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1824

Pioneer Days

1959

Celebration — June 25, 26, 27, 28, 1959



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Acknowledgment

We are deeply grateful to

Mrs. Bertha A. Crane

for her many hours of research and preparation devoted to the "Pioneer Days" history appearing in this volume.

Bloomfield Lions Club, Inc.

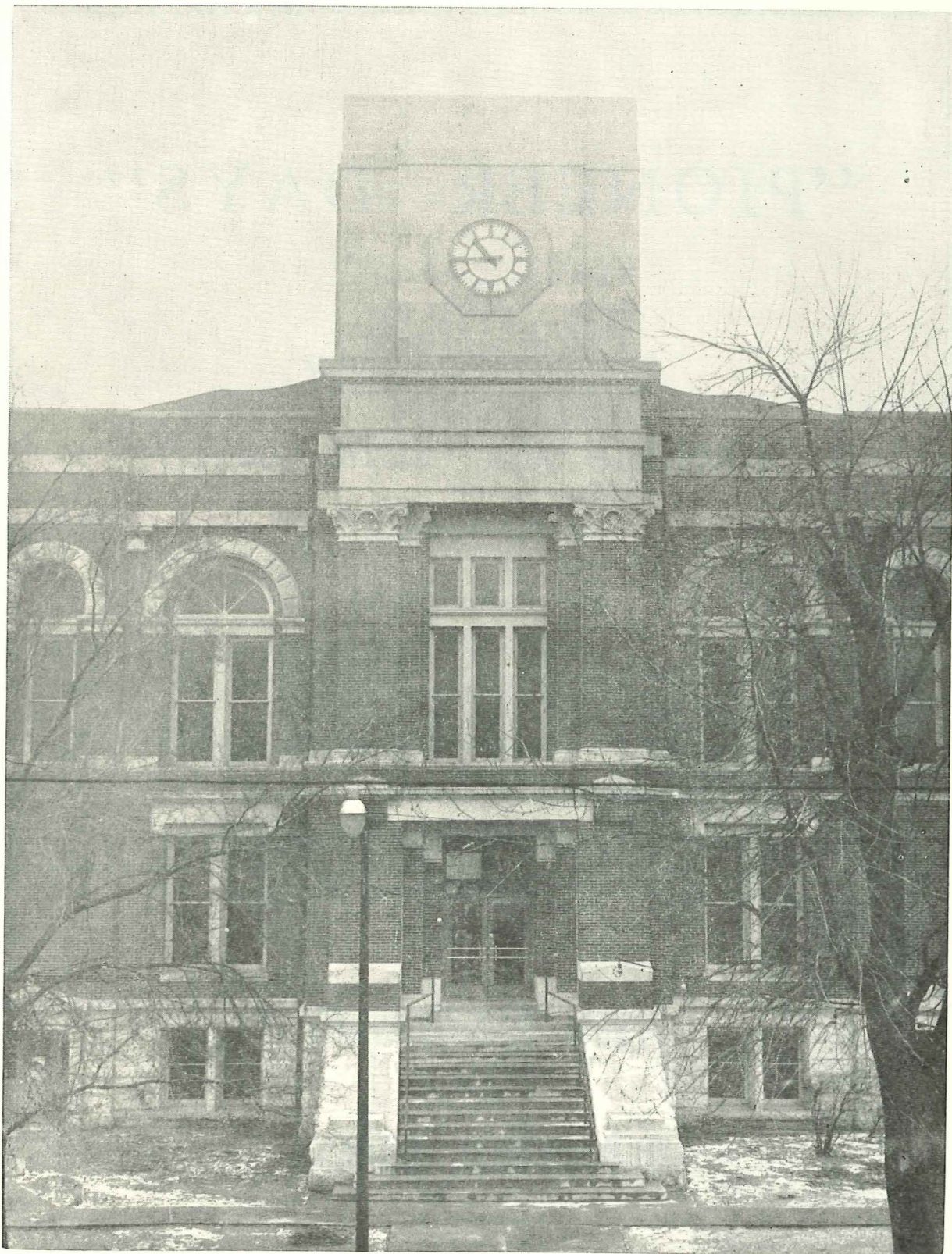
“PIONEER DAYS”

A HISTORY OF EARLY BLOOMFIELD AND GREENE COUNTY

This volume has been produced by
The Bloomfield Lions Club, Inc., with
the assistance and support of the
people of this community in preparation
for the observance of the

135th ANNIVERSARY
OF
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Published June 1, 1959



North Entrance, Greene County Court House Today

History Of The Bloomfield Lions Club

The Bloomfield Lions Club was organized March 9, 1950, and chartered a few weeks later on April 18. Charter night was held in the dining room of the First Methodist Church, with Past International President Edward Paine as the principal speaker. Thirty-six charter members, wives, and many guests were present for impressive ceremonies during which Arthur Witwer, Fort Wayne, Indiana, as a representative of Lions International, presented the club charter to the president, Hosea R. Russell.

The club grew rapidly in membership and soon made itself felt as a force for good in the community. Many drives, campaigns and special projects have been completed. Glasses have been provided for needy children, trophies have been provided for local athletic teams, Scout troops have been sponsored, money has been raised for many worthy causes, and charitable drives have been conducted. Perhaps the outstanding project to be completed was the shelterhouse in the local park.

The club is presently in a very healthy condition with a current membership of 67. Three of the charter members have been lost by death, namely Bernard F. Workman, Carl Griffith, and J. Clyde Crane. The current roster of the club includes: Frank R. Shoptaw, president,

MEMBERS

Dan Axe
George S. Avery
Oscar Bredeweg
Van Carnegie
Lynn Conrad
Glenn Creek
Donald Dean
Charles H. DeFrees
Elmo Dowden
Farrell Dowden
Maynard Dowden
George Eller
Kenneth Eller
Stanley Fiscus
Roy Lee Floyd
Guy Glover, Jr.
Iloe Greene
Willis Griffith
Malcolm L. Hamilton
Wilbur K Harmon
William S. Harrah
Arthur Haseman
Don Hasler

S. Ed Hasler
Robert L. Heaton
Lowden W. Hollis
Lowell Holt
Billy Ed Hostettler
Rex Hudson
Glenn Jarboe
Jack Johnston
Max Jordan
Charles V. Keith
Arnold R. Lehman
George Mason
Walter Mattox
William C. Miles
Leon Miller
Otto A. Moore
John D. Moore
T. H. Morgan, Jr.
Fred Noel
L. Ezra Overpeck
Elmo Owen
Leo Ramsey

Tom Reck
Billy Rentschler
H. R. Russell
Frank R. Shoptaw
Robert O. Sims
Bernard Sparks
John Stone
Vernon Tingley
Harry C. Travelbee
George Walters
Kenneth Welborn
Paul White
C. Eugene Williams
J. R. Williams, Jr.
J. L. Wilson
John Wilson
Bernard N. Workman
B. David Workman
Virgil Wright
Robert Yoho
Paul M. York
Ralph Young

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TO THE MEMORY
OF
J. CLYDE CRANE

charter member of the Bloomfield Lions Club and one who, until his untimely death, was instrumental in the conception and early planning of Pioneer Days, this volume is respectfully dedicated.

Bloomfield Lions Club

PIONEER DAYS CELEBRATION

June 25, 26, 27, 28, 1959

— OFFICIAL PROGRAM —

THURSDAY NIGHT

June 25, 1959

6:30 P.M.—Kickoff dinner—High School Cafetorium, \$1.50 per person, served by Band Mothers. Call 297 or 336 for reservations. Entertainment will be provided by White River Valley Chapter Barber Shop Quartet Chorus.

PIONEER QUEEN CONTEST

1. Eligibility or Requirements:
 - A. Candidate must be sponsored by recognized established organization.
 - B. Must have reached 16th birthday but not 26th birthday.
 - C. Must be single.
 - D. Must be alumna or student of Bloomfield High School.
2. She must portray era of early 1800's in attire or costume.
3. Judging:

Will be done at the Kick-off Banquet by three judges chosen from other areas.
4. Candidate will be judged on following:

Costume
Poise
Charm
5. The Committee requests all entries be mailed to Lowell Holt, Pioneer Queen Committee Chairman, not later than June 12th. Entries will be closed at that time.
6. The girl selected to be Pioneer Queen by the judges will be crowned and given a loving cup. She will reign at the various functions and ride with her attendants in the Parade.
7. Announcement of Pioneer Queen Contest Selection Thursday evening June 25th at the Kick-off Banquet.

FRIDAY MORNING

June 26, 1959

"KIDS DAY"

at the Bloomfield City Park

9:00 - 11:00 A.M.—Grades 1 to 6 will be entertained by the Mother's Club.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

June 26, 1959

- 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.—Grades 7 to 12 will be entertained by the Tri Kappa Sorority Club with greased pig and greased pole events.
- 2:00 - 4:00 P.M.—Grades 7 to 12 will be entertained by the Tri Kappa Sorority with a scavenger hunt.
- 4:00 - 6:00 P.M.—Teen-age dance sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary at the Legion Home.

FRIDAY NIGHT

June 26, 1959

7:00 P.M.—Old-fashioned Fiddlers' Contest at the Bloomfield High School Gymnasium.

Admission Fee For Contest ____ 15c
Under 12 Years of Age — Free

Doors Open _____ 6:30 P.M.

The following rules will apply for judging a winner with a possible 100 points.

1. Ability to play best.
2. Showmanship.
3. Pleasure of the audience.

Qualifications:

1. Open to any person except those who make their living as a musician.
2. No age limit.
3. Accompanist will be provided

Continued On Next Page

PIONEER DAYS CELEBRATION

— OFFICIAL PROGRAM —

Continued

Friday Night (Continued)

unless contestants wish to furnish their own.

4. Contestants may enter any or all acts.
5. All instruments are to be tuned to the standard pitch (A natural).
6. Judging will be only on the main attraction of each act.
7. Decision of the judges is final.

FIDDLERS' CONTEST PRIZES

Fiddlers

1. \$10.00—best over-all fiddler, any selection the player chooses.
2. \$7.50—selected number by the committee.
3. Basket of groceries — selected number by committee.
4. Sack prizes or ham—selected number by fiddlers.
5. Side of bacon — selected number by the committee.

Jig or Buck and Wing Dance

1. \$5.00—Hill-billy music only.

Guitars — Spanish or Hawaiian

1. \$5.00 — Any selection the player chooses.

Country Song — Vocal

1. \$2.50.

Any string instrument or novelty entertainment

1. \$5.00.

8:30 - 11:30 P.M.—Dancing.

Immediately after the contest, there will be an old-fashioned square dance and Western Square Dance.

Max Engle of Indianapolis, Western Square Dance Caller.

\$1.50 Per Couple

Door Prizes

Emerson Picket of Newberry, Ray Singleton of Plainville, and Blink Resler of Worthington, Old-fashioned Square Dance Callers.

Dancing ---- 10c per person, per set.

Prizes for outstanding dancers.

SATURDAY MORNING

June 27, 1959

9:00 A.M.—Attractions on the square.

Delta Theta Tau Sorority will make old-fashioned apple butter.

Old-time checker playing.

Old-fashioned lye soap will be made.

Judging of antique displays in store windows.

Many other old-fashioned home-making activities to see.

9:00 A.M.—Prize Shoot.

Still-board, Regular Shot Guns and Muzzle-loading Shot Guns.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

June 27, 1959

2:00 P.M.—Beard Judging Contest, on the town square.

Prizes will be paid for the best full beard, the best novelty beard, the best handle-bar mustache, the best youth beard and there also will be a "boobie" prize.

Court will be held each Saturday during the month of June for all violators of the beard-growing contest.

Those without beards must buy a shaving permit at a cost of \$1.00.

All salesmen in the town of Bloomfield during the month of June must have a badge costing \$2.00.

All ladies discovered on the square wearing cosmetics must have a cosmetics permit costing 50c.

Favor can be expected by anyone wearing souvenir "booster" badge costing 25c.

Continued On Next Page

PIONEER DAYS CELEBRATION

— OFFICIAL PROGRAM —

Continued

SATURDAY NIGHT

June 27, 1959

9:00 - 12:00 P.M.—Official Pioneer Days
Costume Ball at BHS Gymnasium.

\$1.00 per couple
25c per spectator admission.

10:00 P.M.—Costume Judging.

10:30 P.M.—Intermission Entertainment.

11:00 P.M.—Grand March.

Everyone is asked to dress in pioneer costume — over-alls or dress of pioneer days for the men and long dresses of that era for the ladies.

The Rhythm Masters of Lyons, Indiana, will provide the music.

The most typical couple depicting Pioneer Days will lead the Grand March followed by the Pioneer Queen and her escort.

Entertainment at the intermission will be provided by Kramer's Little German Band and the Barber Shoppers.

A total of \$150.00 will be awarded for the following:

1. Most typical pioneer couple in costume from Greene County.
2. Most typical pioneer couple in costume from outside Greene County.
3. Most typical pioneer lady in costume.
4. Most typical pioneer man in costume.
5. Most typical teen-age couple in costume.
6. Oldest couple in costume.
7. Best teen-age dancers in costume.
8. Best adult dancers in costume.
9. Best dressed lady spectator in costume.
10. Best dressed gentleman spectator in costume.

SUNDAY MORNING

June 28, 1959

Pioneer Days In The Churches.
Attend the church of your choice.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON

June 28, 1959

2:00 P.M.—Pioneer Days Parade,
"Pageant-On-Wheels"

Wilbur K Harmon, Parade Marshal.

Parade will begin on West Spring Street at the corner of Lewis Street and proceed east on Spring Street to Franklin Street and south on Franklin Street to Mill Street. No parking will be permitted on these streets. The reviewing stand will be located at the corner of South Franklin and West South Streets. The pioneer theme is to be carried out in all entries possible. No fire-crackers or other loud noises will be permitted. Entries will assemble on the ball field west of the high school. All entries must be mailed to the parade marshal by not later than June 15th.

CLASSIFICATIONS & PRIZES

Floats Descriptive of the Pioneer Days.

1st, \$75.00; 2nd, \$50.00; 3rd, \$25.00.

Animal Drawn Vehicle.

1st, \$25.00; 2nd, \$15.00; 3rd, \$5.00.

Motor Vehicle (1930 or older).

1st, Trophy; 2nd, Trophy; 3rd, Trophy.

Novelty.

Child entry (12 years and under)

1st, \$5.00; 2nd, \$3.00; 3rd, \$1.00.

Adult entry (13 years and over)

1st, \$15.00; 2nd, \$10.00; 3rd, \$5.00.

Horses.

Most original pioneer rider ----\$ 5.00

Oldest pioneer rider ----- 5.00

Youngest unassisted

pioneer rider ----- 5.00

Best parade entry ----- 15.00

Best multiple hitch ----- 15.00

5:00 P.M.—Conclusion of Celebration.

COMMITTEES FOR PIONEER DAYS CELEBRATION

Steering Committee

Wm. S. Harrah	Elmo Dowden
Roy Lee Floyd	Elmo Owen
Donald Dean	Frank Shoptaw

Committee On Publicity

John Moore	Robert Heaton
	Elmo Owen

Committee On Public Relations Clubs, Churches, Schools, Organizations

Elmo Dowden	Roy Lee Floyd
Frank R. Shoptaw	William S. Harrah
	Donald Dean

Committee On "Pageant On Wheels"

Wilbur K. Harmon	Maynard Dowden
Thomas Morgan	Stanley Fiscus
C. Eugene Williams	Guy Glover
Otto Moore	Jack Johnston
George Mason	Fred Noel
Walter Mattox	Bernard N. Workman
Kenneth Eller	J. L. Wilson
	Lynn Conrad

Committee On Beard Contest

Farrell Dowden	Glenn Jarboe
Glenn Creek	Charles Keith
Elmo Dowden	Leon Miller
Elmo Owen	Robert Sims

Committee On Antiques and Displays

Bernard Sparks	Van Carnegie
Harry Travelbee	Leo Ramsey
Max Jordan	Vernon Tingley
John Stone	Robert Yoho
Elmo Owen	Iloe Greene

Committee On Old Fiddlers' Contest

Roy Lee Floyd	Don Hasler
Billy Ed Hostettler	Leo Ramsey

Committee On Music

Ezra Overpeck	Virgil Wright
Roy Lee Floyd	Thomas Morgan
	James A. Bogan

Committee On Pioneer Queen

Lowell Holt	H. R. Russell
Lowden Hollis	Kenneth Welborn

Committee On Costumes and Ball

Paul York	Arthur Haseman
Otto Moore	Tom Reck
Oscar Bredeweg	Billy Rentschler
Malcolm Hamilton	Ralph Young
	Rex Hudson

Committee On Finance

John Moore	Robert Sims
Leo Ramsey	S. Ed Hasler
Tom Morgan	Billy E. Hostettler

Committee On History and Publication

William C. Miles	Willis Griffith
H. R. Russell	B. David Workman
George Eller	Mrs. Thomas Morgan
	Frank R. Shoptaw

Committee On Dance Contests

George S. Avery	Lowden Hollis
Charles DeFrees	Arnold Lehman
	James Williams, Jr.

A Real For Sure Pioneer Financial Institution

1892 For 67 Years 1959

This Savings and Loan business was founded on April 14, 1892, by the following pioneers:

Frank Ramsey	T. C. Murray	J. B. Stalcup	Clifton E. Dixon
Emerson Short	James G. Hert	L. J. Faucett	Simon Lehman
Marion J. Timmons	George M. Burch	James H. Griffith	William B. Maddock
Gilbert H. Hendren	R. J. Corbley	Allen Williams	D. R. Spainhower
John French	Polk Dennes	C. W. Adams	Bert Hendren
Daniel Bynum	Abbie Dugger	J. O. McClara	Alice Hendren
E. H. C. Cavins	Layton Knapp	Jacob D. Neidigh	Cyrus E. Davis
F. M. Dugger	W. L. Knapp	L. H. Jones	Jasper N. Hatfield
Henry T. Neal	Stephen W. Slinkard	John E. Harris	J. H. Logan
W. L. Cavins	Cora E. Slinkard	Nancy F. Harris	Cavins & Isenhower
R. E. Eveleigh	John J. Hardy	Theo. F. Pringle	L. D. Isenhower
William Lee	J. H. Rankin	Sallie D. Harris	C. H. Drybread
G. W. Catt	W. L. Slinkard	F. M. Ryan	Nora Fields
Chris Danielson	Ira J. Walter	John A. Cravens	Stanley Fields
			Alice Fields

The Association first occupied the abstract office of Marion J. Timmons, later in 1884 the office was moved to East Main Street, then they occupied the corner room in the old Elmora Hotel building, from there they moved to the back room of the Bloomfield Trust Company. In September, 1923, moved to the Building at the rear of the Citadel Theatre, where the office remained until the purchase of the Citizens State Bank building on the north side of the square in the year 1940.

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES

1892

F. M. Dugger, President
M. J. Timmons, Secretary
John French
D. M. Bynum
James G. Hert
G. H. Hendren
E. H. C. Cavins
Emerson Short
George M. Burch

1959

Edward H. Stein, President
C. P. Harrah, Vice President
J. Albert Jackson, Secretary
Marvin C. Wilson, Consulting Engineer
George E. Jackson, Attorney
Doris B. Sparks, Chief Bookkeeper
Ramona Ramsey, Bookkeeper
Virginia LaSalle, Bookkeeper
Katherine Branstetter, Ast. Bookkeeper

ASSETS 1892
\$50,000.00

ASSETS 1959
\$4,500,000.00

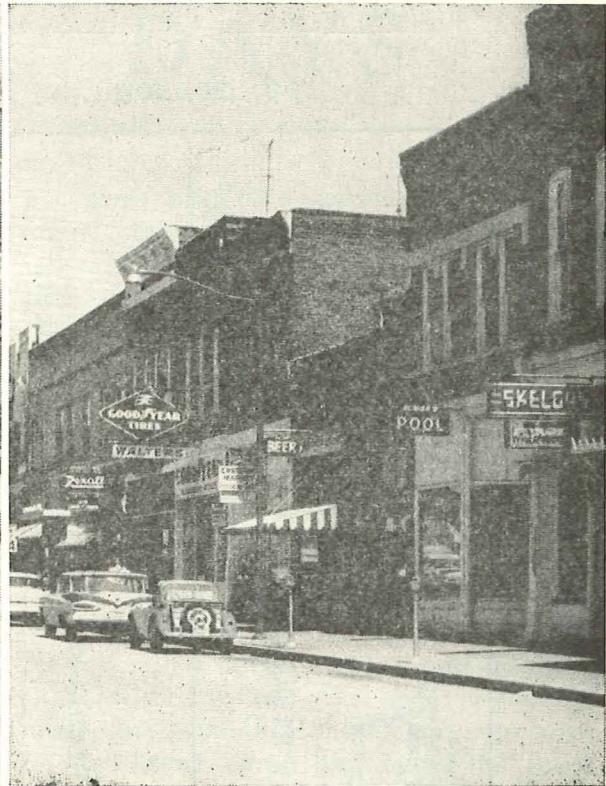
On August 7, 1936, this association was converted from a State Chartered Association to a Federally chartered Institution, under the name of Farmers and Mechanics Federal Savings and Loan Association, and since that it has made home loans to some 5900 home owners, for the purpose of buying, building and remodeling of homes and for other purposes, amounting to approximately \$11,750,000.00. This money was made available to us by thrifty savers who have intrusted their savings to us for many years, and upon which they have received attractive dividends each 6 months for the use of their money.

Member Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, insuring savings up to \$10,000.00; Member Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis; Member United States Savings and Loan League, and Savings and Loan League of Indiana.

Farmers & Mechanics Federal Savings & Loan Association
12 EAST MAIN ST. BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



North Side of Square, Looking East.



