



CADILLAC, 1902-1903, MODEL A

Knoxville Dentist Dr. Reuben Neil Kesterson went to the Detroit Cadillac factory in 1902 to order one of the first Cadillac cars. Dr. Kesterson picked up this car the following spring in Cincinnati and drove it to Knoxville. He carefully chose a return route that would allow him to stop and visit with friends and family members on the way home.

What Do You See?

Early cars were called horseless carriages. Can you see why?

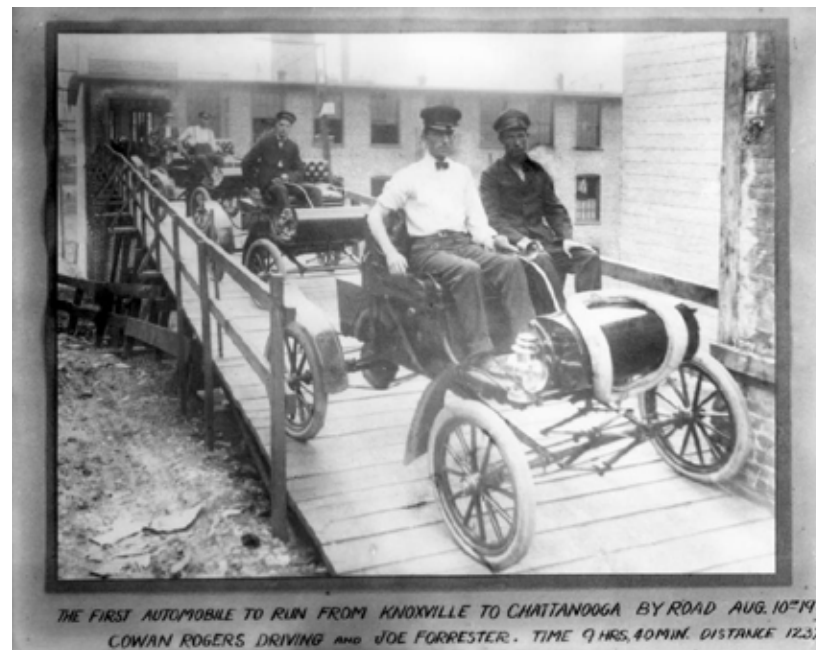
Think More About It!

- 1.) Why did Dr. Kesterson take a route home that would allow him to visit with friends and family?
- 2.) How is the car similar to cars of today?
- 3.) How is the car different to cars of today?

Journal It!

What challenges do you think Dr. Kesterson faced in driving his car home to Knoxville from Cincinnati? Write a diary entry describing one of the challenges on his trip.





Above: “The First Automobile to Run From Knoxville to Chattanooga by Road. August 10, 1903. Cowan Rogers Driving and Joe Forrester. Time 9 Hrs, 40 Min. Distance 123 1/2.”

Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Left: Pure gasoline pump, 1951

East Tennessee Historical Society Permanent Collection, purchase made possible by a gift from Lindsay Young

Front, artifact: Cadillac Tonneau, 1902-1903

Loaned by Gregg Kesterson

Front, image: Road repairs, 1921

Thompson Collection

Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library



GENERAL ELECTRIC REFRIGERATOR, C. 1935

“Affordable electricity for all.” That was one of the goals of the **Tennessee Valley Authority** (TVA). Electricity changed the lives of people who did not have access to electricity until TVA. Appliances, such as this refrigerator, were suddenly available. Fairs and traveling shows demonstrated how to use appliances and promoted the use of electricity, especially to women.

What Do You See?

Does this refrigerator look like your refrigerator today? How is it different? The compressor at the top of the refrigerator is small and hidden inside our refrigerators today. This refrigerator looks like an ice box which was used for cooling food before electricity. They put the new parts on top until the design caught up with the technology.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Before electricity, how did families keep food cool?
- 2.) Look at the picture on the bottom left. What evidence can you find that the home has electricity?
- 3.) How did electric appliances change the lives of women in Tennessee?

