

## "OUT OUR WAY"

"Out our way," the people are jittery, they haven't as yet awoken from the suddenness of the announcement that they were going to be put right in the middle of a TNT factory, and are still as much up in the air over subsequent developments as they were in the beginning. Everything that has been printed on the subject, as to the actual location of the plant is just someone's opinion and nothing official or definite has been announced. The burning question is what effect the coming of the big war industry will have on Bonny Oaks, and the only official body to show any interest in the announcement has been from the trustees of that institution. They are taking time by the forelock, anticipating that the worst will come, and are already looking over the county for a site to move Hamilton county's finest and best institution, if and when the United States government issues the order to move out. This is but my own personal idea of what's going to happen in the area, and I do not believe the government will move in and destroy one of the historic places in the county, when there is so much other territory in the immediate section that will furnish their

needs. The announcement that the powder plant will include the Bonny Oaks property has already caused the county historians to talk.

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### BONNY OAKS OF PIONEER DAYS

I can tell as much about the early history of Bonny Oaks as most any one, and I get my information, not from the printed records but from listening to hundreds of tales told by my father, Judge Lewis Shepherd. In the days of the Civil War Bonny Oaks, as it now is named, was the plantation of the Dent family, distant relatives of the Shepherd clan. My father and his sisters visited the place in the days before the Civil War. I cannot remember when the place became the property of the late Capt. C. S. Peake. Capt. Peake was a friend of my family, and as a boy, I have visited Bonny Oaks. Capt. Peake gave the name "Bonny Oaks" to the place, and likewise named the railroad station "Jersey," because he kept a fine herd of jersey dairy cattle. I am not one of those who will believe that the United States government will take over this property until I see the actual deeds.

While the people living within the announced territory are jittery almost to the excitable degree, yet what of those folks who live on the rim of the proposed territory. I happen to belong to that element, and there are a lot of us in the section where I live. If Bonny Oaks is included, then the TNT mill, factory or whatever it is to be called, will be about one mile from my home place. Maybe I'll be sitting on top of a "powder keg," but being patriotic, I will not argue the point with the federal agents. I'll simply do what I am told to do. Within the past two weeks more rumors have begun floating around on the subject of the exact location of the TNT mill, than ever went into circulation on any other subject. The exact location has been put in almost every spot from McCarty to Ooltewah, and that includes the Tyner, Summitt and Silverdale communities in addition to Harrison on the far northeast boundary. There are those who claim to know, and some of them say the plant will be located in the ridges opposite what is known as Summitt. Others say the Tyner lane will be the boundary towards the city, and others say the Bonny Oaks and the Washington school buildings will be used as administration offices for the plant. The only thing we can do is to wait and see just what we shall see.