The Fannie Moffitt Sale 1955
MISS FANNIE And HER MONEY

Who'll Get $400,000 Moffitt Fortune In Grundy?

By El. JODDESTON
(First of a Series)

A MAN stepped back from the $7,000 copper casket.

Within it Miss Fannie Moffitt, the heiress of Grundy County, lay in final slumber. Against the wall hung a giant pull of 60 dozen red roses, which "Miss Fannie" loved. She kept a color.

"I hadn't realized," the man said, that Miss Fannie's face was so white and fair.

She was her attorney.

A weeping woman stood beside him. "I didn't know," she said, "that Fannie's hair was so gray."...

It was Sept. 11 in Tracy City at the Foster Funeral Home. Miss Fannie Moffitt of Altamont had died the day before at the age of 82, at the Cumber-land Heights Clinic near Coal-mont. For out on the hills, autumn leaves were slowly settling on the 6,000 to 12,000 acres Miss Fannie Moffitt owned.

From the colored hills miners were harvesting coal. From the hills, lumberjacks were flying trees. All of it was pouring royalties toward the big sand-dust brick house in Altamont where an old dog called "Pop" was wondering why his mistress was gone.

Old Pop just knew he missed her. He couldn't know that one of her last queries had been of him: "Is Pop eating? Go buy him something!"

He couldn't know the burning quiet was racing over the fog-shrouded Cumber-land plateau, where no house was in sight.

$400,000 fortune "Miss Fannie" had left behind her? Who would receive her $100,000 trust fund of Portland cement and American Telephone stocks? Who would receive her five bank accounts?

Two Wills Drawn

 Twice her attorney had drawn up wills for her and two wills had been noted to sign. Her uncles, Tom and Jim Nortcutt, hadn't left wills. Why should she?

It had all come to her.

"Suppose I don't make a will," Miss Fannie had said in her deep voice on April 15, five months before her death. "What would happen?" She asked the question to her attorney.

Ben E. Caldwell, in his Chattano-ga office, had looked across his desk at Miss Fannie. She was a 200-pound woman in a wide-brimmed hat, her hair brimmed, a little with the weight of luscious artificial roses. She was about 5 feet. Long gloves hid the two huge diamonds on her pudgy little fingers, and she was low-heeled shoes.

Who'll Get

(Continued From Page One)

days, and somehow she had learned that a holographic will—a self-written will—is almost shatter-proof.

Perhaps death overtook her unaware. She had not seemed to realize she was seriously ill, even when the death rattle began and they placed a little metal pump in her throat.

If Written—Never Found

If she wrote a will, it's never been found. If she wrote a will, perhaps it's lost in her cluttered 12-room house, along with a missing Indian war club said to have been used in the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer's Last Stand. Her father, James Moffitt of McMinnville, once an agent in the Indian Territory, left her his memories—and one, a little Indian doll, protruding from an Indian medicine bag, still hung by her parlor fireplace—although he has been dead 39 years.

They're locked in the medicine bag, and everywhere. But much else came to light. In her cedar chest the chilly parlor, with her nimb-trimmed coat of golden squirel, they found approximately $12,000 in checks—royalties from the coal mines and the timbering, and dividends from investments. In the same chest was $300 cash.

nearby city, and he had attended the funeral. The trip had brought him near his old home, and he came by to see relatives.

"When he drove through Altamont, I suppose some people thought he'd come back to claim the loot? Well, he didn't know Miss Fannie was dead until we told him."

Who WILL get the money? About 40 persons have filed claims. Their cases are set for the February term of court, in Tracy City, according to the Grundy County Herald. The land will be sold next year.

Some think: two first cousins have an excellent chance to receive the "lion's share." One is a Nashville man. Fred S. Potter, 11 of 1409 Sweeter Ave., an employee of the State Highway Department, Division of Public Works.

What does he plan to do with his inheritance, which must exceed $75,000? "I haven't given that much thought," he said this morning. "I plan to buy a home. However, I don't know the amount I might receive from the estate."

He was born in McMinnville, is married, but has no children. Potter has lived in Nashville several years, and once lived on Twenty-fourth Ave., South, in Birmingham. "I last saw Cousin Fannie Moffitt about three years ago when I visited Altamont," he said.

The HOUSE OF FORTUNE—This is the 12-room home of Miss Fannie Moffitt in Altamont, Grundy County. After her death Sept. 10, between $44,000 and $15,000 in cash and checks was found hidden inside. Heirloom furniture and bric-a-brac are valued at $14,000 to $15,000. It goes under the auctioneer's hammer Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Altamont. More than 200 potential bidders are expected to attend.

—Staff Photo by Bob White
Moffitt Estate
Auction Aug. 15
Lands, Buildings
Of Wealthy Spinster
Will Be Offered

ALTAMONT, Tenn. — Lands and buildings owned by the late Miss Fannie Moffitt will be offered at public auction here Aug. 15 as the second chapter in closing out the wealthy spinster's huge estate, Arthur Curtis, administrator, disclosed yesterday.

Thousands of antique seekers were attracted to this mountain community last December when Miss Moffitt's personal property was sold in a week-long auction. The 70-year-old spinster died last Sept. 10, leaving no will but an estate valued by Curtis at between $250,000 and $300,000.

Portions of a trust valued at $100,000 are now being distributed in a two-one split between Mabel Massie Ward of Bryn Mawr, Pa., and Fred Potter of Nashville, the two surviving first cousins.

Moffitt, who was receiving two shares to Potter's one because her brother, James G. Massie of Tupelo, Miss., also had qualified as an heir, but died later, leaving no heirs except Mrs. Ward.

Brick Residence Auction
To be sold at the Aug. 15 auction are the 12-room brick residence here where Miss Moffitt lived in seclusion with an elderly friend, Susie Fitch; another home in the same community, and five houses and lots in the nearby resort community of Beersheba Springs.

Other items included in the sale are a 100-acre farm in Burrough's Cove near Viola, a 400-acre tract of land west of Altamont, and several valuable timber tracts, on one of which Miss Moffitt refused a $50,000 offer before her death.

A total of 110 tracts covering 824 acres in Grundy county will be offered in the sale, which will be handled by three real estate auction firms.

Some 140 or more claims have been made against Miss Moffitt's estate by persons representing themselves to be kinsmen and therefore heirs of the spinster. Curtis said. These must all be set aside before Curtis can complete his administration of the estate.

Curtis' attorneys, William Able and Francis Barker, are defending the estate against the claims, which are pending in court.

The hearing on a $50,000 suit, filed against the estate by Mrs. Mattie Lusk, is set for July 10. Mrs. Lusk charges that a "vicious dog" maintained by Miss Moffitt bit her as she went about house duties in the Moffitt home. The suit was filed against the spinster before her death and was not filed against the estate.

Another suit, brought by the Potter funeral home of Tracy City against the estate, was passed for resignment a week ago, with no date set. The funeral home seeks collection of an $8,500 bill for Miss Moffitt's funeral.

Still another matter of litigation is a $720 bill for funeral flowers from Measies Flower shop, involving a floral blanket with 50 dozen roses. The same shop, acting as agent for a monument firm, submitted a $5,000 claim for a tombstone, similar to the types that stand at the graves of Tom and Jim Northcutt, uncles of Miss Moffitt from whom she inherited much of her property.

While Miss Moffitt's two surviving first cousins had agreed to set up a trust for Susie Fitch, the spinster's companion has filed a claim for $2,500 "for services rendered since my mother's death.

Mrs. Ward and Potter will receive proceeds of all the personal property, including the trust funds and a big share of real estate proceeds. However, neither they nor any of the more distant kin can receive final settlements from the estate until legal obligations are determined by the courts and paid by the administrator.

(Continued Tuesday)
MISS FANNIE And HER MONEY
Took Medicine, Attended Ward-Belmont, Won Rings

BY ED HUDDLESTON
(Second In a Series)

The curtain was about to go up at the Ryman Auditorium. The play was Shakespeare’s “As You Like It.”

A mother and daughter came down an aisle—Mrs. James Moffitt and her daughter, “Miss Fannie,” of Altamont in Grundy County.

The mother was tall, handsome and graciously, despite her weight of 235 pounds. She was well-dressed,48 years of age, a graduate of Burritt College in Spencer, Tenn. But her plump and pink-cheeked daughter, Miss Fannie, well-dressed, may have been of less commanding presence.

Of the daughter it would later be said, “To touch her hair, that delicacy, the sky would have been the limit!”

Mother and daughter sat down, and suddenly there were muted words of pleasure as they greeted a friend, “Mrs. Hannelie Wheeler Martin, sitting in the next seat.” “Cousin Fannie,” Mrs. Martin had come to the city to visit her sister, the teacher. Both were named for Miss Fannie’s grandmother and mother, respectively.

Happily the little group murmured together. Then the mother turned to her daughter and said, “Baby, have you shown Cousin Fannie your new ring?”

The voice of the latter lifted her hand. The former school teacher saw a diamond of far more than two carats. (Like a building, she said later.) “Baby,” the mother said presently, “have you told Cousin Fannie about your ring?”

“Well, I had the flu,” Miss Fannie said, “and they wanted me to try on your medicine, and I didn’t, and Uncle Tom gave me this ring, and I took my medicine.”

