

**A  
PHOTOGRAPHIC HISTORY  
OF  
STARKE COUNTY  
INDIANA**



**Compiled by  
Marvin Allen  
Starke County Historian**

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# Introduction

Originally submitted to local newspapers between 2004 and 2009 as “Starke History”, these photographs provide a pictorial record of more than a hundred years of local history.

Some were taken by other professional photographers, as well as amateurs with early box cameras, but the majority of the pictures were taken by Klopot Studios.

Sigmund Klopot moved with his wife Clara and daughter Stella to the area in 1894 from Chicago. Soon studios were opened at North Judson, Knox and Bass Lake.

Later Stella related that the lens was so valuable that they carried it with them from studio to studio. She said they traveled on the 3-I Train from Knox to North Judson every Friday morning, handled business there and then took the Erie Train to Bass Lake for the weekend, at least during the summers.

After arriving at the south end of Bass Lake, they would take one of the steam boats around the lake as it dropped tourists off at various hotels. Their studio was in Winona on the lake's north side.

Tintypes were a tourist's favorite. They were quick to make and less costly than prints, which required a separate negative.

After Sigmund died in 1912, Clara continued on with the business for many years. Stella eventually took over and ran the studio until the late 1960s.

Stella (Klopot) Bonner also served as Starke County's first County Historian.

We are forever indebted to the Klopot family for their many, now historic, photos and efforts to preserve local history.

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## **Chapter 1 – Bass Lake**



### **Bass Hotel**

This photo of the original Bass Hotel at Bass Lake was probably taken in the late 1890s.

This was before any sort of road had been built along the west side of the lake. Most guests arrived by row boats that met a larger steam powered boat farther out in the lake.

The Bass Hotel was owned by Robert M. Rannells and located where 500 S intersects 210. The original hotel as seen in this picture was more like a bed & breakfast. But it was expanded with additional sleeping and dining rooms.

When it burned down in 1909, a new larger hotel was built with three floors. It offered entertainment and dancing every Saturday night. An advertisement said chicken, fish and frog leg dinners were their specialty. F.J. "Parkie" Gilmore ran the hotel during the 1930s. It too burned down sometime before 1940.





### **Bass Lake Ball Team**

A photo of the Bass Lake Baseball Team is dated about 1918. From left to right, front row: Ned Trigg, Pete Brown and Herman Rodgers; middle row: Louis Rogers, Alfred Rogers, Gus Nelson and Ernest Schultz; back row: Carl Marks, Russell Bolen, Ed Brown, John Merket, unknown and Fred A. White.

All through the 1920's and 1930's, many of the local communities here in Starke County hosted baseball teams, which were sponsored by local businesses and merchants. Teams such as the Bass Lake White Sox, Hamlet Cubs, Ober Batsmen, Knox Red Sox, Winona Sluggers, Kankakee Transient Camp, Bass Station Bees, Ora, Eagle Creek, Grovertown and San Pierre played each other and surrounding counties.

In 1935, they were organized as the Starke County Baseball League, under the amateur baseball rules of the American Baseball Congress. Winning teams moved on to district and state tournaments.



### **Bass Lake Country Club**

Elijah and Sally Wood purchased 78 acres, including what became known as Cranberry Point, on Bass Lake's east side in 1861.

Around 1890 Elijah's daughter Nancy and her husband, William Ayers, permitted an association of property owners to build the Bass Lake Country Club on their property at Cranberry Point. It was the scene of many social events, including family reunions.

In 1929, the Indianapolis Naval Reserves Corps rented Cranberry Point, including the club house, from the Ayers family. Their Naval Academy for boys aged 12 to 18, known as Camp Gridley, was then moved from Indianapolis up to Bass Lake.

In 1933, Ced White took over the lease and continued to run Camp Gridley as a boy's camp. When World War II came along, Ced White enlisted in the Army and the camp sat idle for several years. Eventually the clubhouse was dismantled for its lumber and reused elsewhere.

After the war, Ced White reopened the camp as a "Dude Ranch" housing the horses in a barn there on Cranberry Point. After a few years, Ced relocated his Dude Ranch to a farm east on Hwy 10.



### **Bass Lake Fire Department**

The Bass Lake Fire Department relocated to this new facility in 1947. Earlier the fire department had been located at Vergin's Garage in Winona.

The photo appears to have been taken sometime in the 1950s. In more recent years, the firehouse was remodeled and is now home to the Bass Lake Property Owners' Association.

We believe former Fire Chief George McCormick is standing second from the right. The museum (772-5393) would appreciate any help identifying the other members of the department or any information about the fire trucks.





### **Bass Lake Fish Hatchery**

The Bass Lake Fish Hatchery was established by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources in 1913 at the lake's northeast corner. The hatchery was used to raise fish for stocking lakes all around the state.

The ponds were originally dug by hand using shovels and wheel barrows. Some of the local men hired for this task were: Elmer Hewett, Ray Terry, Tom Cleve, Tom Scott, Roy Connor, Jim Casey, Seth Smith, Harvey Connor, Mel Day, Dick Headley, George Brown and Pete Lavery.

The fish hatchery was updated in 1928 with two fine brick buildings. One was a residence and the other a laboratory. John Hay was one of the superintendents at that time. The buildings were built in the Colonial Revival style and have recently been recognized by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The property and facilities are now owned by Purdue University.



### **Bass Lake State Beach**

A photo taken in the late 1940s shows the beach house at Bass Lake State Beach. Earlier in 1931, Indiana Department of Natural Resources decided to purchase this land and build a state beach. This was in the heights of the Great Depression, and both state and federal governments were eager to put people to work on public works projects. Workers used long drag lines to pull sand from the lake's bottom to build the beach. The soil in that area is composed of a fine natural sand ideal for a beach. Today some of the sand has been washed back into the lake, and the water's edge is up to the beach house.

During the 1930s and 40s, a gas station was located directly across from the new beach. It sold just about anything a tourist might need. During the 1950s, the state decided to expand and purchased the area across the road for use as a campground.

As a recreation area, the beach dates back to the 1890s, when a privately owned amusement park known as White City was located in today's campground area. They featured baseball games, theatrical groups, fireworks and dancing in addition to amusement rides of the day.



### **Bass Station General Store**

This photo of the general store at Bass Station was taken around 1930. Elmer and Gladys Lucas bought the store in 1923 and operated it for 26 years. Shown in the photo are Jim and his twin sister, Marion, with parents Elmer and Gladys. The store was located on the west side of the road north of the railroad tracks. Hausler & O'Hare bought the store around 1949 and also operated it for many years.

This was truly a general store. Local farmers would bring chicken eggs in and trade them for other goods needed on their farms. Packaged fertilizer was somewhat new at that time and a big seller at the store. The Bass Post Office was also located in the store. Red Crown gasoline was sold in the hand operated pumps. Jim Lucas tells us his father taught him to drive using the Model A Ford shown to the left. A one room school was located on the other side of the road.

In years gone by, Bass Station was a very busy place. It no longer has any kind of road sign indicating its location, but it was located about a mile and a half south of Bass Lake on today's US 35.

The Erie Railroad from Chicago went through Bass Station on its way east. Around 1897, a railroad spur was built from Bass Station northward to the lake. Tourists from Chicago and elsewhere would take the train to Bass Station. From there the train would back up to Bass Lake and unload at a long pier at the south end of the lake. Steam boats would pick passengers up at this pier and take them to the many hotels located around the lake.





### **Bathers**

A group of bathers is shown at Bass Lake around 1905. They may be out of town visitors that have come to the lake on one of the railroads from Chicago.

The ladies are wearing fashionable bathing suits of the day. This consisted of a blouse and pants all in one piece, with a matching skirt buttoned at the waist to conceal the figure. A pair of stockings completed the outfit.

The lady in the center is wearing a very daring outfit, since it exposes her neck. As late as 1910, a lady might be arrested for exposing her lower legs, upper arms, or neck. It would be the 1920's before skirts and long pants were not worn when swimming. At the time of this picture, it was just becoming widely acceptable for women to go swimming.

It would be 1930 before men dared to expose their chests at the beach.



### **Best View Hotel Beagle Club**

Beagles at Bass Lake? An undated picture shows a Beagle Club that met at the Best View Hotel on Bass Lake's north end.

Based on the ladies' clothing, we would guess this was taken during the 1920s. The road appears to be gravel and not yet paved.

The Best View Hotel was originally built by William Henry Emigh in 1905. A 1925 advertisement touted cool rooms, good beds, running water, indoor toilets, screened porches and electric lights.

The Best View was one of the last of the old hotels operating at the lake when it became the Shore Room in the 1950s.

How many Beagles can you find in the picture? Answer on next page.





### **Best View Hotel Scene**

This was the scene in front of the Best View Hotel at Bass Lake's north end around 1920. More recently, this spot has been home to the Shore Room.

Notice the unpaved road and telephone lines. This was before electrical power was available at the lake. These days we forget that people had telephones many years before they had electrical lights.

The view is looking toward the east, and the building in the background was the bowling alley at Winona. Legend has it that Diamond Joe Esposito's limousines stirred up a lot of dust on those dirt roads to everyone's ire. Wanting to be a good neighbor, he saw to it that the road was paved around the lake in the mid-1920's.

(Answer for previous page's photo: 21 Beagles)



### **Bloom's Store**

Bloom's was located at the corner of SR 10 and CR 210 on Bass Lake's east side where Bass Lake Pub & Ristorante is now located.

This photo from the 1950's is the way many people remember this busy corner in days gone by. Bloom's was one of the first stops for families vacationing at Bass Lake. As one of their advertisements used to say "We Have Everything". For kids on summer vacation from the city, it was like a magic kingdom full of beach toys, kites, balloons, toy boats and ice cream of every kind. Even local kids found Bloom's a great place to air their bicycle tires, while enjoying an ice cream bar on a hot summer day.

It was originally built as a Standard Oil filling station around 1920 and operated by Robert J. Virtue. Besides Red Crown gasoline and oil, he offered telegraph service to lake vacationers and residents.

Bloom's expanded the original gas station into what we would call a convenience store today, selling groceries, meat, milk and blocks of ice, as well as a great selection of summer-time toys for kids eager to spend their allowance.



### **Brabrook Hotel**

In 1891, August White sold 148 acres of mostly swampy farmland along the west side of then Cedar Lake to Joseph H. Larimer of Peru, Indiana for \$2,600. This probably seemed like a good deal, since Mr. White had bought this same land 13 years earlier for \$450. At that time there was no road at all running along the west side of the lake.

But within two years, Mr. Larimer had subdivided the edges of this property bordering the lake into 99 lake front lots, including Cedar Point. A dirt road was constructed along the lake front, and the lots were advertised at \$100 to \$200 each.

He also built a first-class hotel directly on Cedar Point. An advertisement says it has 512 feet of veranda facing the lake on three fronts. It also says "The mineral waters, containing iron, sulphur, and other medical properties, are healthful and unsurpassed by any in Indiana making Cedar Point not only the prettiest and most enjoyable resort for pleasure, but a health resort, and persons who have used the water from the mineral well on Cedar Point have been much benefited thereby."

Soon Mr. Larimer was successful in changing the name of Cedar Lake to what we now know as Bass Lake.

By 1905, the hotel had been sold to William Brabrook, who advertised first class cuisine and rooms for \$8 to \$12 per week. The farm land had been sold back to Fred M. White, who later sold part of it for development into the Bass Lake Golf Course.



### **Brydon's Beach**

Brydon's Beach was located at the south end of Bass Lake to the west of the marina. The main attraction was a huge carousel. There was also a Ferris Wheel, which can be seen to the right of the picture.

Farther back was an arcade. Its sign says "Pennys on Parade, Free Admission". A shooting gallery was another attraction for summer vacationers.

Harry Rannells originally built the amusement park in the 1930's. Earlier this location had been home to the Knickerbocker Ice Company.





### **Buchta's Store**

A photo from the 1950's of Buchta's Place at Bass Lake - Joseph and Pauline Buchta moved to Starke County from Chicago sometime between 1930 and 1935 and purchased the former clubhouse of the old Brabrook Hotel.

Both were immigrants from Czechoslovakia. Joseph had been working as a commercial catalog artist in Chicago. The Buchtas proceeded to rent some of the rooms and called it Buchta's Hotel and Dining Room. Later, son John Buchta called it simply Buchta's Place and ran it as a general store.

Earlier, the clubhouse had been used to entertain hotel guests and had a tavern, card room and billiards. The hotel itself had been built in 1887 by Joe Larimer of Peru, Indiana. It was the very first of several grand hotels to be built at the lake and had 50 rooms.

The clubhouse had also been built around 1887 by the Peru Hunting and Fishing Club. In 1904, William Brabrook bought the hotel, clubhouse and Cedar Point grounds with 1,000 feet of lake frontage. The Brabrook Hotel thrived, until it burned down in 1913. Mr. Brabrook then decided to sell the property and buy a farm in Jackson Township.

The place many of us grew up knowing as Buchta's has been closed the past few years and this past month was demolished.



### **Center View Hotel**

The Center View Hotel was built on Bass Lake's east side in the area south of Cranberry Point in 1907.

In those days the road along that stretch ran between the lake and the cottages. Part of the road can be seen in this picture. A man by the name of C.B. Stange is credited with moving the road to the high ground, where it is today. Everyone's back door then became their front door.

Long time lake resident Vera Lorenz helped her mother prepare meals for guests on a wood cook stove at the hotel. There was no electricity. Kerosene lamps supplied light at night. Water was obtained from an outdoor hand pump. The ice man brought fresh blocks of ice several times a week for the ice boxes. The large room on the 3rd floor where the youngsters slept was divided by hanging curtains for privacy.

These days the Center View is a well cared for residence and was pictured by Historic Landmarks Foundation in their survey of Starke County.



### **Cleaves's Chute**

About 100 years ago, Cleave's Chute was a popular attraction at Bass Lake. It was located on the lake's northeast side at Winona and included a beach, where one could even "rent" bathing suits.

We can only imagine how fast what looks like a traditional toboggan would have zoomed down this 30 foot drop into the water. Tom Cleave was the owner and operator of this early Bass Lake establishment.

Soon another slide, even higher, was constructed at the south end of the lake at Bass Lake Park where Rannell's Park was later located.





### **Conner's Corner**

A few weeks ago we ran a photo of Bloom's store at Bass Lake. As a result a reader provided additional corrected information and today's photo. This photo dated about 1930 shows Harvey and Mary Conner, who ran the store then known as Conner's Corner until selling it to Mr. Bloom and Mrs. Hunt who ran it in the 1950's.

It was the Conners who expanded the gas station into what we would call a convenience store today. To the right side was a kitchen and tables where Mary Conner would prepare lunches or just coffee for Bass Lake folks. A candy case was a favorite stop for younger visitors.

Harvey's parents, Nelson and Alice Conner, had been early settlers in the Bass Lake area. Mary's parents, John and Louvina Wagoner, were also early settlers in that area. From left to right: Robert Virtue, who lived at the Breezy Cliff cottage, Mary (Wagoner) Conner, daughter Daisy Conner behind her cousin Betty Lou Conner, Harvey Conner and son Hank Conner.





### **Crystal Ballroom**

A photo loaned to the museum by Louise Williams of Knox shows Ted Weems Orchestra performing at the Crystal Ballroom at Bass Lake in 1947.

This was one of the last appearances of a "big band" at the lake. Ted Weems Band was nationally renowned and very popular during the 1930's and 40's. Ted Weems was associated with Perry Como and Jack Benny, among others.

The four persons in the front are left to right: Robert McFarland, Louise (Rubbi) Williams, Bob Jackson and Hugo Anderson. Others believed to be in the picture are: Jim Voris, Ruth (Wells) Lucas, Joanne Rogers, Don Blakely, Barbara Rannells, Herb Rogers, Bill Owen, Herb Bilderback, Bob Matthew, Jerry Tollar, Alice (Dembowski) Condon, Casey Shubert, Janet (Garr) Palmer, Helen McFarland, Helen (Dunkelberger) Butler, Dolores (Burkey) Berg and Joanne (Anderson) Cook.



### **Ferretti Resort**

The Ferretti Resort was located on Bass Lake's southeast side. Guido and Veneta Ferretti purchased two Bass Lake properties in 1925. One was an empty lake side lot. The other property was directly across the road and had a large farmhouse. Soon 8 more bedrooms were added to the farmhouse, and the dining room was enlarged to seat 96 people at a time.

Then a large cottage was built on the lake lot that could sleep another 27 guests. It was nicknamed the "White House". Additional sleeping cottages were added through the years.

Three meals a day were served family style, using many home grown products. Guests were always welcome in the kitchen to taste this or that and congenial conversation.

The Ferrettis retired in 1954 and sold all the property and buildings, except the "White House". After some remodeling, it became their retirement home for the next 14 years.

The home was sold in 1970 and demolished to make way for a new owner's home. Thanks to Dottie Ferretti Kasprzak for the photo and information.



### **Kaley Brother's Store**

Kaley Brothers Store was located in "downtown" Winona on Bass Lake's northeast corner.

In this 1905 photo postcard, it is advertised as the Marshall Field of Bass Lake. That might have been an exaggeration, but it was a general store that carried a little bit of just about anything a person might want back around the turn of the last century.

John and Anna Kaley opened their store in the 1890's and ran it for more than thirty years. Daughters Lilah and Bulah are shown with their parents standing on the wood plank sidewalk.

Lilah became a teacher and taught many years at the nearby Winona School.





### **Klopot Photo Studio**

A photo taken in the 1910's shows two ladies with their children in a horse drawn buggy. They have stopped in front of Klopot's Photo Studio at Bass Lake.

In those days, Sigmund Klopot and his wife, Clara, had a studio at North Judson, Bass Lake and Knox. The studio at Bass Lake was usually only open on weekends in the summer. It was located at the north end of the lake in Winona.

The road only went around part of the lake then and was not yet paved. This particular picture was a photo postcard. Postcards were very popular at that time and only cost one cent to mail. Photographers used heavy weight photo paper to make personalized post cards like this one.



### **Lake Park**

A postcard photo dated 1940 shows the business district at the south end of Bass Lake. US Highway 35 was fairly new and ran directly by the lake back then. It had only been designated a federal highway since 1934 and was still shared with IN 29.

There were two more filling stations across the road, as well as a stop for Indiana Motor Bus. An amusement park, ballroom, skating rink and hotel were just to the west.

This had been a busy intersection dating back to the 1890's, when the Erie Railroad operated a spur line up to a long pier that extended into the lake at this end. Steam boats picked up tourists and their baggage and delivered them around the lake to numerous hotels.



### **Lake Park**

A photo taken in the 1930s shows several popular places from the past. The view is looking west from the intersection of today's US 35 and SR 10 at the south end of Bass Lake. Back then US 35 was known as SR 29.

On the left side of the intersection, Van's Inn advertises Home Made Pies, Bar-B-Q Lunches, Beer On Tap and Sinclair Gasoline. The gas pumps appear to be older hand operated types. Van's was also a stop for Indiana Motor Bus.

The large building in the center was the Crystal Hotel. The well known Crystal Ballroom was to its left out of sight.

A Texaco station to the right advertises a Delicatessen and Groceries. These gas pumps may have electric pumps. The Coca-Cola cooler would have used blocks of ice to keep soft drinks cold.

Two men are talking in front of Dale Fishburn's garage. A sign advertises spark plugs for 5 cents.



### **Lake Park Garage**

A picture taken in the 1930s shows Dale Fishburn in front of his Lake Park Garage at the south end of Bass Lake. Signs advertise Johnson Gasoline, a brand then sold through a refinery in Chicago.

Dales' assistant was known as "Hinie". The wrecker appears to be homemade but ready to do the job.

Today this location is a vacant lot and was last home to "The Breakers". For many years that area of the lake was known as Lake Park and included a train stop, amusement park and one-room school, as well as several other gas stations and stores.

Thanks to Dorothy (Ferretti) Kasprzak for donating this interesting photo to the museum.





### **Lakeside Grocery**

A photo taken around 1950 shows the Lakeside Grocery at Bass Lake. It was located in Winona at the lake's north end and had been known as Roepstorff's through the 1930's and 40's.

Brothers William and Edward Roepstorff bought the store in the late 1920's from Tom Cleave. They sold just about anything a vacationer or tourist might want; souvenirs, ice-cream, candy, sodas, cigars, groceries, white gas, as well as rental boats and rooms.

Roepstorff's Park was next door to the left and featured a giant wooden water slide built by Tom Cleave. Henry Vergin's bowling alley and movie theater were just to the right of Lakeside Grocery.





### **Mae Villa**

Joseph Esposito was born in Italy in 1871. Around 1900, he came to America and first worked as a baker in Brooklyn, New York. Soon he moved to Chicago, where he became a very powerful ward committee man with many business interests. He was especially fond of wearing diamonds and soon became known as "Diamond Joe".

The story goes that he spent several months vacationing back in Italy around 1920. While there, he stayed at a magnificent Italian Villa. He was so enthralled by this villa, that he decided to build his own villa on Cedar Point at Bass Lake. He named his new villa "Mae Villa", a nickname his young wife, Carmella, used. This is a view of the villa looking south, probably taken from the Taggart Hotel pier.

Diamond Joe was known locally as a good supporter of Knox and Bass Lake activities, including an annual 4th of July fireworks display.

He was also instrumental in the paving of the road around Bass Lake. When he visited Bass Lake, it involved as many as 20 or more autos in a caravan. This would stir up quite a bit of dust to the dismay of local residents. Always willing to please his local neighbors, he saw to it that the road around the lake was paved.

Diamond Joe Esposito was gunned down by unknown assassins on a Chicago Street in 1928, but the family continued to vacation at their Bass Lake home for many years.

Later the family did sell the property, and it was remodeled into the Club Riviera, a restaurant and tavern. The Riviera burned down in 1981 and was replaced by a private residence.



### **Miss Bass Lake 1926**

In 1926, the Taggart Hotel, near Cedar Point at Bass Lake, sponsored a Bathing Beauty Contest. Miss Bonnie Rogers was declared Miss Bass Lake. Miss Rogers was given a loving cup, a three-pound box of candy, a bottle of perfume, and a fancy pair of garters.

Emily McCormick was second and Mildred Tompkins third. Others participating in the event were Misses La Verne and Vivian Cannon, Dorothy DeMont, Artis Loudermilk, Dorothy Crews, Esther Neupert and Violet Engle.

Later Bonnie Rogers became Mrs. Bonnie Taylor and was the secretary at the Knox High School for many years.



### **Miss Bass Lake Contestants 1926**

The first Miss Bass Lake Beauty Contest was held in 1926 at the Taggart Hotel. An orchestra played "Valencia" as the beauty contestants paraded before the judges. There was no talent competition.

Five girls were selected on each Sunday August 8th and 15th. Bonnie Rogers was named Miss Bass Lake from among the ten finalists on Sunday August 22nd. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Rogers of Knox. Emily McCormick won 2nd place and Mildred Thompson won third. The other seven contestants were Esther Neupert, Violet Engle, Ardis Loudermilk, Dorothy Crews, Dorothy DeMont, LaVerne and Vivian Cannon.

The event was promoted by Mrs. Mary K. Rickett and held at the Taggart dance pavilion on the lake's west side across from Diamond Joe Esposito's villa. The judges were John Boa, Hugh King, Dick Upsall and Carrol Johnson. Louis J. Kren, editor of the Bass Lake Times, and William Bogan, manager of the Taggart Hotel, presented the silver loving cup to Miss Rogers. Each girl received a three-pound box of candy, a bottle of perfume and a fancy pair of garters. The prizes were donated by Knox and Bass Lake Business Men. Matt Bonner was the official photographer.

Bonnie Rogers is holding the silver cup in this photo. We believe Emily McCormick is next and then Mildred Thompson. We are not sure of the order of the other seven contestants.





### **Rannell's Motor Bus**

The Rannell's Family operated a hotel at Bass Lake around the turn of the last century known as the Bass Hotel. This is a picture of the taxi they used to pickup hotel guests at the Knox and Bass Station railroad depots. This driver was James Lanery.

Notice the wheels with wooden spokes, the chain driven rear wheels, the carbide lamps and the porter ready to assist hotel guests - not to mention a dog's age old fascination with tires.



### **Shore Room**

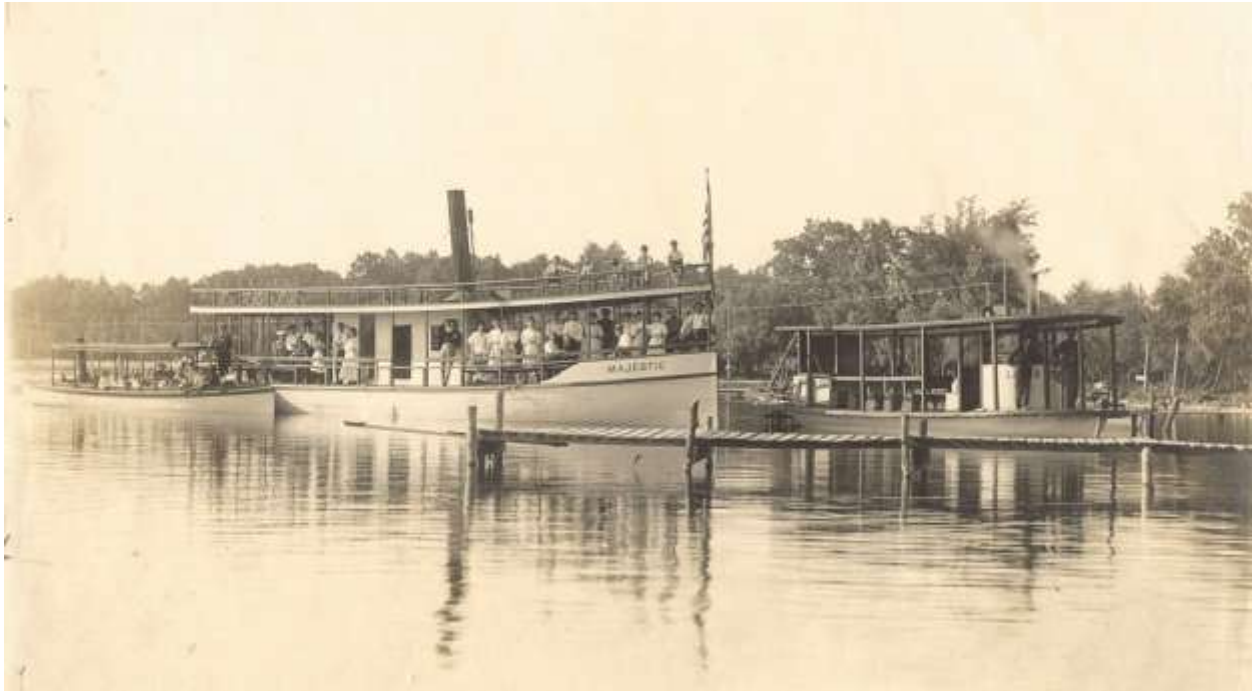
A photo taken in 1964 shows the well known Shore Room at Bass Lake.

It was originally built in 1905 by William Henry Emigh as the Best View Hotel. It had 25 guest rooms and a dining room that could seat 100. William Henry was 40 years old when he gave up farming in Washington Township, moved to Bass Lake with his wife Mary and took up the hotel business.

A 1925 advertisement touted "cool rooms, good beds, running water, indoor toilets, screened porches and electric lights".

The Best View was one of the last of the old hotels operating at the lake when it became the Shore Room in the late 1950's. The original structure burned down some years ago and was replaced with the present building.





### **Steam Boats**

In 1899 George Peterson built and launched the Majestic. It was a double-decker steam boat that could carry 300 people. In 1900 he built the Leatha Mae and in 1903 the Conradine.

This photo is dated around 1905 and shows, left to right: the Conradine, Majestic and Leatha Mae.

The steam boats were docked at a long pier at the south end of the lake near today's marina. The Erie Railroad spur would bring tourists and vacationers to the pier, and then the steam boats would take them to the many hotels around the lake. A certain number of whistles signaled a boat was approaching each hotel, so that porters could be ready to carry baggage.

Some of the boats also carried groceries and other supplies to local residents, as well as the hotels. In those days, these boats were essential. One hundred years ago, only short sections of the lake had a road. The roads to Knox and Winamac were unimproved and precarious at best.



### **Taggart Hotel**

The Taggart Hotel was located across from Cedar Point on Bass Lake's west side.

It adjoined the Blue Dog dance pavilion shown to the left in this photo taken in the late 1920's. The Blue Dog was a very popular place and featured big name bands.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Bogan ran the hotel at that time. They advertised hot and cold running water in the rooms, private bathrooms, electric lights and five mineral wells on the property.

The first Miss Bass Lake contest was held at Taggart's pavilion in 1926. Diamond Joe Esposito's villa was just across the road.

Built in 1900, the former hotel burned down in the 1950's while undergoing remodeling for a new owner.



### **Tomassi's Resort**

Tomassi's Resort on 700 East in North Bend Twp was a very popular place in the 1920's and for many years afterward. The resort featured an open dance pavilion and a bath house. There were a number of buildings; including the unique six sided building shown in this photo. There was a lane or path that ran alongside the fish hatchery that connected the resort to Winona half a mile away.

Joseph Tomassi came to America from Poland in 1906. Soon he married Stephanie, also from Poland. Daughters, Elida and Laura were born to them in the 1920's and attended local schools. Mr. Tomassi's deep respect for America is evident in his tribute to the Statue of Liberty in this photo.

The 40 acre plot on which Joseph Tomassi built his resort was purchased from Warren Terry in the 1920's. Sometime in the 1970's, the Ukranian Orthodox Church bought the land and established St. Anthony's Monastery on it. It was closed a few years ago and much of it was recently damaged by a fire.



### **Van's Inn**

Van's Inn was located at the south end of Bass Lake where the Sand Bar is located today. Van's was a combination service station, bus stop and restaurant during the 1930's up through the late 1950's.

Travelers on Indiana Motor Buses would have no doubt appreciated their facilities after the trip up from Logansport. Their Bar-B-Q sandwiches were very popular with local residents. They also featured home made pies and fountain service.

Motorists would have filled up with Sinclair H-C Gasoline, the first industry's first high octane premium gasoline, and topped their oil off with Sinclair Emerald Motor Oil. Gasoline was about 16 cents per gallon at the time of this photo.

Before Van's Inn, this stop was Wolfe's Place. They also featured Bar-B-Q sandwiches.





## **Winona**

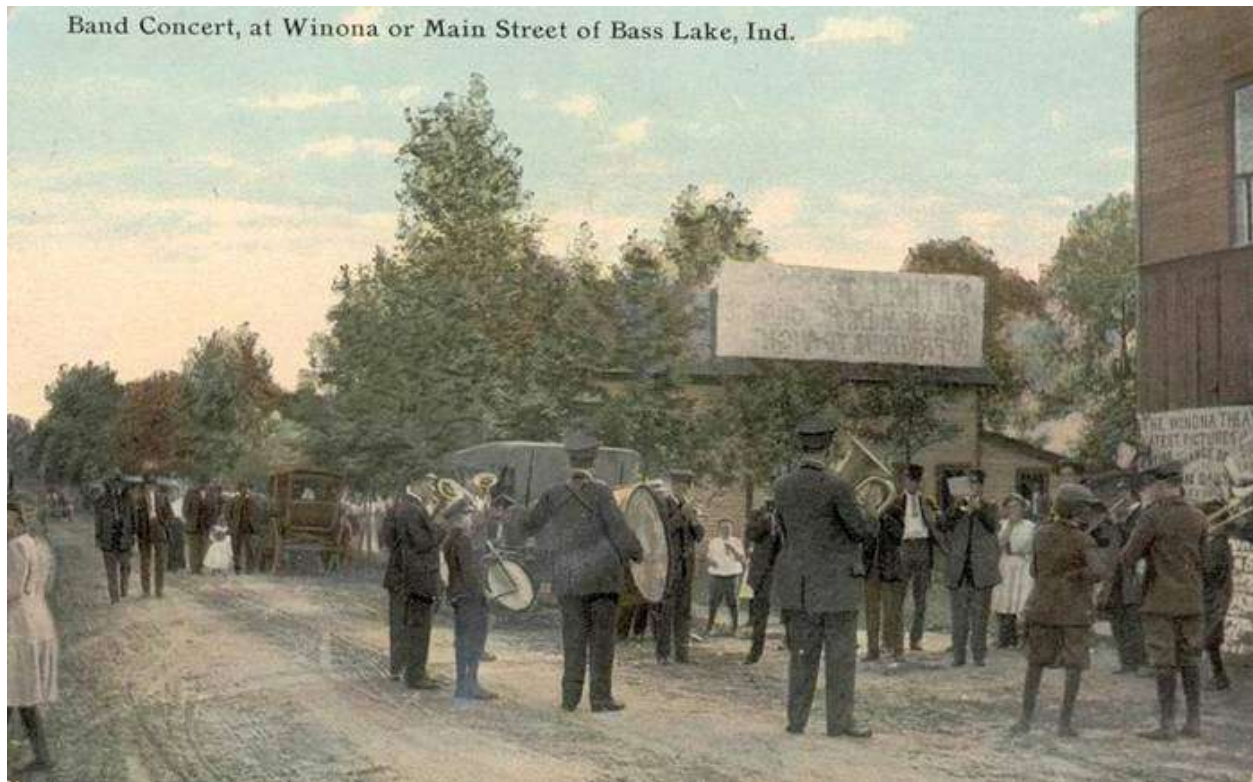
The west side of downtown Winona is shown in this photo dated about 1940. The view is looking north. From left to right: Roepstorff's Store, the Bowling Alley and Eykes Tavern.

Winona is an Indian word meaning "first born female". Quite a few places were named Winona in the late 1800's. Some say it was named after a town in Wisconsin by the same name. Others say the group that built the Winona Bible Conference Center at Warsaw chose Bass Lake first but changed their minds.

We do know that the US Postal Service opened a post office at this northeast corner of Bass Lake with the name Winona on March 20, 1891.

By 1920, Winona was a bustling little town with a bowling alley, movie theater, water park, school, several hotels, grocery stores and taverns.





### **Winona Band Concert**

A Band Concert at Bass Lake around 1915 in Winona - this scene is in front of Vergin's Movie Theatre, which showed the latest "silent" movies of the day.

The street is not yet paved and must have been dusty at times and muddy at other times.

No doubt, movie stars such as Charlie Chaplin, Lilian Gish, Buster Keaton, Rudolph Valentino and Clara Bow thrilled summer time audiences at the lake with comical antics and mystery, all without the benefit of sound.



### **Winona Business Section**

This view of what was once called Bass Lake's "business section" at Winona appears to be looking north from Cottage Avenue.

Dan's Restaurant is to the left. There appears to be a barber pole just beyond Dan's. The large home to the right advertises "tourist rooms" and has a sign for Ned's Boats.

This photo was probably taken just before WWII. Part of the east side of Winona burned down in the 1940s. Notice the telephone poles and lines, no longer a common sight, running down the west side of the street.



### **Winona Fire Department**

A photo taken during the 1920's shows the Winona - Bass Lake Fire Department checking out what may be a new fire truck.

The photo was taken in front of the Woodlawn Hotel, which was located at the intersection of CR 625 E. and CR 210. Earlier the Woodlawn had been known as the Chittick Hotel.

The engine appears to be drawing water directly out of the lake. In those days, the fire truck was kept at Vergin's garage in Winona at the north end of the lake.





### **Winona School**

The earliest school on the North Bend side of Bass Lake was located at the northeast corner of 700 E. and 400 S., which is east of the Bass Lake Cemetery.

This photo was taken around 1908 in late fall or early spring. We can't be sure of the occasion, but there appear to be a number of parents and adults in attendance. Even the students are dressed up. It may be an open house for a new school building, since it has not yet been painted.

This wood frame school was replaced by a two-story brick school in 1922. It was built just south of the fish hatchery, and is now home to the Bass Lake Lions.



### **Winona School**

The Winona or Bass Lake School was built in 1922 at a cost of \$10,000. Grades 1 - 8 were taught there until North Bend Twp students were consolidated into the Culver School System in the 1960's. The property is now home to the Bass Lake Lion's Club.

This photo shows the 1952-53 First Grade class. Mrs. Landrum was the teacher. From left to right, back row: Bobby White, David Piper, Joseph Tomsovic, Jimmy Meeks, Jimmy Wilson, Devon Scott, Jimmy Mills, Paul Madsen, Houie Paithel, Dickie Anderson and George Herr. Front row: Margie Dunkelberger, Cynthia Lapaz, Carol Herr, Anita Pulla, Rita Pulla, Brenda Howard, Donna Scott, Mary Ann Conner and Judy Mills.





### **Woodlawn Hotel**

The Woodlawn Hotel was located at the corner of CR 625 E. and CR 210 at Bass Lake's north end. It was originally built as the Chittick House in 1887. According to Mrs. Ruth Cox, a doctor in Frankfort, IN gave her grandfather James Chittick only a year to live. He loved Bass Lake, so at the age of 38 he decided to move to the lake and spend his last year fishing and relaxing. Later James recalled there were only 5 families living right on the lake when he moved there in 1887.

He and his wife Matilda built a small cottage at first. But soon they had to add on to accommodate their many friends. Over the years the small house grew into the hotel we see in this photo. Despite his doctor's prognosis, James lived to the age of 90. He attributed his longevity to the healthful living at Bass Lake.

The Chitticks decided to retire from the hotel business in 1926 and sold the hotel to the Shoemakers. They ran it many more years as the Woodlawn Hotel. It may have been the last hotel at Bass Lake from a bygone era when it closed in the late 1950's. Part of the former hotel was operated as a bakery for another 20 years or so before the old hotel burned down in the 1970's.

