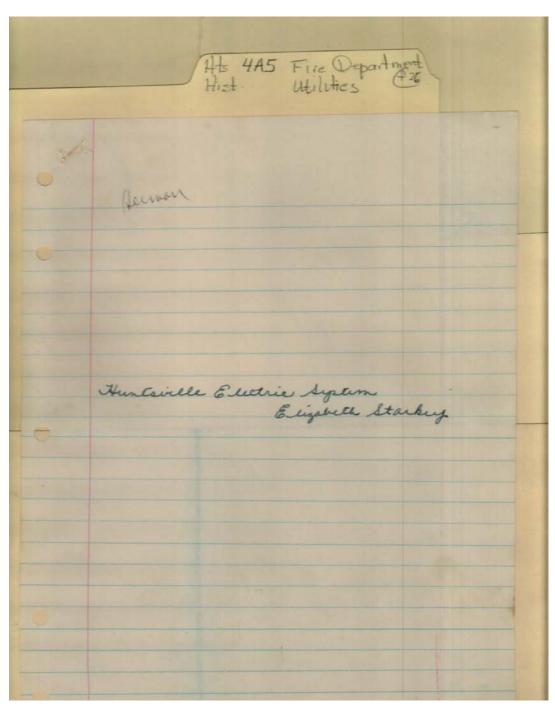
Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 1 r04a05-26-000-0141 Contents Index About



Names:

Huntsville Electric System Starkey, Elizabeth

Places:

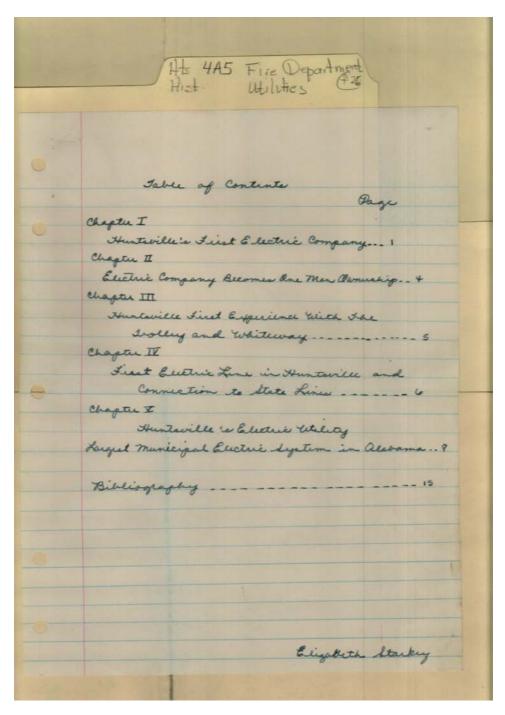
Huntsville, AL

Types:

memo

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 2 r04a05-26-000-0142 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Electric System Starkey, Elizabeth

Places:

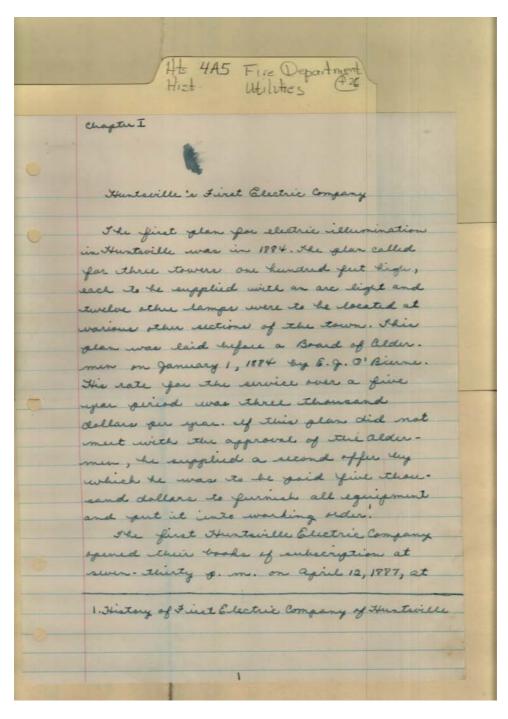
Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Image 3 r04a05-26-000-0143 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Electric Company O'Beirne, E. J.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 4 r04a05-26-000-0144 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>

Ats 4A5 Fire Department Hist Utilities 426
2
The law office of William Richardson
and was fully organized april 13, 1887
and interporated by april 26, 1987.
The afficere of this feet company
were as follows:
Charles IV. Halsey Bresident
R. E. Spragine Secretary and Freeurer
Charles IV. Halvey Board of Directors.
Growt Robinson
The stockholdure were as follows: William Richardson 100 shares
Samuel N. Lawry 80 shares
George a . Ligineatt 80 shares
Charles H. Halary 80 shares
Robert E. Sgragens 80 shares
Lawrence Cargue 90 shous'
een may, 1887, a building was
1. History of Friet Electric Company of Huntwille

Names:

Cooper, Lawrence Halsey, Charles H.

Lipincott, George A. Lowery, Samuel H.

