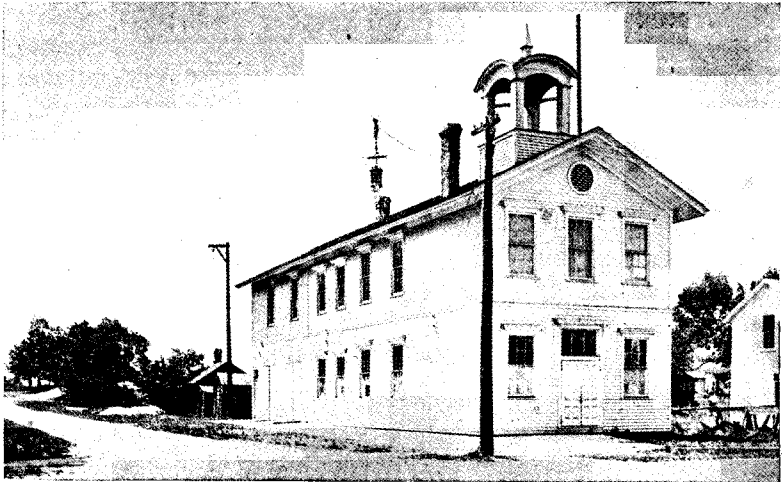


CHAPTER X

SMALLER TOWNS

NORTH JUDSON

North Judson, laid out in 1866, is located in Wayne Township and has at this time about sixteen hundred inhabitants. It has an incorporated area of 2,000 acres. It has four railroads running through it—the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, the Chicago & Erie Railroad, the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad, and the Chicago, Indiana & Southern Railroad, two of which are double tracked, and arrangements are being made to double track the other two roads. This makes North



CITY HALL, NORTH JUDSON

Judson the railroad town of the county, a thing of which those good people may feel justly proud. They also have some as fine buildings as you see in any town of even greater population, Masonic Temple, brick business houses, churches, school building and fine dwellings with brick streets—all of which goes to show that North Judson is going to do her part in keeping up with the standard of improvements, thus making it one of the most comfortable towns to live in within the boundaries of Starke County.

The town was incorporated in the year 1888 and has a fine set of town officials, always and ever ready to cast their votes for any and

everything that will better the conditions of things both public and private. The North Judson News published by Chester A. McCormick has been an instrument well conducted in the interest of all the citizens of the town and surrounding country, ever advocating all questions for the betterment of the town which he so ably represents. No town in the western part of the state gives more attention to the improvement of streets and cement sidewalks than does North Judson. There are a great many Catholics in the town, demonstrated by the fine Catholic church just erected in 1913.

THE TOWN BOARD OF NORTH JUDSON

This board consists of the following persons: Trustees, Alfred A. Sphung, Joseph Dolezall, Jacob F. Manz; clerk, Charles Hankey; treasurer, Chris Neupert; marshal, W. H. Kellerman; town attorney, Simon Bybee.

NORTH JUDSON POSTOFFICE

Frank Vessely succeeded Charles Kuester as postmaster of North Judson in 1914, and with his deputy, G. W. Schricker, and Grace Vessely as assistants, the office is well conducted and none of the citizens will have any occasion to regret that Mr. Vessely was appointed as their postmaster. As long as the postmaster does his duty and conducts the office in a genteel and obliging way all the patrons of the town feel proud of him in that very important office.

BUSINESS AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Farmers and Merchants State Bank of North Judson has these officers: Charles W. Weninger, president; Jacob F. Manz, vice president; Perry H. McCormick, cashier; and G. N. Peterson, assistant cashier.

The Building and Loan Association of North Judson, Indiana, is a great benefit to the people in and around the town. The gentlemen having charge of that association are ever mindful of the fact that many people could not secure a home for themselves without the aid of some kind of advantage of this kind and those needing help can secure it of the association. The officers are Charles W. Weninger, president; G. N. Peterson, secretary, and Perry H. McCormick, treasurer.