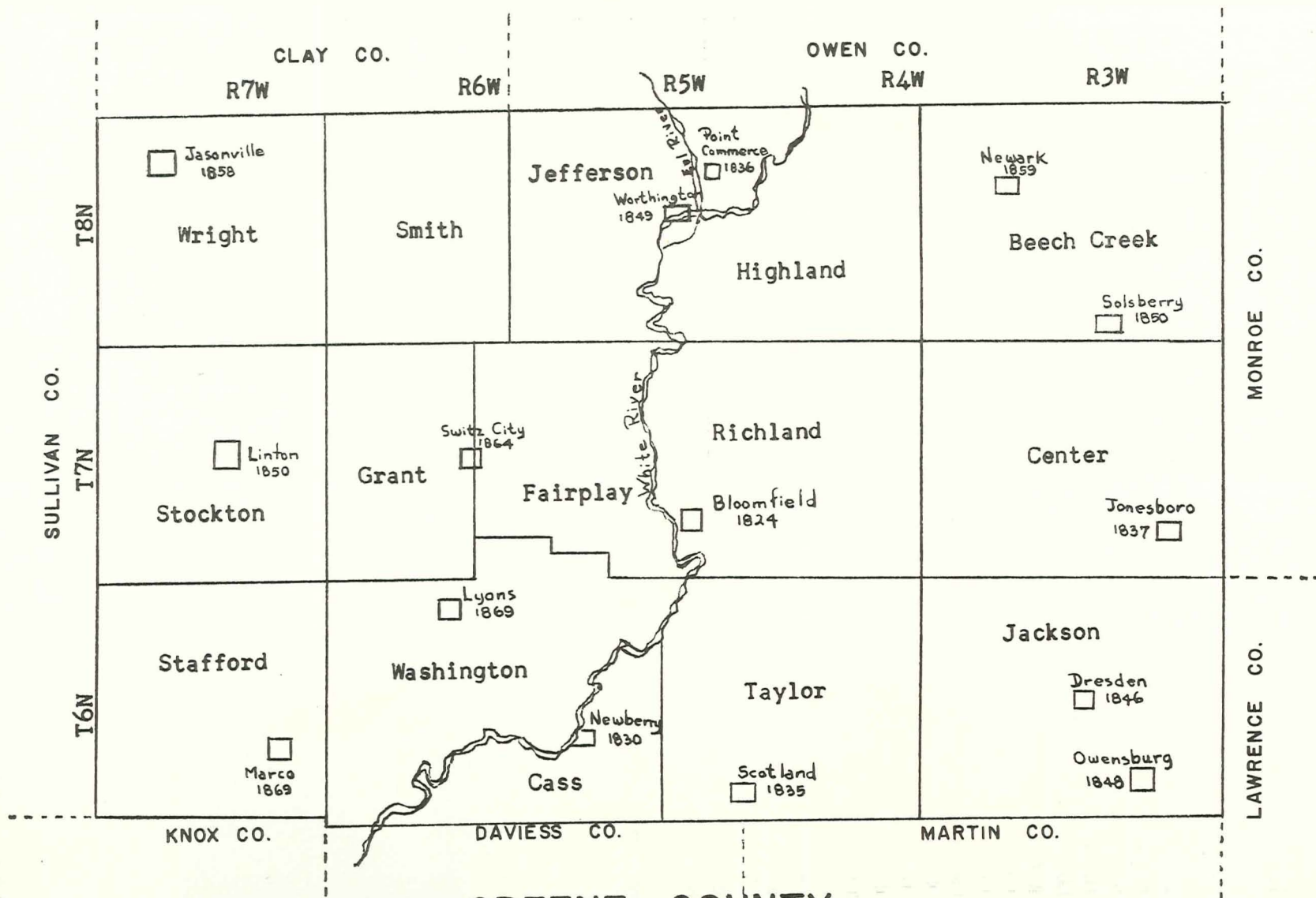
East Side of Square, Looking North



West Side of Square, Looking North.



South Side of Square, Greene County Jail.



GREENE COUNTY
 NAMED AFTER GENERAL NATHANIEL GREENE
 REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER

PIONEER DAYS

By BERTHA A. CRANE

PIONEER DAYS

The purpose of this celebration is to honor those sturdy pioneer men and women who more than a century ago charted the course which was to guide succeeding generations in making Bloomfield one of the outstanding county seats of this great state.

This article does not attempt to give an exhaustive exposition of the whole of the town's history. It is confined to the main forces that most affected the life of the early inhabitants prior to the year 1850, which in many ways can be considered the end of those great pioneer days. It was during the last half of the century that public schools were established more extensively; public roads were laid out and improved; railroads were constructed across the county; houses of worship were built; banking institutions were set up; agriculture was expanded; and Bloomfield was taking on the aspect of a more modern county seat.

Let us, therefore, turn back the pages of time and take a more intimate look into the past — into pioneer days.

EARLY BACKGROUND OF THE AREA

Prior to the year 1767 the lands which now comprise Greene County were a part of the territory that belonged to a tribe of Indians called the Piankeshews. They were one of the Algonquin tribes and belonged to the Miami Confederacy. In 1767 the lands of present Greene County were a part of the territory given to the Delawares. The Piankeshews, Delawares and Wess Indians were finally removed from the state by three treaties affecting this territory, about the year 1819.

Prior to the year 1810 it has been said that no white man resided within the borders of present Greene County. Indications point to the probability that it had

not even been the permanent home of any of these Indians although there are indications that many straggling bands had passed and repassed through the territory. It is well known that the county was invaded by Indian hunters and that a number of them were murdered by some white settlers. Legend has it that the surveyors appointed to survey the lands in this county never completed their task on the line between section 2-6-5 and 11-6-5 in Taylor Township because their hunter whose duty it was to provide the crew with meat, slew an Indian to get his freshly killed deer. When he returned to camp with his deer the camp followers immediately made plans to bury the slain Indian, break camp and leave the territory before they were attacked by the Indians looking for their companion. An inspection of the "Field Notes" on file in the court house reveals that this line between the above two sections was never adequately defined — thus assisting in the verification of the legend of the slain Indian.

Possibly the first visit of white men to Greene County was made by a group of men from Vincennes, who came up the river on a hunting expedition. They were said to have landed on the West Fork of White River near the mouth of Richland Creek, on the east side of the river just south of Bloomfield.

FIRST SETTLERS

It would seem from the records that many of the earliest inhabitants of pioneer Indiana were "squatters" — people who, because of lack of money, had moved westward, found suitable spots for a wilderness home and so settled down without making legal claim to the land. They depended chiefly for their living

Continued On Next Page

Greetings From
BLOOMFIELD'S
OLDEST FEED STORE

All Kinds Of Feeds
Field And Garden Seeds
Fencing – Farm Gates
Nails – Cedar Posts
And Many Other Items You
Will Need On Your Farm.

COME TO OUR STORE
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PHONE 118

COMBS
FEED STORE
GILBERT COMBS, Prop.

from day to day upon the wild game of the forests and fields and upon the wild fruits and vegetables and nuts where they could be found. They squatted upon the land until they wanted to pull up stakes and go farther west, or until the land was legally entered from the government and, out of necessity, they had to move on.

The record also shows that at times some squatters built crude huts or simple shelters, cleared small garden spots to raise corn and few simple garden vegetables. They often had a horse and a cow and a pair of breeding hogs, and thus were equipped to tackle the wilderness. If they had to give up the land to the owner who had legally entered it from the government, they could move on with their family and live stock and have lost nothing for their sojourn as squatters. If, however, they liked their new life in the wilderness and were able to accumulate the price of the few acres they were occupying, they purchased it by entry from the government, and so had a home all their own.

This, so history says, was occasionally the case in parts of Indiana, but surely not the case in pioneer Greene County, for the record shows the entries of land in and about Bloomfield were not encumbered by previous settlers or squatters. It appears that the first visitors to Greene County were hunters from the Vincennes settlement about the year 1810, and that they came here on a hunting expedition and for the joy of the journey. It also appears from the record that the earliest settlers in Greene County, the VanSlykes, the Carlins and the VanVorsts, built their own temporary shelters, dug-outs and lean-tos, when they first arrived. There appears nothing in the records that would lead one to believe that any squatter cabins or any other kind of shelters were here when these settlers first arrived.

MIGRATION TO GREENE COUNTY

Two things that held off early migration as far north as Greene County from

Continued On Next Page

the Ohio River Valley and Vincennes were Indian hostilities and the War of 1812. Thomas Bradford is said to have come into Orange County with the intention of settling in Greene County territory as early as 1814, but was advised to postpone his entry of land until the Indian situation was more settled. It was not until after the Indian question had been settled partially and the conflicts of the War of 1812 were turned to other areas, that migration into this part of Indiana was undertaken. It was, therefore, not until 1816 that land in and about Bloomfield was first entered, one tract in Richland Township by Peter C. VanSlyke and one by Solomon Dixon.

It was about this time when the population of the Indiana Territory had grown to some 60,000 and Indiana was admitted to statehood, that the settlers of Greene County began to come in sufficient numbers that they, too, began to think of local self-government. By 1821 they felt justified in calling upon the Indiana General Assembly for the establishment of local government on a county-wide basis. The request was granted and so in 1821 Greene County became a permanent governmental unit.

THE HOOSIER

It would seem, according to the pens of some writers, that the appellation of the term, "Hoosier", to the inhabitants of Indiana came early. It also would seem that this term was used to apply primarily to the pioneers who come from the south and southeast, who entered Indiana from the neighboring states of Kentucky and Tennessee, and who settled in the rural areas of Indiana. They were people who were characterized by their simplicity and by their dominating spirit of hospitality and who never saw or met a stranger. They lived under pioneer primitive conditions in little cabins, the walls of which were decorated by their guns, clothing, dried fruits and vegetables, cured hams and bacon sides. These pioneers ate

Continued On Next Page

In 1916 the Jones Lumber Co. sold out to the present Bloomfield Lumber Company, a partnership between W. V. Jennings of Sullivan, Ind., and Loren E. McDonald of Carlisle, Ind. — both now deceased. After the death of Loren E. McDonald, the yard was first managed by Clevy Lloyd of Shelburn, Ind., later by Cecil Jennings. In 1935, Sylvia McDonald bought out the Jennings interest and the yard was then managed by Lee H. Jones and later by S. Edward Hasler until 1948, when Loren S. McDonald returned from Defiance, Ohio, and he and his mother, Sylvia McDonald Moore formed a partnership which continues until this time, managed jointly by S. Edward Hasler and Loren S. McDonald.

Present employees according to years of service are:

Sylvia McDonald Moore
S. Edward Hasler
John M. Moore
Loren S. McDonald
Dexter Floyd
Dessie Lester
Rex Floyd
Mary Jane Patterson

**BLOOMFIELD
LUMBER
COMPANY**

hearty meals of meats and jonny cake and wild berries.

These "Hoosiers" might have been poorly educated and they might have quite often been uncouth and simple, but of one thing one can be sure — they were equal to the tasks which they undertook.

If the name, "Hoosier", is used to designate us as a primitive, simple folk and as independent individuals who sought the security of rural life, whose predominant characteristic was that of hospitality, then we accept the appellation, "Hoosier", and are real proud of it.

WHERE THE PIONEERS CAME FROM

When one takes a look at the pioneers of Greene County, he might like to know from what easterly areas they came.

The records tell that the movement from the New England area primarily settled down before it got as far west as Indiana. It is true that some of them who had stopped in Pennsylvania and Ohio on the first step westward, later did

come on to this part of Indiana, but it appears that it was from the southeastern seaboard that most of our early settlers started their westward movement for new homes. From the early settlers of Tennessee and Kentucky, it was that many of the early Pioneers of Greene County came.

It is significant that Greene County was established in 1821, the year Indianapolis was founded, and it is also significant that Bloomfield became the county seat in 1824 and that the court house here was completed and moved into in 1825, the year that the state capital was moved from Corydon to Indianapolis.

ESTABLISHMENT OF GREENE COUNTY

An enabling Act of the Indiana General Assembly established Greene County as of the first Monday of February, 1821, at which time it was named. Prior to 1816, the year Indiana was admitted to the Union, all of the territory later designated as Greene County, west of White River,

Continued On Next Page

CHEVROLET '59

THE CAR THAT'S WANTED FOR ALL ITS WORTH

WILSON CHEVROLET SALES, INC.

Phone 272

BLOOMFIELD

INDIANA

was a part of Knox County. In 1816 it became a part of Sullivan County and in 1821 it became a part of Greene County. All that part east of White River was a part of Orange County in 1815; in 1817 it became a part of Daviess County, and in 1821 it became a part of Greene County.

By an Act of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana in 1821 Greene County was set up with its present boundaries. Section 1 of this act, described these boundaries as: "Beginning at the northeast corner of Township 8 north, range 3 west of the second principal meridian; thence south to the southeast corner of township 6 north, range 3 west; thence west to the southwest corner of township 6 north, range 7 west; thence north to the northwest corner of township 8 north, range 7 west; thence east with the south boundary of Owen County to the place of beginning."

Section 2 gave this county the name

of "Greene County", in memory of General Nathaniel Greene of Revolutionary War fame. It has been said that a few of the early pioneers of this area had served in General Greene's forces and it was their desire that their county be named for him.

Section 3 named the first commissioners and ordered them to meet at the home of Thomas Bradford on the first Monday in March, 1822.

Section 4 set up a circuit court and ordered the court to be held in the home of Thomas Bradford until a suitable place could be provided.

Section 5 provided for a "county agent" whose duty it was to see that the county seat was laid out into lots, streets and alleys according to the plan provided, and to sell such lots, preserving 10% of the sale and 10% of all donations for the use of the County Library.

Section 6 ordered the Board of Commissioners to erect a public building on

Continued On Page 20

HELLO

FROM THE INDIANA BELL TELEPHONE CO., INC.

The following telephone people have a total of 390 years of service to Bloomfield:

Enid Axe
Mabel Carnegie
Betty Baker
Donna Jean Crays
Wilma Crowder
Wilma Ritter
Vivian Greene

Norma Lois Hansford
Lloyd Hasler
Deloris Hardesty
Roseanna Hayes
Dola Long
Irene Price
Norma Lucille Sparks

Patricia Vest
Clem Martin
Jerry Wright
Branch Hunter
Ona Fish
R. O. Henderson
Haldon Shepherd

Olive Burkhardt — Chief Operator
Stafford Green — Manager
Spencer Walker — Wire Chief

It is our pleasure to serve you. If you have any telephone problems at any time, please call our business office, telephone number 1.



Southwest Corner of Court House Prior to Remodeling.

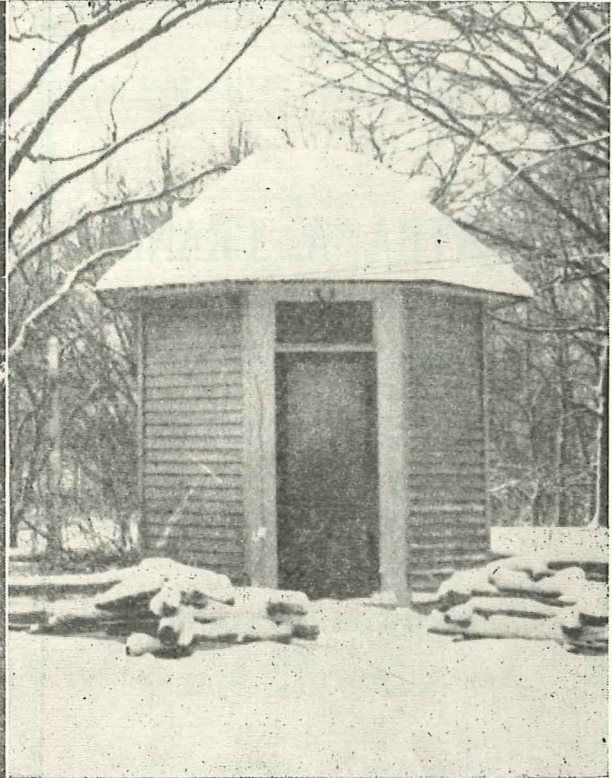
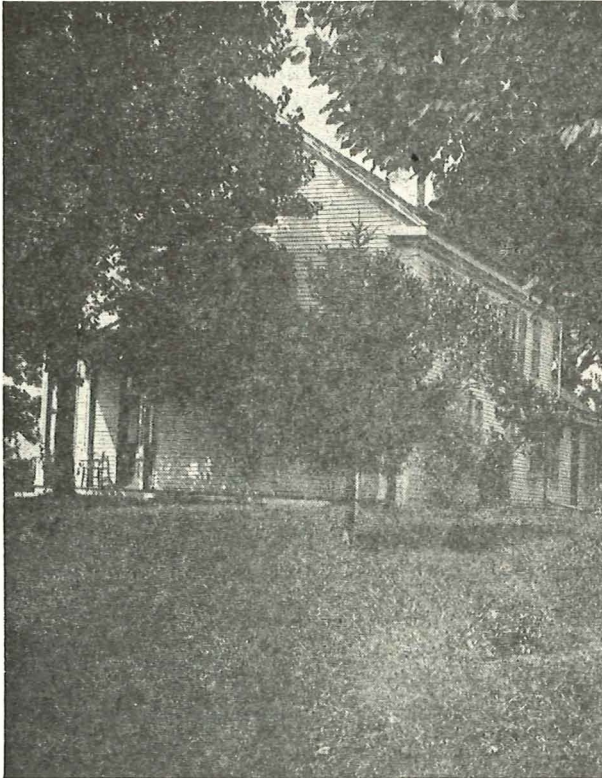
“PAGEANT ON WHEELS”

PIONEER DAYS PARADE

2:00 P.M., SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 1959

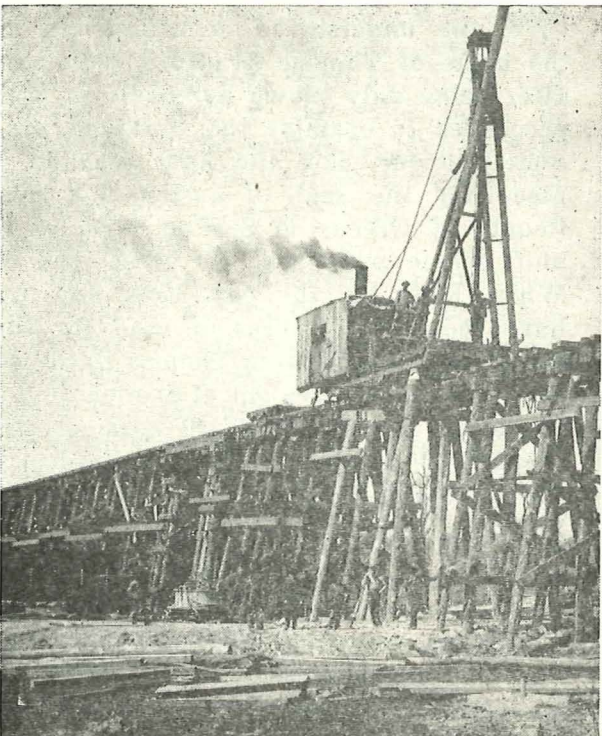
\$300.00 IN PRIZES

FOR ENTRY FORMS CALL WILBUR K HARMON

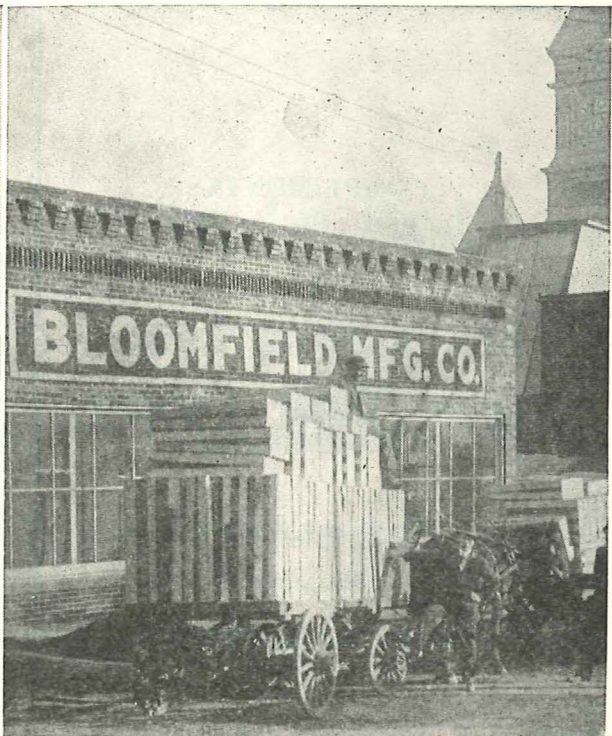


Original Cavins Home, One of Oldest in Bloomfield.

Cupelo of Second Court House at Cavins Homestead.



Illinois Central Railroad Bridge
as it appeared when under construction over
White River at Elliston.



Harrah Manufacturing Co. on North Franklin St.
Crates contain firm's first
overseas shipment — tea tables for India.

BERTHA A. CRANE

**ABTRACTER OF
LAND TITLES SINCE 1922**

**Post Office Box 25
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA**

COMPLIMENTS

OF

Hoosier Water Company

**The Water System
In Bloomfield
Began Service In 1904**

the seat of justice within twelve months.
Section 7 granted certain powers to the voters of the county.

Section 8 provided for the repeal of the act establishing the northern boundary of Daviess County, now the southern boundary line of Greene County.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF BURLINGTON
AS COUNTY SEAT**

On March 10, 1821, the commissioners appointed by the legislature of the State of Indiana convened at the house of Thomas Bradford for the purpose of selecting the permanent seat of justice of the newly established county. After an examination of the various sites presented to them, they selected one and made the following report: "We, the commissioners appointed by the Indiana legislature, convened at the home of Thomas Bradford for the purpose of selecting the permanent seat of justice of Greene County."

After "due examination and mature forethought", they selected a site and called it Burlington, after Burlington, Vermont, and made the following report: "We, the undersigned commissioners at the home of Thomas Bradford esqr. and after being duly shown agreeable to law, proceeded to examine the situations presented to our view and have selected a place for the seat of justice for said County of Greene in Section 9-7-5 on a bluff which puts in to the west fork of White River on the east side, and we have received 60 acres of land for the use of said county from Thomas Bradford esqr. and forty acres out of Section 10-7-5 adjoining Thomas Bradford esqr. on the east side, 20 acres donation from Frederick Shepherd and 20 acres as a donation from Zebulon Hogue.

(Amos Rogers
(Abraham Case
(William White
State Commissioners".

After the county was duly set up, the report of the first election in the county was recorded as follows: "Thomas Brad-

Continued On Next Page

ford as Sheriff Pro Tem held an election at his house as provided by statute on ---- day of -----, 1821 at which time the following men were elected commissioners receiving the number of votes in the order of their naming: Thomas Plummer, David Deem and Peter Herrington." The record states that these men were elected to "Execute the public business."

COUNTY SEAT OF JUSTICE RELOCATED AT BLOOMFIELD

By 1823 it became evident to most inhabitants of the county and especially of the county seat itself, that Burlington could not be a desirable county seat, in as much as it could not be depended on to furnish a suitable supply of water to accomodate the growing population, for the human population perhaps there was enough water, but for the horses tied about the public square day after day by the employees, the officers and the visitors to the county seat, that was another question.

The State Legislature was again called upon to select a new county seat. According to the Act to relocate the seat of justice for the county of Greene on December 17, 1823, commissioners were appointed and ordered to meet in the court house at Burlington on the second Monday in February, 1824, for the purpose of considering donations and offers for a site for the relocated county seat.

Among the contenders for the new seat of justice was the thriving little village of Fairplay on the west bank of the river, almost directly across the river from Burlington. Its location was good, it had a good and adequate supply of water and was the center of a thriving little community. The residents and the proprietors felt so sure of its attractiveness and suitability that they did not feel the need to tender any great enticement, being certain in their own minds that they could not be by-passed or outdone by any other locality.

As a great surprise to Fairplay and as it later proved much to her chagrin and consternation, Peter C. VanSlyke had made

Continued On Next Page

COMPLIMENTS OF FARMERS PRODUCE CO.