## **Chapter 2 – California Township**



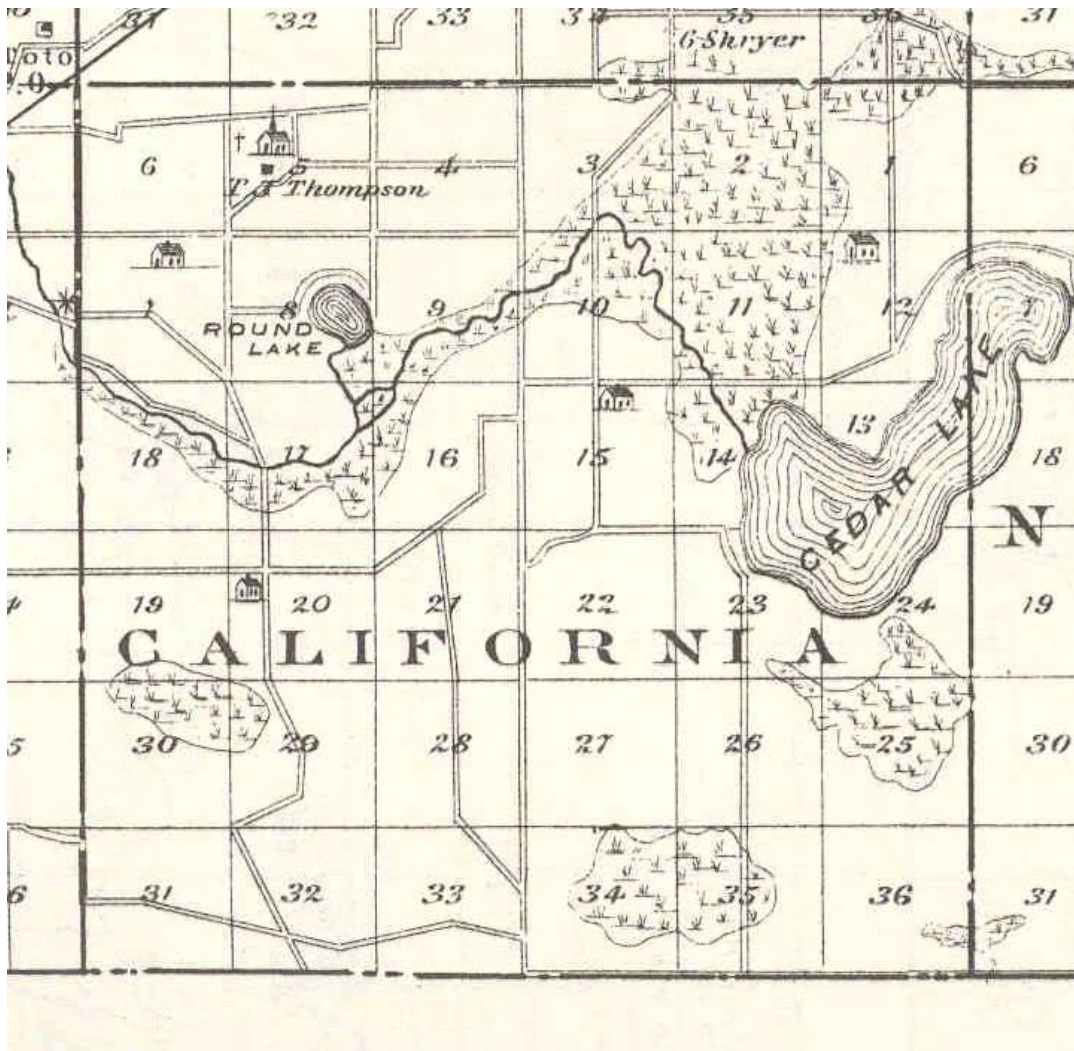
### **Aldine School**

A photo of Aldine's one-room school is dated 1908. Located about four miles south-west of Bass Lake on the former Erie Railroad line, Aldine was founded in 1882.

By the turn of the last century, it was a thriving community of 100 people, with several stores, a post office, Gleaner Hall, church, school and railroad facilities. This particular school building was built in 1894 and was known as the "Frog Pond School".

Miss Anna Marie Tracy was the teacher in this photo. Her wages were \$2.39 per day. A North Judson girl, she roomed and boarded with Mrs. Lewis German of Aldine during the week.

Students in the photo are: Perry Lucas, Grace Weidner, Cecil Weidner, Ola Weidner, Wm. Weidner, Loid Reed, Arthur Reed, Otis German, Lulu Brooks, Florence Reprogie, Olive Hackman, Mabel Ludders, Irene Ludders, Harold Stiles, Esther Stiles and Mary Reed.



### California Township Map

This 1876 map of California Township shows the Round Lake area and roads during the times discussed in the Old Settlers news articles. There are four one-room schools shown; Aldine, Geneseo, Spoor and White. They would have most likely still been of the log cabin type. The church shown is the Round Lake Church, which would have been of the United Brethren faith at that time.

The creek is the Cedar Lake Outlet, one of the few natural streams in Starke County. It carried the overflow from both Round Lake and Bass Lake (Cedar Lake) over to the Kankakee River near a place called Governor's Island. Muskrat Mill was located at the asterisk just west of the township line on this same creek.

Very few roads followed the section lines as we are accustomed. Instead they followed the sand ridges to avoid the swamps. A sharp eye will notice there were no roads where SR 10 and US 35 now run. A large swamp prevented direct travel between Bass Lake and Knox, and only small portions of Bass Lake had any sort of road.









### California Township School

This school picture taken in 1950 shows Mrs. Purden Lausten's 5th grade class at California Twp School. The photo was taken in one of the original 1930 classrooms before a new addition was added around 1952.

From front to back starting on the left: Terry Brooke, Steven Stone, Stanley Groschek, Marge Sapp, Gloria Byers and Mrs. Purden Lausten (Teacher); Norma Baughman, \_\_\_\_, Betty Desho, Dale Burger, Louise Krushek and George Badell; Edythe Howard, Jewell Rudd, \_\_\_\_, Borman, Glen Winfrey, Pat Manns and Fred Manns; Virginia Salinas, \_\_\_\_, Goble, Mable Bradley, Russell Begley, Betty Betts and Frances Evers.

Mrs. Lausten passed away recently at the age of 98. She had taught elementary school for many years touching the lives of nearly 1,000 children. Thirty of those years were spent at the California Twp School beginning in the mid-1940's as a music teacher.

Her interest in teaching began as a child, when she practiced teaching the three R's to her dolls. Many of her former students will also remember Mrs. Lausten as a 1st grade teacher who tried to teach more than  $2 + 2$  and the ABC's. She also tried to teach honesty, truthfulness and kindness. Even after retirement in 1973, she continued to tutor and teach music privately.



### **California Township School**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade is shown in this photo from the 1953-1954 class.

Back Row, Left to Right: Wayne Reeves, Jim Poort, Bobby Pelfrey, Bobby Mann, Richard Ososki, Tommy Thompson, Robert Palek and Roger Nickels. Middle Row: Janice Minix, Annabelle Richie, Geraldine Williams, Frances Stacy, Harold Short, Kay Morgan, Ellen McFarland and Mrs. Gurrado. Front Row: Everett White, Muretta Scheredt, Barbara Runyon, Michelle Zoll, Diane Pinson, Joanne Mocko, Nancy Spoor and Sammy White.



### **California Township School**

California Twp's 1959-1960 8th Grade class is shown in this photo.

Starting with the left row, front to back: Ronald Buckley, Patty Lucas, Shilla Combs, Mavis Combs, Bill Boswerth and Vivian Noble; Freida Stacy, James McFarland, Joe Locke, June Zingarelli, Susan Moore and Alford Bailey; Jim Poort, Marvin Allen, Mike Prybylski, Arnold Trent, J.B. Miller and Ellen McFarland; Linda Barker, Larry Pingel, Harrel Ramey, Bobbie Jean Fields and Bonnie Allen. Harry Montgomery is standing beside teacher Robert McIntire.



### **Lucas Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Marcellus and Bertha (Clemens) Lucas' farm was about 2 miles south of Aldine. It was established around 1894. Over the years the farm came to be called the "Big Eastern" farm. It was named after a large, swampy bog in that vicinity which was later drained.

Besides raising onions, potatoes and peppermint, Marcellus owned and operated a threshing outfit that was used to harvest crops for neighboring farms.

Prior to moving to Aldine, Marcellus and Bertha started their family in a log cabin at Round Lake in 1885.

Left to right: Arminthia (Diehl) Lucas, Hugh Rogers, Elva Lucas, Bertha Lucas, Perry Lucas, Clarabelle Lucas and Marcellus Lucas. This photo was taken on the family farm south of Aldine around 1908.





### **Raschka Homestead**

The farm homestead of Lewis and Lulu (Flagg) Raschka was just 3/4 mile east of Round Lake on what is now CR 450 S. Lewis was born and lived on this farm all his life.

His parents, John and Mary (Kane) Raschka, had married and moved there in 1852. These hard working German pioneers started out in a log cabin and gradually increased their farm to 140 acres.

When the Civil War broke out, John enlisted in the Union army and served 3 years on the battle front. After coming home from the war, John and Lulu raised a large family on the farm. His son, Lewis, now calls it "The Twin Oaks Dairy and Stock Farm" as shown in this photo dated about 1915.

Their Paige auto, shown in the photo, was a Model 36 Glenwood 5 passenger touring car. These cars were advertised as "the most beautiful cars in America". They were painted a dark Richelieu blue with black running gear. They featured left hand drive, electric lighting and a 36hp 4 cylinder engine. Paige autos were considered Detroit's premiere automobile at that time and sold for \$1,275.





### **Round Lake Church**

This picture of the Round Lake Church was taken for the 21st Annual Round Lake Homecoming and Reunion in 1942.

According to the reunion records; Rev. Charles Morse was the pastor, Clara Hansen was the Sunday School assistant and Lois Hansen was the secretary. Audrey Short was the pianist. Harriet Lucas was president of the Ladies Aid Society. Anna Lindstrand was the assistant and Inez Hewlett was the secretary.

Charles Lucas was president of the Old Settlers Organization. Henry White was president of the Cemetery Association. Governor Henry F. Schricker gave a talk during the program.

This church had replaced the original log building which had been built around 1850 by the United Brethren. It was believed to have been the first church erected in Starke County. It was built of hewn logs and chinked, but not plastered. The foundation consisted of large boulders. The floor was of native wide oak boards. It was lighted by kerosene lamps and heated by a box type wood stove.

That first church was located on the cemetery grounds. The church shown in the picture was built across the road in 1885, where it stands today.



### **Shilling Home**

William and Lovina (Gesaman) Shilling were one of our earliest pioneer families having moved to the Round Lake area around 1851.

They had traveled from "Stark" County, Ohio on the Wabash & Erie Canal to Logansport and then by wagon team to California Township here in our "Starke" County. There were no roads in the county at that time.

Their 160 acre farm was located south-east of what is now CR 200 E and CR 350 S; about a half mile east of the Round Lake Church.

Starting with a log cabin in the new wilderness, they lived off the wild game, fish and fruit that was plentiful in the marshes, as they developed their homestead into the scene shown in this photo taken about 1895. This home, built around 1880, is said to have been the first frame house built in the area.



### **Spoor School**

The Round Lake area was one of the first areas settled by early pioneers in Starke County in the late 1840's. In the early 1850's, a log cabin school was erected on William C. Spoor's farm about a mile north-west of Round Lake. Today this would be on CR 400 S about a half mile east of Range Rd.

That first school was built of round unhewn logs. The seats and desks were made of rough split logs. A stone and mud fireplace provided heat.

This photo is dated 1914 and shows the fourth Spoor School, which was built in 1911. It was located at the south-east corner of CR 400 S and CR 100 E.

The teacher is Grover Short. Some of the children are Florence, Ada and John McFarland; Dave and Berl Spoor; other children may have included the Davis, Hansen, Miller, Short and Collins families.

The school was used until 1930, when all the one room schools in California Twp (Bass Station, Benton Grove, Maple Grove, Spoor and White) were consolidated.



### Spoor School

Students at the Spoor one-room school are shown in this photo dated 1926. Miss Bernice Short taught all eight grades. Anna Hansen and Frank McFarland were the only two 8th grade graduates that year. They would have helped teach the younger children.

A school had been in this general area since the 1850's, when it was built of unhewn logs. This brick school was built in 1911 at a cost of \$2,500. It was located at the southeast corner of 400S and 100E.

The school was discontinued in 1930, when all California Twp one-room schools were consolidated into the new school on SR10.

From left to right, back row: Miss Bernice Short (teacher), Alonzo Chapman, Frank McFarland, Anna Hansen, Nancy McFarland and Gladys Davis. Middle row: Floyd Hansen, Robert Ernsberger, Robert Rodgers, Carl Hansen, Glen Chapman, Linus Spoor and Lyman Spoor. Front row: Charles McFarland, Loyd Ernsberger, Conradine Rodgers, Mildred Hansen and Vista Walters.



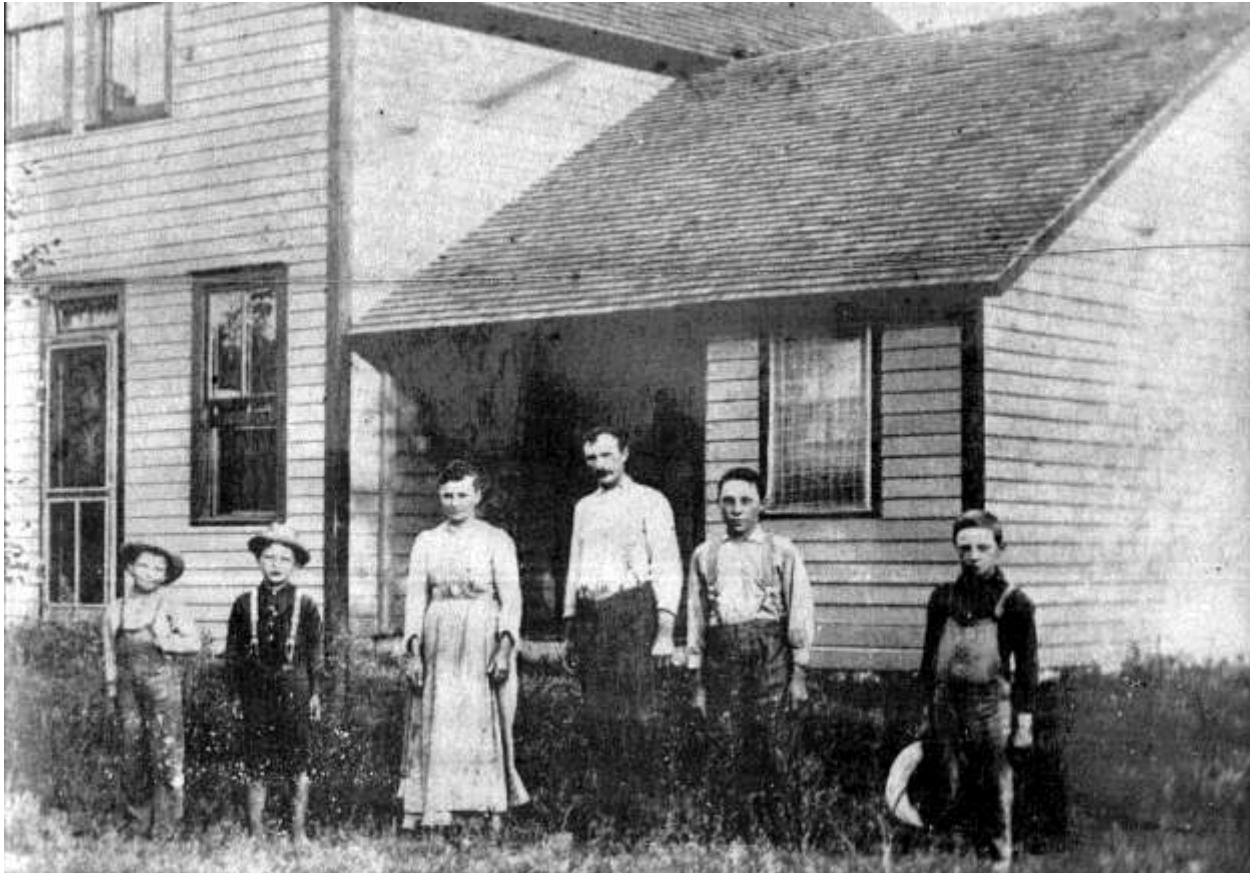


### **Stephenson Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Albion and Mahala (Welsh) Stephenson are shown with four of their children in this picture dated about 1908. From left to right: Elizabeth, Jessie, Mahala, Albion, Florence and Bonnie. They were married in 1880 and lived on a farm on 300 East just north of what is now SR 10 in California Twp.

Back in those days, many folks believed painting a house or barn caused it to deteriorate faster. From this picture, we can see Mr. Stephenson subscribed to that theory. Also note the wood blocks nailed to the roof to make it easier to clean the chimneys.

Mahala's father was Abram Welsh, who was known locally as "Daniel Boone of Starke County". He was one of the very earliest settlers in Starke County and built a mill along Cedar Lake Outlet known as Muskrat Mill.



### **White Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Frederick and Emma (Podell) White are shown standing in front of their homestead in California Twp. This photo was taken around 1902 in front of their farm home, which later served as the clubhouse for the Bass Lake Golf Course.

Frederick's father, August White (Weiche) had come to America from Germany in 1848 and eventually settled on the west shores of Bass Lake in 1878.

At that time, the land west of Bass Lake was a swampy wilderness, and the Golf Course Road did not even exist. August and his sons, Frederick, Albert, William and Henry cleared the trees with teams of oxen and turned the wilderness into farm land.

From left to right: Fred, Everett, Emma, Frederick, Clarence and Isadore White.



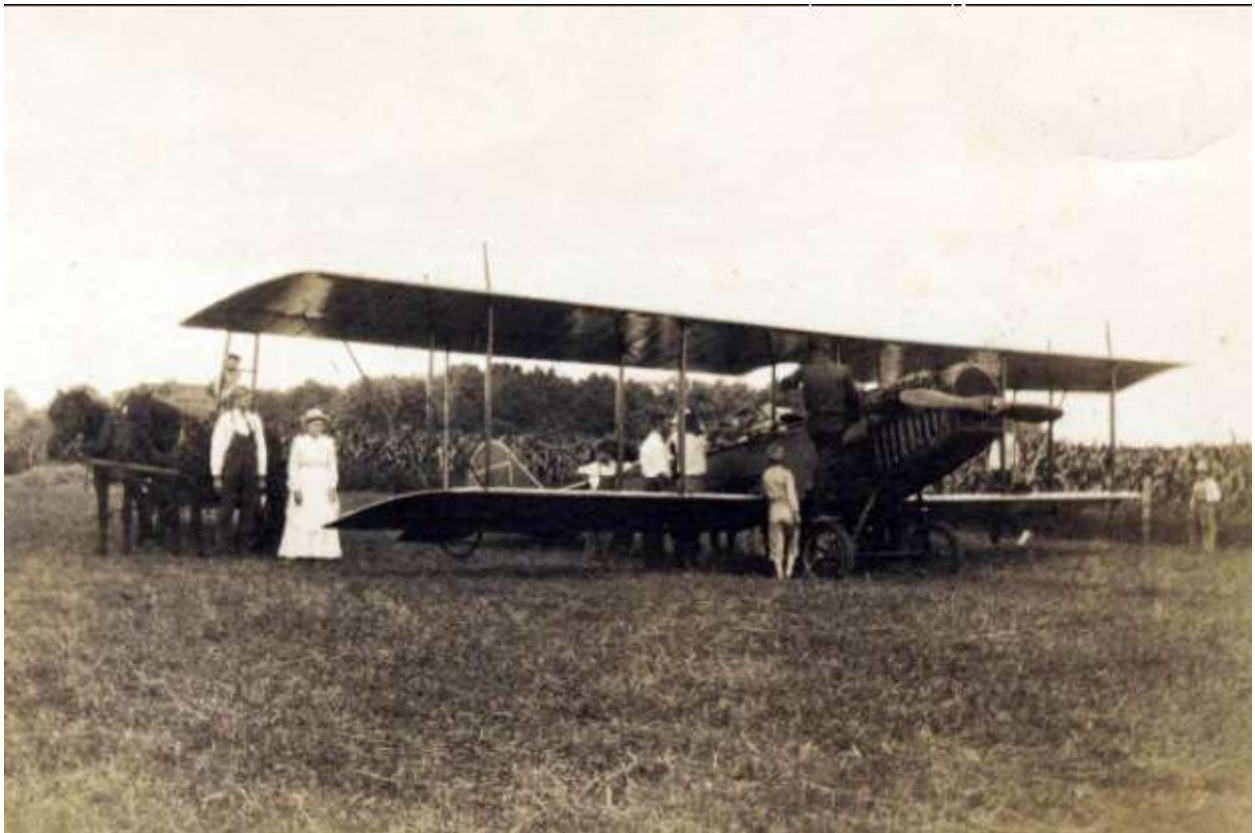
### **White Farm**

Freddie, Edo, Clarence, Vada and Fred M. White are shown in this photo dated about 1910. Fred and Emma White's farm was located on present day Bass Lake Golf Course.

The White's started their homestead in 1889 by clearing 33 acres. They eventually expanded the farm to 217 acres and 15 lakeside lots before selling to the golf course developers in 1927.

Note the huge stack of straw left by recent threshing and the team of oxen. Many farmers used oxen before tractors because of their strength and gentle nature.





### **White Farm**

A Curtiss JN-4 (Jenny) biplane lands on the Frederick M. White farm on Bass Lake's west side around 1917.

The White farm included present day's Bass Lake Golf Course, where this picture was taken. Frederick M. White, his wife Emma and youngest son, Forrest, are standing near the horses on the left side of the picture. The airplane belonged to their friends from Chicago.

This was only 14 years after Orville and Wilbur Wright had achieved man's first successful airplane flight and only 6 years after Cal Rodgers crossed America by airplane. It would be 10 more years before Charles Lindbergh would dare cross the Atlantic.

The Jenny had a 90 horsepower V-8 liquid cooled engine that gave it a top speed of 75 miles per hour and a ceiling of 11,000 feet. The Jenny became especially popular with stunt performers who thrilled audiences by walking its wings and doing aerial trapeze stunts.



## **Chapter 3 – Center Township**



### **Adkins School**

A century ago the Adkins one-room school was located a mile south of Knox at the northeast corner of today's US 35 and 200 South. It had been located there since at least 1876. Officially it was known as the District #3 School of Center Twp. It was discontinued in 1910, when Center Township School was built.

What was to become US 35 was then a gravel road and considered "improved". Hugh Rogers' 80 acre Tiger Lilly Fruit Farm was located just south of the school.

The teacher in this 1902 photo was Frank W. Kratli, son of Knox businessman John G. Kratli and wife Mary. Back row, left to right: Maud Alley, \_\_\_ Fritz, Clara Schultz, Clara Peele, Anna Kratt, Charlie Peele, Ben Rogers, Myrtle Wiser and Richard Fritz. Middle row: unknown, Rose Kratt, Arnold Kriss, Lena Schultz, Fred Admire, Louise Alley and Glen Thomas. Front row: Albert Kriss, Fred Schultie, \_\_\_ Schultz, Alice Baldwin, Lena Klukas, Abbey Alley and Dan Alley (twins).



### **Black Bridge**

The "Black" bridge is shown in this photo taken by Joe Cox in 1940. It was located where the Yellow River crosses 300E on west side of Knox. The view is looking south. You may notice what are now the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks in the distance.

The road was gravel in those days with wood planks running lengthwise across the bridge. We suspect this bridge dates back to the 1890s, when part of the Yellow River was straightened. An 1898 map shows 8 bridges crossed the Yellow River throughout Starke County.

This Pratt thru truss type bridge was typical of the bridges of that era. Many of these graceful iron bridges were no doubt built by Rochester Bridge Co. of Rochester, IN.



## **Brems Depot**

This week's historical photo shows the Brems Depot around 1920. Most of us think of this railroad as the Nickel Plate, but it was originally built as the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad and constructed through Starke County in 1882.

It was the 5<sup>th</sup> railroad to be routed through Starke County, but only the 1<sup>st</sup> to be routed through Knox, the county seat.

Brems is one of the few communities in Starke County that existed before railroads. It was first known as Jackson Island and was built upon the site of a large Pottawatomie Indian camp.

The railroad first called it Jackson Station then later changed the name to Nickel Plate Station. Sometime in the late 1800's, it was again renamed to Brems after Louis Brems, a local resident and frequent RR passenger. At one time, it was one of the largest wild hay shipping points in the area.

Today this RR is part of the Norfolk Southern RR System and is the most actively used track through the county, with 25 trains running daily. From Knox it runs on down through Ober, Burr Oak, Argos, Mentone, and on to Ft. Wayne. Northwest from Brems it runs through Wanatah, Valparaiso and in to the Chicago area.





### **Brems School**

The Brems School class of 1923-1924 is shown in this photo. All eight grades were taught by one teacher in the one-room school. The building was in use from 1895 through 1925 and later used as a residence.

From left to right, front row: Arthur Christoph, Edward Scroggins, Billy Sims, Carl Busse, Harold Allen, Elmer Hyatte, Frank Swanson, Glen Pike, John Wentland and Kenneth Lineback. Middle row: Laura Smith, Helen Hyatte, June Milbrath, Lydia Allen, Clara Hyatte, Evelyn Busse, Lonore Downey, Dean Clark and Frank Pulver. Back row: Catherine Nave (Teacher), Paul Clark, Lester Smith and William Allen.



### **Center High School Girls Basketball Team**

Center High School's 1927-1928 Girls' Basketball Team is shown in this photo loaned to the museum by Susie Szynalski.

A gym had been built at Center HS in 1927, and we believe this was the first year for girls' basketball at the school. The Center girls not only had outstanding basketball teams, but were very successful at baseball, volley ball and track. For reasons unknown to us today, girls' basketball was discontinued at all area schools in 1936.

From left to right standing: Anna Hansen, Ethel Youngquist, Elizabeth Rohr, Mabel Wilson, Roberta Murray, Marjorie Wilson, Lilly Jurewitz, Mary Wieszcki, Belle Irelan (Coach); front row: Jennie Bascom, Helma Maki, Lottie Junczura, Ella Jurwitz, Blanche Zaijack and Ione Warner.



### **Center High School Girls Basketball Team**

Center High School's 1928-1929 Girls Basket Ball Team. Left to right: Margaret Folkers, Mabel Wilson, Anna Hansen, Ethel Youngquist, Coach Frank Young, Sylvia Gappa, Mary Wiczyski, Ione Warner and Roberta Murray.

Center High School was located just west of Knox at 50 S and 300 E. It was built in 1910 to replace all the one room schools in Center Township. Later, it also included parts of Jackson Township.

The school opened on December 5, 1910 and burned down on January 9, 1942. At that time, it merged with the Knox school system.





### **Center Township School**

It was another sub-zero day back on January 7, 1942. The coal fired boilers were working hard to keep the class rooms at Center Township School comfortable enough.

Shortly after noon, flames were discovered over the furnace room. An overheated chimney had ignited the interior wood frame. Alarms were sounded and the school children were evacuated in fifty-one seconds, many leaving their winter coats and boots behind.

While firemen worked to bring the blaze under control, school buses took the freezing children home. The fire was soon extinguished and several firemen remained at the school all afternoon watching for more signs of trouble.

But shortly after 6 PM, the fire broke out again and quickly engulfed the domestic science room. Outside the reach of the town water supply, the school well was no match for the blaze, which soon spread to the gymnasium.

Having resorted to bucket brigades, the firemen were forced to abandon their efforts to save the school. Center Township School, built in 1910, was a total loss.





### **Center Township School Teachers**

A photo taken around 1932 shows the staff at Center Township School. From left to right, back row: Montford Barr, Frank Young, George Stevens (custodian), Frank Lane, Dale Hughes (principal), Effie Johnston, Glenda Stevenson, Harriet Paddock, Alice Hauser, Fern Parks and Elsie Uncapher.

Center Twp School was the first consolidated school in Starke County. It was built at the northwest corner of 50 S. and 300 E. in 1910. It replaced seven one-room schools (Jackson, German, Atkins, Bigler, Harden, Klein and Nickel Plate) in Center Twp.

When it burned down January 7, 1942, students were transferred to the Knox School Corporation.

The Starke County Historical Society has applied for a Historical Marker to commemorate this historically important school.



**Hoffer Family**

John and Rilla Hoffer had five children, all boys; Velmore, Kenneth, Ray, Calvin and Ralph. They were farmers.

What makes this family unique is they were the only Starke County family with all five of their children serving in World War II at the same time.

Their alone mother, Rilla, displayed five stars in one of her windows. Her husband, John, had passed away by that time. Kenneth was captured twice by the Germans and served time in concentration camps. Ray was wounded and partly disabled during the war. All five Hoffer boys returned home safely after the war.

Proud and strong, Rilla Hoffer is shown with her oldest son, Velmore, in this photo.



### **Meineka Farm**

A threshing scene on the farm of Fred and Catherine (Eisele) Meineka around 1910. Their 330 acre farm was located just north of Knox along the east side of present day US 35. Both Fred and Mary were children of German immigrants who came to America in the 1840's.

Harvesting crops with a threshing outfit was different than using today's single pass combines. Usually a group of local farmers would form a "threshing ring" with one of them owning the expensive thresher and steam engine. The other farmers would "trade" portions of their grain for the threshing service.

The machine in this photo is a Peoria Threshing Machine. Threshing was also different in that the grain was brought to the stationary threshing machine on horse drawn wagons. The grain had been cut using horse drawn binding machines that cut and tied the grain stalks into "sheaves" or bundles.

The threshing outfit was moved and set up on each farm. Just moving it was time consuming at 2-3 miles per hour. Local boys were given the job of carrying water to the workers and the steam engine, as well as wood for the boiler.

Women would prepare huge meals for the field workers. Threshing day was one of the big annual events everyone looked forward to back then.



### **Pulver Family**

In a photo dated about 1915, Benjamin Franklin "Frank" Pulver and his wife Carrie (Gates) of Plymouth are shown visiting Brem's relatives, Martha (Pulver) Smith, his niece, and William Pulver, his nephew.

On the far left is Edwin and Martha (Pulver) Smith. To Martha's upper right is daughter, Ruth. Below Martha is son, James. Martha and Edwin's other daughter, Margaret is seated on the running board to the right of Benjamin and Carrie's daughter, Lillian. Benjamin Pulver is behind the wheel. Beside him is his William's wife, Mae (Cooper) Pulver. Her husband, William Pulver, is sitting on the car's hood. William's Aunt Carrie is sitting on the bumper with his son, William "Frank" Pulver. Later in 1940 this little boy sitting on the bumper would be instrumental in bringing REMC electricity to rural Starke County.

This early auto appears to be a 1914-15 Dodge Touring Car. It would have had side curtains for rainy or cold weather. It was the first auto to have an all steel body, instead of a wood/metal composite body. It's 4 cyl engine was rated at 35 horsepower. The 4 door model sold for \$785.

At the time of the Pulver's visit, a gravel road was considered an "improved road". It would be 12 more years before the first paved road, Old US 30 / Lincoln Highway, came to Starke County.





### **Shilling Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Edgar and Flora (Hardesty) Shilling are shown with relatives on Thanksgiving Day in 1916.

Edgar's father, William F. Shilling, was one of the first pioneers to locate in Starke County in the year 1852. This was before any local roads or railroads. He and his young bride, Lovina, traveled by flat boat from Stark Co., OH on the Wabash & Erie Canal to Logansport, IN and then by horse and wagon to California Twp.

There they raised their family, while building a very productive farm in the wilderness near Round Lake. It was there that Edgar was born in 1857.

From left to right by relationship to Edgar: Elmer (son), Flora (wife), Sally Chidester (wife's aunt), Nancy & William Spiker (wife's parents), Mabel (Russell's wife), Oakie (Elmer's wife), Mabel (daughter) and Russell (son). Front: Edgar W. Shilling, Marjorie (grand-daughter) and Jack Wittrup (grand-son).

## **Chapter 4 – Davis Township**



### **Hardesty Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: the family of Hamlin and Catherine (Wolfram) Hardesty are shown in this photo dated about 1898. At the time of this picture, the Hardestys lived on Railroad St. across from the depot in Hamlet. A general store, which Catherine ran, was adjacent to their home.

Prior to her marriage to Hamlin, Catherine had been a school teacher in Oregon Twp. Stores in those days carried few "ready to use" products and much of the business was in trade rather than cash. Farm families would bring in butter, eggs, produce and fruit in exchange for flour to make bread, material to make clothes and other items they could not grow or make themselves. Most of the cash business came from railroad workers.

Hamlin tended to the business of their 160 acre farm just north-west of town on CR 500 E. where they raised livestock, bought and sold hay and other crops. The very well maintained Hardesty Farm has been recognized by the State of Indiana as a Hoosier Homestead Farm for being in the same family for more than a century.

From left to right: Hamlin holding daughter Catherine, Catherine (Wolfram), Raymond, Ralph McCormick (nephew) and Edna Hardesty. Mrs. Hardesty's younger sister, Anna (Wolfram) Jack is looking out the window.



### **Lotter Family**

A photo taken about 1892 shows the children of Peter and Catherine Lotter. Back row from left to right: Lawrence and Alice; middle row: Barbara, George, Wilhelmina, Andrew and John; front row: Conrad, Catherine (mother) and Cora.

Peter and Catherine had immigrated to America from Germany in 1865. First they moved to Mercer Co., OH and then to Adams Co., IN, where Peter died leaving Catherine with a large family to raise alone.

Catherine soon decided to move her family to Starke County and established a home in the town of Hamlet.

Later, Cora married Fred Mickow, a well known Davis Twp farmer. Wilhelmina married John Ferch, a retired farmer and Hamlet businessman. George became a blacksmith. Lawrence and Conrad operated the Ferch Farm. Barbara ran the household and looked after her mother.



## **Chapter 5 – Hamlet**



### **Bruce Drug Store**

Three bare foot boys are sitting on the steps of M.E. Bruce's Hamlet Drug Store in the 1930's. They may be counting their change as they contemplate the sign that says "Stop, Refresh Yourself, Hamlet Pharmacy, Sodas & Tasty Ice Cream".

Other signs advertise Coca-Cola, Colgate, Ex-Lax and Developing & Printing.

The store was located on the east side of Starke Street between Railroad and Davis Streets. It was originally built by the Bonars and other owners included Jerry Brickles, C. Rager and Otto Horning.

The Yellowstone Trail, America's first coast to coast highway, ran in front of the store through downtown Hamlet.



### **Hamlet Baseball Team**

A photo of Hamlet's 1920 baseball team - right after World War I ended in 1918 on up through the 1930's, just about every local community had a baseball team.

These teams were generally sponsored by local merchants. They went by such names as the Hamlet Cubs, Ober Batsmen, Bass Lake White Sox, Knox Red Sox, Winona Sluggers and Bass Station Bees. Ora, Eagle Creek, San Pierre and Grovertown had teams, as well.

In 1935, they organized themselves as the Starke County Baseball League and competed on a district and state levels.

The only person we have identified in this picture is Paul Luken, who is 2nd from the left in the front row. If anyone has any information about the other players, they are encouraged to call me at 772-5936.



### **Hamlet Centennial**

A photo taken during Hamlet's Centennial in 1963 says Hamlet Bathing Beauties. Some of the ladies were part of a local bowling team.

From left to right: Lillian Laxton, Thelma Gimple, Dorothy Singleton, Marj Schwenk, Tillie Phillips, Marguerite Jones, Grace Leinbach (seated), Stephana Bigler (short sleeves), Lois Orr and unknown.

The picture may have been taken in front of Dr. Leinbach's house on Davis Street in Hamlet.





### **Hamlet Garage**

A photo loaned to the museum by Marilyn Burch shows Jorgenson's "Hamlet Garage" sometime around 1928.

Shown are Walt Jorgenson, Frank Shei, an unknown Allen, Harley Hanselman, Vance Brickles and Ed Jacobsen.



### **Hamlet High School**

Hamlet High School was built in 1900 on the east side of South Main Street between Madison and Terry Streets for \$15,000. Additional classrooms were added in 1916 for \$8,000. In 1925, a gymnasium was also added for another \$30,000. It is interesting to note that Knox, North Judson and San Pierre schools also added gymnasiums about the same time. A statewide trend toward providing high school athletics was underway.

Oregon Township was one of the first townships in Starke County to consolidate its schools replacing seven one-room schools (Koontz, Oregon, Fletcher/Reid, Gunzenhouser/Uncapher, Holderman and Haley/Fuller/Harness) with this new school in 1900.

Hamlet's previous school, built just a few years earlier in 1894 at the north-west corner of Starke and Pearl Streets, then became Hamlet's Town Hall. In 1926, that building was replaced by the town water works. A new separate, Hamlet elementary school building was built in 1953.



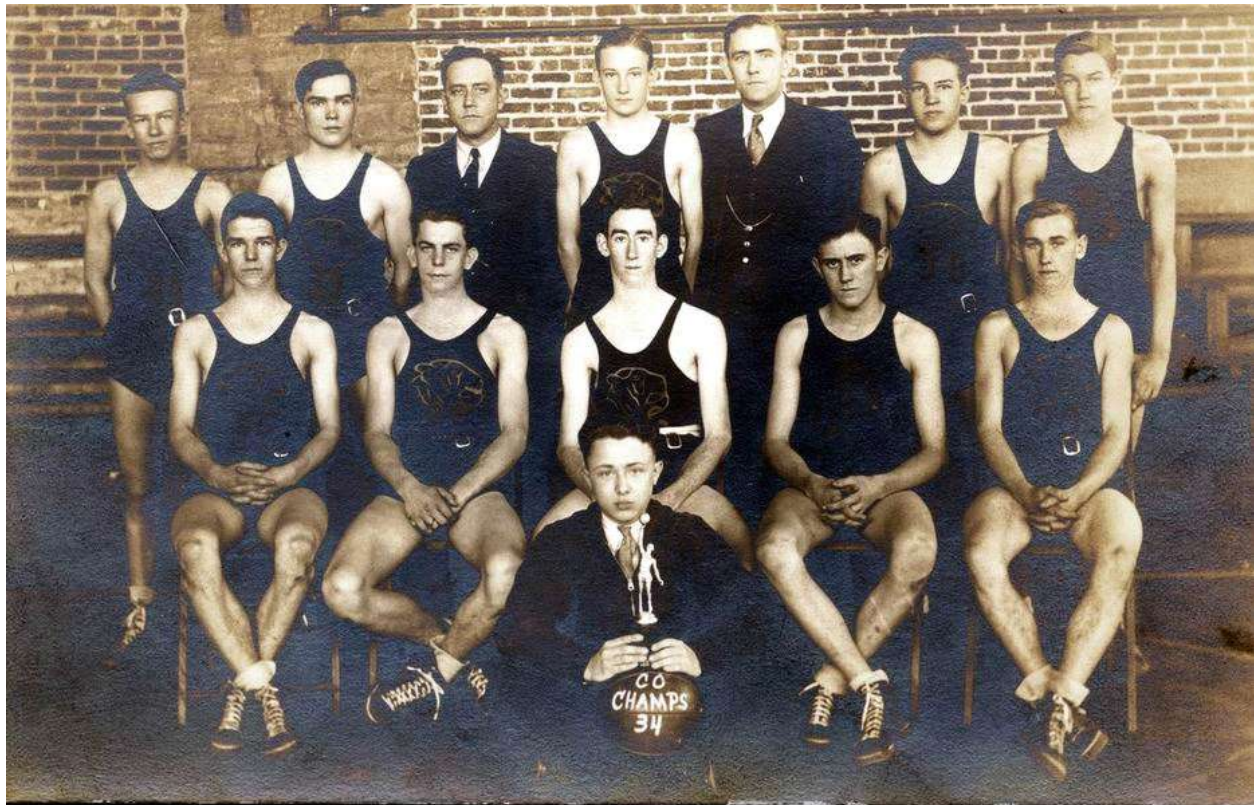
### **Hamlet High School**

A photo dated 1942 shows Hamlet High School's senior class.

