ANCIENT RUINS IN KENTUCKY.

To students of American Antiquities it is probably of general knowledge that the city of Lexington, Kentucky, stands nearly on the site of an ancient town, which, if one may judge by the wide range of its circumvallatory work and the quantity of ground it must have occupied, was one of great extent and magnificence.

It may, however, well be doubted if many of even such students are aware that in the year 1775 there was discovered there a catacomb containing a number of mummies, preserved by the art of embalming to as great a state of perfection as was known among the ancient Egyptianss, eighteen hundred years before the Christian Era.

This extraordinary find was made by some of the early settlers, whose curiosity being excited by something unusual in the character of certain large stones, seeming to cover the entrance to a cavern of some sort, removed the same, coming to others whose singular appearance for stones in a natural state caused them to pussh their investigations further. These obstructions being taken away, the mouth of an apparently deep and gloomy cave was disclosed to their gaze. This proved to be a catacomb, formed in the bowels of the limestone rock, about fifteen feet below the surface of the tarth. Having added to their numberss and provided lights, they descended and entered, without further obstruction, a spacious apartment, where they were astounded to find that at the sides and extreme ends were formed niches and compartments occupied by figures representing men.

Their surprise was much greater when, on further research and inquiry, it was found that these figures were actual mummies in the condition before stated. Most unfortunately, the original discoverers were uneducated people and, it being at a period when a bloody and inveterate war was being carried on between the Indians and the whites, supposing, in their ignorance, that these were the remains of some tribe of Indians, a revengeful and vindictive spirit animated them to destruction.

They were dragged out into the air, the bandages torn open, the mummies kicked about, and a bonfire made of the most of what were undoubtedly the most ancient remains ever found on this continent.

THE FLAME QUEEN.

It is impossible to state definite figures as to the value of opals. They vary widely, accordin gto the fire and beauty of the stone. The purchaser pays as much as he thinks he can pay with any hope of profit, and the seller gets all he can. Opals, up in the Lightning Ridge region of Australia

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are all dug by miners working independently or as members of small partnerships. This is the only corner of the miningfield into which the great companies have hardly yet intruded

The most famous stones yet won at Lightning Ridge is the Flame Queen. It is oval, measuring apprpoximately 2.8 inches by 2.3 inches. In structure and color it is unique. The center is slightly in relief, and around it the border is set like a frame. The center blazes as a vivid crimson flame and two parallel slight depressions in it give a remarkable effect of edupting craters. But it is only necessary to change slightly the angle of observation and the central field of fire is transformed into a patch of emerald, cool and exquisite, around which the border now shows as royal blue. Yet another angle and you have a bronze center touched with points of a darker tone, th ewhole set about with a wavering frame of blue and amethyst. The changes of color in this remarkable stone are so strange and rapid as to give the appearance of a living organism. The opal is old, and the back of it bears the fossil impression of a plant known to scientists as Ginko, which occurs in the Jurassic rocks of Queensland, but not elsewhere in association with any opal deposit.

It is to be added that the Flame Queen has an excellent reputation for singularity. Sinister tales are told about opals, but this one has brought good fortune to everybody connected with it. You can take that story for what it is worth.

ARROWS.

Everry plains teepee had hanging in it a bunch of slender sticks seasoning for arrows.

