

THE SECOND FRONT



'Twas the day after Christmas



...and all through town, there was shopping, exchanging and bargains to be found.

Left, top: Linda Richardson, from Texas and visiting Houston relatives, gets assistance from proprietor Marcia Brown during her after-Christmas shoe sale. Below, Wal-Mart customer service was a busy place exchanging and returning gifts.

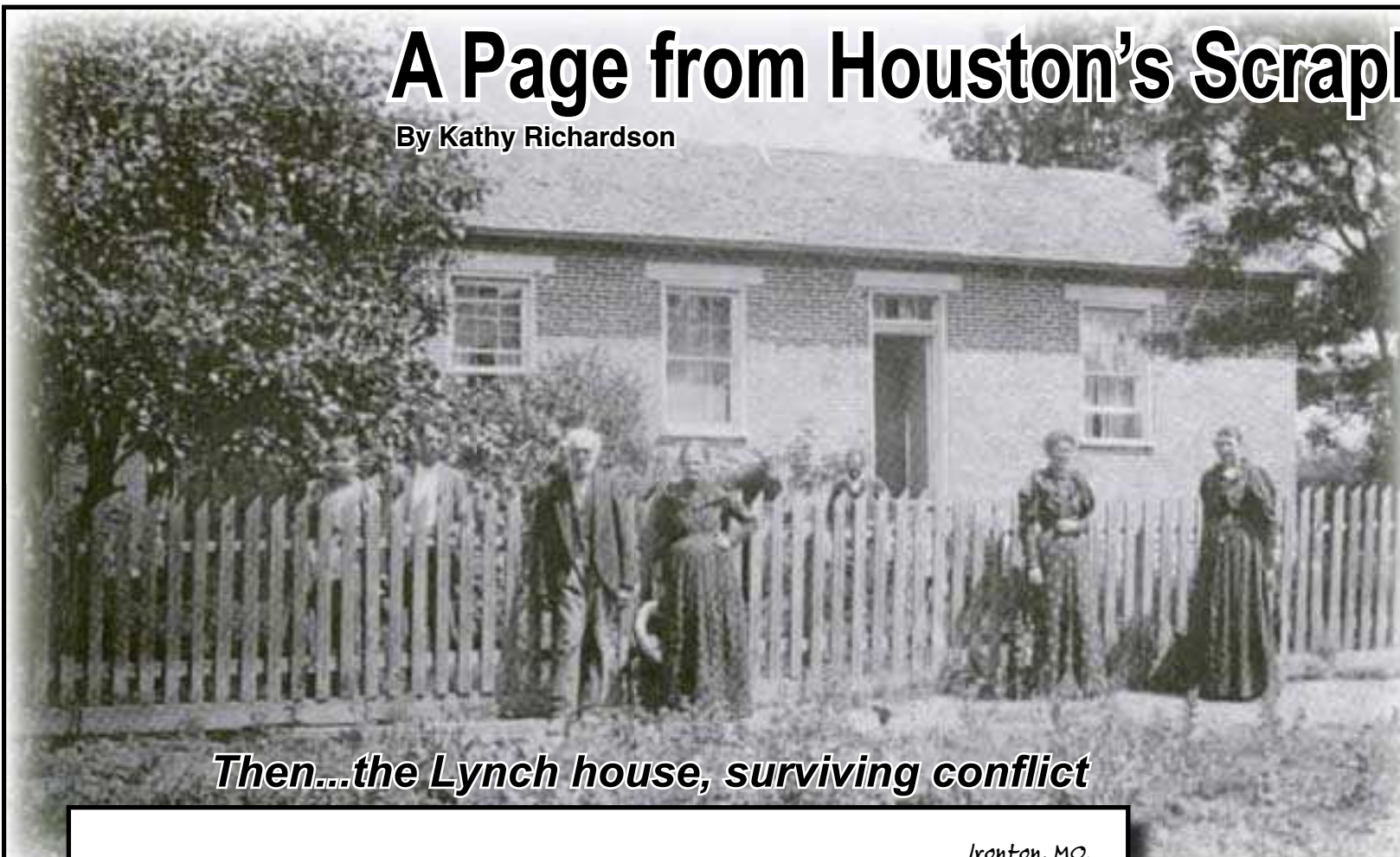


Right, top: Wal-Mart employees begin to clear Christmas merchandise from shelves. Below, Jennifer Kirn, a Forbes' Pharmacy employee, assists a customer during a very active 75 percent off sale of Christmas items.