L. W. BADOLLET

— Cash Buyers —
Poultry — Eggs — Cream
Hides — Wool

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BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

RICHARDSON SHOE REPAIR

Invisible Soling
Orthopedic Buildups

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Roy Lee Floyd

SHELL DISTRIBUTOR

— Heating Oils —

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BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Bell Cleaning Works

Phone 28

West Side Square

Elmo and Nora Ellen Owen

**Cleaning,
Pressing & Alterations**

Tom Titus & Sons

Painters Since The Roarin' 20s

Painting — Paperhanging

Floor Sanding and Finishing

Interior Decorating

And Now

The Latest Method Of

"On Your Floor" Rug Washing

Phone 372-W

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

provisions for a sizeable donation of land in one body, splendidly located on a beautiful site overlooking the river, with a splendid supply of good water, and, as a special inducement, one good patriot threw into the bargain enough logs to build the first jail — which act proved to clinch the bargain. Mr. VanSlyke had by contract acquired the donation of 25 acres of land from Samuel Gwathmey and he, himself, purchased a similar 25 acres at \$4.00 per acre from Mr. Gwathmey to make the original donation of 50 acres. Later Mr. VanSlyke added 12 more acres immediately west of the original 50 acres, to make the total donation of 62 acres. This donation is the site of the present town of Bloomfield.

The donation by Mr. VanSlyke and his co-donor proved the most flattering; the site proved to be the most desirable from the standpoint of location. It was high, dry and well watered by an ever-flowing spring of cool, clear water, sufficient, as they then thought, to take care of the water needs of the town indefinitely. The site was, therefore, accepted and the city named Bloomfield at the suggestion of Dr. Hallet B. Dean, a native of Bloomfield, New York.

On February 27, 1824, the board of county commissioners met at the new county seat and directed the county agent to lay off the donation into lots according to a prepared plan and to insert the following advertisement in the Indianapolis Gazette and in the Indiana Farmer of Salem:

"Bloomfield.

"The new seat of Justice of the County of Greene to be sold on the 22nd day of April next on the premises, the terms of sale will be 1/10 of the purchase money in hand, the residue in five equal semi-annual installments. This town is beautifully situated on the east side of the West fork of White River on a rich dry soil plentifully watered by good springs possessing as many natural advantages as any

Continued On Next Page

other new town on this river surrounded with a very flourishing settlement contiguous to mill and mill seats. The attention of merchants, mechanics and manufactories will be particularly excited by the extent of surrounding country, the convenience of water works and healthiness of situation from the superior natural advantages possessed by this town and its electricity to the center of the county, it is elevated above the fear of future relocation. February 28th A.D. 1824.

Ephraim Owen Segnor
Agent for Bloomfield."

On February 27, 1824, as just indicated, at the February Term of the Commissioners Court, the record reads: "On Motion now then it is ordered by the order of the County Commissioners in and for said county that Ephraim Owen Segr. be and he is hereby appointed Agent for the town of Bloomfield in the County of Greene and State of Indiana for and during the term of one year. Thereupon the said Ephraim Owen Segr. appeared and gave bond & security and was sworn into office as such.

"On motion it is ordered that the agent do proceed to lay off the said Town of Bloomfield into lots and streets according to plans as follows: Blocks for lots to be 276 feet square — then into 8 equal lots. Streets to be 60 feet wide and Plot to be named and known as Bloomfield. And on motion the agent for the town of Bloomfield is ordered to proceed to advertise sale of said Lots in Bloomfield and also authorized to sell lots at private sale.

Thomas Plummer (Seal)

Jonathan Lindley (Seal)

Attest: Thomas Warnick Clerk."

On the next day, February 28, 1824, the same commissioners made the following record: "On motion it is ordered that the agent do proceed to lay off the said Town of Bloomfield into lots and streets according to the following plan, towit: Blocks

for lots being 276 feet square and then to be laid into 8 equal divisible lots and streets to be 60 feet wide each and the 62 acres of land donated to the county for the permanent seat of justice to be known and designated by the name of Bloomfield and all of the aforesaid donation to be laid out as equitably and near to the above plan as the situation of the ground will admit of."

Continued On Page 25

PEARL'S T.V. SERVICE

Phone 126

110 South Franklin Street

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

— Television —

Car Radio and Communications Service

Johnson's

Standard Service

— On The Square —

ATLAS TIRES — STANDARD GAS

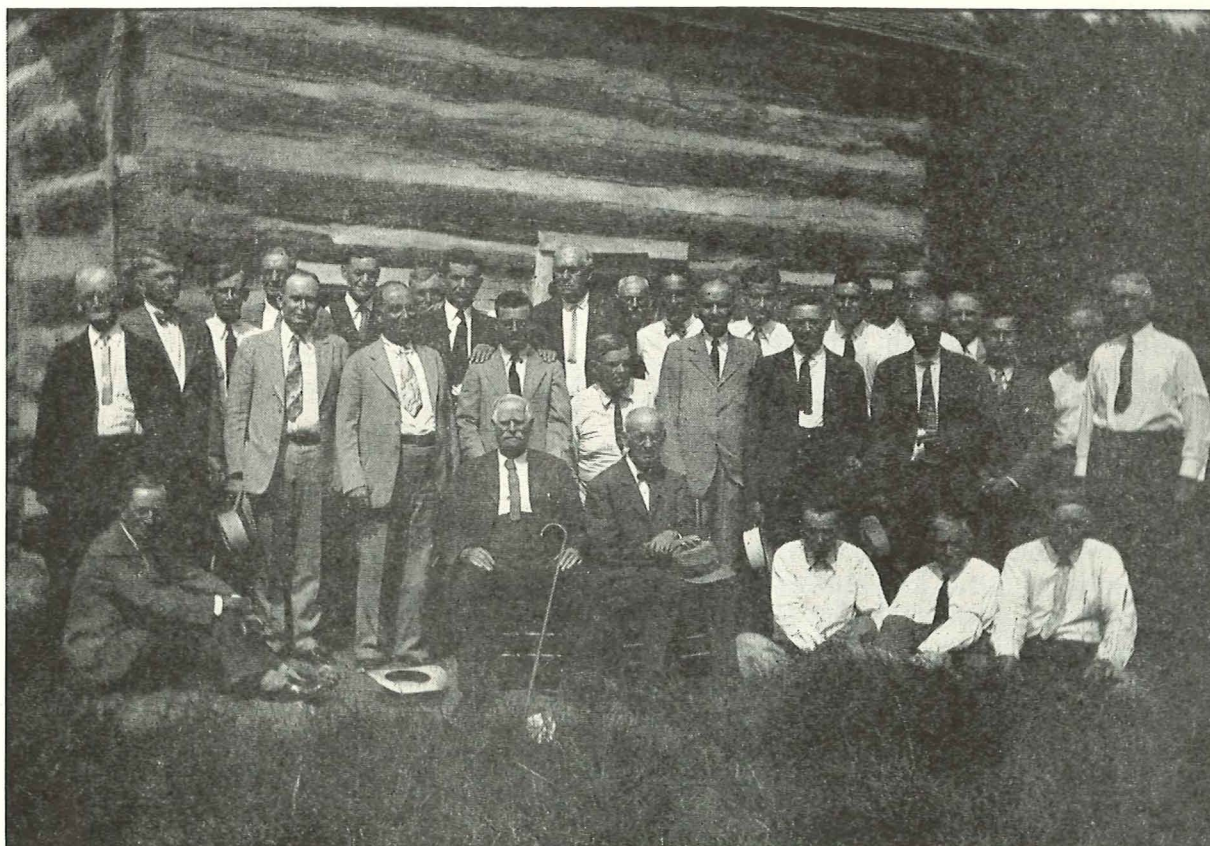
OIL AND ACCESSORIES

Day Phone 194 — Night Phone 590R5

BUDGET PLAN

TIRES & ACCESSORIES

A REMEMBRANCE OF THE YESTERDAYS



The above picture was taken of a group of persons who attended the annual meeting of the Greene County Bar Association at "Liberty Lodge" in the year 1928. In the background may be seen a part of the log building which stood on a small elevation at the head of a valley, near which cold water flowed from a spring at the foot of a steep, wooded hill in eastern Greene County. This site was owned by James M. Hudson, a member of the Greene County Bar, to which he had given the name "Liberty Lodge".

The names of the persons appearing in this group, reading from left to right, are as follows:

Front row: Alfred M. Beasley, Harvey W. Letsinger, William L. Cavins, James M. Hudson, Henry Bordinet and William L. Slinkard.

Middle row: Edward W. McIntosh, Oscar R. Shields, *Courtland M. Chambers, *J. Raymond Powell, *John A. Riddle, J. Clyde Crane, William E. Buckner, Jesse F. Weisman, Sidney Edington, Cary L. Harrel, *Elmer W. Sherwood, Reed A. Letsinger and Walter Wills.

Rear row: Cyrus E. Davis, Charles E. Henderson, Alex Wilson, Webster V. Moffett, Thomas Van Buskirk, John M. Meredith, Allen G. Pate, Paul Haywood, *Fredlock Van Buskirk, George G. Humphreys and William W. Brown.

All the members of this group are now deceased, except five whose names are preceded by an asterisk.

THE FIRST COURT HOUSE IN BLOOMFIELD

In May 1824 the county commissioners authorized Ephraim Owen, the County Agent, to "proceed to build a court house on a public lot according to the following plan: a hewed log house, 26 feet by 20 feet, one story and a half high, with one door and one window with 12 lights of glass in it, in the under story with a good poplar plank, with one set of joice, and upper floor tongued and grooved, with one pair of stairs and one Petition (sic) across the upper story, and a window in each end of the said house, covered with joint shingle 20 inches long six inches to the weather all of which to be done and performed in good and workman like manner."

After the frame work of the court house had been put into place, the commissioners made the following record ordering that "John Hill be appointed and chosen to finish the court house in the town of Bloomfield in the following manner, towit: to chink the said house with short blocks dobed with lime and sand, one third of lime and two of sand on the outside; and clay in the inside, washed over with lime, all of which is to be done in a good and workman like manner all of which is to be done on or before the first day of next November term of this court for which services said Hill is to receive the sum of \$22.00 subject to the provisions in case of failure of the completion of the aforesaid work."

Continued On Page 28

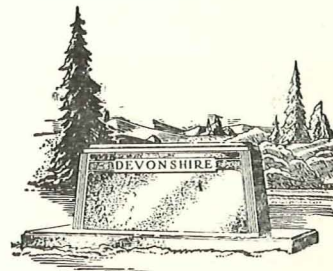
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Eyes Examined — Glasses Fitted

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Large
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Of
Monuments
And
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Telephone 22

220 West Main Street

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Bloomfield Pioneer Days

Commemorating
135 Years Of Progress

Bloomfield has seen many changes in the last 135 years. It was back in 1945 that the words, Pielemeier Rexall Drugs, first appeared on the store at 19 South Washington. And today, fourteen years later, we say, "Welcome, friend — your health is still our most important business." Stop in and shake hands during Pioneer Days.

Pielemeier Rexall Drugs

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

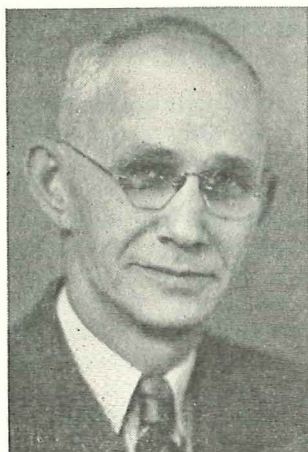
PRESCRIPTIONS — DRUGS

COSMETICS — KODAKS

TOBACCOS — CANDY — FOUNTAIN



Earl
Forst



Nellie
Forst

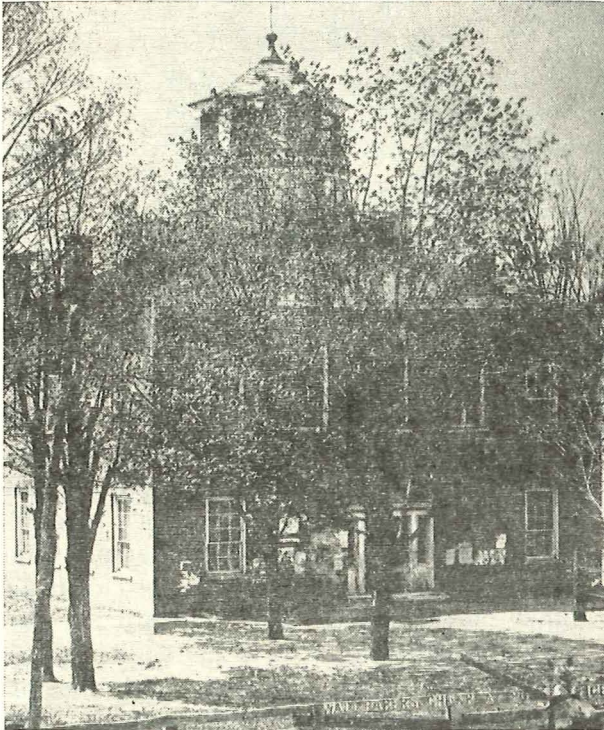


FORST COMPANY — FOUNDED 1914

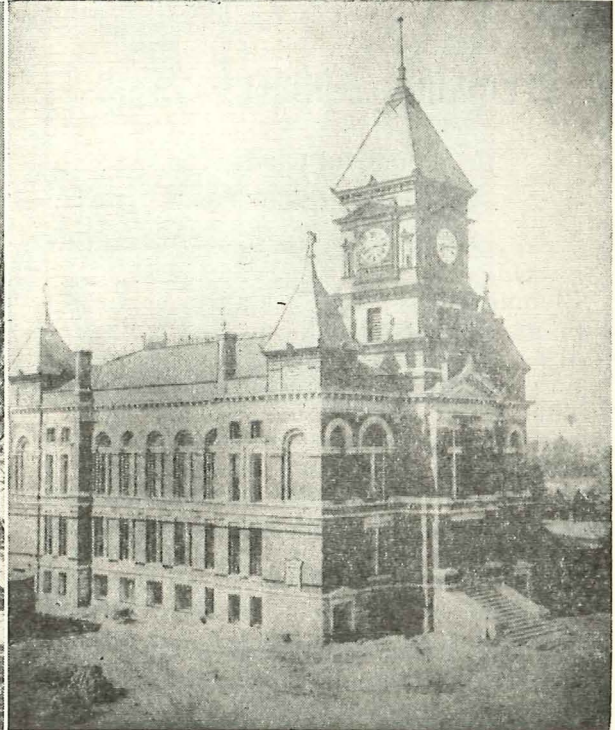
NOW KNOWN AS

FORST'S BEN FRANKLIN

**June 1959 Is Our 45th Year In The Variety Business In Bloomfield
Present Owner — Wm. Forst**



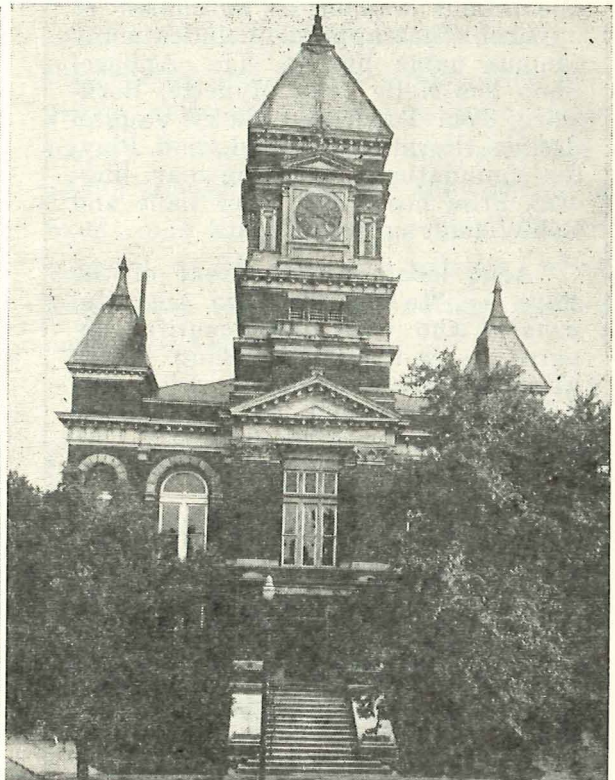
Second Greene County Court House
with cupelo pictured on page 19.



Third Greene County Court House
nearing completion.



West Side View of Third Greene County Court House
after completion of construction.



North Side of Greene County Court House
before last remodeling.

Freeland Apparel Shop

Beautiful Clothes
For Beautiful Women

One of the newer businesses in Bloomfield is the Freeland Apparel Shop, owned by Mrs. Sue H. Freeland and located on "the square" in the hub of much local business activity. The dress and women's-wear shop has been in business since 1939. The store was established at that time in the Stalcup Building (now the Emery Sparks Building), but the store was located in the 12 South Franklin Street address in 1946 and has been at that location since then.

Mrs. Freeland has three very efficient assistants now to help in the sales and services of the store. Mrs. Ione Carrell is manager of the operation and Mrs. Juanita Greene and Mrs. Gladys Johnson serve as the friendly clerks to help the lovely Bloomfield women in purchases of apparel. That apparel includes many famous name brands. The Apparel Shop has Nelly Don, Mynette, Berkshire, Toni Todd, and Vicky Vaughn dresses, Formfit, Gossard, and Playtex foundations, Munsingwear lingerie, Prim hose, and Mary Lane and Bobby Jean suits and coats.

Also, located in the rear of the store — "to beautify the beautiful women who wear the beautiful apparel" — is the Beauty Shop. It has always been associated with the Apparel Shop and it is presently owned and operated by Mrs. Una Sherrard, with Miss Rhoda Titus employed as operator.

We hope the Bloomfield women will continue to make the Apparel Shop and Beauty Shop a regular stop on their shopping visits during the years to come. It has been wonderful to serve you all in the years past. Thanks again for your patronage and thanks to the Lions Club for working to pay honor to a wonderful town. See you on your shopping trips!

THE PICTURESQUE COUNTY SEAT TOWN

One does not have to go far in his search for the picturesque in and about Bloomfield. An approach from either the east or west reveals the beauty of her natural setting. The ridge dividing White River from Richland Creek slopes gently to the southwest. Upon this ridge, two miles long and one mile wide, stands this little town of well-kept homes, beautifully landscaped lawns, and broad shady streets.

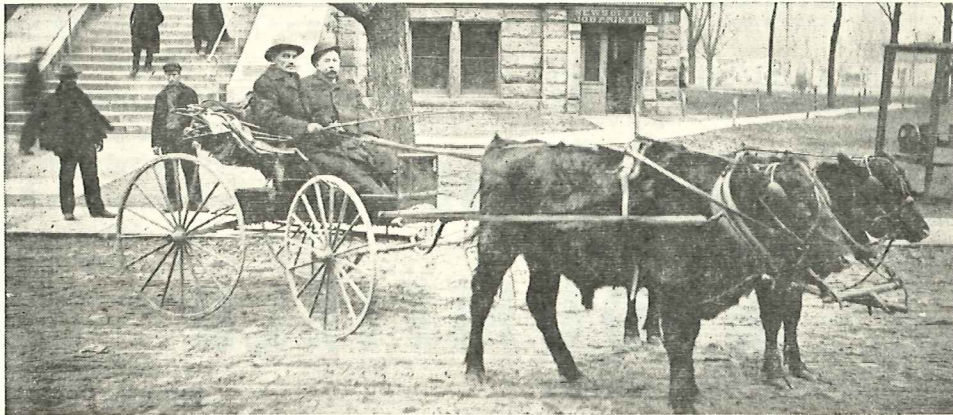
In the heart of Bloomfield is the Public Square. Upon the square the court house as erected in 1885 stood as a magnificent edifice of architectural beauty. The soft tones of its aging bricks portrayed an inner spirit of its guardianship of the people's liberties. For decades its tower reared itself high above the neighboring business houses as if with watchful eye to keep zealous guard over the little town. Night and day its clock chimed the passing of time with the comfortable air of "All is Well." As travelers wended their way westerly over State Road No. 54 from the beautiful eastern hills, through Richland Creek bottoms, over the "hogsback" upon which Bloomfield is built, and on into the White River valley, they were ever mindful of its towering spire. Even by night they saw its great illuminated face, ever wakeful, ever watchful. Now, it too, has felt the harsh touch of age; it, too, has fallen at the hand of modernity; it, too, has become a thing of the past, a legend in the minds of those who loved it best!

Continued On Next Page

CARNEGIE GROCERY & D-X GAS

North Drive

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



George Burge and Wal Heaton in buggy on Main Street.

THE NEW COUNTY SEAT AND ITS RESIDENTS

As the older residents of Bloomfield remember the hole extending south from the court house yard, with the sand-filled streets, and the unpaved sidewalks, they might have often marveled at how it happened that Bloomfield could ever have been selected as a site for a county seat town. Had they but stood on this spot in 1824, perhaps they would have seen a beautiful frontier settlement, gentle sloping terrain at the foot of which flowed a fine strong stream of water, a prime essential to any community in the wilderness. All these would have added an enchantment to the pioneers as they viewed their own new home — something they could with pride write back to the home folks in the east.

Add to these natural blessings bestowed at the hand of nature, the improvements and enhancements at the hand of man and science, since then, and we have the Bloomfield of our own times. At the age of 135, and she has just passed that mile stone, Bloomfield is growing old gracefully without much fuss and ado about her birthdays. She carries her age with true dignity and decorum — this little county seat town of some 2,000 population in this year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-nine.

One of the most interesting features of Bloomfield, as the years have come and gone, has been her people; the most interesting feature of Bloomfield today is

still her people: people of culture and refinement — “Human beings living cheerfully and harmoniously, laboring and aspiring.”

Throughout the years each succeeding generation has become a part of the setting and atmosphere of the place, so much so that to have known one of the “first families” is to have known all of them. They bear an affection, or they have grown to cultivate an affectionate attachment for the locality and its well-being. They have grown with and become a part of the history of the community and have learned its stories of interest; they revere or have come to hold deep regard for, the memory of the pioneer patrons, whose ashes rest in the neighboring hill-tops overlooking the town.

Continued On Page 31

COMPLIMENTS OF
HAINES BARBER SHOP
East Side Of Square
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Congratulations To Bloomfield!
COMPLIMENTS OF
HENDERSON'S GROCERY

**THE
BLOOMFIELD
MANUFACTURING
COMPANY**

A PIONEER INDUSTRY

FOUNDED – 1894

Manufacturers Of The

HANDYMAN JACK

KANT-SLAM DOOR CHECK

MAIN STREET IN BLOOMFIELD

The intense loyalty of Bloomfield's citizens to her Main Street is a most adorable characteristic and the secret of the little town's popularity. The new-comer is struck by the practical minded business and professional men and women on Main Street — men and women who, in spite of their business engagements, devote a great amount of their time, energy and money to the promotion of community interests. Many problems of community welfare and interest are solved over the luncheon table by the Lions Club, the Rotary Club, the Business and Professional Women's Club, the Civic and Community Club, and by other civic minded organizations in and about Bloomfield.