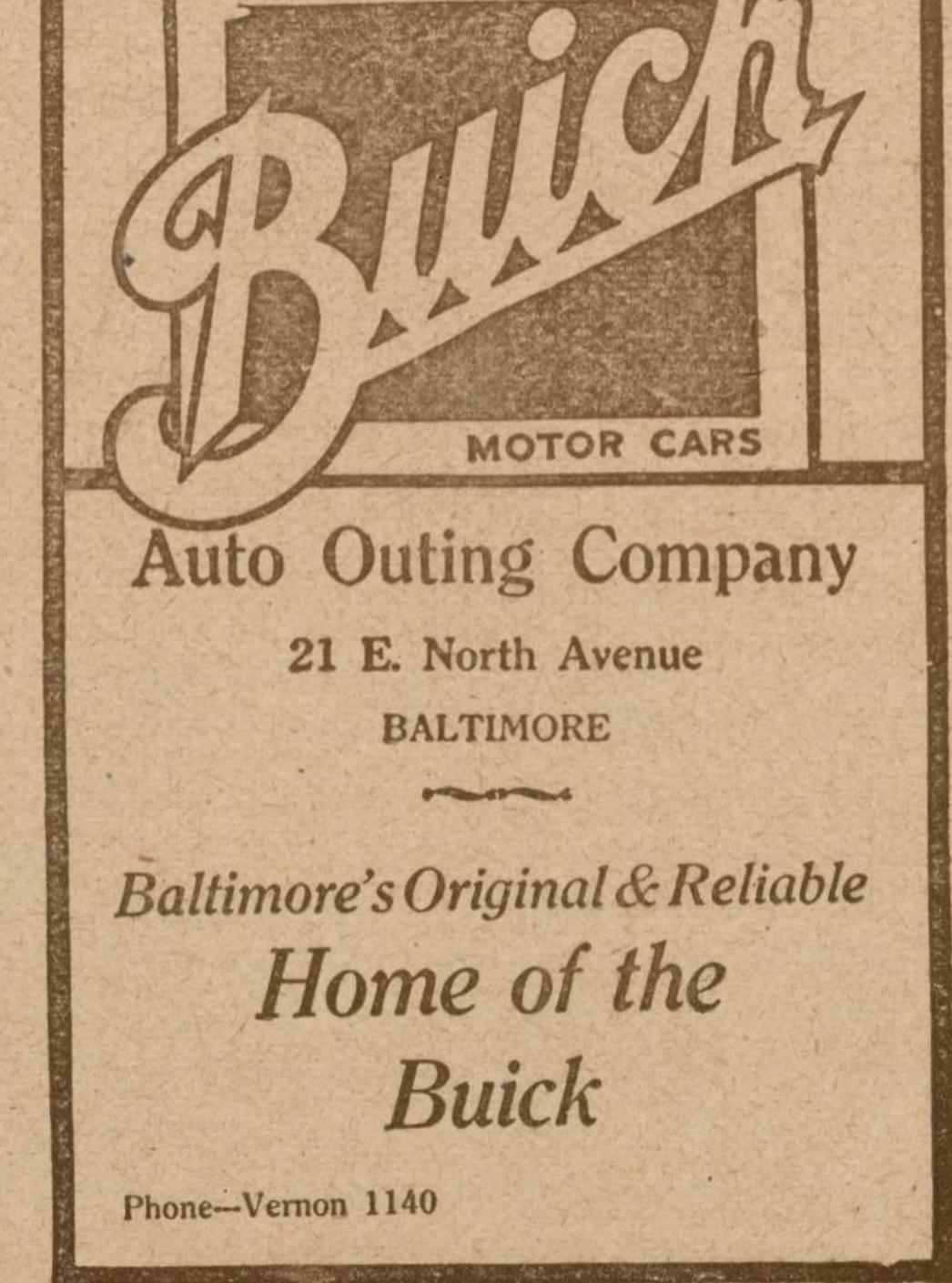
If particular in th ematerials for his bow the brave was even more so where arrow stock was concerned. available hardwood if straight and free from knots served. When seasoned the shaft was meticulously scraped and rubbed, feathered with various pinions, the Arapajos and Cheyenne usually using those of the wild turkey, softened in tepid water, split and glued with a glue made from a large muscle at the back of the neck of the buffalo.

This glue was less susceptible to climatic variations than any other used by the tribes. The final touch was given by placing an individual mork upon the shaft to identify the person who made the kill



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whether of human or brute game.

Heads were made from flint, obsidian, odd bits of iron and even old barrel hoops, until toward the last of the bow-andarrow days, traders carried in iron ones made in Eastern and English manufacturing towns, shipped in barrels.

Those made in England were the favorites, but lacking all else the shoulder blades of animals were utilized.

0----ANOMALIES OF INDIAN RULE.

