Does Anyone Remember?

Candle-Powered Defroster

BEFORE AUTOMOBILES were equipped with heaters and defrosters, there was the Clear Vision Sleet Remover, made by H.S. Kilgore and Co. of Charlemont, Massachusetts.

The product was intended to melt the sleet from the inside surface of your windshield as you drove. It consisted of a candle mounted in a nickel-plated holder with a reflector to direct the candle heat. It was stuck to the windshield with a suction cup, something that worked well at one time, since most windshields were flat and vertical prior to the early 1930s.

The sleet remover sold for 75¢ each or $7.50 a dozen. Additional candles were 3¢ each or 35¢ a dozen, and new cups sold for 10¢ each. Not bad for a romantic ride by candlelight as the candle melted ice, snow and sleet from your windshield.

—John Avery, Jefferson, North Carolina

Cat with a Tale

DURING THE Great Depression, smiling cat faces were carved on the fence posts of homes where those in need had found kindness and compassion.

Travelers who followed the smiling-cat mark knew that they could find generosity at a particular home. My mama had “visitors” come to our back door, and she would share what she could.

—Clair Sims, Freeman, Virginia