

# History of Virginia Homes of Boydton

## IN THE BEGINNING...

The history of Virginia Homes of Boydton begins about 100 years ago. That's right, the Arnold family has been in a form of the movable housing business for about 100 years.

Virginia Homes of Boydton is owned by R T "Tommy" Arnold. The family member who started it all was A. W. Arnold, father of Tommy.



## NICHOLS BUS COMPANY, 1920'S IN PURVIS, MISSISSIPPI

### NICHOLS BUS COMPANY

The Arnold family began in the housing business in the 1920's in Purvis, Mississippi. Tommy Arnold's father, A. W. Arnold, was a partner in Nichols Bus Company where his brother, Carl, also worked.



A. W. Arnold in middle, Carl Arnold on far right.

## VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

Nichols Bus Company moved operations from Purvis to Vicksburg, Mississippi, where there was a large building available, and adequate road system, and one of the few bridges that spanned the Mississippi River. During World War II, the company built barracks for the Army. After the War, the factory was used to build house trailers.

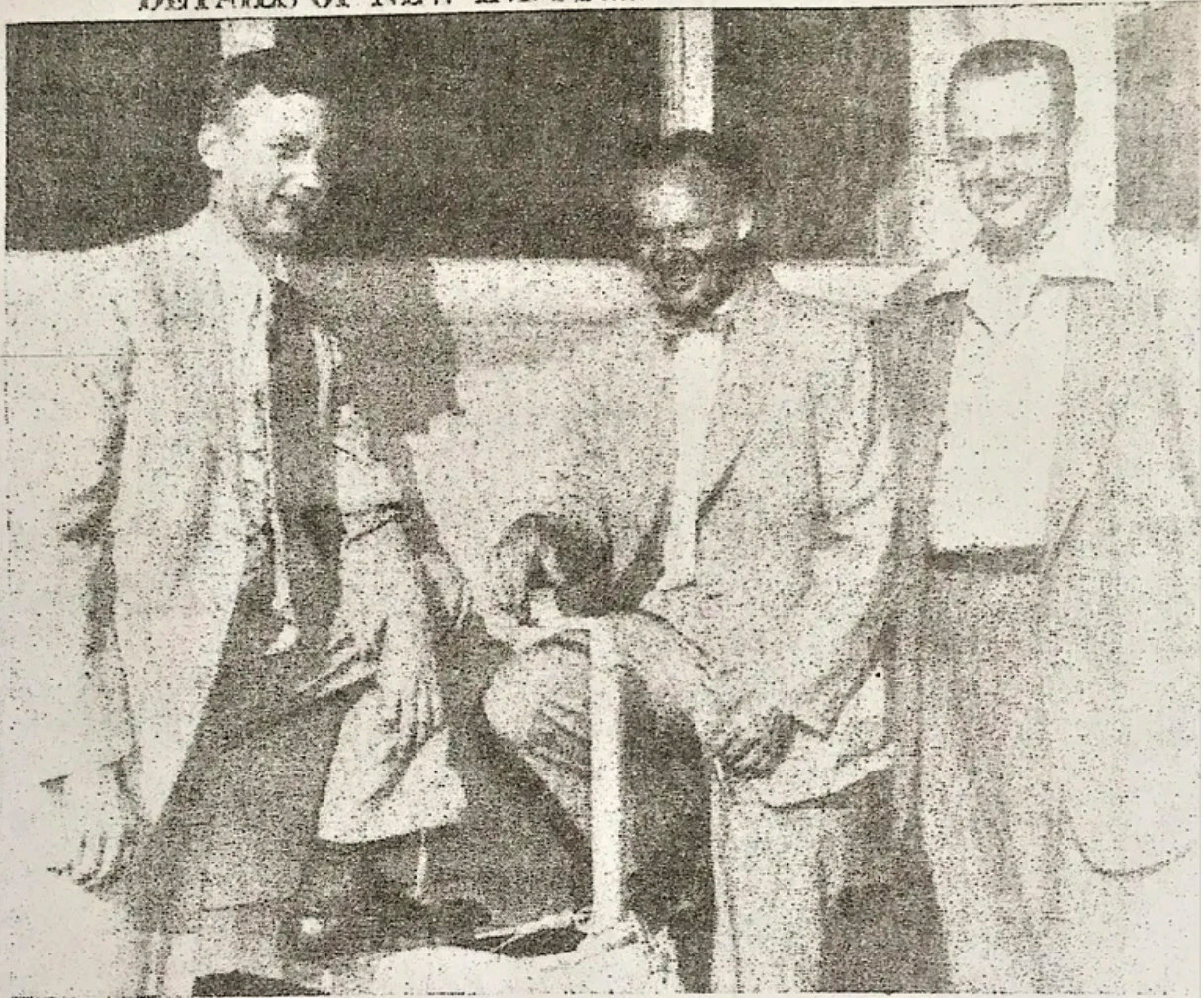




Units in the background were shipped to Army bases during World War II



DETAILS OF NEW INDUSTRY ARE REVEALED HERE



Details for a new trailer industry, operating now in temporary quarters at the Fairgrounds, pending completion of a new factory on Highway 61 South, are being revealed today by owners of the firm shown above. F. L. Cappaeri, president of the Magnolia Trailer Manufacturing Company is shown center, with A. W. Arnold (right) vice president and A. Vincent Schaff, secretary-treasurer.