North Judson Creamery.—I have said before that creameries have been established all over the country, one of which is located in North Judson, and it is in the charge of Mr. Charles Hruska, the ever ready and efficient manager of that very important industry. It is surprising what a vast amount of butter is manufactured at this creamery, convincing every one that the right man is in the right place and that the farmers can realize a good profit by selling their milk at the North Judson Creamery. It is located in a fine cement block building in the south part of town and was built in the year 1910.

The lodges, both beneficiary and non-beneficiary, are located in all towns and North Judson has several to her credit, among which are the Masons, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Maccabees, Modern Woodmen of America, the Royal Neighbors, auxiliary of the Woodmen, and the Rebekah Lodge, auxiliary of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and some others the names of which we did not obtain.

North Judson has an industry said to be the only one in the United States and that is the turtle industry, which is controlled and managed by Alfred A. Sphung. He deals mostly with schools and colleges of the big cities and obtains good prices, and while Mr. Sphung is aiding those people commercially, he is of course helping himself financially.

The North Judson Lumber Company established in that town and which is so ably managed by Otto Kriss, was opened up for business in that name in the year 1910. It has been increased in size and dimensions from a small concern to a great big plant, keeping a big stock of lumber, lath, lime, shingles and everything usually to be found in a first-class lumber yard.

The J. J. Urshell or J. W. Long Vitrified Brick Plant at North Judson is manufacturing a vitrified brick at the Sand Lime Brick Company's old brick yards, that is complete in everything that the name vitrified brick means. This brick plant was located in North Judson several years ago, and the P. C. C. & St. L. Railroad built a spur track to the plant, and this factory after doing such a wonderful amount of business fell to pieces financially. Then Mr. Long and a few others took hold of it and have raised it to its present and profitable condition.

There are a good number of business houses in North Judson, dry-good stores, groceries, millinery and notion stores, hardware stores, furniture stores, meat markets, clothing stores, shoe stores, hotels, restaurants, barber shops, theaters, blacksmith shops, automobile garage, and various other kinds of business carried on in the town that gives North Judson the assurance that she is one of the best small towns in the state, with an energetic wide-awake people.

The bank and the printing offices spoken of elsewhere are, too, institutions well conducted, and a great benefit to the town.

North Judson, like all other towns of any size, has her practicing physicians, all doing as well financially as the good health of the town and vicinity will permit. The names are: Dr. Albert Fisher, Dr. P. O. Englerth, who are always ready to visit the sick and administer to their wants all hours of the day and night. Both have a good practice and shall continue to do so while located in the Town of North Judson.

Doctor Englerth was reared in the vicinity of North Judson and is well and favorably known to all the people in that vicinity, while Doctor Fisher has resided in North Judson several years, and has become well acquainted with its citizens as well as the surrounding neighborhood and he can feel proud of the success he has met with since he located here.

All towns of any importance have their lawyers, in all cases meting out justice to their patrons in giving good advice and at the proper time conducting the cases in their hands to the best interest of their clients.

North Judson presents the names of Harry C. Miller and Simon Bybee as the lawyers of their town. Mr. Miller having been raised in this county is well known by the people, who have implicit confidence in him. Mr. Bybee is an old citizen of North Judson having a good patronage, which he has secured by his long and careful practice as a lawyer of North Judson.

The Masonic Temple built during the year just closed was dedicated Saturday, November 7, 1914. This is a fine two-story brick building situated on the corner (or near the corner) of Talma Avenue and South Lane Street and will stand as a pride and pleasure for that part of the town, a home for the Masons of North Judson, a building that is a credit to any town.

The town is soon to have an electric light system established. The poles are already up along the highways and as soon as the wires are



VIEW ON LANE STREET, NORTH JUDSON

put in position then the town is to be lighted by an electric current from Plymouth, Indiana, the same as is furnished to Knox.

They already have a plant at that place but believe they can be better accommodated by the new arrangement, taking pattern from so many towns that are doing likewise.

