A Step Back in Time
By Bobbie Sue Shelton-Lonas

A STORY WORTH REPEATING

The following is an account of an actual happening, told several years ago by the late Mr. Walter W. Ogilvie of College Grove about an outlandish work mule named Jack, that belonged to his family back in 1902. He gave the following account of a College Grove traveling mule.

It was on a Sunday in that year, as Ogilvie tells the story, that one of the farm hands, Rich Cheatam, borrowed Jack and the road cart to go to church at Eagleville.

Now Jack was supposed to be a gentle buggy mule and Cheatam took his 8-year-old boy along. On the way, however, they had just crossed a bridge when Jack raised his head in the air and snorted. Cheatam and his son got off the cart and he led the mule off the road. Dump Edmonds, an Eagleville mechanic, appeared in sight driving his auto; the first one in that section.

Anyway, Cheatam got a good hold on the reins and called to Edmonds to come on by, that he's never seen a mule he couldn't hold. But as the car started on toward them, old Jack jerked loose from Cheatam and lit a rug back down the road. A cart wheel hung on the bridge rail, leaving the vehicle and most of the harness there. Old Jack kept going. Now comes the amazing part of the story. It was one mile east of Allisona where old Jack started running. He passed home through Allisona where Watt Blanton, the blacksmith tried to stop him, but had to jump out of the way to keep from getting run over.

The buggy lines were dangling from the harness still hanging on the mule. Somehow, the lines got wrapped around the mule's legs and threw him in the ditch. But that didn't stop him because he could hear that car coming, trying to catch him. The car that had scared the daylights out of him in the first place.

From there, old Jack ran north four miles to College Grove. Some men there tried to stop him, but the mule turned west on the Harpeth River Road. A man saw old Jack slip on a slick rock and fall in Harpeth River. But that didn't stop him. He got up headed back toward College Grove, then south toward Allisona.
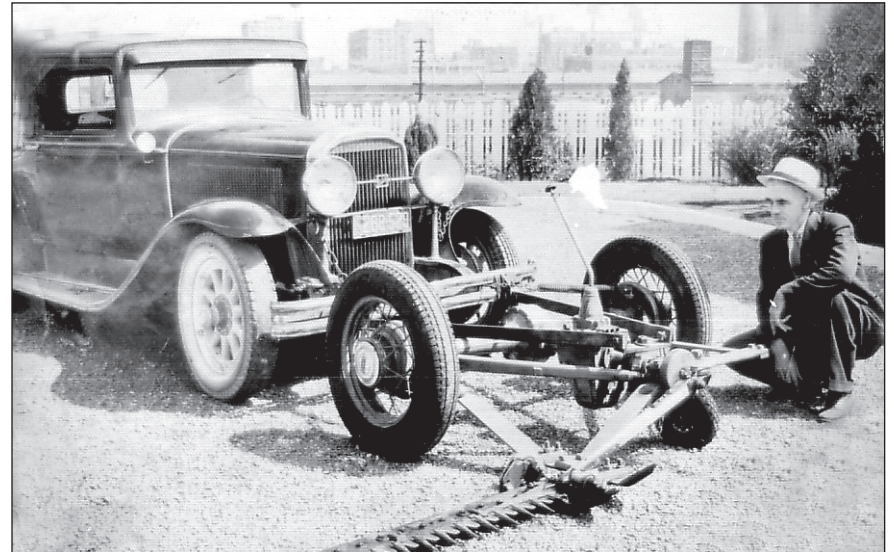
Edmonds was on his way to church at College Grove but he hadn't reached there when he met old Jack coming back, a mile south of College Grove. He pulled off the road to keep the mule from running over him. Old Jack wasn't stopping for neither wood, water or coal.

The mule ran back three miles to Allisona, turned west on Harpeth Lick Road, passed his home again and on three more miles to Cove Church where he broke up the Sunday morning service. There he was finally hemmed up, caught and brought home by one of the members who knew where the mule belonged.

In all, old Jack ran at least 12 miles at tremendous speed, faster than the auto that tried to catch him, broke up a church service, fell in a ditch, the river, and came within inches of running over several people.

And old Jack lived happily ever after, the out doin'st mule that was ever around College Grove.

I want to express my appreciation to Mr. Ennis Wal-

S. O. "Dump" Edmonds with his invention at the World's Fair in Chicago in the 1930's.

lace for a copy of this good story. I'm sure many of you remember Mr. Walter Ogilvie and also Dump (S. O.) Edmonds of Eagleville. Mr. Edmonds, an inventor of the first known truck, vacuum street cleaner, the So-Easy Jack for big trucks, to mention a few. He went to Washington and presented the Quartermaster General of the US Army the plans for a truck using parts of a Model T and a Flat Bed. He also is said to have been the first man to use dual wheels for heavily loaded trucks. He introduced a type of mower to the public at the Chicago Worlds Fair in the 1930's, and at the Tennessee State Fair in the 1940's, the water-well pressure pump, the one invention he was most proud because he felt it helped his fellow man the most. Edmonds died in 1954 at the age of 83.