

room cause it was the only ballroom that had a springing floor. There were springs underneath the floor. When you danced the floor would kind of, you know, sway, go down, you know, with the music.

Z: I'll be darned. Who owned these businesses?

T: Jimmy Jackson owned the barber shop and I just can't recall the man that run the restaurant at that time. And then later on in life when I was going to school there was a barber shop on Ninth Street and a restaurant. There used to be a hotel on that corner that was owned by a colored man he had a restaurant and adjoining it was a cleaning establishment, that was owned by a colored man and then the barber shop.

Z: Who shopped at the colored businesses? Were the customers mostly colored or were there white customers also?

T: It was mixed.

Z: Was there feeling among the colored people that they should support the businesses?

T: They had to, they had no other places of business to trade, you know, when it come to restaurants, amusement, you know, things like that.

Z: What about Jimmy Jackson's barber shop?

T: Well, he was sort of a radical, he wouldn't cater to white people because he said white people wouldn't cater to him. So they would come in for a hair cut and he would refuse them... he was radical in politics, he was deadset Republican regardless and I used to get my hair cut with him all the time and during the Roosevelt administration I turned Democrat and he talked about the Democrats so awfully bad that I just quit going.

Z: What about Pantatorium Brown?

T: Why, he was a fine man and he married a Lawrence woman. Where he came from I don't know, but he was good in the cleaning establishment and then they had an explosion and he caught on fire and he was terribly disfigured.

Z: When was this?

T: Well, that was during the time that he was in the cleaning establishment and he was quite disfigured. But after that he remodeled and continued with his cleaning establishment. He married one of the Gleed girls and the Gleeds were supposed to be one of the higher-ups and the rich. And Mr. Gleed had a feed store out where Twenty-third and Rusty's is now.

Z: You're speaking of a kind of upper class here. Were there any other colored men who fit in this category that you can recall?

T: Yes, we had a colored doctor named William Harvey and a--well, there were several. There was John Clark, justice of the peace and his son is a cousin of mine, Leonard, Jr., who graduated from Washburn and attended KU and he taught history at the high school for one or two years, he was my daughter's teacher. And then he left and went back to the law school and then after that he was connected with a law firm in Kansas City.

Z: What about the Byrds, the Kansas Robe and Rug Tannery?

T: Oh, yes, the Byrds. That's down where Lincoln Park is, you know, south of the hospital, used to be an old brick building in there and the younger girl used to run around with us, her name was Cornelia. And they were very fair people and one of the girls had a boy by--you don't want this in here, do you?

Z: What ever you'd prefer. Doesn't bother me.

T: Well, it doesn't matter to me. Well, the father of this child was a Mr. Perkins and he owned the



Perkins Trust Company and it's that building now that's right across from the Eldridge Hotel on the east side on the corner.

Z: Where Strong Office Supply was?

T: Yes, that's where it was. And then that was turned, after he committed suicide, then that was turned into a bank. Seems to me like he had a part in the bank and he had swindled a lot of money and then where the Medical Arts Building is, that's where he lived, was a great big brick building and the county bought it, why this Mr. Perkins according to history got on top and jumped off and killed himself. So as to keep from being exposed from the swindle and of course, the heirs I guess received the money that he had taken. Now that was all handed down to me, I can't experience that as being the truth myself, that's from my parents.

Z: Can you tell me a little bit about the King Hotel on Vermont Street?

T: Well, it was just an ordinary old wood-frame hotel.

Z: Except that it was run...

T: By a colored man and I just can't recall his name.

Z: It was built around the turn of the century by Lemuel King, then I believe it was run after that by the Scotts, William and Katherine Scott.

T: Well, I think later on that the Scotts had a rooming house and a restaurant just north of the old library where that filling station is (9th and Vermont.) They had a rooming house there and a restaurant.

Z: That's where the King was.

T: Yes. Because I was fry cook there at night when I was there.

Z: When there was a big colored club meeting or a banquet were these usually held in the King Hotel?

T: Yes. That was the only place that they could hold a meeting and Maraian Anderson, you know, the singer, she came to KU for a performance and the hotel wouldn't accept her and she had to go to a colored sorority to live while she did the performance and this was at eleven hundred and something Mississippi and it was owned and operated by Mrs. Marina Landcamp.

Z: Why would the hotel not let her stay?

T: She was colored.

Z: What about the King Hotel, why wouldn't she stay there?

T: Well, I think at that time the King Hotel had been disposed of.

Z: Was there any kind of a club or organization that the colored businessmen had?

