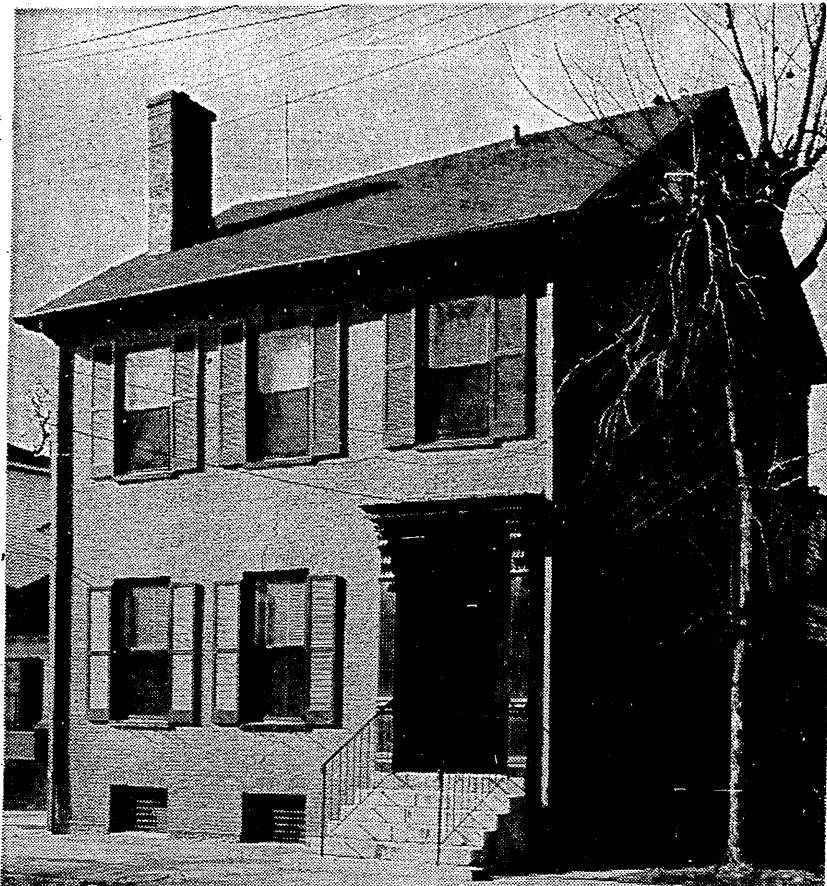


South Mill Home Was Begun In 1816 To Face Street No Longer There



TURNED ABOUT HOUSE—337 South Mill Street has an older section at rear constructed in 1816 to face what then was Masterson Street, now a driveway at left of

By BETTY LEE MASTIN
Herald-Leader Home Page Editor

A summer kitchen of a house begun in 1816 is off-campus living quarters for Glen Bagby, first-year law student at the University of Kentucky.

Fellow students Mitch McConnell, a senior in the College of Law, and Dan White, a candidate for a doctorate in English, share a three-room apartment on the second floor of the same house, a six-unit apartment building at 337 South Mill Street.

A typical brick town house three bays wide, the building is unusual in that it has grown from a smaller house that once faced south. Its front door, now a side door, opened onto a street that no longer exists.

The street was Masterson, a thoroughfare designed to honor pioneer James Masterson, one of the hunters who named Lexington. Masterson helped build the fort in the block where Purcell's now stands. When Lexington was laid out, he was granted Outlot P, the plot bounded by High, Mill and what was proposed to be Masterson Street.

A colorful personality, Masterson seems not to have adjusted to the changing scene. Ranck's History notes that "long after Lexington had become an important town," Masterson "continued to dress in primitive hunter style and invariably wore his powder horn and carried his rifle."