GROVERTOWN

Grovertown lies in the northwestern part of Starke County, in section 27, in Oregon Township and was laid out in the year 1858.

The Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad runs through the village, which contains some two hundred inhabitants.

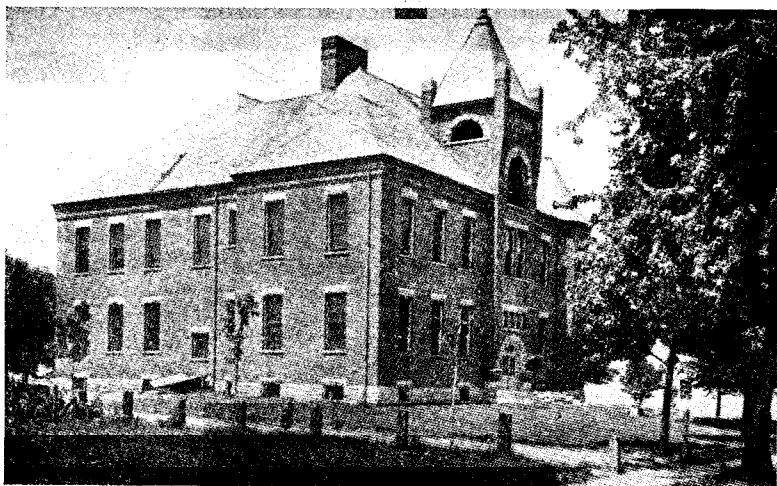
Having good gravel roads running in all directions and a good farming community around it, it is a convenient place to live in. They have some good buildings to their credit, among them a fine brick church, a fine brick high school building, several stores, a pickle factory, hotel,

postoffice and a number of good dwellings which make up this little village, located among and surrounded by many good farms, placing the Town of Grovertown on the map of peace and plenty which those people so richly deserve.

HAMLET

Hamlet was surveyed and laid out in the year 1863 and is situated on the crossing of the Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad, and the Chicago, Indiana & Southern Railroad, lying partly in Davis Township and partly in Oregon Township and contains about seven hundred inhabitants.

This town is built upon a beautiful, level stretch of land and contains some excellent buildings, churches, schoolhouse, town hall, elevators,



SCHOOL BUILDING, HAMLET

stores, livery and dwellings that are a credit to any town. It was incorporated in the year 1896 and its officers who look well to all interests have succeeded in building up a town that is said to be one of the best small towns in the state.

This town is surrounded by some of the best lands in the state and the farmers raise the best of crops on those rich lands lying near the town, a fact which is demonstrated by the crop of grain that they market at the elevator in that town each year.

No town in the state can produce more men to the size of the town than can Hamlet for business tact and skill in working out all the problems that go to make up a well regulated town, a town well and truly admired for the comfortable and luxurious homes that can be seen in this village, and a class of bankers, business men and agricultural and lumber dealers that represent the town so substantially.

BUSINESS INTERESTS

The Dye Lumber Company of Hamlet is located near the Chicago, Indiana & Southern Depot and is doing a good business under the management of Wilbur Dye, who keeps on hand at all times lumber, lath, lime, shingles, paints, and any and all kinds of building material usually found in a first-class lumber yard. This is a thing very much appreciated by the people of Hamlet and the surrounding neighborhood, a place where the town people and the farmer can procure material for a building from the foundation to the peak of the roof. Besides, Mr. Dye has on hand all kinds of fencing, either barbed wire or woven wire fencing, farm tile and everything in his line and is always on hand to wait upon his many customers, giving them the advantage of the lowest prices obtainable anywhere.

The town is provided with a number of good first-class stores, groceries, meat markets, hardware stores, drygood stores, millinery stores, drug stores, bank, elevators, barber shops, restaurants, liverys, garages, hotels, blacksmith shops, postoffice, express office, carpenters, brick masons, plumbers, painters, cement workers, milk wagons, draymen, teamsters, paper hangers, railroads, depots, and rural mail carriers and others, all going to make up a neat and quiet village where you can live in peace and plenty all the days of your life, never regretting that you are one among the citizens of Hamlet.