## New Industry Reveals Plans, Trailers To Be Product Of Magnolia





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Mr. Cappaert, who has been in the trailer business since he completed service on a Navy PT boat in the Pacific during World War II, came to Vicksburg in 1948 as production superintendent for the M System under its former owners, Fred Dabney and Joseph Bonelli.

When the Vicksburgers sold their interests and the firm became a stock corporation, Mr. Cappaert served as president and general manager. He continued in this role until the M System was bought by the Mid-States Corporation, when he resigned to enter business for himself.

A native of Alma, Michigan, he completed his schooling at Alma High School and Alma College, then spent five years in the daring PT boat squadrons of the Navy. Mr. Cappaert landed with the first forces on New Guinea and followed the Pacific campaigns all the way to the Philippines.

The Cappaert's Mr. and Mrs. and their two children are members of the Catholic Church. He is a Rotarian and member of the Chamber of Commerce.

His two associates in the new company are also veterans of the M System. Mr. Arnold was a partner in the original firm, the old Nichols Bus and Trailer Company, which was the first concern in the south to manufacture house trailers.

Their factory, he recalled here Saturday, was in the backyard of A. D. Nichols at Purvis, Miss., and they operated there for a long while before moving the plant to Vicksburg. Since then, Mr. Arnold has been closely identified with the trailer business.

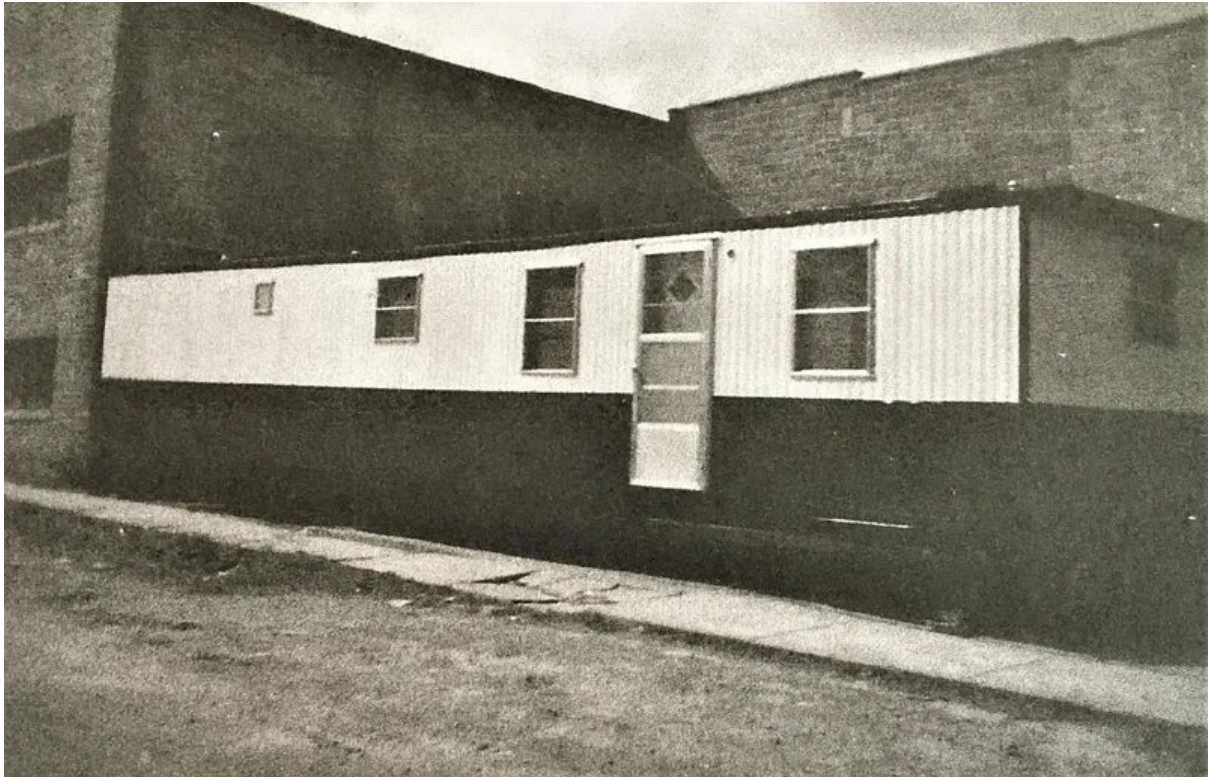
He is married and they have a son, Thomas, a student of Carr Central High School. They are members of the First Baptist Church.

A new, modern facility was built in Vicksburg in 1953, which was the first for assembly line production.



R T “Tommy” Arnold came to Virginia in 1958 to work in management with the Magnolia company. In 1969 Tommy founded Virginia Homes in Boydton, Virginia. The first unit was built in a temporary location in Boydton.





First Virginia Homes home built in Boydton, Virginia, 1969.

Virginia Homes factory in Boydton, Virginia, about 1975.



Virginia Homes of Boydton