He liked to describe how he had been married in the fort and to tell of the number of deer and buffalo he once had

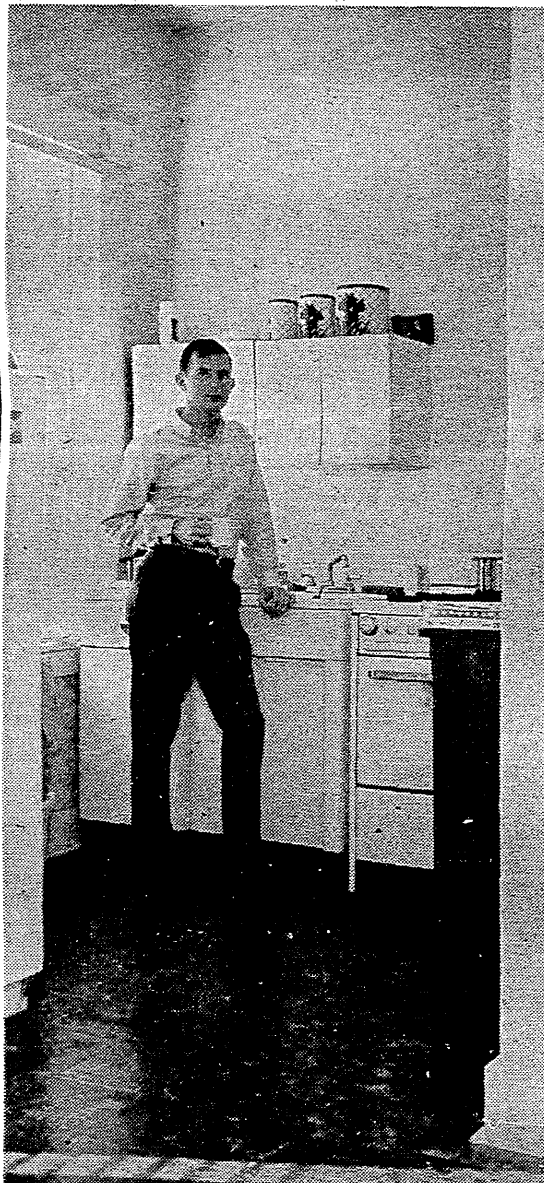


SUMMER KITCHEN—UK first-year law student Glen Bagby has quarters in what once was a summer kitchen, according to research by Miss Margaret Hinesley, UK student who did work as part of a project of a class in Home Economics.

Records cut by The Torques, a rock-and-roll group with which Glen sings, are at right on top of 13 by 20 by 17-inch refrigerator he bought for room. (Staff Photos above and immediately below by Martin Jessee).



SECOND FLOOR FRONT—Mitch McConnell, a senior in the College of Law, and Dan White (in kitchen) share a three-room apartment that includes what once was home's master bedroom. Mitch, who is from Louisville, will be associated after graduation with law firm there for which he clerked last summer. Attracted by the competitiveness of the profession and an interest in social science, he worked one summer in Sen. John Sherman Cooper's office, another as an intern in the House of Representatives. His desk is like Linus' blanket—it goes where he goes.



MATTING ONCE USED—Poplar floors in upstairs front bedrooms once were covered with carpeting replaced each summer with straw matting. This room now is kitchen in apartment Dan White (above) shares with Mitch McConnell. Working toward a doctorate in English, Dan is specializing in Victorian literature, a period he finds exciting for its variety. He hopes to teach at a college in this area.

between it and Ashland, the home of Henry Clay.

Gen. Thomas Bodley, who bought part of Outlot P from Masterson, developed the area in 1805 by extending Mill Street past High. He divided the section into lots and laid out a side street which he named for Masterson.

The 67½ by 150-foot lot at the corner of Mill and what then was Masterson sold for \$200 in 1816 to William C. Bell, probably the plane-maker of that name listed in the 1818 city directory.

Bell, who was married in 1814 to Huldah Carr, must have immediately begun construction on his new lot. The simple, two-story house he built now is an ell of the present house. It has a Flemish-bond front. There is a deep stone basement with a large fireplace once used for cooking. The first floor has a stair hall on the right; on the left is a large room, once also with a big fireplace.

Bell and his wife could have enjoyed the house only a short time since they sold it in October of the same year, 1816, to William Christy. The price was \$2,060.

Christy held it only until March of 1817 when he sold it to James Johnson, a Lexington merchant who was brother to Richard M. Johnson, later vice president of the United States. The two Johnsons and a partner, Uriel Seebree, became overextended; this and other property passed in 1824 to the Bank of the United States which sold it in 1829 to a man who was to turn the house around by constructing a new front to face Mill.

He was Thomas Smith, editor at this time of the Lexington Observer and Reporter. Collins' History lists Smith as that newspaper's editor from 1816 to 1832 and notes in connection with his death at 77 in 1866 that "over 50 years ago" he was "an enterprising publisher at Lexington first of the Kentucky Gazette and then of the Reporter."