Journal It!

Think about all the technology that you use today that relies on electricity as a power source. Imagine that you wake up tomorrow and all that technology is gone. Describe how your daily routine would change without electricity.



GLOSSARY

Tennessee Valley Authority—The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was a part of President Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal.” TVA was created in May 1933 to provide navigation, flood control, electricity, fertilizer, and economic growth in the Tennessee River Valley.



To my mind the first thing a country woman needs is an electric pump. It is of more importance to the country woman than anything else, as it means running water in the home. If women are to be freed from drudgery, then by all means give them running water.

—MRS. LAUDERBACH, HOME
DEMONSTRATION AGENT, C. 1934

Left: “Before and after Electricity” panel in *Voices of the Land: The People of East Tennessee*

Front, artifact: General Electric refrigerator, late 1930s
East Tennessee Historical Society Collection, gift of George Clift

Front, bottom: *Mrs. Weigel, farm wife, in her electric kitchen, Knox County*
Arthur Rothstein, 1942
Courtesy of the Library of Congress



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK DEDICATION, 1940

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dedicated **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** at Newfound Gap in 1940. The dedication ceremony came after a 17-year public campaign in both Tennessee and North Carolina to raise \$10 million dollars to purchase land for the park.

What Do You See?

Approximately 10,000 people attended the dedication ceremony at Newfound Gap. President Roosevelt spoke from the Rockefeller monument. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial Fund donated \$5 million to help purchase the land for the park.

Think More About It!

- 1.) How would a national park benefit the surrounding communities?
- 2.) Some families refused to sell their land but lost it anyway because of **eminent domain**. How do you think those families felt on the day of the park dedication?

Journal It!

Many people from Gatlinburg and the surrounding communities stood along the road and watched as the president passed by in his car. Pretend that you were one of those people, and write a diary entry for that day, describing the feelings and thoughts that you had.

GLOSSARY

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt—President Roosevelt (*below*) was the only United States president elected to more than two terms (he served four). He led the U. S. out of the Depression and through World War II.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park—The most visited national park in the United States is Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The park was established in 1934 and dedicated by President Roosevelt in 1940. The main park entrances are located in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, and Cherokee, North Carolina.

Eminent Domain—The power given to the federal government in the Fifth Amendment to take private property for public use. The Fifth Amendment requires the government to provide just compensation (fair price) to the property owners.



The old frontier, that put the hard fiber in the American spirit and the long muscles on the American back, lives and will live in these untamed mountains to give the future generations a sense of the land from which their forefathers hewed their home.

—FROM PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S
PARK DEDICATION SPEECH

Left: *President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Great Smoky Mountains National Park Dedication, Newfound Gap, Tennessee*
Jimmy Myers, September 2, 1940
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, top: *Dedication of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Newfound Gap, Tennessee*
Jim Thompson, 1940
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library

Front, bottom: *Mount LeConte as Seen from the State Highway Between Gatlinburg and Elkmont*
Thompson Brothers, c. 1928
Courtesy of the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library



OPENING OF THE GATES PARADE AT OAK RIDGE, PHOTOGRAPHED BY JAMES EDWARD WESTCOTT, MARCH 19, 1949

In 1949, the “Secret City” of Oak Ridge was opened to the public and residents celebrated with a parade. Until then the work done at Oak Ridge, part of the famous **Manhattan Project**, was a secret. On August 6, 1945, American forces dropped the atomic bomb on **Hiroshima, Japan**, which ended World War II. East Tennesseans were shocked to learn the fuel for the bomb, enriched uranium, was produced at Oak Ridge.

What Do You See?

Before opening to the public in 1949, Oak Ridge was protected and run by the military. You had to wear an ID badge and be checked in at security gates before you could enter the city.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Why was Oak Ridge a “secret city”?
- 2.) Estimate how many people attended the parade.
- 3.) How did Oak Ridge help in ending World War II?

Journal It!

