

# Yesteryears

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Monday, March 30, 1992

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## J. R.'s ideas sparked town's progress

By Lois Firestone

**A**LTHOUGH IT WAS still early morning, the waves of shimmering heat emanating from the roadways and sidewalks promised that the day, July 26, 1863, would be sweltering. Few of the townspeople were thinking about the weather, though, because the Sunday morning stillness had suddenly been shattered by a frightening alarm which panicked everyone.

Minutes earlier, Ezra Coppock had shouted the news as he galloped through Salem's streets astride his horse begging for volunteers to defend the town because "Morgan is coming to Salem with 300 of his raiders; to arms, everyone!" The ringing of the bell in the Town Hall steeple warned shopkeepers of impending trouble, and as word spread, merchants piled their stock into farm wagons and drove off to hide barrels of flour and salt and other sundries in the woods.

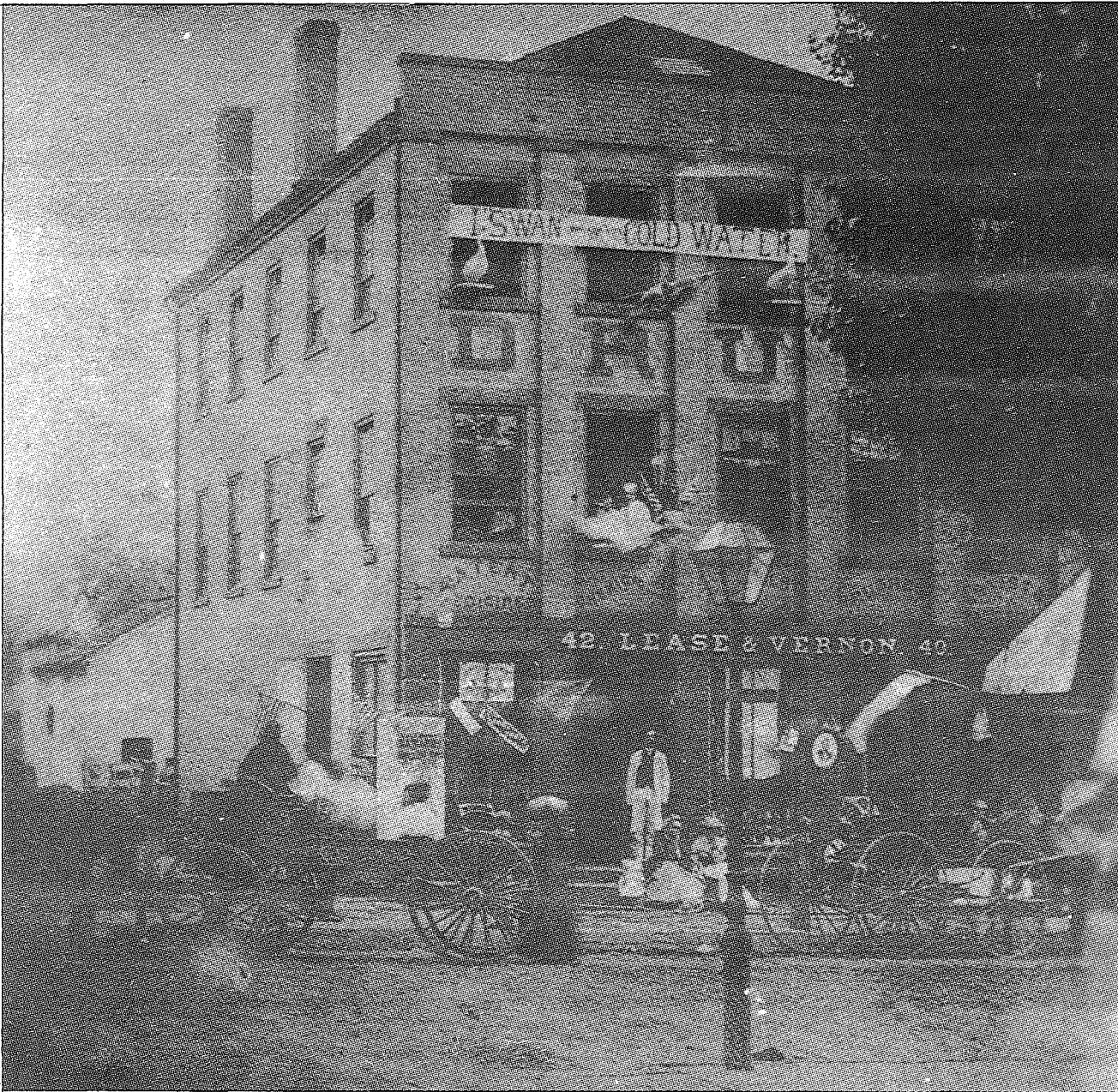
Men rushed to secrete their papers and valuables in makeshift hiding places and grabbed old shotguns, rusty rifles, and horse pistols, long unused. Hands trembling, housewives hastily lowered precious silverware and jewelry, carelessly wrapped in linen, deep into wells and cisterns. Then they rushed their children to safety in outlying farmhouses.

### Farmers Bank stashed money

Farmers Bank officials stashed the firm's money in saddle bags and commissioned Calvin Brainard to ride to the Canfield Bank where the gold and tender could be stored until the danger was over. John Morgan, the Confederate general, had for days been pushing into northern Ohio with his artillery and cavalry, known as the Raiders, pillaging and plundering as they went. So far he had eluded the pursuing Union troops, but on this Sabbath day he would make his final stand. Morgan was captured on David Burbick's farm near present-day West Point. For hours throughout the interminable day, Salem area people were certain Morgan would continue his troop movement into the city; it wasn't until evening that they heard of his capture.

A 21-year-old drug store clerk was among the assemblage of men congregating at the corner of Broadway and Main Street waiting impatiently for orders from Coppock. John Richards Vernon was eager to join the 200 armed men who were patrol-

Turn to VERNON on page 4




*This charming photograph of the Lease & Vernon store, probably taken around 1865 when J. R. Vernon and E. A. Lease formed their partnership, shows much activity, in the street, on the sidewalk and in the windows above the building. President Abraham Lincoln's portrait is on the front of the building. Vernon was the great grandfather of Martha Myers and George V. Chappell of Salem.*





Growing their own food was the first priority for early settlers, and that continued, even with the advent of canals and railroads to transport goods easily and quickly. The first major event in Salem in the 1800s was an agriculture fair where growers should show off their prize vegetables and fruits. Here, townspeople look over entries in the contest held by the Salem Daily Herald in the 1900s for the best, biggest and tastiest fruits of their garden labors.



**Yesteryears**

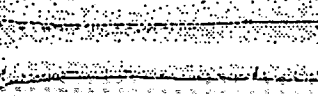
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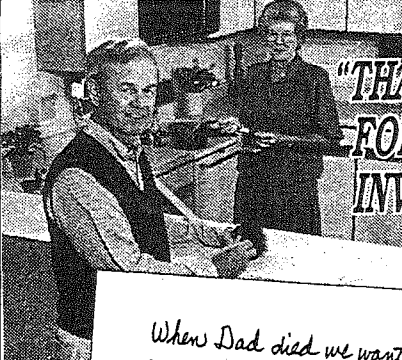
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CONTEMPORARY  
COLLECTIBLES



By Linda Rosenkrantz  
Copley News Service

Certainly no one in his or her right mind could call the 1990-91 season a banner year for the art world. And, yet, with the spotlight softened on record-crunching prices, something interesting starts to happen — attention starts to refocus on the objects themselves.

This was brought to mind while perusing the annual self-celebration of one of the world's major auction houses, "Sotheby's Art at Auction 1990-91" (Sotheby's publications Ltd./Rizzoli International).

Looking beyond the relatively few record paintings sold last season — ranging from Constable to

Rauschenberg — one finds a rich agglomeration of objects that are fascinating in and of themselves. And to prove my point, I won't even tell you the prices they fetched.

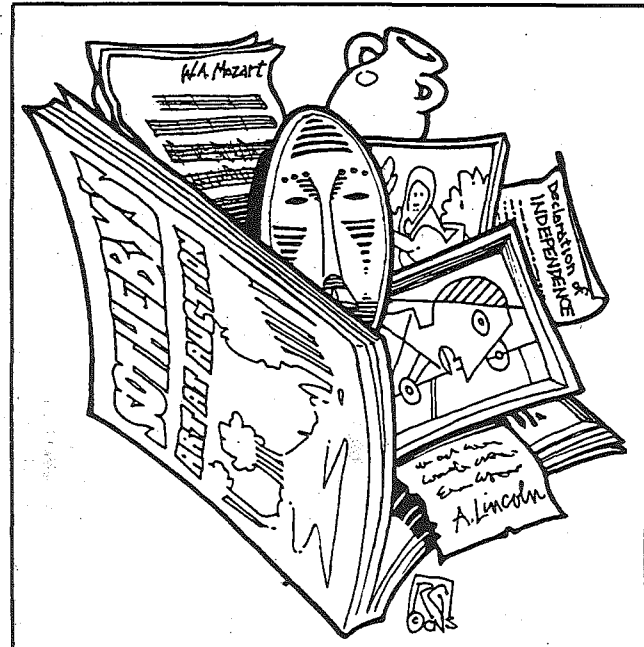
Consider, for instance, the historical resonance — both political and cultural — of some of the autographed letters and manuscript material that came on the block last year.