Then there is that ever smiling and good natured postmaster, Ira Compton, who is at his post of duty from early morning until late at night waiting on his customers and also making up the mail for the rural carriers, who are always on time to deliver the mail to the farmers at their doors.

What an improvement this is! The Government looked well and acted wisely when they adopted the free rural mail service in our land. The carriers never miss a day but deliver their mail every day, giving the farmer his mail every twenty-four hours. Some of the carriers use automobiles, a thing made possible by the good gravel roads we have constructed all over the county in the last few years. It is a question of only a short time until all the mail carriers will use automobiles for carrying the mails, which can be done so much quicker and easier than by horse power.

Then there are the elevators in Hamlet, where the farmers can haul their grain with those big auto trucks, as they have good gravel road to travel on. And the livery or auto garages can see the full benefit of this kind of travel and Hamlet is supplied with those up-to-date and modern improvements so characteristic of all up-to-date towns, Hamlet being one of that class.

Everybody seems to be busy in Hamlet. The merchants' as well as all other business is carried on to its full capacity in this thriving little town, nothing neglected in the way of dispensing goods to the citizens of the town and surrounding neighborhood. This has always had the

name of being a good trading point and to see the business done here would convince anyone that the statement is true.

ORA

Ora, which is another beautiful little town of some three hundred people, situated upon the Chicago & Erie Railroad in the southeastern part of the county, comes in too for its share of public enterprise. With her good business in the mercantile line there are a number of good buildings, dwellings, schoolhouses and other buildings that go to make up a town worthy of the patronage she receives at all times of the year. Situated as it is upon the Chicago & Erie Railroad and laid out in the year 1882, when that railroad was built through that neighborhood, the location has been a great benefit to that part of the county, giving the farmers an advantage in shipping their grain and stock to the first class markets of our country and also giving them a market for their produce which is bought up by the several merchants of that town.

They have a pickling establishment that buys up all the cucumbers raised in the vicinity, giving the farmers a chance to market their products in that line, which naturally increases the volume of money of which the merchants no doubt receive their share, as the farmers spend their money with their home merchants, a thing which helps to improve the town in which they live. No town can improve without the willing hands of her citizens working in the one common cause and this is what the beautiful little Town of Ora has done, nestled down among a band of happy and industrious farmers, patronizing their home town. It is no wonder then that Ora is making so much progress in all her improvements.

SAN PIERRE

San Pierre, laid out in 1854, now has about four hundred inhabitants. It is located on the Louisville, New Albany & Chicago ("Monon") Railroad in the west part of the county. The Chicago, Indiana & Southern also runs through the town. This gives the town two railroads, one running north and south and the other east and west, thus giving the town and surrounding country ample railroad facilities.

The town is well located on a level plain and has some handsome buildings in it. There is an effort at this time being made to incorporate the town, but it remains to be seen later whether this will be done. They have some fine buildings and have just let the contract for an addition to their high school building. The good people are wide awake to keeping pace with their sister towns. Owen Daily, the township trustee, backed up by the citizens of the town, is always ready to bring San Pierre to the front rank in educational interest.

With one accord they can say they have some of the finest farm land that can be found in the county, surrounding the town, which adds materially to the development of the town. With their elevators, their lumber yards, their churches and business houses, together with their residences built with an eye to beauty as well as durability, San Pierre is a pleasant and prosperous town to live in.

OBER

Ober is situated in Washington Township, about five miles east of Knox and on the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. She, too, like her neighboring towns, is a very pleasant place to live in, with her fine school building, her churches, her neat and commodious dwelling houses, her up to date stores, her gravel roads and her enterprising business men, making this town well worthy of its place upon the



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF SAN PIERRE

Starke County map, a place surrounded by a good farming community, a place from which they ship carload after carload of onions, an industry so wonderfully carried on all over the county. They are beginning to improve their sidewalks also with cement walks, which adds wonderfully to the appearance of any town, no difference how small it may be. It shows the same enterprising spirit found in other, even greater and more wealthy towns.

