

# Tennessee CONNECTIONS

WINTER 2021 | CUSTOMER FOCUSED ⚡ COMMUNITY DRIVEN

## The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson's Globes and Maps

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## Working For Our Communities

Ripley Power and Light Company works behind the scenes to help our communities succeed and to improve the quality of life for our customers.





## ‘The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson’s Globes and Maps’

**M**urray Hudson, a shop owner in Halls, has spent decades collecting aging maps and globes that shed light on human history in regions around the world.

His store offers one of the largest private collections of for-sale antiquarian maps, globes, books and prints on the planet. They tell the story of progress through exploration, innovation and ever-changing political boundaries.

Some of his rare items are now on display at Discovery Park of America in Union City in a temporary exhibit that opened Dec. 2.

“I approached Discovery Park, because when you think of the word ‘discovery,’ maps and globes are key to creating a visual image,” Hudson said.

According to Discovery Park, those who visit the exhibit will see maps from the 17th century to the present, historic items, beautiful aeronautical and road maps, and incredible globes that could pass for works of art. Visitors will also see rare globes, such as one belonging to a diplomat from 1918 that focuses on political geography, as well as an 1840s German globe that shows Texas as a republic.

Hudson was an English professor who studied at Oxford



Maps and globes from Halls shop owner’s collection are on display through March 1 in Union City’s Discovery Park



Pictured, above and below, are some of the maps and globes in Murray Hudson's shop in Halls.



University in England when he began collecting maps. As a farmer in Dyer County more than 37 years ago, Hudson created a catalogue of old Texas maps printed on his church's copier. He advertised in a Texas trade publication, and his collection became popular enough to start his own business.

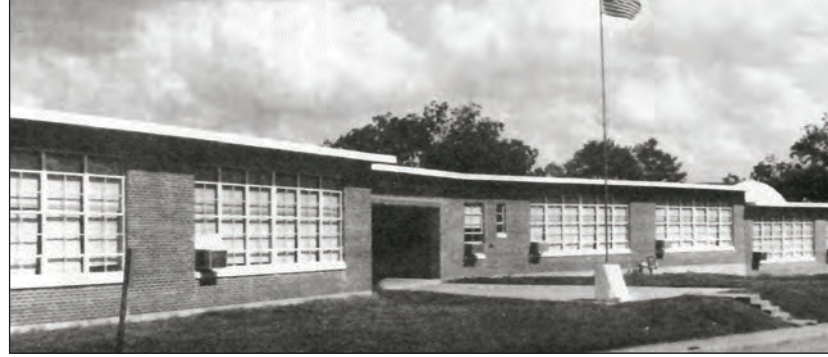
"The phone out at the farm just rang off the wall for a week, and I sold everything," he said.

Avid collectors in Texas financed his appearance at an exposition, and the rest is history. Over time, Hudson would visit second-hand shops and antique stores and add more and more items to his collection.

"I traveled extensively — not just in the U.S. — and anywhere I went, I'd look for them," he said. "And every time I saw a place that looked like it might have some potential, I'd go in."

Hudson's shop in Halls is different than other places offering expensive maps and globes for tens of thousands of dollars. Instead, he offers less expensive items with broader appeal for entry-level collectors. "I've really kind of catered to people getting interested in maps and globes," he said. ■

Murray Hudson's shop is at 109 S. Church St. in Halls. "The Fascinating World of Murray Hudson's Globes and Maps" is on display at Discovery Park of America's ATA Traveling Exhibit Hall through March 1.



## Lauderdale High School Recognized for Its Role in County History

The former Lauderdale High School, at 185 Spring St. in Ripley, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its role first as a school and later as a community center for the African-American community.

The school was built in 1912 as the Lauderdale County Training School and expanded around 1950 to its current size and appearance. It closed in 1969 after the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare discussed cutting off funds for counties failing to meet desegregation guidelines.

In its 1985 alumni booklet, the Lauderdale High School Alumni Association expressed the devotion of its former students to the school's memory by noting that it "was precious as an heirloom, as big as the Houston Astrodome and busy as Disney Land."



On the cover

*Small Town, Bright Lights*

Maker's Mark awarded Ripley its 2021 Christmas Light Show and transformed court square into a magical Christmas setting. In making the announcement, Maker's Mark said: "The people of Ripley took small-town spirit to the next level in 2020. When their local hospital was set to close due to financial strain—which would have put many people out of work and others out of luck when they needed care most—the community banded together to save their hospital themselves. If that doesn't deserve a magical holiday makeover, what does?"

More from Ripley Power and Light, pages 20-21

# Working for Our Communities

Most people know that Ripley Power and Light Company's mission is to provide cost-effective and reliable electricity to our communities. Many, however, don't realize that we also place priorities on helping our communities succeed and improving the quality of life of our customers.

We work behind the scenes in many ways to do that, including maintaining traffic lights, efforts to bring more jobs to our communities and partnering when we can with community projects.

One of those efforts is the annual in-lieu-of-tax payments we make to Lauderdale County and the local municipalities we serve. (See chart for the 2021 distribution of funds.)

The amounts are determined by a formula, which is audited by TVA and Ripley Power and Light. The funds come directly from operating revenues, which are received from the sale of electricity to customers.

"The money we pay is based on the net plant value we have in each of the communities we serve," said Mike Allmand, President and CEO of Ripley Power and Light. "The net plant value includes lines, poles and other equipment. It's our contribution because we don't pay taxes, and we want to pay our part."

As a public utility, Ripley Power and Light is exempt from paying taxes.

"By law, this is the only way a city can receive funds from us," Allmand said. "It is one way we invest in our communities."

Another important contribution is Ripley Power and Light's efforts to promote economic development, he said.