Most highly publicized was one of only 24 surviving copies of the Declaration of Independence printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia on July 4 or 5, 1776.

This item became national news because of the way in which it was discovered. A collector of antique stocks and bonds bought a tattered old painting at a Philadelphia flea market for \$4. Removing it from its frame when he got home, he found a folded sheet of paper in the backing of the frame and immediately recognized it as the historical treasure it was.

Other items in this category include the earliest surviving dated writing of Abraham Lincoln — an 1824 schoolboy arithmetic notebook; a four-page document marking the beginning of the armada Campaign in England, signed Elizabeth R and dated 1587; the long-lost original autographed composing manuscript of Mozart's Fantasia and Sonata in C Minor, one of the composer's most glorious works for solo piano; a two-letter 1932 correspondence between Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, prompted by the League of Nations International Committee on Intellectual Cooperation, discoursing on man's aggressive nature and the possibility of peace; and Samuel Beckett's working rehearsal copy used for the original production of "Waiting for Godot," with autograph annotations.

In the area of tribal art, an outstanding rhythm pounder from the North Ivory Coast of Africa. An elegant, highly stylized female figure and one of only a handful of this type to exist, this sculpture was used by secret societies in commemorative funeral and initiation rites. It received its Western



name because young initiates would slowly swing the statue, striking the ground in a synchronized beat with the drums and horns.

A myriad of other items sold last year attest to man's creative ingenuity, including the 13th-century Northumberland bestiary, an illuminated manuscript with 112 colorfully detailed animalistic miniatures; a jeweled Persian sword; a translucent 15th-century Chinese gold-inlaid cup with dragon handles; a rare group of Japanese prints of early Kabuki actors and a 1965 Mondrian-patterned minidress by Yves Saint Laurent.

Linda Rosenkrantz edited Auction magazine and authored five books, including "Auction Antiques Annual." Write Collect, c/o Copley News Service, P.O. Box 190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190.

Letters cannot be answered personally.

Bliss Co. giant rolling mills  
completed in August of 1931

In August of 1931, Salem's E. W. Bliss Co. completed the most powerful cold rolling mill ever built for the manufacture of strip tin plate. It was made for the U.S. Steel Corp. Some of the castings in this mill weighed in excess of 80 tons each. The pressure exerted by the mill was approximately 15 million pounds of force.

This installation, designed to revolutionize the industry, far surpassed other existing plants for manufacturing tin plate. Many automatic patented devices were used on the mill. The E. W. Bliss Co., while building all kinds of hot and cold rolling mills, specialized in the cold rolling industry. It had installations in practically all the large steel companies in the U.S. and abroad. Its designs were recognized as the most modern, and were protected by many indispensable patents.

— D. S.

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John R. Vernon in his mid-80s when he was known to people in the town of Salem as "Uncle John." His column, "Uncle John Says," appeared regularly in *The Salem News*, published by his close friend Louis Brush.



J. R. and Mary Flick Vernon when they were married on Sept. 7, 1865.

charge — bang! I won't say whether the tree was touched, but I can verify that the colt came back with the rider on."

"Most lucky for Morgan that he came not that road. Pensions have been granted and Carnegie medals awarded to persons performing less heroic deeds, but so far, no committee has investigated the above case, which consisted of suffering in riding that high-boned horse — then and afterward — of sitting for hours in a boiling sun on a fidgety colt on guard and the humiliation of not shooting Morgan."

**He had one consolation**

"The only consolation and satisfaction this young (now old) man has now is that he is in possession of the spur General Morgan gave to his captor, Major Rue, on that fateful day."

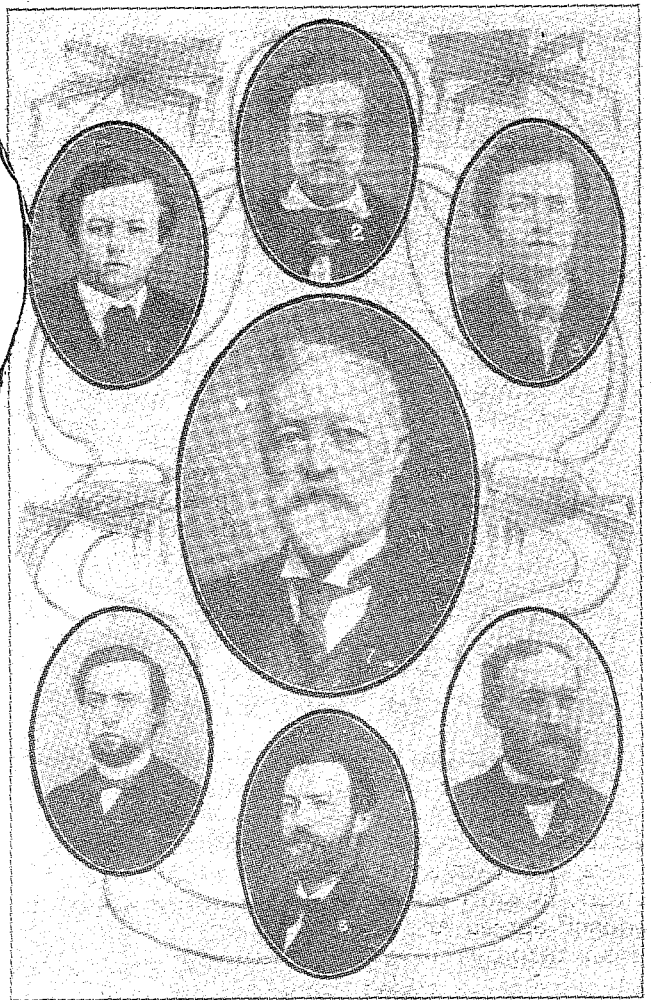
Vernon's sense of humor cropped up throughout his life, in his writings and in his approach to business. Both he and E. A. Lease had clerked in Dr. John C. Whinnery's drug store and in 1865 the young men formed Lease & Vernon's in the building, today the site of the Butler-Wick Co.

The storerooms and ceiling-high shelves in the Vernon and Lease drug store were a conglomeration of a variety of necessities for the 1860s, including patent medicines and cough elixirs — they were the big money makers — the horse and cattle powders, and the dozens of other "health helps" like hair dressings, foot rot remedies and toothache relievers. There were tobaccos, window glass and putty, domestic wines, brandy, rye and sherry, lamps and lamp fixtures, and black and green teas.

The partners published a newspaper, *The Mortar*, which was filled with local news, ads for the drug store and other local businesses and pithy comments about life. It's likely that Vernon wrote most of the copy. A typical ad: — "RULES FOR HARD TIMES — Stop grumbling. Rise early. Work diligently. Mind your own business, and let other people mind theirs. Live within your means. Give away or sell your dog. Be temperate in all things. Abstain totally from strong drink and wrongdoing. Be careful. Talk less of your own peculiar gifts and virtues and more of those of your friends and neighbors. Fulfill your promises. Pay your debts. Be yourself all you would see in others...and buy your goods of Lease & Vernon."

**Vernon was proud of his heritage**

Vernon was constantly working for the good of the town and dreaming up successful ideas which would benefit the people. A pet project was the 65-member Deluge Fire Company which he and four others organized in May 1865 — the fear of fire was a constant worry and every resident had been required for years to keep two filled leather fire buckets on their properties. T. J. Mendenhall was president of the brigade and Lease was vice president; C. C. Snyder was secretary, Vernon treasurer and N. B. Garrigues the foreman. The fire protection company took over the Silsby steam engine and the old *Columbiana*, one of the two



This montage is entitled, "Seven Ages," and shows photos of J. R. Vernon as (1) Little Johnnie, (2) Johnnie, (3) Jack, (4) John (5) J. R. (6) Mr. Vernon and (7) Uncle John.

engines owned by the Salem Fire Co., the first company organized in 1841. In the Nov. 1, 1867 issue of *The Mortar* he mentions the company twice: "The Deluge boys need and want a new Fire Engine. They certainly deserve it — shall they have it?" and "At the late fires (which have been many) our firemen have done nobly in subduing the flames promptly, and thus saving the frequent scarcity of water, and that the Deluge Fire Company have a very inferior machine, we think our citizens have cause to be thankful for these useful and energetic organizations — The Salem Fire Companies."

**1865 was a mind-boggling year**

1865 was a mind-bogglingly active twelve months for Vernon. Not only did he form the fire protection company, buy a drug store, and get a job as a local insurance agent, he started up a weekly newspaper. On Feb. 17, Vernon brought out the first issue of the *Salem Journal* — he kept it going until 1872 when he sold it to Major W. R. Snider who moved the newspaper out of town. The insurance business prospered, too, and a few years later he and a man named Robinson opened their own agency. To cap off the year 1865, he was married, on Sept. 7, to Mary Flick, an Allegheny, Pa. girl.

The Vernons lived in a series of houses he built for Mary and their children, Thomas, Nellie and Harriet. Two of the homes were along Summit Street near Franklin and another on South Lincoln. They lived the longest in the spacious home Gideon Ernst built for them at 1052 S. Lincoln Ave. Vernon was fond of his coachman, Dan and had an apartment set aside for him in the barn.

Ill health forced Vernon to sell his share in the drug store but on Oct. 26, 1876 he started another business, the Ohio Mutual Fire Insurance Company in an office on the Pow Block, backed with \$50,000 capital. Later he moved the firm to 96 Main Street. The firm's growth was phenomenal, the capital increasing to \$900,000 by 1906. At that time, Ohio

Turn to next page

**Vernon**

Continued from page 1

ing city streets and blockading the roads leading into Salem as they felled trees with saws and axes. Instead, the militia captain sent him to report for picket duty on a knoll about two miles south of Salem on the Guilford Road — Morgan was expected to travel this route into town.