Before all treaties with the civilized tribes of the "nations" of Indian Territory were abrogated and the redskins enfranchised and received allotments in severalty, each nation conducted its own government and was considered by the United States as sovereign in itself but as a subject nation.

This condition gave rise to a peculiar state of affairs as to som emembers of the difficult "nations."

The negro slaves held by the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations were made free by the treaties did not stipulate that the slaves should become members of the tribes, so their status was simply citizens of the United States, residing legally in Indian Territory.

Somewhat anomalous in view of the fact that their former masters were not considered as such; but the ex-slaves vould not vote, sue in the Indian courts, sit on a jury in said courts, having no legal or other interest in either the courts of schools of the country in which they were born.

This was remedied in the 80's and 90's when all tribal Governments were abolished by Congress and the Indian became either a citizen or ward of the Government, to be finally exploited and robbed in either case.

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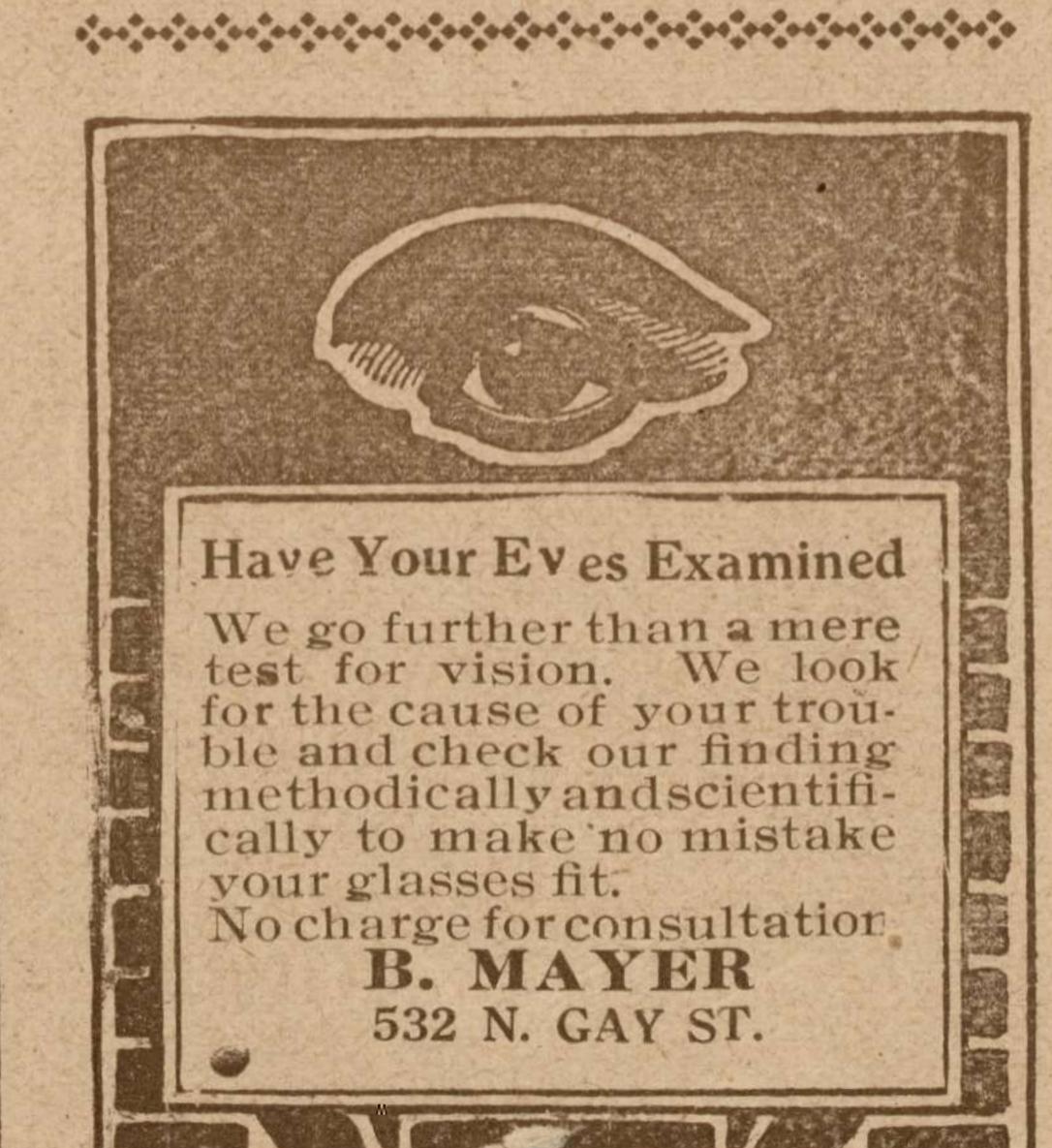
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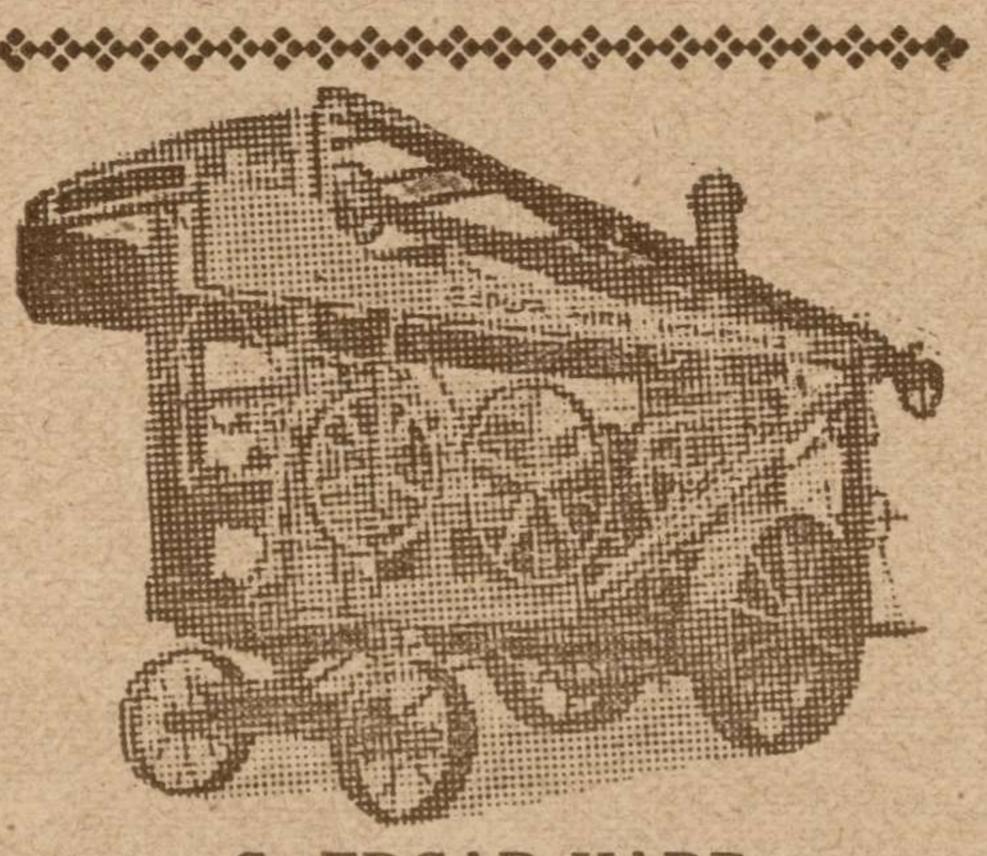


EARLY COMMERCIAL MON-OPOLY IN THE MISSIS-SIPPI VALLEY.

Exclusive commercial privileges with, especially, a monopoly of the right to buy and sell furs, for all or part of the States of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, with some other slight pieces of contiguous territory, were granted to a single corporation two hundred and five years ago.

The grantor was Louis XIV, king of France. The grantee was the Western Company, which was also known as the Mississippi Company. The territory designated for this immense trade monopoly was the Province of Louisiana. Among the other authorities which the grant gave to Anthony Crozat, the head of the Western Company, was that of trafficking in the products of "all cultivated lands' in the valley of the Mississippi, and of bringing a ship-load of negroes from africa once a year.