Richardson, William Robinson, Ernest Spragins, R. E.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

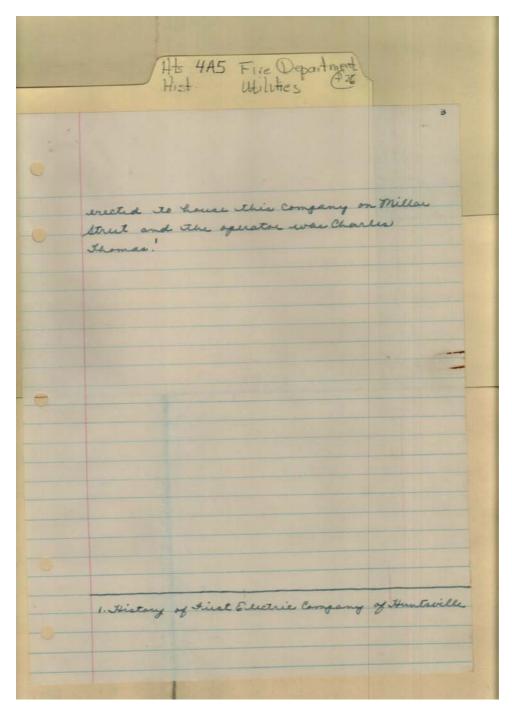
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 5 r04a05-26-000-0145 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Thomas, Charles

Places:

Huntsville, AL

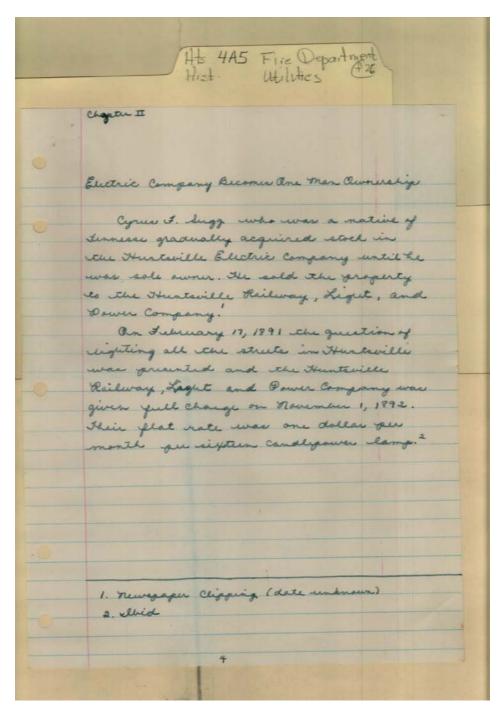
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 6 r04a05-26-000-0146 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Electric Company

Huntsville Railway, Light, and Power Co. Sugg, Cyrus F.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

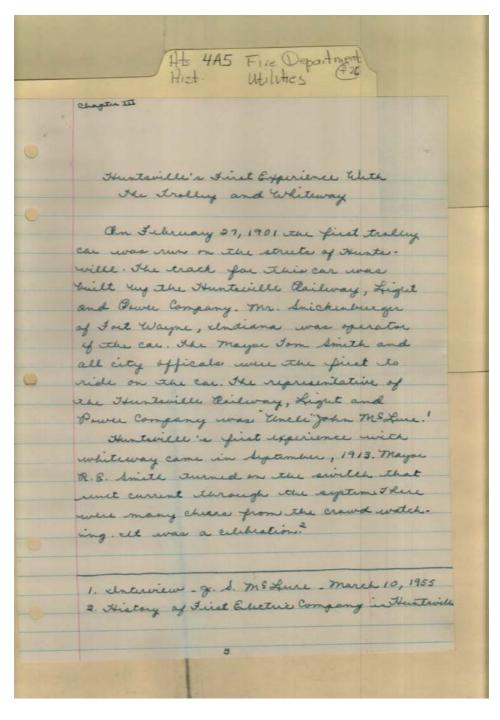
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 7 r04a05-26-000-0147 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Railway, Light, and Power Co.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

essay

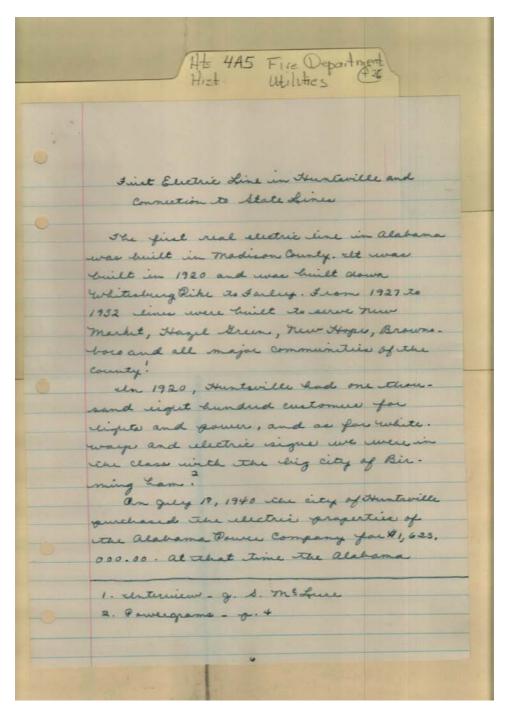
Dates:

1901

McLure, John S. Smith, R. E. Smith, Tom, Mayor Snickenburger, Mr. first trolley and whiteway

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 8 r04a05-26-000-0148 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Alabama Power Co.

first electric line in Alabama

Places:

Huntsville, AL

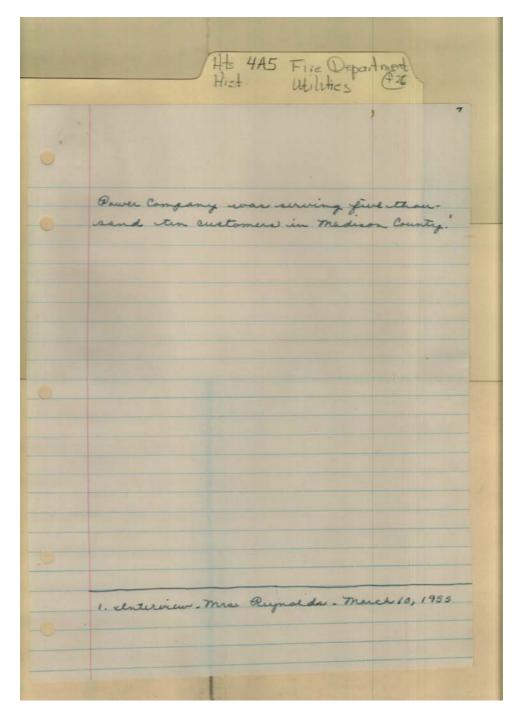
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 9 r04a05-26-000-0149 Contents Index About