Miss Fannie Moffitt was in her 20’s then. It occurred between 1916 and 1920.

Mrs. Moffitt’s husband had died when Fannie was three years old. Mother and daughter were devoted. Sometimes they would go to Florida in the winter and sometimes to New York where they often went to see the theater. Often they came to Nashville, stopping at the Maxwell House.

Everyone “Worshipped” Mother

Everybody in Altamont “worshipped Miss Tim,” their affectionate name for the mistress of the wealthy Northcutt household. “Miss Tim” had been a Norcutts for generations. The only daughter of H. R. Northcutt, the mountain merchant prince, was born in 1854. Both her uncles, Tom and Jim, were schoolmasters.

Pampered Fannie

H. R. Northcutt’s only grandchild. Anybody with a lick of sense known she was an heiress someday. It was said “Miss Tim” and her brothers feared some one would marry Miss Fannie for her money.

Miss Fannie, she didn’t marry. On Sept. 10 she died at 62, no will. Her estate, a mercantile, coin and timber fortune, is valued at $4,400,000. About 80 persons, claiming kinship, are expected to engage in a $400,000 battle.

The answer came from Mrs. Susie Pitch, Miss Fannie’s faithful nurse and companion: “Sometimes she might say some little old something like ‘He’ll be mine and Miss Fannie’s household since 1899. Even then, 114 years had passed since the fortune began, around 1833, at Adrian Northcutt’s trading ‘stockade’ at Altamont. He was Miss Fannie’s great-grandfather, born in 1799.

New store books show he traded in deer skins, whisky, and wildcat scalps on which a bounty was paid. In one winter, more than 1,000 deer skins were bought or bought at his ‘stockade.’

In return, he supplied many things, including inordinate quantities of powder and shot. In 1854, the 25-year-old H. R. Northcutt was helping in the store.

They sold beds, cords, fine felt hats, shoes, calicoes, silk handkerchiefs, tools, candles. They sold Perfume, called “Oil of Prairie Flowers.” A two-week trip by ox-cart brought the goods to Nashville.

The store burned during the War Between the States, but it came back up. Part of the store was rebuilt between 1879-70.

In 1889, pioneer Adrian Northcutt died at 70, the father of 15 children, Polk Knox Northcutt was 21, and two of his children may inherit a portion of Miss Fannie’s $400,000.

They are Avery Northcutt of Spencer, Tenn., and his sister, Mrs. Tennyse Hardin of Texas. They may inherit half the real estate bought by Jim and Tom Northcutt, Miss Fannie’s bachelor uncle in Nashville.

H. R. Northcutt was 40 years old when his father Adrian died in 1869. H. B. was 9 years too old, and Jim was 5 and 2 years old.

As they grew older, they saw themselves rolling along bumpy roads, loaded with baggage and headed for Beersheba Springs, overlooking the Collins River Valley.

The travelers were often Nashville residents, enroute to the mountain for the summer, or fleeing Nashville’s plagues of yellow fever, typhoid and cholera.

Second Store in Beersheba

The second store was started in Beersheba, to clean necklaces and dimes from summer residents. Tom Northcut, black-haired and happy-go-lucky, opened the store each spring, sleeping upstairs, sometimes with the little girl. Sometimes she’d slap his foot and say, “Damn it, Tom, I can’t stand your voice, ‘Damn it.”

Fifty years later, did she still say “Damn it!”

Jim Northcutt knew such a man, who sold some pigs for silver. “And it made him so proud he had his wife make him a ‘moneypus’ for it—that’s what he called a purse. At Saturday night poker games, when he was well-dield, he’d take out his ‘moneypus’ and swing it around his head. As he swung it, he’d yell, ‘Eight pieces of silver and half a dollar over! Don’t need quarter from any man!”

Dollars Accumulate

Nor did the Northcunts. Long ago the nickels and dimes had turned to dollars. On the first day of 1916, H. R. Northcutt built a massive 12-room house. There he lived, three rooms on the main plate, and his children were to increase their holdings, with no more losses. Part of their investments would be in the hotel at Beersheba, where the Northcunts had several cottages, or received them from their father. Some of these investments are as follows:

The time “Miss Tim” hair was white, she wore a diamond even larger than that which Uncle Tom had given Miss Fannie. It’s said that “Miss Tim’s” diamond was three carats. The house already held several eighteenth century treasures, of cherry and walnut, and Victorian horsehair pieces.

“Miss Tim” added Dresden, Staffordshire, Wedgwood, a silver soup plate and a silver foot-call epergne. Miss Fannie loved bisque and milk glass.

As the more ornate things came down, she sat on the back porch, perhaps the rarest piece of all, a stretcher, because she was the stretcher designed for the feet of weary travelled, in a dirt-road tavern.

After Miss Fannie’s death, it was found covered with oilcloth and holding pots and pans.

“Miss Tim” may or may not have moved it to the back gal. No one moved the great four-poster bed of cherry. It was discarded by Telephone Department’s line men.

A BANANA reporter looked on. This was the bed upon which the “Miss Tim” died. “You’d have thought they were sisters,” Miss Susie said. “They were Miss Tim.”

“Miss Tim” accompanied her daughter to Ashville and lived with her. When Miss Fannie attended Ward-Belmont College, not long before World War I, she recalled the “Miss Tim” story, and this is said to have brought Miss Fannie’s second and disagreeable romance: the most of two carats—a gift from her.
mother. Miss Fannie also attended the Vanderbilt School of Expression.

tante" from the days when Miss Fannie had "every ad-
"she used to sit by the candy bucket in her uncle's store."
The world itself was her candy bucket, as some see it. There's still $400,000 in the bucket.

Many think it all began to turn to ashes in 1928. Her adored mother was stricken with appendicitis. "Miss Tim" reached a Sewanee hospital at 11 a.m. At 6 p.m. She died on the operating table.

Miss Fannie was 35. How fast the years were going! She was too stricken to attend the funeral. She did not face the open grave.

Nor did Miss Fannie ever go to the cemetery after her mother's death, until they bore her there in September, in a $7500 casket . . .

She sleeps beside her Uncle Tom, who gave her the diamond that sparkled at the Ryman, when troupers played "As You Like It."

(Continued Wednesday)
Altamont Spinster's Estate, Over $250,000, Stirs Kin

By Mouzon Peters
Times Staff Writer.

ALTAMONT, Tenn., Oct. 26 — A fantastic story is unfolding here in the mountains of Grundy County and it becomes more unbelievable with each passing day. But it's true — as attorneys throughout Tennessee and the South will testify, and some of them will be called on to do just that.

Elderly Miss Frances Moffitt, who lived quietly here in a 12-room two-story brick house with even more elderly Miss Emma Phillips, a few weeks ago after many years of semi-obscurity. She was a member of a once-prominent family, but the huge house was the only public visible mark of her aristocratic heritage and in it she lived in a manner so unassuming that many would have thought her a pauper.

All around her, the little homes of Altamont have had electric power with all the accompanying appliances and conveniences for years. Miss Fannie just never got around to installing her own, but her surrounding homes had running water and bath rooms. Not so, the big brick house. Everyone else owned a radio or television set or both. Miss Fannie's only entertainment were an old hand-cranked phonograph with records as old as the music box itself.

She had few visitors. A vicious dog guarded the occasional salesman and Miss Fannie, her self, didn't go in for the social life. It's the old relatives who stayed in touch with her, no one here knew them.

Died Inestate

Miss Frances Moffitt died, a few weeks ago (Sept. 10) at the age of 81. She left no will. And now she is picking up kinmenes by the score. Everyone is mourning the passing of "dear Cousin Fannie," filling their messages of regret, for some reason, with the court-appointed administrator of her estate.

The administrator, Arthur Curtis, former postmaster of nearby Coal- mont, estimates that Miss Moffitt's estate has left an estate which is valued in excess of $250,000 and may run as high as $350,000. Day by day, as Curtis pores through the stacks and piles of books, newspapers, magazines and parcels, as he examines the contents of bureau drawers, trunks and boxes, he finds additional evidence of Miss Moffitt's wealth and her peculiarities.

"I haven't been through the entire house yet," he assured me. I've already found several thou..."
ALTAMONT, Tenn.—Three-year-old Lucy Smith of Tullahoma, Tenn., wants to see just how she looks decked out in one of Miss Fannie Moffitt's rose-piled hats and rose-painted pocket-books. Miss Fannie was obsessed by the beauty of a rose. Lucy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Smith.
Miss Fannie and Her Money: Northcutt Fortune Had Little Trouble Weathering Depression

By ED HUDDLESTON

(Fourth in a Series)

The Northcutt store in Altamont was sold in 1828, but the spreading Big Depression had nothing to do with it. The Northcutt fortune was solid as a rock.

Tom and Jim Northcutt just went on as young as they used to be. They were going to take it easier, and efficient young men were poking through the old store taking inventory.

One of them lifted something from a nail keg: “What’s this?”

It was a canvas “buckshot bag.” He looked inside and whistled. The bag held silver coins — dating back to the 1830’s.

“But,” sighed one of the Northcutt brothers, quietly. “Pa must have left that there.”

Pa’s father, had been dead 13 years.