This intense interest in community life and community welfare comes as a result of early training and education, of an affectionate attachment for the locality, of an interest in the history of the county and its county seat town — the stories and legends of its pioneers. There is no question that the spirit of the pioneer saints of Bloomfield still hovers over her Main Street if we but have the ingenuity to see and feel it. To the stranger this is but the Main Street of an average little town of some 2,000 population — but in the eyes of its citizens, it is their own.

Bloomfield has always pointed with pride to her native sons who have gone out into the world and have received national acclaim for literary and artistic attainment, for athletic prowess, for distinction in the realm of research and for recognition as text book authorship. Bloomfield has a right to be proud of these, her boys, who received their start in the little school building standing on Main Street. They represent the typical talented Main Street boy of a little county seat town.

There is no great hustle and bustle on Bloomfield's Main Street. The folksiness of its people is very marked; their general sociability and desire to pause and chat

Continued On Page 33

THE ARGONAUT CLUB

The Argonaut Club, founded in 1898, is the oldest women's literary club in Bloomfield. Established for "Social and Mental Improvement", it soon turned its interests toward civic matters also and was instrumental in obtaining for the town the Carnegie Public Library. There it has since held its meetings on alternate Tuesday afternoons during the fall and winter months. Among other lesser community projects was the planting of a "living Christmas tree" on the northwest corner of the Court House lawn. Every year the Argonaut Club furnishes lights for the town tree during the holiday season. Some of the members of this club can trace their ancestors to the pioneers of Bloomfield.

SUNSHINE CLUB

This club was organized November 23, 1932 in the Park neighborhood for the purpose of improving our homes and community. The name "Sunshine" was selected by secret ballot and has lived up to its name by spreading cheer to the sick in the community.

We have taken our share of awards on Achievement Day and all members are willing to cooperate in reaching any goal set before the club. Through Home Economics Club work members learn how to take charge, plan and conduct meetings, and the lessons from Purdue are of most importance. We also help with 4-H Clubs in our community.

In social activities, we entered floats in the 4th of July parades Bloomfield used to have and four years in a row won 1st prize. The annual Sunset Suppers held for the families and neighbors will long be remembered.

BLOOMFIELD BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

FOUNDED AND CHARTERED BY THE STATE IN 1936

OFFICERS

President — Faye Dowden	Recording Secretary—Ramona Ramsey
Vice-President — Gretchen Workman	Treasurer — Ruth Richardson
Corresponding Secretary — Rhoda Titus	Parliamentarian — Bertha Crane

MEMBERS

Eva Dell Anderson
Elizabeth Blaker
Alberta Bogan
Grace Brock
Olive Burkhart
Grace Bynum
Harriet Clark
Bertha Crane
Betty Jo Dean
Faye Dowden
Fern Ellett
Phyllis Greves
Shirley Waldie

Gene Hayes
Sue Hendren
Margaret Hudson
Frances Killinger
Virginia LaSelle
Eva Lowder
Kathryn McKissick
Lillian Martin
Oakey Miles
Olive Moore
Nora Ellen Owen
Ruth D. Owen
Marie Waldie

Martha Pickett
Ramona Ramsey
Ruth Richardson
Una Sherrard
Veva Shields
Vernelle Shouse
Doris Sparks
Lorraine Spice
Lloyd Stafford
Rhoda B. Titus
May Wadsworth
Betty Wagher
Gretchen Workman
Elizabeth T. Wright

is the rule. After all, Main Street of Bloomfield is but the Main Street of a small county seat town, strong to maintain its early devotion to its native sons and daughters and equally strong to develop among its citizens a respect for all those things that are so distinguishing a trait of Bloomfield.

BLOOMFIELD BY 1830

By 1830 a great number of merchants had set up shop in Bloomfield with extensive and varied stock, so that Bloomfield was fast becoming a thriving county seat town. A school house had been built; the Methodists and Presbyterians had small though flourishing classes; a postal route, irregular and often not coming at all, but nevertheless a postal route, from Princeton through Petersburg, Washington, Bloomfield, Martinsville and on to Indianapolis, had been established as early as 1825, so the records report; blacksmiths, carpenters, coopers, lawyers, doctors, ministers, teachers, artesans and prospectors had come. A few frame houses were being built to supplement the log cabins, and it is said that Bloomfield at this time could even boast of one brick house! The population had grown to some thirty families. There was also a tannery, a distillery, a prospective carding mill, and a horse-drawn grist mill. The open spring on the court house lawn — the excellent source of water that had attracted Bloomfield as the new county seat in 1824 — was replaced by a well dug on the public square.

Flat boats plied Richland Creek to the river and out to foreign markets, carrying flour, grain, pork and other native products for trade and barter.

In 1846 the enthusiastic citizens proceeded to incorporate Bloomfield, elect officers, build sidewalks and pass ordinances. But within a year or two, the promoters of this project changed their minds about the advisability of it and abandoned the scheme.

Continued On Next Page

COMPLIMENTS OF

THE BLOOMFIELD NEWS

**Published Continuously
In Bloomfield
Since 1876**

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Hord Auto Supply

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

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— WHOLESALE —**

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President

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PROMPT, ACCURATE, EFFICIENT SERVICE

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North Side Of Square
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

PURINA CHOWS

NASH FEEDS

PHONE 283

H & H MOTORS, INC.

GENE HULL, Owner

Phone 147

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BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

PIONEER MEN OF NOTE

It is significant and worthy of note to have called to our attention men of importance in the eyes of the world, who at one time during pioneer days lived among us, and who later went out into the world to take their places in the political, social and economic life of our country. Let us take a look at a few of them.

H. Burns, Judge of the Greene Circuit Court at one time, authored the original Burns Annotated Statutes. His body lies in Grandview Cemetery, overlooking the court house where he presided with such distinction.

The Rousseau brothers, Richard H. and Lovell H., were eminent lawyers who practiced at the bar of the Greene Circuit Court; one held the post of state senator and state representative; the other attained military fame in the service of his country.

Joseph A. Wright walked to Bloomfield from Bloomington, while a student at Indiana University, to build one of the first brick chimneys in our town. He later was elected governor of the State of Indiana and was appointed minister to Prussia by President Lincoln.

Among the distinguished men who were admitted to practice at the Bar of the Greene Circuit Court were: James Whitcomb, for whom James Whitcomb Riley was named, was admitted to the bar in 1822 and became governor of the State of Indiana; Paris C. Dunning, 1833, later also became governor of Indiana; Willis A. Gorman, 1836, became governor of the State of Minnesota and served in Congress; William P. Hammond, 1851, became governor of Indiana; Augustus L. Rhodes, 1846, became a distinguished Judge of the Supreme and Superior Courts of California; Wm. M. Franklin, 1849, became a judge of our own Circuit Court and also of our State Court.

Among the men who were admitted to the bar in the Greene Circuit Court and later became eminent Judges were: Amory

Continued On Next Page

Kinney, 1821; John Law, 1823, also became a Congressman; Samuel R. Cavins, 1829, noted for the fact that he served as a county officer for 27 years, 1829 to 1856, through Democratic times as well as through Republican; David McDonald, 1834, became a state as well as a United States District Judge; Elisha M. Huntington, 1837, was a local as well as a U.S. District Judge; S. H. Buskirk, 1834, became judge of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

We might also mention a few men who were admitted to practice at the local bar and who later distinguished themselves as members of Congress: Tilghman A. Howard, 1831; James Hughes, 1853, judge of our circuit court, later was elected to Congress and to the State Legislature, and made Judge of the Court of Claims under an appointment by President Buchanan; Nathaniel Usher, 1852, was appointed Secretary of the Interior by President Lincoln; David McClure, 1851, became Secretary of State of Indiana, and was appointed Paymaster General of the United States by President Buchanan.

Men of note in government service, who were admitted to our bar, were: Samuel H. Smyth, 1839, eminent lawyer and later appointed as government official to France; John S. Watt, 1839, appointed a U.S. Judge in New Mexico by President Filmore; Richard W. Thompson, 1839, a member of Congress and appointed Secretary of the Navy by President Hayes; George C. Dunn, 1839, a member of Congress and held the distinction of being called Indiana's greatest orator.

Greene County can well point with pride to these former residents of our community, or who in passing through, left their footprints in our fair town and left their names engraved on our records.

Continued On Page 37

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BLOOMFIELD

PIONEERING PRESBYTERIANS

The First Presbyterian Church is pleased to share in commemorating the "Pioneer Days" of Bloomfield. Organized before there was any Bloomfield, the local congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was formed on August 9, 1823, at an out-door meeting on what was then the Vanvorst farm and later the Lew Jones addition. The site of the meeting was probably in the block west of the present intersection of Seminary and Spring Streets.

The church was founded by the Rev. A. W. Downey with the following ruling elders: Carpus Shaw, John Vanvorst, Dannel Wasson, William Roach, and John Benham. John Vanvorst was the first settler in Richland Township, having settled here in 1817. The next ruling elders were William Bynum, great-grandfather of Daniel A. Bynum and Grace Bynum; and Alex Downing, great-grandfather of Mrs. Marion Brassert.

In 1838 Rev. Ephraim Hall became pastor of several churches in this area including the Bloomfield church. For 16 years, he faithfully and effectively preached to our congregation, riding on horseback from his home at Ellettsville, thirty miles away. During Ephraim Hall's ministry, Alfred L. Kutch, Jeremiah Buckner, John Simpson, William Anderson, W. T. Ferguson, and E. H. C. Cavins were ordained as ruling elders, and William C. Hicks and W. K. Routt were ordained as deacons. In the next 70 years, 20 ministers served the church. Among these were Rev. W. T. Ferguson, son of Bloomfield pioneers and later Moderator of the General Assembly, and Mrs. Brassert's father, Rev. L. P. Marshall, who served our church from 1879 to 1883, and again from 1912 to 1915. The ruling elders ordained in this 70-year period were A. J. Mason, J. N. Conley, John Kutch, J. D. Leavitt, J. D. Alexander, E. H. C. Cavins, William G. Sargent, John Rankin, Richey Simpson, L. P. Doyle, David Myers, R. T. Burrell, O. W. Shryer, P. J. Harrah, D. A. Long, J. A. Cravens, J. H. Smith, R. B. Duff, Church Covert, D. H. Baldrige, Charles Chaney, L. E. McDonald, and A. G. Pate.

The first church building of the congregation was erected in 1856 at the site of our former manse on East Main Street. Due to the untiring work of Rev. I. N. Yokley, pastor, the present church building was erected during the years 1897-1899, and dedicated October 15, 1899. The Ladies Aid Society, under the name of Sewing Circle, was organized about 1851; the Woman's Missionary Society was formed August 27, 1890. The Women's Missionary Society and The Ladies Aid later became the Women's Association which is now a part of United Presbyterian Women.

In 1881, Miss Julia Leavitt was sent as a missionary to Japan where she served many years.

The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized April 7, 1891. (Our group of young people is now the Westminster Fellowship.)

In 1904 the congregation joined the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., which in 1958 became a part of the new United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Our church held an elaborate centennial celebration in 1923, while Rev. T. B. McAmis was pastor. Following his resignation in April, 1924, Rev. Monroe Seals served one year as pastor. Rev. Jack Masters was pastor from November, 1926, until January, 1931. Among members received during these four years was Joe Russell Laughlin, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Ill., and present Moderator of the Synod of Illinois. The following Ministers and students have served us since Rev. Masters: Paul L. Garber (student), May 1934-June 1937; Rev. Wm. S. Behrick, July, 1937-October, 1939; Rev. Wallace I. McDonald, May 1940-Nov., 1941; Oral VanHorn (student), October, 1944-February, 1945; Rev. Homer Weisbecker (who held Sunday evening services), Sept. 1946-1954; Mayo Smith, (student), 1954. Mr. Smith was ordained in November, 1955, and served until May, 1957. In 1956 our church built the new manse at 306 Madeline Ave. Our present pastor, Bruce Beardsley, came as student supply pastor in May, 1957, and was ordained in May, 1959.

THE PIONEER CHURCH

Of the four great so-called cultural mediums, the newspaper, the library, the school and the church, it is probable that the church played the most important role in the life of the early settlers in Greene County. Adequate means of transportation had not yet been established; lack of reliable mail service often made the delivery of the newspaper uncertain, even when a newspaper was published closer than Indianapolis; schools had not yet been organized to the extent that schooling was available to the average boy and girl; it is true that libraries had been provided for by the constitution of 1816, yet they were either non-existent or so poorly stocked with books that it would with truth be said that the average family had access only to the Bible and perhaps an almanac.

The early settlers came primarily from the southeastern seaboard states through Tennessee and Kentucky, or from Pennsylvania and Ohio, after leaving the New England States. From these early settlements, originally from the East, came the adherents of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. Consequently, these denominations first set up their denominational classes early in and about Bloomfield. From local history it appears that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized here on or about August 9, 1823, and that the Methodist Church followed shortly thereafter, probably in mid-1825. These organizations were completed and meetings were held in homes of members, in school houses and in the log court house on the square, or any other available and suitable places.

By 1839, according to old-timers, there was not a frame church in the county, and there were but very few frame houses. The court house was used and served as a meeting house for all denominations.

Early preachers had many difficulties to overcome in the pursuit of their chosen profession, which, out of necessity, was often supplemented by other means of

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

SPRING AND LEWIS STREETS

The present church had its beginnings in Bloomfield in the year 1940. Previous small congregations met for short periods from 1917-1920, and a short time in 1930, but failed to continue due to members moving away from the town.

In 1940 the congregations of the Church of Christ at Bloomington and Lyons established the present congregation. Evangelist A. W. Harvey of Bloomington held the first meetings here at a building on the corner of Spring and Seminary Streets. In 1949 the present brick building was built one block west of the old building, at Spring and Lewis Streets. The congregation has grown from about 6 members at the start, to about 75 at the present, with crowds of 100-125 frequently attending. During the year 1957 additional class room was provided by completing and enlarging the basement. The building was completely refurnished in 1958 by the local Faucett-Umphrey Corporation to provide large seating capacity.

THETA GAMMA CHAPTER

DELTA THETA TAU SORORITY, INC.

A non-political, non-sectarian organization for the advancement of philanthropy, the promotion of the welfare of the members, the fostering of a spirit of good fellowship and the perpetuation of the organization.

Theta Gamma Chapter of Bloomfield was founded on May 27, 1948, by Zeta Beta Chapter of Linton, Indiana.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Vivian Smith
Virgie Holt
Edith Weaver
Mary Jo Terrell
Sara Bovenschen

Lloyd Hasler
Vivian Greene
Robertine Borders
Lorena Leavitt
Ann Miller

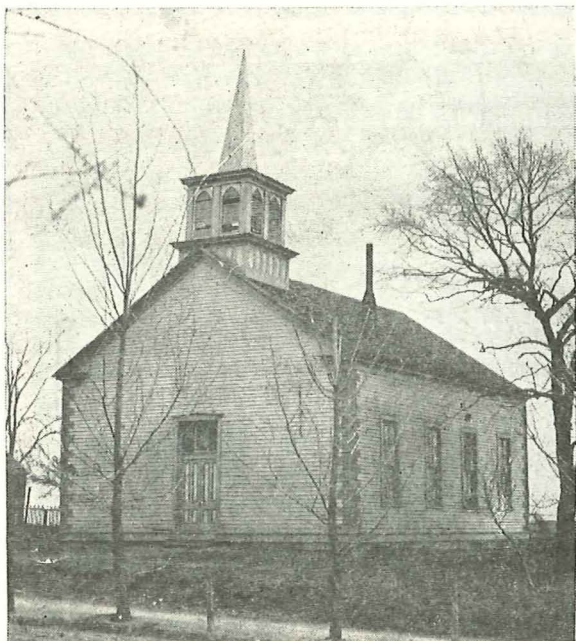
Madge Ellett

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Dorothy Briner
Juanita Daniels
Betty Jo Dean
Ruby Crow
Marie Farmer
Kate Farthing
Betty Floyd
Marsha Greene
Maribelle Hamilton

Margaret Hudson
Shirley Hudson
Carolyn Lowder
Marsha Minks
Maxine Moore
Ann Mowery
Lee Ooley
Shirley Pullen
Jean Resler

Edna Mae Richeson
Ruth Sickbert
Cornelia Street
Rhoda Bell Titus
Helen Turner
Vera Vest
Shirley Waldie
Wanda Warnick
Margaret Wonder
Elizabeth Wright



First Church Constructed by Presbyterian
Congregation on East Main Street in 1856.

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PIONEER DAYS DANCES

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:30 P.M. — SQUARE DANCE

Hoe Down and Western

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

9:00 P.M. — COSTUME BALL

— BOTH AT BHS GYM —

\$200 IN PRIZES

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The Concrete Silo Co., Inc.

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

The Concrete Silo Company of Bloomfield, Indiana, was incorporated in December 1913 for the purpose of manufacturing concrete stave silos, water tanks, grain and coal bins.

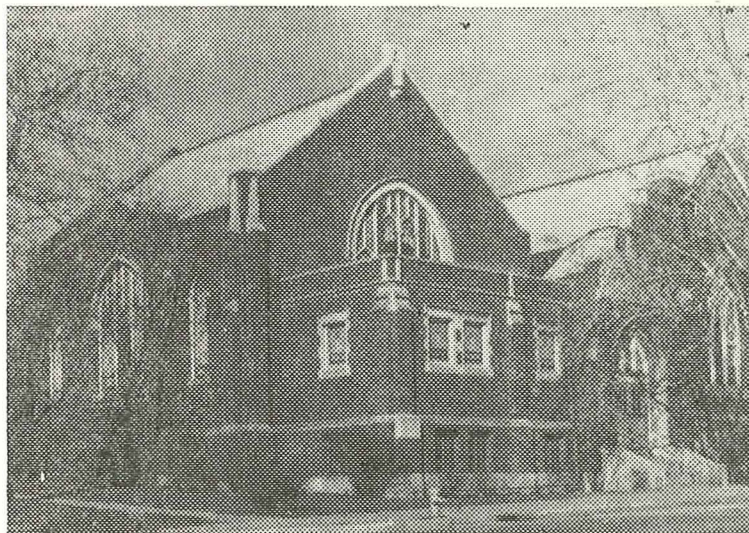
In 1922 the controlling interest of the company was purchased by the Michigan Silo Company, which at that time was located at Kalamazoo, Michigan, with Mr. Walter Brassert serving as president and he became the new president of the Concrete Silo Company at Bloomfield. He has done much to improve the operation of the plant and office and likewise gained the good will and respect of all of the employees and the citizens of this and surrounding territory.

Mr. Brassert held the office of President until April 1, 1957 when he resigned and was succeeded by Mr. E. H. Harrington, who also is now President of The Michigan Silo Company now located at Charlotte, Michigan.

The Company in normal times affords employment locally for about fifty to fifty-five employees and operates about 300 days per year with a resulting annual pay roll for all plants of from \$158,000 to \$160,000.

The company not only manufactures the materials for their silos but sends experienced builders to erect these on the farmers' farms. The builders enjoy the work and the novelty of traveling from farm to farm in different localities and making new friends among the farmers.

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH . . .



History of the Methodist Church of Bloomfield taken from the Bloomfield Democrat, issued November 11, 1924.

The following item found in a Bloomfield paper dated November 4, 1887, states, "The Methodists are completing a handsome place of worship, a brick structure, erected at a cost of about \$6,000.00." This is what is now known as the "Old Auditorium", converted to Sunday school rooms.

On November 18, 1924, the corner-stone was laid for the present Church building at a cost of about \$45,000.00, most of which was taken care of by pledges.

It is believed that the first Methodist Church was organized in the year of 1825 just nine years after Indiana was admitted into the Union.

The Church was organized at the home of Elisha P. Cushman and the first members were the Cushmans, Robinsons, Scotts, Mary Letsinger, William Branstetter and wife, Abel Westfall and family, Dr. Freeland, several Ritters, Stephen H. Lockwood and family, William Mason, the Milams, the Waggoners, the Browns, Peter Tate and others.

Rev. Anthony Robinson was one of the early prominent pastors. He donated forty acres of land near Bloomfield, which when sold furnished the money to build the Church early in the forties. It was a neat frame building that stood somewhere near where the Parsonage now stands. Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Huff also donated \$1,100.00 to the church fund at this time.

The present church was erected under the supervision of Mr. Clarence Wilson, as contractor.

The building committee were H. W. Letsinger, C. E. Welch, and George Endres, the trustees of the church included the building committee with John Humphreys, H. L. Doney, G. E. McCracken, E. Kirby Ashcraft, John Cushman, and Lee H. Jones. The first parsonage was built just about where the present one now stands at a cost of \$600.00 which was borrowed from the Indiana Common School Fund and later part of the lot was sold for \$125.00 to help pay the debt.

The present pastor is A. W. Jarboe.

support. But few had graduated from college and but few were polished speakers. Many settlers tendered the use of their humble cabin homes to the preachers of all denominations for preaching and for other religious services.

Since there were few outlets for social activities at this time, nearly every one went to meetings even though they were held miles away. They went in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads and trails, afoot, on horseback, and in linchpin wagons. Nearly everybody joined the church, if they did not already hold membership, and everybody took part in the "meetin" and in the singing of the old familiar hymns.

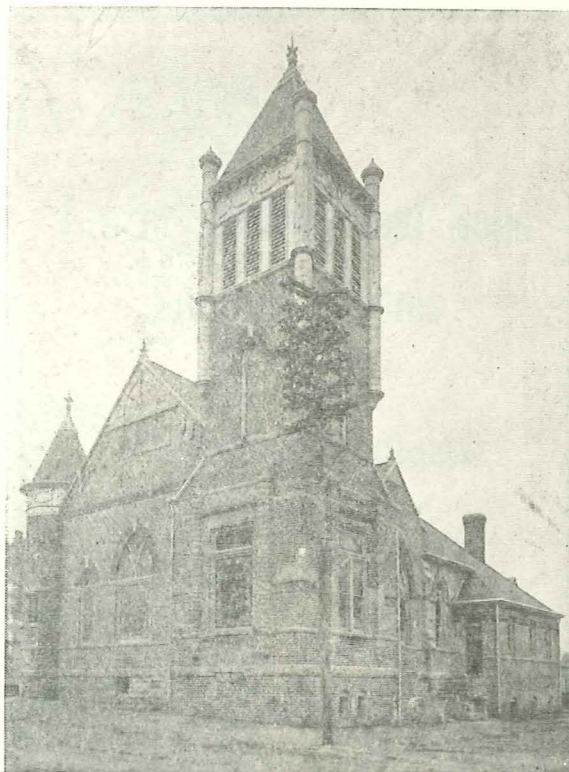
Owing to the scarcity of preachers, their services were often not available when most needed or desired. Funeral services were often postponed until the minister made his circuit, when the family and neighbors gathered and held religious rites in memory of the departed.

As much as it was the desire of each bride to be married by her minister, either her wedding had to be postponed until the preacher came, or she had to resort to a civil ceremony by the local justice of the peace, whose charges were most nominal—usually twenty-five cents for local marriages and fifty cents if he had to "go out of town". Of course, he was always invited to the wedding feast, which, of itself, was more than enough to pay the justice for his fee.