Ripley Power and Light works with the State of Tennessee, TVA, HTL Advantage and the West Tennessee Industrial Association to help existing industry and to attract new industry and jobs.

The new Ford plant at the megasite – 30 minutes away from Lauderdale County – will be an opportunity to sell Lauderdale County to the many new residents moving to West Tennessee and to the supporting industry that will create more jobs, Allmand said.

Ripley Power and Light is a member of the team trying to attract those residents and jobs to Lauderdale County.

In other efforts, Ripley Power and Light ...

- Maintains street and traffic lights.
- Offers scholarships to students who attend Dyersburg State Community College and the University of Tennessee Martin-Ripley Center.
- Works with communities to install outdoor lighting in public areas.

For more information, visit the "About Us" section at [ripleypower.com](http://ripleypower.com). ■



Mike Allmand  
President and CEO  
Ripley Power and Light

## In-lieu-of-tax payments provide funds directly to local governments

### 2021 Distribution of Funds

City of Ripley:	\$367,781.26
Town of Halls:	\$20,871.92
Town of Gates:	\$3,337.96
Town of Henning:	\$5,371.00
Lauderdale Co.:	\$115,363.21
<b>Total Distributed:</b>	<b>\$512,725.35</b>



## Alex Haley Home Celebrates Improvements, Welcomes the Return of Visitors

The Alex Haley Museum and Interpretive Center in Henning recently celebrated two centennial anniversaries and a restoration project for the state historic site.

On Aug. 11, the museum celebrated the esteemed author's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Haley was born Aug. 11, 1921. Two days later, the museum celebrated the centennial of Haley's historic Craftsman-style bungalow. The home was built in 1919, but the pandemic precluded an earlier celebration, said museum Site Manager Richard Griffin.

To mark both occasions, the museum hosted a community festival on the following Saturday with music, food and entertainment.

The celebrations followed more than a year after the completion of a \$500,000 state project to renovate and restore parts of the home, as well as the interpretive center built in 2010. Again because of COVID-19, the museum didn't hold a ceremony to mark the project's completion in June 2020.

The pandemic has also depressed visitor traffic because the museum isn't getting tour busses and international travelers like it used to, Griffin said. Historic sites across the country are



Alex Haley's boyhood home in Henning is open for tours.

experiencing the same shortfall, but Griffin said he is hoping to see increased numbers as the pandemic wanes and more people return.

"We want everyone to know and understand that we are still here," Griffin said. "We are still open for group tours and individual tours. We're hoping there will be a revitalization of folks visiting." ■

## 2022 Calendar

Ripley Power and Light Company's 2022 calendar is at the printer and will be in the mail before Christmas. Next year's calendar will highlight historic places in Lauderdale County, including the Alex Haley Museum.

## Don't Let Winter's Cold Raise the Cost of Your Electric Bill

One of the best ways to keep your energy bill lower this winter is to wear an extra sweater, sleep with an extra blanket and drop that thermostat to 68 degrees, or as low as you can set it and still be comfortable.

You've probably heard these all before, but here are some no-cost reminders to keep your bill low.

- Lower your thermostat if you won't be home.
- Lower your water heater temperature

to 120°F and reduce hot water use by taking shorter showers and using cold water for laundry.

- Turn off lights, televisions and computers when not in use.
- Remove and recycle your second refrigerator.
- Keep curtains open on the south side of the house and closed on the north side during the day.
- Clean refrigerator coils and set the temperature to 36° to 39°F. Set the freezer



to 0° to 5°F.

- Make sure the fireplace damper is closed when not in use. Don't send warm air up the chimney. ■



MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Ripley Power and Light  
offices will be closed:

Friday and Monday,  
Dec. 24 and 27, for Christmas

Friday, Dec. 31, for New Year's Day

Monday, Jan. 17, for Martin  
Luther King Jr.'s birthday

Monday, Feb. 21,  
for Presidents Day

**Ripley Office**

731-635-2323  
150 S. Main St. • Ripley

**Halls Office**

731-836-7595  
409 S. Church St. • Halls

**Office Hours**

We are open 47 hours each week  
for your convenience!

7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday

**You can pay your bill ...**

- At [www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)
- Through bank draft
- At our Ripley & Halls offices
- In the office night deposit boxes
- At the kiosks at our offices

*If you have not been receiving  
your bills, call our office  
immediately so we can verify  
your mailing address.*

[www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com)

TN-200

## Lights out? Just send us a text

That's right. Once your cellphone number is in our messaging system, you can just text us the next time your home loses power.

It's part of Power and Light Company's efforts to make communication for customers easier, said Hunter Haislip, Power and Light's IT technician.

To be able to do this, though, you must first opt into Ripley Power and Light's messaging system.

- Save our number—888-655-1841—in your contacts.
- Text #RIPLEY to that number.
- You'll receive the message, "Welcome to Ripley

Power and Light's text msg service, which provides text delivery of important information . . ."

That means you're in the system. The next time you have an outage, just text #OUT to that number. We'll know where you are and will begin our efforts to locate the cause of the outage and restore your power.

The messaging system is a two-way street. We can also send you important messages about your electricity.

If you have already updated your phone numbers and address in our Outage Management System, we can send you text messages, BUT you still must opt in your cellphone number by texting #RIPLEY to 888-655-1841 to be able to send us text messages.

We can also pinpoint your location when you call on your landline after hours to report an outage if we have your correct information.

You can always text QUIT to opt out after receiving a message from us.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Our text messaging system only works with a cellphone.
- To opt in, text #RIPLEY to 888-655-1841.

We encourage customers to keep their address and phone numbers updated in our system. You can call our offices during normal business hours or fill out the form under Report an Outage at [www.ripleypower.com](http://www.ripleypower.com).