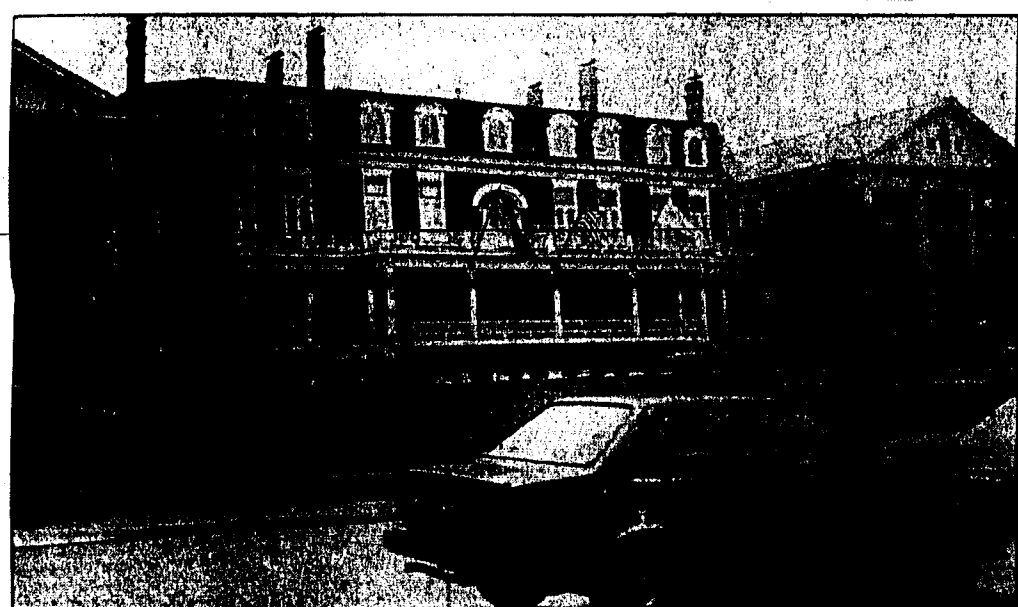




The Bus Indicates Lost, But Driver Johnson Knows His Way Around



Antique Writing Table In Foyer Of Martha Washington Inn



The Martha Washington Inn — A Beautiful Classic Hotel

Photos by Juanita Davis

## Mooreville Area Group Visits Martha

By JUANITA DAVIS

Wednesday morning, September 23, at 7:30 o'clock, Frank Johnson of Statesville drove a "Pleasant" Tours bus out of the parking lot of First Baptist Church with 44 members and guests of the Mooreville-South Iredell Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons for a one-day trip to Abingdon, VA.

The weather was absolutely beautiful and the group was happy and very congenial with a lot of chat and fun from the beginning to the end of the trip.

Frances Nantz, coordinator of the trip, welcomed the group and gave the day's itinerary. Welcome was also extended from the AARP Vice President Jack Griffith and from the driver of the LOST bus, Frank Johnson.

Along the way, Harry Chappell gave interesting historical facts about Abingdon and its famous Martha Washington Inn and Barter Theatre, which were the two main attractions for the Mooreville group.

The first stop along the way was at Hardee's in Boone for refreshments and then on to Abingdon for an 11:30 luncheon at the First Lady's Table of the Martha Washington Inn, a classic hotel with a traditional understanding of hospitality and fine service. The First Lady's Table is exquisitely decorated in Victorian motif and offered a bountiful buffet of continental cuisine as well as traditional Southern dishes. Experienced and courteous staff catered to our every dining need. All of the tables were set immaculately with crystal, silver, linen cloths and napkins and crystal vases of flowers, creating a warm atmosphere for a truly ultimate dining experience.

After the lunch, the group visited areas of the Inn, which was constructed from 1830-32 as a private residence for General Francis Preston and wife, Sara Buchanan Preston. The Martha Washington Inn has experienced a number of changes. In 1858, the home was sold to be used as a facility for Martha Washington College. The college operated during the Civil War and was used numerous times as a hospital. The college closed in 1932 and reopened in 1935 as a hotel. Visitors to the Inn are given a re-visit to the genteel and relaxed days of Southern hospitality and charm. In April of 1984, the Martha Washington Inn was purchased by the United Coal Company, an independent, privately-owned company. The Inn has been completely renovated and now combines fine antiques with modern facilities for the comfort and pleasure of their guests.

Guests are invited to live entertainment nightly in the lounge and enjoy the spacious dance floor that makes them a popular place to socialize. Civil War characters enhance the walls of the Pub with warm decor including a cozy fireplace and Barter Theatre memorabilia.