In Oak Ridge, they made signs with slogans on them that reminded residents to keep what was going on a secret and posted them all over the city. Create a slogan and then illustrate a sign that you could have posted around the city. What words could you use?



GLOSSARY

Manhattan Project—The Manhattan Project was the code name for a project conducted by the United States during World War II to develop the first atomic bomb. The project resulted in the creation of a number of secret production and research sites, one of which was Oak Ridge.



Hiroshima, Japan—Hiroshima, Japan, became the first city in the world to be bombed by an atomic weapon. The bomber Enola Gay dropped the atom bomb on the city in the early hours of August 6, 1945—ultimately ending World War II. The nuclear bomb instantly killed an estimated 80,000 people.

Reaction in Oak Ridge was one of great joy... knowing what [our] effort had been expended for, and... that we had delivered a war ending knock out blow.

—WALCOTT WATSON, REFERRING TO AUGUST 6, 1945

Left: “*Military Area*” warning sign

James Edward Westcott

Courtesy of United States Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office, Photography Archives

Front, top: *Opening of the Gates Parade*

James Edward Westcott, March 19, 1949

Courtesy of United States Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office, Photography Archives

Front, bottom: *War Ends*

James Edward Westcott, 1945

Courtesy of United States Department of Energy, Oak Ridge Office, Photography Archives



The very first day we enrolled into Clinton High School, people were so hostile to us. People we grew up with, played with, whites you wouldn't ever thought they had that kind of prejudice in their heart.

—ALFRED WILLIAMS, ONE OF THE “CLINTON 12”

ROSA PARKS AND EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE “CLINTON 12” AT THE HIGHLANDER CENTER ON MONTEAGLE MOUNTAIN

In 1956, Clinton High School became the first Southern high school to desegregate—one year before the legendary “Little Rock 9” desegregated the high school in Little Rock, Arkansas. The students from Clinton High were referred to as the “**Clinton 12**,” eight of which are pictured here with **Rosa Parks**.

What Do You See?

Rosa Parks and the students were photographed while attending an event at the **Highlander School**, located at that time on Monteagle Mountain in South-east Tennessee, where many Civil Rights Movement leaders, like Rosa Parks and Dr. Martin Luther King, studied non-violent protest. Highlander School is now located in New Market in Jefferson County, Tennessee.

Think More About It!

- 1.) Besides schools, what other places were segregated in the South?
- 2.) How old do you think the students were?
- 3.) The “Clinton 12” had to walk to school through lines of white adults and students to attend school. What does this tell you about the Clinton 12? What kind of traits must they have possessed?

Journal It!

Imagine how the “Clinton 12” felt as they walked up to the front door of the Clinton High School the first day. Write a few sentences about some of the emotions you think they would have felt. Do you think any of them might have wanted to turn back? Why?

GLOSSARY

Clinton 12—The U.S. Supreme Court decision *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954) ruled that segregation was inherently unequal. This ruling struck down the idea of “separate but equal.” Two years later, on Monday, August 26, 1956, 12 African American students, today known as the “Clinton 12,” made history by becoming the first black students in the South to desegregate a state-supported public school (Clinton High School).

Rosa Louise McCauley Parks—Rosa Parks refused to obey a bus driver’s order that she give up her seat to make room for a white passenger. This action started the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Ms. Parks prepared herself for this event by studying forms of non-violent protest at the Highlander Folk School in East Tennessee.

Highlander School—East Tennessee’s Highlander Folk School offered classes for Civil Rights Movement leaders on ways to protest non-violently. Highlander also played an important role in helping spread “freedom songs” through the movement, including “We Shall Overcome,” “Keep Your Eyes on the Prize,” and others.

At Highlander, I found out for the first time in my adult life that this could be a unified society, that there was such a thing as people of differing races and backgrounds meeting together in workshops and living together in peace and harmony.

—ROSA PARKS ON WORKSHOPS AT HIGHLANDER SCHOOL

Front, image: Members of the Clinton Twelve with Rosa Parks at Highlander Folk School, December 1956

Courtesy of the Highlander Research and Education Center