHER CREEK CHURCH

Panther Creek represented but gave no report. Membership reported last session 97. Value of property \$5000.

MRS. BEA LEWIS, Clerk  
Newton, Ala.

## REPORT FROM SLOCOMB CHURCH

Received by baptism, none. Received by letter 7. Loss by letter 3. Total membership 15. Paid pastor \$350.00. Sent for Associational purposes \$10.00. In Sunday School 35. Value of church \$10,000.

TRIM FINCH, Pastor  
MRS. REFESTA BOUTWELL, Clerk  
Slocomb, Ala.

## DECORUM OF THE UNION FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Article 1. The name of this body shall be The Union Hill Free Will Baptist Association.

Article 2. Time of meeting: Friday and Saturday before fourth Sunday in October.

Article 3. Officers. The officers of this body shall be a Moderator, Vice Moderator, Clerk, Asst. Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Committee, Ordaining Council, Mission Board, and any other officers as the needs may arise. Election of Officers: The election of officers shall be annually on the last day of the Association, and the Association shall elect officers anyway deemed best. Duties of officers: The Moderator. The Moderator shall preside over all business sessions of the Association and help make plans for the welfare of the Association. Vice Moderator. The Vice-Moderator shall assist the Moderator and preside when the Moderator is absent from the church. Clerk. The clerk shall keep a record of all business of the Association, prepare manuscript for minutes, and do all correspondence for the Association. Asst. Clerk. The Assistant Clerk shall assist the clerk in his absence from the chair. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and hold all funds of the Association, pay all bills, and present statement when called upon. The Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have authority to do all acts for and in the name of the Association when the Association is not in session. Ordaining Council. The Ordaining Council shall examine all applicants for ordination to the Ministry, to ordain and issue all credentials, revoke, said ordination whenever a Minister becomes disorderly or refuses to repent and become in order with this body. The Mission Board. The Mission Board shall work to create interest in missions, to open mission points, and to establish new churches in the bounds of this body.

Article 4. Representatives shall be 2 delegates for first 25 members

or fraction thereof and 1 additional delegate for each 25 members or fraction thereof.

Article 5. That no delegate or minister shall be allowed to absent himself from the body during any session without permission from the Moderator.

Article 6. That each minister shall make a report of how many churches he is serving, if any, and what each church had paid him for his services.

Article 7. That no minister shall be considered in good standing that officiates in the rites of matrimony where either party has been divorced except it be for fornication.

Article 8. That no church be considered in this body that retains minister or deacon that has more than one living wife or drinks intoxicating beverages, or fail to pay their just and honest debts, or fail to make satisfaction.

Article 9. All business shall be disposed of according to good usage. But no move shall be submitted to the body where there is a move before the house unless the first one be withdrawn by the person who made such a move and no person shall be allowed to speak more than ten (10) minutes each time without move and second carried by the body.

Article 10. No person shall be disturbed while speaking so long as he keeps to the point in debate, then only by the Moderator and only to call him in order. Only one person shall be allowed to speak at a time and he must rise to his feet and address the Moderator and he must not use abusive language or personal reflection upon anyone.

Article 11. This Association shall have a treasurer and executive committee to be elected annually. And no church shall be considered in this body who shall have retained a minister that has stepped aside from his obligations in any form (as in 1st Timothy, chapter 3) unless said minister has shown by his actions that he has repented of the former evil.

Article 12. That any minister who will voluntarily step aside must immediately turn his credentials over to the Executive Committee and said Executive Committee shall visit the various churches to see if they are in good standing or not and help them retain good order.

Article 13. That no church shall retain a minister or deacon who does not rule his own house.

Article 14. That no church shall be recorded in this body who does not commune and wash feet at least one time a year and each church shall state in its associational letter as to whether this ordinance has been kept or not. And state also how much it has paid and all ministers serving churches shall preach one sermon a year on doctrine and rules of Holy living.

Article 15. Any preacher belonging to this body who sends an appointment of serving churches who fails to meet at the appointed hour shall be due acknowledgement to the congregation or church.

## CHURCH DECORUM

1. The church may choose a pastor annually at the last conference in Association year, or if they prefer, it may choose a pastor for an indefinite length of time to continue from year to year, as long as they may deem it proper to keep up the connection.

2. When it becomes necessary, a Pastor may be chosen at any given time, but if the choice be made at a special conference the time must be appointed at a monthly meeting of the church.

3. The pastor shall be moderator of the church, but when the moderator is absent or does not sit, a suitable brother shall be appointed in his place.

4. There shall be two or more deacons in the church whose duty it shall be to superintend the collection and distribution of all contributions made by the church for the pastor, etc. and to distribute the bread and wine in administration of the Lord's Supper.

5. The deacons shall take notice of such members as refuse or neglect to partake of the Lord's Supper and endeavor to ascertain the cause that the same may be laid before the church in conference if necessary.