The house Smith bought had six and five-panel doors, many of which remain. Woodwork and baseboards are plain. There was (and is) an early staircase with square banisters and newels and a closed stringer. This is a straight board that masks the steep ends.

The three-story front he built

was true to Greek Revival styles then coming into vogue. It has bigger doors, each with a single pair of tall panels. Windows and door frames have Greek ears, right-angle projections near the top. Baseboards are deeper and heavier. Much wider than the old staircase, the one in the new section was given a curving cherry rail supported by shaped bannisters.

Smith and his wife sold the house for \$4,200 in 1852 to Lewis Faulconer (or Falconer; the name is spelled both ways). Faulconer died four years later, bequeathing to his "beloved wife, Harriet, my house and lot on South Hill, also my slaves, men, women and children."

Faulconer's estate sold the house in 1866 to a long-time resident of another section of Mill Street, Joseph H. Harrison, grandfather of Miss Grace Cruickshank, 147 Park Avenue. It was to be Harrison's home for 48 years.

One-time deputy sheriff, Mr. Harrison and his family had lived throughout the war in a house at the corner of Mill and Pine. From it, they moved to the new house a cherry sideboard, the gift from a prominent Lexingtonian whose son had been hidden from Yankee troops by Mrs. Harrison.

The Confederate soldier had knocked at the Harrisons' front door and asked the Negro maid who answered to give word that he needed a hiding place. Mrs. Harrison agreed to hide him until nightfall.

Remembered as "quite a person," she had need for resolution when, later in the day, a Union officer came to ask if the soldier was there.

The officer knew Mrs. Harrison and her reputation for truthfulness.

"If you tell me he isn't here, I'll believe you," he told her. Looking him in the eye, she replied, "He isn't here."

Mrs. Harrison used a small room at the top of the old staircase as her supply closet. From it each morning she brought down to the help the supplies of flour, lard, sugar to be used for the day's cooking.

"It took a lot," her granddaughter remembers. "All of the help lived in the neighborhood and ate all their meals at



HANDIWORK—Glen built shelves and hung sliding shutters to make unused door into what he calls a "coat and dirty shirt" closet. He mixed paint to match unit to adjacent walls. Chocolate-colored burlap curtains on brass rings were contribution of his mother, Mrs. Steadman Bagby.

the house. And there were 12 children."

She recalls big yards at either side and at back of the house. The street that was to have been was fenced by her grandfather and after his death was sold with the lot by right of "continuous and adverse possession thereof for more than 40 years."

The summer kitchen of the Harrisons' day is a one-story one-room ell that now forms a 10 x 14-foot living room-bedroom for Glen Bagby; the rest is his bathroom.

The son of Rev. and Mrs. Steadman Bagby, Glen grew up on nearby High Street where his father, now superintendent of the Ashland District of the Kentucky Methodist Conference,

served First Methodist Church as minister.

A graduate from Transylvania last year, he says that his present quarters solve a UK student's perennial problem—where to park.

"It's a 10-minute walk. You can't do better than that driving."

"And you don't have to do anything to go downtown. You're there."

Glen is a singer with The Torques, a rock-and-roll group popular in Cincinnati, where they played for six debutante holiday dances, in Louisville and Lexington. Seven of the group are at UK where one is a second-year medical student; the eighth member is a Transylvania student.

Senior law student Mitch McConnell is president of the Student Bar Association and chief cook in the apartment he shares with Dan White. Both are from Louisville where they met as eighth graders at Manual High School. Dan received his master's degree from Cornell before beginning work toward his doctorate at UK.

No housekeepers, both men think an apartment in a more modern building might be easier to clean.

"But then we don't do much," they admit.

"And this is the kind of home I'd like to own," Mitch adds.

He is curious about the future of the house, which is in the general location of the proposed east-west expressway. Attempts to find alternate locations currently are being made by the planning commission, the city and what is known as the South Hill group.

Owners of the house, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Gambill are active in the South Hill association, which was organized by property owners in the area. The two bought the Harrison house in 1941 and have themselves lived on South Mill for 20 years.

In a sense, it has been a frustrating experience.

"We've minded every time an old house has gone down," Mrs. Gambill explains.

