

# Looking Back

## How Well Do You Know Huntsville?

Written by Deane Dayton



### Who am I?

- A. William Burritt
- B. William Echols
- C. Michael O'Shaughnessy
- D. Tracy Pratt



### Where am I?

- A. Burritt Drive
- B. Echols Avenue
- C. O'Shaughnessy Avenue
- D. Pratt Avenue

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### Where was I?

- A. Clinton Avenue
- B. Eustis Avenue
- C. Holmes Avenue
- D. Wells Avenue

The Architectural Collection of Harvie P. Jones, FAIA,  
Dept. of Archives/Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, UAH

## Answers to **How Well Do You Know Huntsville?**

<p><b>Who am I?</b></p> <p>A. William Burritt</p>	<p>Dr. William Henry Burritt was a highly-educated and well-traveled Huntsville physician who built his home on Monte Sano and filled it with objects of interest from all over the world.</p> <p>Dr. Burritt was a member of several prominent Huntsville organizations, including a social group called the Chimpanzee Club, formed for evenings of polite social conversation, dinner, chamber recitals, and theater productions.</p>
<p><b>Where am I?</b></p> <p>A. Burritt Drive</p>	<p>This house, located on Monte Sano’s Burritt Drive, was built in the 1930s by Dr. Burritt using bales of straw in the walls to serve as insulation. The original house burned when the straw caught fire. The house was rebuilt with thicker plaster on the inside and asbestos on the outside in an attempt to prevent future fires.</p> <p>Upon Dr. Burritt’s death, the house and property were given to the City of Huntsville to serve as a park and Museum, along with funds to maintain them. Since that time <b>Burritt on the Mountain</b> has developed into “a historic park with restored nineteenth-century houses, a barnyard with authentic breeds of farm animals, a series of nature trails, and concerts, plays, festivals and exhibits.”</p>
<p><b>Where was I?</b></p> <p>B. Eustis Avenue</p>	<p>The Madison County/City of Huntsville Health Center was located at 304 Eustis Street SE across from the former site of the Calhoun House. It was built circa 1948 and was one of few examples of art deco architecture in Huntsville.</p> <p>The property was originally owned by Dr. Burritt’s parents whose house at that location was one of several in Huntsville included in the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s. Dr. Burritt gave the property to the City for use as a health department.</p> <p>The property is just east of the parking lot where the Church of the Nativity holds its Greene Street Market on Thursday evenings during the summer.</p>

The primary source is the Burritt on the Mountain Website at [www.burrittonthemountain.com](http://www.burrittonthemountain.com). The image of Dr. Burritt is from a portrait hanging just inside the front door of his mansion.

For more information on the history of Huntsville visit the Heritage Room at the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library or the Huntsville History Collection at [HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org](http://HuntsvilleHistoryCollection.org).