6. Some suitable member shall be appointed clerk and it shall be his duty to do all the recording and writing pertaining to the business of the church and to preserve a file of the minutes of Association.

7. When a clerk is appointed, all the books, minutes, etc., belonging to the clerk, shall be immediately delivered to him by his predecessor.

8. When it becomes necessary, a committee of not less than three male members, well acquainted with business, shall be appointed whose duty it shall be to give advice to brethren who apply to them relative to cases of dealing, etc., with the church.

9. The church holds a two days' meeting embracing Saturday and the Lord's Day following, the first of which shall be the regular time of the conference.

10. It shall be the duty of every church member, male or female, to attend each conference meeting, if they can, for on that day the pastor is expected to instruct the church in a certain manner by giving plain and pointed lessons on doctrine, discipline, and the rules of Holy living.

11. Any male member who shall fail to attend three successive conferences and any member who may be generally remiss in attending meetings of the church according to covenant (Article 10), shall be cited to appear in conference and answer for his conduct, but may exempt members from this if necessary.

12. Conferences shall be opened and conducted as follows: (1) Prayer, unless divine service has just been concluded, and generally then. (2) Invite visiting brethren to seats. (3) Open the door for reception of members. (4) Call absentees. (5) For acknowledgements. (6) For reference of deferred business. (7) For matters of dealing which are in order to come before the church. (8) For miscellaneous business.



13. Visiting brethren called in as help from sister churches shall be allowed to vote.

14. Any ordinary member of the Baptist Church who does not hold this church in fellowship may be received into the church without a letter when it is made apparent that his Christian character is above reproach and that he has applied for letter and could not obtain it because he desires to join this or some sister church. All other persons must join by letter or baptism.

15. We receive members by experience of baptism; or confession of faith, by letter or restoration.

16. When the moderator calls for absentees the clerk shall inform the church what members have been absent from three successive conferences and the moderator shall appoint some brother or brethren to cite each of them to the next conference.

17. No member shall be expelled unless he has been cited verbally or in writing to attend this trial provided his residence be known to the church.

18. When a witness, not a member of the church, is introduced he shall not be examined until the question has been put to the church: "Will you hear the testimony of the witness?"

19. The evidence in every case of dealing and acknowledgement shall be recorded in the church book.

20. Members dismissed from the church by letter who become disorderly or continue to hold their letters without good reason shall be cited to conference to answer their conduct.

21. Expelled members shall be restored to membership on their petition if their walk since expulsion has convinced the church that they have seriously repented for their former evil.

22. A vote shall not be taken upon the question without a move and a second and on all important questions the vote shall be taken by rising to the feet.

23. No motion shall be made while a move and second is before the conference.

24. It shall be considered disorderly for any member to absent himself from conference when an important question is to be decided, but a member, upon request, may be exempted by the chairman from voting on either side in peculiar cases.

26. All discussions in conference must be conducted with calmness and good feeling. Those who speak must rise to their feet, and keep to the point in debate.

27. No one shall speak more than three times on the same question without permission from the moderator, nor shall the remarks of anyone be unreasonably long.

28. When the moderator speaks he must designate some brother to act in his stead.

29. No one shall be interrupted while speaking unless it is to call the speaker to order.

30. We believe it to be the duty of the church to commune, wash saints' feet as often as the church sees fit, the expense to be paid by the church.

31. Members not in good standing should not commune, but the administration should not be deferred on account of any ordinary matter of dealing.

32. Public fasting, humiliation and prayers shall be observed on proper occasion.

### ARTICLES OF FAITH UNION HILL FREE WILL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1. We believe there is just one living and true God whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Ruler of the Universe.

2. We believe there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom all things and by whom salvation is made secure.

3. We believe in the beginning God made man, upright and placed him in a state of holiness under the laws of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression of his own he fell from that holy and happy state.

4. We believe that no man shall suffer in hell for lack of Christ.

5. We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and that they are the only rule of faith and practice.

6. We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Ghost through Jesus Christ His Son.

7. We believe that good works are the fruit of faith and faith without works is dead.

8. We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free and may be obtained by all mankind.

9. We believe that commemoration and feet washing are ordinances of Christ and immersion only is baptism.

10. We believe that all Christians should unite in performing the sacred ordinances.

11. That the end of the world is approaching when Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the graves for final retribution, that a solemn separation will take place, the righteous being adjudged to everlasting happiness and the wicked to endless punishment and that judgment will fix forever the final state of man in Heaven or Hell on principles of righteousness.

12. We believe it is possible for a Christian to make shipwreck of his faith after being saved become lost again. This is possible but not probable; therefore, we should watch and pray to make our calling and election sure.



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**THE HARTFORD NEWS-HERALD**  
**Hartford, Alabama**

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