Jim, the older brother, sat at a desk, poring over old accounts.

More serious-minded than Tom, he’d been at the task for many hours.

“$50,000 Due!”

Now he closed the damaged volume. “I’m just through with this book,” he said, “and I’ve already found $50,000.00!”

He stood up and stretched. “I’ll just quit.”

Some people say a great portion of the amount never was collected.

That was 26 years ago. The store lost the business by as many years. H. B. Williams owns the old store now. Today the household is ending. Bits of it, bought in bedlam far worse than any at the old store, will be miles apart tomorrow, in scores of different homes.

The Northcutts are shaping together, in a peaceful cemetery almost ringed by pine trees, just east of town. It’s on a hilltop.

Great thick walls of polished granite mark their resting place. And about each horizontal slab a massive headstone.

H. B. Northcutt is sleeping beside his wife, another Fannie.

They came of the 18th century, when Fannie was a glamour name. Beside them rest their two bachelor sons and their widowed daughter, Tom, Jim and “Miss Tim.” Fannie’s mother. At the end of the road the yellow clay is bright, above Miss Fannie’s grave.

There has been no time to place a marker there.

Loved Nice Things

But one will rise, and it will be as handsome as the others. Miss Fannie loved nice things — velvet and roses and bisque, and milk glass and candy and PEOPLE, despite nationwide publicity which has suggested otherwise.

“Well, maybe she wasn’t a hermit, but she had her own set,” a man said, “and she stuck to them.”

Most people do. And old friends are sticking by Fannie Moffitt’s memory.

“There wasn’t a nicer, finer woman anywhere than Fannie Moffitt,” said middleaged Mrs. Jim Dickerson, who runs a restaurant not far from the Moffitt mansion. She knows some people have wondered why Miss Moffitt didn’t have a refrigerator in her big house. But maybe Miss Moffitt didn’t think she needed a refrigerator. She obtained locker services in McMinnville.

When Miss Fannie needed fresh meats kept, she could easily have

…

Mrs. H. B. NORTHCU TT

bought from McMinnville and placed in the freezer or refrigerator at Mrs. Dickerson’s restaurant. It’s near the mansion door.

Had somebody called Miss Moffitt stingy? Mrs. Dickerson said, “Well, she’s given me cookies and fruitcakes, and cheese by the big hoops. I’ve known her all my life, and did you ever see her cattle? They were mud-fat. This summer she sent me some setting eggs from her fine White Rocks.”

Robin Hood in Reverse

Another said, equally sincerely, “Miss Fannie put on all right, but she preferred to give to those who didn’t need it. She was a Robin Hood in reverse. Oh, I know she helped them in some cases, but she helped the poor who were closest to her.”

“Bet she gave away 100 dolls at Christmas time! Christmas won’t be the same around here for a lot of folks with Fannie Moffitt gone.”

Another remarked, “When they wanted to move, they didn’t want to sell any land. And someone else said, “Nor when they wanted land for a church in Beechgrove.”

“Now she gave $100 on new church seats in Altamont.”

“How about the time when Miss Susie broke her hip? Did Miss Moffitt pay the school here? She didn’t. Miss Susie (Mrs. Fitch) had worked for her for 40 years or more. Miss Susie had a horse and she fell off a truck. And Miss Fannie took the view that it wasn’t her truck, and Miss Susie hadn’t been working for her at that particular moment, and so she didn’t pay.”

“After the fire...”

MRS. H. B. NORTHCU TT

straightened up, she said, “About the bathroom fixtures they say Miss Fannie bought and then didn’t buy that oil-bathroom stuff in the first place.” Her mother bought ‘em, nearly 20 years ago or more. She died, and they just didn’t put in.”

Dinah’s Meat Story

Caldwell said, “Here’s one thing I wish you’d straighten out. When she died a lot of papers said she kept meat hanging in a bedroom upstairs. She did nothing of the kind.

“Meat was not taken upstairs in the house until I suggested it. Miss Moffitt knew nothing of it. Blame it on me. She’d been taken to the hospital. Some meat had been shipped from the smokehouse. I suggested to Miss Susie that she have the remainder taken upstairs for safekeeping. Miss Moffitt never knew part of her house was briefly used as a smokehouse.”

Miss Fannie had a reason, or thought she had a reason, for most of the things she did or didn’t do.

Mrs. Harvey Greeter added quietly, “She was one of Miss Fannie’s closest friends as the final years came, and Mrs. Greeter also feels that in those closing years Miss Fannie lost something of her backward look, and perhaps entered into the happiest period of her life.”

So Miss Fannie’s house wasn’t wired. Electricity came to Altamont in 1941.

“After her uncle’s death, of course she could have had the wiring done. I don’t know exactly...”

Pretty Dress

Mrs. Greeter added something else: “Years ago when I was a school teacher, I needed a pretty dress to wear to a party. Her eyes suddenly glittered, and she blinked before continuing, “Miss Fannie found out about it. She insisted that I wear a dress of her—a royal blue velvet. I took a few stitches, and I wore it. Everyone said it was beautiful.”

Mrs. Greeter now is the wife of a prosperous Altamont lumberman.

And so the dispute rages, from...

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Miss Fannie

(Continued From Page One)

Miss Fannie

(Continued From Page One)

40—or more—are expected to join the wrangle.

The biggest crowd in Altamont today was probably 800, or a goodly fraction of those who gathered in front of the home of the Shiloh Baptist Church. The reason for the crowd was the funeral of Miss Fannie. The funeral was attended by a large number of people, including many of the town's most prominent citizens.

A few days later, the same crowd gathered in front of the church to see the coffin of Miss Fannie being carried out. The crowd was again large, and many of the people who had attended the funeral were there to bid her farewell. Miss Fannie was buried in a small cemetery near the church, and a small monument was erected in her memory.

In addition to the funeral, a series of meetings was held in the town to discuss the future of the church. The meetings were well attended, and many of the town's leaders were present. The discussions centered on the need for a new church building, and it was decided that a committee would be formed to raise funds for the project.

A few weeks later, the committee was formed, and they began to seek contributions from the town's citizens. The response was overwhelming, and within a short time the committee had raised enough money to begin construction on the new church.

In conclusion, it can be said that Miss Fannie's death was a great shock to the town of Altamont. Her passing was mourned by all who knew her, and her legacy will be a lasting one for the town. May she rest in peace.
Dividend Checks Piling Up, She Consents To Trust Fund

Miss Fannie And Her Money

By ED HUDDLESTON
(Fifth of a series)

I COULDN'T think of anyone else but you, Cousin Fannie, to come and live with me—the words had a lonely sound. It was odd to hear them spoken by a woman worth $400,000, whose fortune was augmented by royalties and dividends. Yet the words were spoken in 1942 by Miss Fannie Moffitt of Altamont, in Grundy County.

Her uncles, Jim and Tom Northcutt, were dead. They were her last close kin. They made no wills. There was no need. They were bachelors, and she the only child of their only sister.

Like the uncles, Miss Fannie had never married. She was 49 now, and romance had shied away from the graying woman whose mother had feared someone would marry her for her money.

Her face was plain, she took little interest in dress, and Miss Fannie still loved candy, just as she had loved it when she sat by the candy bucket of her uncles' stores.

Invitation Accepted

Now she was asking "Cousin Fannie" to come and live with her in the 13-room mountain mansion. "Cousin Fannie," Mrs. Fannie Wheeler Martin of Chattanooga—came.

There were old ties, of blood, and happy times together. She was a soft-voiced gentlewoman, former school teacher, and now a widow, by no means penniless, but large fortune had not been hers.

She came to the big house in Altamont where hundreds of persons are swarming today, and the auctioneer's chant is ringing. She's going down the curtain on the things of Fanny Moffitt to the tune of dollars and cents—just as the curtain was rung up, for more than a hundred years, to the tune of dollars and cents, in the county stores run by her people.

Next year, when much of her fine old furniture has been re-furnished by new owners, Fannie Moffitt's land will be sold. It will be divided, along with her personal property, as the courts of Grundy County and Tennessee may see fit.

44 File Claims

More than 40 persons have filed claim to the estate, asking a share. They claim kinship. An equal number is expected to join the fracas later. About 50 persons, in all, and maybe more.

This is happening to the estate of a woman who said, just 13 years ago, "I couldn't think of anyone else but you, Cousin Fannie."

Cousin Fannie remained until a few years ago when a niece in Chattanooga became a widow. The two Fannies talked and read, and Mrs. Susan (Mrs. Fitch) joined them both. The cousins had a sense of humor, but Miss Fannie's was more robust.

Cousin Fannie recalls Miss Fannie's style of good humor. For Fannie Moffitt never needed glasses. Or so she thought.

Both women were reading in the parlor, Cousin Fannie said something and Miss Fannie failed to hear. Her ears weren't as strong as her eyes. Her cousin repeated.

Still Miss Fannie didn't hear. "Fannie Moffitt," cried the former school teacher, "can't you hear ANYTHING?"

"I Sure Can See!"

The 200-pound woman of fortune surveyed her cousin, who was holding a book very close to her eyes.

Miss Fannie concerning her uncle's estate, they had been dead a year, and no one had qualified as administrator.

Why Freit?

