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DDaddy bought his first car in 1931--A Model A Ford, second hand. I think it was a 1928 model. He had never driven a car until then. A neighbor, Hoyt Bryant, taught him to drive, so he did pretty well to be that old and never driven a car. But that was not unusual for that time and place.
The electric stove was bought in 1929, and I.m sure oneof the first in Irondale. Folks still used a wood-coal stove or and oil stoveto cook on. The electric stove did not heat up the kitchen so in winter a small "water heater" had to be installed in the kitchen.. A coal stiove was used prior to the electric stove. You can imagine how hot it would be in the summer for Mamma to cook on such a stove, so getting an electri was a life saver for her. In winter Daddy would build a fire in the kitchen on the water-heater--he arose each morning at about five o;clock, built the fire, helped cookbreakfast then walk to Irondale to catch the street-car-bus, ride nearly and hour to get to tghe job. After buying the car he drove to work some days, but I think being an eployee of the BhamElectric Company he got free transportation on the bus-street car. Incidentally, it was my daily task to bring in coaland wood to start the fire each morning.
We acquired an e;ectri refrigerator in the early 1930s. I can;t remember the year. Until then, the ice man came by each day--in the summer--and we would buy a dime's worth each day. I think the was 20 pounds, but I'm not sure. I t was a treat in summer to greet the ice truck each day. We would climb up in the truck and gather chips from the ice he'd chipped off. In the winter we did not have ice as the weather would be cold enough to preserve food.On rare occasions in summer, we would splurge and buy enough ice to make home-made ice cream. But that was not often.
When electric refrigerator s became popular in the early '30s, it was a real treat to have ice whenever we wanted it and we could also make ice cream.
We had running water in the house all my life. It was in 1936 that sewer systems were installed throughout Irondale. Until then, very few housesenjoyed sucha luxury. I guess there a few houses there that had indoor bathrooms--but not many. **But thanks to the New Deal, we were able to avail ourselves of such a luxury.
Elctricity was available even before my birth. The first radios were battery-powered, then electric. Daddy bought the first radio either 1927 or 1928, battery powered. The batteries would have to be recharged ever so may hours of use and at times they would go dead just when a favorite program was coming on. Then in 1929 Daddy bought a table model Zenith for $217,00--an astronomical sum for that day. But we could get Pittsburg, KDKA, WLW Cincinnati, and even St. Louis. AND THE gRAND oLE oPRY.
Yes, they bought a TV in 1951, or it may have been 1950,.. Our first one was in 1952, when we lived in Trussville, 17 inch screen, and ironically, the price was $214. or maybe $217.**

i GUESS this is more info than you wanted, but this is enough. I hope you're able to fly above the storm and have a great trip. Dad

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