Front row, from left to right: Jean Jernas, Evelyn Coup, Edward Hendricks and Elmer Jolly. Middle row: Leon Williams, Beulah Christoph, Mildred Bricker and Irwin Doty (Principal). Back row: Leonard Johnson, Marvin Williams, Don Hardesty, James Drake and Elton Glant. Not pictured were Kathleen Denaut and Elizabeth Morgan.

The photo was taken at the former high school on South Main Street.





### **Hamlet High School Boys Basketball Team**

70 years ago, Starke County Champs – the 1934 Hamlet Boys Basketball Team; standing left to right: Thurman Mickow, Charles Lucas, Principal Metzler, Charles Shei, Coach Gwin, Horace Childs and John Miller; seated: Alton Gearhart, Harley Hathaway, Lloyd Lucas, Leroy Schwenk and Willard Brockman. Bob ? holding Trophy.





### **Hamlet High School Girl's Basketball Team**

Hamlet High School's girls basketball team for 1925 - 1926 is shown in this photo. At that time, the high school and gym were located on South Main Street in Hamlet. The school had been built in 1900 and the gym just added in 1925.

The names of the coach and players are not known, but this may have been Hamlet's first girls basketball team.



### **Hamlet Implement & Hardware**

This photo of Hamlet Implement & Hardware was taken around 1918. The building is still there and is located just west of Waymire's Corner Tap on the south side of Davis St. in downtown Hamlet.

Part of the Majestic Theatre can be seen to the left and the Hamlet State Bank to the right. Charles Shei was the owner and operator of Hamlet Implement and is sitting on the left tractor. He was a Deering dealer for IHC (International Harvester) farm tractors.

The IHC Titan 10-20 tractors shown were very popular with local Starke County farmers. They had 2 cylinder engines that could run on low cost kerosene and were rated at 20 horsepower. Its chain drive had 2 forward speeds. The large tank in front was a water tank for cooling. They were painted gray with red wheels. Air cleaners and fenders were optional. Base price was about \$900.



### **Hamlet Lumber & Coal Company**

This photo of Hamlet Lumber & Coal Co. was taken in 1928.

Local resident, Jim Hardesty, tells us Hershel and later Irwin Strader operated the yard for many years, and that it was located at the far east end of Davis Street.

An advertisement from the period lists their phone number as 10.

This view is looking south, where the top of the former grain elevator along the NYC RR tracks can be seen in the background.



### **Hamlet Post Office**

A photo taken in the 1920's shows the Hamlet Post Office, located, at that time, on the south side of Davis Street.

The right half of the building was occupied by Patrick's Shoe Shop. We are looking toward the intersection at Hamlet Street. The brick building to the right was Frank Black's Funeral Home. The Ferch Hotel, now home to Rannells Funeral Home, is just out of sight to the right.





### **Hamlet Teachers**

Hamlet High School's teachers are shown in this 1945 photo. The teachers are standing beside the Hamlet School, which was built in 1901. It was located on the east side of South Main Street between Madison and Terry Streets.

From left to right, back row: Frank Young, unknown, Marion Glant; middle row: Florence Peregrine, Mildred Glant, unknown, unknown; Goldia Siedentop, Gertrude Braman, Miss Honold.

One of the unknown teachers may be a Mrs. Reaick.



### Harvey Motors

A photo taken in the 1950s shows L. Harvey beside his tow truck. Harvey owned a truck towing service and used car lot on old US 30 in Hamlet up through the 1960s. Another advertisement said he specialized in used Cadillacs.



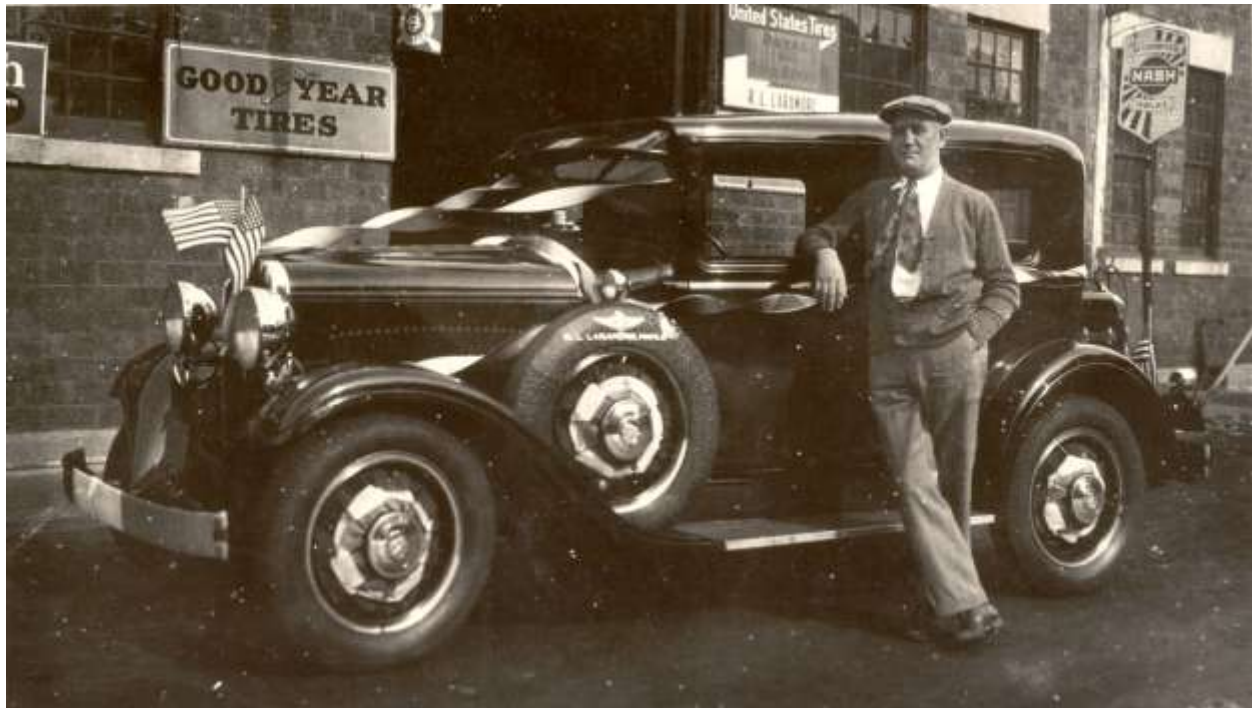
### **Jolly Creamery**

James and Elizabeth Jolly moved to the Hamlet area from Ohio in the 1850's. This was before the town of Hamlet was built. They may have arrived on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago RR built across Indiana and Ohio in 1856. Their neighbor was John Hamlet, who Hamlet was named after in 1863.

The Jolly's were originally farmers, but their sons soon engaged in additional business interests in the rapidly growing town of Hamlet. Hotel Jolly was built in 1895 at Main and Davis Streets. J. E. had a barbershop and was postmaster. The family also had a cream station shown in this photo taken around 1905. It was thought to be located near the 3-I RR tracks southeast of town. Local farmers would bring their cream to town on wagons and sell it to the Jolly's.

The Jolly's used some of the cream they bought to make ice cream, which they sold in their hotel. This was before refrigeration, so ice cream would have been consumed shortly after making it. Most of the cream was made into butter. Extra cream would have been packed in ice and shipped on to a larger creamery in Chicago or South Bend on the railroad.

Early farmers would separate the cream from their cow's milk by letting the milk set in pans in a cool place. The cream would rise to the top. The cream would then be skimmed off, stored in barrels or cans and sold at a cream station. By the time of this photo, farmers were using a new Swedish invention called the Laval Cream Separator instead of pans.



### **Laramore's Garage**

R.L. Laramore of Hamlet stands beside his 1932 or 1933 Nash 2-door sedan. A sign says "Authorized Nash Service". Other signs advertise Goodyear and United States Tires. The Nash was produced from 1917 to 1957. During WWI, Nash became the largest producer of trucks in America. Nash developed many new concepts and introduced the first air conditioned car in 1938.

R.L. (Ralph) opened his garage on the north-west corner of Starke and Davis Streets in Hamlet in 1922. This put him right on America's first transcontinental highway, the Yellowstone Trail, which passed through downtown Hamlet. He said he often pumped his gas tanks dry on weekends, as Americans took to the roads in the 1920's.

Mr. Laramore owned and operated his garage in Hamlet up through the 1960's, selling the Plymouth and Desoto lines. The building is still there today.





### **Luken Family**

The August and Louisa Luken Family moved to Hamlet around 1904. August Luken owned a saloon at the southeast corner of Davis and Starke Streets. Their home, shown in this photo, was just to the south of the saloon and is still there. From left to right: August, Nettie, Fred (standing), Louisa, Paul (sitting), unknown and Anna, who later Anna married Raymond Hardesty.

August had moved to America with his parents, Johann and Catherine, from Oldenburg, Germany when he was two years old. The family settled on a farm in Railroad Twp.

When he was old enough, August moved to Chicago, where he was a conductor on a horse-drawn streetcar. Later he moved back to English Lake and opened a saloon. This was followed by a saloon in Knox and then Hamlet until "Prohibition" became the law of the land in 1920.



### **Pennsylvania Railroad Depot**

Next in our series of historic railroad photos is the Penn RR depot in Hamlet looking toward the west around 1910. This depot was located on the south side of the tracks about 1 ½ blocks west of Starke St.

This railroad was originally built as the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad in 1856. The railroad established "Starke Station" in 1859 but changed the name to Hamlet in 1863 after John Hamlet, the man who surveyed the railroad right of way.

Sidings were spaced along the tracks about every 2 miles across north Starke County allowing farmers to ship livestock to Chicago and hay to Pittsburgh. The siding near the overhead on present day US 35 was even called "Hay Siding". Harvesting wild hay in early Starke County was a major business. It was very coarse and was used mainly as packing for glassware manufactured in Pittsburgh.



**Starkey, Jerry**

Jerry Starkey was a security officer at Kingsbury Ordnance Plant (KOP) during World War II.



### **Soap Box Derby**

A photo from the early 1950's shows a soap box derby that was held in Hamlet, Indiana.

From left to right: Unknown, Donald Cooley, Tommy Blad, Karen Neville, Ray Scwenk and Jerry Wistler. Harold Cooley is kneeling in the far left rear. Earl Wistler is kneeling on the front right.

Soap Box Derbies became popular after a national contest was held in 1934. They are still held in many communities with finalists going on to the All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. As many as half the contestants are girls in what started out as an all boys event.

Another photo shows this derby was held on Starke Street next to the Catholic Church. The driver's T-Shirts have "Hamlet" written on them. Do you know any of the drivers or which men's group sponsored the event? We would appreciate any additional information about this picture. You may contact the Starke County Historical Society at 772-5393 or Marvin Allen at 772-5936.





### **Starke & Davis Streets**

A photo dated 1920 shows the intersection of Starke and Davis Streets in downtown Hamlet. On the left is James Short's Poultry, Eggs and Cream business. A few milk cans are stacked out front. Farther down on the left, a Ford Model T is parked in front of August Luken's Saloon.

On the immediate right is R. L. Laramore's Garage. He was a dealer for Dodge and Nash automobiles. A pair of glass topped gravity feed gasoline pumps are near the curb. Signs advertise Linco Gasoline, Goodyear, Goodrich and United States Tires. A Dodge sedan appears to be parked there.

In the center of the photo, the Yellowstone Hotel and Restaurant can be seen. It is advertising steam heat and home cooked meals. Today this building is home to Waymire's Corner Tap, which also serves great home cooked meals. This intersection was right on the Yellowstone Trail, America's first coast to coast highway. So many travelers stopped on some weekends that Mr. Laramore would run out of gasoline.

Farther down the street on the right is the Holy Cross Catholic Church. It was built in 1927. The first Catholic Church was a frame building, which had been built in 1891 on the next lot south.



### **Starke & Davis Streets**

A scene in downtown Hamlet looking south-west from the corner of Starke and Davis Streets around 1917. Starke Street was part of the Yellowstone Trail, America's first coast to coast road.

The Hamlet Cafe & Hotel on the corner is now home to Waymire's Corner Tap. To the right is the Majestic Theater, now an empty lot. Next is Hamlet Hardware & Farm Implements and then the Hamlet State Bank.

A Studebaker and two Ford Model T's can be seen. In 1917, there were only 650 autos registered in the entire county. Electricity had finally come to Hamlet the previous year.

The Town Constable is standing in the center of the group, which includes several WWI soldiers. The occasion may have been in honor of their departure for the war.



**Thomas, Lyman**

A photo taken around 1920 shows Lyman Thomas of Hamlet with his grand-daughter Edna Hacker riding in a "goat cart".

In those days it was popular to use a well behaved goat to pull one of these little carts around the farm and sometimes even in town.

## **Chapter 6 – Jackson Township**





### **Camp Kankakee**

Camp Kankakee was built in 1933 on the north side of SR 8 just across the Kankakee River from Starke County. It was a federal works project for the purpose of housing homeless men and boys during the Great Depression. As many as 500 men lived there in the buildings that can be seen behind the entrance. They tended 23 acres of gardens, where they grew much of their own food.

The men and boys were sent from 38 different states. The men worked 130 hours per month at WPA wages less \$19 per month for room and board. Recreation equipment was provided, and their baseball team competed with other local community teams in Starke County, such as the Bass Lake White Sox and the Hamlet Cubs. Two movies were also shown each week. Each person was provided with a new suit of clothes. The project was considered quite a success and provided many men with a sense of pride and self worth during desperate times.

The camp was closed in late 1939 and is today a scenic area maintained by the Indiana DNR.

**NOTICE**  
TO  
**OWNERS OF DOGS!**

All Dogs over three months old **MUST** be registered at my Office **ON OR BEFORE**  
**MAY 1st, 1891,**  
in accordance with the provisions of  
**Senate Bill, No. 182.**

*Fred. Jordan*  
TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE.

D. H. Goble, Printer, Greenfield, Ind.

**Dog Notice**

Frederick Jordan owned considerable farm land in Jackson Township and was the Township Trustee in the 1890's. This is a handbill Fred circulated in Jackson Twp 115 years ago reminding all dog owners that they must register their dogs with him. Jordan School, a one-room school still standing in Jackson Twp, was named after him.



### **Hewlett's General Store**

Clayton and Ona Hewlett's General Store in downtown Toto was located at the northwest corner of Toto and Range Roads.

The sign to the right of the window says Fresh Bread.

A pair of unknown men are working on a 1925 Ford Model T pickup truck. That was the very first year Ford sold a factory manufactured pickup. It sold for \$281 plus shipping and was available only in black.

Our thanks to Bev Wallace for bringing this interesting photo in from Ralph Hewlett's collection.





### **Johnson Family**

Charles Johnson and his six sons are standing beside their new 1917 Studebaker Touring Car. These popular six cylinder autos were offered in three models; the "Big Six" was the deluxe series and had a 60 horsepower engine, the "special six" came with a 50 hp engine and the "light six" with a 40 hp engine. All were similar in overall appearance. Touring autos were similar to today's convertibles and had a canvas fold-down top. However, they did not have glass windows and instead had canvas curtains.

The auto in this picture would have been made in Detroit. It was 1920 before Studebaker moved its auto plant to South Bend, after selling the wagon works. The Johnsons kept this auto until 1927, when they bought a sedan.

Charles and Marthina Johnson's 200 acre farm was in Jackson Township at the intersection of 250 S. and 250 W. Mr. Johnson had been born in Sweden but came to America in 1891. He met and married Marthina Johnson, who was also born in Sweden, in Chicago in 1900. There he worked as a teamster. They moved to Starke County in 1910 after saving enough money to buy the farm.

From left to right: George (became an auctioneer & farmer), Albin (a farmer), Elmer (a mechanic & John Deere Dealer), Axel (a farmer), Charles, Walter (a carpenter & lumberyard owner) and Clarence (a carpenter & farmer). We would suspect this picture was taken on Sunday after attending services at the Lutheran Church, where they were members.





### **Jordan School**

This photo of students at the Jordan School in Jackson Township was taken in 1922. The Jordan School was built in 1905 at the northwest corner of 100 W. and 350 S.

It was closed as a school in 1945. The former one-room school is still in use today as a community building and is the only wood frame one-room school still standing in the county.

The teacher taught all eight grades in just one room. Usually the eighth graders helped instruct the younger children.

From left to right, back row: Unknown, Mildred Gappa, Dortha Burger, Meta Blunck, Helen Blunck, Herretta Daly (Teacher), Clara Blunck; middle row: Mae Shepherd, Helen Sharpinski, Lillie Heubner, Gertrude Eley, Sylvia Gappa, Alice Sharpinski, Selma Heubner, Christena Gappa and Blanche Eley; front row: Glen Gappa, Joseph Shepherd, unknown, Bill Sharpinski, unknown, unknown, and Edward Berg.



### **Jordan School Ball Team**

The Jordan School was located at the north-west corner of CR 100W and CR 350S in Jackson Township. It is one of a handful of century old one-room schools still standing in Starke County. It was built in 1897 at a cost of \$400. This former school is still used as a community building.

This photo shows the boys softball team in 1934. From left to right: Richard Ziolkowski, Shedric Fletcher, Stanley Beniwitz, Kenneth Pulver, Charles Crecelius, August Gappa, Merle Henriles, Homer Swanson and Edward Jordan.



### **Swanson Farm**

A Rumely-Watts corn sheller is shown shelling corn from a crib during the winter and dumping it into a Chevrolet truck bed on Charlie Swanson's farm near Brems sometime in the 1920's. Even then farmers stored corn after harvesting, waiting on it to dry and the best possible price.

These corn shellers were sold by the Advance-Rumely Thresher Company of LaPorte, Indiana. The shellers were of the cylinder type and capable of far more capacity than competing spring types. While the frame and moving mechanisms were made of metal, the main box was made of wood. The corn cobs and husks went one way while the clean, shelled corn was elevated to the waiting truck bed. The sheller was powered by a belt attached to a tractor out of sight to the left.

Charlie may have been using a steam powered tractor or engine to power the sheller. He was known for using the latest methods to improve his farm's production. He was said to be the first farmer in Starke County to use crawler type tractors on his wet Jackson & Davis Township farm lands.





### **Swanson Homestead**

The Swanson homestead was located about 3/4 mile west of Brems on CR 250N. It was located on an elevated area called Grape Island by early settlers, because it rose above the surrounding swampy land.

An 1898 map shows the west side of Brems was called Jackson Station, and the east side was called Nickel Plate. Before that time, Brems was known as Jackson Island. The first school in the area was called Grape Island School and was located west of Brems. Later it was replaced by the Jackson Island School at Brems.

Swan Oliver Swanson had been born in Stockholm, Sweden in 1856. At the age of two, he moved with his family to Starke County. The farm homestead shown in this photo was built in 1876. Swan and his son, Charles, accumulated 1,000 acres of top farm land in Jackson Twp. The farm was called the Nickel Plate Stock Farm. They raised sheep, swine and cattle, along with wheat, corn and oats. Mr. Swanson used the latest agricultural methods. He was able to average 50 bushels of corn to the acre in 1914, which was a very good result prior to the use of mechanical farm tractors.





### **Toto**

This photo of "downtown" Toto was taken in 1915. The photographer was probably standing behind what is now Waldrop's Store and looking to the northeast toward Knox.

The store to the left was Clayton Hewlett's General Store. It faced Toto Road. The store in the center is George Phillip's General Store, and it faced Range Road.

The NYC depot can be seen on the right. It has two signs. One says Toto; the other says Rye. Some time shortly after the turn of the last century, the railroad decided to call this stop Rye. It had been known as Toto since the mid-1850's, when a post office had been opened there. Since the depot was on the north side of the tracks, this led some to say Rye was north of the tracks and Toto south of the tracks. In any case, only Toto shows up on all maps after 1920. The small shed in the center of the photo is a mystery. It might be an ice or fuel storage shed.

The maps at this time show Toto Road was an improved gravel road, while Range Road was unimproved. Thanks to Bev Wallace for bringing this photo in from Ray Hewlett's collection.



### **Toto School**

The Toto School 1911 - Teacher Cecil Jackson. The Toto one-room school was built in 1897 at a cost of \$400. Some of the specifications to the builder were: "All lath shall be of good quality that will not show stain from knots through plastering. The wainscott under blackboard and windows shall be 26" high. There shall be an open belfry on the entrance six feet square - with neat roof and flag pole. The contractor shall build bucket shelves and strips with four dozen coat hooks in entrance." Back then children carried their lunch to school in buckets or pails and needed a place to store them.

Some of the children in this 1910 photo were probably from the nearby Bascom, Collins, Dunkleberger, Short and Weninger families.

Some of the teachers who taught at Toto through the years, besides Grover Short, were: Mildred Collins, Frank Heilman, Homer Rogers, Maude Brown (later Mrs. Henry Schricker), Rex White, Ada Geddes and Otta Weidner.

The Toto School was closed in the early 1920's. It was located on the west side of Range Road a block or so north of Toto Road.



### **Toto Sunday School**

A photo dated 1915 shows the Sunday School class at the Free Methodist Church in Toto.

This church is thought to have been established in the 1890's. At times the congregation used the Toto one-room school for their services.

Rev. John A. J. Tannehill was the pastor for many years and may be the gray haired gentleman in the back of the photo. He was a circuit preacher who also attended to congregations at Knox, Mishawaka and Crown Point.

Locally Mr. Tannehill may have been best known for his melon farm near Round Lake. He shipped melons all across Indiana out of the railroad stop at Toto.





### **Tretiak's General Store**

Many readers may remember Tretiak's General Store that was located in Toto at the southeast corner of Range and Toto Roads. The store had the typical "Paul's Kreamo Bread" screen door and squeaky wood floors. The front porch had a bench where local residents could discuss the day's events, while sipping a cold bottle of pop.

Like most general stores of the era, they sold gasoline and filled your tank for you. In this case, it was Standard Oil Red Crown (regular) or White Crown (premium) Gasoline.

This photo was probably taken in the 1950's.





### **West School**

Jackson Township's "West" School was located at the intersection of 250 S. and 250 W. This was about 2 1/2 miles west of Toto.

An earlier school had been located in that same general vicinity since at least the 1870's. The school was officially known as District #1 School, because it was probably the first school in Jackson Twp.

The building shown in this 1927 photo was built in 1897 for \$400. Some of the contractor's specifications were: The roof shall be of good sheeting and "Extra Star-A-Star" white cedar shingles, laid 4 1/2 inches to the weather. All outside paints shall consist of best grade white lead and good oil properly mixed and applied.

Some of the teachers at West School were: Fern Parks Vial, Margaret Gappa Johnson, J.C. Rebstock, Irene Regnold, Della Short, Freeda Fox, Alta Bell, Daisy Rockwell, J.E. Lucas, Laura Swabey, and Maude Brown Schricker. West School was discontinued sometime after 1936.

## **Chapter 7 – Knox**



**Alan, Frank**

The Boy Scouts of America introduced the Cub Scout program in 1930 as a "controlled experiment" for boys aged 8 to 11. The idea was a huge success and has over 2 million Cub Scouts enrolled in the program today.

The Historical Society would like to expand its Scout collection by adding more photos and display items. This photo of Frank Alan was taken around 1950. His neckerchief slide indicates he belongs to the Wolf Pack.



**Barnum, John Henry**

John Henry Barnum was the son of Josiah and Lucinda Barnum of Knox. Josiah had moved to Knox in the late 1860's and married Lucinda Myers of Bass Lake in 1870. Josiah was a Knox shoemaker. Lucinda listed her occupation as photographer on the 1900 census. The Starke County Museum does have a number of turn of the last century photos with the studio name of Barnum.

Their son, J. Henry Barnum, shown in this photo listed his occupation as "professional slight of hand" and "showman". He no doubt performed at many local town fairs and may have performed on the stage in one of Knox's opera houses. This photo was most likely taken by his mother, Lucinda. We would guess "Uncle J. Henry Barnum" was his stage name and the children shown in the photo were not his nieces and nephews but his audience.





### **Blue Star Mothers**

Blue Star Mothers of World War II was founded January 22, 1942. This nation-wide organization was founded to support sons in service and was patterned after an earlier World War I organization. Their members were very active in the war effort as well as civic and defense and war related activities. Their trademark was a red and white banner with a blue star for each son in service. If a son died in the war, his blue star was replaced with a gold star.

This photo shows officers of the local Knox organization. From left to right: Elsie Jones, Hazel Hall, Sara Barr and Neva Miller.



**Brick Water Tower**

A town water system had been discussed for some time, but a disastrous fire that wiped out almost an entire block of downtown Knoxville in June of 1909 prompted officials to act quickly. By October of the same year, Knoxville had its first water works plant at a cost of nearly \$20,000.

It was located where Knoxville City Hall is now located. A 70 foot high brick tower had been built, on top of which a 40 foot high water tank was placed with a capacity of 40,000 gallons. A 20 horsepower gasoline engine powered a large water pump that drew water from a series of 20 wells.

It provided water to Knoxville residents until 1953 when a new modern system with a capacity of 250,000 gallons was built in the southeast part of the city.

The brick tower was demolished in April of 1954 by a firm from Oak Park, IL. Neighborhood boys were paid a penny a brick to clean the mortar from the old bricks, so they could be reused.



### **Brown Family**

A family photo taken sometime around 1908 shows Dr. Steven and Emma (Messerly) Brown and their six daughters. From left to right, back row: Artha, Bess and Ruth. Middle row: Grandson Howard Davis, Steven, Emma and Grace. Front row: Maude and Florence. Maude married future Indiana Governor Henry F. Schricker in 1914, after she homesteaded alone in North Dakota, while teaching school.

The doctor was a Civil War Veteran from Pulaski County. Sometime in the late 1800's he stopped a lady's runaway horse and buggy in Francesville, where they lived. Although, he succeeded in stopping the horse, it kicked him in the leg, smashing the bone into splinters. While others thought the leg should be amputated, he talked his wife through setting the bone. They saved the leg, but he limped the rest of his life.

In 1900, at Emma's insistence, they bought a retiring doctor's practice in Knox and moved to a home on Heaton Street, so that their last two daughters, Florence and Maude could attend high school. The doctor's office was above Koffel's Drug Store on Main St., which later became Evert's Drug Store. In 1910, the Browns purchased 40 acres of farm land near Bass Lake. There they would picnic in the woods, while watching such farm activities as threshing. Later the Browns moved in with their daughter and son-in-law, Maude and Henry Schricker. After retiring, the doctor would sometimes see former patients in the Schricker home.



### **Buggy Ride**

In a photo taken around 1902, four young Knox residents are out for a ride in a horse drawn buggy. From left to right: Babe, Silva (Reiss) Jonas, Robert Renview Green, Helen (Long) Whitson and Stella (Klopot) Bonner.

Silva, who later composed a number of local theatrical plays, married Al Jonas, who was active in local banking. Renview was also active in local Knox business. Helen was the daughter of John Long of Long Thompson Lumber. Stella operated Klopot Studios for many years and later became our county's historian. It is not known if Babe achieved any fame beyond this photo.





### Central Hotel

The Central Hotel was located in downtown Knoxville at the southwest corner of Lake and Main Streets, where BESTCO Storage is opening a new facility. This photo was taken around 1905.

Several businesses can be seen in the building. Rannels and Sons Restaurant is located on the left side of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The signboard on the sidewalk says "Get in the Habit of Eating at Rannels & Sons Restaurant", "Oysters Served in Bay Style". The right side of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor is occupied by First National Bank, which had just been organized in 1901. Above a sign reads "Season's Scenic Sensation – A Little Outcast". Apparently a nickelodeon parlor was located upstairs, along with hotel rooms.

In the gap between the Central Hotel and Windisch's Grocery Store to the left can be seen a little store with a sign that reads "Peanuts, Popcorn, Crackerjacks, Cigars and Soft Drinks".

The Central Hotel burned down in June of 1909, during one of town's most disastrous fires. The lot then stood empty for several years, but in the 1920's became home to Cox Bros. Linco Gas Station, as well as a hot dog stand. In the late 1930's, a new building housed Grime's Variety Store and later, Schultz Bros. Dime Store.



### **Champion Motor Company**

A photo dated 1941 shows Carl Coffin's Champion Motor Company in Knox. It was located at the northeast corner of Pearl & Washington Streets, where Fingerhut Bakery is now located.

Mr. Coffin specialized in selling new Studebakers. Later Glenn Kay, Knox's first mayor, took over this dealership. He continued to sell Studebakers in the 1950's before switching over to Dodge and Plymouth sales.



### **Che Mah**

Che Mah was born on the island of Choo-Sang, China in 1838. Sometime later, he was discovered by a scout for Barnum & Bailey Circus. He toured the world for many years, appearing before all the crowned heads of Europe. He also traveled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show for a time. Che Mah was billed as the shortest man in the world at 28 inches tall and weighing 40 pounds. He is shown with Pearly in this photo, who was said to be 34 inches tall.

While staying at a hotel in Chicago in the 1890's, he met H.E. Stone, a Knox realtor. Mr. Stone put him in touch with Samuel Childs of Washington Twp, who sold him a farm near Eagle Lake. Che Mah soon realized harnessing horses and farm work was too difficult for such a short person. He then returned to work this time at Kohl and Middleton's Museum in Chicago. After selling his farm at Eagle Lake, he bought more property in Knox and retired a second time in 1905.

Che Mah had learned the ways of American business and had accumulated a degree of wealth, owning several properties and homes in Knox. He would host parties at his house on east Washington Street, which he decorated with items from Chinatown in Chicago. Later he lived at another of his houses at Lake and Pearl Streets. There he died in 1926, having lived the last 35 years of his life as one of Knox's more famous persons.



### **Christian Church**

A photo that appears to have been taken in the 1940's shows the Christian Church at Pearl and Delaware Streets in Knoxville.

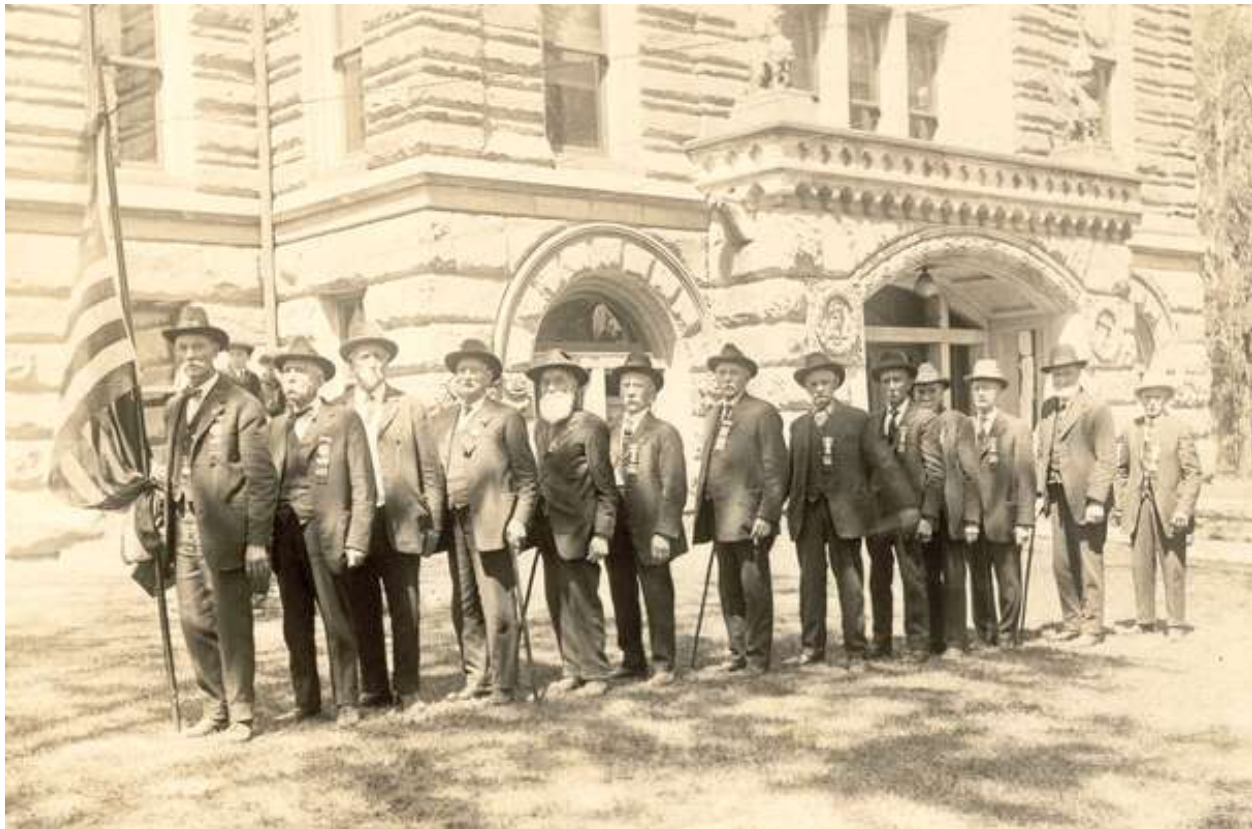
It was built in 1904-1905 when Rev. D. W. Wakeman was the minister. This concrete block building replaced an earlier wood frame church building at the same location. The photo may have been taken shortly after the original concrete blocks were painted white.





### **City Steam Laundry**

A photo shows the former City Steam Laundry that was located on North Pearl Street in Knoxville. It was built in 1914 just south of the old county jail. Frank and Hazel Hall bought it in the 1920's and ran it for many years. They also did dry cleaning on site, employing several workers.



### **Civil War Veterans**

A photo dated about 1915 shows Civil War (1861 - 1865) Veterans living in Starke County. The only veteran identified is John Giles, who is holding the flag. He is wearing a number of GAR medals commemorating his service. Readers are encouraged to call Marvin Allen at 772-5936 with additional names.

Nearly all Union Civil War Veterans belonged to an organization formed after the war known as the Grand Army of the Republic. There were three GAR Posts here in Starke County: the William Landon Post 290 in Knox (1884 - 1936); the Daniel Lake Post 571 in North Judson (1890 - 1914); and the John W. McCune Post 587 in San Pierre (1891 - 1903).

In 1868, the GAR issued an order for all Posts to set aside May 30th for remembering the sacrifices of fallen comrades, thereby beginning the celebration of Memorial Day. The GAR became very powerful politically and was especially active in pension legislation and soldier homes for disabled veterans.



### **Civil War Veterans**

Veteran's Day is November 11th and dates back to 1919, when President Wilson proclaimed that November 11th, Armistice Day, would be observed as a day of remembrance for those who gave their lives during The Great War (WWI).

Earlier in 1905, members of the Knox Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) posed in front of Reiss' Clothing Store in downtown Knoxville, now Main Street Computers, for a photo on Memorial Day. These gentlemen were veterans of the Civil War: William Windisch, John Kratli, John Giles, John Collins, Solomon Speelman, Robert Palmer, John Barnum, Hiram Peeler, Craft Carr, George Favorite, Frank Fletcher, Jesse Fletcher and Utter Stephenson.

Memorial Day had been established in 1868 after the Civil War and was originally known as Decoration Day. You may notice that a special display was set up in the store window honoring Civil War veterans. Silva (Reiss) Jonas, about 10 years of age, is standing in the window with a flag draped over her shoulder.

Some years later Silva published a book titled "Starke County Indiana in the World War" about our county's sacrifices during World War I.





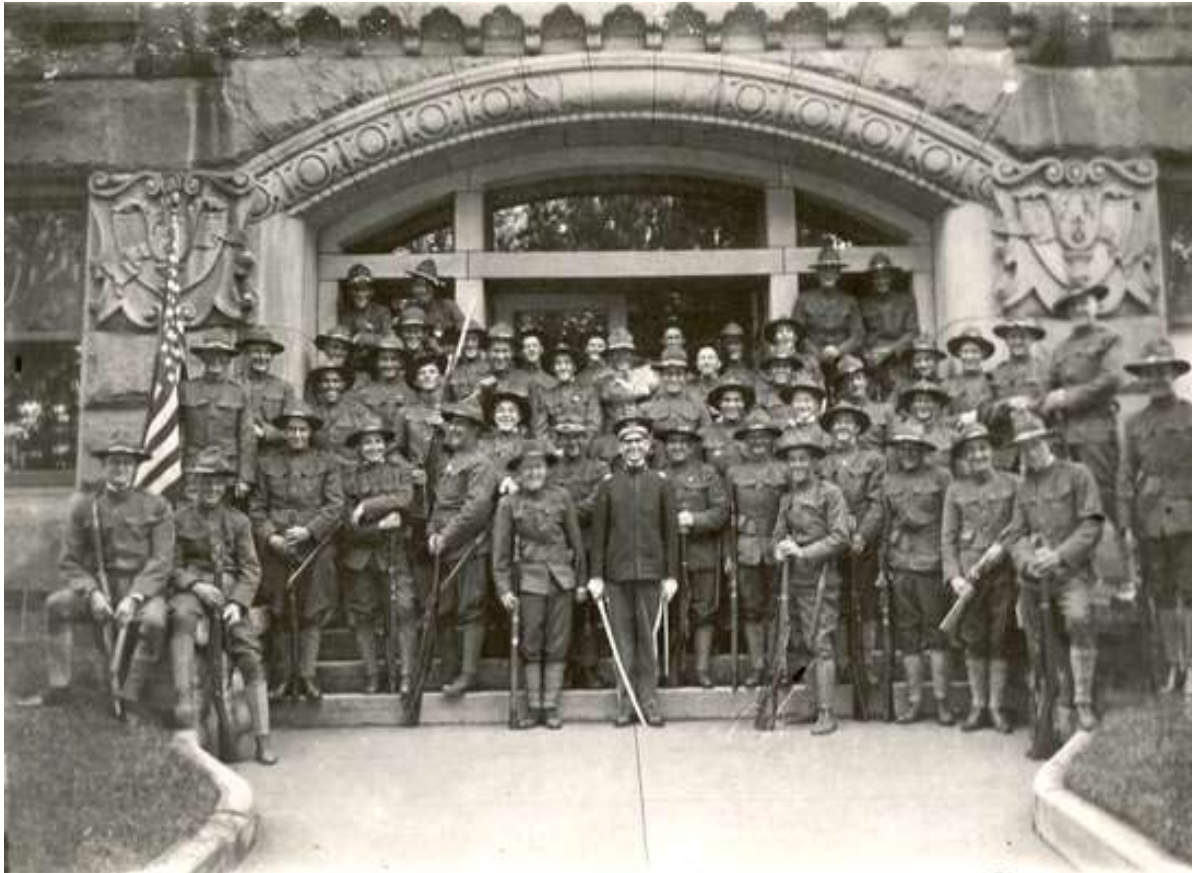
### **Class Play**

"How Boots Befooled The King" was a play put on by Knox 5th and 6th graders May 4, 1936.