Miss Fannie knew the inheritance was hers, and that was that. She was accumulating royalties and dividends from coal mines and timbering and gilt-edged stocks. Why fret?

"But you can't cash the checks," Caldwell said. The uncles had long been ill before their deaths, and Miss Fannie had checks five or six years old, in a great batch of checks.

"I can cash 'em!" Miss Fannie retorted, with emphasis upon the I. She was an only child.

"Well, you try it sometime," Caldwell murmured, but he said it gently. Miss Fannie didn't...

"I LOVED HER SO..." a faithful servant says as the curtain falls upon a great mountain family. "Miss Susie" (Mrs. Susie Fitch) looks at picture of her late mistress, Miss Fannie Moffitt, whose personal property was on the auction block today at Altamont, Grundy County. Against mantel hangs heeded Indian medicine bag, holding Indian doll. It was brought from Indian Territory by Miss Moffitt's father. In cedar chest around $12,500 in checks was found after Miss Moffitt's death.

"Cousin Fannie," said Miss Moffitt, with great deliberation. "I DON'T hear well, but I SURE CAN SEE!"

Ben Caldwell, her Chattanooga attorney, had a similar encounter with Miss Fannie.

"It was back in 1944," Caldwell said, "before I had wound up the estate of her uncles. I suggested that she modernize the house. How about electric light? She said, 'No, sir, No, sir. You're not going to do it! I love to wear GLASSES! and YOU'RE reading under ELECTRIC lights. I read by the old oil lamps—and I don't have to wear GLASSES!' However, she promised to have a bathtub installed. But she never got around to it.
like to be crossed. "Take one over to the store and try to cash it."
She eyed him and hesitated: "Cashed one the other day—"
"How did you sign it?" he asked.
"Signed it myself!" she snapped.
"That's different," Caldwell said. His voice was still very gentle. "It was made out to you. Take one that's made out to an uncle. It's yours, of course. But try to cash it—"
Miss Fannie was suspicious. She said the bank, if qualified as administrator, might take some of her assets "and run off with it." The family had lost money in banks.
"You could sue them and collect," Caldwell assured her. And finally she agreed. In 1947 Caldwell set up a trust fund for her with about $37,000 she had received from a cement company investment. Cement stock had made money for her uncles. Thereby, similar cement stock for the future was all right with Miss Fannie. That's how Caldwell reinvested the $37,000. Today, the trust is said to be valued at $100,000. Pretty soon Miss Fannie was saying to Miss Susie when the lawyer was expected, "Go out and cash it—"

(Continued on Page 23)

Miss Fannie
(Continued from Page 20)

Altamont and across the Cumberland plateau. There are many viewpoints.
Since Miss Fannie's death, a national magazine has had writers and photographers in Altamont, presumably preparing a story about Miss Moffitt, which would make her name known to millions across America.
In death she has acquired a distinction far more than she knew in life. Miss Fanny Moffitt is leaving the last laugh. And her laughter was a great big chesty "Ha! Ha!"

THE FELIX GRUNDY TABLE also will be cried. It was owned by Adrian Northcutt, great-grandfather of the late Miss Moffitt, and is said to have belonged to Grundy, distinguished criminal lawyer, congressman, senator and a member of President Martin Van Buren's cabinet. Grundy was a contemporary of Andrew Jackson.

CHRISTMAS TIME in Miss Fannie Moffitt's mansion, Altamont, Tenn., where auction crowds will swarm Thursday, Friday and possibly Saturday. No husband rocked in the wicker chair—Miss Fannie remained a spinster and left a $400,000 fortune, but no will. At left is one of several big bookcases, all filled with excellent books. Miss Fannie read through the nights and slept when dawn was breaking. This picture was made many years ago.
Moffitt Estate Land, Homes Bring $206,510 At Auction

Altamont—(AP)—The last of the estate of the late Miss Fannie Moffitt, wealthy Altamont spinster, was sold at auction Wednesday when buyers paid $206,510 for 20,000 acres of valuable farmland, timber, and mineral lands and residential properties.

Miss Moffitt, 70, died last September 10, leaving 85,000 acres of land, but an estate valued by the administrator, Coalmont banker Arthur Curtis, at between $300,000 and $300,000. The property, included in about 150 tracts located in and near this mountain town, were inherited by the spinster from her relatives, H. E. B. B., and J. H. Northcutt.

Three auction firms handling the 85,000 acres of land in the sixth district of Grundy County and Marrott paid $29,000 for 10,999 acres of timber and building sites in Altamont. The 12-room brick home where Miss Moffitt resided with her aged companion, Mrs. Fitch, was bought by Vernon Northcutt of Altamont for $11,000, Northcutt paid another $11,000 for timberlands and building sites in the Altamont area.

Property classified as mineral lands by the auction firms sold for $10,350; farm lands, $11,500; timber and residential properties at Beardspring, $6,050; and timber, houses, store buildings and lots in Altamont, $2,750.

Thousands of antique seekers gathered here in December when Miss Moffitt's personal property was sold at auction, bringing a total of $16,226.

Adding this to the proceeds from Wednesday's sale would put the value of the spinster's estate at $222,736.

Mrs. Mabel Maize Ward of Brynn Mawr, Pa., and Fred Potter of Nashville, Miss Moffitt's two surviving children, are expected to receive a big share of the money from the estate real and also the proceeds from the property sale.

Miss Fitch, the spinster's companion, bought a small home across the street from the Moffitt residence at Wednesday's auction for $1,400 and will make her home there.

The elderly woman, beneficiary of a trust fund which Miss Moffitt had set up and Potter agreed to establish, filed a claim for $25,000 against the estate "for services rendered since 1942."

The claim is among 140 or more which Curtis said had been filed against the estate, most of them by persons representing themselves as heirs of the spinster.

Want Ads turn things into cash.

Miss Fannie's Hats, Vases—All Will Go—But Memories

By WILLIAM KEEL
Staff Correspondent
ALTAMONT, Tenn. — The auctioneer had disposed of a large part of the cherished belongings of the old Moffitt-Northcutt mansion by last night—but there's one thing there will never sell.

He can't put a wealth of memories on auction block.

The old-fashioned house and its contents will always be a part of Altamont—in the minds of those who live here. To some, like aging Mrs. Susie Fitch, Miss Fannie (Fannita) Moffitt's companion and servant, the memory will be always lurking. To others, it will grow dim in time.

The auctioneer's gavel, which will pound again tomorrow, by last night had sold nearly $3,000 worth of the cherished heirlooms of one of Grundy county's oldest and most famous old families.

Yesterday's sale amounted to $3,000. The auction will continue tomorrow and Tuesday. In the backyard of the mansion estate is located the first Grundy county courthouse. Miss Fannie used it for a storehouse.

The 62-year-old spinster, a short, plump woman with a way of looking around, didn't leave a will. Her relatives—about 40 of them—are getting ready for the court fight over her property in Tracy City next year.

The court will determine what disposition is to be made of the old house and the real estate.

There are thousands of Miss Fannie's prized possessions—her antique furniture, her bric-a-brac, her silver, her spinning wheels for her property in Tracy City next year.

Gone is the hand-painted china broken by the auctioneer. Gone, too, is the rose. She liked roses printed on dresses, on vases, even on her pocketbook. Many of her hats, most of them wide-brimmed, bore clusters of roses of all descriptions.

Fannie, sweeping along under a fantastic hat in her lovely Oxford, was a familiar sight in Altamont. The combination put even more emphasis on her stocky figure.

What Kind of Woman?

What kind of a woman was Miss Fannie?

You get different answers to that question.

Vernie Smith, who drove her around frequently, tells how on Christmas Eve she would ride to McMinnville and buy expensive presents for her family and friends.

He said Miss Fannie just didn't take to newfangled things.

"She had a 1937 Ford in her garage with 10,000 miles on it but she just let it sit and rust. She never bothered to fix it up and sell it."

Smith said he also drove her to the movies.

"Her favorite actor," he said, "was Clark Gable."

On her finger at all times, he said, was a big diamond.

"She liked to buy dresses that were too small for her," he said. "Then she might have a seamstress alter them."

For 44 Years, Servant

"Miss Susie Fitch, aways was kind to me," Miss Fannie said for 44 years.

"She was a nice person," said Miss Fannie of Miss Fitch. She was her servant for 44 years.

"She was a nice person," said Miss Fannie. She was her servant for 44 years.

"She was good, friendly and sociable. She was a hearty eater. She liked music and she liked to read. And she liked to get about.

What would Miss Fannie think about the auction if she were here?

"She might get a kick out of it, but then again when she saw those people handling her things, she might feel her toe, but she'd never say anything."

She didn't have a quick temper but when she got stirred up she'd say, "Grundy County Judge." "

Bawling said he considered Miss Fannie "a simple, unconventional, friendly person.

She didn't care what anybody thought. She wasn't dependent on anybody for anything. She had everything the needs. She was sufficient unto herself."
Sale Reflects Miss Fannie

By WILLIAM KEEL
Staff Correspondent

ALTAMONT, Tenn.—The colorful personality of Miss Frances (Fannie) Moffitt flared to life again here yesterday as the auctioneer put her prized family possessions on the block.

The first day of a three-day auction put $6,683 into the auctioneer's till for later distribution to relatives.