Vernon's two-year-old colt was stabled on the farm where he lived with his parents, Thomas and Matilda Vernon three miles southeast of town, and he set out on foot toward home. It was a long walk on a hot and humid day and, he would write 50 years later when recounting the experience, he was relieved to come across a "worn-out horse with a very sharp and prominent backbone grazing by the wayside" which made the trip easier.

**Hides wool crop in corn field**

After helping his father hide the family's wool crop in a corn field, Vernon borrowed an old 1845 Colt revolver from a neighbor, said goodbye to his parents and left to take his post. Hour after hour with the boiling sun beating down on him, Vernon waited for the enemy. The heat was easing and the sun was preparing to set when he heard horse's hooves in the distance. Tightening the horse's reins and positioning his revolver, he was disappointed to see one of the scouts, Henry Shaffer, ride into view. "He's taken, Morgan vas, so to home go, John," Shaffer told him.

"While it was somewhat of a disappointment not to have captured Morgan alone and single handed, it seemed good to be relieved of picket duty," Vernon wrote. "Now that the strain and anxiety was over I began wondering if really I could have hit Morgan had he appeared and wondered, too, how the colt would have acted under the ordeal. I would put it to the test. A tree nearby was supposed to be Morgan. I raised the revolver (it had been loaded about ten years), took deliberate aim (tree standing still), then click, click, click, click, four clicks and no response, but the fifth and last



Vernon  
Continued from page 4

Mutual had paid out nearly \$1 million in fire losses. As it entered its 30th year the company was recognized as one of the largest, strongest and most popular of Ohio's mutual companies.

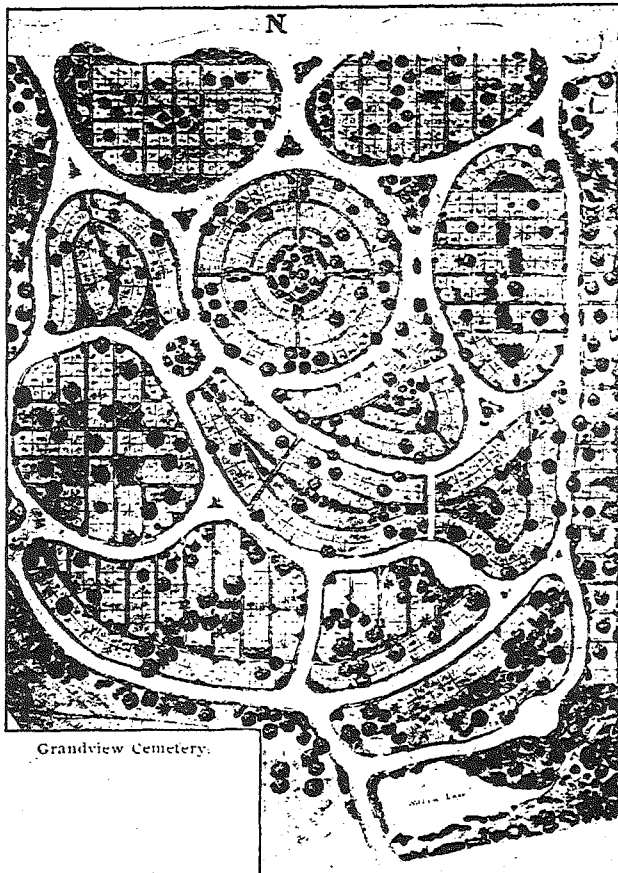
Helped organize First National Bank

J. R. had his hand in the town's banking ventures. He was at Alexander Pow's side when he organized the First National Bank in 1862. At one time he was the institution's vice president and served on the board of directors for years, along with Richard and Frederic Pow, J. A. Ambler, W. H. Mullins, and J. M. Woodruff. In 1906 when Richard Pow was president the bank had \$100,000 in capital stock, \$50,000 in its surplus funds and resources totalling \$705,191.

Hope Cemetery was the only public burial site in the town, its ten acres a consolidation of the original Presbyterian Cemetery started in 1833, the Salem Cemetery laid out in 1850 and a five-acre addition added by Jacob Heaton in 1864.

By 1888, the headstones of the early settlers buried there were crumbling and the historic old cemetery was antiquated and in poor shape. For 18 years, the town's businessmen had pushed for a larger, modern cemetery; finally in 1900 the town council agreed and the Salem Cemetery Association was formed to start prospecting available sites. Trustees were Brooks, Walter Deming, S. B. Richards, Mullins, M. L. Young, Woodruff, W. D. Casselberry, W. H. Kolll and Vernon. Vernon, who served as association secretary and later president, led the search for property and secured an option on the Beeson farmlands southeast of town. He was given the privilege of naming the cemetery and selected the name, Grand View Burial Park. Grand View's sprawling meadows and Willow Lake soon became a popular place for picnics and excursions.

His reverence for the printed word never left him, and he encouraged his close friend Louis H. Brush to start up The Salem Publishing Co., which published the *Salem News*, in 1889. Vernon was among the honored guests at the 25th anniversary party for the *News* hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Brush at their South Lincoln Avenue home on Jan. 14, 1914. For years, Vernon's "Uncle John Says" columns



The layout of the Grand View Burial Park as drawn as a guide to construction. Willow Lake, a favorite excursion setting, is at the lower right portion of drawing. Vernon selected the name for the cemetery and was an officer and trustee of the park for many years.

appeared in the newspaper. One has survived: It's headed "Miami Musings from 'Uncle John' Vernon" and regales the reader with happenings in Miami, Fla. in January 1921 where the Vernons were basking in the sunshine with 35,000 other winter-month tourists.

Mary Vernon passed away in November, 1928 and John Vernon followed a month later, on Saturday, Dec. 29, only a few weeks short of his 87th birthday. Hundreds of townspeople paid their respects to the man they'd come to know as "Uncle John" at the gravesite in the Grand View Burial Park.

## The day General Morgan surrendered

By Dale E. Shaffer

A BIT OF INTERESTING and untold history comes from General Basil Duke, a Kentuckian who fought under General John Morgan. He took part in the famous raid into Ohio in 1863.

General Duke was the brother-in-law of Morgan and quite close to him. His story clears up some muddled points in history, and explains the part Captain James Burbick played in the surrender. Burbick was charged with being in sympathy with Morgan because he was willing to accompany him as a guide to the Ohio River. Duke explains the reason.

Morgan promised Burbick, if he would show him the way to the river, that his soldiers would "take nothing nor do any sort of damage in the captain's district." Duke said that Morgan surrendered July 26, 1863 in a very peculiar manner.

Morgan had heard of Lee's retreat from Pennsylvania and of the fall of Vicksburg. In at least 20 towns through which the raiders passed, in Indiana and Ohio, Duke had witnessed the destructive effects of these events. Morgan feared that in consequence of the great number of prisoners coming into federal possession, the cartel would be broken. Therefore, he was anxious to surrender "upon terms."

Morgan was aware that he was not likely to get such terms as he wished from any officer of the regular troops that were pursuing him. Unless, that is, he ran into Wolford, who was as noted for his generosity to prisoners as for his vigor and gallantry in the field.

But Wolford was not around, so Morgan looked for another militia officer who might serve his purpose. At the time, he was located in the extreme eastern part of Ohio, near Gavers in Columbiana County. This was the district of Captain James Burbick, who had his militia under arms.

Morgan sent a message to Burbick, under a flag of truce, requesting an interview. Burbick agreed. The two men met for a short conference and concluded a treaty. Morgan agreed to take nothing nor do any sort of damage in Burbick's district, while Burbick consented to guide and escort Morgan to the Pennsylvania line.

After riding a few miles side by side with his host, Morgan noticed a long cloud of dust, about a mile ahead, rolling rapidly upon a course parallel with his own. Realizing it was time for him to act, he interrupted the pleasant conversation by suddenly asking Burbick how he would like to receive his surrender. Burbick answered that it would give him great satisfaction to do so.

"But," said Morgan, "perhaps you would not

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Vernon's Ohio Mutual building along State Street, occupied today by the Recreation Billiards. The building stands today as it did in Vernon's time.