Names:

Alabama Power Co.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

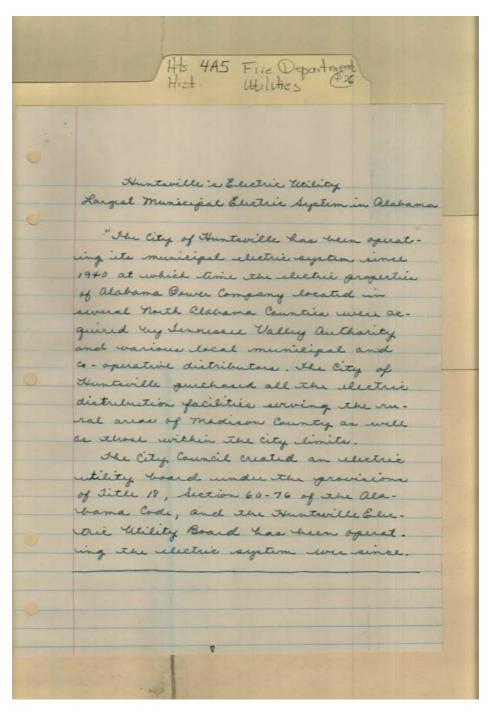
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 10 r04a05-26-000-0150 Contents Index About



Names:

Huntsville Electric Utility Board

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

essay

Dates:

1940

Tennessee Valley Authority

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services Image 11 r04a05-26-000-0151 Contents I <u>Index</u> **About**

	Ats 4A5 Fire Department Hist Utilities 426
3	9
	The original purchase from alabama
	Dower Company was financed from the
	proceeds of a revenue hand issue which
	Totaled # 1, 750, 100.00. These bonds were
	orginally issued in 1940 and the last
	maturity date was 1960. However, the
	bonds were subsequently refunded and
	in 1953 ahe last of the indubtioness of
	The Electric System was retired.
	eln 1940 when the system was ac-
	quired, there were approximately 5, 800
	customers receiving service in both the
	city and the rural areas from a sy.
	stim which had a total of approxi-
	mately 250 miles of distribution lines.
	Since the city has appealed the say-
	stem the rural service has been up-
	panded so as to make it available
	to every residence in the country, so
	that today 22,300 customers are being
	served from the system.
	THE RESERVE TO SERVE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

Names:

Alabama Power Co.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

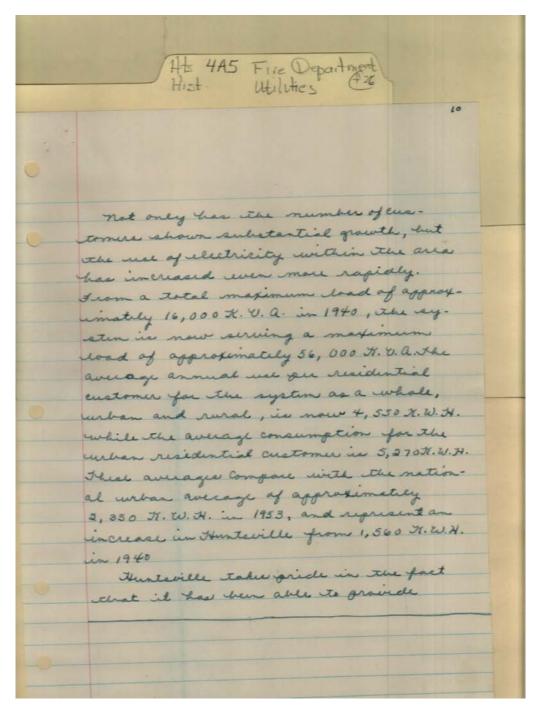
Types:

essay

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 12 r04a05-26-000-0152 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Electric Company

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

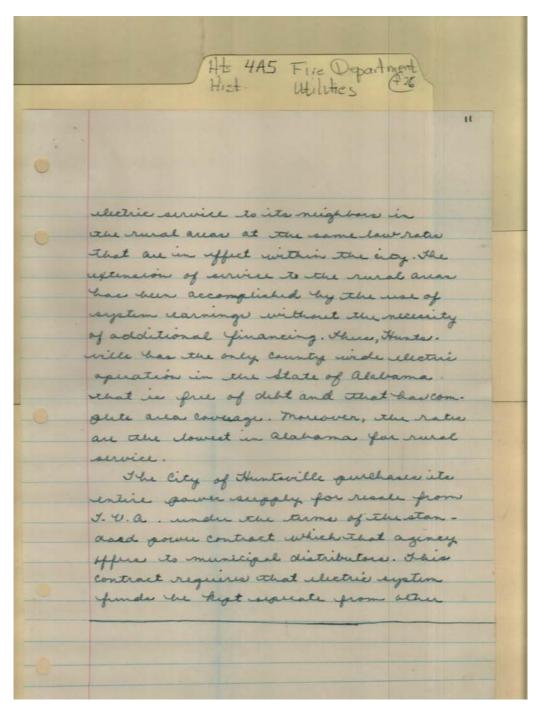
essay

Dates:

1940-1953

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 13 r04a05-26-000-0153 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville, City of