The late 62-year-old spinster's flair for the colorful and unconventional seemed gaudy to some there who hadn't known her. But to those who did know the eccentric Grundy countian, who died without leaving a will, color was part and parcel of Miss Fannie.

A Kick Out of Life

The spry, rollypoly woman, who got a kick out of square dancing and life in general, died last Sept. 10.

The little mountain city assumed a sort of festive air for the auction yesterday. Oldtimers said it was the biggest sale in their recollection.

The P-TA set up refreshments beside the big, red-shuttered Moffitt-Northcutt mansion.

It also offered a $50 plate lunch in a nearby school to the crowd which came from as far away as New York.

The crowd soon saw yesterday that Miss Fannie, last member of a long dynasty, liked color — bright, blazing red for example.

Red roses were painted on expensive china dishes. A love seat was red and white candy-striped.

But they'll see even more color when her 133 hats, many of them (Continued on Page 16, Column 1)

VISIT THE

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(Fanny Moffitt Home)

ALTAMONT - TENNESSEE

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GRAND OPENING
Real Soon
Of the New
Shell Service Station
In Altamont

This was in the county paper last wk. - Maybe it's wise to have something same day - the Northeast sisters dinners there at court last wk.
**Auction Firms Named For Spinster’s Estate**

**ALTAMONT, Tenn.**—Three auction companies have been chosen to handle the sale of lands and buildings owned by the late Miss Fannie Moffitt, here Aug. 15.

They are the Dave King Auction company, Manchester, the M. P. King Auction company, McMinnville, and the Bob Weston Auction company, Winchester.

Attorneys for the estate will be W. M. Ables and Henry Barker, Tracy City and South Pittsburgh.

20,000 Acres Offered

To be offered at public auction at 10 a.m. (CST) at the courthouse here are approximately 20,000 acres of land, including the 12-room, two-story brick residence where Miss Moffitt lived in semi-seclusion with a friend, Susie Hitch. Another home in the same community and five houses and lots in the nearby resort community of Beechwood Springs will also go up for auction.

Thousands of antique seekers were attracted to this mountain community last December when the wealthy spinster’s personal property was sold in a week-long auction.

Leaves No Will

Miss Moffitt died last Sept. 10, leaving no will but an estate valued at more than $500,000.

More than 300 claims have been made against the Moffitt estate by persons representing themselves by heirs.

When relatives told the elderly spinster that there probably would be a “lot of fighting” over the estate if she did not make a will, Miss Moffitt reportedly answered, “Let ‘em fight.”

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**Miss Fannie’s Hats, Vases—All Will Go—But Memories**

**By WILLIAM KEELE**

Staff Correspondent

ALTAMONT, Tenn. — The auctioneer had disposed of a large part of the cherished belongings of the old Moffitt-Northcutt mansion by last night—but there's one thing there he'll never sell.

He can't part with the wealth of memories on an auction block.

The old-fashioned house and its contents will always be a part of Altamont—in the minds of those who live here. To some, like aging Mrs. Susie Hitch, Miss Francis (Fannie) Moffitt's companion and servant, the memory will be always lingering. To others, it will grow dim in time.

The auctioneer's gavel, which will pound again tomorrow, by last night had sold nearly $12,000 worth of the cherished belongings of one of Grundy county's oldest and most famous old families.

Yesterday, the mansion was appraised to $2,500. The auction will continue tomorrow and Tuesday. In the hall and in the garden, a new owner will take possession. The 12-room mansion estate is located on the Grundy county courthouse town.

Miss Fannie used it for a stovehouse.

The 12-room brick house itself was built in 1885 by N. B. Northcutt, Miss Fannie's grandfather. He was her mother's father. Two mountain fortunes merged when she married James Moffitt.

But the keen-witted Miss Fannie will play the leading role in the memories of most folks when they pass the big, two-story, red-shuttered house on the side of a gently rolling hill.

**Lady of the Roses**

Miss Fannie, the lady of the rose obsession for roses was widely known.

Miss Fannie, the unconventional, who slept by day and read by night, devouring everything from Bible stories to Guy de Maupassant.

Miss Fannie, the mysterious who left this world without leaving a will for reasons only she really knew.

Miss Fannie, the eccentric, who wouldn't hear of installing electricity or plumbing in her home although her fortune would total near a half-million dollars.

Miss Fannie, the music lover, who played the piano and violin, enjoyed listening to the Victrolas.

Miss Fannie, the carefree old lady who liked square dancing and people.

She was Short, Plump

The 65-year-old spinster, a short, plump woman with a wary sense of humor, didn't leave a will. Her relatives—about 40 of them—are getting ready for the court fight for her property in Tracy City next year.

The court will determine what disposition is to be made of the old house and the real estate.

Miss Fannie's perished possessions—her antique furniture, her bric-a-brac, her silver, her spinning wheels, fur coats.

Gone is the hand-painted china—holding Miss Fannie's ever-present rose. She liked roses painted on dresses, on vases, even on her checkbooks. Many of her hats, most of them wide-brimmed, bore clusters of roses of all descriptions.

Miss Fannie, sweeping along under a fantastic hat in her low-heeled Oxfords, was a familiar sight in Altamont. The combination put even more emphasis on her stocky figure.

**What Kind of Woman?**

**What kind of a woman was Miss Fannie?**

You get different answers to that question.

Vernon Smith, who drove her around frequently, tells how on Christmas Eve she would go into McMinnville and buy expensive presents for her family and friends.

He said Miss Fannie just didn't take to newfangled things.

"She had a 1937 Ford in her garage with 10,000 miles on it but she just let it sit and rust. She never bothered to fix it up and sell it."

Smith said he also drove her to the movies.

"Her favorite actor," he said, "was Clark Gable."

"On her finger at all times, he said, was a big diamond.

"She liked to buy dresses that were too small for her;" he said, "and then she would have her seamstress alter them."

For 44 Years, Servant

"Miss Susie" Fitch, swears by Miss Fannie. She was her servant for 44 years.

"She was a nice person," said Miss Susie, who had some tart things to say about relatives who didn't appear on the scene until Miss Fannie 'passed.'

"She was good, friendly and sociable. She was a hearty eater, enjoyed a good meal. She liked music and she liked to read. And she liked to get about too."

What would Miss Fannie think?
"MISS FANNIE'S" TREASURES. Here you see a sterling silver compote of coin silver, 11 inches tall, dating to 1850 and very conservatively appraised at $90. Beside it stands a solid silver epergne by Tiffany (which "Miss Fannie's" attorney thinks should bring $1000). Partly obscured is a 12-inch Wedgwood plaque of 1850 in pale green and white, appraised at $30.

One of Miss Fannie Moffitt's cats curls up atop a box of its mistress's books which are about to be auctioned. Just to the left of the cat, but not shown, is the warm stove, about the only normal thing in the room to the bewildered animal.

Rawlings said he considered Miss Fannie "a simple, unconventional, friendly person."

"She didn't care what anybody thought. She wasn't dependent on anybody for anything. She had everything she needed. She was sufficient unto herself."

---Staff photos by Jack Corn

... as Spinster's Possessions Cross Block
300 Share In
Moffitt Estate

Altamont, Tenn. — (AP) — Chancery court decided Tuesday that nearly 300 persons should share in the estate of wealthy spinster Miss Fannie Moffitt, who reportedly said she would let her heirs fight it out rather than leave a will.

The 18 months of litigation to determine the legal heirs to the approximately $480,000 estate ended when Chancellor Glenn Woodlee approved nearly 300 claims ranging from about $62,000 to $2,500.

An 80-acre timber tract is still tied up in litigation growing out of a belated tax claim by the federal government and disposition of the land could alter the value of the estate. W. M. Ables, South Pittsburg attorney for the administrator, said.

Ables said the heirs will divide about $230,000 and the remaining $250,000 will go for state and federal taxes, attorney fees, expenses and court costs.

Principal among the heirs, who are scattered across the country from California to Pennsylvania, are Mrs. Mable Masie Ward of Philadelphia, and Fred Potter, of Nashville. Mrs. Ward's legacy is estimated at about $82,000; Potter's at about $41,000.

Miss Moffitt died in 1935 in her large home here and although it was equipped with electricity and telephones, she frowned on such modern conveniences and she and her companion, Mrs. Susie Fitch, got by on kerosene lamps and without indoor plumbing.

The elderly spinster reportedly said when advised if she did not leave a will her heirs would fight over the estate, "Let 'em fight!

The Dresden compote atop this sideboard is valued at $50. It was made about 1875. Other treasures include a pair of early Pittsburgh flint glass cornets dating to 1830 and appraised at $150, a Hepplewhite corner cupboard of inlaid cherry (made about 1790), an Empire table said to have belonged to Felix Grundy, $5,000 in diamonds, and much more.

142 File Claims As Heirs
Of Grundy's Miss Fannie

TRACY CITY—A total of 142 persons have listed themselves as claimants to the estate of the late Miss Fannie Moffitt of Grundy County, who left a fortune estimated at $500,000 to $600,000.

Miss Moffitt, the subject of a Nashville Banner feature serial in December, left no will. "Let 'em fight" she told her attorney, Ben Caldwell of Chattanooga.