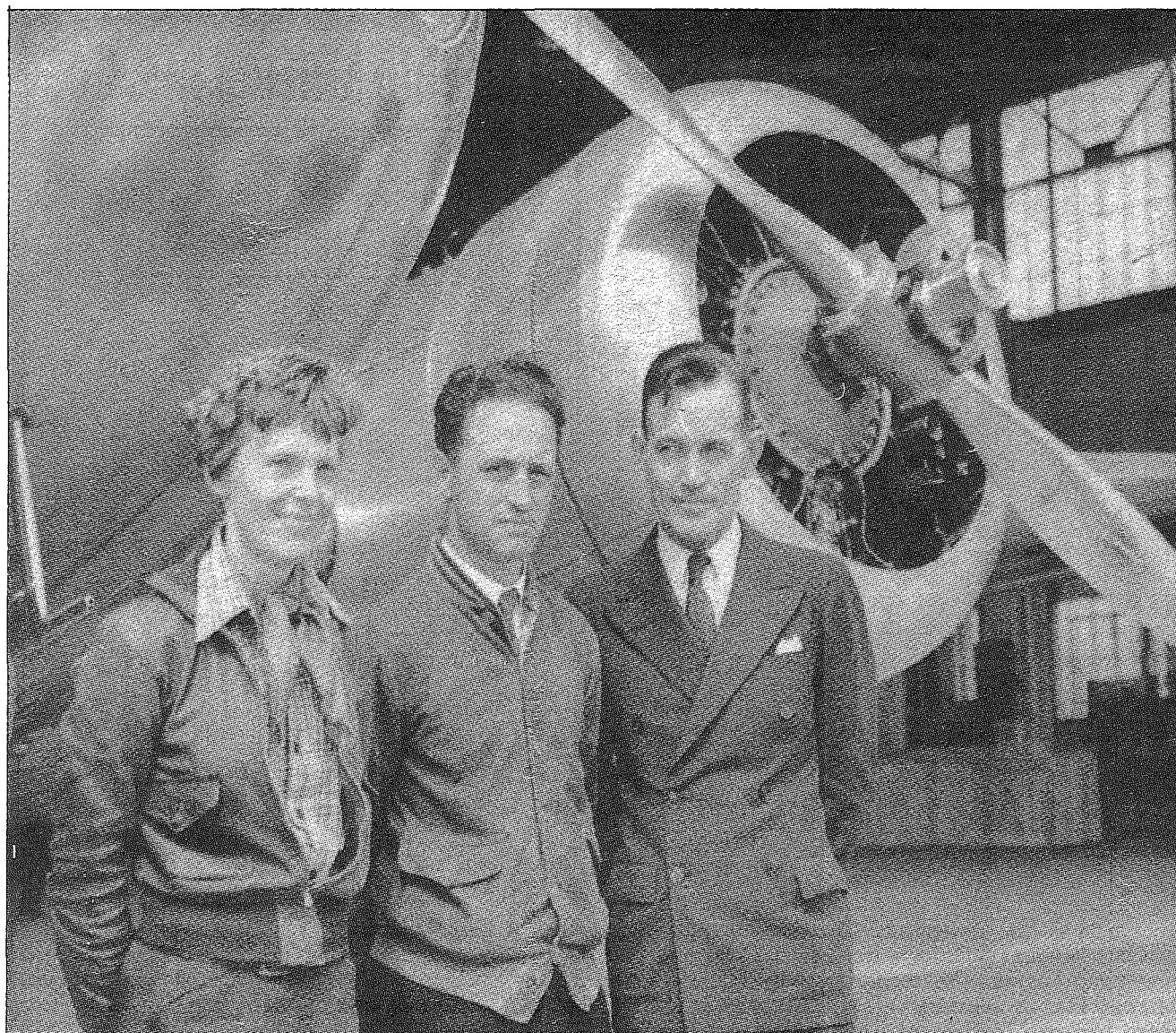
give me such terms as I wish." "General Morgan," replied Burbick, "you might write your own terms, and I would grant them." "Very well, then," said Morgan. "It is a bargain. I will surrender to you." Accordingly, he formally surrendered to Capt. Burbick of the Ohio Militia. The conditions were that the officers and calvary were to be paroled, the latter retaining their horses, and the former, their horses and sidearms.

Not long afterwards, Major General James Shackelford, Brigadier General Edward Hobson's second in command, arrived with the pursuing officer in the area. The general immediately disapproved the agreement made by Morgan and Burbick, and took steps to prevent it from being carried out.

Some of the officers who had once been Morgan's prisoners favored the agreement. Wolford also approved. But the terms of this surrender were never carried out. Morgan officially surrendered his command to Major George W. Rue on July 26, 1863.



# Experts say fuselage isn't from Amelia's plane



Pilot Amelia Earhart stands with navigators Harry Manning, center, and Fred Noonan in Honolulu in 1937. The *Houston Post* reported Saturday that an aircraft recovery group claims it found fuselage remnants of Earhart and Noonan's plane which vanished in the Pacific July 2, 1937 as they were attempting to become the first aviators to circle the earth. The group's executive director said he'll present evidence recovered by the team Monday in Washington. (AP photo)



The International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, TIGHAR, claims to have found Amelia Earhart's airplane fuselage and one of her shoes, according to the *Houston Post*. A team found the remnants in the jungle on the remote South Pacific atoll of Nikumaroro in October. Ms. Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan disappeared July 2, 1937 while trying to fly around the world. (1932 AP file photo)

By James O. Clifford  
Associated Press Writer

**T**WO FORMER LOCKHEED employees who worked on Amelia Earhart's plane say a piece of a fuselage found on a remote South Pacific atoll couldn't have come from the lost aviator's Lockheed Electra.

A former airline pilot who has spent 20 years studying Earhart's last flight agrees.

Richard Gillespie, executive director of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, claimed Monday to have solved the mystery of Earhart's disappearance in 1937 on a flight around the world.

He said a search team found the fuselage fragment, parts of a woman's shoe in Earhart's size and a medicine bottle cap on Nikumaroro, which was called Gardner Island in 1937.


But Ed Werner of Santa Cruz, who was an assistant foreman at Lockheed, said he compared the dimensions and shape of the piece of aluminum with a duplicate of Earhart's plane at the Western Aerospace Museum in Oakland.

"It didn't fit anywhere on the plane," said Werner, 82. "Not on the belly where repairs had been made. Not anywhere."

Gillespie said the items he found prove Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan made a navigational error, landed on the island and died there, probab-



Richard Gillespie, executive director of the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery, points to a piece of metal found on a deserted Pacific atoll that he believes surrounds the disappearance of Amelia Earhart 50 years ago. (AP Photo)

Turn to next page 



Amelia

Continued from page 6

ly from thirst.

Earhart took off from Oakland 55 years ago in an attempt to become the first woman to fly around the world. The airplane crashed while taking off in Hawaii and was sent back to Lockheed for repairs.

Two months later the pair took off from Oakland again, but this time headed eastward. They disappeared before making it all the way back.

A plastic template of the 19-by-23-inch piece of aircraft aluminum was made from information supplied by Gillespie and was compared against the museum's duplicate craft.

"That fragment did not come from Amelia Earhart's airplane or any other Lockheed Electra aircraft," said Elgen Long, a retired San Mateo airline pilot who has spent 20 years investigating Earhart's last flight.

Werner and other structural experts who checked the Oakland plane said the rivet pattern on the Electra differed from that of the remnant Gillespies' group found.

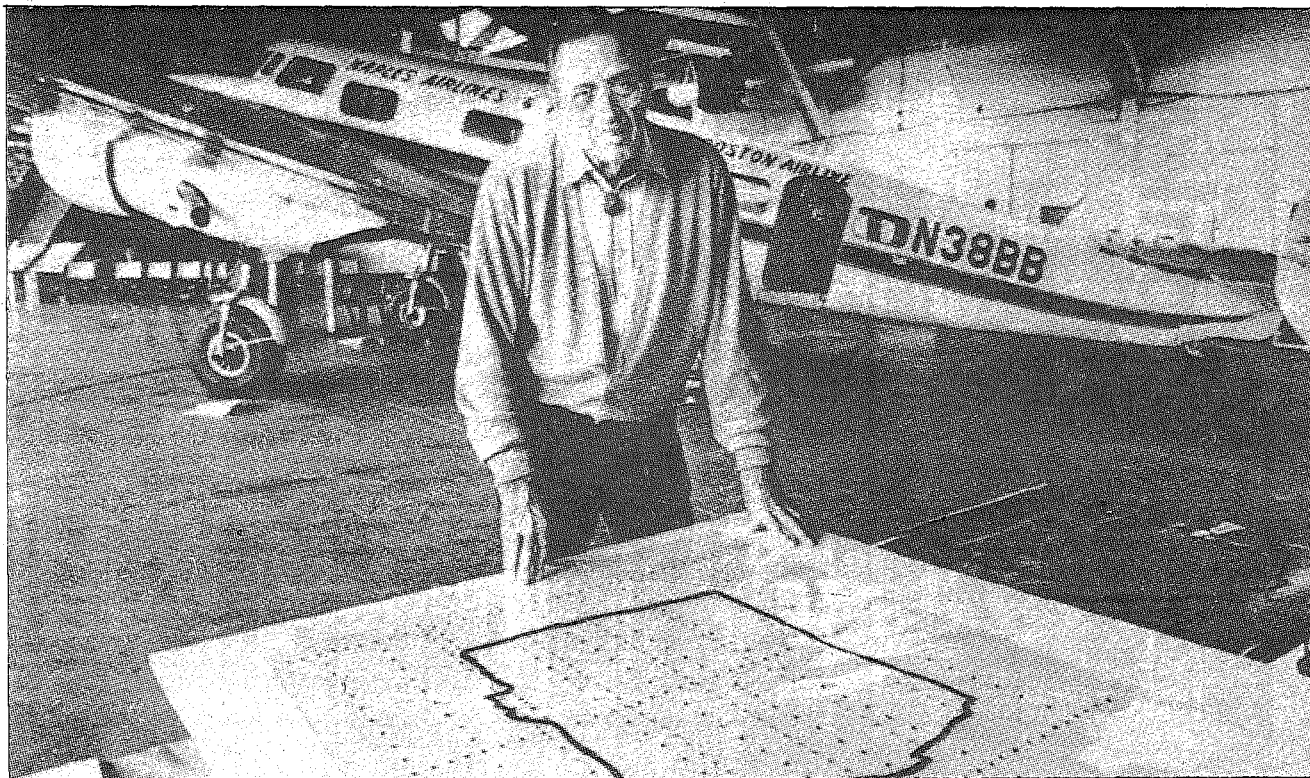
"The rivet holes on the Earhart plane were three inches apart but the ones on the other piece were four inches apart," he said.