TVA

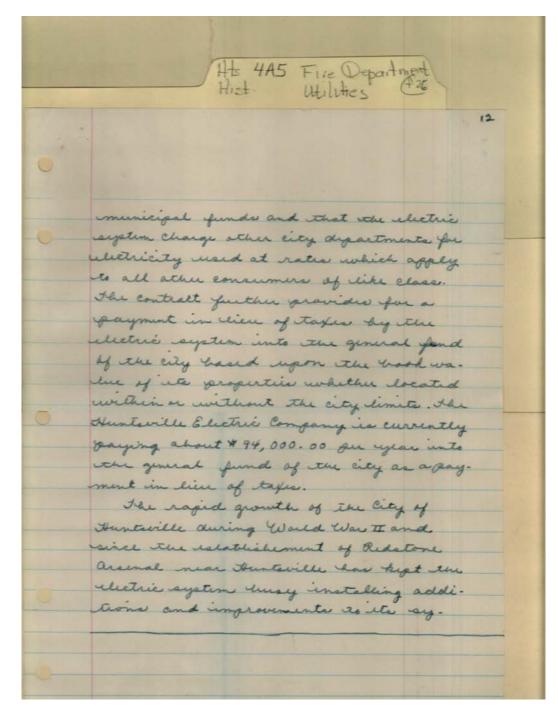
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

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Names:

Huntsville Electric Company

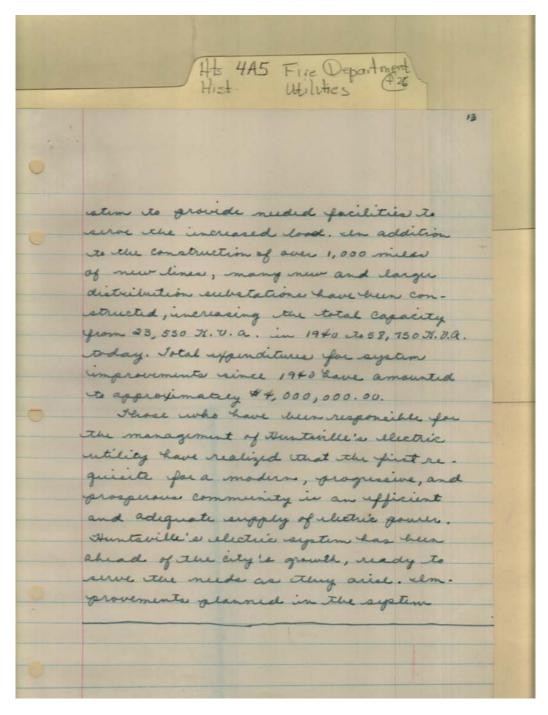
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 15 r04a05-26-000-0155 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Huntsville Electric Company

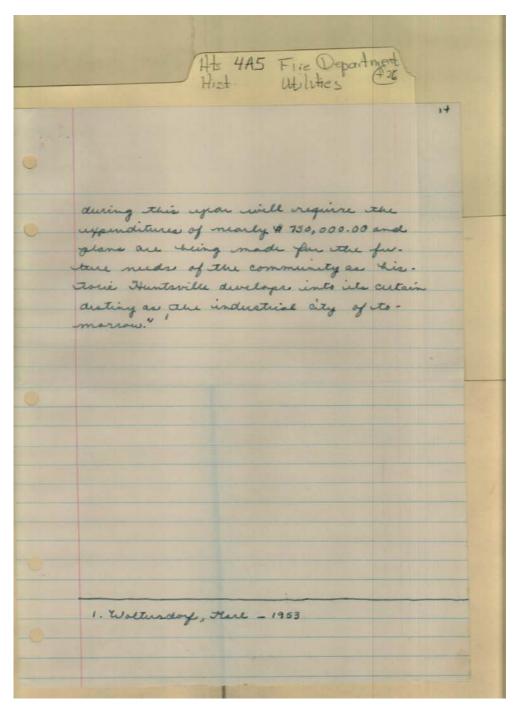
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Image 16 r04a05-26-000-0156 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



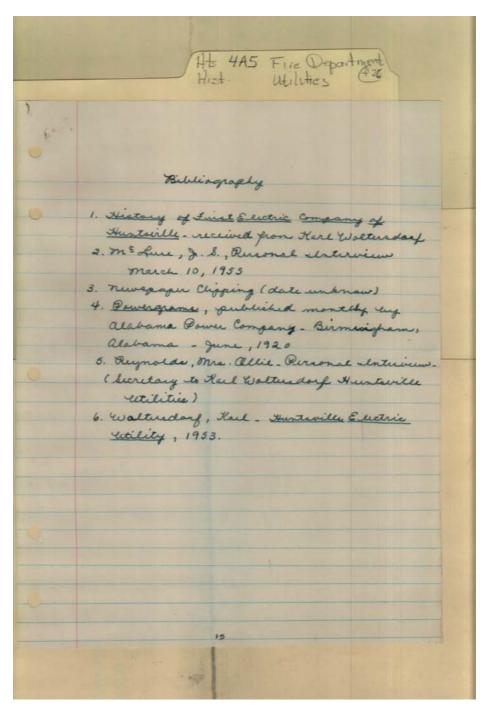
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Names:

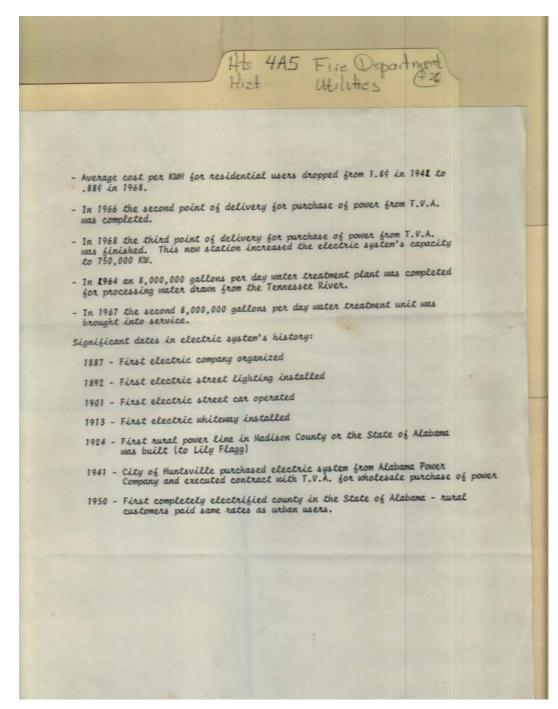
bibliography -Huntsville Electric Company