They have a pickling station here too, that helps in a great measure to swell the revenue of the town, and the mint culture so extensively carried on adds to the business interest. This beautiful little town extends her hand of welcome to all who may come to locate in the town or vicinity, and this characteristic of Ober has had a great influence in building up the town.

Connected with the Plymouth Lighting System they are furnished with an electric current that gives them the convenience of that great improvement over some of her neighboring towns, but it will not be long

until each and every town, however small, will be lighted by electricity, as all those improvements are coming one after another to the benefit of the good people of Starke County.

TOTO

Toto, or Rye, as it is called by the railroad company, is a small station on the Chicago, Indiana & Southern Railroad, and is situated five miles southwest of Knox. It was here that the first postoffice was located and which has to the present time held faithfully to its name.

This village does a wonderful amount of shipping. A great many carloads of onions are shipped from this station each year, as some of the greatest onion growers are engaged in the business at this place. Hay and coal are shipped in great quantities each year. They have several stores, a good school building, a church—all on the cross-roads, which is improved with gravel. Toto is worthy of notice by all who chance to go her way while traveling from town to town. Welcoming her to success in all she undertakes is the motto of all.

ENGLISH LAKE

English Lake, situated upon the south bank of the Kankakee River in Railroad Township, has two railroads. The Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad and the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad run through this station. The town was located at the time of building the first named railroad.

The little village has several business houses, and situated as it is in the Kankakee Valley has great opportunities for fishermen and others to visit this beautiful river. Its location among the fine hay fields of this valley makes that a very great industry, which is carried on to a great extent by the surrounding farmers. The hay is loaded upon the cars and shipped to the markets of the world, and brings good returns for those engaged in the business and greatly benefits the town.

NICKEL PLATE OR BREMS

Nickel Plate, or Brems Station, is located on the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad at the west line of Center Township, and is an enterprising little town with store, postoffice, school, grain elevator and other conveniences that go to make up a very handsome and commodious town to live in, surrounded by a good grain-growing district. Pressing hay and shipping from that station has been carried on quite extensively for the last several years.

ALDINE

Aldine is a small town, not incorporated, situated on the Chicago & Erie Railroad in section 29, California Township, with about one hundred inhabitants to their account. It was located in the same

year that the railroad was built through the county (1882), and makes a very pleasant little village to live in. There is a good farming district around the town and besides raising corn and wheat, onions are raised and shipped from the town in great quantities. They have several stores and Gleaners Hall, together with good residences. The people have no reason or occasion to regret that they "pitched their tents" upon the Town of Aldine.

Surrounded by some of the greatest onion farms in the county, besides the great wheat fields that surround them, Aldine is a place which well deserves the kind respect for the inhabitants that make up this pleasant little village. They have good stores and railroad facilities. Being located on the Chicago & Erie Railroad gives them direct communication with Chicago and the eastern states, affording them the best of markets. The ability to place their products in the markets at the first opportunity gives them an equal advantage with neighboring towns, which they well and truly appreciate as times go by.

There are several other small towns that are not large enough to be incorporated, but are all live towns doing their share of the mercantile business. Aldine, English Lake, Bass Station, Davis, Ober, Nickel Plate, Toto, Ora, Winona, and Davis, all not incorporated, come in for a reasonable share of the mercantile trade and are all well contented with the business they are doing. Besides the stores and some other kinds of business, they all have onion storage houses and are also points noted for the onion mercantile trade. Besides, some of those places have "stills" for making peppermint oil, of which I have made mention elsewhere in this volume.

The schools are an important part of these places, all of which are provided with good schoolhouses and good instructors in the various branches taught, all of which keeps those towns alive and on the map of educational and business interests.