Crozat, even with this monopoly of traffic and commerce, was not satisfied and surrendered his grant back to the French crown fifteen years



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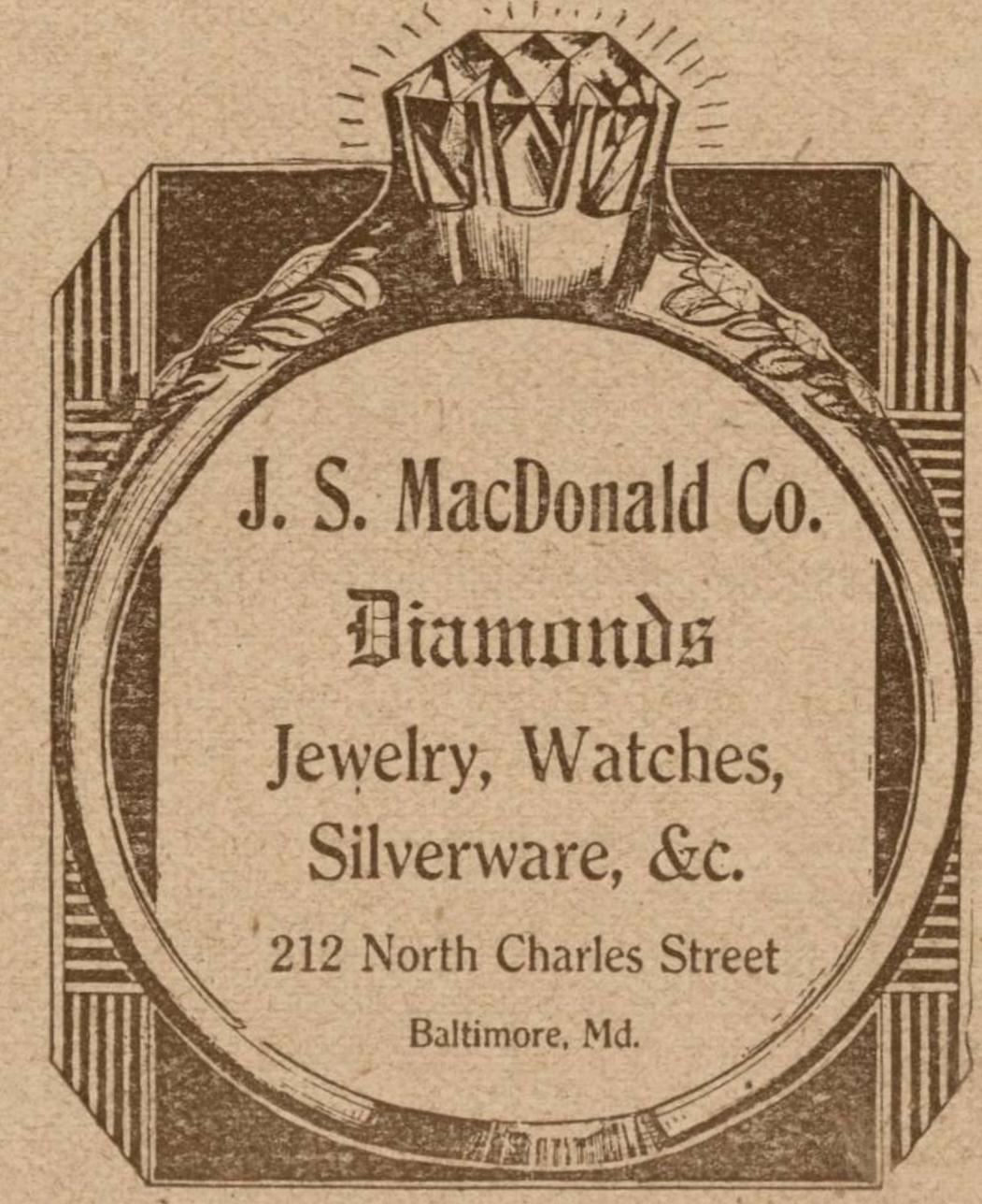