Gillespie dismissed Werner's claims, saying the pattern could have been changed when repairs were made after the Hawaii crash.

But that was contradicted by Harvey Christen, 81, of Pasadena, who was in charge of quality control for Lockheed when Earhart's Electra was repaired.

"The repairs would have to match the engineering drawings," he said. "You couldn't make any changes without FAA approval."

Long contends Earhart crashed some 23 miles northwest of Howland Island — 420 miles northeast of Nikumaroro, or Gardner — after she ran

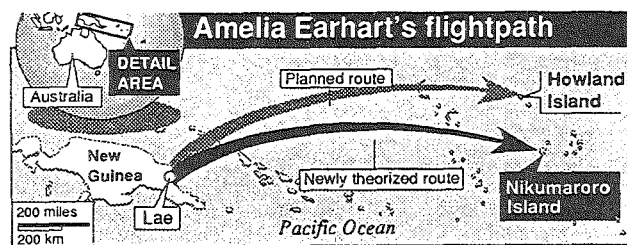


Retired Lockheed Aircraft assistant foreman Edward Werner displays an overlay that shows how the rivets on Amelia Earhart's plane don't match up with those on debris recovered from the aviator's purported crash site. Werner, 82, oversaw the assembly of all Lockheed 10 aircraft, including Earhart's 10-E. At rear is a 10-E similar to the one Earhart flew. (AP Photo)

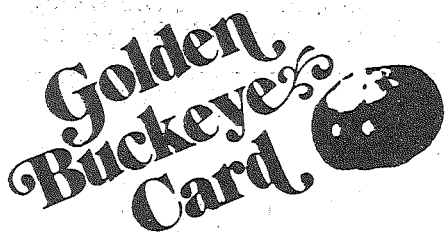
out of fuel.

That's also the end seen by Carol Osborne, who wrote "Amelia, My Courageous Sister" along with Muriel Earhart Morrissey.

Gardner Island was visited by a British inspection team months after the fatal flight. It was also a navigation station during World War II and was often visited by British and American planes, she said.



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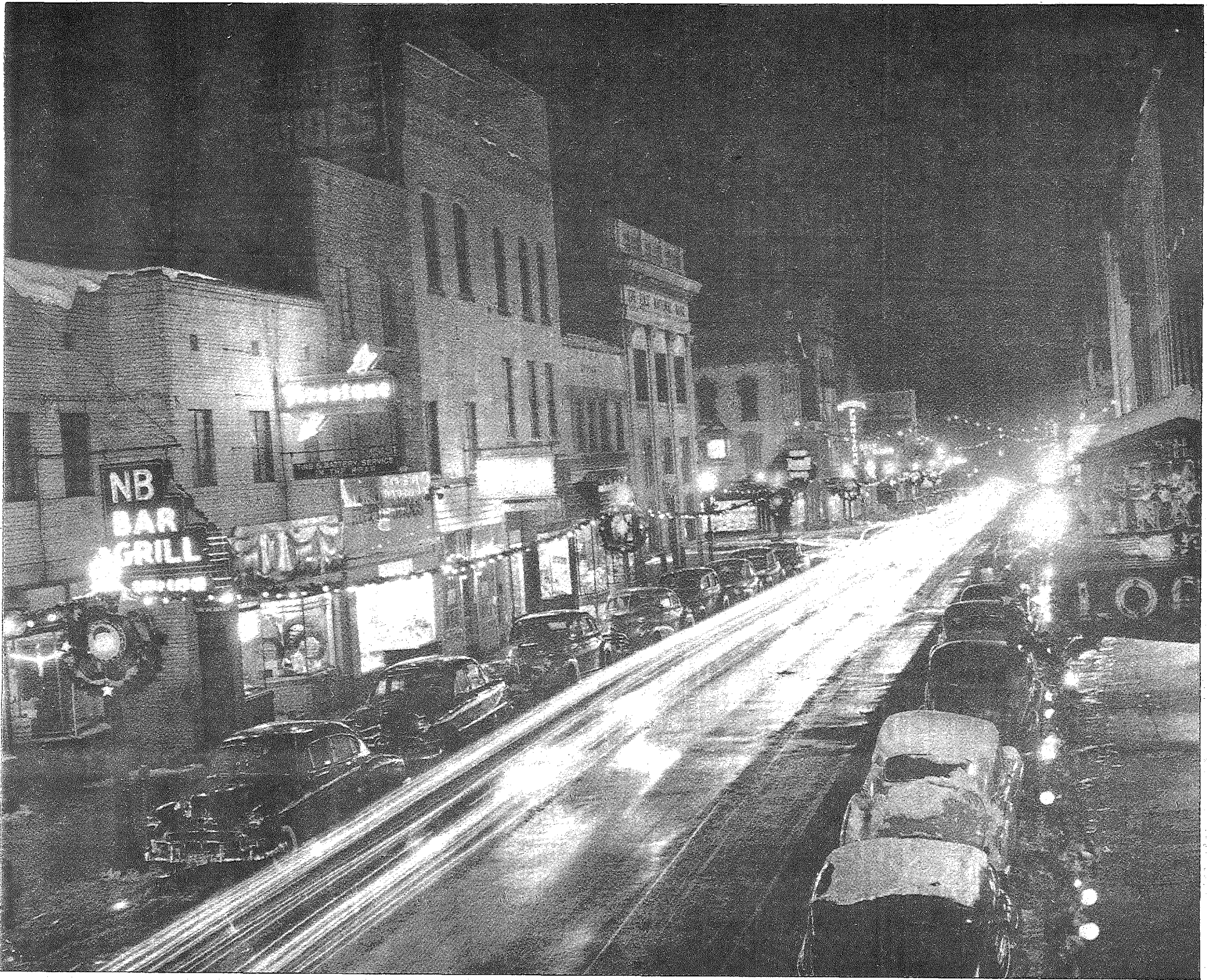
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*This night scene shows Salem's main street during the Christmas season in the 1950s. The Christmas decorations were used for many years by the city and were put up by Howard Firestone's electricians every Thanksgiving night.*



## *Evidence in Medina dates back 12,000 years*

**P**OST HOLES AND PITS DATED 12,000 years old provide evidence of Ohio's earliest known inhabitants and may be the oldest evidence of a structure in North America, scholars who have studied the Medina site say.

John E. Blank, professor of anthropology at Cleveland State University, has visited the site twice and said the carbon dating by the University of Arizona is "extremely reputable."

Blank said Tuesday the discovery ranks among the most important archaeological finds in the eastern United States in 20 years. He said the finding could be the oldest evidence of a structure in North America.

The find at a construction site five miles west of

Akron was filled in for the winter and will be uncovered again in the spring, said David Brose, chief curator of archaeology at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Results from a carbon study dated evidence of the structure at about 10,200 B.C., Brose said.

Until the discovery, the oldest structure uncovered in North America was found in the Illinois River Valley in the 1960s, he said. A series of post holes discovered there dated back 6,200 years.

"That's a major find," said Franco Ruffini, deputy state historic officer for the Ohio Historical Society in Columbus.

"Obviously, there's nothing to come near that in Ohio currently," said Ruffini, who was not familiar

with the project but described Brose as "well-respected in his field. He has many years of experience in Ohio and throughout the country."

Blank compared the discovery to locating the corner of a burned-out house. The find shows evidence of a structure but no indication of its size or style, he said.

Brose described the archaeological discovery as the Paleo Crossing Site, with three post holes and two pits in an area covering about 150 square feet.

Brose said a contractor who was developing the site stopped work so archaeologists could study the find beginning in the fall of 1990. The archaeological work will continue this spring.



# Speaking of the past...

By Dale Shaffer

## Grove Gum Co. in 1909

In 1909 Salem's Grove Gum Co. was sold to the Sen-Sen Chiclet Co., a new corporation embracing all the major chewing gum manufacturers in the country. We all remember Sen-Sen, those tiny bits of strong licorice that cleaned our breath. And we remember chiclets, the little square pieces of gum that came in a box.

Officials at the new company visited Salem in July 1, 1909 to inspect the plant on South Broadway. They were guests of Samuel Grove Jr., president and secretary. His brother, P.L. Grove was vice-president; his sister, Emma Grove was treasurer and bookkeeper. Roy Grove, son of P.L., worked in the office, and another brother, Charles, was the gum maker. Guy Boston was his assistant. Cora Prichette was stenographer there for many years; her father, R.E. Prichette, was a foreman; and C.C. Paxon was shipping clerk.

There were about 150 employees, most of them women. They would not be affected by the sale of the company. On one special day, the Salem firm shipped \$50,000 worth of chewing gum.

## Salem's first factory-made auto

The first factory-made auto in Salem was purchased by Emmor W. Silver. It was a new Oldsmobile Trap (light carriage with springs), one of the most modern automobile conveyances of that time. Seating up to four people, it was powered by

steam generated by a small gasoline engine.

## Salem's kerosene carburetor

In 1916 Phil Hiddleston of Salem invented a kerosene carburetor. On March 29 he, along with John R. Bustard, J.C. McKee and Webb Goodchild, began a 5,000 mile trip to test it. A new Ford was purchased for the trip. Their route took them to Memphis, Tenn.; New Orleans, La.; St. Augustine, Fla.; Norfolk, Va.; New York and Cleveland. The trip took two months.