Boots, the youngest son of a humble family, has two virtues, unwillingness to expend any unnecessary effort and a sarcastic wit. These traits frustrate the king and his ministers throughout this popular fairy tale.

From left to right, back row: Iva Bowie (teacher), Bonnie Mae Biggs, Helen Marie Hobart, Michael Bonner, Thomas Nichols, Georgia Linedecker, George Schricker, Juanita Cannon and Bruce Wathen; middle row: Frederick Giles, Arthur C. Schultz, Harry Parker, Jack McCruthers, Mary Lou Parrott and Donald Abraham; front row: Esther Downs, Doris Gurrado, Evelyn Byer, Merillat Miller, Wilma Golding, Junior Parker, Thelma Binkley, Bill H. Thurman and Tommy Cutshall. Corrections are always welcome.





### **Company H**

A photo from 1915 shows Knox's Company H of the Indiana National Guard. Captain Henry F. Schricker is standing front center.

The Indiana National Guard traces its unbroken history and lineage back to 1801 and is older than the state itself. The National Guard has two roles. Within the state, the governor is commander in chief of the Guard and can mobilize the Guard for the protection and well being of Indiana citizens. In time of national crisis, the Guard can be called into active federal service by the United States Government.

The first time the Indiana National Guard was called to federal duty was in the Mexican War in the 1840s.

Knox's Company H was first mobilized for federal duty during Mexican Border War in 1915 and then in 1917 for World War I.



### **Company H - Special**

A photo taken September 21, 1917 at the Knox Nickel Plate depot, shows the first of six farewell demonstrations held for young Starke County men headed off for military training during WWI.

A huge banquet had been held the evening before in Reiss' Opera House for the men as honored guests. Local school bands provided several patriotic musical selections. A number of speeches were given, with future Governor Henry Schricker giving the opening address.

The train was known as the "Company H - Special".

The Nickel Plate Cafe is visible directly west of the depot, The building to the right side of the picture was a livery and horse stable. Hotel Fitz can be seen in the far back on Main Street.



### **Cook Equipment Company**

A photo taken in 1958 shows the Cook Mercury dealership on South Heaton Street in Knoxville. Cook was also a New Idea farm equipment dealer and sold used farm machinery of all types.

Previous to this location, Charles and his father Leroy Cook had a Farmall dealership downtown a block west of the courthouse on Mound Street.

A pair of new Edsel's can be seen in the center of this photo. The Edsel was introduced by Ford Motor Co. in 1957 and quickly discontinued in 1959. The Edsel is often referred to as the wrong car at the wrong time. America was entering a recession and people were looking for smaller less costly cars that got better gas mileage. The Edsel line was a huge loss for the company. But today an Edsel in well maintained condition might go for \$100,000 or more.

This was also the year that four headlights became standard on most cars and trucks.

Today this building is home to Ed's Auto Parts.









### **Cox Texaco Station**

A photo from the 1940's shows Cox Brothers' Texaco service station in Knox. It was located on the east side of Heaton Street just south of the railroad tracks. A sign near the street says "Registered Restroom". Other signs advertise Goodyear tires and AAA. An older gravity feed glass container gas pump is flanked by more modern pumps. Those pumps would have offered Texaco Fire Chief and Sky Chief Gasolines.

Joe and Owen, sons of Joseph & Rose Cox, opened this Texaco station sometime before 1935. This drive-thru style service station was very popular in the 1930's and 40's. Back then stopping for a fill-up meant getting your windows cleaned, your oil & water levels checked, as well as the air in your tires checked. Their adjacent garage would have provided oil changes with Havoline Motor Oil and minor carburetor, brake and tire repairs.

Today, this location is home to Eby Tire & Auto, who still sell Goodyear tires 70 years later. An earlier Cox service station had been located right in downtown Knoxville at the southwest corner of Main & Lake Streets in the 1920's.



### **Desardee Chapter - Daughters of the American Revolution**

This undated photo shows several members of the local Desardee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) participating in a parade.

The chapter was organized in Knox in 1938 at the home of Mrs. W.C. Pentecost. It was named after Peter Desardee, an early trader of French and Indian descent, who frequented this area when it was still inhabited by the Pottawatomie Indians.

Membership in the DAR is limited to women who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the Revolutionary War. One of the primary goals of the organization is to foster patriotism and love of country.

While the ladies in the photo are not identified, charter members were Edith Beers, Carrie Berg, Stella Bonner, Eloise Brittingham, Meda Fletcher, Margaret Hilbish, Jennie Lundin, Grace White, Nellie Pentecost, Irma Smith, Frances Kaiser, Hazel Steele, Alice Yeakel, Mary Bonesteel, Marie Kessler, Florence Wooley, Marjory Black and Bennie Carter.



### **Drews' Sanitary Dairy**

Drews' Sanitary Dairy was originally located at 406 S. Main St. in Knoxville. This photo dated 1940 shows Ted Drews loading their Chevy delivery truck with glass bottles of milk. In those days many homeowners had milk delivered right to their front door. Some kept a small insulated metal box on their front porch where the milk man would leave fresh milk and pick up their empty glass bottles.

Ted's parents William and Clara Drews had moved to Knoxville from Chicago and opened the dairy in 1927. William Drews was active in local government and served on the Knoxville Town Board for twelve years. This was before Knoxville had a mayor. William was also involved in establishing Wythogan Park in the mid-1930's.

Thanks to Shirley (Drews) Amond for sharing this great photo.





### **Edgel's Shoe Shop**

Edward Edgel opened his shoe repair shop in Knoxville in 1907. Born in Ohio, he had worked in Chicago as a shoemaker the first part of his adult life before moving to Knoxville.

His son Robert Sr. worked in the business with him and took over in the 1930's. Grandson Robert has also run the business for many years making Edgel's Shoe Repair likely to be the only three generation business in downtown Knoxville.

This photo was taken when Edward's shop was in the former Grand Hotel. It was located at the north-east corner of Lake and Shield Streets. The Grand Hotel was one of Knoxville's earliest hotels.

No longer in use as a hotel in 1907, its rooms were occupied by several businesses, including a flour & feed store and a millinery. The sign above the door says "Square Deal Shop".





### **Eichstaedt Chevrolet & Cadillac**

Roy Eichstaedt operated a Chevrolet & Cadillac dealership at 110 N. Main Street in Knoxville during the 1940's and 1950's. He also had branch locations in North Judson and LaCrosse. In this photo believed to have been taken in the Home Hotel dining room, Roy, seated at the far end of the table, appears to be having a meeting with his staff.

Dutch Golding is seated in front on the left side. Jesse Samuels is seated 3<sup>rd</sup> from the front also on the left side.



### **Ernie's Restaurant – Inside**

A photo taken about 1940 gives us a view of the inside of Ernie Small's original lunch room on South Heaton Street in Knoxville. A young Skeeter Small is standing beside a stool. Edna Gustafson is standing to the left behind the lunch counter. Ernie's wife Zepha is standing to the right.

A sign above the window advertises Minit Steak Sandwiches for 15 cents, as well as fresh churned buttermilk every day.

Notice the jukebox. No doubt it was loaded with hits by Glen Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Bing Crosby, the Andrews Sisters and the Ink Spots.

Ernie Small opened his restaurant in 1938 and expanded it in 1973. It had been a favorite dining place for more than 60 years, when it closed in 2000 to make way for the new CVS store.

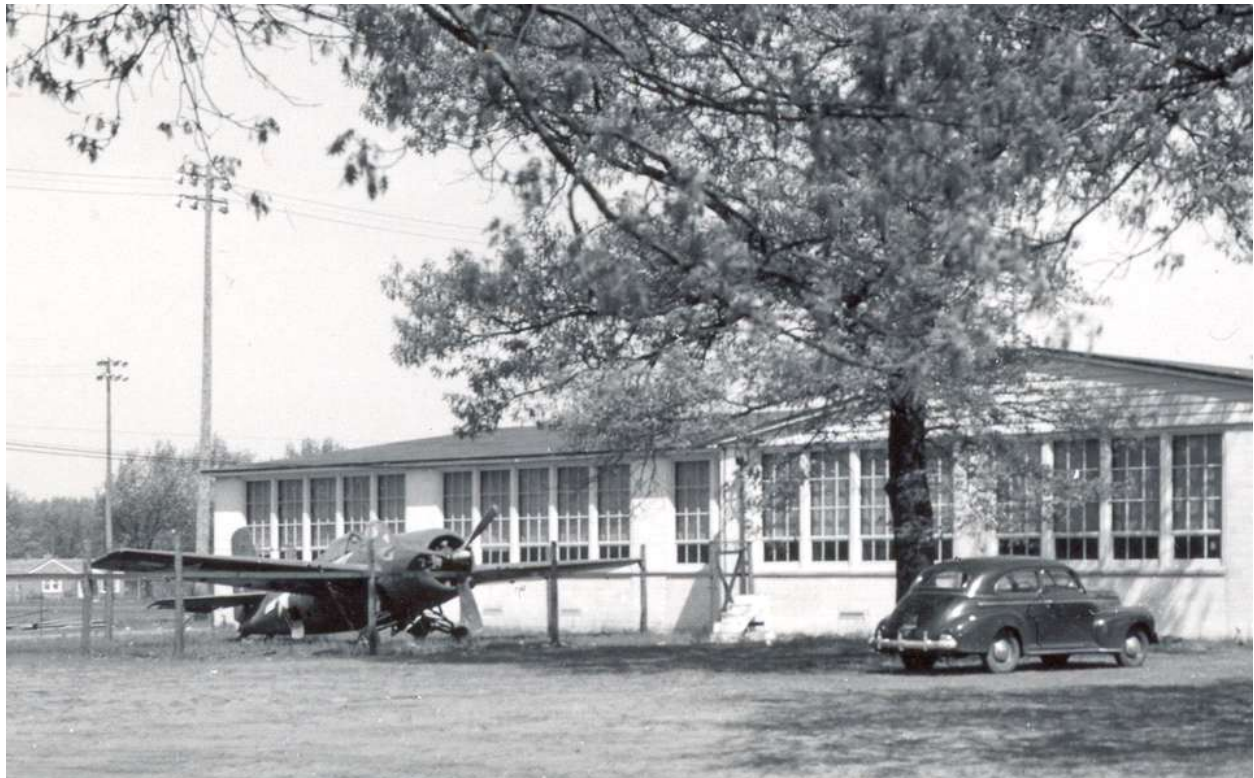
We wish to thank Skeeter Small for loaning us this historical photo.



### **Ernie's Restaurant - Outside**

A photo shows Ernie's Restaurant in Knoxville around 1940 just before World War II. Ernie Small had opened what was to become one of Knoxville's most popular dining places in 1938. The view is looking toward the west from US 35 in Knoxville. Pearl Street, in the background, had not yet been extended to Culver Road. A Phillips 66 service station was just to the left out of sight at the corner.

The service station was demolished in 1973 to make way for an addition to what was then called Ernie's Fireside Inn. After more than 60 years, the familiar location became home to a new pharmacy in 2000.



### **F4F Wildcat at Knox High School**

In the early 1950's, a Grumman F4F Wildcat was located at the south end of Knox High School. This photo was taken before the gymnasium was built in 1955. Originally, the Wildcat had been located on the courthouse lawn, where it had been dedicated as a memorial to those who had served overseas during World War II.

Later at the high school, the plane was used by the Shop Department to teach mechanical theory. The Wildcat was an aircraft carrier fighter plane and featured fold up wings. On one occasion, pranksters cranked its wings upright and pulled the plane out into Main Street. There they cranked its wings back down to make it appear a plane had landed on the street to the surprise of early morning motorists.

Eventually, the plane was sold for salvage. Its 1,350 horsepower engine was last seen in Israel Mishkovsky's salvage yard on West Lake Street. Today a Grumman Wildcat in maintained condition might be worth as much as \$1,500,000.





### **Fairy Theater**

The Fairy Theater was located at 12 South Main in downtown Knoxville. Albert Metzger owned and operated the theater until around 1940. We have been told he ran a tight ship and did not tolerate pranksters.

This photo is dated 1925. Back then a date consisting of a movie for two, burgers and cokes might cost a dollar. The left poster advertises "Pampered Youth" a silent movie starring child actor Ben Alexander. Many years later Ben Alexander co-starred as Officer Frank Smith in the TV show Dragnet with Jack Webb. The right poster advertises Sailing Along another 1925 silent movie.

Silent movies were never really silent. A pianist or roll player piano provided background music much like the soundtracks used in today's movies. Believe it or not, talking movies were not promoted much at first. Movie studios and theaters had too much invested in silent films. Today, this building is home to the beauty salon Mirror Images.



### **Farmer's Co-op**

A photo dating from the 1930's or 40's shows the Farmers Co-op of Knox. It was located on the east side of Pearl Street just north of the RR tracks.

It was built around the turn of the last century as a feed mill. Farmers would have been able to take their grain there to be ground into feed for their livestock.

Later it became an outlet for Purina products. Purina's checkerboard design dates back to the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. The name Purina was a made up word implying the pureness of their corn and oat mixture that went into Purina Feeds.

The Co-op also bought cream, poultry and eggs from local farmers, which was very important to surviving the depression years. Signs also advertise shipping of livestock, public weighing and other services local farmers would have required. It is said this was Knox's last livery stable; a place where those coming to town by wagon or buggy could leave their horses overnight. In the early 1960's, the building was purchased by Wunder's Grocery Store and used as a warehouse.



### **Fitz Hotel**

The Fitz Hotel was located at the corner of Main and Bender Streets in downtown Knoxville, where Dollar General is now located. This photo was taken sometime around 1914. The hotel had been built in 1895 by Joseph Fitz. It was a first-class hotel offering hot and cold running water and baths.

When it originally opened, the sidewalks were still made of wooden planks and Main St. was not yet paved. In 1906, an ad boasted the only \$2 rooms in town. The nearby N.Y.C. & S.L. Railroad Line insured the hotel was always filled to capacity.

In 1914, the building to the right, partly shown in this photo, was built. Its upper floor contained additional hotel rooms. A hardware store operated on its first floor. The Knoxville Post Office can be seen in the original part of the hotel, as well as Dr. Schwier's office to the right. Many of the basements along Main St. contained additional shops in those days. The basement under the Fitz housed Slidinger's Four Chair Barber Shop. Its ad said baths were available. Later the hotel became the Traveler's Hotel, with the first floor of the 1914 addition being used by Miller Jones Shoes.



### Ford Dealer

A photo from 1922 shows M. F. French's Ford Dealership at the corner of Main and Bender Streets in downtown Knoxville. Later in the 1930's, Sears Roebuck and Co. relocated its store to the same building.

A sign advertises Fordson tractors for \$395. The Fordson Model F farm tractor was introduced in 1917. This photo can be dated to 1922, because that was the year Ford dropped the price on their tractor to \$395 in answer to fierce competition from International Harvester. The 20 horsepower, 4 cylinder tractor was smaller and lighter than other tractors. And the price, lower than production cost, especially appealed to small farmers.

Another sign advertises Ford Touring cars for \$348. At that price, many items such as an electric starter, windshield wipers and a spare tire, were added later by the owner. The definition of a "Touring Car" was a vehicle that had a canvas top that could be put up or left down. Mr. French also sold Firestone tires, which can be seen in the front window, and Red Crown "winter" gasoline. A steel-wheeled farm plow is visible inside the south window.





**Fox, William**

A photo taken in 1932 shows William W. Fox seated at his desk in the Nickel Plate Depot in Knox. William was the ticket agent for many years and would have seen enlistees leave on the train for both World War I and II. He would have also seen the busy summer days in the 1920's when tourists arrived from the cities to spend time at Bass Lake. And no doubt, he had to deal with hobos riding the rails during the depression in the 1930's.

William and Lillie Fox lived on South Main Street in Knox with their daughters, Freeda, Evelyn and Margaret. Edwin Wilken of the Wilken & Musser Grocery Store in Knox married Freeda and also lived with them.

The Nickel Plate Depot has been restored and is now located at the north entrance to Knox. Some of the items in this photo have also been restored and are on display there.



**Girl Scout Cabin**

A photo taken perhaps in the 1940's shows the dedication of the Knox Girl Scout Cabin. This cabin is thought to have been located in Wythogan Park, but we are not sure.



### **Golding's Gas Station**

The Yellow River Gas Station, also known as Golding's, stood for many years at the north edge of Knox between the railroad tracks and the river. Elbridge "El" Golding had purchased the property in 1921 and soon built the gas station shown in this 1923 picture. He and his son, Ernest, also had a cement block making business at the same location using sand and gravel from the Yellow River. The lower level of the station was used as a stable. Ironically, Mr. Golding never owned or drove an automobile.

El had moved to Starke County with his parents, John and Mary Ann (Seagraves) Golding around 1861. He grew up on their farm in Center Township and spent most of his life farming. He was 60 years old when he entered the gas station business.

In this picture, he is selling Standard Oil's Red Crown gasoline. The gas pumps were hand operated, a chore sometimes delegated to his grandchildren. In later years, Texaco gasoline was sold. Although El passed away in 1945, the station continued to be operated by the family until 1974. The buildings were demolished in the 1990's to make way for the future widening of US 35.



### **Good Shell Station**

Vance Good owned and operated the Shell service station on Heaton Street in Knoxville for more than 35 years. He took the station over in the late 1940's. It was located just south of the railroad tracks on the west side of the street. Today this busy location is home to Video Zone. This photo was taken at night in the late 1950's during the holiday season. Vance really enjoyed decorating the station with wreaths and lights. A Christmas tree can be seen in the front window below the sign advertising B. F. Goodrich tires. Vance ran a classy station and was known to come to work sometimes wearing bow tie.

A service station had been located at this corner since the early 1930's. Even earlier this location was home to Midland Oil and Coal Company. Besides selling lumber and coal, Midland also had a concrete block factory on the premises. It had been built before 1909 under the name of Lewis Concrete Blocks. Many homes in Knoxville and elsewhere in the county were built using their concrete blocks in the 1910's and 1920's.





**Governor and Mrs. Henry F. Schricker**

Former Governor Henry and Maude (Brown) Schricker celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary October 21, 1964 with family and friends in Knoxville.

It is said Henry first met Maude while he was walking the railroad tracks to work and she was taking the family cow out to pasture. The Schrickers retired back to their home at 401 South Main St. after a career that included Indiana State Senator, Lieutenant Governor and two terms as Governor.

Historians have credited much of Governor Schricker's political success to Maude Schricker's public appeal. She radiated a kindness and friendliness that was said to force the governor's bitterest enemies to speak only good things about her. She was known as 'Mom' Schricker throughout the state, possessing womanly qualities that made her an invaluable asset to Governor Schricker throughout his long political career.



### **Green's Orchestra**

Around the turn of the last century, Knox drug store owner, Frank A. Green, organized an orchestral group that played on the upper floor stage of the Reiss Department Store. This building is located at 4 South Main St. and was most recently home to The Leader.

The orchestra members shown in the photo left to right are: Frank A. Green, 1st Violin; H. A. North, 2nd Violin; John Bralun, 1st Clarinet; John Meyers, 2nd Clarinet; Moody Baker, 1st Coronet; Duke Harter, Trombone; Slick Harrison, Bass Viola.

The upper floor of Gus Reiss' store was actually an opera house that hosted frequent events, such as out of town entertainers, high school class plays and graduations.



### **Horner and Krueter Hardware Store**

This historic photo of the Horner and Krueter Hardware Store was taken by Sigmund Klopot in 1911. Today the building is part of Home Healthcare Services at 11 S. Main St. in Knoxville. The lot to the left is still vacant from a fire in 1909 that burned down everything in that block, except the Fitz Hotel. A crowd has assembled to watch a new Laurel Kitchen Stove given away in a raffle. While the stove resembled an early wood stove, it operated on an astonishing new form of energy, natural gas. Families no longer had to carry in heavy wood and carry out dusty ashes, provided they could afford the new appliance. Besides selling Laurel Stoves and Ranges made by the Art Stove Company of Detroit, Michigan, the hardware store also sold Studebaker wagons and buggies.

It is interesting to note that even though Studebaker started making automobiles in 1902, horse drawn wagons and buggies were still a major product in 1911. In fact, the British ordered 3,000 horse drawn wagons, 20,000 harnesses and 60,000 saddles from Studebaker at the start of WWI in 1914.





### **Horse Drawn School Bus**

A school bus from yesteryear: a photo dated around 1912 shows a Center Township school bus in front of Starke County's courthouse. Note the hitching rail in use at that time at the courthouse.

While the school bus was owned by the school, generally, a local farmer or resident took a contract to use his horse team to pull the bus around a particular school district. Center Township School was a consolidated school and had eight of these buses. But other one-room township schools usually would have had only one bus.

As many as 18 children would ride the bus. Canvas window flaps protected the riders from the weather. An under-belly coal stove provided heat in the winter. It was the duty of the driver to help younger children up the tall steps.





### **Hunnicutt's Seed Store**

This is a view of Lake Street looking south in downtown Knoxville in the 1910's. These two stores were located in today's park area just to the right of the Laundromat.

Besides being a seed store, signs in the Hunnicutt building say "Auto Curtains Repaired", "Auto Tops Repaired", "Furniture Repaired, Revarnished". The store to the left is Schlosser Bros. The sign says "Cash Buyers, Cream, Eggs, Poultry".

The photo appears to have been taken before Lake St. was paved with brick. That may be a Model T truck parked in the back.



### **Junior Dramatic Club**

Around 1906, Fran Deering organized a Junior Dramatic Club that produced and presented plays on Saturday afternoons for the benefit of the Knox High School Library.

>From left to right seated on the floor are Mary Gorrell, Charles Koffel, and Iris Lewis. In the angel row are Ethel Hollandsworth (angel), an unknown, Florence Seagrist, Maurice Ellis, Sylva Reiss, Stella Klopot and John Short. In the top row: Rex White, Effie Shilling, Dolly McCormick, Beth Hinkley, Bernice Treva, Edith Arnsword and Mary Basney.

Playing the part of the imprisoned princess is Sylva wearing one of her mother's tea gowns, shortened, and a crown taken from Fran's hanging lamp. Charles was the prince in Fran's Buster Brown jacket and beaver hat. Ethel's mother made her white dress and the large wings. Rex was the Ogre.

Ed Uncapher was the stage manager who set up the scenery and raised and lowered the curtain. Charles Savery collected the quarters at the Saturday matinees, which were always a full house.



### **Kiest Feed Store**

Henry and Pearl Kiest moved to Knox in the 1910's from Illinois. Henry opened a milling operation on Pearl Street between Lake and Bender Streets. That block might have been known as the mill block, as there were as many as three feed & seed stores located there.

This photo shows his first operation before he built a smaller brick building to its left. Henry is standing at the doorway. The Kiests milled and sold fresh corn meal, graham flour and buckwheat flour. They also sold poultry, hog and cattle feed. Garden seeds were said to be their speciality. The mill was powered by an electrical motor.

Henry was also an avid sportsman. He invented a special casting reel and was issued a U.S. Patent for it. His reel and other sporting items were sold all over the country by word of mouth and a 32 page catalog.





### **Kiwanis Club**

A photo taken during the 1950's shows members of the Knox Kiwanis Club about to deliver Christmas baskets to the needy. Bread and eggs are visible in most of the baskets.

The Kiwanis were founded in Detroit in 1915 and describe themselves as an organization of service and community minded individuals from all walks of life.

From left to right: John McSherry (teacher/principal) , Paul Tucker (County Auditor), Jim Poulen (salesman), Almo Smith (insurance), Elmer Johnson (John Deere Dealership), Rudy Stark (Cashier, Farmers Bank & Trust) and Frank Gurado (Manager, Seaboard Finance).





### **Knights of Pythias**

A photo of the officers of the Knights of Pythias organization in Knox dated 1905. The Knights of Pythias was founded in 1864 during the Civil War. The organization, which is still active in some Indiana communities, is dedicated to universal peace and was founded on the principles of "Friendship, Charity and Benevolence".

The Knox order was founded sometime before 1898, as a photo is on file of their 18 member orchestra in that same year.

From left to right: John Jones, Monroe McCormick, Glen Peters, Charles Peters and Frank Green. John Jones was a local businessman and secretary of the Crown Hill Cemetery Association, Monroe McCormick was one of the organizers of the First National Bank of Knox and the Bank of Starke County in Hamlet, Glen Peters and his father, Charles Peters were attorneys in Knox and Frank Green owned and operated Green's Drug Store in downtown Knox. Many of the early 1900's postcards of Knox and Bass Lake were printed by Frank Green on his hand operated printing press.



### **Knox Airport**

Sometime around 1946-47 this RC-3 Seabee visited the Knox airport. It was made by Republic; the same company that made the P-47 WWII Thunderbolt fighter airplane.

Then a high school student, Jim Shilling remembers the boys being fascinated by this unique airplane. It had a single 6-cylinder engine mounted as a pusher.

Roy Eichstaedt is standing to the far left. His secretary Mary Jaskowiak is standing by the courtesy car. Roy sold his part of the airport to Carl Hansen July 8, 1947.

At that time the airport was just a few hundred feet south of the high school. It was the third airport at or near Knox and had opened in 1945 as WWII was ending. It was closed in the early 1970s and rebuilt three miles northwest of Knox on 200E.

The first Knox Airport, established in 1928, was located at the northeast corner of US35 and SR8 north of town. It closed around 1930 after the Great Depression hit.

The second was established in 1938 about a mile west of US35 on SR 8 northwest of town. It too was short-lived and closed when the government ordered all private planes disassembled or sold to the military when WWII broke out in 1941.



### **Knox Baseball Team**

Knox's 1948 baseball team is shown in this photo.

A note says the team was sponsored by Wentz Motor Sales, yet their jerseys say Post 131 [American Legion].

From left to right: Earl McGuire, Jim Olson, Rollie Akers, Don Biddle, Bob Orr, Devon Miller, Dick Bytnar, Andy Torok, Alton Williams, Harry Ray, Larry Richey, Marion Shearin, Delman Creviston and Harvey Brown. Bob Basney and Jim Tucker were the managers.



### **Knox Grade School**

A Knox 1953-1954 first grade class is shown in this photo taken at the former Foltz School on South Main Street.

Mrs. Marie Carey was a first grade teacher there for many years. There were actually three first grade classes, each with a different teacher.

Some of the children:

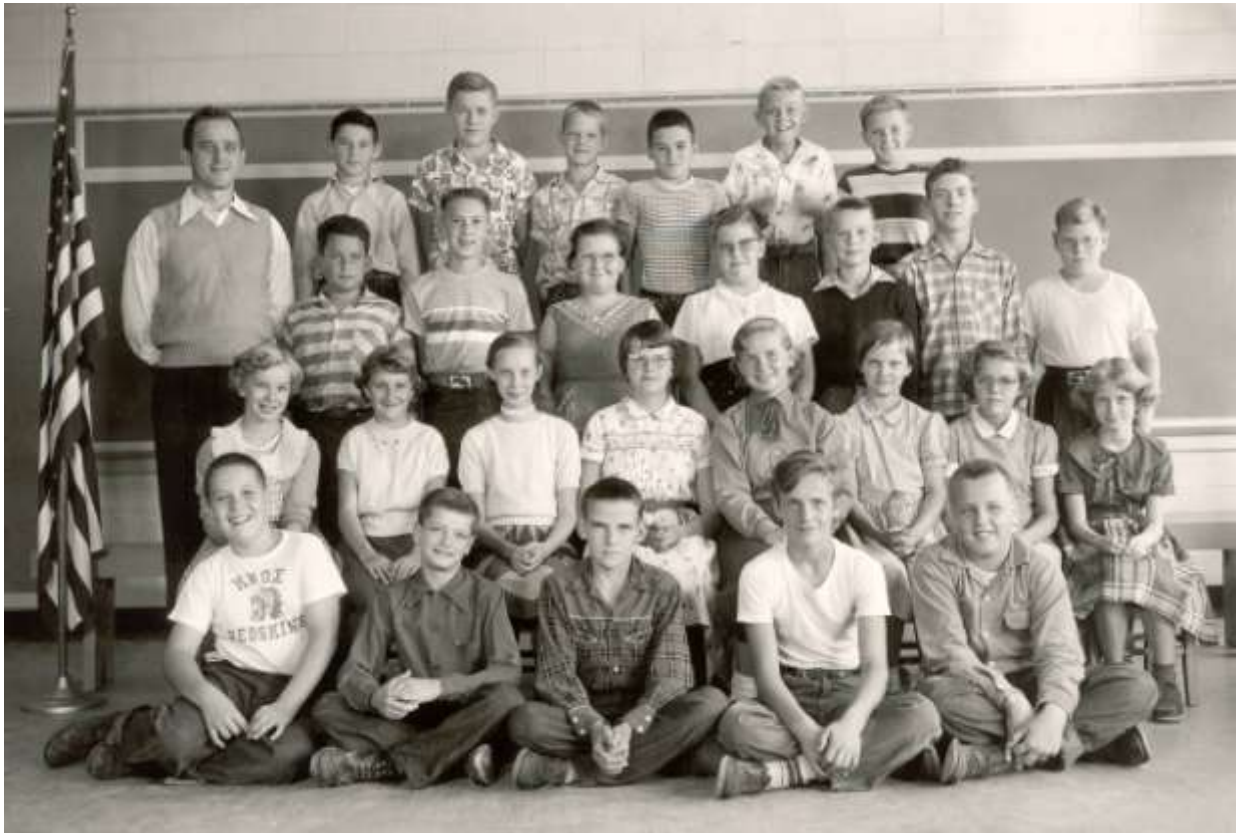
From left to right, 1<sup>st</sup> Row; #1 Rod Drosy, #3 David Aquino.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row; #2 Wilma Sallee, #3 Coreen Sallee, #7 Marian Myers and #9 \_ Kenny.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row; #1 Linda Lenig or Christine Neander, #4 Janice Clark and #6 Linda Allen.

Back Row; #1 William Brown, #2 Greg Watkins or Anderson, #5 Ed Boggs, #6 Tom Heilman and #8 Bob Pulver.





### **Knox Grade School**

This photo appears to have been taken in the mid-1950's at Palmer Elementary School in Knox. It may be the 5th or 6th grade. The teacher was Jack Foust.

Front row: Chuck Moroni, Terry McGill, Jesse Unknown, Unknown, and Jim Kisler.

2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Donna Riehle, Colata Estok, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown and Sharon Cleveland.

3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Unknown, Jim Younggreen, Barbara Peele, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown and Unknown Rudd.

Back Row: Ford Clemons, Bob Baker, Lance Bridegroom, Tommy Birkey, Marvin Price and Gerald Fletcher.



### **Knox Grade School Basketball Team**

The Knox 7th - 8th Grade basketball team won the title of Starke County Champs in 1946. This photo was taken in the old gym on Main Street. It had been built in 1927. At a recent class reunion, each attendee was presented with a small piece of this very same basketball floor by fellow student Jim Shilling.

Rollin Whiting was the coach. Rollin was the youngest son of Rollin and Maude Whiting, a North Bend farm family. He had taught at the Winona school at Bass Lake in the 1930's before teaching at Knox up through the early 1970's. Rollin taught Industrial Arts at the time of this photo and later taught Math, as well.

The players in this photo are from left to right, back row: William Solliday, Jesse Dedloff, James McIntire, Devon Miller, Alton Williams and Harold Sheperd. Front row: Ray Fowler, Carl Coffin, James Ryan, William Wilson, Melvin Salyer and James Olson.



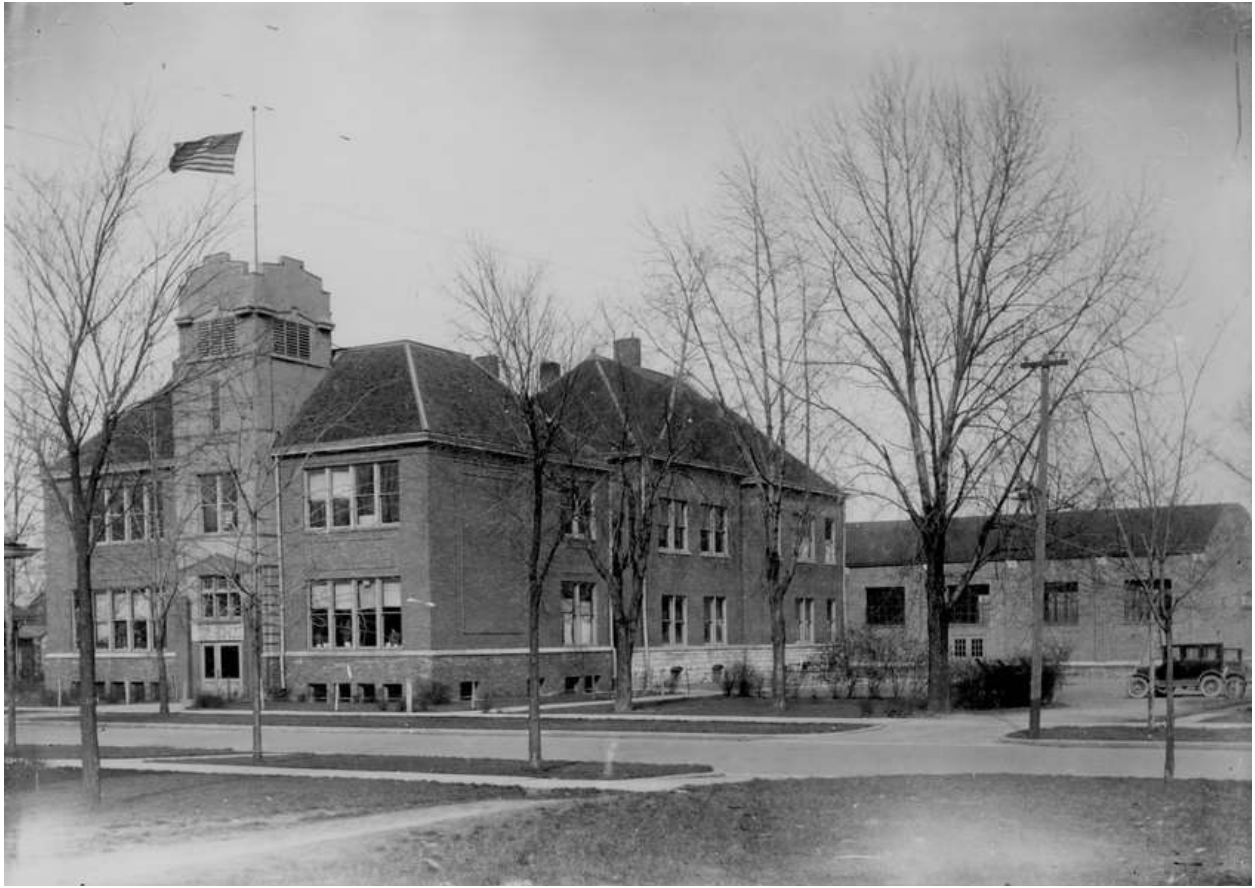
### **Knox Grade School Basketball Team**

The 2005 basketball season is just a few weeks away. Back in 1949-1950, Coach Frank Young posed with his Knox 8th grade team for this photo.

From left to right, back row: Bob Kemble, Ralph Moreland, George Christopher, Frank Young (Coach), Ernest Summa, Dan Nelson and Lee Benninghoff. Front row: Karl Olson, Richard Reed, Don Solliday, Donald Downs, Dick Gretz, Bob Barna and Ronald Allen.

This photo would have been taken in the gym at the former school in the 300 block of South Main Street in Knox, which is now a housing complex.

In addition to coaching basketball, Mr. Young also taught math and algebra at Center Township and Knox Schools for many years.



### **Knox High School**

Knox's first high school was built in 1894 on land purchased in 1869. A wood frame grade school had previously been located there but burned down in the spring of 1894. The high school was located on South Main St. just south of Delaware St. There were just six teachers. The first graduation was held in 1896. Only one student, Harry Hostetter, graduated that year.

Around 1903, a library was added with funding from school plays and other events. Athletics were introduced in 1917, but all equipment and activity were outdoors. In 1927, a gymnasium was added that was touted as one of the best in northern Indiana.

This photo is dated shortly after 1927. Note the Ford Model A on the right. The school was used for more than 80 years, but was demolished in 1976 to make way for an apartment complex.





### **Knox High School**

Knox High School's Senior Class of 1933 is shown in this photo. From left to right front row: Myron Blead, James Clark, Cliff Gustafson, Irvin Werner, Phillip Brownstein and Kenneth Keen.

2nd row: Robert Younglove, Gene Heilman (Teacher), Julius Henry (Superintendent), Marie Hammerlund, Myrtle Drews, Hazel Smith, Marie Wolfe, Alice Kistler, Marie Ferretti, John Moreland.

3rd row: Emily Ruzas, Marjorie Smith, Rosemary Thurman, Hazel Rogers, Pauline Meyers, Vera Susdorf, Mildred Holm.

4th row: Silvia Reinholt, Opal Walder, Anna Mae Cox, Mildred Hewitt, and Martha Savery.

5th row: Willodean Wallick, Bernice Staley, Loretta Bortell, Ermadine Zechiel, Tony Maslowicz and Burson Beauchamp.

6th row: Linus Loudermilk, Richard O'Hara, Verl Bailey, Evano Ferretti, Joe McGovern, Paul Grove, John Croy and Charles Rodgers.

Back row: Richard Good, Donald Conner, Glen Chapman, Donald Baldwin, Steve Kafka and Louis Taitel.



### **Knox High School Basketball Team**

A photo donated to the museum by retired Knox Teacher, James Hamblin shows Knox High School's 1948 "B" Team.

The KHS Redskins were "County Champions" that year. This photo was taken in the old gymnasium built in 1927.