A Page from Houston's Scrapbook, Then and Now

By Kathy Richardson



Then...the Lynch house, surviving conflict

Ironton, MO.
Nov. 8th, 1950

My little Sweet (Ed) Duke,
I was very glad to hear from your mother and glad she told me about (you) liking history and would like to know the brick's history. Your great, great, great grandfather (David W.) Lynch made him a brick kiln. Ground the mud, molded it into brick, built the kiln. If you go out toward Herron house (Edna Duff residence) in Mr. Coats field you can see where. The mud was dug and burned. A Mr. Clayton built the house in 1858. 1859 Father moved in. It was finished except the plaster parish. We moved there, and was run out by bushwhackers. Your great-grandfather took his family to Macon (County) in fall of 1862. Stayed till Spring of 1866. Came home. The Smith family (who had moved in the house) stayed till fall, 13 (in all including) Jess Smith boys and their mother and father. Frank and Charlie Harmon is their grandboys. Geo. is Frank's boy, Eddie. I didn't get much about the old home (when) Smiths lived there.

When the window sill burned, they knew nothing about it. Till next morn. Quite a place burned. (The town of Houston was burned twice.) I believe the thieves put it out. It had too much start to go out. Your g.g.g. grandfather Lynch expected it to be burned.

Duke, I hope this will help you some...

Nov. 29, 1950

My dear niece,
...I forgot the tannery. The bark shed was down below the spring, had a room to work his (David W.) leather out. Had a shed connected. The bark mill was in the shed. I used to drive the horse. She would get lazy. - Cut big trees and peel bark off, then grind it, have vats to lay in hide. Then cover it (?) with ground bark. Fill the vats. You can see some of them now. The lime vat was well preserved when I left home...

Yours with love for all.

Aunt. (Aunt Jane Lynch Perry, daughter of David W. Lynch, who built the above home.)

Above: The David W. Lynch home, circa 1900. From left, Nora Duke Herrington with her husband, Dr. Perry Herrington; David Woodruff Lynch and his wife, Millie (McKinney); John Drinnion, by the door; Jane Lynch Perry and Sarah Lynch. (Photo courtesy of Mellie Weeks)

Then - Left, circa 1900, Alzilda Jane Lynch, in the photo, second from the right, was born in 1859. That was the year her mother and father, Millie (McKinney) and David W. Lynch, moved into their new, three-room brick home constructed by Mr. Clayton, a free black man. He was paid \$50 to build the walls three bricks thick on the site where it stands today - Airport Road, just north of West Highway 17. The bricks were molded and dried in a nearby kiln.

The home was one of the few to survive the nearly complete devastation of Texas County during the Civil War. The kitchen window sill bears the scar of an attempt by bushwhackers to burn it. Oily rags were placed in the window and ignited but failed to burn the home. The house was occupied at the time by a Smith family who discovered the charred window sill in the morning.

"Aunt Jane" spent her childhood and much of her adult life in this house. After marrying Cyrus Perry in 1906, she moved to Texas, but returned here in her old age.

Duke Tweed, David Lynch's great-great-great grandson grew up in the house and recalled "Aunt Jane," in her 80s. "She would take me by the hand and we would go gather weeds for medicine."

"Make you a good cough syrup," she advises in one of her letters. "Horehound cherry bark. Be careful don't get down with "Pnu." Make onion poultice for lungs."

Aunt Jane eventually moved to a retirement home in Ironton, Mo. She wrote the following letters to Duke in 1950, when he asked about the history of the house.

Now - below, in the 1920s, John Parker was hired to update the Lynch home into a modern bungalow. Cement plaster was put over the bricks, a front porch, sun room and kitchen were added. The original rooms, fireplaces, windows and door sills remain.



Now...the Tweed house, preserving history

The old David Lynch and Jim Tweed home is presently owned by the City of Houston. Community Betterment has taken its restoration and preservation as a project. They are gathering historical data and welcome any participants who might wish to donate skills, research or resources that will assist in its restoration. If you wish to participate, please call the Chamber office at 417-967-2220.