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

Image 18 r04a05-26-000-0158 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

utility rates

Places:

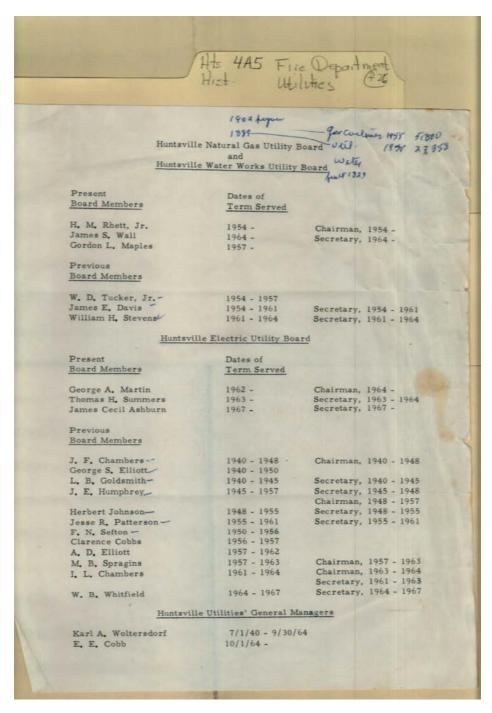
Huntsville, Madison Co., AL

Types:

list

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Names:

Ashburn, James Cecil Chambers, I. L. Chambers, J. F. Cobb, E. E. Cobbs, Clarence Davis, James E. Elliott, A. D.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

list

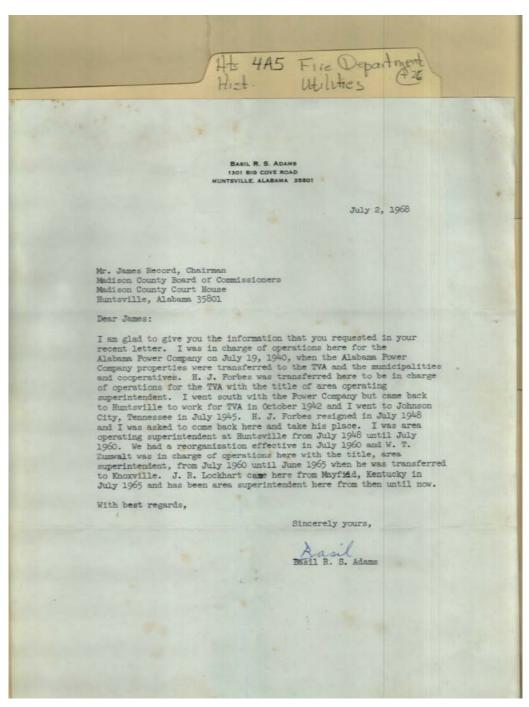
Elliott, George S.
Goldsmith, L. B.
Hunphrey, J. E.
Huntsville Natural
Gas Utility Board
Huntsville Water
Works Utility Board

Johnson, Herbert Maples, Gordon L. Martin, George A. Patterson, Jesse R. Rhett, H. M., Jr. Sefton, F. N. Spragins, M. B. Stevens, William H. Summers, Thomas H. Tucker, W. D., Jr. Wall, James S. Whitfield, W. B. Woltersdorf, Karl A.

Dates:

Fire Department Utilities - Utilities and Services

Image 20 r04a05-26-000-0160 <u>Contents</u> <u>Index</u> <u>About</u>



Names:

Adams, Basil R. S. Alabama Power Co. Forbes, H. J. Lockhart, J. R.

Record, James TVA

Zumwalt, W. T.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

July 2, 1968

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Names:

Colossus Company, The

Places:

Shreveport, LA

Types:

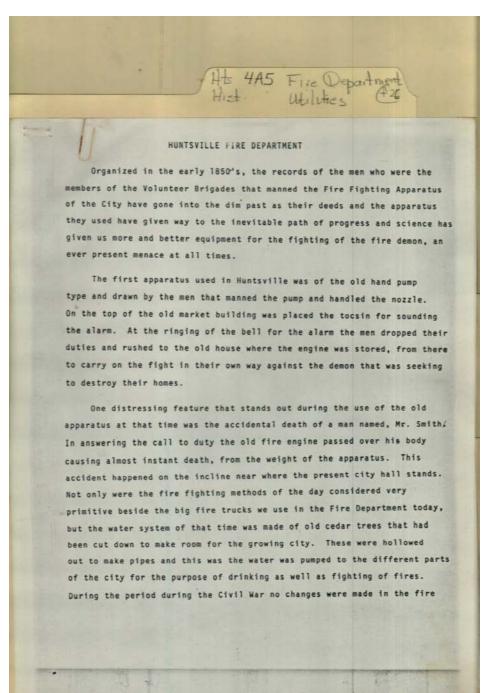
correspondence

Dates:

March 25, 1925

Russell, J. R. Trade Acceptance

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Names:

Huntsville Fire Department

Places:

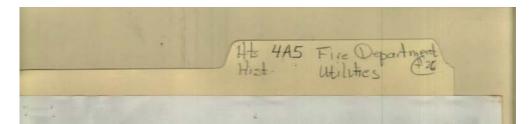
Huntsville, AL

Types:

essay

Smith, Mr.