Twenty-two attorneys, representing contenders, Wednesday attended a pre-trial conference before Chancellor Glen W. Woodlee in the Tracy City courthouse.

The attorneys came from Nashville, St. Louis, Chicago, Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, McMinnville, Dayton, South Pittsburg and Winchester. The number also included Grundy County attorneys, Miss Moffitt's family home, the spacious old Northcut-Moffitt mansion, is located in Altamont, Grundy County.

A Nashville man, Fred S. Potter, 61, of Sweetbriar Ave., is expected to receive a sizeable portion of the mercantile, coal and timber fortune. Around 8,000 acres of land are involved. Potter is a first cousin of the late heireess.

The attorneys had one general purpose, to clarify the status of the various claimants.

A. D. Litton and Pat Lynch of Winchester were among the guardians appointed to represent some of the "Unknown Heirs."

The court will hear the involved issues at the next regular term in May.
Bisque, Antique Furniture Await Altamont Auction

Miss Moffitt loved hats. About 50 original models, from the best shops of Chattanooga and Nashville, were found in her bleak, uncarpeted and unpapered bedroom. Most of them, in pastel colors, were lush with gay roses, ostrich plumes, pheasant feathers, rhinestones and fur. A woman called them "$50 hats." Notice fine old federal table, too. These items and coutness others will be offered at the Altamont auction, Wednesday through Friday.

She also "loved bisque and milk glass." Costlier pieces, including figurines, have been removed to a bank vault for safekeeping. See the superb Staffordshire hen, third shelf from top?
... as Spinster's Possessions Cross Block

Auctioneers' helpers hold aloft a "gents chair," enjoyed for generations by the old Northcutt family, as prospective buyers put a mental price tag on it. It sold for $75.

Miss Fannie And Her Money

MISS FANNIE'S PARLOR, in its prime. From the phonograph, searchers recovered $1,050, after Miss Fannie's death.
But the sale goes on and the auctioneer's helpers display a huge antique chest of drawers as the crowd of 2000 watches closely. Some of the buyers came from as far away as New York.

Time Out for Make-Believe ...

ALTAMONT, Tenn.—Three-year-old Lucy Smith of Tullahoma, Tenn., wants to see just how she looks decked in one of Miss Fannie Moffitt's rose-plied hats and rose-painted pocket-books. Miss Fum was obsessed by the beauty of a rose. Lucy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Sib.
SOLID SILVER—This three-foot high epagone (table center piece) was sold for $535 to Martin Scott of Alexandria. Holding the silver piece is George A. Smith of the Chattanooga Auction Galleries.

Sale Of Miss Fannie’s Effects Grosses $6,677 On First Day

(By Ed Huddleston
(Banner Staff Writer)

There’s nothing slipshod so far about the settlement of Miss Fannie Moffitt’s $400,000 estate. Auctioneers chanted up $1,100 per hour to its credit Thursday. In six hours of selling personal property they grossed $6,677.40. As the first day of the sale ended, accountants were only $3.45 out of balance, despite the hubbub.

Author R. Curtis, cashier of the Bank of Coolmont, is administrator. A few pieces of fine old furniture failed to bring what had been anticipated, but virtually all items moved speedily, at good but not sky-high prices.

Curtis, however, apparently decided the eager crowd of antique hunters was no plush market for diamonds. One of the late Miss Moffitt’s two large diamonds, well in excess of two carats, was bought in by the administrator at $3,750. The second was not offered. It is expected they will be marketed later through jewelers.

A virtually interested spectator, as the Moffitt household was dismembered, was a Philadelphia lawyer, Richard C. (Dick) Sorlien, representing Mrs. Mabel Massie Ward, about 62, of Brynmaur, Pa.

A first cousin of Miss Moffitt, she may receive two-thirds of the estate—her own share and that of her brother who died about two weeks ago.

Mrs. Ward did not attend the sale. However, she has asked that Miss Moffitt’s diamond broach, appraised well in excess

Continued on back
Moffitt Auction Surpasses
$10,000; Enters Third Day

(See Related Story on Page 3)

BY ED HUDDLESTON
Banner Staff Writer

Tracy City—Ten thousand dollars in two days.

That much has poured into the estate of the late Miss Fannie Moffitt in two days of auctioneering at Altamont in Grundy County. Sale of her personal property is in its third day.

Next Friday and Saturday other articles from her household will be auctioned at Altamont, Arthur R. Curtis, administrator, said. Included will be furnishings of other houses which Miss Moffitt owned in Hearne, Abbeville, and Amphawa Springs and Altamont.

All articles so far sold and those slated for the hammer today have come from Miss Moffitt's 12-room family mansion. Seventy years in the heart of Altamont. Contents from "two full bedrooms" are yet to go, said Ben E. Caldwell, her Chattanooga attorney. Miss Moffitt's personal Victorian bedroom set is to be sold today.

Sales Pass $3,700

Friday's sales grossed slightly more than $3,700, about half the Thursday total of $6,777. Bisque mill glass, Majolica, cut glass, much silver, and many books constituted the bulk of the offerings Friday.

A pair of flint glass compotes and several bisque figurines will be sold today. Miss Moffitt's finest bisque pair sold Friday afternoon.

They were a baker-boy with his baskets and a plump little girl companion-piece. About 11 inches tall, the pair brought $130. Other bisque pieces went for $8, $40 (a girl and a dog), and a good pair, about 12 inches tall, brought $47.

One was the figure of a girl with a white hat and three yellow biddies at her feet. The other was a boy with fighting roosters before him. One rooster's wing was clipped, which reduced the price. A miniature wolf was among the bisque pieces.

Miss Fannie like heart-and-flower patterns, and a small heart-shaped dish of blue, milk glass dinner-ring is said to be heart shaped. With her other dainty, it is expected to be marketed through jewelers.

Her squirrel coat with broad mink cuffs brought $130, bought by Mrs. Naomi Schenck of Glenwood Motel, Chattanooga. She also purchased Miss Moffitt's best piece of Wedgwood Friday. It was a pale green and white plaque with three figures. Price: $112. Mrs. Schenck bought the Felix Grundy table Thursday for $170.

Pitcher Brings $37

A two-pint Sterling pitcher sold for $37 and brought from the auctioneer the comment "that would have brought $80 yesterday. The crowd of five to six hundred sat in a heated tent or drifted about through the house and yard.

A superb Staffordshire hen, about to go for around $57.50, was bought by Miss Moffitt's attorney, Caldwell, for $40, as a gift for Mrs. Caldwell. It had been appraised at a larger figure, and the auctioneer told the crowd, "It's worth $200." He is Charles W. Clements of Chattanooga Auction Galleries.

The hen, shown in a BANNER picture earlier this week, was beaded made about 1850. A hand-woven coverlet brought $45, and a 40-piece set Haviland china went for $150. Forty Mexican silver dollars sold for $37.

A Majolica vase brought $6; six Sterling soup spoons, $6; and six individual salt dips with tiny spoons, all Sterling, $15. Many sets of knives, forks, and spoons were cried, many of heavy Sterling.

At one point, Mrs. Susie (Miss Susie) Pitch, Miss Moffitt's companion and servant, said, "Think I'll pile up the rocks and sell them too...."

A BANNER reporter was about to pick up a bisque figurine. "Don't touch them, a gardent cautioned. "Miss Susie" intervened in the reporter's behalf: "He told the truth about Miss Fannie ... the truth will stand when the world's on fire."

of $800, and a diamond ring, be acquired as a portion of her share.

Miss Moffitt took much interest in the richness and number of her hats, "and we have found 159," said Ben E. Caldwell, her Chattanooga attorney. Several hats were sold Thursday.

More will be sold today, but the drop in temperature on the mountain may reduce the crowd, estimated Thursday in excess of 1,000.

The sale is expected to be completed Saturday. Miss Moffitt, we think we will have a runmage sale," Curtis said. No date has been announced.

As the sale was cried, and hundreds swarmed the property, Miss Moffitt's faithful old dog, Pup, looked out a window from an upstairs room. Mrs. Susie Pitch, 77, who has served Miss Moffitt 44 years, is taking good care of the grieving dog, about nine years old.

China and silverware are expected to comprise a sizable part of today's offerings. Much of it is Victorian or Edwardian.

The top price Thursday was paid for a solid silver epergne by Tiffany, about three feet tall. It brought $635. Miss Moffitt's mother is said to have paid well in excess of $1,000 for the elaborate banquet table piece. It was bought by Martin Scott, auctioneer and insurance man of Alexandria, Tenn. He indicated he may recall it. A tureen, rare port compote, of coin silver, brought $275.

Top price in furniture was brought by a Hepplewhite corner cupboard. A massive thing, pegged together it stands nine feet tall. The cupboard dates to 1790.

The buyer was Miss Margaret Rowan of Athens, Tenn., who paid $500. "I came to buy it, and I definitely plan to keep it," she said happily. A distant relative of Miss Moffitt's had stayed in the bidding until the price reached $425.

An Empire-style table, once owned by Felix Grundy, sold for $170 to Mrs. Naomi Schenck of Glenwood Motel, Chattanooga.

In a few weeks the refinished table, roundtop, may be seen there.