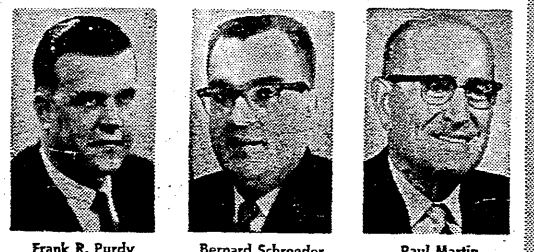
"It's a historic area, and it's our dream to see it become a restored section, part of old Lexington with very real advantages for life today."

Attendance Falls

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet movie attendance fell by 67 million customers last year compared with 1965, Alexi Romanov, head of the cinema committee reported. He blamed the decline on customers with low artistic and ideological standards. Attendance in 1965 was 4.2 billion customers.

Accepts Offer

AMMAN (AP) — Jordan has accepted an offer of Pakistan to mediate in re-establishing diplomatic relations with West Germany, a foreign office spokesman reported. Jordan and 11 other Arab Nations broke with Bonn in May 1965 after West Germany recognized Israel.



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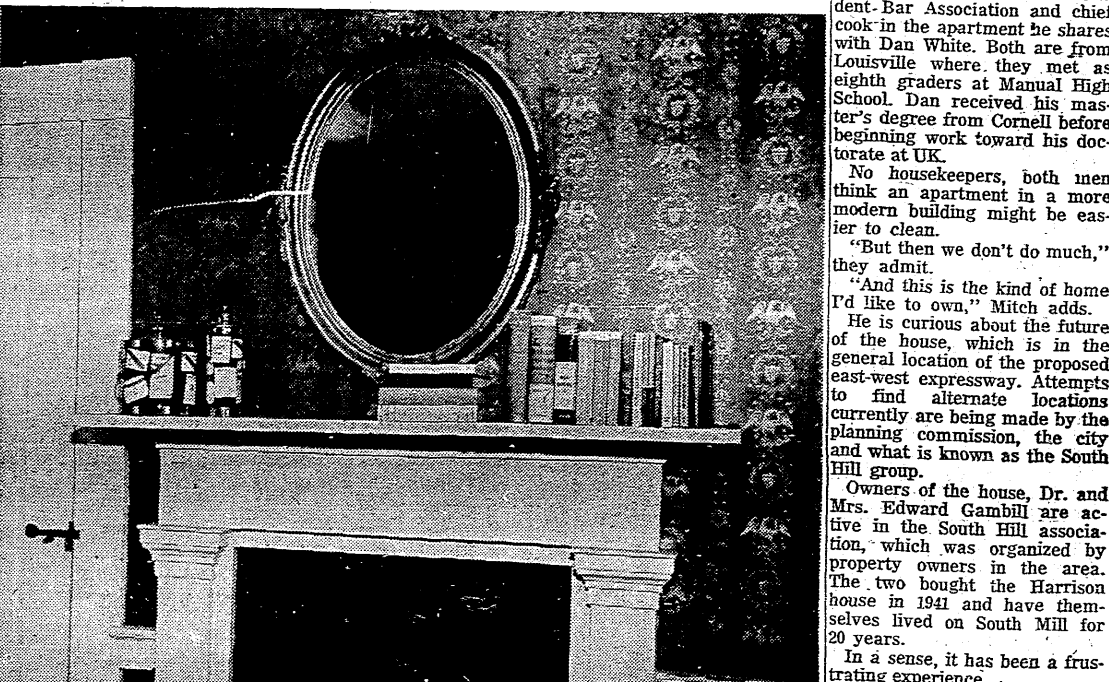
Born Loser
OROVILLE, Calif. (AP)—Police Detective Sergeant Ralph Thompson was leaving a department store carrying a fruit cake under his arm when he spied a couple of boys stealing a toy truck from the store. He placed his cake on a store counter while he proceeded to grab the two boys. When he returned, he found someone had stolen his cake.

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TRANSITION SEEN—Bedroom in Mitch and Dan's apartment is indicative of construction during early part of Greek Revival period.

Chair rail usually was found in earlier homes. (Staff Photos here and at left by John C. Wyatt).

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'Let Me Explain'
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — A gunman rushed into the Arizona Bank office and demanded that Jim Vermazen, assistant manager, hang up his telephone instantly. The holdup men then snatched up \$8,654 and fled. Vermazen found himself in the "do house." The woman on whom he had hung up unceremoniously was his wife.

The Money Orders Division of the Post Office was established by Congress in 1864.

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