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department and the next record that we have of the purchasing of the first fire engine operated by steam was in the early 1870's. This steamer was known as the "R. W. Coaltar" and was named after the mayor who made the purchase for the city. This engine when first bought was pulled by the men who manned her. The city afterwards bought horses for the newly formed volunteer fire department. On the arrival of the new steamer all members of the Fire Department turned out in their full dress uniforms to do honor to the new steamer and give her the proper reception. In those days the men that manned the volunteers were ready at all times in addition to their duties of fighting fire for the city, to parade at the least provocation.

The City at the purchase of this steamer authorized the paying of two men to be on duty at all times. The place of Chief was given to Mr. Abe Wise, who was the first paid member of the Huntsville Fire Department. Then Mr. John Spence was appointed as his assistant and engineer. These men were on duty at all times, sleeping at the hall, which was then located where the Twickenham Hotel now stands. During the period of time the old "Coaltar" was in operation the first fire at the Huntsville Hotel raged and the old steamer did wonderful work in the prevention of property damage during this fire.

As all things must move in the interests of better cities, so the old "Coaltar" was replaced by a larger and better steamer. Shortly after the Spanish-American War, Allie Moore, then mayor of Huntsville, purchased this steamer and as was the custom at that time, she bore the name of the mayor under whose administration the purchase was made. In addition to the purchase of the steamer, the City bought and gave to the Department, a team of gray horses to be used for the Fire Department work. These horses were identified with the Fire Department for a number

Names:

Moore, Allie, Mayor Spence, John Twickenham Hotel Wise, Abe

R. W. Coaltar

Places:

Huntsville, AL

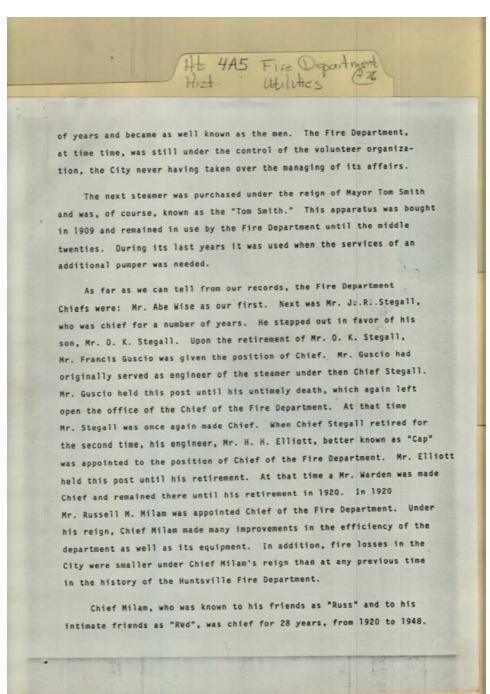
Types:

essay

Dates:

1870s

Image 24 r04a05-26-000-0164 Contents Index About



Names:

Elliott, H. H. Guscio, Francis

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

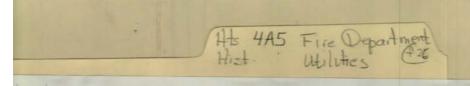
essay

Milam, Russell M. Smith, Tom, Mayor

Stegall, J. R. Stegall, O. K.

Warden, Wise, Abe

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At the time of Chief Milam's death in 1948, Mr. R. C. Coble, who was then Assistant Chief, was appointed as Chief of the Huntsville Fire Department. Chief Coble was Chief for four years and passed away in 1952.

At Chief Coble's untimely death, Fire Captain Massey Tolen was appointed Chief of the Huntsville Fire Department and holds that position to date.

At the time of his appointment, our Fire Department began to grow. At the time of Chief Milam's death, we had equipment numbering only 4 pieces, which were: a 1928 Dodge Chemical wagon, a 1945 Mack 750 gpm pump triple combination, a 1927 Ahrens Fox 750 gpm triple combination, and a 1952 Dodge 550 gpm pumper and hose wagon. We had only one fire station. A year later No. 2 Fire Station was built on Dallas Street and a station has been added each year since that time. Our equipment now stands at 31 pieces which are located in our 11 Fire Station which we now have. We are in need of two more engine houses which would build us up to the requirements of the National Board of Fire Underwriters covering available equipment for a city the size of ours. Our Fire Department is now a "Class 5" category, but we have every hope that we will be reclassified to a "Class 3" category sometime this year.

As of today we have a total of 206 paid personnel within the framework of the Fire Department. They are: 1 Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs, 1 Chief of Fire Prevention, 1 Deputy Chief, 2 Fire Inspectors, 5 Dispatchers, 23 Captains, 20 Lieutenants, 1 Supply Sergeant, 1 Clerk Typist, and 149 Firemen.

Names:

Coble, R. C.

Milam, Russell M.

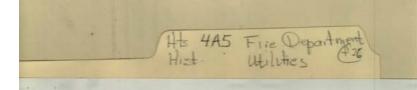
Tolen, Massey

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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5

We have talked about the Fire Department from its infancy. Now let us go back to 1920. At that time the Department was equipped with two trucks; one was the "File Moore" steam pumper and the other was a hose wagon with between 2,000-2,500 ft of Eureka fire hose. The equipment consisted of 1 American LaFrance type 75 pumper which was a triple combination of 750 gpm and 1,250 ft of 2 1/2" Eureka fire hose; 1 35-gal Halliway Chemical tank with a hose basket of 250 ft of 3-ply 3/4" booster hose; 2 3-gal Babcock fire extinguishers; 1 pyrene; and 1 14-ft extension ladder and 1 14-ft roof ladder. One reel Chemical wagon and hose speed wagon consisting of 800 ft of 2 1/2" Eureka fire hose and a double 35-gal Chancellor chemical tank with a hose basker of 250 ft of 2-ply 3 1/4" hose; 2 3-gal Babcock chemicals,; 1 pyrene; 1 14-ft extension ladder and 1 14-ft roof ladder.