Most congregations recruited or "raised-up" leaders from among themselves, up-standing young men of character and integrity, but of little or no formal preparation or training for the ministry. To a great extent, a form of "circuit" or itinerant ministry as practiced, especially by the Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Christians, who at this time were commonly known as the "Big Four" of the protestant churches.

The first work of the Methodists in Indiana was taken care of by their "Circuit Riders", who served as mission-

Continued On Page 43



Presbyterian Church, Corner Main and Jefferson Streets, Before Remodeling.

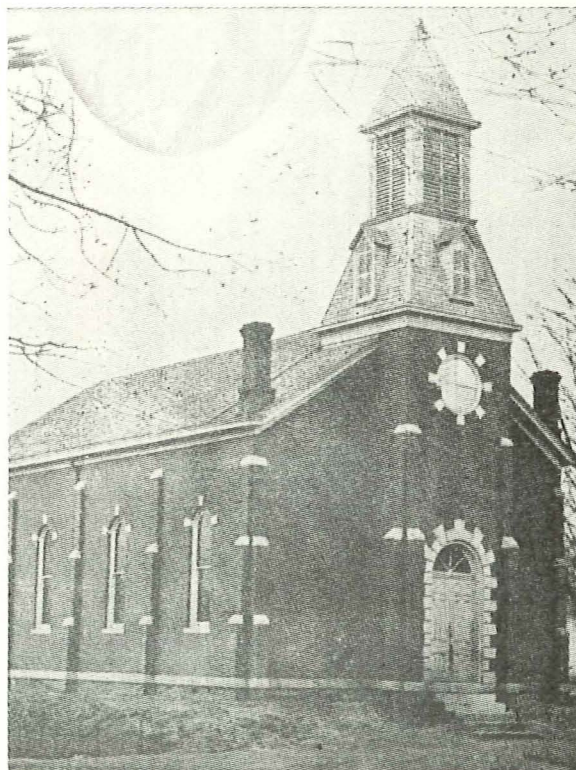
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BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



First Christian Church In Bloomfield Observes 85th Year

The Bloomfield Christian Church was organized by Reverend Brinkerhoff December 27, 1874, with the following first members: William Templeton, George Upfold, John T. Lamb, Francis M. Dugger, Abbie Dugger, Riley Quillen, Elmira J. Quillen, Hannah Upfold, Sarah J. Upfold, Nancy Lamb, Margaret Kissell, Elizabeth Templeton and Rebecca Templeton.

This group met in the homes of interested persons for two years before the church was organized. The congregation appointed George Upfold and John T. Lamb as leaders of the congregation. Samuel T. Axtell was the first Sunday School Superintendent.

The original church building of red brick was built in the year of 1875 at a cost of three thousand dollars, and at the time of dedication the church was almost debt free. The congregation had grown to thirty members.

The last service was held in the old building May 14, 1911, after which it was sold and removed by J. S. Gentry, who used the material to build a store building in the south part of town.

The present church was built on the same site in 1912. Elder George L. Snively of Illinois was speaker for the dedication service.

The following ministers have served the congregation: J. H. Brinkerhoff, E. H. Floyd, Robert M. Blount, W. B. F. Treat, William Ingram, Joel Dillen, T. M. Wiles, Joseph Franklin, W. N. Littell, Thomas A. Cox, Quincy Short, J. K. Speer, I. C. Stone, Marion Egolf, D. W. Campbell, W. M. Sexson, Lewis F. Drash, H. A. Blake, John A. Spencer, Merrit Owen, O. R. Keller, J. W. Moody, A. W. Craig, R. H. Jones, R. S. Rains, Ronald L. Secrist, Paul M. Boyer, C. W. Layton, Henry J. Taylor, Verl A. Underwood and Eldon L. Haley. Present minister is R. Lee Henney.

aries, riding horseback from community to community where classes had been established. Consequently the Methodist Church grew rapidly during pioneer times under their pioneer circuit preachers.

Camp meetings were common during pioneer times in Greene County. Such meetings were common among the Baptists and Christians but were especially popular with the Methodists, who held "revivals" outdoors when the weather was favorable and "protracted meetings" indoors when the weather was bad. People from miles around came to these meetings, which usually featured among the most attractive part of the services, sermons by "religious orators" who had a reputation for "drawing" the crowds and bringing the sinners to the "mourner's bench."

The influence of these early pioneer churches had a far greater impact upon the people of the time than is generally thought. They established a material and physical foundation upon which successive generations built a cultural pattern, offering increasing opportunities and accomplishments of much richness for themselves, thereby passing on to us a heritage of much more significance than might at first hand be realized. The members, especially the women, were ardent workers in the church, and impressed upon their families and friends the principles of morality and true piety.

RELIGIOUS FAITH OF THE PIONEER

One can learn to know quite intimately individual pioneers by a search of the records in and about the court house at Bloomfield.

From the will records we learn the deep religious faith of these early settlers; their belief that it is appointed that once all men must die; they desire that their body be interred with Christian burial; and that their worldly goods be disposed of fairly and justly and wisely.

Quoting from a few of these wills we read:

"Know all men that I, Elizabeth ****

Continued On Page 46

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Lyons, Indiana

Telephone 42

THE LEADER STORE

THE LEADER STORE was founded in 1930 by Mr. and Mrs. I. S. Ritchey and was operated in the Stalcup Building until 1932 when it was moved to the northeast corner of the square in the K of P Building. They sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Henderson in July, 1944.

Since early in 1954 it has been managed by Mrs. C. F. Henderson, assisted by Mrs. Elsie Strauser, Jack Kent and Mrs. Dorothy Yake.

In July 1950 the business was incorporated as THE BLOOMFIELD LEADER STORE, INC. but is still more familiarly known as The Leader Store. Many leading brands of shoes and clothing are in stock and the store is proud of its reputation for high quality merchandise at reasonable prices.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The organization of the local Baptist Church began in the year 1869, when M. C. Clark and J. Corothers of Terre Haute came to Bloomfield and held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a church for Baptists.

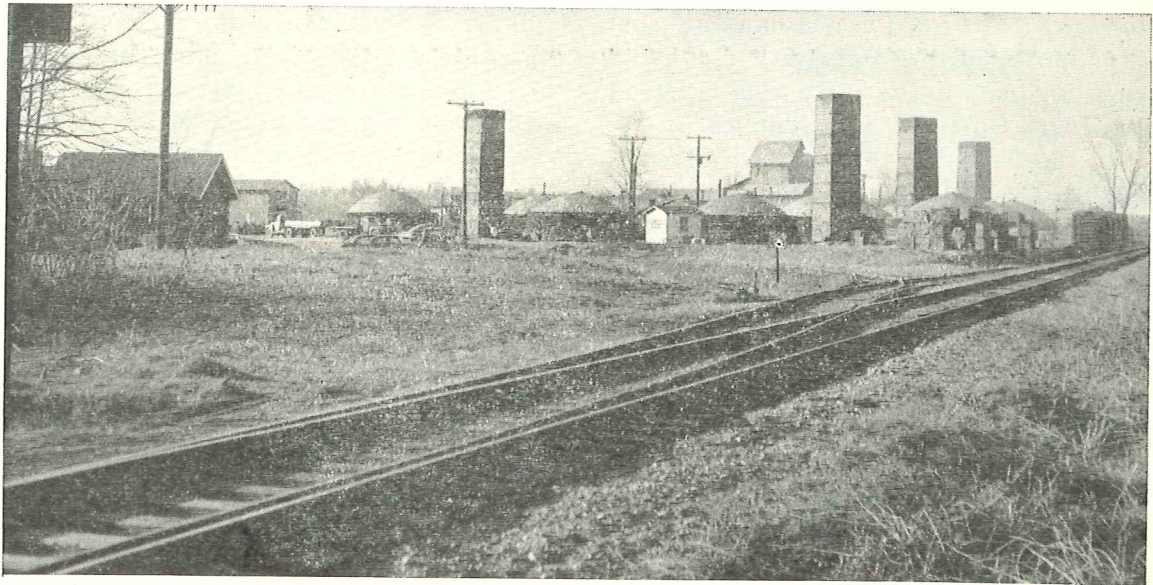
The charter members were O. T. and Nancy Barker, Susan Cavins, E. P. and Margaret Williams, W. H. Smith, A. C. Flannagan and Emanuel Lagerhour. M. C. Clark was unanimously elected to be the first pastor. William Gainey and E. P. Williams were the first ordained deacons.

While a church was being erected, meetings were held in the Presbyterian and Methodist edifices, and in the homes of members. On August 30, 1874, the church was dedicated with the Rev. R. M. Parks delivering the dedication sermon.

In the year 1922 the church, which was located on Indiana Avenue, burned to the ground. Almost immediately the present site was purchased and the erection of a new church began, in June, 1922. The edifice was completed and dedicated September 23, 1923. Dr. Carlos M. Dinsmore, of Indianapolis, preached the dedication sermon.

In 1946, the residence at the corner of South Franklin and South Streets was given by Mrs. W. V. Moffett to the church to be used as a parsonage.

At the present time, the Bloomfield First Baptist Church has 160 members and is being led by Dr. L. B. Mathews of Franklin College, who is serving as interim pastor.



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FOR A GRAND AND GLORIOUS
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President

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Secretary-Treasurer

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(being weak of body but in perfect mind) do make and ordain this my last will and testament **** First I recommend my soul to the hands of the Almighty God who gave it, my body to the earth to be interred in a decent Christian like manner."

"In the Name of God Amen. Whereas I, Rachel *** of Greene County and State of Indiana being weak of body yet of sound mind and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do make this my last will and testament. First I commit my soul to God who gave it and as for my body I commit that to the ground to be buried at the discretion of my family and friends and as to touching my worldly substance that the Lord has blessed me with to be disposed of as follows: *****"

"Whereas I am about to depart this life I will as my last will and testament that my body be interred in the ground and my Soul to God that gave it."

"In the name of God Amen. I, Enoch *** knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die ***** and being desirous

to the end that my pecuniary and worldly affairs be amicably and justly settled that thereby I may save to my heirs peace and quietitude in the settlement thereof*****"

Among the recitals of the will of Anderson *** we find: "It is my earnest and dying request that my children should be obedient and kind to their dear mother, that they should early seek the Lord and prepare to meet me in Heaven where I soon hope to be exalted through the infinite mercy of my heavenly Father*****"

"Know ye that I, Francis *** being weak and feeble of body and well advanced in years though of sound mind and disposing memory thanks be to the all wise disposer of human events for his providence in thus indueing me so long with his inestimable blessings ***** Item 1st I give my soul to God whenever it shall be his pleasure to call me from this state of mortality to immortality *****"

These men and women, representative of our pioneer forefathers, no doubt were

Continued On Next Page

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brought up in good Christian homes and no doubt received the blessings of their loved ones back home when they set out for a new life in a new back-woods world. They had carried these teachings and blessings to their new homes in pioneer Greene County.

To all this we might add a bit of surmise all our own: Might they not have had time to reflect and commune with nature as they sowed and reaped? As they sat before the open fire place on cold winter nights with their family about them, reading the embers as they glowed and died away? As they stood at the bedside of their loved ones suffering from wilderness diseases? As they stood at the open graves when their friends or perhaps members of their own family, were laid to their final rest in bark coffins?

Faith, hope, charity: faith in themselves; hope for the future; charity toward their fellowmen.

Thus they lived and laid the foundation stones upon which Greene County was

built. To them we owe a debt of deep gratitude, these worthy forebears — our Pioneers!

PIONEER HOMES

The pioneer homes in Greene County were most primitive. Often upon arrival the family worked feverishly for any kind of a temporary shelter, in caves, in dug-outs, in pole and brush lean-to's. Their next task was to prepare a log hut or cabin to protect the family and its possessions from the heat of summer and from the wintry blasts, which are described as having been much more severe than those of today.

The task of cabin construction was a neighborhood affair — friends, neighbors and even strangers came to assist in the log cutting, log rolling, notching, sadling, clapboard splitting and erecting of the home. Openings for doors and windows were cut after the framework was up. Often doors were covered by blankets or animal skins, or perhaps a crude construc-

Continued On Page 50

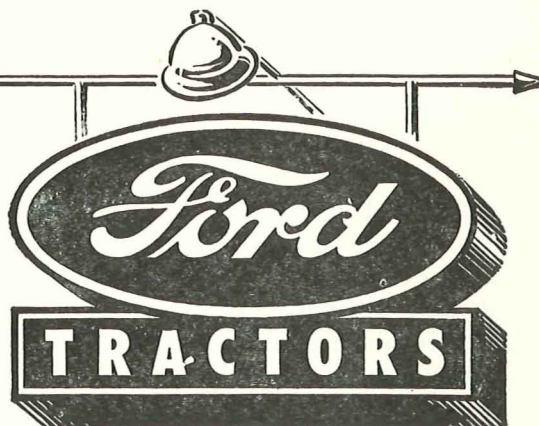
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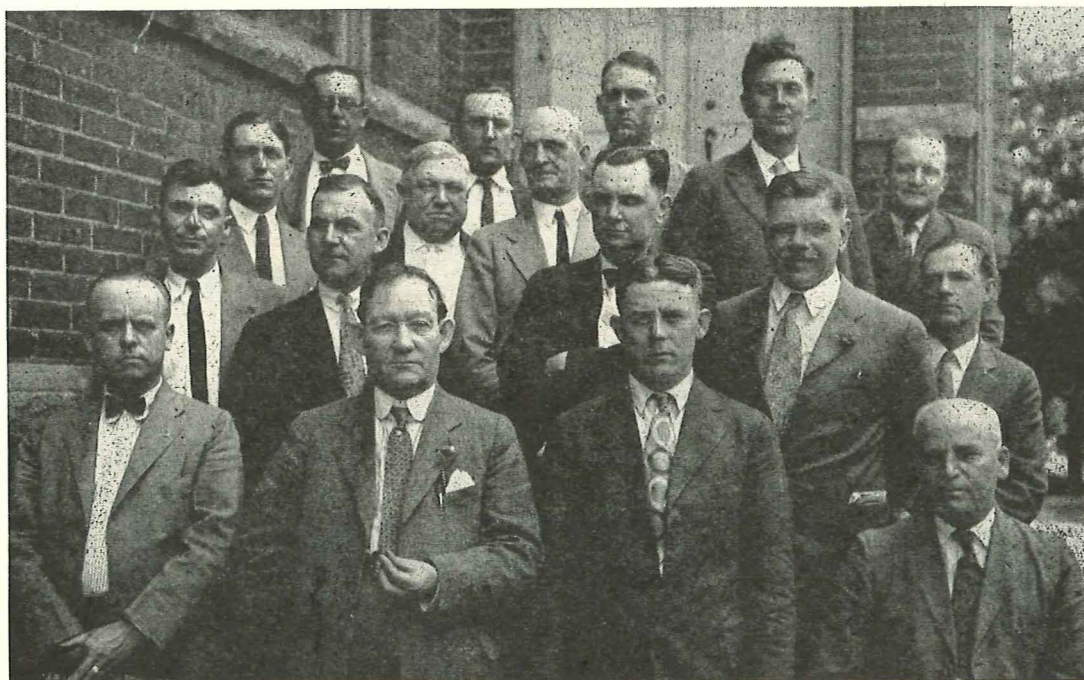
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BLOOMFIELD ROTARY CLUB



Bloomfield Rotary Charter Members 1925

4th Row — Allen G. Pate*, Stein, Gregory, Christie**
 3rd Row — Harrah, Slinkard, Welch, L. E. McDonald, Bunting
 2nd Row — Flater, Jones, Hannah, Stalcup, Parsons
 1st Row — Burrell, Tierney, Miles, Maddock

*1st new member

**not present

PRESIDENTS

1925 Dennis T. Bunting
 1926 L. E. McDonald
 1927 Ivan F. Stalcup
 1928 Allen G. Pate
 1929 Ed H. Stein
 1930 Dr. Frank A.
 Van Sandt
 1931 Robert F. Parsons
 1932 Reed A. Letsinger
 1933 Rev. Joseph Downey
 1934 Chester P. Harrah
 1935 Joe C. Jarvis

1936 Norman C. Hetrick
 1937 C. F. Henderson
 1938 Walter F. Carroll
 1939 Isaac Ritchey
 1940 Keith Edwards
 1941 Walter Brassert
 1942 John Moore
 1943 J. A. Jackson
 1944 John Dowd
 1945 Leland S. Barkley
 1946 Albert F. Stafford
 1947 Marvin C. Wilson

1948 Wm. Knipe
 1949 Dr. M. S. Mount
 1950 John O. Moomaw
 1951 Fred Butz
 1952 Howard E. Stein
 1953 O. O. Hall
 1954 Dr. J. A. Graf
 1955 George M. Hays
 1956 Elmer Kirby
 1957 D. Wayne Miles
 1958 Loren McDonald
 1959 Louis Jaffre



Argonaut Club Members with Husbands at I.C. Depot on July 12, 1907,
Ready for Picnic Trip to Nashville, Indiana.

The Bloomfield Homemakers Club was organized as a Home Economics Club in 1932, affiliated with the Home Economics Extension Service of Purdue University, and with the County Extension Office.

With a desire for an extended program of study to supplement its program of work, in 1933 it affiliated with the Greene County Federation of Clubs, and in 1937 it federated universally. The club in this dual capacity has cooperated with and furthered the objectives of these two organizations through special committees which carry out its community projects. Among these activities have been assisting in the school lunch program during the depression; assisting a worthy widow in securing a modest home for her family; sponsoring the purchase for the local schools of their first movie machine with full sound equipment; providing leaders for local 4-H Clubs prior to the club's activities in assisting in securing Greene County's first full-time Home Demonstration Agent.

tion was made to slip into notches at the sides for temporary doors. The windows were covered with cloths or animal skins or greased sheets of paper to keep out the winter's cold — glass was a luxury to come later. One end of the cabin was reserved for the fireplace which furnished heat and a means of preparation of the family meals.

After the cutting and notching of the logs, they were fitted together and a small

Continued On Next Page

ROY G. BLAIR
SALES — PONTIAC — SERVICE
Phone 47
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

cabin usually 10 x 16 feet was erected. Being a neighborhood affair, cabin building was accompanied by feasting, drinking and having an hilariously good time — the workers bringing their women along to prepare and serve the food and to lend their gaiety to the celebration.

The early cabins were primarily fitted with dirt floors, well packed and tamped down so that they could be swept and kept clean of dust and accumulations of dirt. It was indeed a fine home that could boast of a puncheon floor, one made of roughly hewed and fitted logs. And proud was the possessor of the slab door fastened into notches and reinforced with a sliding bar to protect from night prowlers. The achme of finery was the glass for the window — many children viewed the first log court house in Bloomfield with awe, for it possessed the first glass windows they had ever seen.

The furniture was just as crude as was the cabin: hand-made beds or bunks,

Continued On Page 53

WEDNESDAY READING CLUB BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Organized 1909 Federated With State 1916
Universal Membership 1931

OFFICERS:

President Miss Veva Shields
Vice President Mrs. Cale Feutz
Recording Secretary Mrs. C. F. Henderson
Corresponding
Secretary Mrs. Emerson Blackmore
Treasurer Mrs. I. S. Ritchey
Publicity Mrs. George M. Hays

This Year Celebrating Our
50th Anniversary

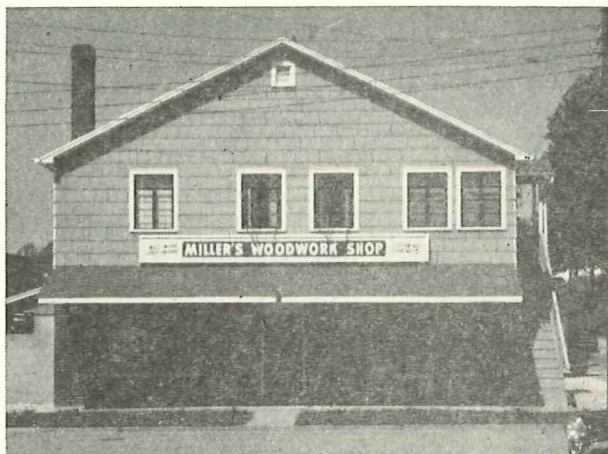
CHARTER MEMBERS:

Mrs. Nora Bland	Mrs. Florence Lowder
Mrs. Ella Ballard	Mrs. Clara Miles
Mrs. Thersa Combs	Mrs. Anna Marshall
Mrs. Alice Chaney	Mrs. Jessie McLaughlin
Mrs. Belle Jackson	Mrs. Lillie Phillips
Mrs. Maggie Spooner	

Theme: Educate Today For Tomorrow

Motto: Not to enjoy, but to employ life
should be our aim

The object of this club shall be to promote
the mutual culture of its members
socially and educationally.



Phone 477

Miller's Woodwork Shop of Bloomfield was established by Mr. Leon Miller in October, 1947, for the purpose of manufacturing kitchen cabinets. It was located in the millroom of the Concrete Silo Lumber Yard on West Mill Street.

In 1950 the business was moved to a new building located at South Seminary and Mill Street where it is presently located.

Our business is mostly for the manufacture of custom-built kitchen cabinets, bath room vanatories and built-in wood-work. We also deal in kitchen appliances. We furnish employment for three men and have managed so far to have steady work.

This business is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Leon Miller.

MILLER'S WOODWORK SHOP

700 SOUTH SEMINARY ST.

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



MARY REBEKAH LODGE

No. 595

I. O. O. F.

1900 — 1959

Mary Rebekah Lodge No. 595 was instituted with a charter membership of thirty-six, twenty-seven of whom were present on the night of March 23, 1900, and signed the charter. This lodge has been in continuous active service since that date.

Violet Rebekah Lodge No. 312 of Linton journeyed to the county seat to participate in the institutional proceedings and to confer the Rebekah Degree on the charter class of candidates. In the afternoon of March 23, they drove to Bloomfield in horse drawn vehicles popularly known as "hacks". To show that horse parking was expensive even in those days, we learn from the lodge records that the horses of the degree staff were stabled at the livery barn where it cost \$3.50 for hay, while it cost the lodge only \$5.75 to feed the entire degree staff.

The evening's festivities were held in the Eveleigh Building on East Main Street, lighted by a series of kerosene lamps distributed about the hall. Today the lodge has an active membership of 184 Sisters and Brothers. They meet in the lovely IOOF Hall which is beautifully decorated with fraternal charters, emblems and pictures significant of the various branches of the order which hold their regular meetings here.

At the present time the Rebekah Lodge is very active in performing the functions for which it was originally instituted and to which it has continuously dedicated its members.

The degree staff composed of twenty-nine sisters and four brothers, confers the Rebekah Degree in a most impressive manner, supplementing its ritualistic ceremony with symbolic floor work.

The fact that it is a secret society, having signs, passwords and the like, secret only to the membership, should not at all lessen its significance in the community, as a part of a great social, religious and benevolent fraternity. The Rebekah membership is dedicated to those great Christian principles exemplified by the life of significant women of the Bible: women who dedicated their lives to visit and care for the sick; to relieve the distressed and heartbroken; to administer to the troubled and needy; to aid in the establishment of fraternal homes for the aged and children; and to cultivate and extend the social and fraternal relations of life among the membership of the entire order.

and "special" training of the teacher. The term was usually in the winter months, or at least held when the children were less needed at home for work.