The Grand Ballroom can accommodate 300 persons for wedding receptions, conventions, dances, banquets and meetings. The grandeur of the room is exemplified

by its silk moire wallpaper, satin draperies and marbled woodwork. For smaller gatherings, persons can hold meetings in the East Parlor which features original oil paintings and antiques, while the Board Room provides luxurious facilities for group meetings and dinners.

There is a Presidents Club and Epicurean dining room in the hotel and many other points of interest such as suites named after famous persons and a gift shop and much, much more.

Leaving the Inn, the group walked across the street to the Barter Theatre for the performance of "Relatively Speaking," a British comedy, and which was really enjoyed by the Mooreville folks. "Relatively Speaking" is the last play for 1987 and the theatre will reopen in May of 1988.

The Barter facility is the second oldest theatre structure in America, predating only the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia. Constructed in 1831-32 as a new location for Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church, it is located in the Abingdon Historic Zone and listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Between 1837 and 1865, the congregation moved to another building and the older church became the property of the Sons of Temperance and came to be known as "Temperance Hall."

The earliest theatrical event known to occur in the structure was a production of "The Virginian" on Jan. 14, 1876. Barter Theatre's first presentation in the building was John Golden's "After Tomorrow" on June 10, 1933.

The Sons of Temperance transferred its title to "Temperance Hall" to the town of Abingdon to be used as a town hall. The town made improvements, enclosing the porch to provide two levels of offices and

rooms, hence, the "City Hall" sign built into the brick front now on the building. During this period the building was also called the "Opera House."

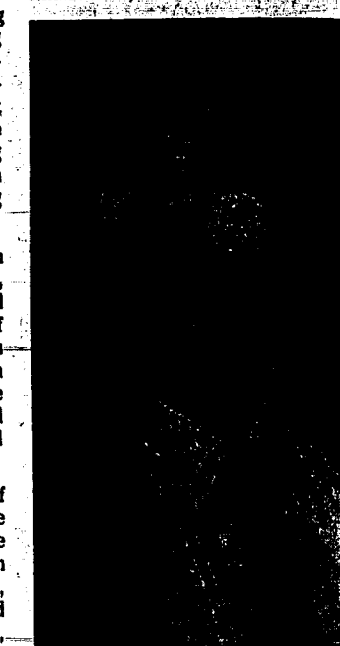
In 1946, an addition was made to the rear of the building, providing necessary backstage storage for Barter and ground-level storage for the town. The building is still owned by the town which provides it for Barter's use. The box office is located on the front street level and dressing rooms are in the basement.

The Barter is a replica of the old Empire Theatre in New York with \$75,000 of its properties including seats, lighting fixtures, carpeting and paintings. Three ornate chandeliers and several bronze candelabra requiring over 500 light bulbs provide lighting for the auditorium and foyer. A dressing (adorned by Ethel Barrymore) is in use in the quick-change dressing room backstage.

Though there is a great tradition connected with the Empire seats, after 110 years, they finally outlived their usefulness. In the summer of 1985, a neighborhood theatre donated seats from the Jefferson Theatre, one of the first movie houses in northern Virginia around 1940. Now the theatre is furnished with plush new seats.

The Mooreville group, made up of Harry and Pauline Chappell, Irene Mayhew, Lucy Hager, Everett Jones, Edith Caldwell, Elizabeth Gabriel, Cletia Cherry, Ruth Brown, Jack and Dot Griffin, Dale and Louise Holcombe, Estelle Cashion, Ellie Sanders, Herbert and Louise Hall, Jim and Helen Woodfin,

Miriam Cook, Martha Nesbitt, Marge Newton, Odessa Isehour, Mary Ann Brown, Earl and Melba Hunsberger, Sara Stultz, Betty Campion, Sue Sherrill, Stella Ruck, Elsie Lytle, Bertie Hendren, Trelease Bowman, Joan Wilkins, Bertha Baker, Helen Sloop, Bobbie Powers, Evelyn Howard, Dot Hinson, Clara Melicoll, Frances Nantz, Lewis and Juanita Davis, Polly Winocoff and Frank Johnson, enjoyed every minute in Abingdon, VA, as well as the trip to and from and especially the return stop in Boone at Rochelle's for ice cream, hot dogs, milkshakes, and etc.



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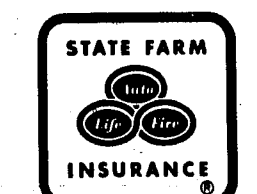
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Mooreville Group Ready For British Comedy

## Food Lion Announces Two-For-One Stock Split

If, perchance, you have Food Lion stock, you will soon be richer, stockwise!

With quarterly earnings up over 40 percent, Food Lion Inc., a Salisbury-based grocery chain, has announced a 2-for-1 stock split.

