

Local collectors of antiquities desiring something old for a watch chain charm—the wrist watch is not yet universal—may be overlooking a relic that would ballast even any turnip carried by the legendary Paul Bunyan; in short, it is a seven-foot safe that Randolph Furniture Company, Plant 2, Jones and Gifford Avenue, figures on discarding during office remodeling. How much history the ponderous steel box, with four-foot interior, may include is beyond comprehension of the present generation office staff, for the safe, its members believe, may date back to the old Breed-Johnson Company that antedated the Eckman Furniture Company, which in turn was succeeded in plant ownership by the Davis-Randolph Company.

The original Breed plant is said to have been situated in Plousville (the Willard and Harrison Streets district). Later, perhaps in the late eighties, it occupied a large three-story wooden factory covered with corrugated sheet steel on approximately the same site as the present brick Davis-Randolph Plant 2. The corrugated iron building burned 35 or 40 years ago. Just when the seven-foot safe entered the offices of the former companies may remain more or less a mystery, since the recent death at 82 of Charles L. Eckman, for years office head of the Breed-Johnson Company and its successor, the Eckman Furniture Company, removed the most precise source of information.

Carl William Carlson, 152 Cook Avenue, recalls that the big safe stood in the office when he went to work for the Breed-Johnson Company 45 years ago. He recalls that the safe went through the fire, and was placed in the office of the new brick factory, still bearing the old name—Breed-Johnson Company. Mr. Carlson continues in the employ of the Randolph Furniture Company, Plant 2.