The subjects taught were, of course, the proverbial three R's — reading, writing and arithmetic. In time came spelling, grammar, geography and history. The curriculum depended much upon the teacher, as did also the method of instruction. Some of these teachers themselves were educated little above the common or elementary grades, often spoken of as "having gone through the fifth reader." A few had attended a term or two at a seminary or at a normal or a local institute especially set up for teachers.

Because the income from teaching was inadequate to provide for a living, the teacher had to supplement his wages by another profession, such as farming, preaching, carpentry or the like. This being true, is it any wonder that the pioneer teacher used his profession as a stepping stone to a career in business, in law, in medicine, or in the ministry?

BLOOMFIELD'S SEMINARY

The constitution of 1816 of the State of Indiana, supplemented by a general seminary law in 1824, provided for county seminaries. When Bloomfield was laid out as the new county seat in 1824, and platted into blocks and lots, a "Seminary Block" was set aside on the site of the present grade school building, one block west of the public square.

The old County Seminary Building, completed in the mid-40's, was a two-story structure 20 x 60 feet and contained two rooms down and two rooms up, separated by a hall way.

It has been said that the building was used as a residence and as a Masonic Hall before it was used for school purposes in the early 1850's. The records show that the Methodists used the building about 1853 for what was commonly known as "Bloomfield High School" with the Rev. M. Forbes in charge of the school, with

Continued On Page 59

MOTHER'S CLUB

Mother's Club was organized October 22, 1914, by a group of friends and neighbors who desired to promote an interest in the study and welfare of the homeward community. It is a non-money making organization but does contribute to many charities each year.

The charter group met in Ida Mitchell's home and of the eight members, only the names of six could be recalled. They are: Mrs. Ida Mitchell, Mrs. Clyde Yoho, Mrs. Bert Ramsey, Mrs. Reed Letsinger, Mrs. Kay Hatfield, Mrs. Maude Parsons.

At that time a full course meal was served by the hostess but in 1954, the times indicated that many mothers preferred to serve a simple dessert.

Each member, during the course of the club year, prepares and delivers a paper before the club. Courses of study undertaken through the years have covered a variety of subjects including topics dealing with child care, projects proposed to make life more stimulating for the homemaker and an examination of life in foreign countries.

Always the highlight of each meeting has been "The children's hour", when the children of the hostess have the opportunity to demonstrate their particular talents before an appreciative audience.

History is ever-changing. As patterns for living alter, Mother's Club with its fluctuating personnel, changes too, and constantly brings new ideas to the attention of its membership and indirectly to the community.

KENNETH R. WELBORN

PHONE 11

WEST SIDE OF SQUARE

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

INSURANCE - REAL ESTATE - BONDS

WE WRITE:

FARM

PERSONAL LIABILITY

BOILER

AUTO

FARM LIABILITY

PLATE GLASS

FIRE

BURGLARY

ALL TYPES OF BONDS

MARINE

COMPENSATION

REPRESENTING THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES:

AMERICAN UNION INSURANCE COMPANY

CAMDEN FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

FIREMAN'S FUND GROUP

HARTFORD STEAM BOILER

INDIANA BONDING AND SURETY COMPANY

NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

STATE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION

STATESMAN INSURANCE COMPANY

UNITED STATES FIDELITY AND GUARANTY COMPANY

WE HAVE BEEN SERVING YOU SINCE 1935

two teachers under him. They set up a course of study to give them the standing of an Academy.

About 1857 the ground reverted to the county at which time J. R. Baxter was placed in charge of three assistants, each with about 30 pupils. Among the subjects taught under Supt. Baxter were geometry, higher mathematics, Latin and Greek.

In 1863 Bloomfield bought the building and grounds and set it up to take care of its own school system. The present brick building was constructed about 1877 at a total cost, it is said, of \$8,000.00. It is probable that a part of the old seminary building was incorporated in the newly-constructed building.

THE COUNTY LIBRARY

In accordance with section 5 of the enabling act of 1821 establishing Greene County, the county library was provided for by setting aside 10% of the money received from the sale of lots in the donated tract for the establishment of the library. By 1840 there had been bought about \$250.00 worth of books from these funds. After the court house was built the books were stored in a room provided for that purpose. For a great many years space was provided in the treasurer's office for the library.

It was an excellent institution considering the times and the reading public. To see the significance of this, we have but to recall that Indiana had been a state only since 1816 and that most of the people in Greene County had but few books of their own, many having none excepting the Bible and perhaps an almanac. We can well understand, therefore, what a library composed of standard authors of history, biography, travel, fiction, poetry and general knowledge meant to the infant county. It is probable that this library never exceeded more than a few hundred volumes but it proved sufficient to meet the needs of the people in early Greene County.

Later township libraries were organ-

Continued On Next Page

MARSHALL FLORY

PURE OIL CO.

Phone 258-R5

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Haywood & Warnick

Body Shop

Phone 337-J1

Body & Fender Repair
Automobile Refinishing

Route 2

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Past Noble Grand Club

On February 27, 1957, a number of Past Noble Grands of Mary Rebekah Lodge No. 595 met to organize a Past Noble Grand Club. The object of this club was to organize the Past Noble Grands to help in any way to promote Rebekah Odd-Fellowship. Since that time the club has organized a Degree Staff, of fifteen members; they have presented the Lodge with a piano light and a set of beautiful emblems used in the ritualistic work. In furthering the work of the club the members have participated in a study of the Women of the Bible. The noble lives and principles of the women of our ritual form the foundation and cornerstone of our order. Through this study was impressed upon each club member the importance of looking to these women for the example of beautiful piety, constancy, perseverance and self denial.

History Of Home Craft Club

The Home Craft Club was organized May 26, 1936, at the home of Mrs. James Lester by Mrs. Ward Borter, then President of Greene County Home Economic Clubs. There were seven charter members, three of which are still active, Pearl Carmichael, Katherine Noel and Edith Weaver. Other members are: Sara Bovenschen, Arva Caldwell, Ione Carrell, Mamie Cuthrell, Betty Dean, Blanche Dixon, Wilma Ferguson, Jane Ferguson, Audrey Flater, Zelma Flory, Margaret Hardisty, Pearl Hasler, Nelle Lewis, Edith Mansfield, Ruby Rodocker, Margaret Skomp, Rosemary Steward, Agnes Smith, Imogene Terrell, Sally White and Mae Williams. Associate Members are: Alice Toon, Charity Foddrill, Lougha Powell, Mary Thompson and Opal Blanton.

ized and furnished by the state with funds derived from the sale of certain lands commonly known as school lands. Counties received a number of libraries comparable to their population — those with population over 15,000 were to get 10 libraries of 325 volumes each; those with population of 10,000 to 15,000 to get eight such libraries, and those with population of less than 10,000 were provided with six.

In or about 1850 Greene County qualified for eight libraries. They were located as follows, one to each group: Richland township; Cass and Taylor; Jackson and Center; Beech Creek and Highland; Jefferson and Eel River; Smith and Wright; Stockton and Fairplay; and Stafford and Washington.

Books began arriving in 1854 and by 1855 were distributed among these eight township libraries.

PIONEER AGRICULTURE

The economic life of the pioneer of Greene County depended primarily upon agriculture, in particular corn and hog production. His self-sufficiency economically rested upon his ability to produce sufficient for his own family consumption, with a surplus for the market. This required of the pioneer farmer a wide diversity of tasks which he had to meet single handed from day to day. He had not only to provide for food, clothing and shelter for his family, but was also faced with the task of clearing the land, preparing the soil for cultivation and planting and reaping the crops.

History shows that early pioneer settlers located primarily in wooded areas, thinking that the soil there was richer than in the prairie lands, and that it would consequently yield greater and better crops. Here he was faced with trees — with the hardwoods, oak, walnut and hickory, and with the elm, ash and poplar. He found use for all these in his pioneer life: the poplar for log houses and puncheon floors; the oak for rails, clapboards, wagons and wagon accessories; the hickory for carriage axles, ax handles,

Continued On Next Page

and bows and arrows; the walnut and wild cherry for furniture.

Into these forests of native trees, therefore, came the pioneer with two basic tools, the rifle for personal protection to overcome the enemy and to feed his family, and the ax to build his home, to conquer the forest and to prepare the soil for his farm crops.

The first to fall at the hand of the early settler was the underbrush and the smaller trees — sufficient to clear a cabin site and to plant a small family garden. Later came the felling of the larger trees and the burning of the brush in preparation for the cultivation of the cleared farm plot. It took a strong, sturdy hand at the plow, drawn by a team of steady oxen, to guide it around the stumps, dodging and weaving in and out to miss the roots buried deep in the soil, the pioneer plowing his "new ground." It was no doubt from this feat of plowing the virgin soil that the team drawing the plows was characterized by the phrase: "Steady as an ox."

Hard as was the task of clearing and plowing the cleared forest ground, the problems of the prairie sod-busters were just as great if not greater. The thickly matted roots of the prairie grasses went deep and wide, making it most difficult to keep the plow in the ground, thus turning the sod unevenly and irregularly. Besides, it would take much more frequent cultivation to keep the unturned bits of grass from smothering the new crop.

The pioneer farmer was also faced with the problem of fencing his crops against his own and his neighbors' farm animals. He built temporary fences of brush and logs to be replaced later by rails and hedge plantings. Fortunate, indeed, was the farmer with a large family of sons to lighten the load of his daily tasks!

Although corn was the leading grain crop planted on the newly prepared farms, wheat and oats were also raised, as were buckwheat, rye and barley. Pic-

Continued On Next Page

History Of The Book Club

The Book Club was organized February 16, 1937, under the auspices of the Wednesday Reading Club. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dennis Brandon with Mrs. R. C. Berkey assisting. Charter members were: Mary Alice Brandon, Martha Carmichael, Mary Ruth Ferguson, Louise Flater, Audrey Foster, Eula Killion, Christina Law, Cecil Shertzer, Katherine Stone and Lucille Shertzer.

In keeping with the Federation program, members participated in programs of various nature.

No activity of the Club is reported from May 19, 1937, until November 22, 1937, when it was re-organized by Mrs. Berkey, Mrs. Brandon, and Mrs. Aden Hanna. Mrs. C. F. Henderson and Mrs. J. N. A. Downey were sponsors and Martha Carmichael was president. The program for the year was the study of the Old North West Territory and meetings were held in the basement of the Library. Some of the studies were: "Ordinance of 1781" by Bessie Timmons, "Dress and Habits of the Pioneers" by Elizabeth Stone, "Life of George Rogers Clark" by Emma Rucker, "Daniel Boone and the Hunters of Kentucky" by Eula Killion, "Squatter Problems in the Northwest Territory" by Mary Ruth Ferguson, "The Typical Log Cabin in Comparison With Homes Today" by Mary Wilsey, "Pioneer Hardships in the Northwest" by Ilene Heid.

After the study of the Northwest Territory, it was decided that each member give a Book Review, but it proved more satisfactory to ask guests to give these reviews and programs. One of the first guest reviews was given by Mrs. Roy Isenogle, whose review was "Song of the Years" by Bess Streeter Aldridge.

Present members are: Katherine Branstetter, Grace Brock, Harriett Clark, Grace Dowden, Nancy Dowden, Treva Ehley, Dorothy Fiscus, Ilene Gosser, Bessie Hayes, Lillian Martin, Genevieve Miles, Mary Jeanne Quillen, Marjorie Scofield, Marilyn Sparks, Helen Turner, Mary Alice Turner, Freida Uland, Martha Ann Woodward, Phyllis Wright; Martha Carmichael, Eloise Timmons - Inactive.

ture, if you can, the farmer of today with his modern machinery viewing the pioneer farmer at corn planting time: the single shovel plow laid off the row; the seed dropped by hand, grain by grain; the row covered by hoe. Also cultivation of the crop: often first by harrowing, then single shovel plow, row by row, up one side and back down the other, and the final laying-by with the hoe. Harvest time called for the corn knife or corn hook, stalk by stalk, cutting, shocking and binding, shock by shock, the corn to be jerked, stripped or shucked by hand, ear by ear.

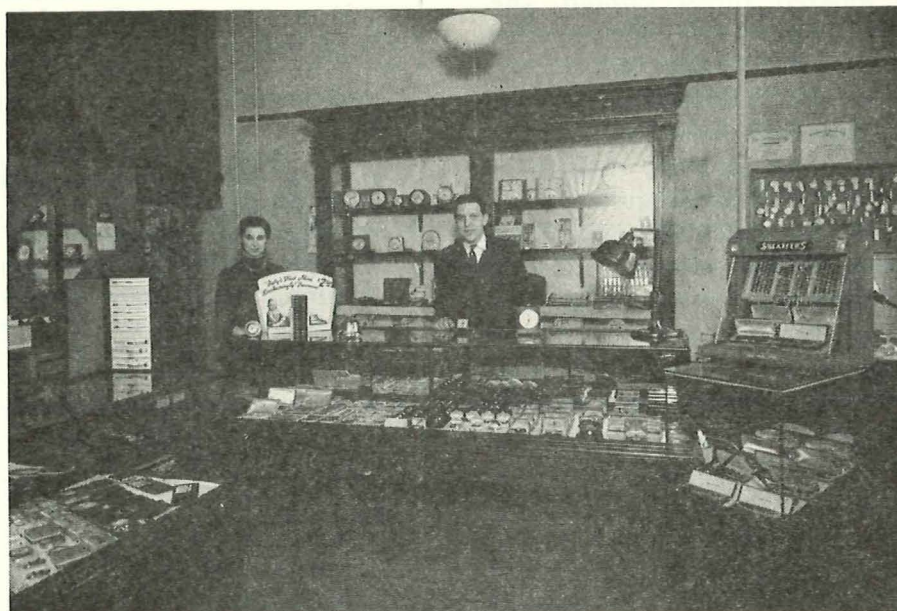
As to the smaller grains, wheat, rye and barley were planted in the fall, oats and buckwheat in the spring; the seed bed was prepared, the seed broadcasted by hand and covered by harrowing. Nothing much could be done between planting and harvest time with the small grain crops. At harvest time the grain was cut by sickle or scythe, later by the cradle — cut, hand bound and hand shocked.

Early threshing was by flailing or trampling — the threshing machine operated by a “threshing outfit”, came much later. That was one of the gala neighborhood occasions — the men swapped work in a regular threshing ring, and their women followed the rounds of the machine, serving a typical meal which often yet today is characterized by the expression: “You would have thought she was cooking for a threshing machine ring!”

The most important vegetable of the pioneer garden was the potato; the surplus crop was stored for the winter in “potato holes.” Among the miscellaneous crops raised were: flax for seed, oil, and fiber; hemp for rope and bags; hops for yeast, for bread and brewing; tobacco for family use and for the market; native grasses, marsh hay, clover and blue grass for the live stock.

Also important to the pioneer farm was the raising of hogs, cattle, sheep, horses, chickens, ducks and geese, and

Continued On Next Page



Margarete Livingston and Herb Richmond

Established In 1940 — Located In Masonic Building
RICHMOND'S JEWELRY STORE

the faithful friend of man — his coon hounds.

The farm woman kept busy by helping with the outdoor work, by doing the carding, spinning, weaving, dyeing, bleaching, tanning and by making clothing, bedding and carpets. She also was the family chef, preparing the meals consisting of meats, corn bread, sauerkraut, cheese, butter, apple butter, dried fruits and vegetables, and, of course, baking the big, fat, brown loaves of bread.

PIONEER INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Pioneer self-sufficiency is evident when we consider the provision they made for their survival in the wilderness. The area in and about Bloomfield was a veritable wilderness when Indiana was admitted to the union in 1816, when Greene County was established by an act of the Indiana Legislature in 1821, and when Bloomfield was finally selected as the county seat in 1824. The records reveal

that the commissioners ordered the county agent to do sufficient clearing of the donated area, ridding it of trees and underbrush, before he laid out the town lots and attempted to sell them. Their purpose was to induce better prices for the partially cleared lots.

No less ingenious were the women of the household, for it was to them that the pioneers looked for food and clothing, and it no doubt was to them that the men looked for inspiration and courage to stick it out under such difficult surroundings and under such rugged conditions.

As to the food, the pioneer had sufficient meat at hand if he had the industry and courage to go out and get it. Wild game was most abundant. There were wild turkeys, ducks, geese, pigeons and quail; there were fish and other game of the river and neighboring streams; there were the beasts of the field, such as deer, bear, rabbits and squirrels. In fact wild game often appeared in and

Continued On Page 65

PSI IOTA XI SORORITY

Philanthropic And Civic Organization

FOUNDED IN 1897

BETA KAPPA CHAPTER — BLOOMFIELD

FOUNDED MARCH 31, 1933

PROJECTS

Hoosier Art Salon
Speech and Hearing Institutes at
Ohio State University, Indiana
University, Ball State, and
Indiana State

Indianapolis Symphony
Riley Hospital Fund
Scholarships and Other Benevolences
Annual Christmas Tree
For Children

From A Pioneer Of Rural Electrification
To The
Pioneer Days Of The Community
We Extend
The Most Sincere Wishes
For A Prosperous And Successful Celebration



"Willie Wiredhand"

COMPLIMENTS OF

R. E. M. C.



Wagons loading out from Harrah Manufacturing Company first overseas shipment of tea tables for India. Also shown at left is Miles Company on North Franklin Street.

about the cabins of the settlers and in the streets of the infant villages, according to the stories of the early historians. They painted a very vivid picture of the night prowlers about the cabins and of the catamount and the panther.

To supplement the meat in their diet, the pioneer men and women cleared a garden plot near the cabin in which to raise an abundance of corn for mush, hoe-cake, corn dodgers, corn on cob, hominy and, of course, we cannot leave out their corn whiskey. They also raised the potato, beans, and cabbage, in fact, much of the same garden truck as is still being raised in the family garden today.

As for fruit, they found it in the wild state, blackberries, strawberries, gooseberries; and from their own plantings such fruits as apples, cherries, plums and grapes, came in due time.

All these provisions for the table and cupboard were supplemented by home-made maple syrup and maple sugar, and

Continued On Next Page

SINCE 1914

— Plumbing —

Heating — Sheet Metal Shop
by MILES in Bloomfield

- Begun by S. D. Miles, former architect and building contractor, at
25 North Franklin Street
- From 1919 to 1923, operated under name of
MILES & MILES
with D. W. Miles and
A. B. Miles as proprietors
- Since 1923—for past 36 years—the business has been operated by
D. Wayne Miles

as

MILES COMPANY

25 North Franklin
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

CONCRETE BLOCKS METAL WINDOWS

4 In. Blocks

6 In. Blocks

8 In. Blocks

10 In. Blocks

12 In. Blocks

Cement — Mortar

Coal Doors

Waterproof Paints

Call — 204-W — Call

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BLOCK COMPANY

R. R. 2

1 Mile West of Bloomfield

Elliston, Indiana

from robbing the bee-trees came the wild honey. In due time also came the cane and the sorghum.

With all these food products at hand, one would naturally come to the conclusion that the pioneer family had a veritable paradise of foods. But when we reflect that the only means of cooking was over the open fire in the great fireplaces or the open fires in the outdoors, we can get a better perspective of the necessity for culinary prowess in seeing that the food was properly prepared and attractively served. All of this had to be done with the cook pot and the skillet, without any fancy gadgets and any electrical equipment, not even a can opener! Most women agree that cooking, at best under most favorable circumstances, is a difficult art.

Such of the fruits and vegetables that could not be preserved or dried for use out of season had to be taken care of otherwise if the thrifty pioneer was not to suffer during the long winter days when he longed for a change of diet. To take care of this, he constructed "apple holes", "cabbage trenches", etc. And what a great delight it no doubt was when the winter had come down in all its fury, to dig into an "apple hole" and come into the firelighted cabin to spend the evening eating crisp, juicy apples. What more could one ask for?

The life of the pioneer women must have been most difficult. As we have seen she was often the driving force of the busy household. She bore the children, breast-fed them, cared for them, quieted their fears, and rocked them to sleep at night.

She milked the cows, churned the butter, made the cheese, tended the garden, raised medicinal herbs and brewed their tonics.

She worked in the fields and in the garden to assist as a means of keeping the body and soul together in a material way; she prepared the food for the family un-

Continued On Next Page

der the most trying conditions as shown above; and she had one more most necessary duty to perform, that of seeing that the family was clothed.

For the youth and men she made deer skin breeches, hunting shirts, coats, gloves and moccasins. For the whole family she made garments of linen, wool, linsey-woolsey, and cotton. To get many of these products it was up to her nimble and industrious fingers to see that the flax and cotton were prepared; the wool washed; the raw materials spun on the family spinning wheel; the thread woven into cloth; and the garments made from these cloths. To add a bit of color to their drabness, it was her skill to concoct dyes from barks, plants, roots, and berries, and to mix them to the right color and proportion for a pretty color for garments and linens.

In addition to making clothing for the whole family, she made sheets, towels, table cloths, blankets, quilts, coverlets, carpets and rugs. In fact, the pioneer mother was at the head of a great industry all her own.

The labors, privations and self-sacrifices of the pioneer women were as great or greater than those of the men. The men, it is true worked hard with their crude tools through long hours; their toil started at sun up and closed at sun down. But a most difficult lot fell to the women, who were harrassed by the drabness, the exhaustion of child bearing, and the physical labor and solitude of the surroundings in a strange, new world. She worked constantly. She picked the geese for feathers for pillows and beds; she made soap for the family use from lye caught from the ever-leaching ash-hopper; she sewed, knitted, patched, darned, day after day, long into the night after the supper table was cleared, the dishes washed, and the babies tucked into bed.

Ceaseless, grinding toil for shelter, food and clothing? To the pioneers, not at all. In our present complex world of

Continued On Page 69

"Money isn't
everything!"

.... but there are times
when nothing else will do!