An exhibition of the car was made along Fifth Avenue in New York to show that there was no smoke from the kerosene. The new carburetor was manufactured and put on the market by the W.H. Mullins Co.

## New home for Foresters of America

On Sept. 25, 1912 members of Quaker City Court No. 89, Foresters of America, dedicated their new home at 27 (179) Vine Ave. (on the west side of the hill). This lodge was the first in the city to have its own home, and was the largest single court of the Foresters in the state.

It was organized on Jan. 19, 1900 with 26 charter members. There were 54 members in 1912. Most were young men who were athletes. The lodge took an active part in athletics, sponsoring football, basketball and baseball teams.

Their new home was extensively remodeled, at a cost of \$12,000, before they moved in. First it was moved back from the street and two large balconies were added on the first and second floors in the front.

On the first floor was a large parlor and reading room, furnished in elegant mission and light oak. Further back were billiard rooms, a card room, gymnasium and baths, a dining room and kitchen.

The second floor was mainly a dance floor. It was one of the finest in the city. Back of it was a small card room and property rooms. The second floor balcony was used as an orchestra stand in warm weather.

There was a grand parade held on the day of dedication. There was a baseball game between

Salem and Ravenna, held at the Amusement Park (Reilly Field). Delegates from other courts in the state took part in the celebration.

This large building no longer stands today, but many of us remember it well.

Carl Backhoff's Church Organ Company was located there for a number of years. In the 1930s it housed the Risvego D'Italia Hall and Veterans of Foreign Wars. The original structure was the old Calvin Brainard home (circa 1860) that once stood where the Salem Public Library is now located. It was moved to the Vine Avenue location in the 1890s, when land was needed for the Salem Electric Railway car barn.

## Salem's war gardens in 1917

In April 1917 plans for a war garden campaign were inaugurated by the Salem Chamber of Commerce. Appeals had been made by President Wilson and Gov. Cox to combat the high cost of living, and to stimulate the growth of crops during World War I.

The city was divided into four sections — northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest — each headed by a committee and superintendent. Their duty was to make a house-to-house canvass to find out who was willing to donate vacant lots to be cultivated, and who was willing to cultivate the lots. Every lot would be plowed and harrowed free of charge.

Coupons appeared in the *Salem News* for people to fill out and return to the chamber. Dealers in seeds and garden implements were encouraged to cooperate by offering special inducement to gardeners.

Police protection was given to all lots that were cultivated. Persons caught molesting these plots were arrested. Vegetables grown were limited to potatoes, cabbage, tomatoes, beans and other non-perishable crops that could be canned and used during the winter.

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The Salem Historical Society was formed in 1947. Annual dues are \$5. A lifetime membership is \$100 per person.

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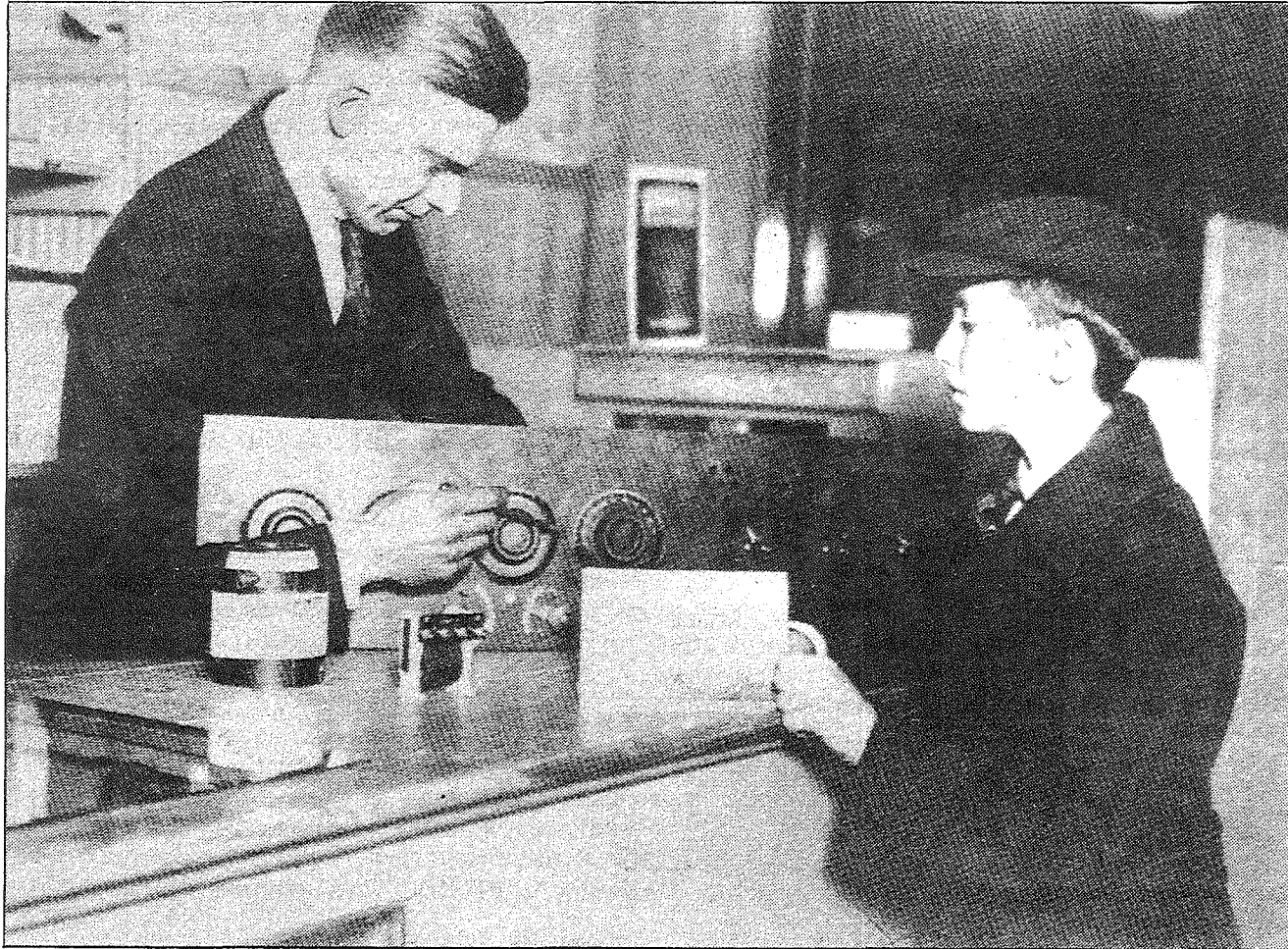
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# First wireless emitted from Leetonia



This 1900s photo shows a young boy in a radio store learning how to build a radio.

By Dale E. Shaffer

IN 1914 RALPH WOLFGANG erected the first wireless outfit in Leetonia at a greenhouse on the east side of town. He sent out the first wireless message from Leetonia on the evening of Jan. 13, 1915. It was received by L. A. Taylor, and the two conversed for several minutes.

A 12-year-old boy named Arthur Spatholt had the second wireless station in Leetonia. He installed it in the attic of his home at the corner of Columbia and Lisbon Streets. His aerial was comprised of four wires placed on the garage about 60 feet above the ground. The range covered 1,500 square miles and took in almost any wave length. His receiving and transmitting instruments were placed in a cozy little room in the attic.

By 1922 wireless parties were common in Salem.

## How about dusting off, bringing back the leisure suit, popular in the 1970s

By Roger Munns

Associated Press Writer

SARTORIAL INCORRECTNESS can be politically correct, says a radio personality who is leading a push to exhume the leisure suit.

"These things are not biodegradable, so it's irresponsible to throw them away," said Des Moines, Iowa WHO Radio personality Van Harden. "Our motto is, 'Save the environment, wear a leisure suit.'"

Later this month, the station will sponsor its third-annual leisure suit convention. Harden said the first two attracted such crowds that he was forced to put this year's event in a ballroom that holds 1,500 people.

Harden said he enjoyed his polyester suits and hopes they return to favor.

"If you look at my high school graduation pic-

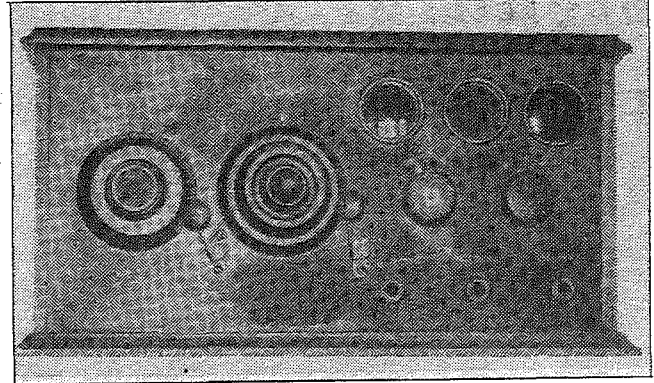
ture, I had a yellow jacket with orange and green plaid over it, sort of a test pattern," he bragged. Harden graduated from high school in 1970.

Harden said the convention is open to anybody, not just those who participated in the leisure suit fad.

"It's kind of like the Beatles," he said. "A lot of people who weren't old enough to hear them have become fans."

This year's show will feature a style show and awards in several categories, including best use of gold chains and "Most Flammable." Polyester will melt before it burns, but Harden said nobody's coat will be torched to determine the flammable award.