One Metropolitan type horse drawn steam engine pumper consisting of a hose wagon which had been arranged by Chief Milam to be pulled by the Reo speed wagon in cases of emergency. The Fire Department and equipment was practically kept up by Chief Milam and his men. The personnel of the Department at that time was as follows: 1 Chief, 1 Asst Chief, and 5 Firemen. Chief Milam had only a one-platoon system of men which, of course, necessitated them to work 24-hours a day, with the exception of one-hour off for each meal. He had the meal hours arranged so that part of the crew was on the job at all times. In those days all calls came in over the phone.

In those days complete records were not kept, therefore we have only approximate dates of the older Huntsville fires.

During the reign of Chief Stegall the largest fire was the old Struble Block. This was the first fire that ever raged in Huntsville and

Names:

Milam, Russell M.

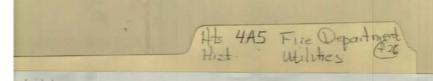
Stegall, J. R.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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the only time the Huntsville Fire Department called for outside help. In that instance the fire was under control before the arrival of the Department from Chattanooga and it was turned back at Stevnson, Ala.

Of course we had the old Huntsville Hotel that burned three times and each of the steamers saw service in those three fires. The "ATTIVE SANTIFE Being the last one. We had several large fires after Chief Milam took over the Department, causing him and his men to fight hard during the fire for approximately 9-12 hours. Then there were the fires at the Mathews Brothers Mill and the old Cedar Mill on Cleveland Street. These fires lasted from 12-15 hours and gave the public the assurance that the Fire Department was on the job and were doing the best they could with what they had to do with and to show that the power of machinery was way ahead of the old methods of manpower.

When I came to the Huntsville Fire Department in 1936, Huntsville did not know the meaning of the words of two-platoon system and it was not up until after the end of WWII that we put into effect the two-platoon system. Before that time we had one hour for our meals and two hours on Sunday for Sunday dinner. We worked 24 hours a day for 6 days and 6 nights a week, sleeping at the fire hall and were off 23 1/2 hours one day each week. Under Chief Milam's reign we began to get better and better working conditions. Of course, in those days most of our fires seemed to occur at meal times and we were often shorthanded. A lot of times we would have no time to recover from the effects of the first fire before we had to answer the next alarm. Therefore it decreased the efficiency and morale of the men which prevented them from performing duties properly. The men who man the Fire Departments in all communities are not supermen and their competence can only be measured in the same terms as those applied to the average citizen.

Let me cite you a few of the hazards of the fireman's job. Few of

Names:

Cedar Mill Huntsville Fire Department

Places:

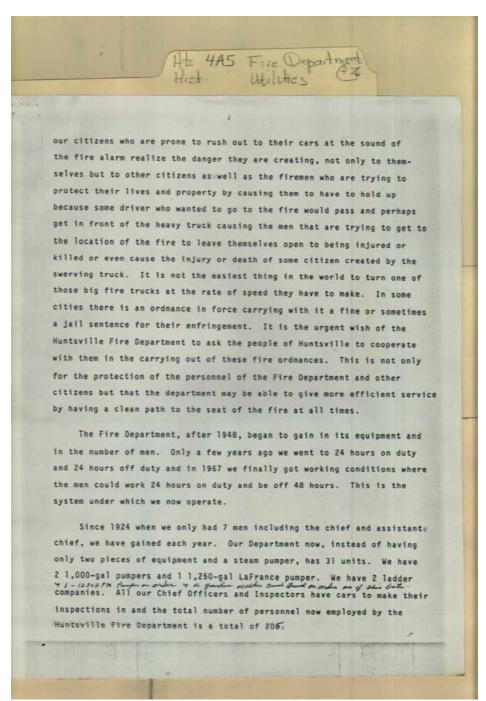
Huntsville, AL

Types:

essay

Huntsville Hotel Mathews Brothers Mill Milam, Russell M.

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Names:

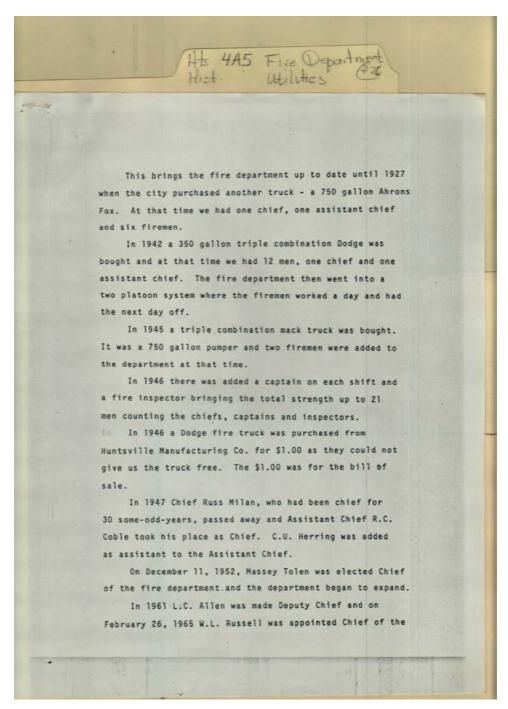
Huntsville Fire Department

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Names:

Allen, L. C. Coble, R. C. Herring, C. U.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

