

building when my mother sold the property, with all its furniture, etc., to the college in 1946, in order to be free to move to Southern California. I hope that at least they fell into the hands of people who would appreciate them instead of going to the city dump.) At one time, at least, it contained a work bench and a "tool box," which latter, however, was also used for the disposal of any bit of hardware not in current use but, again, "too good to throw away."

Not until the summer of 1937, when I visited a Harvard friend on what was left of his antebellum Alabama plantation did I realize that our "shop" was probably originally one of the separate kitchens so common on Southern plantations, to enable the family and guests to avoid, particularly in the summer, the heat and odors of cooking. My friend's kitchen building was in almost complete ruins, with its roof fallen in, but he explained its purpose to me, and its size and location were so very similar to those of "the shop" that the probability that the latter had once served the same purpose was almost inescapable. A search of the property records in the Rice County court-house and of the Sterling census-records might well reveal that a previous owner was from "The South." However, I can remember only one occasion when "the shop" was actually used for cooking. The "Porter Boys" were always very fond of what was a sort of "Porter national dish"--fried-mush-and-frizzled-beef-gravy--but their wives were not so fond of it and definitely disliked the odors which, while cooking, these dishes disseminated through the house. Consequently, one summer when my brother Russell and his wife were visiting in Sterling, I volunteered to prepare a Sunday meal of this favorite dish while the rest of the family were in church, using the "shop" and its range. The heat was almost unbearable, so that I cooked stripped to the waist as if firing the boilers in a man-of-war during the Spanish-American War, but I accomplished my purpose.

The next addition to the buildings was probably the attachment of a "lean-to" garage to the east side of "the shop," which, according to my recollections, was in 1921 or, at the latest, early in 1922.

Probably the most extensive additions and improvements were in 1923 (although my mother puts them in 1921) and were both rendered possible and necessitated by Sterling's installation of a sewer system, whenever that was. At this time the Porter home was modern in only one respect--electric ty--with neither inside plumbing nor running water. A gift from one of Mrs. Porter's prosperous brothers made possible the "modernizing" of the North Broadway home. The barn was torn down--much to the regret of the "Porter boys" who had used it as a club house--and the lumber used to construct (a) a chicken house and (b) a coal-house at the north end of the porch and on a level with it. A new good-sized kitchen was constructed by tearing out the wall between the porch at the northeast corner of the house and the pantry, walling in the space formerly occupied by the porch, and constructing a new inner wall across the south end of the pantry. The southern end of the former pantry became a rather small bathroom, accessible both by a door at the northside of the "master-bedroom" and by another door from what was now a kitchen--occupying the space formerly occupied by the porch and the north section of the pantry. This new kitchen had running water, heat for which--and for the supposed heating of the entire house--being furnished by a small "Arcoal" furnace, in the southwest corner of the new kitchen, which burned both coal and wood and, again supposedly, disseminated heat through the entire house by means of hot-water pipes and radiators. (Actually, this little furnace was quite inadequate for heating so large an area, but it did furnish hot water to kitchen and bath-room and took a little of the chill off the upstairs rooms, which previously had had no heat whatsoever except a little of the heat from the baseburner which rose through a "register" in the floor of the southeast bedroom.