See

SEABOARD FINANCE COMPANY

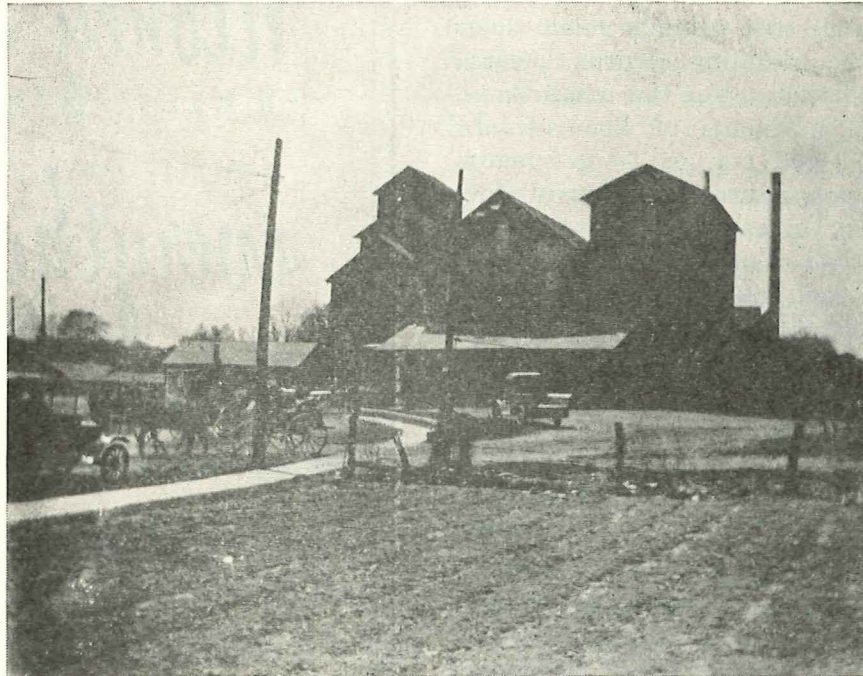
"Your Lending Neighbor"

123 SOUTH FRANKLIN

BLOOMFIELD

Phone 43

A MILL SITE 86 YEARS



ORIGINAL MILL BUILT IN 1873

REPLACED WITH PRESENT BUILDING IN 1935
BY CARL K. GRIFFITH

PRESENT OWNERS

WILLIS D. GRIFFITH

ELMER K. KIRBY

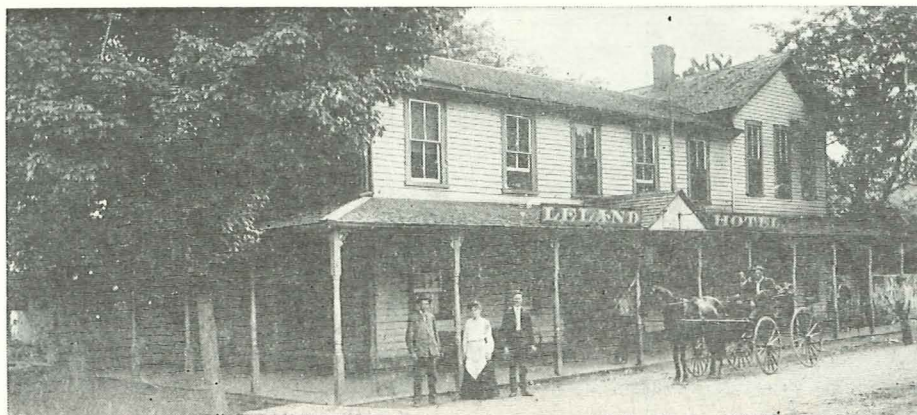
EMPLOYEES

Lee Hash
Doris Hash

Robert Carpenter
Garrett Bowersock

The Bloomfield Mill & Elevator Co.

EVERYTHING FOR THE FARM & HOME



Leland Hotel located at southeast corner of square. Lady in middle of threesome is Mrs. Charles Ausman; man on her left is her brother, Homer Knox. Other persons are unidentified. Hotel was operated by their mother, Mrs. Jane Knox.

seeking pleasure and entertainment outside the home, we can scarcely comprehend the gay social life of the pioneer in an atmosphere of relaxation and simple enjoyment.

For the men and boys, there were the sports testifying to their superior physical strength, speed and dexterity. There were the feats of weight lifting, foot racing, jumping, tug of war, and "rastlin." There was also the horseshoe matches, marbles, ball, horse racing and shooting matches.

For the women there were social activities such as spinning parties, quilting bees, rag-cuttings, picking geese, apple paring and drying, carpet tacking, apple butter making, and cooking bouts.

For the entertainment and enjoyment of both men and women, there were the log-rollings, barn raisings, dancing, singing, and flat-boat loading. At the end of the harvest they enjoyed the hoedown, barn dance, camp-meetings, sleigh rides, and, of course, the favorite sport of the young men and women, the "sparkin" on the way to and from spelling bees and school literaries.

It was a good, wholesome life, free from nervous tensions, high blood pressure and nervous break-downs.

Continued On Next Page

COMPLIMENTS OF
WRIGHT'S
PURE OIL SERVICE STATION
GAS, OIL, TIRES, BATTERIES, ETC.
Corner Of Main and Judge
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

— Quality Drycleaning —

DEMAREE CLEANERS

160 West Mill Street

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Ray Haines
Marathon Service Station

SITE OF OLD LELAND HOTEL

Spring and Washington Sts.

GAS — TIRES — GREASE & OILS

CAR & TRUCK WASHING

Service Station Since 1930

JOHNSON CREAMERY

Ward W. and Ellis Johnson started December 16, 1912, in Bloomington making butter. Today the Creamery serves Spencer, Martinsville, Franklin, Bedford and Linton as branch stations. The Linton Branch serves all of Greene County with dairy products.

Johnson Creamery first operated in Bloomfield in 1929, one man delivering both wholesale and retail.

Johnson Creamery bought the Linton Milk Co. in 1931. In 1956 all of Greene County accounts were transferred to Linton Branch. Two Bloomfield men take care of Eastern part of the county.

Johnson Creamery also buys milk from producers of the county served by four routes. The money left in Greene County per year amounts to many thousand of dollars. We are proud of our plant.

REX B. WINTERS, Manager

THE FURNACE

Furnace, a settlement at the very doorstep of Bloomfield, was organized in 1832 by Andrew Downing, and by 1850 this community industrially overshadowed the county seat town of Bloomfield. The iron ore mined in the neighborhood was smelted here and made into iron products such as kettles of varying sizes, stoves, plows, machinery and pig iron. The prime outlet for these products was through the Louisville market.

In 1856 Mr. Downing was joined by three wealthy men, A. L. Voorhees and Edwin J. Peck, both of Indianapolis, and Chauncey Rose, the founder of Rose Polytechnic Institute, the Rose Orphanage and the Rose Dispensary, all of Terre Haute. For about two years the furnace was at its peak of production, employing as many as 120 men at an average wage of \$1.00 per day, a fabulous salary for the 1850's.

During this period an expert from Louisville was hired to manage the mill; the capital was increased; the mill was enlarged, and additional real estate was acquired. It has been said that the company had property holdings of some \$200,000.00. A grist and saw mill had been added and a company store opened for the convenience of the employees. In 1855 a bank was founded and it began to issue currency to the extent of \$5,000.00 in denominations of \$1.00 and \$20.00 bills. (This writer has been informed that Ferd Bolton, the orchardist of Linton, has one

Continued On Next Page

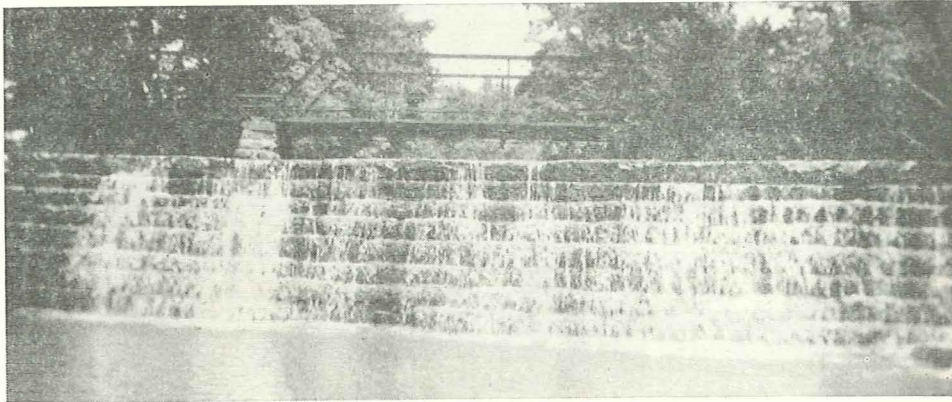
DANIEL M. AXE INSURANCE AGENCY

— Complete Insurance Service —

Hotel Building 14 West Main St.

Telephone 412

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



Water spills over Richland Creek dam at Furnace. Bridge remains but dam was destroyed several years ago.

of these \$1.00 bills which he treasures very highly.)

The village flourished. It boasted a store, grist mill, saw mill, bank, charcoal burning kilns, ore mining equipment, iron smelting plant, hollow-ware factory, and a distillery. The company owned its own boats which carried not only its own wares but also agricultural products of the vicinity to Louisville and often to more distant markets.

In 1851 the first Wabash and Erie Canal boat passed opposite Bloomfield down the canal, so that the Furnace Company now could use not only the river but also the canal to ply its trade.

When disaster struck the Furnace, it struck hard, fast and surely. Trouble arose in the company in 1858-1859; the lower part of the canal was abandoned; the Furnace closed down operation; the bank's doors with its unredeemed currency closed; families, without work, moved away and the Furnace and all its associated industries passed out of existence.

Today no trace of the former bustling community is left. Even the dam across Richland Creek at the old mill site has been destroyed and the mill race blocked. The old bank building was moved to Bloomfield, and reassembled, stone by stone, on the corner of Judge and Main Streets, where it was used for years by Dr. Riley Applegate as an office and small animal hospital.

Continued On Page 73

COMPLIMENTS OF
STAFFORD'S SUNDRIES
16 East Main Street
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

COMPLIMENTS OF
HALLIBURTON
STANDARD STATION

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY
BLOOMFIELD,
INDIANA

Dr. George S. Avery
CHIROPRACTOR

KEEP SMILING

BLOOMFIELD'S DOCTORS AND DENTIST

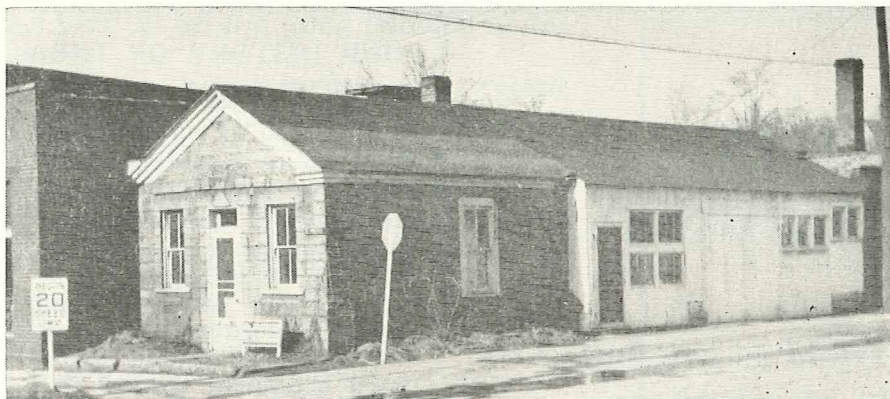
J. A. Graf M.D.

F. W. Heidenreich D. D. S.

M. S. Mount M.D.

H. B. Turner M.D.

J. J. Turner M.D.



This block building was a bank at Furnace before it was moved to the corner of Main and Judge streets in Bloomfield. It also was the first bank in Bloomfield and was last occupied by Dr. Riley S. Applegate, veterinarian.

SIGNIFICANT "FIRSTS"

The first circuit court met in the house of Thomas Bradford in September, 1821, with J. Doty, president judge; John L. Buskirk, associate judge; Thomas Warnick, clerk; Thomas Bradford, sheriff; and Henry Merrick, prosecuting attorney.

The first court convened in Bloomfield in 1825, upon the completion of the court house.

The first record of the first session of the court, in Record A, page 1, September Term 1821, Greene County, Indiana, September 4th Monday, reads: "At a Circuit Court in and for the first Circuit Begun, and held at the house of Thomas Bradford on the fourth Monday of September 1821, present the Honorable Jonithan Doty, President of the first Judicial Circuit, and John L. Buskirk, Associate Judge, the sheriff called the Grand Jury the following of whom appeared and were sworn to wit, Levi Fellows, foreman; John Oneal; John Slinkard; Benson Jones; John Goldshay; Reuben Hill; James Smith; Jonithan Lindley; Benjamin Hoshaw; Cornelius Bogard; Cornelius P. VanSlyke; Eli Faucett; Joseph Rumours.

"Henry Merrick was appointed prosecuting attorney for the county of Greene for the present term where upon he appeared and took the oath required by law; and the said Henry Merrick and Amory Kinney were admitted to practice as attorneys and councellors of this court

Continued On Page 75

HOOSIER ABSTRACT CO.

Eva Lowder, Owner

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

— Abstracts Of Title —

COMPLIMENTS OF

Holtsclaw's Standard Service

Evinrude Outboard Motors

Sporting Goods

Clinton Chain Saws

Standard Gas and Oil

West Main Street

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

**BLOOMFIELD . . .
WE SALUTE YOU ON
YOUR 135th ANNIVERSARY**

**We're not as old as you, but
by the right of inheritance,
we trace our ancestors back
to 1853.**

**So - We have a
Personal Interest in**

“PIONEER DAYS”

The Evening World

(Bloomfield's Daily Newspaper)

**SERVING THE COMMUNITY
SINCE**

MAY 12, 1930

(22 Years Under Present Management)

WE of the PRESENT

SALUTE the PAST and

ANTICIPATE the FUTURE

**OUR HISTORY OF THE
“WORLD”**

The story of The Evening World, with all its ancestors, takes us roaming through the pages of Bloomfield history, way back to 1853, so say the bound newspaper files in the office of the County Recorder.

The first recorded newspaper in Greene County was the Worthington Advertiser, started by Issac N. Morrison in 1853. Newspapers in those days changed hands frequently, so in rapid succession over a period of 15 years, this publication became known as The Hoosier Blade, The White River Valley Times, The Greene County Times, The Southern Indianan and finally, in 1868, The Bloomfield Democrat.

The Bloomfield Democrat enjoyed a long life of 75 years and was discontinued Jan. 1, 1943 due to the newsprint shortage in World War II. Actually it was a war casualty and died in the service of our country.

Bloomfield's daily newspaper was born May 12, 1930 as The Greene County Evening World, quite unusual for a town of less than 2,300 population. The Bloomfield Democrat was included in the purchase and was continued as a weekly until 1943, partly as a safeguard against failure of the daily and for sentimental reasons.

The present owners assumed management October 1, 1937, and on April 20, 1939, shortened the name to The Evening World. Our daily newspaper has had a very pleasant existence these 22 short and exciting years and we are proud of the fact, that it is one of the very few dailies in the world published in a city the size of Bloomfield.

and took the several oaths required by the State."

The first marriage license on record, 1821, reads as follows: "State of Indiana, Greene County, ss: Any Justice of the Peace or other person authorized by law to solemnize the bonds of matrimony in the said County of Greene are hereby Licensed to join together as husband and wife

Isaac Jackson
and
Elizabeth Griffith

boath of said County. In testimony whereof Thomas Warnick, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for said county have hereunto set my hand and seal this 4 day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty one.

Thomas Warnick, Clerk

"Now here a certificate is filed this 10 day of November 1821 by Hugh Barns Minister of the Gospel actually certifying briefly stating that he did duly execute the above Licen— on the 9 day of Augt. 1821, by joining together the above named Isaac Jackson and Elizabeth Griffith boath of said county in the holly state of Matrimony. In witness

Hugh Barnes M.G."

The first divorce granted a man in Greene County was in 1825 to Ezekiel Herrington.

The first divorce granted a woman in Greene County was in 1827 to Abbey Her-

Continued On Page 77

CORBIN'S
Landmark Restaurant
TOMMY'S
Bait Shop & Fishing Supplies
STATE ROAD 54 WEST

Wayne
Feeds

JORDAN
FEED MILL

Madge Jordan
Max Jordan

COMPLIMENTS OF
THE GREENE COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS

John R. Ax, Linton — Judge of Appellate Court

Kern G. Beasley, Linton

Courtland M. Chambers, Bloomfield

Frank C. Dean, Bloomfield

Ad English, Worthington

Mahlon W. Gilbreath, Jr., Linton

Orval D. Hunter, Bloomfield

George E. Jackson, Bloomfield

J. Albert Jackson, Bloomfield

Fred Jewell, Worthington

Edwin B. Long, Linton — Judge of Circuit Court

John O. Moomaw, Bloomfield

Rex E. Poe, Jasonville

J. Raymond Powell, Linton

Ben H. Sink, Jasonville

James B. Sparks, Bloomfield

Karl Parker Vosloh, Bloomfield

Will R. Vosloh, Bloomfield

rington, who was the second wife of Ezekiel Herrington, the above first.

The first girl baby born in Greene County in the neighborhood of Bloomfield was Mrs. Joanna Eveleigh, daughter of Carpus Shaw and Miss VanSlyke, daughter of Peter C. VanSlyke, Sr.

The first boy baby born in or near Bloomfield was Joseph Scott.

The first sale of lands in Greene County was made in 1816 at Vincennes. Few land entries were made early because of the remoteness from settled localities.

The first water mill was built in 1819 a short distance below the mouth of Beech Creek. In 1820 one was built on Richland Creek near Bloomfield by Colo-

Continued On Next Page

COMPLIMENTS OF
NOEL BROTHERS
GULF STATION

K & M MARKET

Quality Groceries, Meats,
Fruits and Vegetables

Phone 680

Free Delivery

Hotel Building

COMPLIMENTS OF

W. R. Rowe Insurance Agency

22 Years Serving Bloomfield

35 NORTH FRANKLIN ST.

TELEPHONE 45

FOX HUNTERS HEADQUARTERS

— OVER 100 YEARS OLD —

East Side Of The Square
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

1st Owners

Lewis & Pete Kidd

Other Owners In Order

Russell Byrd

Arnie Hash and Hoyt Hash

Shorty Uland and Bob Uland

Orie Cuthrell and Ward Borders

Shorty Uland

Lawrence Kidd

Hoover Basye and Doey Hash

Present Owner

Russell (Doey) Hash

BEST BEER IN TOWN

nel Levi Fellows. This was a saw mill and a grist mill operated by water power. Another early mill near Bloomfield was erected by Peter Lester and was called the Tibbett's Mill.

The first blacksmith's shop was set up by Thomas Bradford at his home just south of Bloomfield.

The first horse-power mill and the first distillery in or near Bloomfield were opened by Peter VanSlyke.

The first teacher who taught the first school in the eastern part of Richland Township is said to have been Joshua Dobbins.

The first teacher of the first school in a small log cabin near the Fellows mill is said to have been Fannie Cushman.

The first secret society in Bloomfield is said to have been Lodge No. 84, F & A M, which was chartered June 1, 1849. This lodge is still in a flourishing condi-

Continued On Next Page

KATES BEAUTY SHOP

Phone 84

13 North Franklin Street

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

1932 to 1959 — 27 Years

tion, having been in active operation throughout its 110 years.

The first teacher who taught the first school in Bloomfield seems to have raised some speculation as to who might have been this "first". Some say E. P. Cushman. It has been said that the fourth term in Bloomfield was the first to be of any consequence and interest. Grown men and women, as well as children, attended and it was taught by Mr. Cushman.

The first newspaper published in Greene County, 1836, was the "Comet" edited by W. Rude. It did not succeed and finally ceased publication in 1840.

The first county order in 1826 was for 93¾ cents for whiskey furnished by the county at the sale of town lots in Bloomfield. This indicates it was necessary to "tee-up" purchasers with whiskey to induce them to invest in Bloomfield real estate. The records also show that at the sale of lots in Burlington, **the first county**

Continued On Page 81

Lucas Market

Groceries & Meats

Corner West South & John Sts.

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

HUNTER'S DRIVE-IN

Phone 726

Mary & Dave Hunter. Owners

ALLEN'S FLOWER SHOP

PHONE 58

F.T.D. Service

— WE DELIVER —

Mary & Dave Hunter. Owners

COMPLIMENTS OF
COUNTY AND TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MILTON BOGARD

HARRY L. HASEMAN

NORMA L. LINTON

EDWIN B. LONG

ELIZABETH BRAMBLE

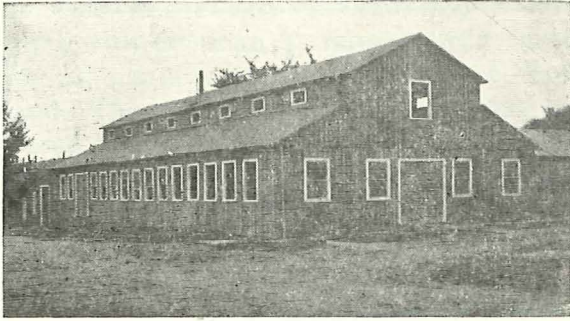
CLARENCE CROW

CHARLES STALCUP

ROBERT R. BEDWELL

JACK BLAKELY

JAMES B. SPARKS



Foundry Building
Located on West Spring Street.

seat, free whiskey at the expense of the county was also furnished as a part of the sale in order to "sweeten the bid", and the county allowed the bill to cover each of the above purchases.

The first jail in the county seat at Bloomfield was completed in 1826 at a cost of \$201.25.

The first money allowed in 1829 was paid to care for the one "pauper" reported — a woman. The number had risen until

Continued On Page 83

COMPLIMENTS OF

Your Skelgas Dealer

WILLOUGHBY'S STORE

East Side Of Square

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

BRANSTETTER PLUMBING AND HEATING

We Sell, Install & Service

PLUMBING

FURNACES

AIR CONDITIONING

WATER PUMPS

WATER HEATERS

WATER SOFTENERS

Phone 44 — Night Phone 333

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

COMPLIMENTS OF

**WHITE'S
REGAL STORE**

NORTH SIDE SQUARE

GOOD MEAT

THE FINEST IN THE GROCERY LINE

by 1846 the county entered into a contract with Obadiah T. Barker, who cared for all paupers at his "Asylum" at Scotland. The county paid all bills and allowed him a fee for his services. By 1846, after the purchase of a farm and the erection of a 18 x 26 building, the county was paying \$933.54 for the upkeep of the "poor farm".

The first tavern keeper in Bloomfield was Augustine Passmore, who was charged a license fee of \$10.00 by the county. In 1823 the county set up the **first system of price control**. They set the following fees which Augustine might charge for his product and services:

dinner, 25c; breakfast, 20c; supper, 20c; boarding and lodging by the week, \$2.00; horse to corn and hay, 25c; horse keeping by the day, 37½c; horse keeping by the week, \$1.25; 1/2 pint whiskey, 12½c, and 1 quart cider, 12½c.

The first merchant in Bloomfield was
Continued On Page 85

Compliments Of

EDWARD H. STEIN

Yes, There Is Fun
And
Wholesome
Entertainment
For The Entire Family
At
Resler's Roller Rink

This new permanent Roller Skating Rink has a skating area 50' x 120' clear span. This new Roller Skating Rink is owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Wade Resler and Family.

RESLER
ROLLER RINK
EAST ON HIGHWAY 54

Tonight..lets
roller skate

There's music and fun and
laughter... when skaters get
together! Let's waltz... let's skate
and enjoy ourselves tonight!



COMPLIMENTS OF
WILLIAMS SHOPPING CENTRE

SOUTH SEMINARY STREET

Charles H. DeFrees

J. R. Williams Sr.

June DeFrees

Electa Mae Williams

Deborah DeFrees

COMPLIMENTS OF
WILLIAMS IGA SUPERMARKET

102 MILL STREET

J. R. Williams Jr.

Sharon Lee Williams

Ruth Williams

Charles E. Williams Jr.

