

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, April 18, 2005

Popcorn Machine and Steam Cylinder Oil, circa 1962: In the mid-1950s, the DuPont Company maintained a large room on the corridor going to the Playhouse Theatre (now the DuPont Theatre) in which they featured changing displays relating to DuPont products. Each display would last about three weeks. My father was asked to lend his 1901 Toledo steamer as it featured DuPont's automotive products (polishes, anti-freeze, paint, etc.) and the Cretors popcorn machine for such an exhibit. The Toledo was pushed through the lobby of the Hotel DuPont to get there, as was the popcorn machine. I was supposed to show some nicely dressed young women how to make popcorn as an added enticement for visitors to come in. I was well along in firing up the machine when I realized I had forgotten the popcorn oil and flavoring (we bought a product called "Popsit Plus" that had everything mixed together). In order to continue the lesson, I asked them to see if they could get some olive oil from the DuPont cafeteria in the basement. When they didn't return in a reasonable time, I decided not to wait and squirted a liberal coating of steam cylinder oil (which I had for the engine) in the bottom of the pan to keep the corn from sticking. By the time the girls returned, I had some popcorn ready to be sampled. They tasted it and remarked that it was the most delicious popcorn they had ever experienced! I admit, it tasted quite good.