From left to right, back row: James Hamblin (Coach), Jack Schultz, Ed Hudkins, Ray Carey, Cecil Bridegroom, Tom Kaminski, Jim Olson, Jim Hindle, Bob Troyer and John McSherry (Principal). Front row: Jon Young, Walt Bridegroom, Delmon Creviston, Don Biddle, Herbert Miller, Gordon Byer and Don Schultz.



### **Knox High School Basketball Team**

Seems like it was just yesterday, but this photo of the Knox High School Basketball Team of 1962-1963 was taken 44 years ago.

From left to right, standing: Coach Herb Reinhart, Bill Stuteville, Ron Buckley, Paul Berning, Terry Golding, Doug Hite and Coach Bob Beeson; front row: Harry Montgomery, Ed Aquino, Gene Brems, Mike Riehle, Dick Binkley and Sonny Wyland.



### **Knox High School Boys Basketball Team**

Knox High School Boy's Basketball Team 1928: Back Row; left to right; Bill Lewis, Julius Henry (Superintendent and Coach) and Guy Loudermilk; Middle Row; Ernie Row, Craig Jones, Pete Stevenson, Jesse Clabaugh and Howard Steele. Front Row; Milford Whitcamper, Al Byer and Red Lockridge.

Superintendent Henry coached for a number of years and was known for "roughhousing" and mixing it up with the boys, much to their delight.





### **Knox High School Boys Basketball Team – 1953**

Knox High School's 1953 Sectional winners are shown in this photo taken in the old Gym on Main Street built in 1927.

From left to right, back row: Jim Tucker (manager), Tom Beck (sponsor), Nick Huffman, James Williams, Meryl Cook, Bill Folkers and Paul McPherson (coach); front row: John Solmos, Dick Mast, Bob Voekel, Bill Elam, Howard Leedy and Harold Deli.



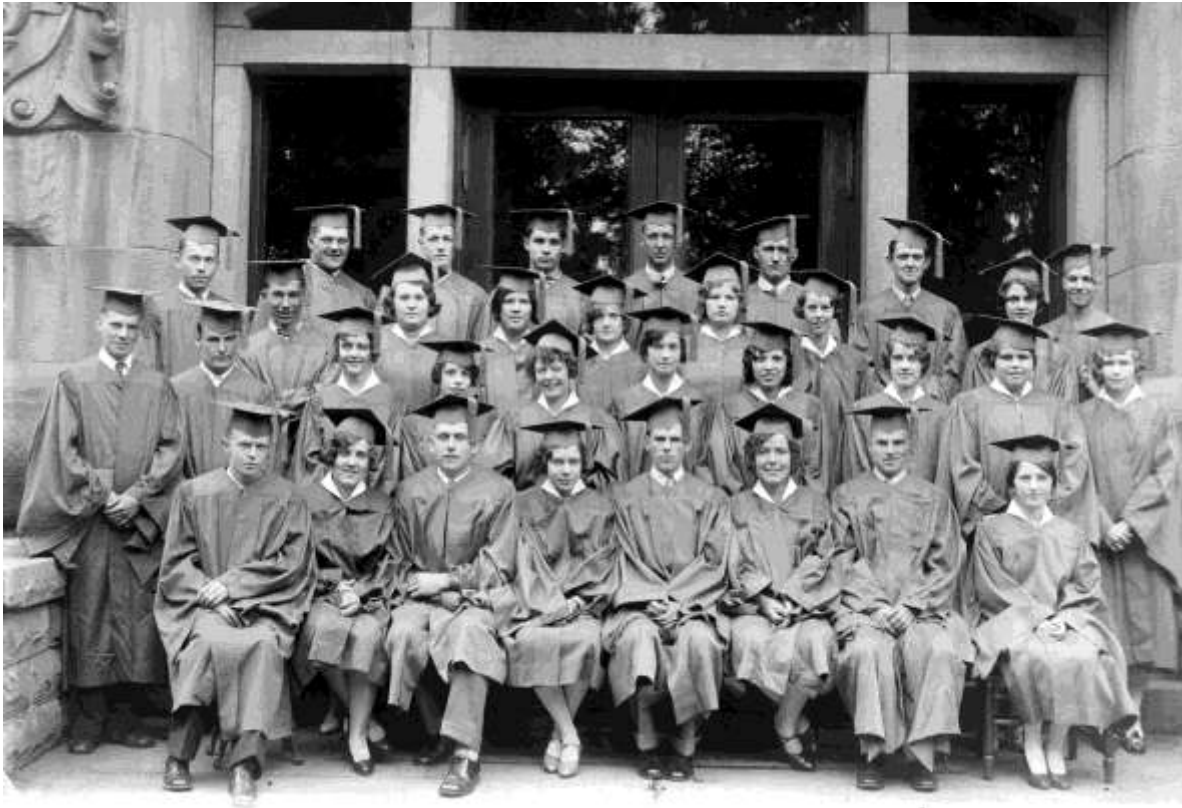
### Knox High School Class

The Knox High School Class of 1904 is shown in this picture.

The graduation program was held at the Knox Opera House Friday evening, May 6, 1904. Charles Lundin gave the Valedictory, and Mabel Good gave the Salutatory. Rev. D. G. Wakeman had given the Baccalaureate Address May 1st at the Knox Methodist Church. Harriet M. Silliman was the Principal, and Elmer D. Gordon was the Assistant Principal at that time.

This was only the 5th Commencement Exercise for the high school; the first having been in 1900. There had been three graduates prior to 1900, but apparently too few to put on a program.

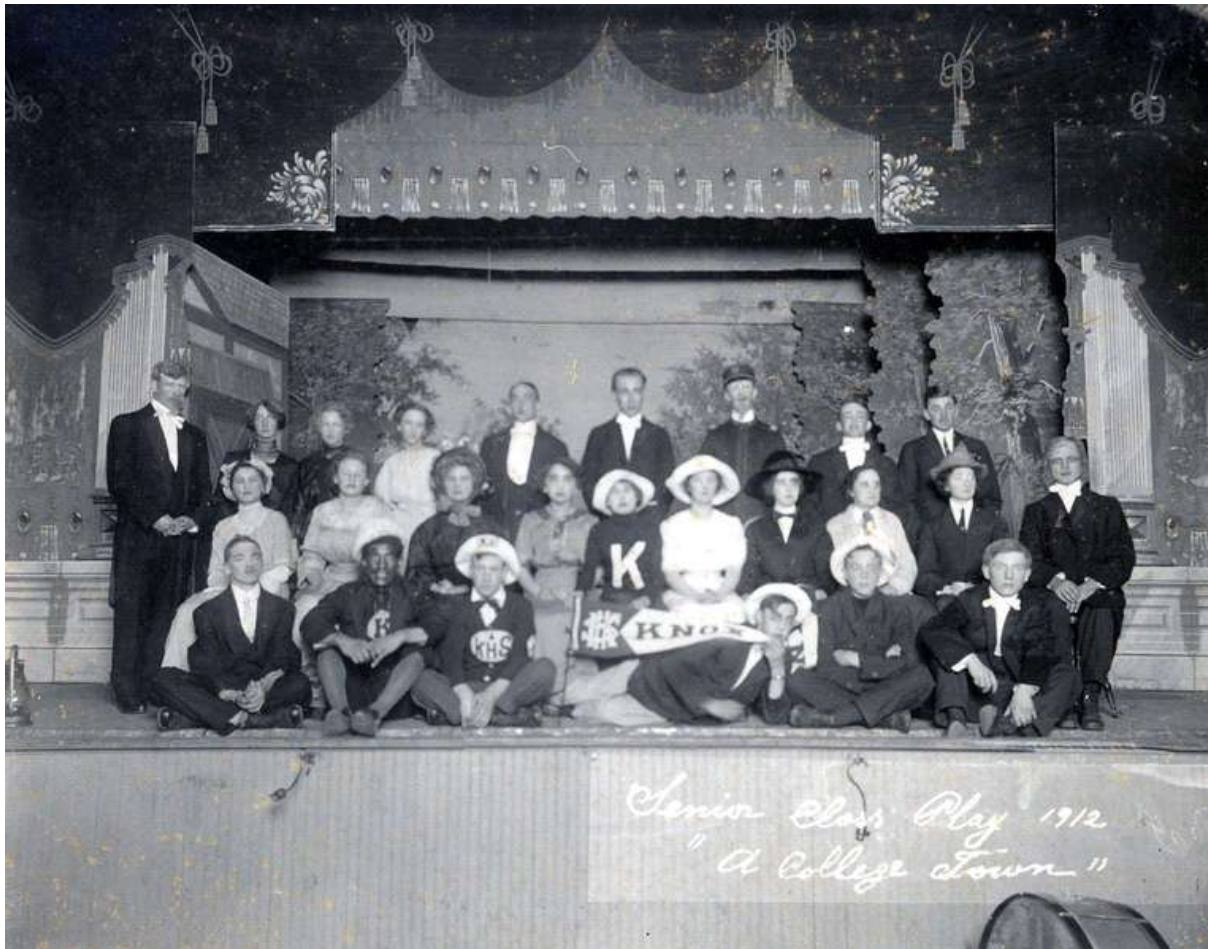
From left to right, back row: Cecil Jackson, Milton Robbins, Chester McCormick, Charles Lundin, William Baldwin and Homer Rogers; front row: Edith Baldwin, Ethel Trevor and Mabel Good.



### **Knox High School Class**

A photo of the Knox High School Class of 1930 was taken in front of the courthouse. It was about this time that it became common for our local high schools to rent caps & gowns for their graduating seniors.

Front row, left to right: Charles Lundin, Dorothy De Mont, Alfred Summers, Frances Windisch, Thomas Hollingsworth, Ardis Loudermilk, Taylor Hollingsworth and Bernice Wolf; 2nd row: Fred Smith, Rex Uncaphor, Mildred Tompkins, Kathryn Peeler, Bonnie Rogers, Frances Whitmer, Bernice Boyer, Blanche Kistler, Rebecca Taitel and Edith Hildegos. 3rd row: Clifford Kaiser, Evelyn Busse, Alta Susdorf, Violet Engle, Margaret Fell and Marjorie Laramore; 4th row: Hibbard Paul, Joe Bolen, Russel Bailey, Albert Fout, Hugo Pawlick, Cledith Good, Robert Mulligan, Arles Alberding and Howard Smith.



### **Knox High School Class Play**

The Knox High School Class of 1912 is shown performing their senior play "A College Town" at the Reiss Opera House.

Besides theatrical productions, Gus Reiss allowed the top floor of his clothing store at 4 South Main Street in Knox to be used for high school plays, graduations and even basketball games. That was before a gymnasium was built in 1928. Today, this historic building is home to Main Street Computers.

Front Row: Charles Green, Colum Shilling, ?, ?, ? and Lowell Spikes. Middle Row: Bessie Patch, Fleda Rockwell, Mabel Michaelson, Minnie Coffin, Frances Chapel, Julia Geddes, Iva Rodgers, Florence Seegrist, Stella Klopot, and Ed Walser. Back Row: Thomas Applegate, Leota Baily, Gladys Childs, Blanche Childs, ?, ?, Herschel Sutton, Clifford Uncapher, and ? We suspect that members of the Junior Class helped fill out the cast this year. Teachers that year were Ada Ballard, Glenn Fox, Harry Elder, Edith Beers and Irma Pierson. The Principal was Ida Adams. Gus Reiss was President of the Board of Education.





### **Knox High School Football Players**

Back in 1944, Knox High School senior football players (from left to right) Bob Beeson, Chuck Milner and Jim Tucker posed for this photo.

Bob and Jim went on to become teachers at Knox, while Chuck became a local construction contractor.

Years later "Basketball Coach" Bob Beeson along with Assistant Coach Herb Reinholt took the 1961-62 KHS basketball team all the way down to the semi-state finals at West Lafayette.



### **Knox High School Football Team**

A photo taken sometime in the 1940s shows Coach Norman Hubner with the Knox High School Football Team. The little boy is the coach's son Jerry.

The team apparently practiced in Wythogan Park at that time, as the brick water tower can be seen in the background. The new high school on South Main at Culver Road was built in 1943, and a football field constructed there in the late 1940s.



### **Knox High School Football Team**

With high school football season upon us, it might be interesting to take a look at the 1947 Knox High School football team. Yes, that was almost 60 years ago!

This photo was taken in the old gym that was demolished in the 1970's. Coach James Hamblin is on the lower left and Coach Roger Laramore is on the lower right. Ben Bowen (#52) is third from the left in the middle row. Ben was a graduate of the KHS Class of 1950. He died in Korea during the Korean War. Each year Knox High School presents an outstanding Senior athlete with the prestigious Ben Bowen Award in his memory. We need help identifying the rest of the boys on the football team that year. This should be easy for longtime Redskin fans. Please contact the Starke County Historical Society at 772-5393 or Marvin Allen at 772-5936.



### **Knox High School Girls Basketball Team**

The 1926 – 1927 Knox High School Girl's Basketball Team: back row left to right; Marie Dunsing, Geraldine Newby, Margaret Lundin, Miss Evelyn Phillips (coach), Mary Brownstein and Bonnie (Rogers) Taylor. Front row; Ida (Engel) Klampe, Glenda Stephenson and Ardes Loudermilk.

This may have been the first year that Knox had a girl's basketball team. The gymnasium had been built that same year, thanks to the efforts of School Superintendent, Julius Henry.

Previously, all school sports activities were outside. The gym was said to have been one of the best in northern Indiana at the time. This was the High School and later Junior High School that stood in the 300 block of South Main Street.





### **Knox High School Junior Class Play**

A photo dated April 1948 shows the Knox High School Junior Class Play that year. The name of the play was "The Babysitter". Mrs. Abner was the Director.

Cast of characters: Evelyn Schiller, Norman Mishkovsky, Livey Belle Corey, Jim Newhouse, Ronald Humes, Beverly Duensing, Zellaree Risner, Joan Barnett, Bob Edgell, Don Lucas, John Borg, Jim Marks, Joanne Rogers, Gloria Johnson, Don Biddle, and Kattie Craigmile.

Principal Julius Henry is also pictured in the doorway.



### **Knox High School Juniors**

Knox High School's Junior Class is shown in this photo dated Feb. 2, 1928.

From left to right, back row: Richard VanDeman, Robert Mulligan, Ralph Stevenson, Ivan Kesler, Forest White, Joe Grindle and Wade Spoor; 2nd row: Alva Martin, Ida Engle, Doris Bortell, Eva Boehm, Samuel Bailey, Sylvester Thurmon, Bernice Mathewson, Mrs. Abner (Sponsor) and Rosetta Bickel; 3rd row: Mr. Stanley (Sponsor), Mary Kiest, Eleanor Raschka, Rosella Zechiel, Vera Ellen Wolfe, Ethel Short, Elinor Radtke and Irvin Hite; front row: Jack Stevens, Rolland Werblo, Leslie Rockwell, Benjamin Rogers, Jesse Thomas Clabaugh and Paul McGovern.

Class officers that year were: President, Irvin Hite; Secretary, Ralph Stevenson; Treasurer, Ivan Kesler.



### **Knox High School Spring Concert – 1950**

Knox High School's Spring Concert is show in this photo dated May 5, 1950. The director was Miss Schwier.



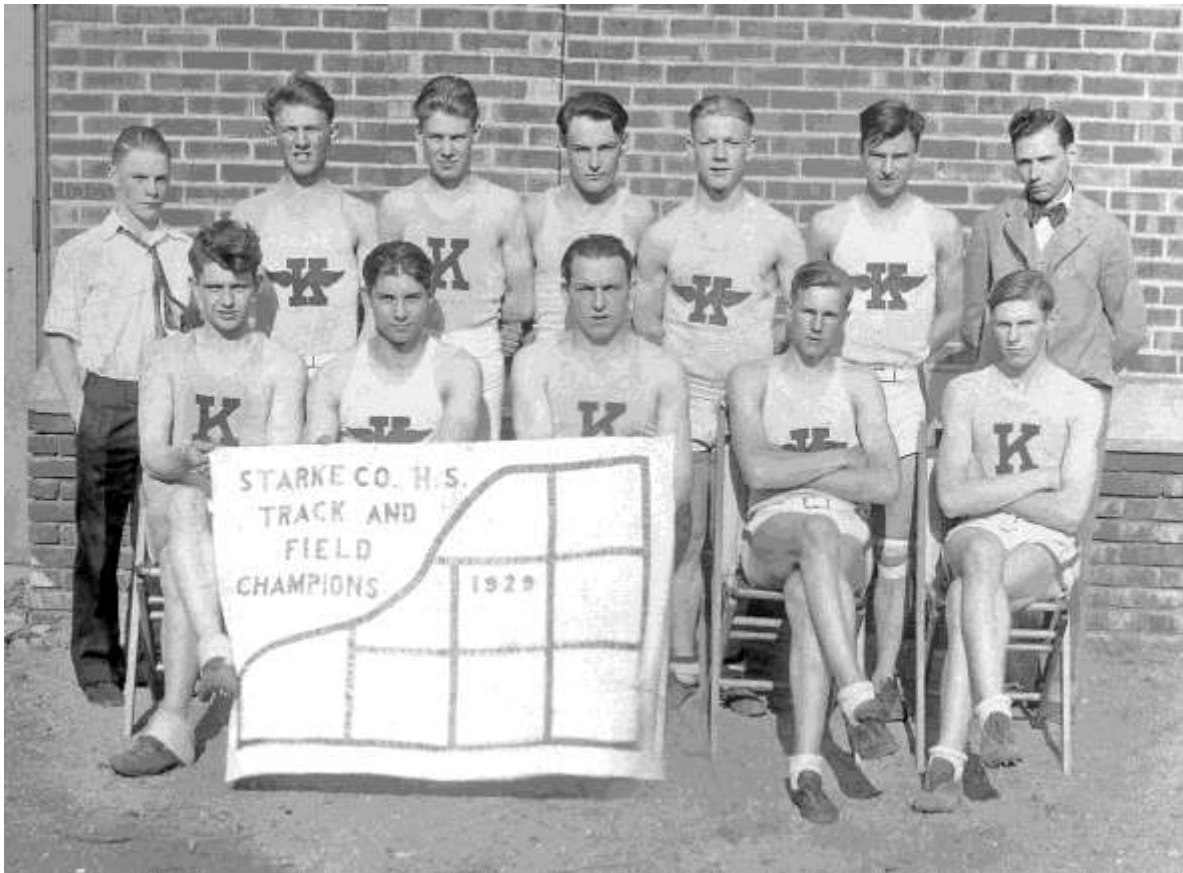
### **Knox High School Teachers**

A photo taken around 1940 shows Knox High School teachers Roy Johnson and Julia Hite standing beside School Superintendent Julius Henry.

Superintendent Henry is credited with having the first gymnasium built for Knox Schools back in 1927 and was very supportive of all high school sports. Roy Johnson taught history and Julia Hite taught language.

This photo was taken in the old high school building formerly located in the 300 block of South Main Street.





### **Knox High School Track Team**

A photo of the 1929 Knox High School Track Team shows they won a county wide track event that year.

Some of the boys said to be in this picture: Glen Rogers, Paul McGovern, Rex Uncaphor, Taylor Hollingsworth, Albert Fout, Bill Shaw, Pete Stevenson and Tom Hollingsworth.

We have to wonder where the track field was located at that time. This was years before the school was built at Main St. and Culver Rd. It was also before Wythogan Park was built.



### **Knox Kindergarten**

This is thought to be a photo of a 1945-1946 Knox Kindergarten class.

The following children are listed on the back, but we are not sure the order or spelling is correct. Danny Zingarelli, Robert Schwartz, Ron Hutton, Jim Falvey, Jim Drews, \_\_\_\_\_ McQuaye, Ruth Ann \_\_\_\_\_, Jean DeArmond, Carol Banta, Marvin Cook, Bill Byer, Fred Byer and Unknown. The teacher may have been Edna Drews.



### **Knox Kindergarten**

A 1947 photo shows a Knox kindergarten class taught by Edna Drews. The incomplete names written on the back of the photo are: Jimmy Basney, John Falvey, Priscilla Frailey, Earl Eggert, Fred Byer, Sue Solliday, Joy Polen, Jimmy Kistler and Bob Mulligan.



### **Knox Ladies Club**

The Knox Ladies Club of 1906 is shown in this picture. The era of the Women's Suffrage movement was upon America and it greatly influenced fashions of the day. The ideal 18" corseted waist of the 1890's was gone.

Women's fashions of the day were heavily influenced by the "Gibson Girl", a character drawn by American artist, Charles Gibson. His image of the "New Woman" was competitive, sporty and emancipated as well as beautiful. He set a fashion for skirts worn with embroidered and ornate blouses, using lace, pleats and applique. Home dressmakers did their best to emulate the new fashion, as shown in this photo.

But, it would be 1920 before the women of America had the right to vote.

From left to right; Ola Sumner, Sadie Ribre, Norma Hepner, Carrie Daniel, Ethel Trevor and Audrey Miller.





### **Knox Theater**

In 1952, the Knox Theater was showing "Young Man With Ideas" starring a young Glenn Ford and Ruth Roman.

Knox Town Hall and Fire Department was just to the left. Back then you called the telephone operator to reach the fire department or town marshal. This was also before the mayor system of government was established in Knox.

Next to the left was Farmers Bank & Trust. Bob's Hardware was to the right and sold just about anything a homeowner needed for repairs.

The post office was located to the right of the hardware. It cost 3 cents to mail a letter at that time.

A single penny in a parking meter was good for 12 minutes.



### **Knox Variety Store**

The Knox Variety Store was located on the south-east corner of Lake and Main Streets in downtown Knoxville. It sported the typical canvas awning of those days.

In the far back of the building by the horse and buggy, a sign can be seen that says "Market and Grocery". In the front corner, there is a stairway leading downstairs. The sign says "Pocket Billiards, Cigars, Cigarettes, Tobacco and Candy". Upstairs was Newton Brothers Real Estate and Insurance. The front window has gloves, mittens, aprons and glassware on display. A sign by the door says "Melting Marshmallows 30 cents".

The building has been vacant for some years and was recently taken down. This photo was probably taken between 1910 and 1920.



### **Knox-Center Band**

A photo dated 1950 shows the Knox-Center Band. It had been 8 years since Center Twp School burned down.

The Center students were merged into the Knox school system in 1942, as reflected in the name on the drum. More recently, in 1997, the color blue was added to Knox school colors to preserve the memory of the Center Twp "Blue Streaks".

Front row, left to right: Richard Miller, Phil Funk, Jeane Pyfer, Jim Carey, Jon Young, Robert Gerhardt, Jessie Samuels, Jean Overholser and Barbara Pursell.

Middle row: Bill Anderson, David Matthews, Joan Eschel, Bobby Brooks, Pat Cox, Ralph Moreland and Barbara Pyfer.

Back row: Kenneth Hughes (Director), Bob Whiting, unknown, Dean Golding, Dana Clark, Pat Stevenson, Barabara Fletcher and Richard Warner.



### **Koffel's Drug Store**

Herbert R. Koffel built his "Model Pharmacy" around 1895 in downtown Knoxville at the north-east corner of Main & Lake Streets. Herbert was raised by his grandparents Jonathon and Susanna Koffel. They had come to Starke County in the 1860's from Pennsylvania. Herbert became an attorney in Knoxville, where he also engaged in other business interests. The block where his drugstore was located was known as Koffel's block. The Farmers State Bank was in the north half of the building. Herbert was on its board of directors. He and C.H. Bish built Knoxville's first electrical power plant in 1897.

Koffel's soda fountain counter was a popular place where town residents met and discussed the day's events. Herbert's son, Charles, became a druggist and took over the store in 1924. Charles is standing in the rear of the store in this picture taken sometime in the 1920's. Chocolate must have been a favorite store item. There are several displays of it. One says 10 cents per pound. "Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin", "Castoria", "Life-Savers", and several brands of cigars are advertised. Back then drug stores also sold wallpaper, paint, varnish and chemicals. Unlike today, most items were in glass cases behind the counters and required a sales clerk's assistance. There were offices upstairs, one of which was used by Dr. Steven Brown, Henry Schricker's father-in-law.

Luther Evert purchased the store from the Koffels around 1939. He had been working there as a pharmacist for several years. After more than 75 busy years, the drug store finally closed in the early 1970's. The building was most recently used as a movie theater.





### **Koffel's Drug Store**

Koffel's Drug Store was built in 1891 at the northeast corner of Lake and Main Streets in downtown Knoxville by Herbert A. Koffel. Sometime in the 1920's, his son, Charles, took it over. Around 1939, Luther Evert bought the drug store and ran it until the 1970's. In recent years, an attempt was made to operate it as a movie theater. Today, it would be one of the oldest brick buildings in Knoxville.

At the time of this photo, it stood alone at this corner. A gentleman is seated in the upstairs window third from the right. That might be Mr. Koffel. The street is not yet paved with brick and a pile of sand is left from construction.

Notice the upper building ornaments that are no longer there. The Citizen's Bank occupied the lower left side of the building the 1890's. Within a few years, Citizens Bank was bought by Farmers State Bank. They located their offices in that same portion of the building and soon built a different more substantial front that is still visible today.



### **Lake Street**

A photo dated January 1910 shows a view of Lake St. looking east toward Pearl St. in Knox after a snow storm.

On the left over on Pearl St., Wells Feed & Seed Store and Kiest Milling Co. can be seen. Next on the corner was Dr. Schwier's office (most recently a laundromat), then Townsend's Grocery Store, Osborn's Seed Store, The Republican Newspaper Office and part of Prettyman's Land Office.

A combination of horse drawn snow plows and shovels were most likely used to clear the streets in Knox at that time.



**L. E. Elder**

A snapshot taken by Joe Cox in 1940 shows a local farmer, L.E. Elder, standing beside a 1939 Chevrolet.

Mr. Elder lived on 550 East in California Twp. He may have just stepped out of Kiest's Mill as he seems to be holding a sack of seed or grain.

The view is looking toward what is now Knox Community Center on Lake Street. To the left is Ritt & Schultz Grocery Store; most recently a laundromat. From right to left on Lake Street: Walter's Radio Shop, an ice cream store and a barber shop. Later Ralph Davis took over the ice cream shop and made double-ended ice cream cones famous, at least locally.



### **Livery Stable**

A photo taken sometime during the 1940's shows an unknown gentleman standing near the railroad crossing at Pearl Street in Knoxville.

The view is looking toward the northeast. The building in the background was a feed store. It is also said to have been the last livery stable in Knoxville.





### **Long Thompson Lumber Yard**

William Bollman of Plymouth, IN established a lumber yard on Prettyman Street in Knox shortly after the New York, Chicago & St. Louis RR was built through town in 1882. Around 1900, S.C. Close bought the lumber yard and sold it to John W. Long in 1902. Albert H. Thompson bought half interest in 1912, and the business became Long - Thompson Lumber Co. After John W. Long passed away in the 1920s, his son-in-law, Forrest Whitson took over the business and ran it until he passed away in 1943. Forrest's wife, Helen (Long) Whitson, continued to own the lumber yard until the 1970s, when it was closed and later demolished. This undated photo may have been taken in the 1940s.



### **Main & Washington Streets**

A 1922 view looking south-east from Main and Washington Streets in downtown Knoxville. The distinctive building in the center was the home of Oscar B. Smith's Law Office, which was located on the 2nd floor. Dr. D.O. White's office was also located upstairs. The first floor is occupied by Savery's Auto Supply and Goodyear Service Station. Spare tires, headlamps and horns are displayed in the window. A sign advertises Lee Tires. Just to the right of the front door a fire alarm trip box can be seen mounted in the sidewalk.

To the far right, Starke County Savings & Trust Bank can be seen, which became the Farmer's Bank & Trust and eventually Key Bank. Looking east on Washington, a vacant wood frame building is next, then an empty lot, followed by Henry Robbin's Law Office and finally James C. Fletcher's Starke County Abstract Company. The abstract office also housed Peters & Peters Law Offices, B.D.L. Glazebrook's Law Office and Winona Telephone Company. The fire alarm tower can be seen rising above the abstract office.



### **Main Street Railroad Crossing**

A photo taken shortly after 1927 shows the new electrical railroad signals for the Nickel Plate tracks that have been installed on Main Street in downtown Knoxville. Earlier photos show a single warning sign without lights and a sign that says "watchman on duty 6:30 A.M. to 11:30 P.M." Those photos show a small shed on the left side where the watchman apparently stayed prior to the watchtower also being built in 1927.

This view is looking north. The Fitz Hotel can be seen on the west side of the street. On the east side, the Ford dealership is now known as Carpenter Motors. Its gasoline pumps and air hoses can be seen to the far right. The overhang for the Fairy Theater can also be seen farther down the street.



### **Maude Brown and Gov. Henry F. Schricker**

This photo of Gov. Henry F. Schricker is dated 1912, when he was owner, editor and publisher of the Starke County Democrat.

At the time his photo was taken, his future bride, Maude Brown, was homesteading 160 acres alone in North Dakota. This photo of her was taken about the time she graduated from Knox High School. Maude had taught school here locally at Toto, when the story goes that she and Henry had a "bit of a spat". In a show of independence rare for those days, she picked up and moved west alone. There she lived in a log cabin and taught in a one-room prairie school. Her companions were her pony Brownie, her dog Dewey and a Stevens rifle.

In 1914, Henry boarded a train for North Dakota and once there convinced his future wife of 50 plus years to come home to Knox. Later, the sale of the land she homesteaded, put the Schricker children through college.





### **Methodist Church**

This photo shows the third Knox Methodist Church. It was built in 1891 at the northwest corner of Bower and John Streets. We can date this photo to sometime between 1897 and 1902, since a parsonage was built in the vacant lot to the right of the church in 1902. And the first electrical power plant was built in Knox in 1897. At first it was only used for street lights. A carbon arc street light can be seen hanging from wires in this photo. Even though the lights were only operated from dark to 11 P.M., the carbon rods had to be changed every other day or so. Each light had a rope fastened to it, so it could be lowered for maintenance.

In 1912, this same church building was moved over to the southwest corner of Shield and John Streets. There it was extensively remodeled. Sunday School classrooms were added, a basement was built under it and a new bell tower added. That building was demolished in 1987 to make way for the present facility.

Methodism in Knox dates back to 1843, when a circuit rider would make his way on horseback from Plymouth or Winamac to conduct services at Knox. Those early services were held in log cabin homes. The first church building was built right in downtown Knox in 1857. It was located just south of today's Key Bank on Main Street. The second church building was built in 1875 at the northwest corner of John and Bower Streets, as was the church in this photo.



### **Methodist Church**

A photo dated 1922 shows the Methodist Church at that time in Knox.

This particular building was built in 1891 at the northwest corner of Bower and John Streets. In 1912 it was moved over to the southwest corner of Shield and John Streets, where it was extensively remodeled. Sunday School classrooms were added, a basement was built under it and a new bell tower was added as shown in this photo.

This building was demolished in 1987 to make way for the present church. Most of these beautiful stained glass windows were incorporated in the new building.



### **Methodist Sunday School Teachers**

The Knox Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Teachers of 1908 are shown in this photo. At the time, class enrollment was around 150 with as many as 21 teachers and officers.

Sunday School had been an important part of education dating back to the earliest days of Starke County. Before the days of free public schools in Indiana, school was often held on Sunday in local churches. Class might start at 6AM, adjourn at 10AM for the sermon, commence again at 2PM and then close at 6PM.

Back Row, Left to Right: Mabel Michelson, Frieda Rockwell, Faye Rush, Blanch Childs and Mary Jain; Middle Row: Nora Dawson, Iva Rodgers, Beulah Smith, Ida Adams, Sylva Reiss and Effie Shilling; Front Row: Naomi Pontious, Florence Siegrist, Stella Klopot, Minnie Coffin, Bernice Ankerman and Gladys Childs.



**Metzger, Albert**

Through the 1920's and into the 1940's, the Fairy Theater in downtown Knoxville was a favorite place to see the latest movie.

During much of that time, Albert Metzger ran the theater starting with silent movies and progressing to "talkies". Albert would have shown such films as *Frankenstein* in 1931, *Mutiny on the Bounty* in 1935, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* in 1937, and the *Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind* in 1939. It is said he ran a tight ship and didn't tolerate any fooling around in his theater.





### **New York Central Depot**

How many local residents remember that Knox used to have two depots?

This is a photo of the NYC RR depot that was located on the west side of town at the end of Lake St. The now abandoned railroad line was built in 1886 as the Iowa, Illinois and Indiana RR. It was commonly known as the 3-I in the early part of the last century. Local residents of the day would use it to travel between North Judson, Knox and South Bend.

The story goes that young Henry Schricker met his future bride, Maude Brown, while walking the 3-I tracks to his assistant clerk's job at the courthouse around 1905. She was taking the family cow out to pasture.

Most recently it was part of the New York Central RR system. The schedule sign says October 13, 1924.



### **Nickel Plate Cafe**

The Nickel Plate Cafe was located on the west side of Pearl St., just south of the railroad tracks in downtown Knoxville.

This photo was recently scanned from a glass negative donated to the Starke County Historical Society by Stella (Klopot) Bonner some years ago.

Based on the cars in the background, the picture dates from the early 1930's. Part of the Fitz Hotel and the Sears Roebuck building can be seen in the background over on Main St. The small print in the café's window says "Dining Room Connection".



### **Nickel Plate Depot**

A photo dated 1895 shows Nickel Plate #44, a wood burning steam locomotive, approaching the Knox Depot from the east. The Nickel Plate retired its last wood burning engine in 1920 having replaced them with more powerful coal burning engines. Standing beside the engine are: Charles H. Bromelmeur, Engineer; J.H. Rainey, Fireman; John McVey, Conductor and Ralph W. Springer, Brakeman. William W. Fox, Telegraph Operator and Frank E. Fox, Ticket Agent are standing beside the depot's freight door.

Nickel Plate was the nickname for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis RR, which was built through Starke County in 1882. A sign on the building's corner says Western Union Telegraph Office. The RR had also brought the first telegraph office to Knox that year. Back then if you wanted to get a message to someone in another town faster than regular mail, you went to the telegraph office. In Knox, Mr. Fox would click out the message in Morse Code on his telegraph key. Other operators in other towns would listen for their station's code. If the message were for them, they would listen to the code and write down the message on a slip of paper. A runner would hand deliver the message to the recipient. It would be 1898 before the first telephones were installed in Knox.

The depot was used as a passenger station until 1965 and a freight station until 1984. It was sold to the Starke County Historical Society in 1992 and moved to its present location north of Knox. The 124 year old depot has been authentically restored and houses many historical displays. It is home to several community offices and is open to visitors.





### **Nickel Plate Depot**

A photo from around 1910 shows a common scene at the Nickel Plate Depot in Knox; a hundred or more passengers arriving and departing. Taxi cabs of the day are ready to take them to their destinations. The auto in front appears to be a 1906 Buick, Model F. Many are probably bound for one of the dozen hotels at Bass Lake. Others may be in Knox on business and plan to stay at either the Fitz Hotel or the Fay Hotel. This view is looking toward the east. The water tower for the steam locomotives is just east of the depot. Just below the water tower an outhouse is visible. This depot was used for passengers until 1965 and for freight until 1984. It was moved to the north end of Knox, where it was restored and reopened in 2000. It is now home to several community offices, and its many historical displays are open to the public.

Nickel Plate was the nickname for the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad. It was built through Knox in 1882. Up to that time, Knox did not have its own railroad service. The nickname is believed to stem from the fact that it was one of the few railroads to be built in those days with cash instead of bonds. Today the line is owned by Norfolk Southern and is the most used railroad line in the county with about 40 daily freight trains.





### **Nickel Plate Depot & Tower**

The Nickel Plate watchman's tower was located along the north side of the railroad tracks between Pearl and Heaton Streets in downtown Knoxville. It was built around 1927, about the same time electrical signals were added at Main, Pearl and Heaton Streets. Previous to this, a watchman in a shed by the tracks manually alerted motorists and pedestrians to on-coming trains with flags.

This tower is in the process of restoration at the north gateway to Knoxville across from the already renovated Nickel Plate Depot. It is interesting to note that the name Nickel Plate may have come from the fact that the financing for this new railroad in the 1800's was so solid that it was referred to as "nickel plated". Back then many other railroads were built with little financial backing and soon went bankrupt. Others have said the railroad cost so much, it might as well have been "nickel plated".

This railroad line was first built as the New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad through Knoxville in 1882. Today it is operated by Norfolk Southern, with as many as 30 freight trains a day through Brems, Knoxville and Ober.



### **Nickel Plate Locomotives**

A photo taken around 1950 shows two steam locomotives facing each other at the Pearl Street crossing in Knoxville. The view is looking east. The Nickel Plate depot and water tower can be seen on the right, while the watchman's tower is on the north side of the tracks.

Notice there were double tracks at that time to allow trains to pass each other in opposite directions. There used to be a saying to always look both ways when crossing railroad tracks.

Engine #713 is facing us. It was a Berkshire 2-8-4. This meant it had 2 wheels under the front, 8 driving wheels and 4 wheels under the cab. It carried 22,000 gallons of water and 22 tons of coal. The other engine was #653. It was a Mikado 2-8-2 and only slightly smaller. Both locomotives belonged to the Nickel Plate RR line.

Thanks to Jeff Berg for loaning this unusual photo to the museum.



### **Osborn's Variety Store**

John Osborn had a variety store on the south side of East Lake Street between 1900 and the 1920s. It was located in the park-like area beside the laundromat.

Previous to owning the store, John had been a railroad engineer and lived in North Judson with his wife Elizabeth.

Part of The Republican newspaper building can be seen just to the right. A cigar store was to the left. The cylinder shaped device in the front center of the photo appears to be a fire call box. Was there a switch inside that anyone could use to set off a town-wide siren, or was there a telephone inside with a direct line to the telephone operator?



### **Patrick Home**

A photo taken sometime around 100 years ago shows Thomas and Mary Patrick in front of their home at 201 S. Heaton Street in Knoxville. This photo was probably taken by Sigmund Klopot, Stella (Klopot) Bonner's father. From left to right: Thomas, Earl (son), Mary, unknown older lady and Emily (daughter) Patrick. Thomas Patrick was listed as a salesman on the 1900 census.

Other items of note: Heaton Street is still a dirt road at this point, but a pile of bricks on the right indicate either Heaton or New York Street is about to be paved with brick. The sidewalk on the right is actually a wooden board side walk, which was common at that time. It was probably made from local white oak timber. The Patricks have a wooden lawn swing, also popular around the turn of the last century. On the far left a neighbor's barn and stable for horses can be seen.