T: Well, later on we had a club that both North Lawrence and South Lawrence people belonged to and we met at Lincoln School. It was kind of like the North Lawrence Improvement Association and the East Lawrence Improvement Association and Old West Lawrence trying to better our living and business conditions. The first president was a Mr. Smothers, he was the organizer and he was the president for quite some time. And then it finally faded away.

Z: Did the club make any improvements?

T: Well, yes, when it came to the Welfare Department recognizing the needs of colored people.

Z: You were a friend of Langston Hughes, weren't you?

T: Oh, we were kids together.

Z: Yeah, what was he like when he was a boy?

T: Wonderful, very jovial and pleasant and everybody

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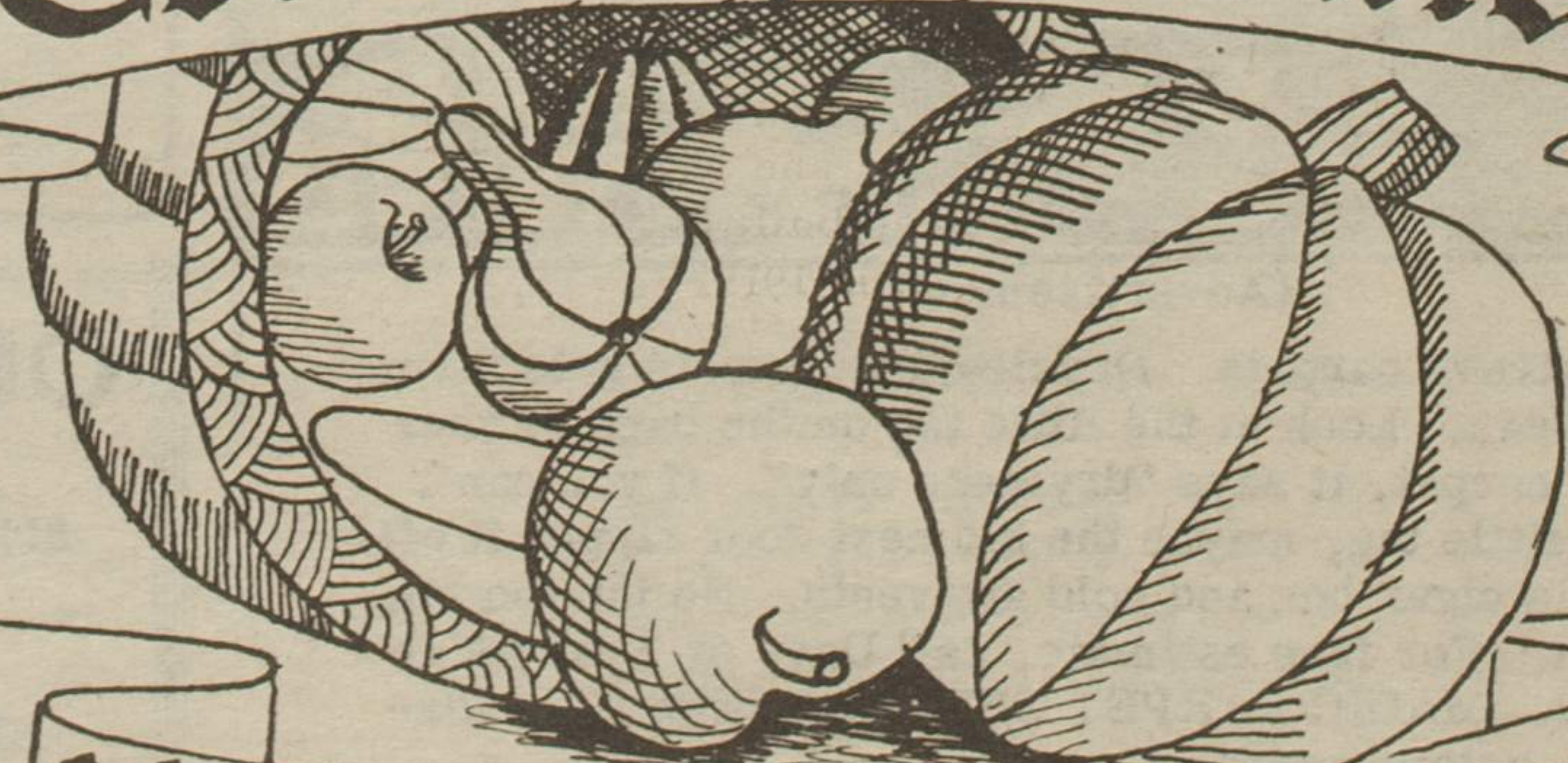
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