## **Starke County 21**

"Tidbits of Starke County History".....

As a kid (in the 1940s) I remember riding my homemade motor-scooter up and down Highway 35 at noon. The Highway was freshly blacktopped and was very smooth for the little tires on the scooter. At noon everyone must have been eating, because I could ride for several minutes before I would see a car coming. Mom didn't want me on the Highway if there was traffic. Now there are more than 15,000 vehicles a day traveling in front of my childhood home north of Knox.

A few years before that time, the roads, even National roads, weren't as nice as they are now. They were mud or sand paths. The roads in the towns and cities were the first to receive a gravel layer. I remember reading in the early Starke County Commissioners' records a little about an "8 by 8 road". An 8 by 8 road specification was having two 2x8-inch upright boards 8 feet apart to make a "form". Gravel was shoveled between the boards, leveled off, then horses would pull the form forward for the next load. As the form was pulled forward, the gravel would flow outward some and you would end up with about a 10- to 12-foot path (higher in the middle, of course).. This gravel road was a lot better than the previous mud road where you picked a rut and stayed in it (see attachment). This attachment is a photo from a movie - the car is not stuck, but moving quite well in "its rut".

A lot of what we call Indiana State Road 39 was made when Governor Schricker was in office. Was that a "pork" project? I doubt it, but many suggested that it was, because Governor Schricker was born in North Judson and had his home in Knox. A description of the roads in Indiana can be found on this site. <a href="http://illi-indi.com/IndianaHighwayList.php">http://illi-indi.com/IndianaHighwayList.php</a> Then click on SR 39 or other Indiana roads that might interest you.

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http://www.starkehistory.com http://www.scpl.lib.in.us/historical/



Other history tidbit topics that I have sent in recent weeks are –

Bass Lake, Islands, Forest of Starke Co., Courthouse Clock, Our Sister Courthouse, Teachers, North Judson After Harvest Festival, Gov. Schricker, One Room Schools & Horse Drawn School Buses, Little Company of Mary, Koontz Lake.

I send these tidbits of history out every two to three weeks. I send them Blind Copy so that your email is not shown to everyone else.

If you would like to be on my tidbit list, please email me at –

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