Today this historic building is home to Binkley Real Estate, which is owned by Sharon and Randall Denney.





### **Perry Rogers and His Horse Drawn Mail Buggy**

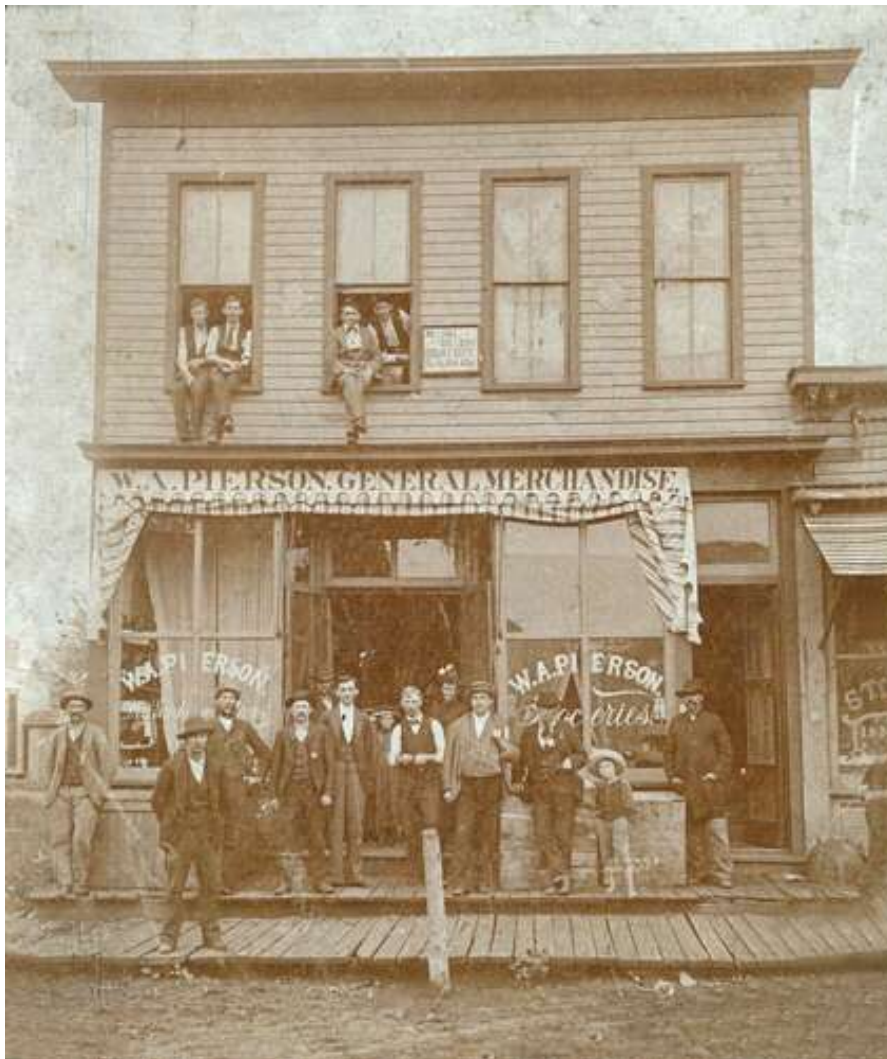
A photo dated 1911 shows rural mail carrier Perry Rogers with his horse drawn mail buggy.

Mr. Rogers delivered mail for Rural Route 1 out of Knox for many years. His 35 mile route included parts of Center and California Townships, as well as the west side of Bass Lake.

We can only imagine what it was like navigating the county roads during the winter before snow plows. Rural mail delivery was the reason many county roads were eventually improved.

The first rural mail carriers were only paid \$300 a year. Rural mail delivery was fairly new in 1911. It had only been become official in 1904. Prior to then, folks living in the rural Starke County had to pick their mail up at the nearest general store in places like Aldine, Brems, Ober and Toto.

A large framed version of this same photo was donated to the Grant W. Green Post Office in Knox by the Starke County Historical Society and is on display in their lobby.



### **Pierson's General Store**

An early photo dated 1888 shows Wilbert A. Pierson's General Store. It was located at 8 South Main Street in downtown Knoxville. Notice the wood plank sidewalk, hitching post and unpaved street. The third person from the right has a badge pinned to his vest. He may be the county sheriff or town marshal. Mr. Pierson, standing to the left of the doorway, grew up on his parent's farm in Washington Twp. and served two terms as Starke County Treasurer in the late 1890's.

The second floor was home to Solliday's Cigar Factory. Seated in the windows left to right: Bill Dalton, Slugger Meyer, William Solliday and Fred Solliday. Their brand name was "Yadillos", which was Solliday spelled backward. This two story wood frame building was taken down around 1900 and replaced with a brick building. It was home to Wilken & Musser's Grocery Store for many years.



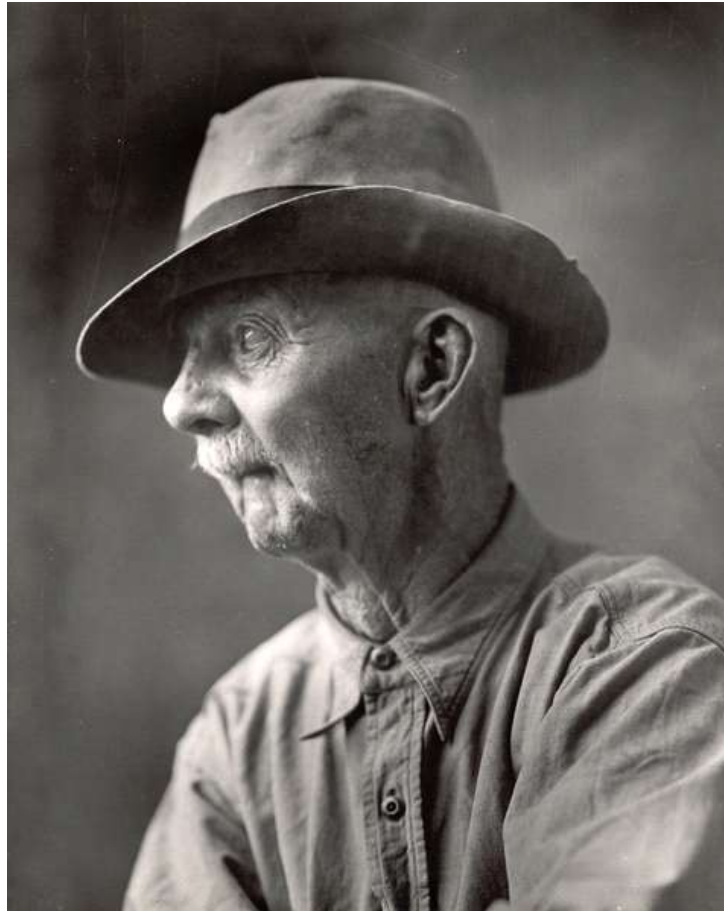
### **Rogers Family**

Perry and Blanche Rogers are shown in this 1912 photo with their daughters Bonnie and Hazel. The Rogers lived on West Lake Street in Knox.

Perry was the rural mail carrier out of Knox for Rural Route 1 for nearly 40 years. During the early part of his career with the post office, he used a horse drawn cart to deliver the mail on his daily 35 mile route. His route included parts of Center and California Townships and the west side of Bass Lake.

The Starke County Historical Society donated a large framed picture of Mr. Rogers and his mail cart to the Knox Post Office. It is on display in the lobby. Later in 1927, daughter Bonnie, shown to the left, was named Miss Bass Lake.





**Seagraves, Bunk**

Bunk Seagraves was one of Knox's most memorable "characters". He was born in 1867 as Milton L. Seagraves, but his gift for telling tall stories soon earned him the nickname of Bunk. He grew up in town, where his father, Wolfred was a blacksmith.

As a young man, he worked on the railroad eventually becoming an engineer. During the Spanish American War, he was mustered into Captain Charles Windisch's Company A, 157th Regiment. They were known as the Indiana Tigers. Later when asked if he saw any hard fighting, he would reply that he was where the bullets were the thickest. After the questioner was thoroughly engrossed in the story, Bunk would let him know he slept under the ammunition wagon.

After his father died, Bunk took care of his mother Phoebe Ann until she died in 1919. Once that responsibility was gone, he divided his time between the Kankakee River, where he listed his occupation as trapper, and the benches outside the courthouse. There he told many a tall story to just about anyone entering or leaving the courthouse. Once he was bragging to a stranger about all the mink and otter he had been trapping, which were out of season at the time. The stranger asked if he realized he happened to be the game warden. Never at a loss, Bunk quickly asked if realized he was talking to the "biggest darn liar in the state of Indiana." Bunk died in 1946 and is buried in Oak Park Cemetery.





### **Shaw's Ice Company**

Before the days of refrigeration, ice making and distribution was an important local industry. This photo shows William B. Shaw's horse drawn ice delivery wagon and is dated around the turn of the last century.

Much of Shaw's ice was cut from the Yellow River bayous located just north of Knox. Special hand saws were used to cut the ice into blocks while still frozen on top of the water. It was a dangerous undertaking.

Delivery wagons, such as Shaw's, made the daily rounds around town. A large block of ice might last 3 days or so in a home "ice box". Later William Shaw added coal to his home delivery service.

William's parents, Joseph and Abigail Shaw were among the earliest settlers in Starke County, locating here from Ohio in the 1850's in North Bend Twp.



### **Sheriff's Picnic**

This photo from 1912 shows the former residence of Starke County's Sheriff. The attached jail was just out of view to the right. Gabriel Doyle was the sheriff at that time. The facility had been built in 1887 and was located at the southeast corner of Mound and Pearl Streets in Knox. This view is looking north.

The two story brick residence of the sheriff was one of the finest homes in Knox when it was built. It was an honor to be invited to the annual sheriff's picnic, which was held on the south lawn. This was a formal affair attended by such folks as the Koffels, Peters, Vanderweeles, Bortz's, Moormans, Longs, Whitsons and Hartzlers.

The jail, itself was attached to the east side of the house and had a separate entrance on the south side. In the early days, there was also a stable located in the southeast corner of the lot, where the sheriff's horses and buggies were kept.

Starke County's first sheriff was Jacob S. Wampler, who was appointed in 1850 instead of being elected like all later sheriffs. In 1914, the sheriff's salary was \$1,100 and the jail's annual operating expenses were \$700. In 1971, the Indiana Department of Corrections found the facility inadequate and recommended that the 84 year old facility be closed.



### **Sheriff's Residence and Jail**

The "old" county jail and sheriff's residence was built in 1887. It was located at the southeast corner of Mound and Pearl Streets on the same property as today's facility. The two story brick residence of the sheriff was one of the finest homes in Knox when it was built.

The jail was attached to the east side of the house and had a separate entrance on the south side. In the early days, there was also a stable where the sheriff's horses and buggies were kept.

Sheriff Sidney Uncaphor is said to have purchased the first automobile for use in Starke County in 1903.

The Indiana Department of Corrections found the old facility inadequate in 1971 and recommended that the 84 year old jail be closed.



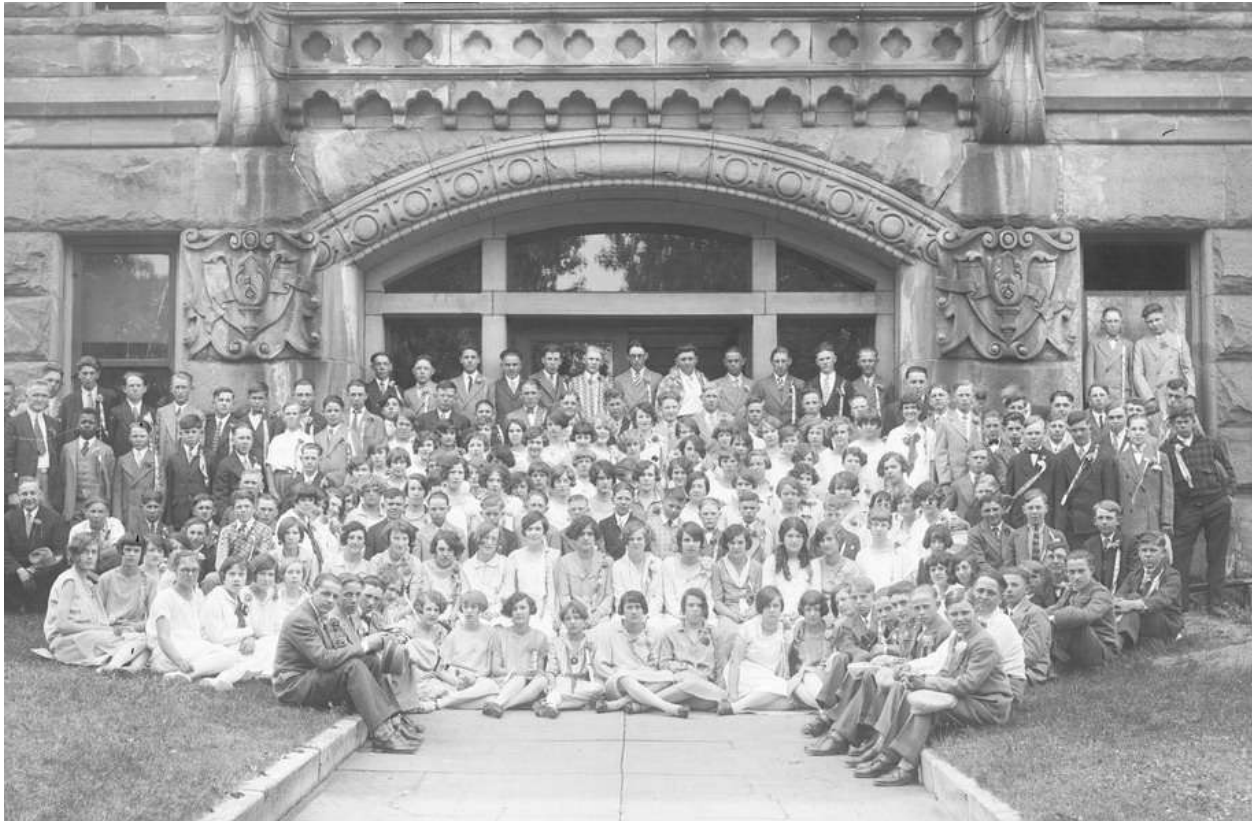
### **Starke County 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

8th grade graduations were a county-wide event between 1904 and 1950 in Starke County. Even as late as 1927, Starke County had 34 schools. Many were small one schools that taught students up through the 8th grade, usually with one teacher. A County School Superintendent administered uniform courses and grading for these schools.

Upon graduation from the 8th grade, students from every school in Starke County traveled to Knox on a Saturday. Many were accompanied by their entire family. There they marched up Main Street, assembled on the East side of the courthouse and had their picture taken around 1 P.M by Klopot Studios. For most, this was the biggest day in their young lives. Every boy wore a suit and tie. Every girl wore a nice dress. For many, their clothing was loaned by an older brother or sister.

Here a class from the late 1910's is seen marching south down Main Street through the intersection at Lake Street on to Albert Metzger's Fairy Theater. Koffel's Drug Store, later Evert's, is in the background. Once assembled at the Fairy Theater, graduates were presented with their diplomas. At the time of this photo, many rural children were not able to continue their education into high school due to lack of transportation and commitments on the family farm.





### **Starke County 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation**

A photo of the 1927 county-wide 8th Grade graduation - from 1904 to 1950, all Starke County students graduating from the 8th grade participated in a graduation ceremony that concluded with their picture being taken by Klopot Studios on the east side of the courthouse.

Even as late as 1927, there were still 34 schools in Starke County. While 8 of them offered high school classes, the others were mainly one-room schools with one teacher that stopped at the 8th grade.

Lack of transportation to a high school, as well as farm work, prevented many farm children from continuing their education past the 8th grade. This ceremony may have been the biggest event in many of their young lives. For some, this might have been the first time they had visited Knox and the courthouse.

The cost of the graduation photo about this time was only 25 cents, yet many families could not afford one. The Starke County Museum does have almost all of these photos and programs on file.



### **Starke County Centennial**

A photo taken during Starke County's centennial celebration in 1950 shows Ray Braman of the then Kennedy & Braman Funeral Home riding on a horse-drawn hearse in the parade.

Ray had grown up on his parent's farm in Oregon Twp in the 1920's and was no doubt familiar with handling horses.



### **Starke County Centennial**

The Starke County Historical Society would like to identify the men in this photo thought to have been taken during the 1950 County Centennial.

The men appear to be members of the Knox VFW Post, although some state dignitaries may also be present.

The view seems to be looking west along Washington Street in Knox toward Main.



### **Starke County Centennial**

This photo of an unknown gentleman was taken during Starke County's Centennial celebration in 1950. Evert's Drug Store on Main Street in Knox is in the background.

The celebration was a week long event that began on Sunday July 16th and ended on Saturday July 22nd.

Sunday was filled with county choir performances, a Centennial Sermon, Congregational singing, followed by a Veterans Drum & Bugle contest.

Monday was Health, Toto & English Lake Day.

Tuesday was Agricultural, Grovertown & Hamlet Day.

Wednesday was Veterans, Ober & Ora Day.

Thursday was Youth, Bass Lake & Koontz Lake Day.

Friday was Governor, North Judson & San Pierre Day.

Saturday was Homecoming & Starke County Day.

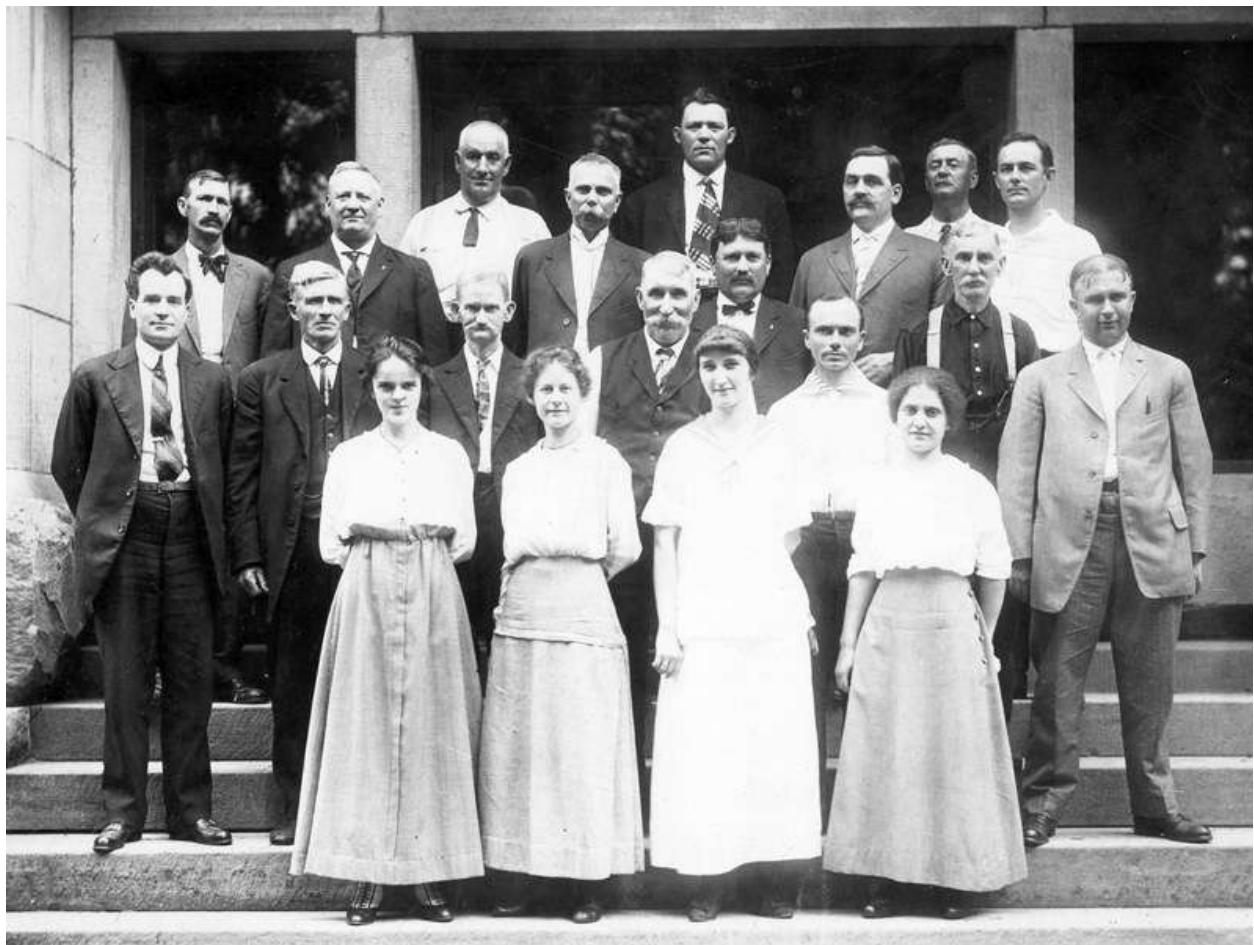




### **Starke County Courthouse**

Starke County's second courthouse is shown in this photo after it was moved to the northeast corner of Main and Mound Streets to make way for building our new courthouse in 1897.

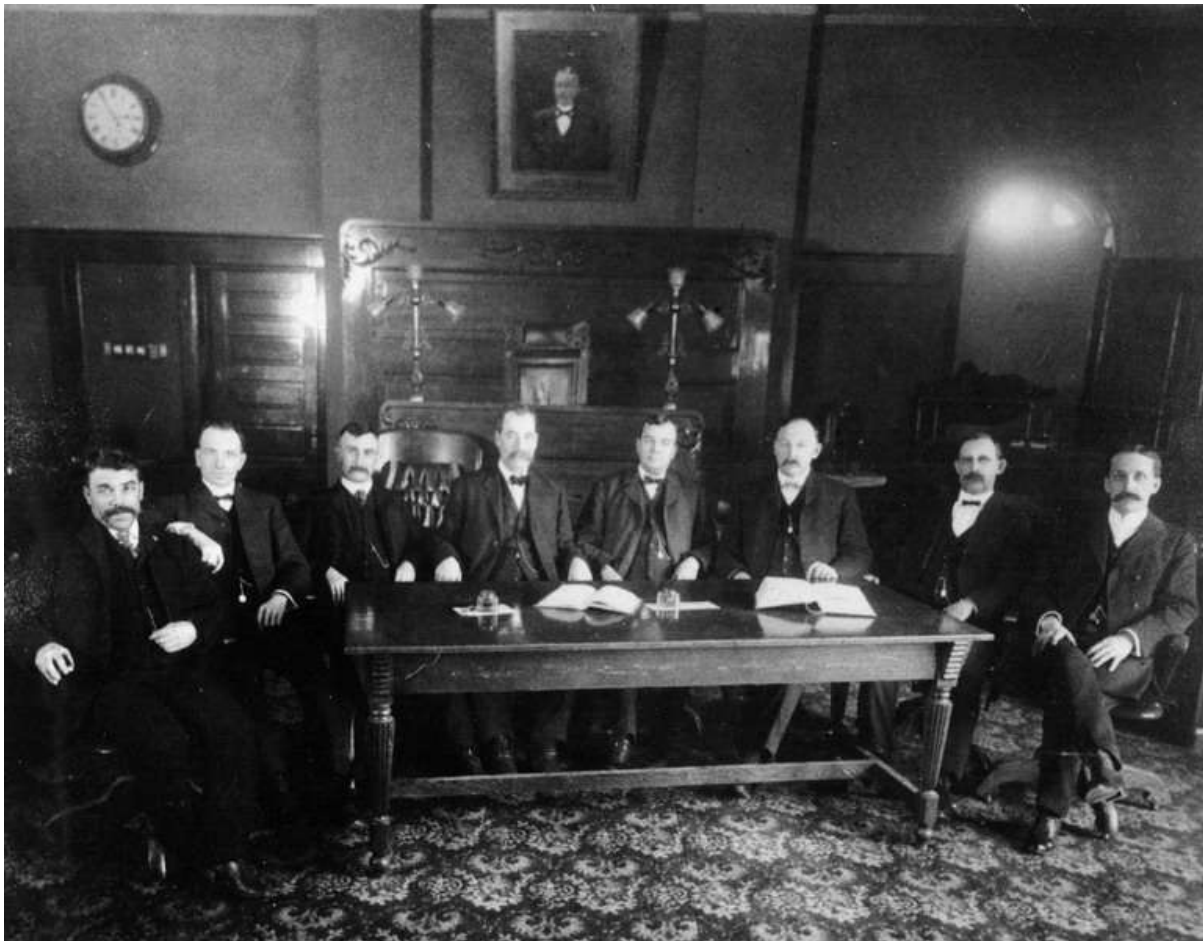
County officials decided to remove its brick wings rather than move them. It had served our county government from 1863 to 1898. A contract had been awarded in 1858 to have it built for \$9,000. But due to construction delays, it wasn't completed until 1863 at a reported cost of \$20,000. It was eventually torn down in the early 1900's.



### **Starke County Officials**

Starke County Officials of Yesteryear appear in a photo dated about 1912.

Left to Right, Back Row: Cyrenus Geisleman (Road Supt.), Sidney Childs (Recorder), Abel Rea, James Fletcher, Henry Luken (Council), William Pentecost (Judge), Charles Good (Surveyor) and Hugh Kreuter (Clerk); Middle Row; Charles Weninger (Auditor), Peter Mosher (Commissioner), Fred Kingman (Commissioner), Lee Wolfe (Commissioner), George Pettis (Sheriff), C.F. Dye (Agricultural Agent), J.W. Seagraves (Custodian) and Carroll Cannon (Supt. of Schools); Front Row; Emma Schultz, Grace Childs, Mrs. Dallas Solliday and Chloe Joseph.

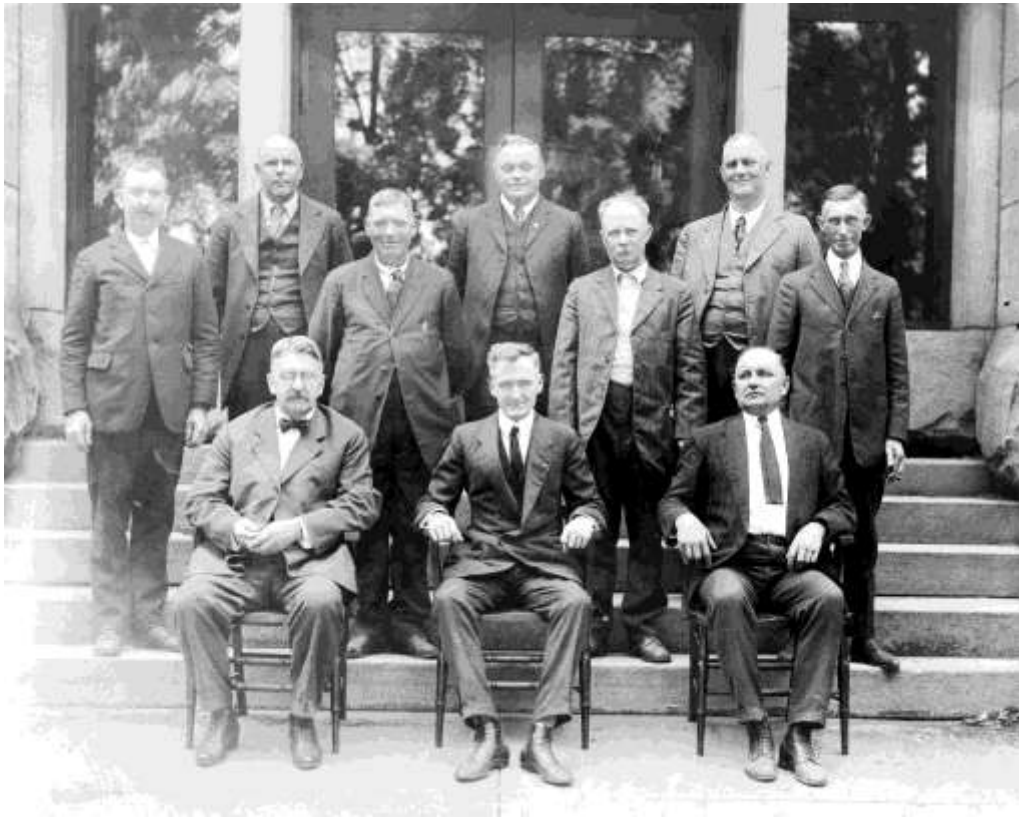


### **Starke County Officials**

A photo taken in 1901 shows Starke County's Officers at that time. The new courthouse, which was dedicated in 1898, was only 3 years old. This photo was taken in Circuit Court Judge George Beeman's courtroom on the 3rd floor. His framed portrait, which now resides at the Starke County Museum, can be seen on the back wall.

Notice the ink bottles on the table. It would be another 34 years before the ball point pen was invented. The courthouse was one of the first buildings in Knox to be built with electrical lighting. Knox's first electrical power plant had been installed just one year before the courthouse was finished. The desk and some of the chairs are still in use within the courthouse. Although the courtroom has been remodeled, the same Seth Thomas clock is used today.

From left to right: Alfred A. Savery, Surveyor; Henry E. White, Clerk; Jacob P. Quigley, Recorder; George W. Harkins, Assessor; Wilbert A. Pierson, Treasurer; John W. Kurtz, Auditor; Sidney A. Uncapher, Sheriff and J. Walter Dunn, School Superintendent.



### **Starke County School Board**

The Indiana Legislature passed a set of laws in 1873 requiring the formation of a county school board presided over by a county school superintendent. The members of the county school board were the elected township trustees, who then elected the county school superintendent.

The first superintendent under the new law was Alexander H. Henderson. He was a doctor and is said to have had the first drug store in the county, as well. There had been six county school "examiners" prior to Dr. Henderson dating back to 1861.

Starke County discontinued the county board of education system in the mid-1960's after the rural township schools had been consolidated.

J. Allen Barr was the County School Superintendent from 1918 to 1929 and is shown seated in the center of this undated photo of the Starke County Board of Education.





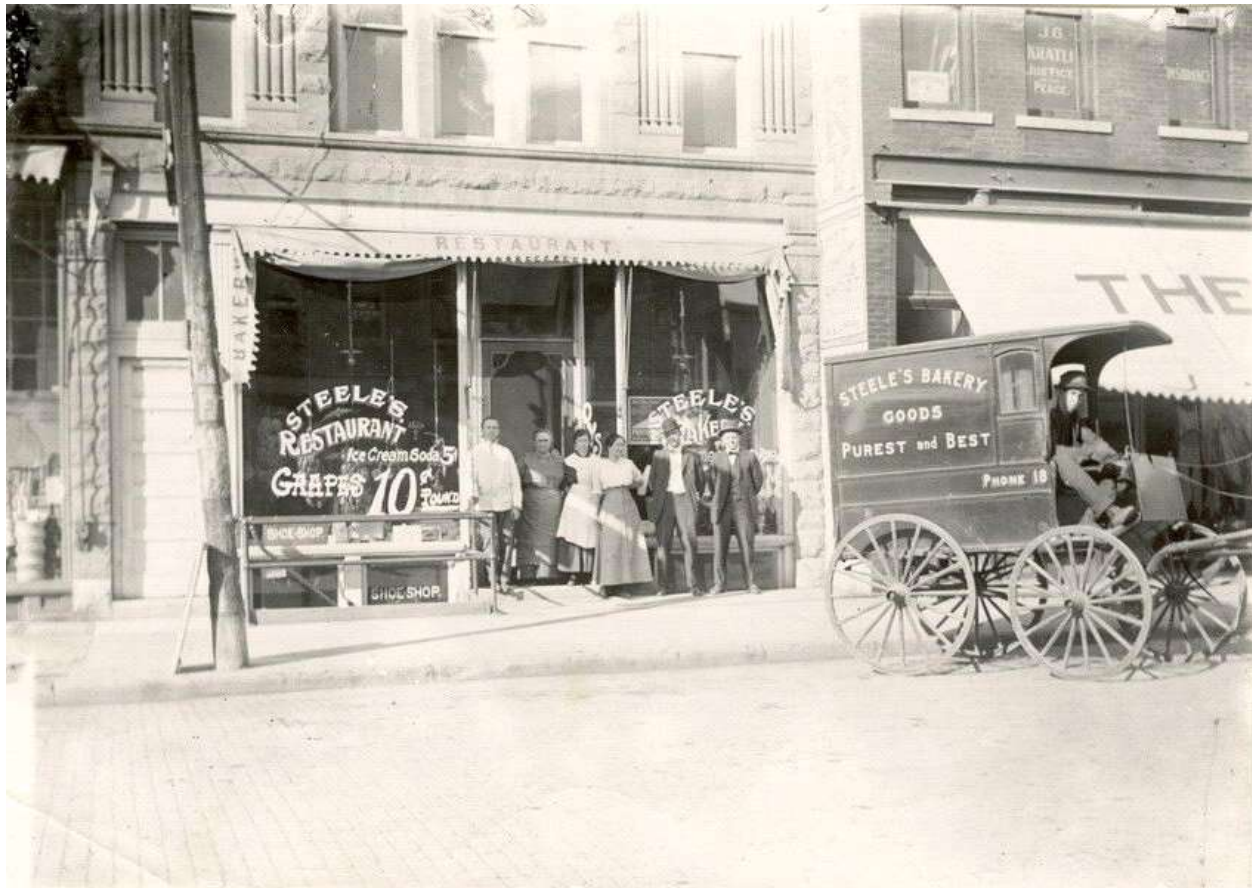
### **Starke County Trust & Savings**

A bank has been located at 20 North Main Street in Knox for nearly a century.

The first bank at this particular location was known as Starke County Trust & Savings Bank and is shown in this photo. It was built around 1915.

At that time, the Farmers State Bank was just a few buildings to the south, where Starke County Development Foundation is located today. That bank had been organized in 1892. In 1932, the two banks merged to form Farmer's Bank & Trust Company. Some have said the merger took place in the middle of the night, so as not to alarm depositors during the Great Depression.

Many residents will remember the large sign, with a clock and thermometer that hung over the sidewalk at this same location through the 1950's and 60's. Today, this location is home to Keybank.



### **Steele's Restaurant**

Steele's Restaurant & Bakery was located at 9 North Main Street in downtown Knoxville in the early 1900's. Bread and other goods were delivered by horse-drawn wagon to both local restaurants and residents.

A sign in the windows advertises Ice Cream Sodas for 5 cents and Grapes for 10 cents per pound. A shoe shop is located down the outside steps in the basement. Slidinger's Barber Shop had been located in this basement in 1906 before moving to the Fitz Hotel.

The Isfort Building, now the home of O's Tap, has a unique architectural style.



### **Studebaker & Courthouse**

The 1947 Studebaker Champion was the first totally new postwar (WWII) American car. The design was very different from other cars that year leading some to say you couldn't tell the front from the back. It was powered by an 80 horsepower, 169 cubic inch, flathead six cylinder engine. Automobile manufacturing had been suspended during WWII, and in 1946 all auto manufactures simply ran limited production based on their prewar models.

Mrs. Mildred Coffin is shown standing beside the completely new 1947 model. Carl and Mildred Coffin owned the Studebaker dealership, which was located at Washington and Pearl Streets. Later it became Glen Kay Motors and, today, is home to Fingerhut Bakery.

Farther back on the courthouse lawn, the Grumman F4F Wildcat that had been donated to Starke County can be seen. It resided there for some years until it was relocated to the Knox High School. The Wildcat was an aircraft carrier fighter plane and featured fold up wings, a 320 mph speed and six 50 caliber machine guns. This was one of 7,860 made during the early part of WWII. It had been flown into South Bend on its own power by Jack Sumner and trucked down to Knox.





### **Swartzell Home**

The Swartzell residence in Knox is shown in this 1906 photo taken by Sigmund Klopot, as if just in time for today's holiday season. Aris Wilson (A.W.) Swartzell built this home sometime before 1895 at the northwest corner of Washington & Heaton Streets. It was said to be the first modern residence in Knox and had running water, bath, toilet and electric lights. Once their daughters married and left home, the Swartzell's took in roomers, one of which was a young bachelor named Henry F. Schricker.

A.W. Swartzell was born in Washington Twp in 1860 at a time when most of the Starke County was a wilderness. In 1876, young A.W. organized the first band & orchestra in the county. He served as its leader for another 30 years. In 1887, he took over his father's general store at the southeast corner of Lake & Main Streets; a store his father had opened back in 1871. In 1898, he organized the first telephone company in the county. It was located on this general store's 2nd floor. That store was last home to Frazier's Trading Post and was taken down in 2004. It may have been the oldest building in downtown Knox.

Today, the former Swartzell residence is home to M.C. Smith Funeral Home.





### **Taitel & Sons**

Taitel & Sons Garment Factory was located at 12 S. Prettyman Street in Knoxville.

Isaac (Ike) Taitel came to America from the Kingdom of Poland, which was part of Russia in 1887 at the age of 11. The family settled in Chicago, where Isaac worked his way up through the garment industry.

In 1928, he moved to Knoxville with his wife, Celia, sons, Frank, Louie, Martin and daughter, Rebecca. He took over an old raincoat factory on Prettyman Street and proceeded to turn it into a very profitable pants factory.

The business expanded during the 1940's, and other plants were added around Indiana. Later, this facility was home to the John Deere dealership, and most recently, it was home to Tri-R-Inc.



### **Thurman's Garage**

S. C. Thurman's Buick Garage was located in Knoxville on Main Street immediately north of the Moose Lodge. This photo was taken around 1920, when the definition of a "paved road" meant it was a gravel road.

Besides selling and repairing Buicks, Thurman also sold Mobil gasoline and oil under the "Gargoyle" logo. In the 1930's, the Pegasus (Flying Horse) replaced the Gargoyle as Mobil's logo. The gas pump out front was known as a "blind" curb pump, because the customer could not see for sure how much gas he was buying. Later in the 1920's, most pumps had a clear glass container at the top with bold gallon markers. Other signs on the building advertise Columbia Dry Cells and Red Seal Dry Batteries, which were used at that time for auto ignition and starting, as well as early telephones.

The Yellow River Lodge of the Odd Fellows was located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The nameplate indicates the building was built in 1908. Later the building was home to Eichstaedt's Chevy and Cadillac dealership. The building was destroyed by a mysterious explosion in 1971.



## Underground Knox

During the sidewalk repairs undertaken in June of 2000, a rare glimpse was offered into downtown Knox's past. Different stories and even legends have been told of underground tunnels under Knox's Main Street. Some have said the tunnels were part of the "Underground Railroad". Others said the tunnels extended to Plymouth and beyond. But the truth of the matter is they were simply turn of the "last" century sidewalk entrances to the basements under the stores built along Main Street. They were built in the late 1890's and early 1900's many years after the Underground Railroad and Civil War.