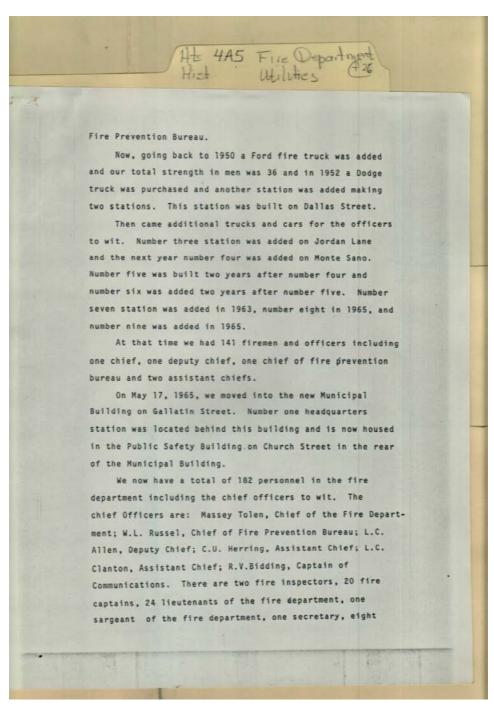
Types:

essay

Huntsville Manufacturing Co. Milan, Russell M. Russell, W. L. Tolen, Massey

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Names:

Bidding, R. V. Clanton, L. C.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

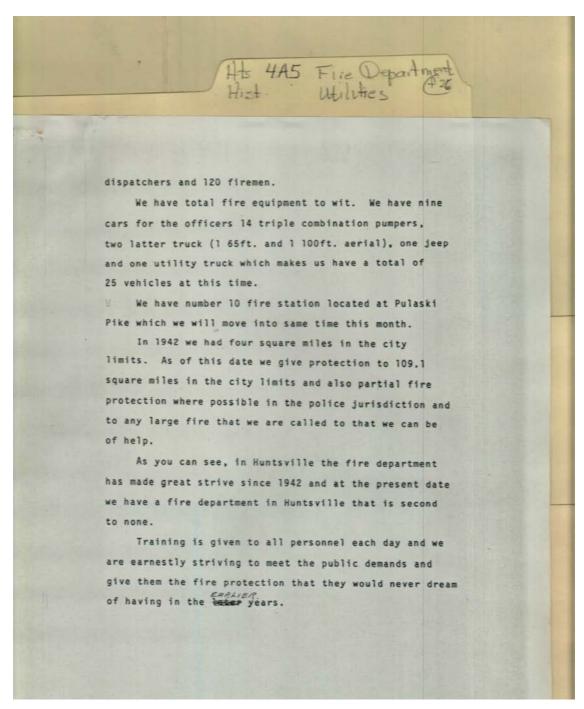
Types:

essay

Herring, C. U.

Public Safety Building Russell, W. L. Tolen, Massey

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Names:

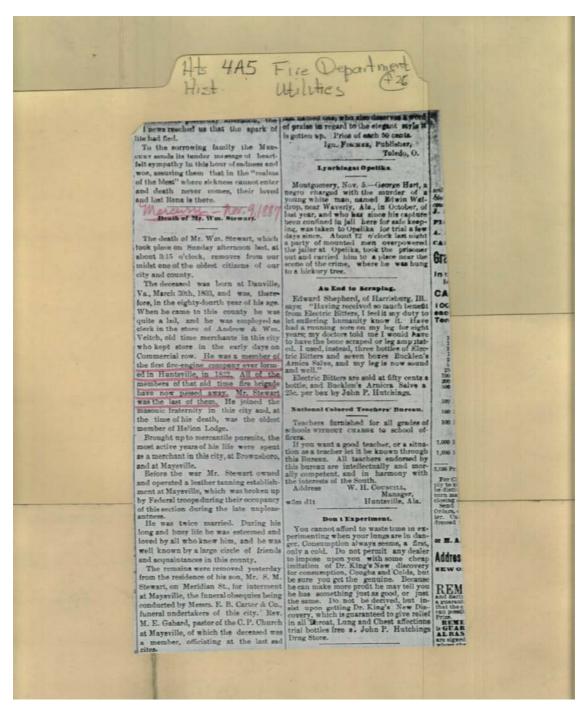
Huntsville Fire Department

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

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Names:

Gabard, M. E., Rev. Stewart, S. M.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper article / obituary

Dates:

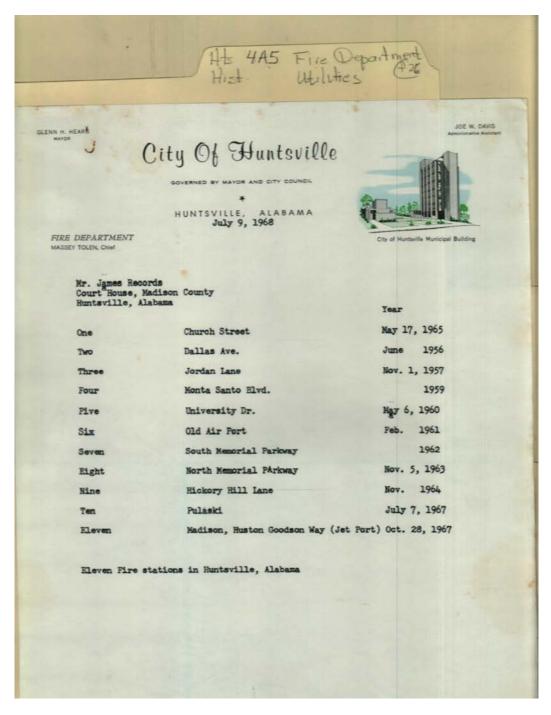
Nov 9, 1877

Stewart, William

Veitch, Andrew & William

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Names:

Huntsville Fire Record, James

Stations Tolen, Massey

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence list

Dates:

July 9, 1968

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<u>Image 6</u> (r04a05-26-000-0146)	<u>Image 15</u> (r04a05-26-000-0155)	Image 24 (r04a05-26-000-0164)	Image 33 (r04a05-26-000-0173)
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