

Owner Of Mystery Farm No. 56 Tells Interesting Story About Mistaken Suit

Running a boarding house or hotel provides many varied and interesting experiences, says Mrs. C. V. Gay, owner of Mystery Farm Home Number 56 at Kokomo.

Mrs. Gay was Miss Caroline Jones prior to her marriage to Mr. Gay when she was seventeen years of age. She says she came into the world on New Year's Day, seventy-nine years ago this coming January.

In addition to getting married at the age of 17, she joined the Lawrence's Creek Baptist Church, later moving her letter to Shiloh.

Mrs. Gay ran several boarding houses in Columbia and Kokomo, including the old Nancy Ball Hotel, she says. The late Mr. Gay ran a taxi service in Columbia for some thirty years, and she gives him credit for never having had a wreck.

Mr. Gay drove too slowly for some folks, Mrs. Gay told us, but he had many customers who didn't like to ride with anyone else. Quite naturally taxi service has changed since his day of gravel roads and Model T's.

When asked if she ever had any funny experiences while running a boarding house, she laughed and said that something was always happening that was funny — some-

times it had to be all over, though, before it got to be funny.

Relating one incident, she told us about the time she got her men's suits mixed. It all happened like this:

One day a couple of men were at the boarding house and one of them needed some money. He pawned his suit with Mrs. Gay for four dollars. She took the suit and hung it in the closet next to Mr. Gay's suit.

A day or so later the man told her that they would be leaving that day and he would get his suit.

In the whirl of her getting ready to go to a funeral, the man came and asked for his suit. He went upstairs and the other man waited for her to get the suit, taking it on upstairs. They packed and left immediately.

When Mrs. Gay finished getting ready to go to the funeral she figured the thousand dollars she had in Mr. Gay's coat pocket hanging in the closet would be safer in her purse than in the closet if the house caught fire, so she went to get the money, all in five dollar bills with half in each pocket.

The mfn hadn't said where they were going and she hadn't noticed which way they went. She says she was really worried about her mon-

ey. In a hasty conference, Mr. Gay told her to call Hattiesburg, Lumberton and Tylertown and have folks watch for the two men. He got in his car and went to Lumberton.

In a little while she says Bob Duncan called her from Tylertown and said the men were walking across the street when he walked out of the courthouse after her call.

She got Bill Owens to go with her, and they started to Tylertown. When they got to Foxworth, she says, Bill called the Marion county sheriff and asked him to call the sheriff in Walthall county to hold the men. Mrs. Gay said she told the Tylertown officials when she called the first time to tell the two men that she wanted "to see them on some mighty particular business".

When she got to Tylertown and told the two men she wanted her thousand dollars she reported that they said they didn't have her money. She asked where their car was parked and they told her their suitcase was on the back seat. Sure enough the two \$500.00 rolls were in the two coat pockets. They had not noticed the money when they packed the suit in the suitcase.

She said one man laughed and told her that had he known the

money was in the coat she never would have found him. She states that she was very much relieved to get the money back. Mr. Duncan, who had known her all her life took the money to the bank and deposited it for her. She quoted him as saying that it wouldn't do him as saying that to Columbia for her to go back to Columbia with that much money because too many people had heard about it.

Mrs. Gay's living children are Dave, who lives nearby; William, in Texas; Austin and Julius Lee in Louisiana, and Julius and B. J., who live at home.

B. J. is in the hospital at Tylertown, Mrs. Gay stated, and Julius runs the farm.

The farm is made up of 160 acres. Part is rented out and Julius is cultivating about sixteen acres with his mule. He has corn, cotton, hay, about an acre and a half of sweet potatoes and other crops.

There are three milk cows for home use and their calves, along with chickens and a couple of hogs. The stock pond built in 1948 has never been dry.

Station WCJU is a favorite spot on the Gay radio dial. Julius says they like all of the programs, but he seemed to be specially fond of the baseball games.