An early tavern table, which aroused much interest among authorities on antiques, failed to stir the fancy of the crowd. Battered and in need of extensive repair, it sold for only $25.

"Best buy of the day," said Charles W. Clements, auctioneer. He is with Chattanooga Auction Galleries, the firm conducting the sale.
WHERE A DREAM HAS ENDED... other dreams will begin.
New owners will bring new hope to this solid cherry four-poster.
It also belonged to Adrian Northcutt, father of 15 children, who
began the family fortune at his "stockade" or trading post in 1825.
The bed long has stood in the first-floor bedroom of the 12-room
Altamont house.

ONE OF MISS FANNIE MOFFITT'S TREASURES. This
Hepplewhite corner cupboard of inlaid cherry will be cried to the
highest bidder at the two-or-three-day auction which begins at
10 a.m. today in Altamont, Grundy County. Will it bring $500?
$800? $1,000. A family heirloom, it's nine or 10 feet tall and
believed made about 1790.

SOLD FOR $500—Miss Margaret Rowan of Athens, Tenn. paid
the highest price Thursday for furniture. She bought the Hepple-
white cupboard of inlaid cherry which dates to about 1790.

-Miss Fannie and Her Money

-Staff Photos by Don Foster
THE BIDDERS and the curious huddle around the auction area at Altamont in Grundy County as the heirlooms of Miss Fannie Moffitt go on the block.

In this courthouse at Tracy City about 80 persons, asserting kinship, will fight over the $400,000 estate of the late Miss Fannie Moffitt of Altamont, Grundy County, according to Ben E. Caldwell, Chattanooga attorney who has represented the spinster-heiress for 14 years.

GRANDSTAND SEAT—Gregory Fultz, 8, Michael Fultz, 10, and Brent Fultz, 5, (top to bottom) didn't let the crowd at Altamont rob them of a view of the auction of Miss Fannie Moffitt's heirlooms. All are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Fultz of Altamont.
And some were disappointed. "Oh, I do want that," Mrs. Bess Tankersly, right, seems to be saying to herself as she examines a copper luster pitcher. But her bid wasn't quite high enough.
Mrs. Susie Fitch, Miss Fannie Moffitt’s servant for 44 years, seems to be clinging desperately to her memories of a chapter in her life that is closing during her 77th year. Is she wondering what the future holds?

“Oh, no, it can't be true,” murmurs Mrs. Susie (Miss Susie) Fitch as she sees the possessions of her late mistress, Miss Frances Moffitt, sold at public auction.

“MISS FANNIE’S” COAT of golden squirrel is donned by Mrs. Susie Fitch to accommodate Banner photographer Bob White. “Miss Susie” lived with Miss Fannie 44 years as faithful companion and servant. She’s in the chilly parlor of the old mansion at Altamont, built in 1885 by the mountain merchant-prince, H. B. Northcutt, Miss Fannie’s grandfather.
Moffitt Sale Ends; Auction Hits $16,226

ALTAMOUNT, Tenn.—(AP) The public auction of the late Miss Fannie Moffitt's personal property ended yesterday with the total amount paid for the hundreds of articles reaching $16,226.49.

The sale began last Thursday as a three-day event, but it was extended to five days in order to dispose of the many antiques, clothing articles and other items taken from the wealthy spinster's 12-room brick home here.

Arthur Curtis, Coalmont banker who is administrator of the Moffitt estate, expressed satisfaction with the auction, pointing out that the total amount paid by buyers was about twice the appraised value of the articles offered.

Miss Moffitt died intestate last Sept. 10, leaving few close relatives and an estate that has been estimated in value at more than $300,000.

A crowd of 500 packed the opening day sale in front of the spinster's home last Thursday, but the number of antique hunters dwindled as the auction progressed.

Curtis said last night that the only articles remaining to be sold

Last of Miss Fannie's Land Sold; Bid Increase Expected

Winchester—The story of Miss Fannie Moffitt, elderly spinster who left no will so her heirs "could fight over" her estate is drawing to a close.

A final page was written Saturday when 30 acres of pine, the only remaining property of Miss Moffitt, went across the auction block. High bidder for the property, on Cumberland Mountain on State Highway 36, was the Greater Lumber Co. of Altamont, which originally held an option on the land.

Bob Winton of Winchester, one of the auctioneers handling the sale through Chancery Court, said the high bid amounted to $29,230.

He explained that other bidders have 25 days in which to raise the bid and that a raise must amount to 10 per cent or more. He also stated that he, Dave King of Manchester and M. P. King of McMinnville, the heads of the other realty companies assisting in the disposal of the property, expected the bid to be raised very shortly.

It was pointed out that in event the bid is raised another sale will be held in front of the courthouse at Altamont.

When the sale is confirmed by Chancery Court and all expenses are paid, the money will be divided among the many relatives of Miss Moffitt, who are reported to be receiving from $82,000 to $250.

Also assisting in the sale were Ables and Barker, attorneys from South Pittsburg and Tracy City.

Miss Moffitt died in September, 1956.
Buyers Crowd in as Old Family
Heirlooms Go on Block

The Moffitt-Northcutt mansion yard is crowded as the auctioneer, standing on a platform on
the porch, disposes of the old Grundy county family's cherished heirlooms.

Sale Reflects Miss Fannie
(Continued From Page One)

rose-adorned, are put on the block
today or tomorrow.
Miss Fannie, an outspoken per-
son with a sharp wit, would
probably have snorted and made
very remarks about some of the
prices paid for antiques handed
down through the Northcutt and
Moffitt families for generations.
Nine dollars for one of her gaily
colored, handpainted bowls, for
example.
And the remarks from awed
matrons as the silver services
were brought out would have
brought forth a smile from Miss
Fannie.

She would probably have
chuckled had she known the
proverbial Philadelphia lawyer
had shown up to help clarify the
legal tangle she created by not
writing a will.

The lawyer is Richard C. Sor-
lier, attorney for Mrs. Mabel
Ward, a first cousin of Phila-
delphia, seeking a share of the
estate.

Also on hand were Mr. and Mrs.
Fred Potter of 1401 Sweetbriar
ave, Nashville. Potter, a state
highway department clerk, is
seeking another major share of
the estate as a first cousin.

"Oohs" and "alas" greeted many
of the articles as they were
brought out of the big, two-story
mansion to the crowd in front
yesterday.

A 1790-1800 corner cupboard,
put together with wooden pegs,
brought $500 from Miss Margaret
Rowan of Chattanooga. She added
an antique table for $82.50.

Martin Scott, antique and au-
tomobile dealer of Alexandria,
Tenn., paid $535 for a fabulous
silver epergne. A sterling silver
punch bowl went for $275 and
15 deep silver plates for $26
a piece.

A table, estimated to be 200
years old, was sold for $170. It
was given the Northcutt family by
Felix Grundy, for whom the

county is named. He was at one
time postmaster general under
President Martin Van Buren,
Andrew Jackson's political pro-
teges.
A red and white striped love
seat was sold for $80, a "gents"chair for $75. A broken chair
brought $17.50.

But Miss Fannie would have
frowned severely had she heard
the price on one of her most per-
sonal and prized belongings—her
violin. It sold for $27.50.
Mrs. Fowler, Teacher, Dies

Mrs. Ethel Lockhart Fowler, retired schoolteacher of the Elora community, died Sunday at Lincoln County Hospital following a long illness. She was 80 years old and the widow of H. A. Fowler, a former state senator.

Services were Tuesday at the Elora Cumberland Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. R. E. Burroughs and the Rev. Leslie Jacobs officiating. Burial was in the McClure Cemetery near Huntland, with Gallant Funeral Home in charge.

Mrs. Fowler was a native of Grundy County. Following graduation from Ward-Belmont College in Nashville, she taught school in Grundy County and at one time served as principal of Altamont High School, and later as principal of a school in Alabama.

She then attended Teacher's Normal College in Murfreesboro and taught in the Lincoln County school system for 32 years prior to her retirement in 1957. A member of the first Parent-Teachers Association organized in the Elora Elementary School, she was presented a lifetime membership in the national PTA.

She was a member of the Elora Cumberland Presbyterian Church and of the Lincoln County Retired Teachers' Association.

Survivors include three sisters, Mrs. Irene Lusk of Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Hazel Lusk of Morrison and Mrs. Georgia Lee Eller of Asheville, N. C., and a brother, Hugh Lockhart, also of Asheville, N. C.
What Jennie Moffett's death meant to me—Written by Ethel Lockhart Fowler Scott

As a reminder, Jennie Moffett was the Altamont Spencer, whose estate was over $250,000, who passed away Sept. 10, 1955. She was the granddaughter of the late H.B. Northcutt of the H.B. Northcutt & Sons Merchantile Store, which was the only store for years in the mountain town of Altamont, Grundy Co., Tenn.

Jennie Moffett and I went to school together. She was worth thousands of dollars, I was just a little mountain girl, one of five children in a working family.

Jennie's mother was a teacher and was very much interested in the children of the town. She was known to us as "Miss Jim."

Miss Jim was a well-educated lady for that time—a college graduate and had traveled extensively. Her methods of teaching were many years ahead of the times she lived.

