

----- Original Message -----

From: Gene Webb *GWEBB@VALLNET.COM*

To: Janelle Taylor

Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 7:51 PM

Subject: Booklet

Janelle,

I received my booklet today and enjoyed looking through it. You all do a really good job. I didn't know many of the people, but I enjoyed the article on Clara. She is distantly kin to us but I don't know how. Our font of information petered out with Elizabeth's death.

I don't know the relationship between Ed Hall and Clara, but one day Daddy, Bobby, Evelyn and I went out to Ed's house. We rode a tram down into a mine. We were very young but I remember being scared. While we were there, there was a lot of activity and secrecy with a lot of coming and going. Daddy abruptly loaded us up and we left. Later, I found out that the miners were getting ready to strike.

All this made an impression on me.

I remember Claramont and Clara. I don't think we ever ate there, though. Too many to feed, I guess. I talked to Eugene Ham and he remembered a lot about Clara and her restaurants. He attended Sewanee many years ago. He is a very intelligent person and has a good memory. He teaches Latin at the high school.

I appreciate the time and effort you all put in to complete the booklet.

SEWANEE'S "MISS CLARA"

by

Dola S. Tylor

In the Chattanooga News-Free Press, Sunday, October 12, 1980, Staff Writer Margaret Ferguson, writes about "Miss Clara - Queen of the Mountain for Over 50 Years". She was "Miss Clara", restaurateur in Monteagle and Sewanee for many years, and a special friend to students at the University of The South.

This article begins with her first small diner, at Monteagle, in 1929, with "six stools and two tables". As I recall, it was near the top of the mountain, beside the road going down to Pelham Valley. I don't recall Clara's next restaurant which is described as "a log cabin which seated 200". It was popular with truckers, tourists, professors and students.

This is where Clara began her traditional "Sewanee Room" where the Sewanee boys could enjoy their dinners in their own style.

I remember her next restaurant, Claramont, which was in a former residence made of impressive mountain stone. It was across the roads and railroad tracks from the DuBose Center. In 1980, Clara was writing a book, "For Purple Mountains Majesty", telling of the Episcopalian bishops, the residents, the students and their families who dined at Claramont.

This article doesn't mention Clara's first husband, Thomas Boyd Shoemate, born Pikeville, Tennessee, son of Rufus and Effie May Shoemate. He was a pilot instructor during WWII. He and Clara operated restaurants in Sewanee and Monteagle for 30 years. He died Nov 27, 1964, buried Tracy City Cemetery. They had a son, Thomas Edward Shoemate, a teacher in Atlanta, who died August 4, 1978.

Staff writer Ferguson tells that Clara retired "about 15 years ago" because of poor health and was living in Santa Monica, California. She had come back to Sewanee, in October 1980, to be Honorary Homecoming Queen at a football game. Her name was then Mrs. James Shoemate Orlin.

Here is a short family history of Clara as found in Grundy County records:

Great grandfather, Thomas F. HALL married Minerva Eveline MEEKS, 17 Mar 1863. Known children: Virginia, John, Edward, Mary, Celina, Orlin, Benjamin.

Grandfather, Edward HALL married Jennie HAYNES, 28 Mar 1888. Known children: Tera, Mina, Henry, Dollie?, Ruby, Pearl.

Tera married Sam CANNON, 30 Jan 1910. In Tracy City Cemetery, Tera B. HALL CANNON, 1890 - 1912. Widower Sam CANNON married Iraogene HUGGINS 3 Feb 1913 and is not found in later Grundy County records. In the 1920 census, Edward and Jennie HALL have living with them, Clara E. CANNON, 8 years old, granddaughter.

In Social Security Death Records: Clara E. ORLIN, 1 May 1911/1 Apr 1997, Santa Monica, CA.