Disco music, that other trademark of the '70s, also will be featured at the March 28 convention, he said.



Amateurs built receivers like this one in the early 1920s.

install a wireless outfit and radio receiver. On March 12, 1922 he gave an address over the wireless radio station WHK in Cleveland. He spoke on "Radio and the External Radio Receiver." In October of 1919 he had an aerial mast raised at his home. It was made of California spruce and constructed by the W. H. Mullins Co. Mullins was the only manufacturing concern in the U.S. making this kind of mast.

During World War I all amateur wireless operators were compelled by the federal government to cease operation. The ban was lifted Oct. 1, 1919. During the World Series that year, Father Manning picked up the baseball games on his wireless. He also received messages from as far away as Key West, which was 1,200 miles away. The sending and receiving of messages was best done at night.

Father Manning was so involved in wireless telegraphy that he organized a class at the Parochial School. This was one of very few such classes offered throughout the country. It enabled Salem residents to obtain amateur and commercial licenses, making them eligible for positions on any boats equipped with wireless apparatus.

On March 12, 1922 Father Manning gave an address over the wireless radio station W.H.K. in Cleveland. He spoke on "Radio and the External Worship of God." The Salem audience, however, was disappointed because sound waves were dispelled by other operations.

Father Manning spoke about the marvelous progress made in radio, and the many advantages it offered mankind. He predicted that this new instrument would be a source of information and entertainment that would make better men and women of the future. It would also be a most valuable asset in the business and commercial world. Father Manning was speaking at a time in history when radio was in its infancy — only 70 years ago.

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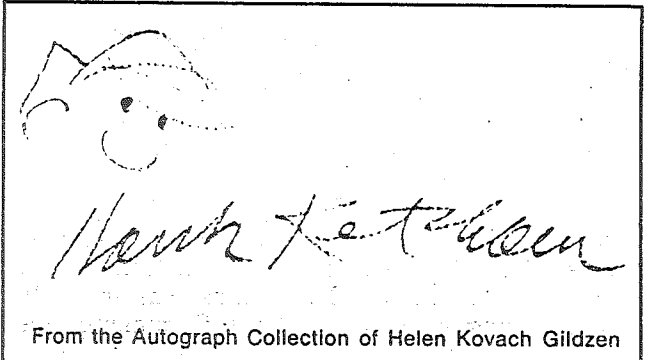


# Helen Gildzen's autograph collection includes signatures of statesmen, artists, entertainers

FOR YEARS A MAILMAN in Elyria delivered envelopes from the world's greatest statesmen, artists, athletes and entertainers to 429 Winkles St.

Waiting for them was Helen Kovach Gildzen whose hobby is autograph collecting. She would send a specially designed card with a letter to celebrities around the world requesting a signature.

Now she is donating her collection of some 2,000 autographs to the Kent State University Libraries.



From the Autograph Collection of Helen Kovach Gildzen

Cartoonist Hank Ketchum included a drawing of his famous creation Dennis the Menace with the autograph he sent to Helen Gildzen. It's part of a collection of over 2,000 autographs which Mrs. Gildzen has donated to the Kent State University libraries.

Many of the signatures have special meaning to Mrs. Gildzen because the signers shortly afterward met misfortune. Gorilla expert Dian Fossey was murdered, Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite was taken hostage, Indian prime minister Rajiv Ghandi was assassinated and pianist Liberace died of AIDS.

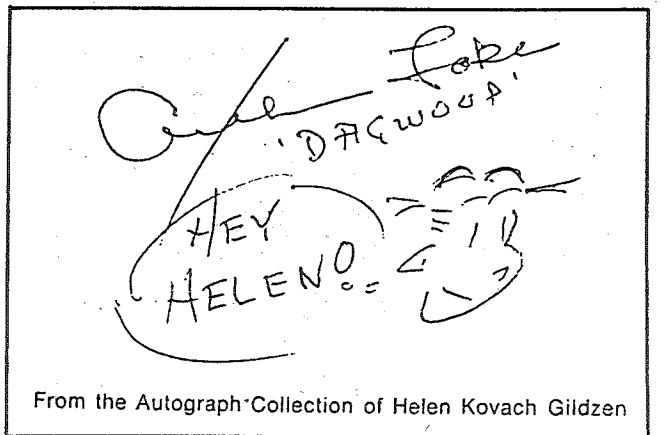
However, not all of the signers met untimely ends. Many were inventive with their signatures. Feminist Germaine Greer not only signed Mrs. Gildzen's card, but "authenticated" scratches made on the card by her cat. Composer Lee Hoiby added a stanza of music. Astrophysicist Fang Lizhi signed his name in both Chinese and English.

Thom Gunn included a line of his poetry. Another poet, Allen Ginsberg, was less supportive of Mrs. Gildzen's hobby, suggesting that she spend her time reading poetry instead of collecting autographs.

Others represented in her collection are mystery writer Elmore Leonard, artist Andy Warhol, ice skater Christopher Bowman, filmmaker Spike Lee, designer Stavropoulos and the former prime minister of Pakistan, Benazir Bhutto.

Why did the Elyria woman donate her collection to the Kent State University Libraries? Because her son, Alex Gildzen, is curator of Special Collections and Archives there.

And what does Alex Gildzen think of the collection? "My totally unbiased opinion is that the col-



From the Autograph Collection of Helen Kovach Gildzen

Helen Gildzen wrote to actor Arthur Lake for an autograph and received his signature accompanied by a cartoon of Dagwood Bumstead, the character which made him famous.

lection represents a unique portrait of a certain moment in the history of the world," he volunteered. "I think future curators will find illustrations here that will perk up exhibitions, catalogs and lectures."

The collection is being processed by Laura Lentz, a masters degree candidate in library science from Cleveland. She spends one day a week in the department as a volunteer organizing the collection which came in three boxes and several albums.

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# Voice recording of Walt Whitman found

*By the Associated Press*

**T**WO SCHOLARS SAY THEY have found what may be a recording of poet Walt Whitman made in 1890 at the urging of Thomas Edison, a newspaper reported.

But experts are hesitating before pronouncing it authentic, The New York Times said today.

The tape is part of an audiocassette collection of poetry readings apparently taken from an NBC radio broadcast from the early 1950s, the Times said.

On the tape, broadcaster Leon Pearson identifies himself and introduces what he says is a wax cylinder recording of Whitman.

The technique of wax cylinder recording was well established by 1890, but Whitman never mentioned making such a tape, and the cylinder itself has been lost.

Moreover, there have been several cases of cylinder recordings initially attributed to famous people that turned out to be performances by actors.

The best known is a cylinder of President McKinley's last speech before he was assassinated in 1901. The recording was actually made by a well-known actor of the era, Len Spencer.

The voice recites these lines from Whitman's poem "America":

Centre of equal daughters, equal sons.

All, all alike endear'd, grown, ungrown, young or old.

Strong, ample, fair, enduring, capable, rich.

Perennial with the Earth, with Freedom, Law and Love.

Archivists at NBC were unable to locate any information about the program.

The Whitman tape was mentioned in a 1991 article by Professor Larry Don Griffin of Midland College in Texas. He said he came across the tape in the college library.

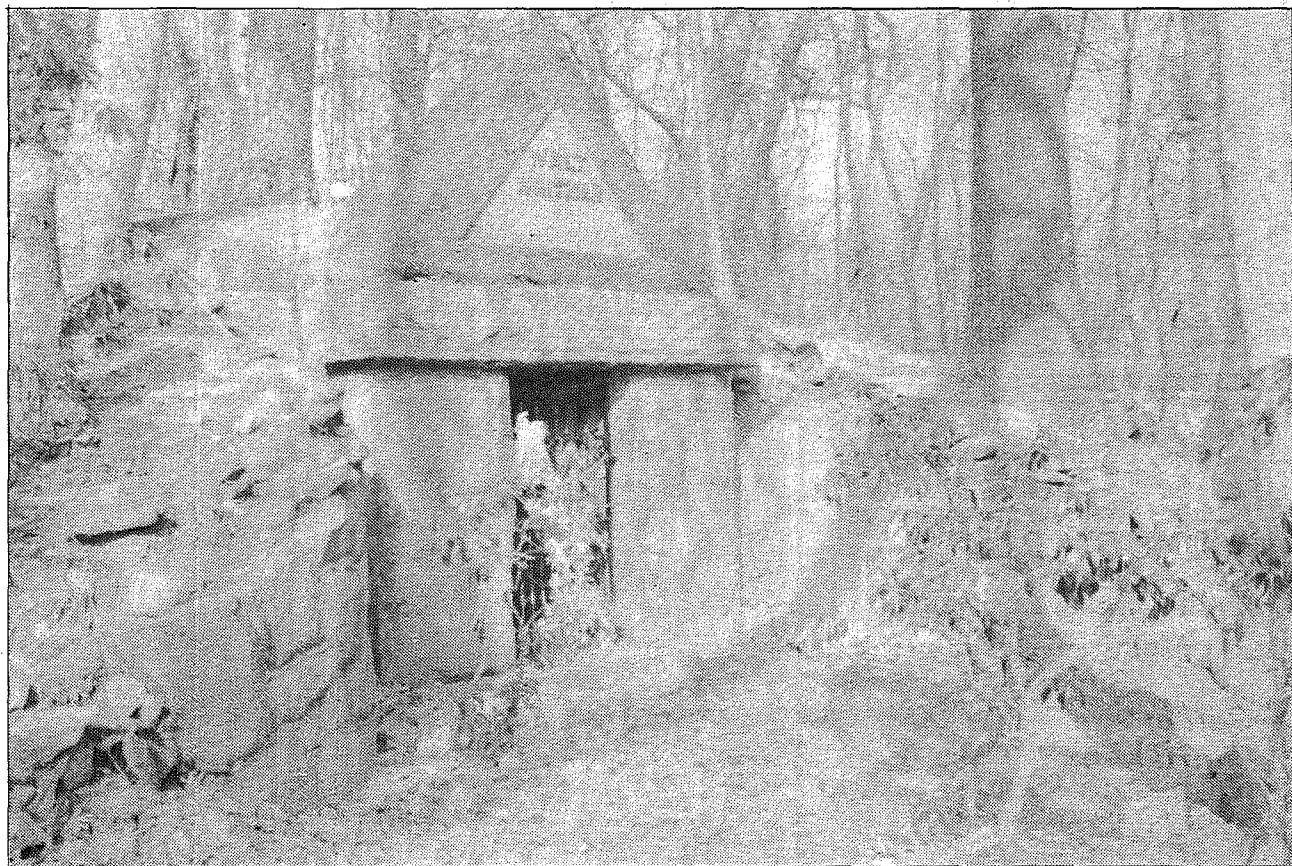
University of Iowa Professor Ed Folsom, editor of the Walt Whitman Quarterly Review, plans to play a copy of the tape at a March 26 conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of the poet's death.