Miss Jim was not only my school teacher, but was also my music teacher—Oh, how we children loved and idealized her is beyond
In these days school buildings were very bare, with practically no equipment. One year Mr. Jim had desk made of different heights to suit different heights of children, also bought chairs for each desk for the schoolroom that we might be more comfortable, which we were overjoyed to have instead of the long straight benches that had been in use for years.

She furnished so many things for our conveniences that are too numerous to mention, as pencils, scissors, writing pads, pictures & magazines.

It was through Mr. Jim's teaching that I learned to appreciate good reading and literature. She instilled in me a desire for the best and an appreciation of love of the great musicians, paintings & writers.

She had a wonderful library. She shared her books with any who would take good care of them & returned them.
Having this privilege and trust shown to me impressed me for life. I learned early in life, to read good books. I have never had any desire to read trashy literature.

Miss Lyn, also had a music class. There were several real talented music pupils in this little town—I wasn't one of the talented, but I learned to love the music of the great musicians. I do so much appreciate this love for good music that she instilled in me. She took some of us girls with her to Nashville when she and Fannie went to hear a special musician singing. That came Nashville. Of course she was giving her daughter these advantages and she was kind enough to let some of us other girls share these advantages, that Fannie might enjoy herself more. I can't look back and feel so thankful that I had a chance to partake of some of these blessings—otherwise I couldn't have had—
Miss Tim wanted her daughter to become interested in art, paintings, and fine China. So it was she that got to share some of these to along with Fannie. I was especially interested in China and hand-painted China. Fannie and I started a set of China. She chose hand-painted Haviland. I chose plain white Haviland. I couldn't afford a set of hand-painted Haviland.

I bought mine, a few pieces at a time till I got a set service for 64. Miss Tim had taken a course in China painting and had taught a few. She was going to teach me to paint, but she never got that far. I went away to teach and I became a country elementary school teacher. Miss Tim taught this China through her father for whole sale price. He was a merchant. She was sweet enough to let me pay only the price that she got it for. So there I became a great lover of China and...
Crystal—she never refused to give me any suggestions that I asked for. But slide I. The Christian training my parents gave me, Miss Jim and the persons that created, instilled in me a love for the better things of life, as good literature, a love for high type music and art. I can look back and feel so thankful that the I was a little mountain girl, that Miss Jim lived in this little town too—that I happened to be one she liked—and chose as one of the associates for Fannie.
MISCELLANEOUS SHOWER FOR BRIDE-ELECT

On Friday afternoon, May 16, Mrs. H. A. Fowler and Mrs. P. A. Damron entertained with a miscellaneous shower in the lovely home of Mrs. Fowler at Elora, complimenting Miss Carole Patrick, whose marriage to Donald R. Stuart will be an event of June 1.

Mrs. B. B. Higgins presided at the register, which was uniquely and attractively arranged under a pale blue umbrella.

The guests gathered in the attractive living rooms of the home, where a number of bouquets of summer flowers added their beauty to the decor of the occasion, which carried out a Florida scene, and was recreated to represent their wedding trip to Florida.

Mrs. Damron conducted two contests, with Mrs. Don E. Stuart and Miss Patrick winning the prizes. Mrs. Stuart presented her gift to the bride, which was a crystal toothpick holder concealed in a miniature bridal hat designed by her aunt, Mrs. Emmett Owens.

The gifts were presented in a small wagon decorated with an umbrella, drawn by Thomas Aubrey Rice, dressed in a raincoat and rain hat.

After the gifts were opened, Miss Jane Rice and Mrs. Charles Rice assisted the hostesses in serving an appropriate afternoon plate, on which were individual decorated cakes with miniature pastel parasols as favors, lime punch, pastel mints and nuts, from a lovely appointed lace-covered table decorated with silver candelabra with white tapers and a flower arrangement of white gladioli.

The honor guest was attired in a pink summer cotton frock with white accessories and wore a corsage of white carnations.
MISS PATRICIA
HONORS BRIDESMAIDS

On last Friday noon, Miss Carole Pat- 
crick entertained at Largent Motor Inn, complimenting her wedding 
attendants. Miss Patrick became the 
wife of Don Stuart, Jr., on Sun-
dy afternoon.
The table was decorated with 
handsome arrangements of pink 
carnations, clusters of pink wed-
ding bells and greenery, and the 
places were marked by individual 
corsages which carried out the 
same color scheme.
Seated with Miss Patrick were 
Miss Rebecca Duffield of Bristol, 
Tenn., Miss Sally Lamberton, Miss 
Sendra Lamberton, Miss Claudia 
Pittenger, Miss Sally Mitchell, Miss 
Catherine Patrick, Mrs. Don Stuart, 
mother of Miss Patrick's fiance, 
and Mrs. Emmett Owens, aunt of the 
bride.
Miss Patrick presented each of 
her guests with jewelled purse 
boxes, adorned with pink mother-
of-pearl. She wore a navy blue 
sheath, trimmed with touches of 
white, and her flowers were a pink 
shoulder corsage.

PARTY HONORS MISS PATRICIA

On last Tuesday evening, Mrs. H. F. Holtz entertain in her home 
on Swanson Blvd., honoring Miss 
Carole Patrick, a bride-elect of the 
season, at a miscellaneous shower. 
Fourteen guests were present to en-
joy the occasion with Miss Patrick. 
Games and contests were played.
Miss Patrick was attired in a 
brooch of beige brocaded cotton-
satin, with which she wore white 
accessories and white flowers. After 
the opening of the gifts, Mrs. Holtz 
was assisted by Mrs. Reuel Adams 
in serving delightful refreshments.

Party For Miss Patrick

On Thursday afternoon at one 
o'clock Mrs. Harold Patrick honor-
ed Miss Carol Patrick, a recent 
bride, with a Fragrance Luncheon 
at her home. Several of Miss Pat-
rick's friends attended.
The dining table was decorated 
with pink carnations. A pink um-
rella with streamers formed an at-
ttractive centerpiece. Each frag-
rance gift was laid at the end of a 
streamer. The living room and din-
ing room carried out the pink 
theme.
The guests were served a three 
course luncheon with a salad plate 
as the main course.
Afterwards, the guests enjoyed an 
informal musical program.
MISS PATRICK. MR. STUART
MARRIED HERE SUNDAY

The First Methodist Church in
Fayetteville was the scene on Sun-
day afternoon of the wedding of
Miss Carole Patrick, daughter of
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Patrick, to
Don Stuart, Jr., son of Mr. and
Mrs. Donald E. Stuart, all of Fay-
etteville.

The church was illuminated with
bunting tapers, in seven-branched
standard candelabra, and the altar
was decorated with a large ar-
rangement of white stock, white
gladioli, and white pompons, with
huckleberry vine entwining the al-
tar and the candle sticks.

A program of appropriate music
was rendered by Mrs. Walter Tan-
nner, vocalist, and Mrs. Frank Pigg,
organist.

Rev. E. E. Walkup of Nashville,
and Rev. C. B. Smith of the Fay-
etteville church, performed the
double ring ceremony.

The bride, whose brunette beauty
was enhanced by her bridal toilette,
entered with her father, by whom
she was given in marriage. Her
dress was waltz length, of imported
Chantilly lace posed over taffeta.
The dress was styled with a sweet-
heart neckline, fitted bodice with
full skirt, and the long sleeves came
to Calla points over the hands. Her
veil of imported illusion was caught
to a Juliet cap of the lace, and the
cap was trimmed with satin beads
and seed pearls. She carried a white
prayer book, which bore two white
orchids, and from which fell a
shower of white satin ribbons and
tiny love knots.

Miss Rebecca Duffield of Bristol
was Miss Patrick's maid of honor.
Her frock was of blue embroidered
organdy, with a matching cummer-
bund of satin, and she carried a
Colonial nesgay of pink carnations
and pink miniature sweethearth roses.

The bride's two sisters, Misses
Jane and Catherine Patrick, were
her bridesmaids. They wore dresses
of pink embroidered organdy, with
pink cummerbunds, finished with a
bustle bow in the back. To the
bow was caught a single pink rose.

Thomas Barnes of Fayetteville
was Mr. Stuart's best man. Ushers
includedTerrell Curtis of Good-
ettsville, Robert Reed of Miami,
Fla., Francis Jacekels of Murfrees-
boro, and Harry Robertson of Mur-
freesboro.

For her daughter's wedding Mrs.
Patrick chose a yellow embroidered
organza, with white accessories, and
her flowers were a white shoulder
corsage. Mrs. Stuart's frock was of
pale blue lace, and her flowers
were baby roses in shades of pink.

Immediately following the cere-
mony Mr. and Mr. Patrick enter-
tained the wedding guests at a re-
ception in the parlor of the church.
Assisting them were Mrs. Carter
Mitchell, Mrs. George Lamberton,
Miss Claudia Pittenger, Miss Bar-
bara Raby. A background of music
was supplied by Miss Sally Mitch-
ell, pianist, and Misses Sandra and
Sally Lamberton kept the register.

After the reception the bride and
groom left for a wedding trip in
Florida, after which they will be
at home in Murfreesboro. For trav-
elling the bride changed to a beige
sheath of embroidered cotton, with
which she wore accessories of tur-
quise, and caught to her shoulder
were the orchids from her wedding
bouquet.