

Mead  
**COMPOSITION**

The Katty Wampus

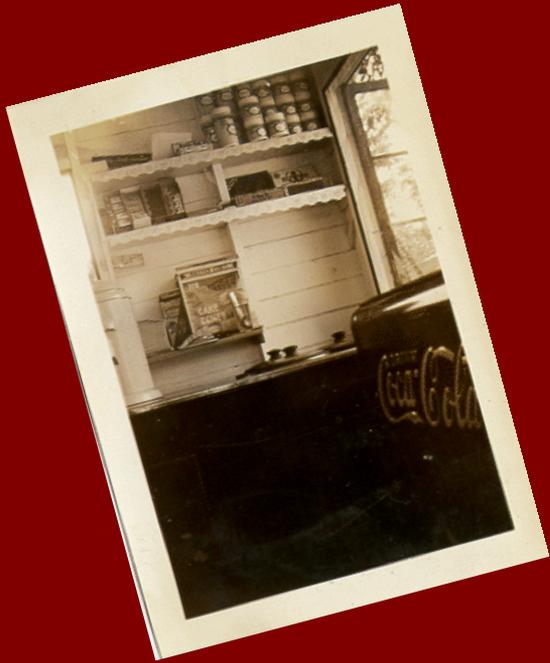
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**Edgar S. Hammerberg**





Best Wishes  
for a  
Merry Christmas!





Oct 18, 1993

Dear Michael and Carolyn,

Enclosed are some pictures taken with a simple box camera during the depression when we went to Florida to seek our fortune. It was Chester, Rich Wagner and me. We put up these buildings on the property of Paul and Grace

Link. Grace was Richard's sister. Digging up these pictures brought to mind many pleasant memories. I returned home to Chicago in 1938 and Cliff urged me to go to junior college and take up Chemistry. I graduated with honors in 1940 and enrolled at NU and got a BS degree. It wasn't easy as I lived at home and worked part time those 4 years but

Cont. on last page

the  
**Katty Wampus**

circa

**1937**

Pinecastle, Florida



Chester Hammerberg  
Edgar Hammerberg  
Richard Wagner

On Jan 15, 1937, Richard Wagner, Chester and I started out to seek our fortune in Florida. We packed all our camping gear in the trailer and we took a round-about way to Pineca Florida. I wanted to pay a visit to Wichita Kansas to see Linner we stayed a few days and then headed down south to the gulf and then east to Florida. He had no definite plans for the future - jobs were just as scarce there as in Chicago. We put up our tent and sort of camped out in the backyard

of Paul and Grace Link. Grace was Richard's sister. Chester managed to get a job as a butcher in Riley's grocery and market in Orlando. Getting some meat in our diet sure helped. There was a big abandoned barn on the property so we tore down and used the lumber to build a small cabin. It contained 3 bunk beds, a stove and kitchen table and chair and a chest of drawers. It was more livable than the tent. After that we got the idea to build a hamburger stand out front as we were on the main highway between Orlando and Kissimmee. We designed it and situated it so the south wall could be seen on eastbound north. The stand was a few feet out of parallel with the highway. Everyone would

Come by and ask why we built built  
"Katty-wampus"; after a while we decided  
that that would be a good name for it.

So we had signs made Katty-wampus.  
It consisted of a long counter with stools  
two tables-4 chairs each, soft drink cooler, big  
ice cream cabinet, stove, refrigerator.

We had to put in a well for water and  
since there was no electricity - we had to get  
set up for an electric power pole etc.

In the meantime our funds were  
getting low and after a lot of work we  
started selling hamburgers, hot dogs, pop, ice  
cream, roast beef sandwiches etc.

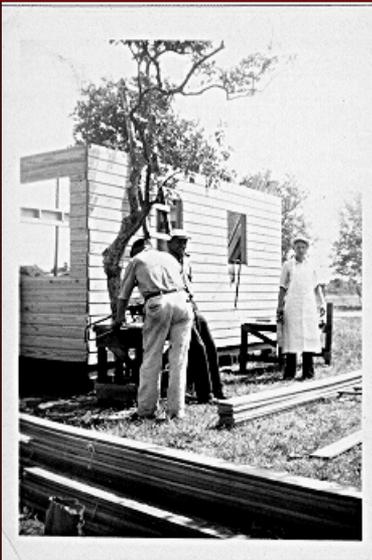
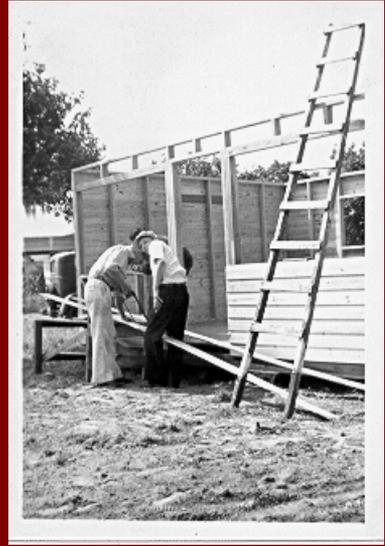
An occasional few bucks from home sure  
helped. Without Chester the whole enter-  
prise would have failed. I was not  
cut out to be able to sell anything. Any-  
way, in June of 1938 I had a chance to go  
back to Chicago - a friend of Danilla Smith  
was going to Chicago and needed some-  
one to go along to help drive. We took 2  
days to get here and I was glad to be back  
home again. I was able to get a job at  
York Printing and saw there was not much  
of a future there. Cliff urged me to register  
at Wright Junior College and take up classes.  
So for the next 2 years I worked part time and  
studied hard. I did very well - got a gold  
key for scholarship and was readily accepted  
to attend Northwestern University.