Food Lion operates a store in Mooreville, in the Northwood Village Shopping Center. Ralph Ketter, chairman of the board, said that each Food Lion Class A and Class B shareholder will receive one additional share of stock for each share owned. The shares will be payable to shareholders of record at the close of business Oct. 15 and distributed Oct. 29.

Net sales for the quarter ended Sept. 12 were up 26.1 percent to \$98.2 million and earnings rose 40.3 percent to \$21.2 million or 13.2 cents per share. During the same quarter last year, sales were \$85.7 million and earnings were \$15.1 million or 9.4 cents per share.

At the end of the quarter the company had 432 stores compared to 364 at the end of the third quarter last year.

Brian Woolf, chief financial officer, said a decline in Food Lion's tax rate helped quarterly results. Food Lion's tax rate dropped from 47.1 percent to 43.9 percent. The fourth quarter's tax rates will be still lower as tax law changes are phased in, he said.

Food Lion stock is beginning to attract investors in Florida and across the nation, Woolf said, following the announcement that the

Salisbury-based company will build a new warehouse and open stores around Jacksonville, Fla.

Food Lion also announced that it plans to build a new warehouse near Knoxville, Tenn. "Given our plans for growth, we should be building a couple of warehouses a year for the next five years," Woolf said.

"There has been a great deal of investor in the Florida area," Woolf said. Food Lion was featured

recently in Business Week and Financial World, national business publications, and that has boosted investor interest in the company too, according to Woolf. "People throughout the country are becoming aware of the Salisbury-based chain," he said.

Food Lion's Class A shares closed yesterday at \$24 1/4 and Class B at \$12 1/4. The stock has doubled in value over the past eight months.

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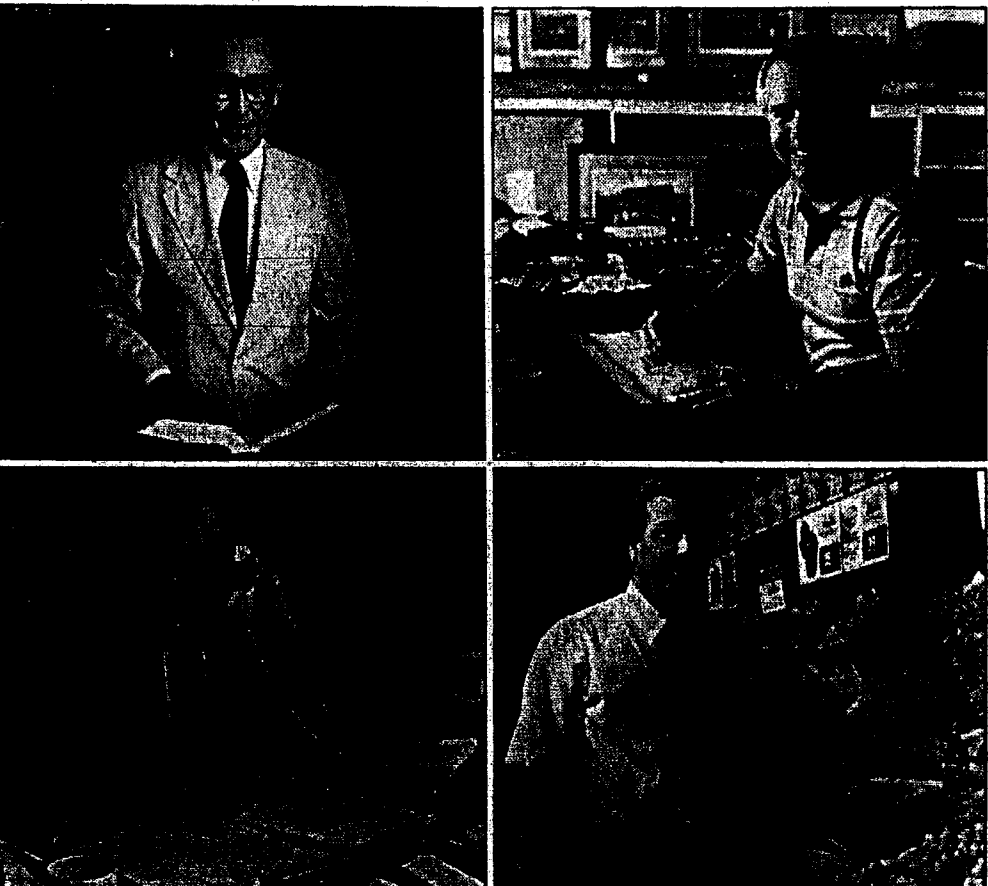
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