This photo was taken by Jim Shilling during the repair work looking south in front of the old Falvey Department Store (now Hanselman's). The iron grates in the photo were built into the

sidewalks above and had colorful glass inserts that allowed light to filter down below. Some of them are on display at the Starke County Historical Museum. The iron stairway allowed access to several stores along the west side of Main Street. The landing at the top of the stairway connected to another stairway going down the opposite side. Cigar stores, billiard rooms and barber shops occupied some of these basements. Around 1906, Slidinger's operated a barber shop in the basement of the Isfort building just north of this view. Some of these sidewalk basement entrances were used well into the 1950's. All, except for the one under the old Green Drug Store, were filled in during the sidewalk repair project in the summer of 2000.





### **Vanderweele's Department Store**

A photo circa 1904 shows Vanderweele's Department Store on Main Street in downtown Knoxville. The store on the left was built by Peter Vanderweele. Peter, his wife Jennie and daughter Eva are standing in the doorway. Today the building has been refaced and is home to The Leader and Dad's Garage Door.

The building on the right was built by his brother, Jacob and is now home to Starke County WIC. A sign in its window says "The Hub Clothing Store". A sign in the second floor window says "Nichols Lawyer Notary Public". The glass case between the two stores displays a selection of turn of the century lady's hats.

The sidewalk is two feet or more higher than the street and has a set of steps. This may have been to allow easier unloading of material from wagons. Painted and barely visible along its length is a sign that says "Vanderweele Bros. Department Store". The brother's parents had come to America from Holland around 1846.





### **Wilhelm's Grocery Store**

William J. Wilhelm opened a dry goods and grocery Store in 1896 in downtown Knoxville at 8 South Main Street. A horse-drawn wagon was used to pick up and deliver merchandise.

This was before very many of the streets had been paved with brick. Later this same building was home to Wilken & Musser's Grocery.



### **Wilken & Musser – D & B Bowling**

A 1947 photo shows Wilkin & Musser's Grocery Store and Fulton's D & B Recreation Room in downtown Knoxville. Independent Biker Association now occupies the former grocery store.

Rainbow Video is located where D & B Recreation once offered fountain service, bowling and billiards to young people in the 1940's.

To the right is the Majestic Theater, where a Charlie Chan movie is being advertised.

All three autos are pre-war models. The nicely polished one to the far left is an Oldsmobile. License plates at that time were six numbers, without any special prefix.



**William Wallace Garner**

William Wallace Garner will be recognized as Starke County's Last Civil War Veteran in a special program that will be held Saturday afternoon, September 20, 2008 at 1:00 P.M. at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Knoxville. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, David D. Porter Camp, will conduct the ceremony and will be assisted by Ed Hasnerl and Marvin Allen.

Mr. Garner, who was born in 1847, attended grammar school in Knoxville and enlisted at the age of 17 in Company D 29<sup>th</sup> Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry. This unit was engaged mainly in Alabama, Georgia and Tennessee.

After the war, Mr. Garner returned to Knoxville, tried his hand at operating a general store known as the Bee Hive and then established The Enterprise, a forerunner to the Starke County Republican newspaper. Upon selling the newspaper, he joined the railroad and worked in their mail department in Chicago for many years. Later in life Mr. Garner moved back to Knoxville and took up residence at the Home Hotel.

Each Veterans Day, Mr. Garner would march down to Crown Hill Cemetery and say a few words. Soon it became expected, and local residents looked forward to his presence. Mr. Garner made his last march July 4, 1940 and passed away just 3 months later at nearly 93 years of age. Uncle Billy, as he was known to everyone, is buried in the old section at Crown Hill with many of his fellow Civil War Veterans.



### **Windisch Grocery Wagon**

A horse drawn grocery delivery wagon from the turn of the last century: Charles Windisch grew up on his parent's farm just south of the Yellow River on 500 East. Part of the farm is now the east half of Crown Hill Cemetery.

Charles entered the grocery business as a young boy, first as a helper, then as a partner. After serving in the Spanish American War, he started his own grocery store in the late 1890's. It was located on Main Street in Knox in the location later occupied by the Knox Furniture Store.

Charles did his own butchering, using ice from the Yellow River bayous to keep the meat cold in the store's cooler. It was said this horse knew the route so well that it would automatically go on to the next stop by itself and wait, if the delivery boy was delayed. This picture was probably taken around 1910. The street is not yet paved and has deep ruts.

Charles retired from the grocery business in 1936. Sears Roebuck then used the store for some years, prior to the Knox Furniture Store. Pioneer Florist recently bought the part that was originally the Windisch Grocery Store.





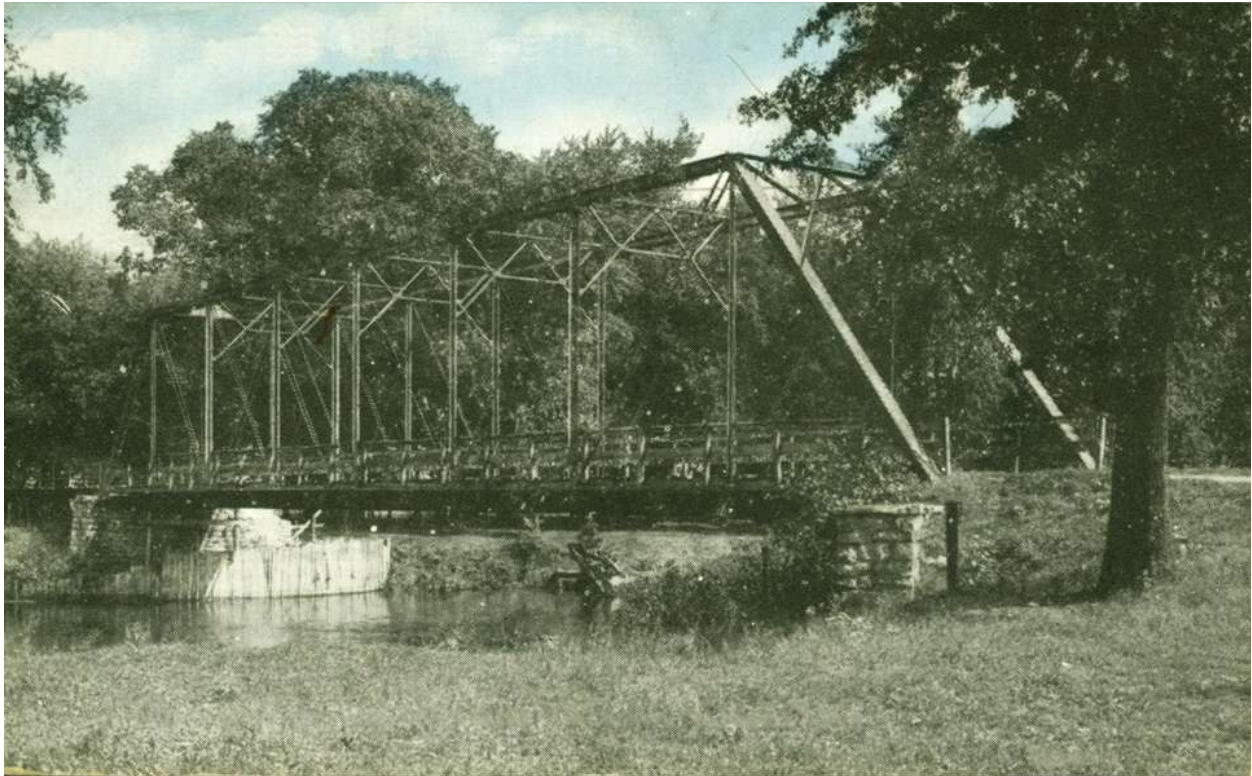
## **Windisch, William**

William Frederick Windisch joined the Union Army in 1864. At the time, he was 34 years old, married with four children and living in Ohio. A cabinetmaker and farmer, he had come to America from Wurtemberg, Germany in 1853. William was recognized for "distinguished service" for his participation in numerous battles in Virginia and West Virginia during the Civil War.

Sometime in the 1870's, the Windisch family moved to Starke County and established a farm just east of Knox. Later, William donated part of the family farm to the Crown Hill Cemetery Association.

His son Charles was Captain of Indiana's Company A, 157th Regiment during the Spanish American War. After that war, Charles opened a grocery store in Knox and was later an officer of Starke County Building & Loan.

William's grand-daughter was long-time school teacher, Frances Windisch Myers, who taught at Ober, Center and Knox schools.



### **Yellow River Bridge**

This photo shows the first metal bridge that was built across the Yellow River north of Knox on what is now US 35. It was built in 1881 and appears to be a “Pratt Through Truss” style bridge, which was popular during Indiana’s iron bridge building boom in the late 1800’s.

Before that time, Heaton Street (US 35) stopped short of the river and did not cross it. The entrance to Knox from the north was actually Bridge Street, which is the same street we use today to enter Wythogan Park. An 1876 map shows much of what is now the park was actually an island bounded by separate streams of the Yellow River, requiring two separate bridges. Those earlier bridges were no doubt constructed of wooden beams and prone to wash outs.

This bridge would have been quite a local attraction when it was built in 1881.



### **Zingo Gas Station**

A photo taken back in the 1950's shows a familiar landmark - the Zingo gas station on South Heaton Street in Knox.

Notice that the price of a gallon of gas was 26 cents. It wasn't uncommon for a young man to pull up and ask the attendant to put in a dollar's worth or maybe two if the weekend was coming up. That included getting your oil checked and your windows cleaned.

Walt Allen and Del Bowman opened the station around 1946 and ran it for more than 50 years.

Notice there are 3 pump islands. That was unusual at that time. Walt and Del specialized in selling lots of gasoline. Zingo was actually a brand of gasoline sold in several other places around Starke County, including R.B. Walter's Grocery Store in Ora.

## **Chapter 8 – North Bend Township**





**Cappis Store, Ora**

A photo dated 1928 shows Harrison H. Cappis standing in front of his hardware store in Ora.

Mr. Cappis also sold Linco gasoline (now Marathon) from a pair of gravity fed glass top pumps. Back then you bought gas for your car by the gallon. These were hand-operated pumps. A large lever on the side was used to manually pump gasoline up into the glass top.

Once you had the number of gallons you wanted to buy in the glass top, indicated by numbers on its side, a hose and nozzle was used to drain the gas down into your car's tank by gravity.

Ora was established in 1881, and at one time, contained two general stores, a hardware store, a drug store, ice cream parlor, school, two churches, barber shop, grain elevator, blacksmith, cheese factory, pickle factory, several saloons and a dance hall.



## Dredge

Few things have changed the face of Starke County more than floating dredges like the one shown in this photo. Before their arrival in the 1890's, it was not unusual for much of Starke County to sometimes be under water. The higher sand hills took on such names as White Woman's Island, Grape Island and Jackson Island. Early settlers talked of rowing boats from places like Brems and Hamlet to Knox. Winter actually made getting around easier, because the settlers could walk on the ice.

Back in 1904, there were seven of these huge machines working on re-routing the Kankakee River in Starke County. They varied in size. Some required as many as ten men. Most employed a cook, as the men lived and stayed on the dredge boat. A local newspaper article tells of the men losing even their Sunday clothes when one caught fire. One of the dredge owners built a hotel boat for the men that followed the dredge.

These machines were powered by steam engines, which required a constant supply of coal delivered by teams of horses. A row boat was towed behind. It was used to take supplies and workers to and from the dredge. Blacksmiths making repairs would have been frequent visitors.

The dredges had no means of moving themselves other than using their bucket to pull the entire rig forward as necessary. Outriggers called "spuds" were extended to the banks to stabilize the machines. Depending on the width and depth to be excavated, dredges could move as fast as 500 feet in a day or as little as a mile a month.

Once a job was completed, the dredge was taken apart, loaded on a railroad car and transported to the next job. This might have been several states away, as these rigs were owned by large companies.

This photo belongs to Paul Sellers, grandson of Joseph Sellers standing to the left in the picture. If you look carefully to the lower left, you will see that this dredge is working its way through new soil.



**Horner  
School**

The Horner School is one of a handful of century old one room schools still standing in Starke County. This photo was taken 100 years ago in 1904, when the new one-room brick school was dedicated. It is located in the county's south-east corner where 750 S and 1100 E intersect in North Bend Twp.

The Horner School was 1 of the 6 schools located in North Bend Twp in those days. State law said that a child should not have to walk more than 2 miles to school, so each township usually had a school every 4 miles.

The Horner School was used at least until 1926 and had 13 students that school year. The history of a school in that location goes all the way back to 1852 when a log cabin was used as the first school, and William Chapman was the first teacher.

The person on the far right in the photo is J. Water Dunn, Starke County School Superintendent. Standing with him are all of North Bend Twp's teachers for the 1904 school term.



### **North Bend High School**

North Bend High School was built in 1912 at a cost of \$8,000. It was located at the southwest corner of 850 E and 625 S. on the site of the old Center Church.

A one-room school, known as the Center School, had previously been located a half mile north on 850E.

The first teachers at the new school were Harry Elder (Principal), Mabel Copp, Charles Hatfield and Minnie Chidister. The first graduates were Rosa Rock, Ray Bennett and Harry Doyle.

Although High School was discontinued in 1931, the first eight grades were taught there until the 1950s. At that time, North Bend residents voted to become part of the Culver School System. The building was demolished in the late 1960s.





### **North Bend Township Basketball Team**

This photo of North Bend School's 7th and 8th Grade basketball teams was taken in 1953. The school was located about 2 miles south-east of Bass Lake at the corner of CR 625 S. and CR 850 E.

The 2 story brick building had been built as a high school in 1912 for \$8,000 replacing several 1 room schools in the township. It had an outside metal fire escape chute, which must have fascinated the more adventurous boys.

In 1928 it was operating as a 3 Year high school. Shortly thereafter it offered education only up through the 8th grade with grades 9 - 12 transferred to Knox. Later North Bend Twp was attached to Culver Community Schools and the building demolished.

By jersey number: (1) Ned Herr, (2) Bobby Kachloch, (3) Don William, (4) Hawley Shidler, (5) Butch Engel, (6) Paul Howard, (7) John Howard, (8) Donny Herr, (9) Larry Dolohan and (10) Ervin Casper. Mr. B.R. Lambert is the teacher and Mr. Cecil Cappis is the township trustee.



### **Ora Depot**

In 1882, the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad built its railroad line through Starke County. It passed through Lomax, North Judson, Aldine, Bass Station and Ora. Later this railroad was organized as the Erie.

The photo probably dates from the 1920's, based on several Model A's in the background. One sign reads "Western Union Telegraph & Cable Office". Another reads "Erie Rail Road". A sign on the building to the far right says "Pickles". Note the double tracks and the spur running to the grain elevator.

Our best guess is that the gentleman on the left is the ticket master, while the one on the right is a railroad agent.



### **Ora School**

The Ora school was built in 1902 at a cost of \$4,000. In its early years it offered 3 years of high school up through 1931, but later offered elementary education up through the 8th grade.

This former school building is one of a handful of school buildings still standing a century later. In 1961, Ora students were consolidated into the Culver School System.

The town of Ora, which had a population of 300 in 1915, was originally platted in 1882 when the Chicago & Atlantic Railroad (Erie) was built through Ora, Aldine, North Judson and Lomax.

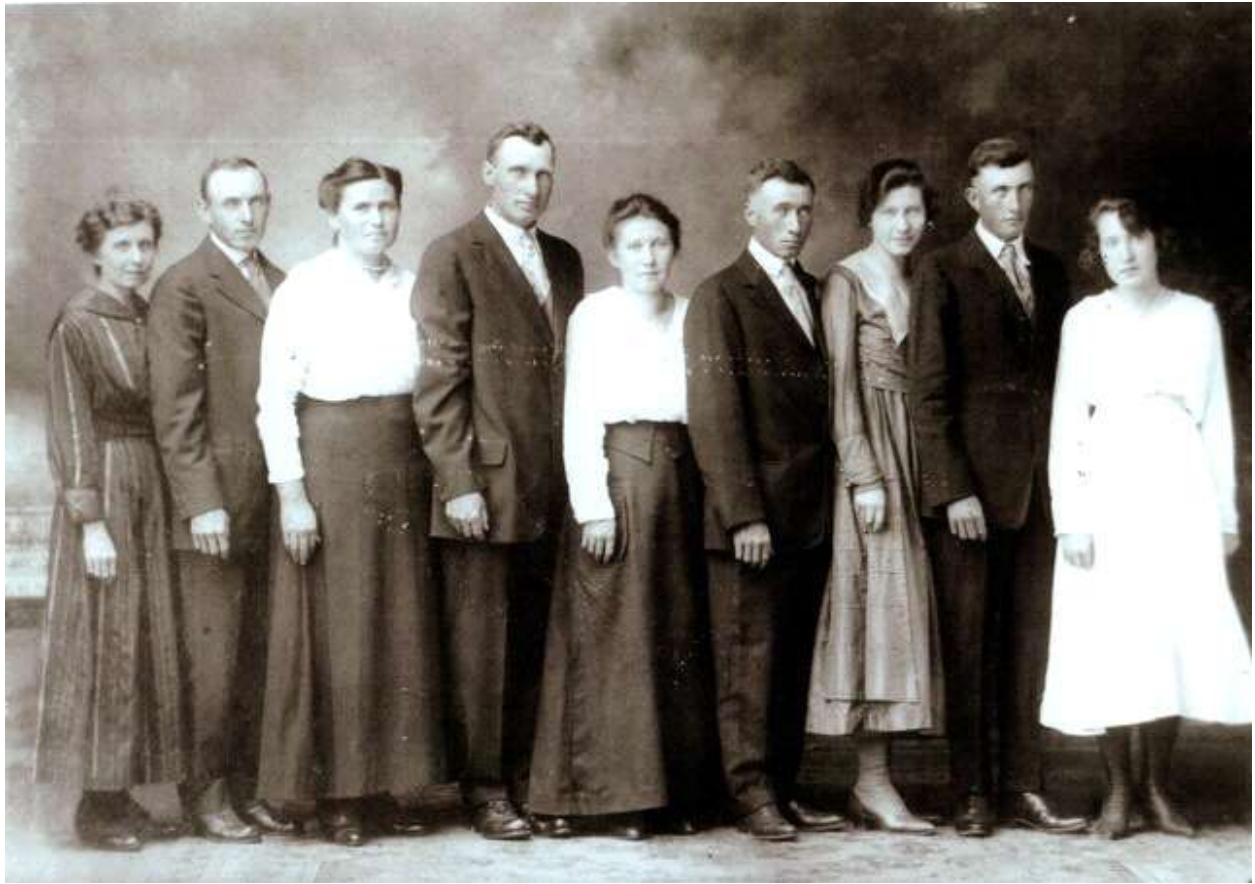
In days gone by, Ora had as many as 3 grocery stores, 2 churches, a drug store, a cheese factory, a pickle factory, an ice cream parlor, a newspaper, 3 saloons, 2 dance halls, 2 doctors and a post office (which exists to this day).



### **Ora School**

A "new" brick school was built at Ora in 1902 for \$4,000. It replaced an older wood frame school. This photo of the students at that new school is in the Historical Society's collection, but the year and children are unknown.





### **Sellers Family**

Joseph Sellers moved to North Bend Twp, Starke County in the early 1880's. He married Emma Casper on February 23, 1884. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Casper, also of North Bend Twp.

Joseph worked on one of the steam powered dredges used to straighten the rivers and dig the larger ditches throughout Starke County in the late 1800's. He died in 1909 when a steam boiler exploded.

Joseph and Emma's nine sons and daughters are shown in this photo taken in 1918. From left to right and oldest to youngest: Frances "Effie" Cooper, Grover, Olivia Pagel, Samuel, Edna Beauchamp, Joseph "Guy", Emma Doyle, Meredith and Leona Earhart.



### **Williams' Homestead**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Sterling and Ada Williams' farm was located in North Bend Township along CR 450 S just east of CR 1000 E. They called it the Cottage Grove Farm.

Sterling had been born in a log cabin on this same farm in 1854. His parents, Joshua and Jane Williams had moved to the farm back in 1852. They had come to Starke County by wagon with a group of other pioneers from southern Indiana. Here they hewed their homes out of the wilderness.

At that time there were no roads in Starke County and travel was possible only by using the higher sand ridges. Manitou Lake, a lake about the size of Bass Lake, was located about a mile south-east of their farm. This lake, now forgotten, was drained and converted to farmland over 100 years ago.

While the Williams had no children of their own, they took in the orphan, John Martin, shown with them. The photo is dated around 1915.

## **Chapter 9 – North Judson**



### **American Oak**

American Oak Preserving was started in North Judson in 1916 by Frederick and Charlie Vorm. To our knowledge, American Oak is the oldest manufacturing firm in Starke County.

This photo is dated 1922 and shows boxes labeled red, brown and green oak. There may be other colors. The boxes appear to be bound for Philadelphia. Notice the hand crank on the front of what appears to be a Ford Model T truck.

The only person identified in this picture is Art Wobith. He is standing 2nd from the right. Our thanks to Doreen (Wobith) Matzat for sharing this interesting photo.





### **Burch's Opera House**

Burch's Opera House was built in the 1880's, by Jacob Burch, a Polish immigrant. It was located in downtown North Judson at the south corner of Main and Lane Streets. At the time, it was the largest hall on the railroad line between Chicago and Lima, Ohio. This photo is dated around 1918.

The business on the left on the first floor is John's Place, advertising soft drinks, candies, cigars and Beechnut gum. On the first floor right side, The Model advertises Uncle Tom's Cabin. To the right side, the Isis advertises a vaudeville comedy called The Mischief Makers, which was playing in the opera house upstairs on the second floor.

Burch's Hall was the scene of a prize boxing match of national significance in 1888. It was here that Jack McAuliffe of Brooklyn, NY and Billy Myer of Streator, IL fought their famous draw of 64 rounds, lasting 4 hours and 16 minutes. Jack was the lightweight champion of the world. The referee came to the conclusion after 64 brutal rounds that the fight should be declared a draw.



### **Gayble Theater**

This photo of the Gayble Theater in North Judson was taken in the early 1960's. This unique and very recognizable theater had been built around 1926. It was described as "Indiana's Most Beautiful Small Town Theater" and had been owned the Woytinek family of North Judson for many years.

Some of the movies that no doubt played at the Gayble would have been the silent version of Ben Hur in the 1920's, King Kong in 1933, The Wizard of Oz in 1939, Casablanca in 1942, It's A Wonderful Life in 1946, Singin' In The Rain in 1952, Hitchcock's Vertigo in 1958, Bonnie and Clyde in 1967, The Godfather in 1972 and Raiders Of The Lost Ark in 1981.

After some years of being vacant, the Gayble was finally demolished in 1999. Today the location is a vacant lot. Earlier, the Hippodrome Theater, which was located on the east side of Lane Street, was the place to see silent movies in North Judson. The Hippodrome may have started out by running Nickelodeon shows.



### Great Supply House

The "Great Supply House of Starke County" was built at the northwest corner of Main and Lane Streets in North Judson in 1895. Many of their items were purchased by the railroad carload. One sign says "We Sell Merchandise of Every Description". Other signs advertise boots, shoes, dry goods, furniture and bedding. Another sign says "We Can Sell Your Produce".

A handpump and water tank for horses can be seen on the far left. One man is leaning against what appears to be a coal oil street lamp. Notice all the 46 star US flags. This would date the photo to sometime before 1912, when Arizona and New Mexico were added as states. We would suspect this photo was taken during a town wide celebration of either Memorial Day or the 4th of July.

Some of the men thought to be in this photo: Joseph Sindelar, John Kurtz, Perry McCormick, Ben Weninger, Julius Dunsing, Paul Joop, and William Ricker. Later Hopp and Wobith operated a store in this same building. It was then known as Hopp's Store. Sometime before 1924 a fire destroyed the building. By 1933 a service station had been built on the lot. It was known as Hank's Standard Oil in the 1960's.





### **Hotel Transit**

Hotel Transit was located on the west side of Lane Street in downtown North Judson. It was just north of the Neupert Building at Lane and Sycamore Streets. Signs in the windows show the office on the left and a parlor on the right.

A group of businessmen may be in town for a meeting. Their license plate says IND but does not have a year. This should date the photo to sometime before 1913 when Indiana started providing license plates. Before that time each auto owner was required to make their own license plate using the numbers provided to them on a small tag. Hotel Transit was demolished by 1924 and was home to the Gayble Theater by 1933.





### **Jones Street Scene**

This photo, dated about 1911, shows North Judson tourists in their Whiting Automobile. The Corbitt House on Jones Street in North Judson is in the background.

The Whiting was only produced from 1910 - 1912 in Flint, Michigan by Flint Wagon Works. Prior to Indiana issuing its first license plate in 1913, each owner was expected to make their own license plate using the numbers given them by the state. The C6-75 IND plate hanging from the front bumper on this car would have been homemade.

This photo was scanned from a glass negative taken by Dr. George Corbitt, an early North Judson dentist. At this time, concrete sidewalks are evident. but the streets are still unpaved.



### **Keller Street Home**

The Starke County Historical Society is seeking information about this photo. It may have been taken around 1910 or before. "North Judson Home" is written on the back.

Notice the wood plank sidewalk suggesting it was probably located in town. The yard is well landscaped and even has a fountain. Back then some homes in town had their own windmill for pumping water. Most homes in town also had a barn or stable for their horse and buggy. Many even kept a cow or two for milk and cream.



### **Lane & Sycamore Streets**

A view looking north-west from the intersection of Lane and Sycamore Streets in downtown North Judson shows the Neupert General Store, a barber shop, a meat market and the Hotel Transit. This photo was taken in the winter sometime around 1900 or before.

A wooden barber pole is visible at the edge of the board sidewalk and the dirt street. Later the Neuperts built a two story brick building at this same location, which is still in use today. The Gayble Theater was later built where Hotel Transit is shown in this picture.

Standing in the doorway is owner Chris Neupert. On his right is Joe Sindelar. On his left is Joe Dolezal. These are the "Two Joes" who later opened their own store in North Judson. The Neuperts were cousins of former Governor Henry F. Schricker, who also grew up in North Judson.



### **Lane Street**

A photo dated about 1922 shows a new building being constructed at 310 Lane Street in downtown North Judson.

It was to be the home of North Judson State Bank, which was consolidated in 1927 forming the American State Bank and now Fifth Third Bank.

The buildings to the right have been replaced by Ray's Super Foods. Dr. P.O. Englerth had his office in the building to the left. More recently it was home to Weninger Insurance.

Photo loaned from Art Wobith's photo album by Doreen Matzat.





### **Lane Street**

A photo taken around 1930 shows downtown North Judson looking north from the intersection of Main & Lane Streets.

On the left, NIPSCO had an office where Village Discount Store is now located. Pete's Place advertising cigars, tobacco and soft drinks was next. A Chevy pickup truck waits out front. Newer buildings have replaced the next two buildings on the left. Curley's Barber Shop is in one of them. Mathews' 1909 building is still there and most recently used as a place of worship. The next building at 218 & 219 Lane is currently being renovated. The building on the corner with the turret is home to Pioneer Florists.

On the right side, the A & P grocery store used to be at 207 Lane. The next building is an empty lot at present. Robert Howard has offices in the next building. There used to be an early movie theater at this location. The large two-story building at the corner is under renovation.



### **Methodist Church**

The first Methodist Church in North Judson was built at the southwest corner of Lane and Vine Streets in 1875. The building was enlarged in 1899 as shown in this photo.

Methodist settlers had arrived in the area now known as North Judson as early as 1851. In those early years, a preacher traveled on horseback between Winamac, San Pierre, North Judson and Knox holding services in log cabin homes and schools. He was known as a Circuit Rider.

This building was sold in 1949, when a new larger church was built at Central and Jones Streets.



### **Moshers' General Store**

A photo taken around 1910 shows Moshers' General Store in downtown North Judson. The Moshers were among Starke County's earliest pioneer families having moved here in the 1850's from Whitely Co., IN. This store was built sometime between 1895 and 1909. The view is looking northeast along the east side of Lane Street toward Central.

It appears that a farmer and his sons have brought watermelons into town on a horse-drawn wagon probably to trade for other necessities back on the farm.

The prominent building to the left was built sometime between 1902 and 1909 and is featured in several early postcards of downtown North Judson. In its early days, it contained a shoe store and a clothing store. Later it was a restaurant and had rooms for rent upstairs. The smaller building between these two appears to have a wooden barber pole out front. These buildings were present in North Judson at least through the mid-1930's.





### **North Judson Catholic School**

The St. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School was located at the southeast corner of Adair and Keller Streets in North Judson. It was built in 1910-1911 at the same time as the present church, just across the street to the north.

The first Catholic families settled in North Judson around 1871. Services were held in their homes and later North Judson's first hotel, the Central House. The first church, a wood frame building, was built in 1881 on the same location as today's church.

In those early years, Father Dominic traveled from Wanatah by horse and buggy every two weeks. Travel would have been very difficult. There were no early roads where today's highways run. Instead, Father Dominic would have used an early trail that ran between North Judson and English Lake and on to Wanatah.





### **North Judson City Band**

For more than a century, North Judson has hosted a variety of local festivals. For 25 years, from 1906 to 1931, local businesses and citizens sponsored the annual After-Harvest Jubilee. This was a fall festival, with exhibits of farm products, poultry, livestock and baked goods.

Bands and floats were a special attraction. Hundreds of out of town visitors would take the trains to North Judson to see the event. North Judson's City Band is shown in this picture dated 1924.

The town's first brick school, which was located at the corner of Keller and Central and built in 1896, is shown in the background.



### **North Judson Fire Department**

The North Judson Fire Department was organized in 1889. One of their first purchases that same year was a hand operated pumper. At first a bucket brigade would fill a barrel or tub that the hand pumper drew water out of which was then pumped onto the fire. Later wells were driven around town that the hand pumper attached to for its water supply.

Around 1900 the department purchased what appears to be a steam powered pumper shown in this photo. The pumper was often pulled to a fire by the firemen, as it would have taken too long to hitch a team of horses.

On one occasion, the pumper was quickly loaded on a railroad flatcar and sent with a crew to Knox to help with a fire that destroyed part of downtown Knox.

Pictured are Charlie Summers?, Henry Schricker, Manuel Knachel, Frank Eatinger, Unknown and Joe Dolezal.



### **North Judson High School**

The North Judson 9th Grade is shown in this photo dated 1925-1926. The picture was taken at the front entrance to the new high school that had just been built in 1922.



### **North Judson High School**

The North Judson High School Class of 1945 is shown in this photo.

From left to right, 4th row: Jack Bertucci, Joyce Webster, Marion Metzinger, Kathryn Thompson, Betty Deckman, Corrine Bangert, Patricia Mosher, Hanna Fukan, Lorraine Black, Ernest Whybrew and Frank Myers. 3rd row: Roy Heidel, Mary Vendl, Clarice Klosinski, Mae Mathews, Doris Vanek, Polly Stacy, Irene Krecik, Eva Sullivan and Lorraine Hanson. 2nd row: Lorraine Safraski, Blanche Smolek, Lillian Bobcek, Margaret Osborn, Florence Murray, Betty Born and Carola Csiky. 1st row: Charles Ness, Robert Medbourn, Don Capouch, Edward Dolezal, John Berg, Joseph Barkey, Homer Perryman and Cecil Lucas.

Sponsors Miss Jasemine Bush and Mr. Stanley Cecrle.





### **North Judson High School Boys Basketball Team**

Before they were called the Blue Jays, they were called the Blue Dogs. This picture of North Judson's 1920 - 1921 basketball team was taken in front of the old high school built in 1896. This 1921 team played their home games in Pickell's Hall in North Judson.

The coach is Julian Ray and the players are Claude Akers, Kenneth Deardorff, Louis Donchin, Manuel Donchin, J.B. Hudson, Elvin Rust, Duane Schuyler and James Tyl. The trophy may have been awarded during their District win at Rochester over Monterey.

In 1922 the high school was expanded in size and a gymnasium was added for the first time. That first gym seated 250 spectators. In 1927 the gym was doubled in size and locker rooms added as high school athletics continued to grow.

In a shrewd move that same year, North Judson convinced Coach Guy B. Ingwell to move from San Pierre to their school. It seems that under Coach Ingwell's leadership, San Pierre had beaten North Judson during their 8 previous encounters.



### **North Judson High School Boys Basketball Team**

North Judson's 1942 - 1943 Boys Basketball Team is pictured in this photo loaned to the museum by Hanna Mlekodaj.

From left to right, back row: John Lemke, James Mathews, Carl Dunkelberger, Bernard Mathews, Cyril Dolezal and Howard Williams (Coach); middle row: Norman Dalka, Robert Lemke, Joseph Shewski, Homer Perryman and Mike Matuscak; front row: Richard Vondrak (Manager).



### **North Judson Ladies Band**

Back around 1920 or before, North Judson had a Ladies Band. We suspect this lady was a member of that band, but her name is unknown.



### **North Judson School**

In 1896, North Judson had the impressive new school shown in this 1917 photo built for \$9,611.75. The old frame school was sold to the town of North Judson for \$389 and used as their town hall. The school was commissioned by the State of Indiana in 1899 as Starke County's first full four year high school under the leadership of Supt. S. Ragsdale. The first graduates were Sadie (Waddel) Doolittle. Audie (Horton) McCormick and Lulu (Bybee) Dilts.

In 1922, the one-room Wayne Twp schools of Casey, Miciolek, Weninger, Marsh, Brantwood and Douglas were consolidated into North Judson resulting in another expansion.

In 1948, the North Judson - Wayne Twp School District was again enlarged to include Jackson Twp and Pulaski County's Rich Grove Twp.

In 1964, the school district was further enlarged to include San Pierre, the Starke County Townships of Railroad, Wayne, Jackson and part of California, as well as the Pulaski County's Rich Grove and part of its Cass Twp and became known as the North Judson - San Pierre School Corporation.





### **North Judson Teachers**

A group of North Judson Teachers are shown in this photo dated 1919.

From left to right: Irma Haas (1918-1919), Esther Atherton (1915-1920), Charlotte Arnold (1912-1919), Lois Craig Foust (Principal 1906-1921), unknown, Stella Klopot Bonner (1917-1920), Margaret Altman (1916-1922), Florence Dilley and L. E. Johnson (Superintendent 1918-1920).

This photo was probably taken by Stella's mother, Clara Klopot. Additional information and corrections are always welcome.



### **North Judson Town Hall**

A photo dated about 1918 shows North Judson's Town Hall, which was located at the north-west corner of Central and Keller Streets.

It had been built in 1875 as a public school. When North Judson built a new school in 1896, it then became the Town Hall. In 1921, it became home to the Odd Fellows Lodge.

The first school to be built in the vicinity of North Judson was built around 1851. It was built of logs and located just west of North Judson along what is now SR 10. This was prior to the existence of any sort of town. Soon the area was booming with railroads and the new town of North Judson needed a better school. It was built in 1860 at the corner of today's Schricker and Talmer Avenues. But, it wasn't long before the town also outgrew that school and built the two-story one shown in this picture in 1875.



### **North Judson Water Works**

North Judson's Water Works Department was established in 1921. The building shown in this photo was soon built on Keller Avenue.

Initially, a basement storage tank was used to provide water to downtown users and a few fire hydrants. It was pressurized with air, much like today's rural home systems. In 1954, a large above ground water tower was built that stored 125,000 gallons allowing the mains to be extended to the growing community.

North Judson's Fire Department had been established earlier in 1889. But for the first 30 some years, water to fight fires was obtained from small driven wells on each property. A bucket brigade would supply the water to the fire department's hand pumper.

The early buildings were of wood frame construction and heated by wood or coal making chimney fires a frequent occurrence. Despite the original 1921 cost of \$50,000, the town-wide water system was a welcome addition.





### **Pennsylvania Railroad Depot**

This week's photo is of the Penn RR Depot in North Judson and dates from the early 1920's. This view of the depot is looking toward the northeast.

This portion of the Penn RR system was originally built as the Columbus, Chicago & Indiana Central RR in 1857-1861. It ran from the Chicago area through La Crosse, English Lake, North Judson and on down through Denham, Ripley and Winamac to Logansport.

An early map shows the English Lake stop was first called "Mt. Olympus Station", another stop just northwest of North Judson was named "Brandtwood", and another stop at the Starke Pulaski County line was called "Schakopee". Many immigrants that settled in the western portions of Starke County in the 1800's worked on this railroad, including Henry F. Schricker's father, Christopher.





### **Sautter's Boot & Shoe Store**

Christ Sautter's Boot & Shoe Store was located just south of Central Avenue on the east side of Lane Street in downtown North Judson. This photo, dated about 1896, may have been taken on the 4th of July, as the store is decorated with several flags. A parade wagon waits to the right side with a banner that says "C. Sautter Boots & Shoes".

Christ Sautter was born in Germany, where he learned the trade of shoemaking. He came to America in 1881.

The three gentlemen standing in the center of the photo are left to right: Christ Neupert, William Luken and Christ Sautter. Note the wood plank sidewalk and unpaved Lane Street.



### **Schricker Family**

Twice elected Indiana Governor Henry F. Schricker was born 121 years ago in North Judson, Indiana. This photo of Henry's father and mother was taken in 1885, when Henry was 2 years old.

Left to right: Chris Schricker (Henry's father), Catherine (from Magdalena's first marriage), Magdalena (Henry's mother), Henry (on Magdalena's lap) and William (from Chris' first marriage).

Both of Henry's parents had lost their previous spouses to the hardships of those days and had remarried. Chris Schricker had come to America from Bavaria in the 1860's, working for a number of years on the new railroads in Starke, Porter and La Porte Counties, shoveling dirt, laying ties and spiking rails.

Then he invested his savings into a farm near North Judson. After a few years he decided to buy a lot and build a general store on Main St. in North Judson, which he operated for many years.





### **Watt's Drug Store**

A photo dated 1918 shows Watts Drug Store in downtown North Judson. It was located between Sycamore and Central on the east side of Lane Street. Previously, it had been Frank Eatinger's Drug Store.

During World War I, John H. Watts, a Spanish American War Veteran himself, donated the use of his drugstore as a Red Cross workroom. There members of the North Judson Auxiliary made pajamas, bed shirts, socks, robes and surgical dressings for the our men fighting the war in Europe.