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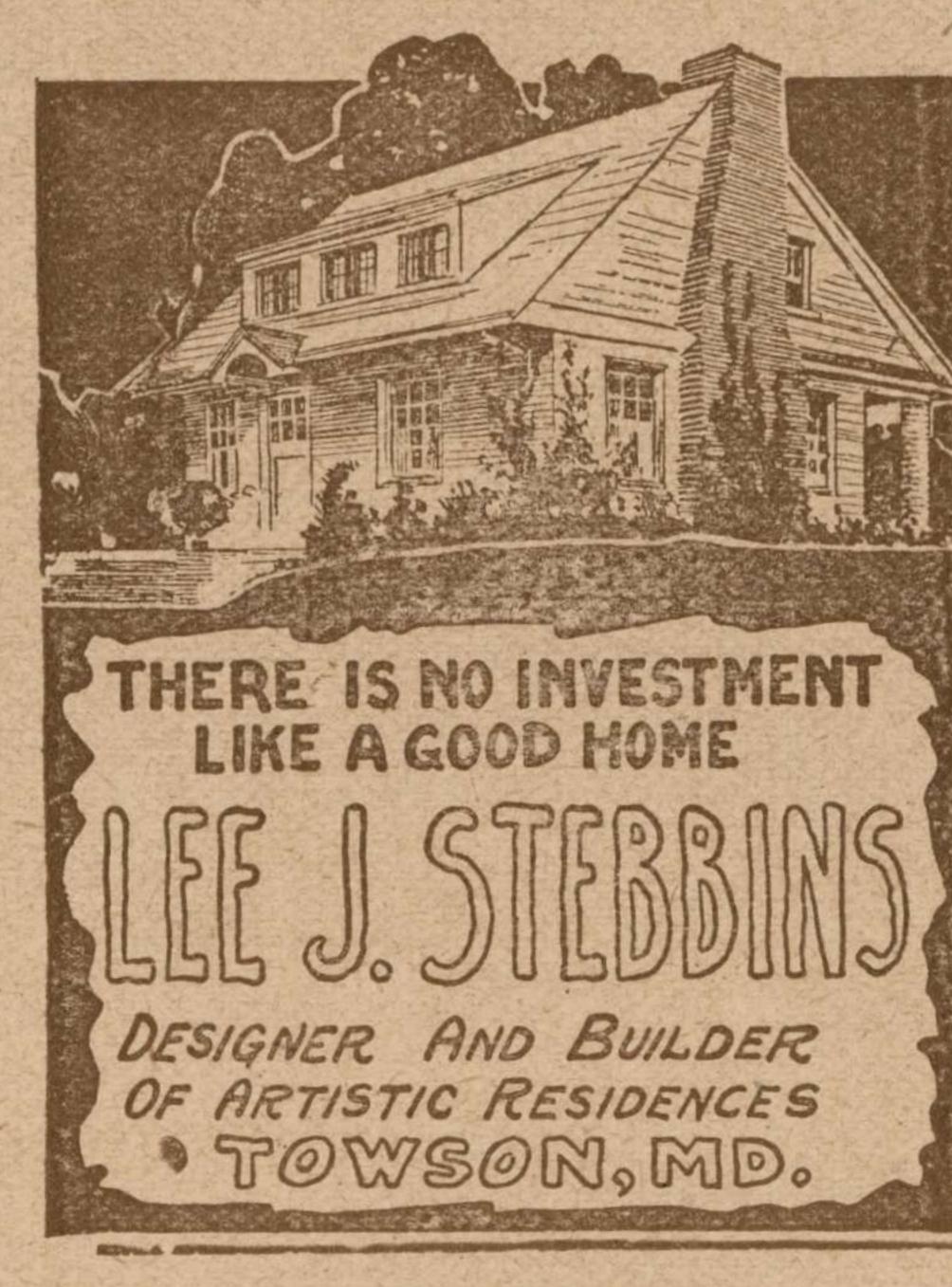
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