Framework  
up



Front view of  
stand.  
Teddy in  
foreground

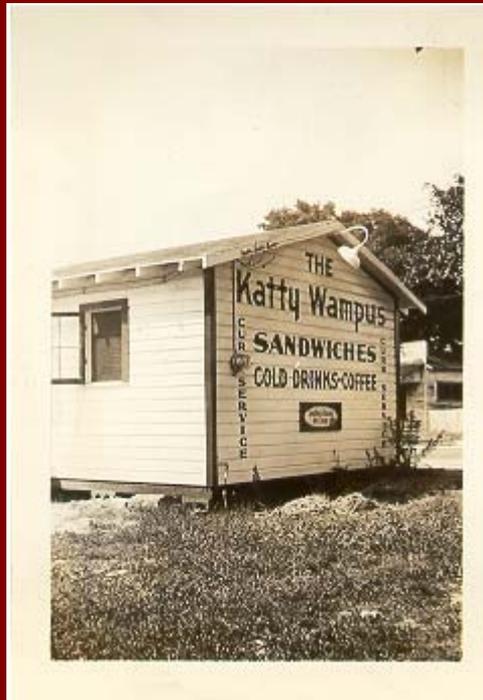
Rich, Ches,  
& Turner  
hard at work  
on stand



Turner, Dick &  
Ches  
cutting roof  
boards  
(note meat saw)

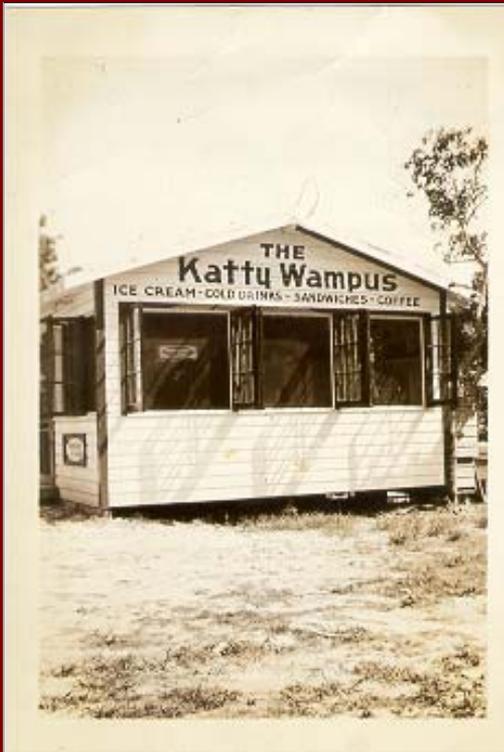
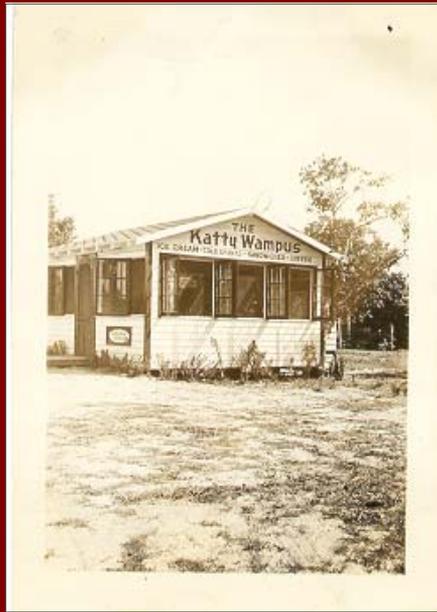


South wall  
of stand

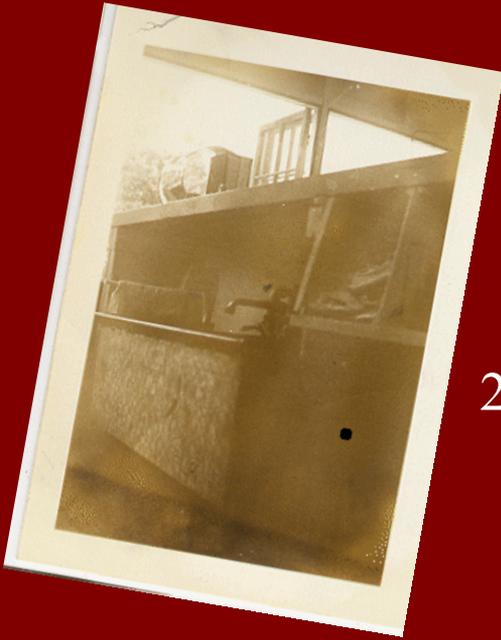


South side  
of stand

North side  
of stand



North wall  
of stand



Sink  
under counter  
2 Compartments



Rich and Larona  
sitting at one  
of the tables

it was worth it.

Leaves are turning color now and some of them are really beautiful. Have some nice mums in the yard in bloom but soon will get a killing frost. Ches and Ruth are on there way to Florida from Indiana starting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Paul and Norma are living with Ches & Ruth while looking for a place to live in Florida.

Mom seems to be doing better each day and soon I hope she will be able to walk unassisted. Hope all is going well on your jobs and that you'll soon have a concrete floor in the garage - Don't work too hard. Best wishes Love  
Dad





Rear view  
of stand -  
hot water tank  
and pump housing