In support of the theory that the voice is Whitman's, the Times noted that two letters in the archives of the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, N.J., suggest that Edison was interested in recording Whitman's voice.

No record remains of whether the cylinder was actually made, however.



American writer Walt Whitman, considered by many the inventor of American poetry, died on March 26, 1892. (Library of America photo)



The stone mausoleum of American writer Walt Whitman sits on a sunny hillside at Harleigh Cemetery in Camden, New Jersey. (AP photo)

## BACK ISSUES...

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# 45 years ago from pages of Salem News

*Compiled by Bekkee Panezott*

ATTORNEY EDMOND PETERS of 145 Broadway took part in the trial of several Japanese war criminals at Eighth Army headquarters in Yokohama, Japan.

A.C. "BUD" DEIMEL, TRAFFIC manager at the Mullins Warren plant since 1944, has been named general traffic manager for both the Salem and Warren plants.

ATTORNEY LYNN RIDDLE of Lisbon and Louis Sanford of Liverpool Township were re-elected to the Columbiana County Board of Health.

HELEN MANCUSO HAS ACCEPTED a position at the Murphy store. Martha Weaver has resigned her job at the store.

OFFICERS OF THE Columbiana-Mahoning Holstein Association are John E. Smith, president; Sam Tritten, vice president; and H.S. Dodge, secretary treasurer.

RACHEL KEISTER, DAUGHTER of the Rev. and Mrs. George D. Keister of South Union Avenue, has been elected president of Alpha Xi Delta Sorority at Wittenberg College.

ALBERT SPEAR was elected president of the Beaver Creek Sportsmen Club.

R.F. BENZIGER, F.T. Cope, A.J. Hoiles and R.D. Painter were re-elected directors for 1947 at the annual meeting of stockholders of the Electric Furnace Company.

MRS. N.H. KNOWLTON was elected president

of the Music Study Club. She succeeds Mrs. E.E. Dyball.

SCOTT'S CANDY and Nut Shop advertised 1½ pounds of Mrs. Stevens Easter Candies for \$1; marshmallow eggs, two for 5 cents; and chocolate cherry cordials at \$1.69 per 1-pound box.

C.R. HAY of Binghamton N.Y., assistant manager of the Sears Roebuck store there, has been transferred to the Salem store as manager.

THE SENIOR CLASS of Leetonia High School presented a three-act play, "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," under the direction of Thomas Dailey. Members of the cast were Barbara Roose, Polly Rankin, Ralph VanFossan, Dick Weikart, Peggy Calvin, Herbert Weaver, Catherine Phillips, Elmer Sweeley, Betsy Herr, Jerry Mercure, Paul Murphy, Jack White, Peggy Hoffman and Lorna Clark Hilliard.

GEORGE E. WHITLOCK was re-elected president of the Mullins Manufacturing Corp. Other officers also re-elected are H.M. Heckathorn, executive vice president; Carl A. Morrow, vice president in charge of merchandising; H.F. Wykoff, treasurer and assistant secretary; Harry Krohne, secretary and assistant treasurer; J.B. Martin, controller and J.P. Hochadel, auditor. Henry Roemer was re-elected chairman of the board of directors.

JUNIOR BOB PAGER, center on the 1947 Salem High basketball team was chosen to captain the Quaker cage squad in 1948.

THE 8-A QUINTET won the Junior High School basketball championship when they defeated the

seventh grade champs, 7A, by a 34-27 count. Bush pushed in nine points and Coy seven to pace the winners, while Pasco hit for 10 for 7A.

IN A REAL championship caliber tilt, the AMVETS defeated the Moose Club 31-29 in the Memorial Building. Walter Brian had a big night for the Moose with 17 points. Dick Miner added eight and Norm Smith four to complete the-Moose scoring. Confident Kirby Laughlin paced the champs with a 12-point barrage, most of which he garnered in the big second quarter when the AMVETS jumped into the lead for the first time.

SIX MEN FROM THE SALEM area, Lowell Myers, Donald Mackall, James F. Cope, Edward Maxson, Robert T. Shuck and Frank F. Snyder, have been initiated into fraternities at Mount Union College.

HAROLD CLOSE WAS elected commander of Allen Reynolds Post Veterans of Foreign Wars.

PAUL STRADER JR., commander of the Salem Post of the American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS), was appointed commander of the 18th Ohio District.

W.J. HAYS, CHAIRMAN of the board of supervisors of the Columbiana Soil Conservation District, announced that the board has filled the vacancy caused by the death of Russell Lippincott by appointing Elden Groves of Salem.

JAMES HARRIGAN, 14, son of Doris M. Harrigan of 308½ Ohio Ave. received a letter from a woman in Athens, Greece, thanking him for the gift of a boy's coat which he contributed to Greek relief.

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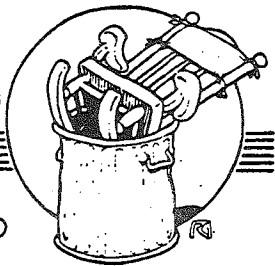
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**SALEM  
NEWS**



# ANTIQU OR JUNQUE



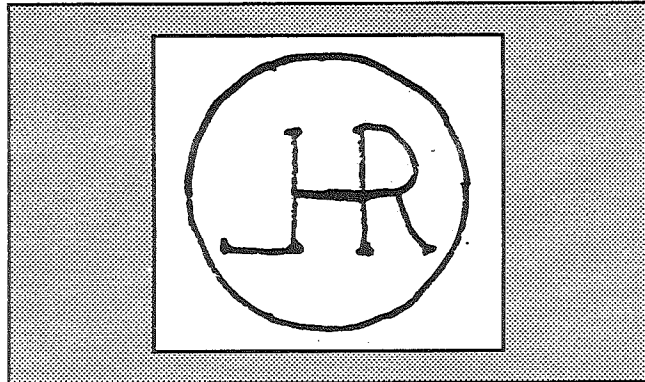
By James G. McCollam  
Copley News Service

**Q.** Enclosed is a picture of a statue that stands about 21 inches tall. I have been told it is more than 100 years old and possibly made in England. It is marked with an "E" in an acorn within a triangle and "Royal Dux — Bohemia."

Please tell me something about its age and value.

**A.** This bust was made by the Dux Porcelain Factory in Dux, Austria, between 1900 and 1918.

There is a similar bust listed in *The Antique Trader Price Guide* at \$3,850, but I think that is unrealistically high even if the condition is perfect.



**Q.** The attached mark is on the back of a cake plate. It measures 11 inches in diameter and is decorated with hand-painted grapes, pears and oranges. It has open handles and gold trim.

Can you provide any information about its origin and value.

This was made by the Hutschenreuther Co. in Selb, Germany, during the late 1800s. It would probably sell for \$80 to \$90.

### HUMMEL FIGURINES

During the 1930s and early 1940s, Sister Maria Innocentia Hummel, at the Franciscan convent in Seissen, Germany, achieved recognition for her talent as an artist. She specialized in pastel drawings of small children at work and play.

From 1935 to the present, the Goebel Co. in Rodental, Germany, has produced hundreds of figurines of small children based on her original art.

All genuine figurines are incised with her signature, "M. I. Hummel." They also bear one of six trademarks that may be used to determine the period in which they were made.

The first mark, a crown over the monogram "WG," indicates that the figure was made between 1935 and 1942. There are five additional marks covering production up to the present.

Naturally, the ones with the first mark are the most valuable.

The most valuable is probably the "Advent Group with Black Child." This is a candleholder consisting of the infant with two white angels and one black. The number is 31, and if one should turn up today, it would be worth more than \$10,000.

In second place would be an almost identical "Silent Night," NO. 54, which is worth between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Fortunately, all Hummels are not so expensive. There are hundreds to choose from for \$100 or less.

Those who have serious interest in Hummels can contact the Goebels Collectors Club, 105 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10591, or The Hummels Collectors Club, PO Box 257, Yardley, PA 19067.



This bust was made by the Dux Porcelain factory between 1900 and 1918.

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