The lettering on the side of the building advertises cigars, wallpaper, paints, oils, books, and magazines, besides drugs. Before becoming a pharmacist, Mr. Watts was a cigar maker in Nappanee, IN.



### **Wobith Family**

A photo loaned by Doreen Matzat of North Judson shows the Wobith family seated in what appears to be their brand new 1911 Ford Model-T.

This model was known as a Touring Car. It featured a convertible top, left-hand steering and a 20hp engine that got around 25mpg. The cannister on the running board generated acetylene gas for the carbide headlights. The side lights and tail lights burned kerosene. Notice the hand powered air horn. The price back in 1911 was \$850. After Henry Ford introduced the assembly line in 1913, the price for a Model-T dropped as low as \$300.

From left to right: Grandfather Otto, Uncle Edward, Arthur, Grandmother Ida, Aunt Elsie and Aunt Ida. Doreen's father Arthur must have been thrilled to sit behind the wheel of the new family car. Their home on W. Talmer Ave. is in the background.



## **Chapter 10 – Oregon Township**



### **Anderson Hotel**

The Anderson Hotel was located at Koontz Lake near the present marina. Emil Anderson opened the hotel around 1915. He and his wife Emily operated it all through the 1920s and 1930s.

Emil also owned 25 acres along the south side of the main lake known as the Anderson Addition, where many of the first lake cottages were built.

Even earlier the property was owned by the Lake Grove Club, a sportsman's organization that had a lodge along the lake.

Emil had immigrated to America from Sweden in 1890 and farmed for a few years in Oregon Township before entering the hotel business. His hotel was a very popular place during the "roaring twenties".

The hotel burned down in the 1940s and was replaced by a nightclub known as the Caprio.



### **Burch, Dwight**

A photo loaned to the museum by Warren Burch shows his father Dwight cultivating soy beans around 1940 on the Gindleberger Farm northeast of Hamlet.

The tractor is a 1937 Minneapolis-Moline Model JT. The four cylinder gasoline engine was rated at 14 drawbar horsepower. It was unusual to see tractors with four-row cultivators back then. Most were two-row.

Note the unusual rubber tire treads. Rubber tired tractors were becoming fairly common, but they were not yet accepted by all farmers in 1940.



### **Grovertown High School**

Grovertown High School's graduating class of 1936 is shown in this photo.

Back row, left to right: Raymond Plake, Francis Huhnke, Frank McCay, Sigurd Peterson, Lewes Goze, Roy Swanson and Melvin Blad; center row: William Finley, Arthur Thompson, Kenneth Nelson, Charles H. Hinton (Principal), Merlin Dipert, Homer Forsythe and Robert Heidorn; front row: Hazel Harness, Sara Buell, Alyse Gjemre, Ruth Starr, Dorothy Awald, Sue Najmolovski and Eugena Kuklinski.

Grovertown was consolidated into the Oregon-Davis School Corporation in 1971.





### **Grovertown School**

Grovertown's new school, officially known as Oregon Township District #3, was dedicated on September 26, 1904. Samuel Koontz was the Trustee responsible for overseeing its construction. The new school replaced a wood frame building that had burned down in March of that same year.

The new school had four large rooms and was constructed of brick at a cost of \$10,000. Each room would have had one teacher teaching 2-3 grades. It was located at the north-east corner of SR 23 and 500 N. In 1916, an addition was added for an additional cost of \$12,000 allowing Grovertown the status of a state commissioned high school.

Although a new grade school was built in 1953 a short distance north on SR 23, the 1904 school continued to be used as a high school for nearly 70 years until the present Oregon-Davis High School was built.



### **Grovertown School**

Your help is needed identifying the children and teacher in this historic photo of Grovertown's first school.

It was a wood frame one-room school located at the northeast corner of SR 23 and 500 N. The US Flag appears to have a 44 star pattern. That would date it between 1891 and 1896. That was before Utah, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona became states.

The larger, two-story brick school most of us remember in Grovertown was built in 1904 at the same location. Contact Marvin Allen at 772-5936, if you have any information about this photo.



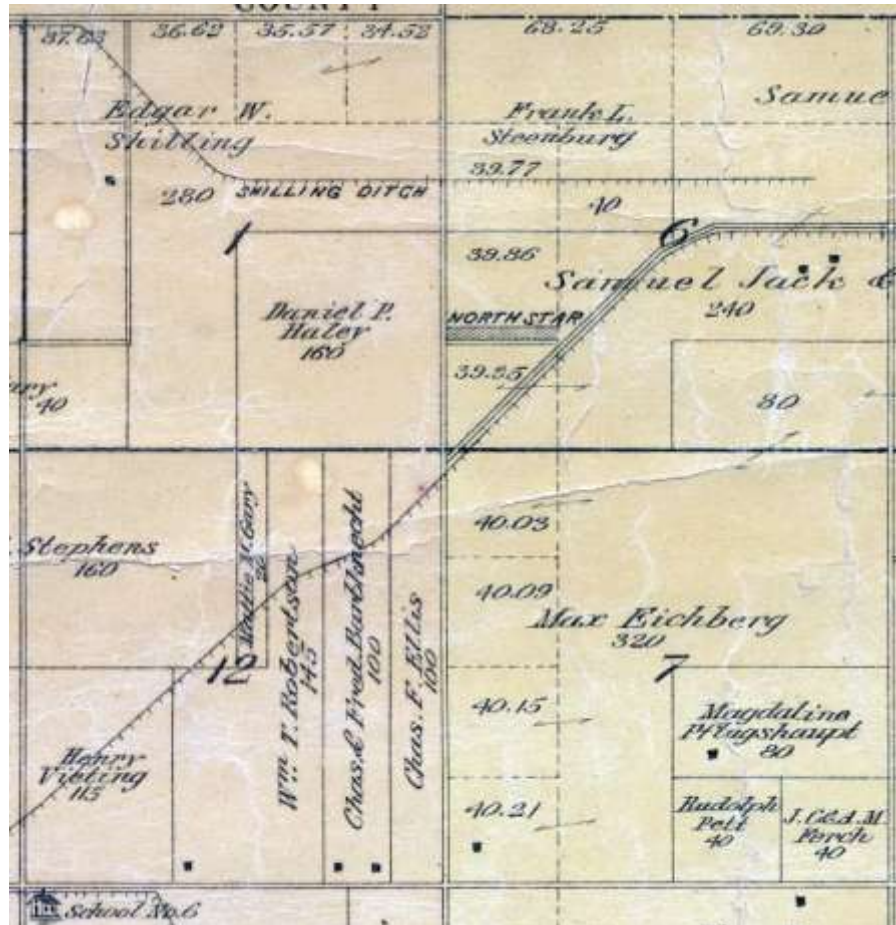


### **Grovertown School**

Students and teachers at Grovertown's school are shown in this photo dated 1909.

Although we don't know for sure, some of the teachers in the photo should be Bertha Abner, Olga Blumenthal, Coral Banks, Elsie Uncapher and Perry Uncapher. John Nelson was the Oregon Twp Trustee and may also be in the picture.

Although a school at Grovertown dates back to the early 1860's, this building was built in 1904 at the northeast corner of 500 N and SR 23 and included all twelve grades. It was closed in 1971, when students were transferred to the new Oregon-Davis School.



### Northstar

Mention Northstar, Starke County and even many long time residents are puzzled. But Northstar was indeed platted as a town on December 12, 1891 in section 6 Oregon Twp.

Attorney Henry Robbins had ten lots laid out on 33 foot streets and sold them to his friends and associates who were in favor of constructing a large ditch across Davis Twp to the Kankakee River. In this way, he was able to get enough property owner signatures to successfully petition the courts to allow the ditch to be built.

The idea was to drain the swampy areas and convert them to fertile farm land. Robbins Ditch, as it became known, was very controversial and had been the subject of numerous law suits prior to that time.

A few years after the ditch was built, Northstar, including another 600 acres or so, was sold to Bradley Polytechnic Institute in Peoria, IL. They may have used the land as a field site for their biology program. It remained in their hands for nearly 40 years.

In reality, Northstar existed only on paper and shows up only on this 1898 map and a 1901 map of the county. It would have been located on the east side of 600E about 1/4 mile north of 800N.





### **Palm Sunday Tornado**

A photo taken by Jim Shilling April 11 (Palm Sunday), 1965 shows a home and auto completely destroyed along SR 23 in Oregon Township.

The Palm Sunday tornado outbreak is the second biggest outbreak on record and the deadliest in Indiana history. Forty-seven confirmed tornadoes hit the Midwest. It all began at 12:45 P.M. in Iowa and lasted eleven hours. The path of destruction was 450 miles west to east and 200 miles north to south.

At the time a public warning system was not in place. A study of the aftermath resulted in the establishment of the official Tornado Watch and the Tornado Warning procedures in use since 1965.



### **Pennsylvania Railroad Depot**

This historic railroad photo shows the Penn RR depot in Grovertown around 1910. This railroad was originally built as the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad in 1856 through the northern part of Starke County.

The Grovertown Depot was similar to other small depots built along its tracks, such as Davis Station, built where it crossed the Kankakee River on the west side of the county.

This RR was the second line built through Starke County and in 1858 finally connected Chicago with Philadelphia. In those days, the 153 mile Indiana section was known as the "race track" because it was very straight and level. By World War I, the track carried 26 passenger trains daily. By the end of World War II, the line was running 32 trains daily. Today the line is used by Norfolk Southern as an alternative freight route between Chicago and Fort Wayne.



### **Uncapher's Store**

William and Jose Uncapher's Store and Hotel in Grovertown was located on the east side of what is now S.R. 23 just north of the railroad tracks. This was before old U.S. 30 was built in 1927.

At the time of this photo, there was no road that ran along the RR tracks between Hamlet and Grovertown and on to Plymouth. Jose ran the hotel and was a seamstress, as well. This wooden building was later replaced by a two-story brick building at the same location. It also served as their residence.

When the new four-lane U.S. 30 was built in 1960, the brick building was moved north of Grovertown along the west side of S.R. 23.

## **Chapter 11 – Railroad Township**





### **Ben Hur Boat**

A photo taken around 1912 shows a scene at English Lake. Dr. George and Mary Corbitt are sitting in the middle of the boat with their daughter Mary Margaret. They are joined by a few other friends.

George Corbitt was an early dentist in North Judson, who enjoyed relaxing at English Lake. He was also an amateur photographer who developed his own pictures.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hines are standing on the pier. William Hines' father William was a master carpenter and built the "Ben Hur" boat shown to the lower left.

Legend has it that he built this boat while his friend, Lew Wallace, wrote part of his book, Ben Hur, at English Lake. However, Lew Wallace had published Ben Hur twenty some years before the boat was built. It may be that Lew Wallace, a frequent visitor to the area, was working on another of his books while the boat was being built. The boat is now on display at the Starke County Museum in Knox.

Green Island can be seen behind the Hines to the right side. Looking west, the C&O RR bridge can be seen in the background. This was the second railroad built through English Lake. It was built in 1902 and is known today as the Chesapeake and Indiana Railroad.



### **English Lake Saloon**

In a scene reminiscent of the frontier west, August Luken's saloon in English Lake is shown in a picture dated about 1892. His saloon, one of three, was situated on the east side of the railroad tracks. This view is looking north-east, with the Kankakee River partially visible in the background. A wood sign advertises Lager from the Peru Brewery.

August Luken is shown standing with his arms crossed. His children from left to right are; Nettie, Fred and Anna. His wife, Louiza, is not shown. The Lukens came to America from Germany around 1880.

English Lake was one of the first communities in Starke County, being located where the railroad, which was built in 1857, crossed the Kankakee River.

This little town was a key shipping point for the Grand Kankakee Marsh, one of the largest hunting and fishing paradises in the world in those days. Thousands of game birds and pelts were shipped to Chicago every week.

All of this changed as the marsh was drained and converted to farmland in the early 1900's.



### **House Boat**

Your first thought upon seeing this picture might be "how did that barn end up in the ditch?". But we believe this really was a house boat used by a dredging crew for sleeping and eating.

Some of the large steam powered dredging machines would tow a house boat behind like this one. Work continued around the clock as long as there was enough daylight or moonlight to see. A full time cook was onboard and prepared meals for the workers.

Most Starke County's ditches were dug between 1890 and 1915. The Kankakee and Yellow Rivers were also straightened and dredged during those years. This photo is dated 1905 and was taken somewhere along one of those two rivers near English Lake.



### **Kingman's Store**

Ralph and Hattie Kingman are standing in front of their general store on Eliza Street in San Pierre in the 1920's. The store was expanded in the 1950's and today is home to the San Pierre Post Office.

Ralph also held positions as Starke County Treasurer, Railroad Township Trustee and was Vice-President of the Bank of San Pierre for more than 30 years.

Hattie played the organ at church, as well as the piano for a silent movie theater in North Judson. Hattie's parents, Ed and Rosa Brown, were among the founders of the St. Luke United Church of Christ in San Pierre back in 1891.

Mr. Kingman was one of several San Pierre businessmen who pursued six bank robbers out of town in 1932.





### **Rennewanz General Store**

Leonard Rennewanz came to America from West Prussia in 1883 and settled in San Pierre. Soon he opened a general store, where he also sold Shawnee and Phenix Fire Insurance.

Leonard was the Railroad Township Trustee for three terms and was instrumental in quickly rebuilding San Pierre's High School in 1923 after a devastating fire.

Daughters Martha and Meta and son George are shown in this 1908 photo. One of the signs says "Chew J.T. Plug - Save The Tags". Another says "Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder". When Mr. Rennewanz sold the business in 1924, this building became the post office. He then served as San Pierre Postmaster for the next sixteen years.



### **Rennewanz, Martha and Meta**

A photo dated 1912 shows Martha and Meta Rennewanz of San Pierre in a buggy hitched to their horse Judd.

Meta had attended Valparaiso University to prepare for teaching. She taught all eight grades in a one-room school at Lomax, Indiana, which is about four miles northeast of San Pierre on the Kankakee River.

Lomax, then also known as Kankakee Station, was an important center for Standard Oil. They maintained a large pumping station at Lomax for a pipeline that ran into the Chicago area. Several historical brick buildings there have been noted by the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

As was typical in those days, Meta boarded with a local Lomax family during the week and returned to live with her parents on weekends by horse & buggy. Today, this might require a ten minute car ride.



### **San Pierre Evangelical Union Church**

The Evangelical Union Church was organized in San Pierre around 1880 by West Prussian (German) immigrants. Among them were the Schmidt, Weinkauff and Will families.

Many of these early settlers are buried in the Evangelical Society Cemetery, which is located two and a half miles northwest of San Pierre.

A circuit preacher tended to the church, as well as other Evangelical Churches at Medaryville and Wanatah. The church became the Evangelical United Brethren (E.U.B.) Church in 1946, when their parent organization merged with Church of the United Brethren in Christ.

The San Pierre E.U.B. Church dissolved in 1967, with most members joining San Pierre's St. Luke United Church of Christ. The former E.U.B. Church is still standing and has been remodeled as a residence.



### **San Pierre School**

A scene looking toward the east along the south side of Eliza Street in San Pierre shows the public school that had been built in 1902 on the south side of the street.

This school burned down in 1923 and was rebuilt across the street on the north side.

This photo was probably taken some time after 1914, when most of the one-room schools in Railroad Twp were consolidated into this school.

Note the horse-drawn school buses. Each one could carry up to 18 children. The All Saints Catholic Church, built in 1886, can be seen just east of the school.





### **San Pierre High School**

San Pierre's second high school is shown in this photo. It was built in 1923 at a cost of \$65,000.

The first high school, which had been built in 1902, burned down January 29, 1923. Leonard Rennewanz had just assumed the duties of Railroad Township Trustee earlier that month. It was his responsibility to find places to hold classes temporarily and to quickly construct a new school. The school term was successfully completed while holding classes in all three churches and a private home.

The new school was built on a hill on the north side of Eliza Street directly across from the old school.

High School was discontinued in San Pierre after the 1964 graduating class with students then transferred to North Judson.



### **San Pierre High School**

San Pierre High School's 1936 Junior Class is shown in this photo.

Based on the 1937 graduating class, some of the students in this photo should be: Ralph Hanke, Elanora Hankey, Martha Eckert, Helen Jones, Orvil Hartle, Vlasta Pilar, Pearl Meyer, Rudolph Dolezal, June Tietz, Helen Zacek, Stanley Holub and Paul Bochnicka.



### **San Pierre High School Boys Basketball Team**

This photo of the 1923-1924 San Pierre Boy's Basketball Team was loaned to the museum by Bill Wallace. It was taken in front of the high school that was built in 1921 and used until 1964. It was located on the north side of Eliza Street.

Today this is the site of a well kept town park. It had replaced a 2-story brick school built in 1902 on the south side of the same street, which had burned down.

From left to right: back row; Guy B. Ingwell (coach); middle row; Cecil Schricker, Adolph Jacobson, Al Kalinke and Elton Christensen; front row; Loyd Hanke, Doc Cesal and Bob Batzka.

This may have been Mr. Ingwell's first year teaching and coaching, as he would have been only 20 years old in this photo.

Later he coached and taught at North Judson High School in the 1930's. Eventually he attended medical school and became a well known doctor in Knox.

Cecil Schricker was the son of Gov. Henry F. Schricker's half brother, Billy Schricker.



### **San Pierre State Bank**

A photo taken around 1930 shows several businessmen standing in front of the San Pierre State Bank. One of the men may be Cashier Thomas Daly.

The bank was located at the corner of Eliza and Broadway Streets in San Pierre. A sign advertises 4% interest.

The bank was held up by bank robbers several times. In 1932, six armed men entered the bank, took \$3,000 and killed an innocent bystander. Local businessmen quickly gave chase but lost the robbers in Valparaiso. Route 43 (now US 421) made for a quick, although dusty, get away north out of town. It was not paved until later.

The bank was held up again in 1943 and again in 1944. That robber claimed to be the infamous John Dillinger, but was really a local person from Monon.

In later years the bank was rebuilt, and in the 1970s became home to the San Pierre branch of the Starke County Public Library.





### **Standard Oil Pumping Station**

The Chicago & Atlantic (Erie) Railroad was built through North Judson in 1883. Soon the communities of Ora, Bass Station, Aldine and Lomax sprang to life as stops along the railroad.

In 1889, the Indiana Pipeline Company, owned by Standard Oil, laid an eight-inch pipeline along the tracks from an oil field in Ohio up to a refinery in Whiting, Indiana.

They built a steam powered pumping station where the railroad and pipeline crossed the Kankakee River in Railroad Township. It was known as Kankakee Station and consisted of five brick buildings, a boiler house, pump house, gate/valve house, telegraph office and a dormitory.

The railroad built a depot about a mile and a half to the southeast and called it Lomax Station. The Lomax one-room school was built nearby.

Later, after the depot and school closed, the pumping station itself became known as Lomax Station. The buildings have been well maintained and are listed by Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana as excellent examples of Romanesque Revival style.

Interestingly, the refinery and pipelines were built to produce kerosene for lamps and made John D. Rockefeller a multi-millionaire long before automobiles.



### **St. Luke Evangelical Church**

The St. Luke United Church of Christ Church in San Pierre was known as the St. Luke Evangelical Church at the time this picture was taken in the 1920's.

It had been originally established back in 1891 as the German Evangelical Church by a group of German immigrants to the San Pierre area. John Will, a local carpenter, is credited for much of the building's construction.

The steeple spire was removed in 1941, and a traditional cross replaced the one shown in this picture. The adornment at the top of the spire in our picture is very unusual.



### **Weinkauf Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Emil and Mary (Kruger) Weinkauf's farm was about one and one-half miles north-west of San Pierre in Railroad Twp. Like most farm families of the era, they raised a variety of stock animals and the crops to feed them.

Their farm was established around 1880 by Emil's father, Frederick Weinkauf Sr., who had come to America in the 1860's from Germany. Mary's father was Henry Kruger, who had also come to America from Germany in the 1860's but settled in the Medaryville area.

From left to right: Emil, Mabel, Ella, Julia, Mary holding Lester, their dog, Shep, and Vernon Weinkauf. This photo was taken around 1907. The house is now gone, but the barn is still there and in use.

## **Chapter 12 – Washington Township**





### **Eagle Creek Baseball Team**

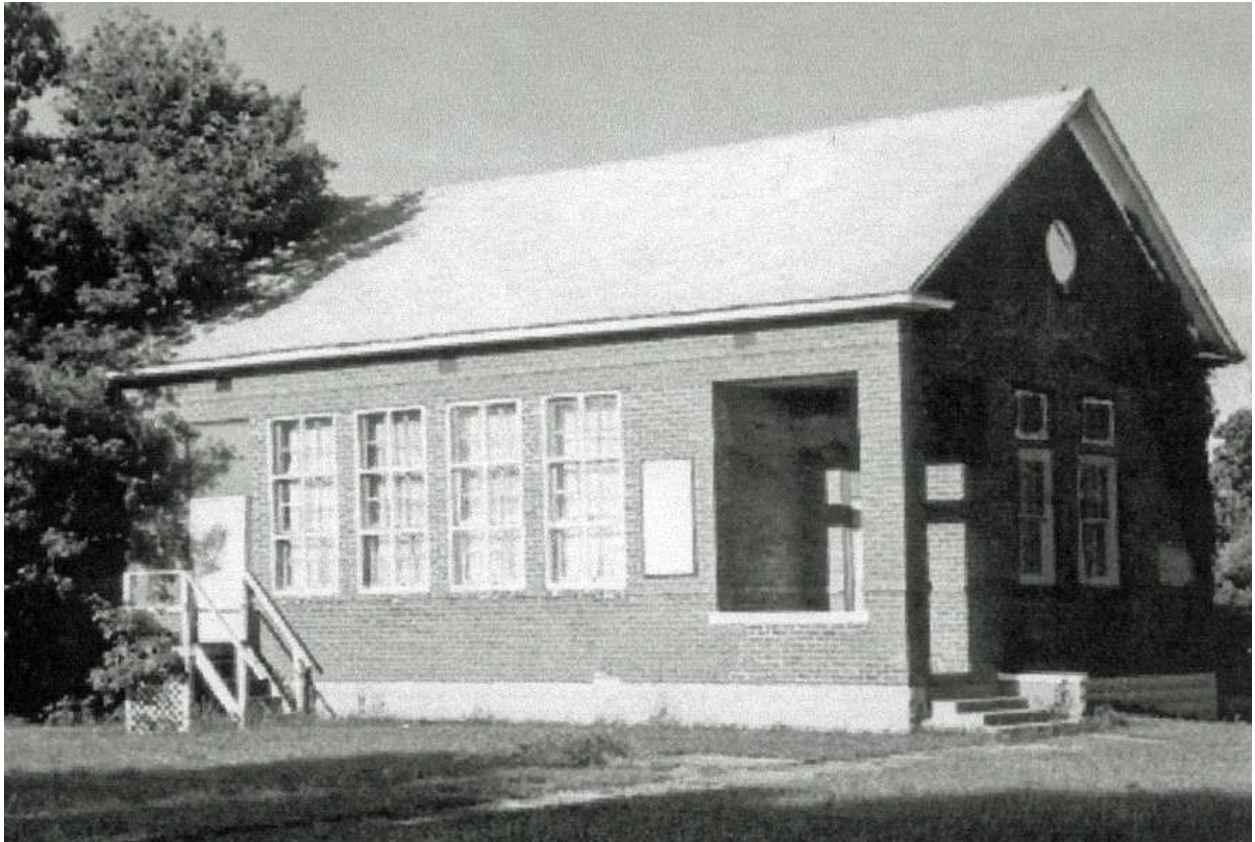
A photo loaned to the museum by Leo & Hanna Mlekodaj shows the Eagle Creek baseball team in the early 1940's.

From left to right, back row: Frank Mlekodaj, Roger Laramore, Belden Brems, Joe Pawlik and Leo Mlekodaj. Front row: Gene McFarland, Kemo Pawlik, Edward Pawlik, Joe Zechiel, John Roberts and Rudy Pawlik. Later this team was sponsored by Eichstaedt Chevrolet.

For nearly fifty years, baseball was one of Starke County's favorite past-times. Just about every community in the county fielded a team, including Hamlet, Grovertown, Bass Lake (two teams), Ober, Eagle Creek, Bass Station, North Judson, Knox (two teams), Kankakee and San Pierre. The players were generally young men in their 20's.

Most often local merchants sponsored the teams. It was good for business, and the outfield fences were covered with advertisements. The teams went by such names as the Bass Lake White Sox, Winona Sluggers, Bass Station Bees, Knox Red Sox, Knox AC's, Knox Merchants and Hamlet Cubs.

Some players became very good and were scouted by major league teams. In 1945, Leo Mlekodaj, standing to the far right, went to Wrigley Field and tried out for the Chicago Cubs.



### **Eagle Creek School**

The Eagle Creek School was built in 1913 for \$2,500 by Lewis & Tarleton Contractors under the direction of Washington Township Trustee, L.B. Cochenour and advisors, N.L. Guernsey and J.M. Hissong. It was located at the south-west corner of 25 N. and 700 E. in Washington Twp.

Eagle Creek was a one-room brick school where one teacher taught all eight grades. It was the very last one-room school in Starke County to have an 8th Grade Graduation. That was in 1948. After that, it continued as an elementary grades 1-4 school until 1955 when it was closed.

In 1965, the building was sold to the Golden Horseshoe Saddle Club for use as their clubhouse. Later it was purchased by the Ukrainian Orthodox Church and used as a place of worship.

In recent years, it has been vacant and was destroyed by fire a two months ago.

Eagle Creek School has taught such people as two former Knox Mayors and at least one local radio personality, plus countless other local citizens. Some of its teachers were Catherine Ash, Mrs. Glant, Bessie Harden, Lulu Wilson, Ozara White, Ida Dunkleburger, Grace Plople, Mrs. Cloyde and Laura Doden.



### Eagle Creek School

A photo from 1891 shows Washington Township's District #2 school. This one-room school was also known as the Eagle Creek School and was located at the north-east corner of what is now 700E. and 25N. It was just north of Lerch Cemetery.

The wood frame school shown in this photo was built sometime between 1876 and 1884 based on maps of that period. The sign, dated Feb. 13, 1891, says "The Old Red Schoolhouse" and lists all the students alphabetically.

Girls: Lena Brems, Shella M. Cramer, Eda B. Cramer, Della J. Cramer, Nora Cochenour, Bertha Collins, Ella Collins, Cora Fletcher, Clara? J. Hill, Lulu Keiser, Emma G. Lutter, Gustie R. Lutter, Della Lerch, Minnie M. Spaid and Carrie B. Spaid. Boys: E. Brundige, D. H. Brundige, John Brems, Henry Brems, R. C. Baldwin, F. E. Cochenour, C. O. Davis, F. M. Davis, Floyd Davis, Charlie Hill, James Hill, John Hill, Clyde C. Keiser, Frank M. Keiser, Orla W. Spaid, Ora Spaid, Clarence Shultz and Guy M. Wells. Teacher: R. L. Spaid. Visitors: Perry Snyder and Cora D. Snyder.

In 1913, the school shown in the picture was replaced by a new brick school at the south-west corner of the same intersection. It is still standing today. The earlier frame school may then have been used as a community church. That site is now home to the Eagle Creek Church.





### **Eagle Creek School**

Eagle Creek's one room school is shown in this photo dated 1929.

From left to right, back row: Edward Pawlik, Charles Rodgers, Cecil Whitcraft, William Leonard, Sophia Pawlik, Anna Balczo and Ozora White (Teacher); Middle row: Dorothy Leonard, Lily Mlekodaj, Margaret Howard, Nancy Leonard, Jennie Mlekodaj, Violet Leonard, Frances Mlekodaj and Andrew Wakal; Front row: Joe Pawlik, Joe Rodgers, John McVey, Frank Balczo, Leo Mlekodaj, Clement Pawlik, Joe Wakal, Joe Balczo and Rolland McVey.

The one-room brick Eagle Creek School was built in 1913 at the south-west corner of 25 N. and 700 E. in Washington Twp. It was the last one room school in Starke County to have an 8th Grade Graduation. That was in 1948. It continued as an elementary grades 1 - 4 school until 1955, when it was closed.





### **Emigh Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: shown in this picture are eight of the sons and daughters of Christopher “Christian” and Mary Emigh.

Christopher’s grandfather, Peter, a Revolutionary War Veteran, had come to America from Germany in Colonial Days and settled in Pennsylvania.

Peter’s grandson, Jacob, was the first in the family to come to Starke County in 1859. He settled in Washington Twp, where he forged a farm out of the wilderness. Soon, Christopher and Mary moved to Starke County with Jacob’s younger brothers and sisters.

Jacob’s brother, William, also farmed for many years, until he purchased land at Bass Lake and built the Best View Hotel.

From left to right: Jacob, Eliza, Abraham, Elizabeth, John, Mary Catherine, William Henry and Izora. This picture was taken sometime before 1910.



### **Ober School**

This week's photo shows the Ober School that predates the one most of us know on SR 23 in Ober.

The school building located there now opened in 1915 and was used as a school until 1956. In the early 1920's, it even offered 2 years of high school.

The Ober School before that, shown in this photo, was built in 1897 and used until 1914. It was located at the same location. Its bricks were reused in the construction of the new 1914 school building.

One of the last teachers at this school was George Myers, a brother-in-law of County School Superintendent, Carroll Cannon.

Based on class photos, we can estimate that enrollment was well over 75 students by 1914 requiring the larger school to be built in 1915.

In those days, Ober had two general stores, a post office, a train depot and a grain elevator.



### **Ober School**

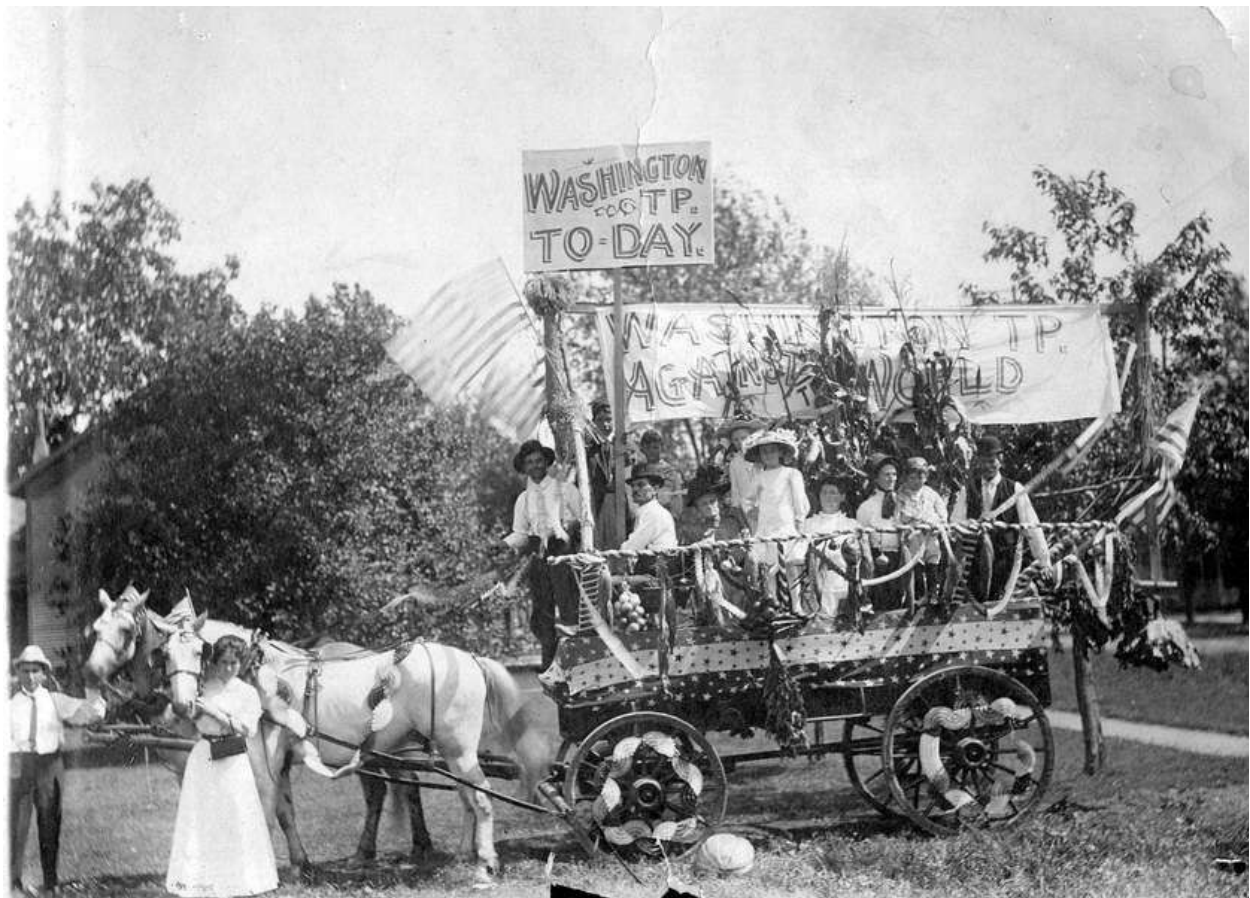
Ober's last school was built in 1914 at a cost of \$8,500. It was located at the southwest corner of SR 23 and 200 S.

This was actually the third school at Ober. The first was known as the Sandhill School and was located about a 1/4 mile west on 200 S. It was a wood frame school and was built in the 1880s.

The second school was built in 1897 and was located on the same site as the present building. But Ober experienced a huge growth spurt around 1910 and quickly out grew its new brick school. Most of its bricks were reused in building the third school pictured in this photo.

Despite its size, there were only four rooms, two on each floor. Each room had two grades taught by one teacher. This was a great improvement over one teacher teaching all eight grades in a single one room school. In the 1920s, two high school grades were also taught at Ober.

All classes were discontinued at Ober in 1956 without ever having the benefit of indoor toilets. Students were then transferred to the new Washington Twp Elementary School north on SR 23.



### **Parade Wagon**

A photo dated 1910 shows Lee and Anna (Zumbaugh) Ransbottom leading a horse-drawn parade wagon. Lee's brother Claude is on the wagon holding the reins.

The signs say "Washington Township Against The World" and "Washington Township Today". The event may have been part of an early harvest festival. Shocks of corn are stacked on the wagon and various types of vegetables and fruits can be seen hanging from the railing.

The Ransbottoms were farmers in Washington Twp along Eagle Creek in Section 15. The parade may have also been connected with Lee Ransbottom's candidacy for county auditor in 1910, which he did win. Lee was also on the board of directors for The First National Bank in Knox at the time.

Later, Lee and Anna sold their properties in Starke County and moved to Texas.





### **Wolfe Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: Lee and Mattie (Ransbottom) Wolfe and their four sons are shown on the porch of their home in Washington Township about 1904.

The Wolfe family was of Pennsylvania German stock and had moved to Starke County in 1891. Their 50 acre farm was located at the south-east corner of today's SR 8 and 1025 E. At that time, there was no road at all on the three mile stretch between 700 E. and their home at 1025 E. on what is now SR 8.

They raised wheat, corn and oats. In addition, they rented another 40 acres on which they raised cow peas. Farm power was provided by horses and mules. Besides farming, Mr. Wolfe was commissioner of Starke County's First District, and we suspect he might have had something to do with improving the roads and river conditions in that area.

The boys would have ridden their bikes to the one room school in Oak Grove just a half mile east. The family would have done their trading in Ober crossing the Yellow River at Whitehead Bridge, which was abandoned when the river was dredged and straightened. From left to right: Lee, Mattie, William E., L. Marvin, Fred M. and Henry F. Wolfe.

## **Chapter 13 – Wayne Township**



### **Brantwood School**

A photo taken in the late 1890's shows the Brantwood School in Wayne Twp.

Ona (Foust) Hewlett is the tallest girl in the back row. She was the teacher and may have been learning from the gentleman to the far right.

An 1898 map shows the school was located at the southwest corner of 500 W and 400 S on Joseph Bosinski's farm. The school also went by the name Bosinski School but was officially the District #3 school. It was closed in 1922 when 6 one-room township schools were consolidated into North Judson.

Earlier maps show the school was located about a mile closer to North Judson at the community of Brantwood. A post office had been established at Brantwood back in 1863, and the school probably dates back to about the same time. The Chicago & Cincinnati RR (later known as the Pennsylvania RR) was built through Wayne Twp in 1858-1861 and resulted in stops at what became North Judson and Brantwood.

Over the years North Judson outgrew Brantwood, and the little community faded into history. Hoosier Valley Railroad Museum's train ride to English Lake or Lacrosse will take you right through this forgotten little community. It was located about 3/4 mile north of North Judson alongside the tracks.



### **Casey School**

A one-room school was built at the southwest corner of 800 S and 100 W in Wayne Twp around 1880 based on plat maps. It was probably a wood frame building that was later replaced by the concrete block building seen in this photo.

Even though officially it was the District #5 school, it was known as the Casey School and was located on William Casey's farm. This was just south of Lena Park. William and Abbey Casey were Irish immigrants. They had a large family and may have donated an acre to the township for the school.

We are not sure of the occasion, but the photo appears to have been taken in the spring. The one-room township schools were often used for other community events.

The school was closed in 1922 when the six remaining Wayne Twp schools were consolidated into North Judson. The former school has been used as a residence since that time.





### **Dolezal Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: James and Frances Dolezal immigrated to America from Bohemia, which is now Czechoslovakia, around 1890 and settled in Railroad Township.

Their 160 acre farm was located about one mile south-east of San Pierre on CR 900 West. There they raised their children: John, Barbara, Mary, James Jr., Frank, Josie and Frances.

From left to right in this photo dated sometime before 1910: James Jr., Frances, James and Josie Dolezal. Note the wood plank sidewalks leading to the house.



### **Flagg Family**

A Starke County Pioneer Farm Family: John M. and Mary E. (Mosher) Flagg are shown with their seven children in 1907 at the Flagg farm in Wayne Twp. The Flagg farmhouse was located on 100 W. about one and a half miles south of SR 10.

From left to right, standing: Lulu, Asa, Charles, John and Ada. Seated: Mollie, John, Mary and Grace.

The Casey one room school was one half mile south of them and is still there.

Lena Park's train depot and glass factory were right across the road from the farm. One hundred years ago, Lena Park was promoted as "The New Manufacturing City, only surpassed by the world's most rapid growth town, Gary, Indiana".

John Flagg moved to Starke County around 1864, after serving in the Civil War. He married Mary Mosher, daughter of John and Elizabeth Mosher, also of Wayne Twp.

The Mosher's were one of Starke County's earliest pioneer families having moved here in the 1850's from Whitely Co., IN.