Charles E. Williams

John Ross Williams

Betty Jane Williams

Robert Clyde Williams

Steve Williams

Otis Hinkley. His shop was stocked with calico, muslin, linens, prints, thread, needles, ribbon, hair pins, hardware, some queensware, boots, shoes, hats and caps.

The first Greene County Medical Society was organized in 1858. It was reorganized in 1864 and again in 1867.

The first railroad projected into Greene County from Evansville in 1850 actually was never built. **The first railroad actually built** was operated by the Indianapolis and Vincennes system. It was completed in 1868-69 and was taken over in 1884 by the Pennsylvania System, which is still in operation.

The first society to promote agriculture in Greene County was organized on October 14, 1853, when their constitution and by-laws were drawn up. Officers elected were: Martin Wines, President; I. V. Codrington, Vice President; Peter Schultze, Secretary (grandfather of the present County Agent, Arthur Haseman), and J.

Continued On Page 87

**SOUTHERN INDIANA'S
LARGEST SELLING
BRAND OF MILK**



PHONE 751 — BLOOMFIELD

COMPLIMENTS

OF

WAYNE E. DAVIS

**Successor To
Odis Collings**

Workmen —

Ray Collings

Erwin Ramsey

James Gholson

TO OUR FRIENDS:

The growth of any insurance agency is brought about by the confidence and favor of the general public. I would like to thank the people of our community for their kind consideration which has always been a stimulant in the growth of this agency.

Through the years we have made available broad protection offered by leading stock companies. Not only does this broad program offer the most for the premium dollar to our customers, but also the economy of the community is better served.

Remember, we stand between you and loss!

It is our wish that each one of us shall prosper and that our town will continue to expand at an even more rapid pace in the next 135 years.

JIM BLACKMORE
— INSURANCE —

PHONE 5

144 EAST MAIN STREET

BLOOMFIELD

M. Humphreys, Treasurer. In 1853, its membership was 25, and in 1854 it was 139. It held **its first county fair** on October 18 and 19, 1854.

The first brick chimney in Bloomfield, so it is said, was built by Joseph A. Wright, while he was a student at Indiana University. He later became Governor of Indiana and was appointed by President Lincoln as Minister to Prussia.

The completion of the Wabash and Erie Canal, the first artificial waterway across Greene County was in 1849-1850. By 1851 regular boats were crossing the county, carrying agricultural products from points along the canal to foreign markets by way of Evansville. The canal passed along the west bank of White River west of Bloomfield.

These are only a few of the "Firsts" coming to pioneer Greene County and its people. They show that the county was soon flourishing in a number of ways to make the men and women participating in writing its history not one "whit" sorry that they had come to Greene County as a wilderness and that they now were helping her to grow into a blooming garden spot.

CONCLUSION

The pioneer in this newborn county looked to his own strong arms. He stood firmly on his own two feet. He disciplined himself. He developed an independence which made him his own teacher, his own preacher, his own doctor, his own tailor, his own cobbler, his own carpenter. In spite of the necessity to provide for himself and his family, all his days were not spent at work. He had his fun, his joys, his sorrows.

His life can be summarized well in the words of the poet:

"Toiling,—rejoicing,—sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose."

BEST WISHES FROM

Bloomfield Auto License Branch

Farrell Dowden, Manager

Clerks

Faye Dowden — Olive Quillen

Madge Blaker

Phone 349

East Main St.

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

DON'S GRILL

Owned and Operated By

Don, Desmonda, & Judy Ann Bowersock

Since March 1, 1949

26 MILL STREET

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

ALWAYS THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT

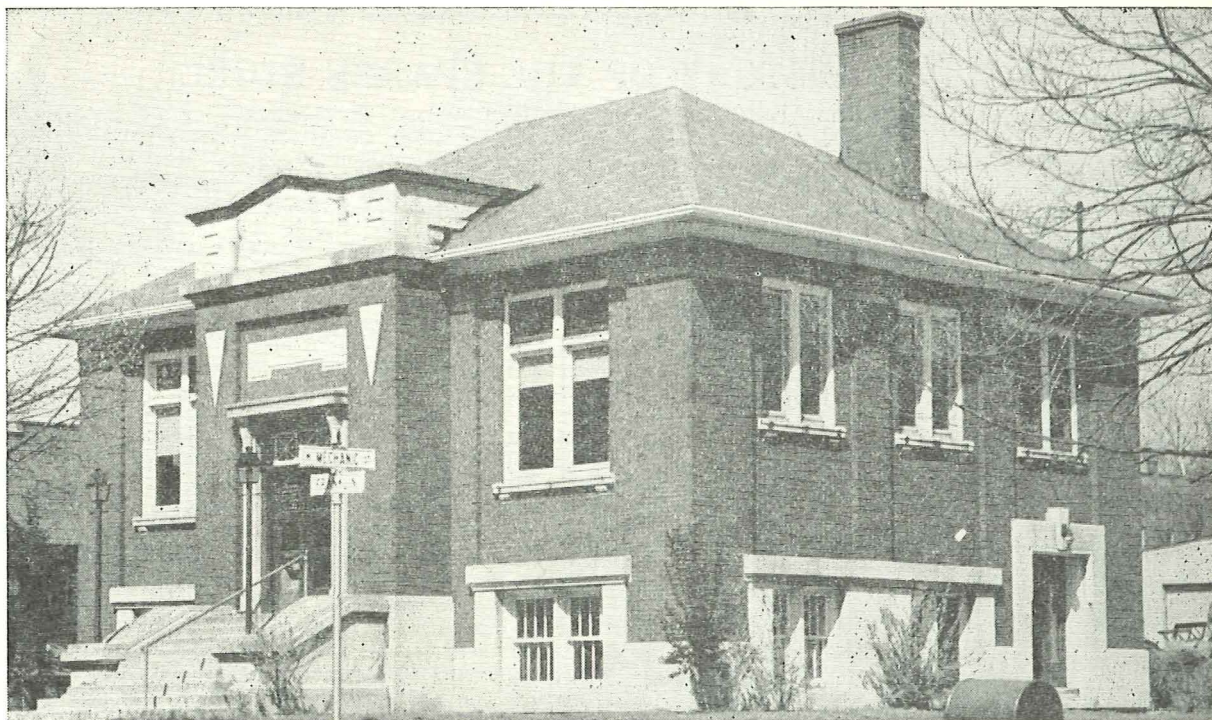
Even though your demand for electric power grows greater and greater through the years, PSCI increases its power supply even faster to keep well ahead of your needs. By 1961, the Company's electric power supply will have been increased over five times what it was in 1946!



YOUR ELECTRIC POWER INCREASED OVER 5 TIMES . . . 1946-1961

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY OF INDIANA, INC.

Good, Low-Cost Electric Service to More Than 700 Communities in 69 Counties of Indiana



Bloomfield Carnegie Public Library, Corner Mechanic and Franklin Streets.

HISTORY OF BLOOMFIELD CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Bloomfield has the right to boast of a splendid public library. Since the opening on Tuesday, June 25, 1907, in a down-pour of rain, the Carnegie Library has been a hub in the culture of Bloomfield. Two years before the opening Miss Merica Hoagland, who was at that time Secretary of the State Library Commission, visited Bloomfield and gave a plain and practical talk to a small number of interested citizens in regard to the value of a library to any community and the steps necessary to the organization of such cultural institution.

As the first step, a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions and in a short time had secured pledges of \$330,
Continued On Page 91

**Serving Bloomfield For
44 Years In The Same Location
(1915 to 1959)**

Shepherd's Barber Shop

131 EAST MAIN STREET

Newt Shepherd
Cloyce Ashcraft
Donald Bair

**Best Wishes For The
Future Of Bloomfield**

Compliments Of

**WALTERS HARDWARE
& AUTO SUPPLY**

— Auto Accessories —
Paint — Sporting Goods

Phone 87 East Side Of Square
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SPARKS STORE

In early December 1922, Emery and Bessie Sparks and five daughters (Mrs. Nina Eller, Mrs. Ava Ockerman, Mrs. Freida Uland, Mrs. Lena Carpenter, and Mrs. Betty Ingalls as they are known today) (another daughter Mrs. Stanley Fiscus and two sons James Emery Jr. and Jackie Glenn were born later) moved to Bloomfield from a farm in Richland Township to their present residence at 64 North Seminary Street.

The next day he bought from Pete Kidd one-half interest in a boxball alley and hamburger restaurant. A very short time later they dissolved partnership and Pete took the boxball alley and moved from that location which is the building that now houses the license bureau. Emery then gradually began to add groceries and eventually closed out the hamburger part of his business. As business progressed, he gradually added a few staple clothing items, hardware and auto tires until the store took on a general store flavor.

By Spring of 1928 it was apparent that a larger room was needed and a move to the K. of P. Lodge Building to the room now occupied by the Coffee Shop. It then truly became a general store with the addition of feeds, patent medicines, "coal oil", linoleum rugs, and a cream testing station. It was during the next few years that the name Emery Sparks was solidly entrenched on the minds of Bloomfield and the surrounding area. Dozens of families with little or no income knew the largeness of his heart and were "carried" on the books until better times. Most of these never forgot when better times arrived and Emery's faith in customers was substantiated. Of course, human nature being what it is, some, with money in their pocket and the lure of big chain stores, their memories were dulled to the facts of the lean days.

The second room on South Washington Street (Leader Store drygoods room now) had been vacated by a small chain store called Hopkins. As it had tables, shelves, and racks suitable for a dry goods store, an archway was cut between the main street location and the one just mentioned. The drygoods stock was moved into this room on Jan. 14, 1932, and was added to regularly to include notions, shoes, and ready-to-wear for the whole family. The store operated in this manner until 1942 and the start of food rationing. Mr. Sparks decided to devote the entire two rooms to clothing and drygoods. The grocery stock was sold to R. W. Sims and moved to his store which now is White's Regal Store.

From 1942 until 1945 the men and boys department occupied the main street room and the ladies and dry goods department was operated in the Washington Street location. On August

13, 1945, Mr. C. F. Henderson of The Leader Store purchased the stock of both locations. This temporarily ended a 23 year old business.

On August 15, 1945, Mr. Sparks purchased the Bloomfield Hotel building which had been built by Ivan F. Stalcup. After Mr. Stalcup moved his dress shop and the merchandise in "Curg" Hannah's Men's Store had been purchased, Mr. Sparks and members of his family started making preparations to re-enter business. The re-opening was September 22, 1945, with the second room containing women's and men's wearing apparel and dry goods and the third room a grocery store. When Freeland Apparel moved from the corner room shortly before the end of that year, the women's department was moved to that location. The men's department was extended into the entire second room and the grocery remained in the third room.

Mr. Kenneth Eller and Mr. Max Ockerman (who had just been discharged from the Navy and is now deceased) purchased the grocery store from their father-in-law, Emery Sparks, and named it K & M Market. It is now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Eller.

In the Spring of 1947 two rooms in the basement were converted into business rooms and an outside stairway was built on the east end of the building to give both an entrance from the street and the inside. The men's and boys' departments were moved down there and the ladies and children shoes, dry goods, and notions were moved into the room vacated by the men's department.

On January 1, 1949, two partnerships were formed of the Emery Sparks Stores. The six daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Sparks formed Sparks Sisters Apparel, started operating the two rooms on the ground floor mentioned in the preceding paragraph. Mr. Sparks and his only son (Jackie Glenn having died in 1939) James Emery, Jr. formed Emery Sparks and Son Men and Boys Wear. After the younger Sparks returned from service in 1953, they remodeled and extended their operation to include the entire basement of the Hotel Building. The stores are operated in this manner to date.

Our growth in these past 37 years from a modest investment of \$350 in a small hamburger joint to its present stature has been made possible through the grace of God and the confidence you, our customers, have shown in this family.

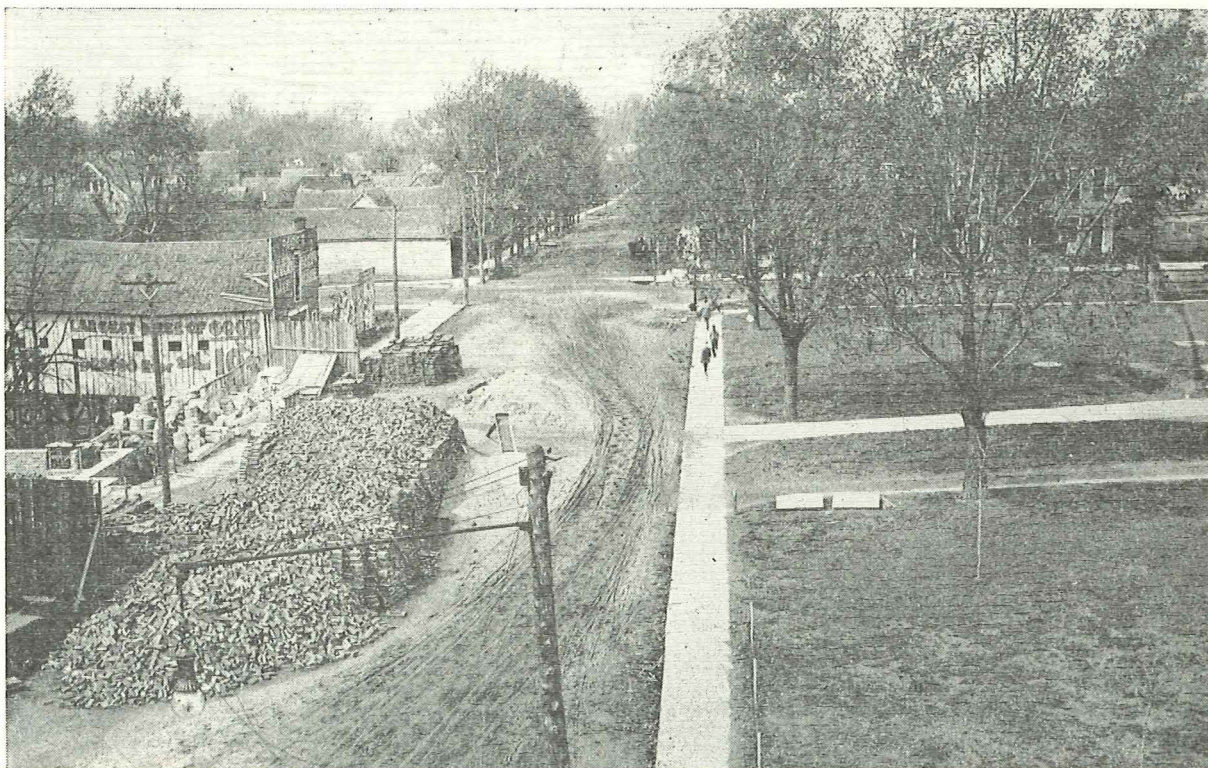
The entire Sparks family wishes to extend to you our thanks for helping us to become part of the great history of Bloomfield. We also wish to thank the Bloomfield Lions Club for their sponsorship of "Pioneer Days" which is bringing to the fore the importance of our community, in the history of Greene County, Indiana, and the United States of America.

Emery Sparks & Son

"everything for the man in a man's store"
Hotel Building Basement—Phone 160

Sparks Sisters Apparel

"first with the newest"
Hotel Building—Phone 160



South Side of Public Square in 1909 When Construction of Present County Jail Was Underway.

which was a sufficient per cent of the taxable income to make it obligatory upon the town board to levy a tax for the support of a library. This tax, which was only ten cents on \$100, was levied; and from the subscriptions above mentioned and from the tax of last year the library was established. Progress at times seemed a bit slow; there were a number of unavoidable delays, and besides, it was necessary to wait for the income from the tax to gain a sufficient sum to start.

One of the first steps was the appointment of a library board, and various committees were appointed to push the work forward.

The first purchase of books amounted to nearly \$900 and the number of volumes was about 950.

One of the most interesting features of the opening was a book "shower" given by the Argonaut Club, and as a result of this social about 250 volumes were brought in by generous citizens of Bloomfield, and

Continued On Page 93

Mansfield AT Bloomfield

STOP AT THE SHELL CORNER

Main And Lewis Streets
On
Highway 54 and 231

USE YOUR CREDIT CARD

Goodyear Tires
Batteries And Accessories
Clean Rest Rooms
Guaranteed Shell Lubrication

28 Years Of Dependable Service

Phone 26 — Open 7 A.M. to 10 P.M.

FOR WORRY-FREE DRIVING,
LOOK FOR THIS SIGN OF QUALITY



DEPENDABLE FOR 65 YEARS

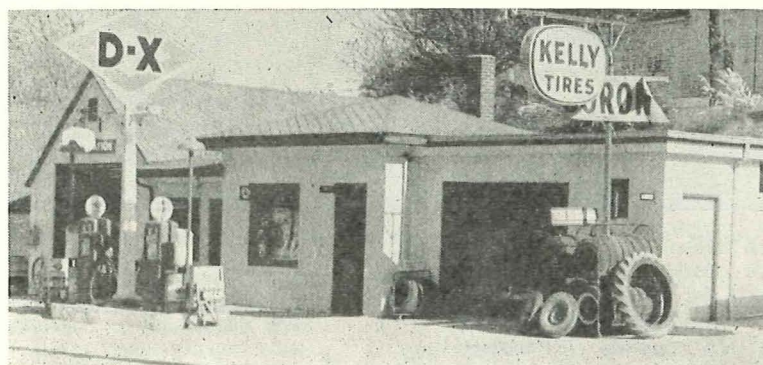
FOR THE BEST
TIRE DEAL IN TOWN
SEE RUSS

FOR WORRY-FREE DRIVING,
LOOK FOR THIS SIGN OF QUALITY



DEPENDABLE FOR 65 YEARS

WHEEL
BALANCING



RECAPS
AND
REPAIRS

RUSS'S D-X SERVICE

PHONE 150

521 EAST MAIN ST.

BLOOMFIELD

FOR WORRY-FREE DRIVING,
LOOK FOR THIS SIGN OF QUALITY



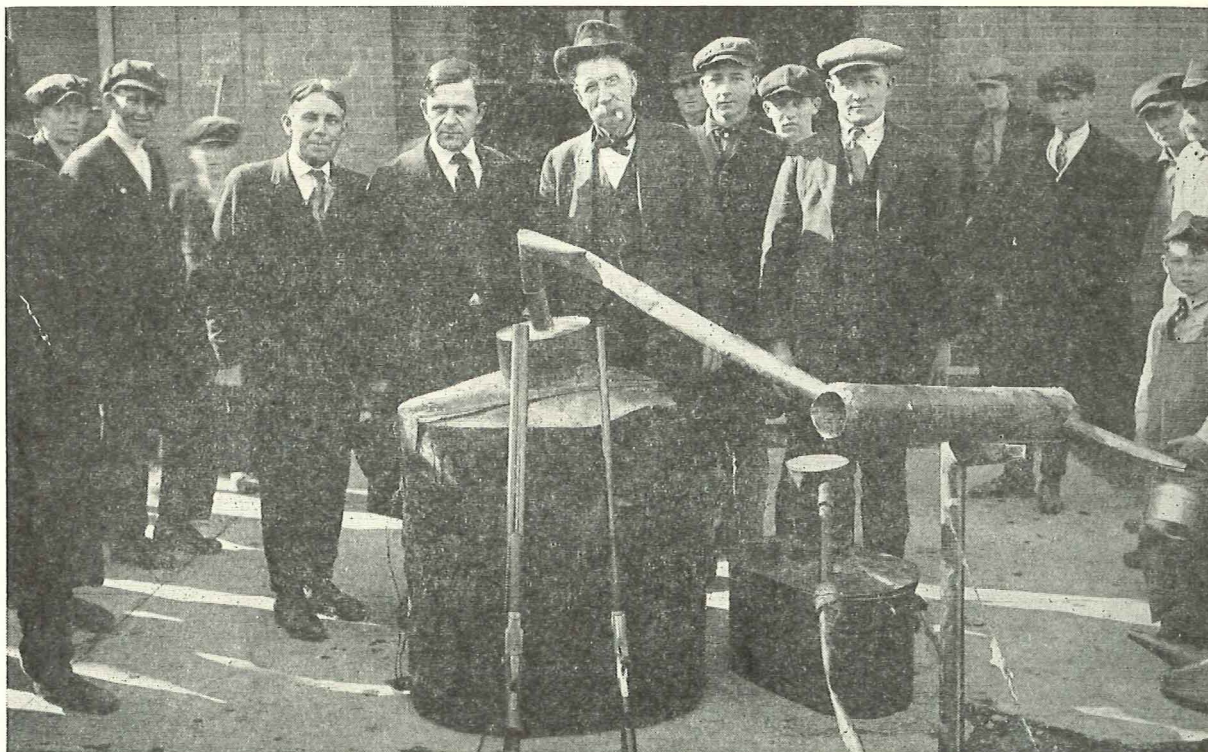
DEPENDABLE FOR 65 YEARS

RUSS SELLS
THE TIRES

FOR WORRY-FREE DRIVING,
LOOK FOR THIS SIGN OF QUALITY



DEPENDABLE FOR 65 YEARS



Large still and shotgun captured in Highland township and small still taken in Worthington in 1919. Small still was first one ever captured in Greene county. Officials shown are: Deputy Sheriff Bill Huffman (first uncovered man in forefront at left), Prosecuting Attorney Will R. Vosloh (also hatless), Sheriff Isaac M. Wines (standing behind large still), and Deputy Sheriff Frank C. Dean (wearing cap and standing directly behind small still). Boy holding bucket at right was purely coincidence when photo was taken.

a number of out-of-town friends, and added to the library.

In addition to books donated at the opening, about \$15 was contributed in cash to be laid out in books.

With the main library room, which was to be in the Courthouse, there was also to be a reading room and a considerable number of the best magazines and other periodicals were subscribed for use by the public. The library rooms were repapered and given a fresh coat of paint, thus greatly beautified; handsome book and magazine shelves were provided, together with a librarian's desk, and suitable reading tables.

After inspecting the books on that eventful Tuesday evening, and after listening to a delightful concert by the Bloomfield Band, which was always ready to respond on a public occasion, the people retired to the court room where a short, but interesting and appropriate program was rendered. There were a number of

Continued On Page 95

NOCUS SAND & GRAVEL CO.

KENNETH NOCUS, Owner

WASHED AND SCREENED
SAND AND GRAVEL

— For Road And Concrete Work —

Residence Phone 637
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

West Of River $\frac{1}{2}$ Mile North Of Bridge



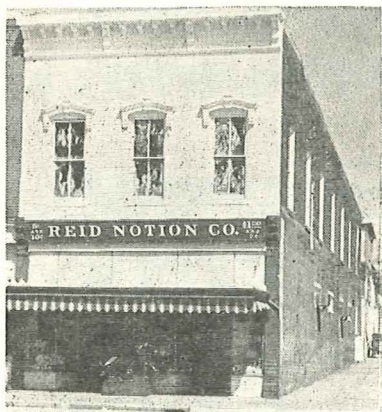
Illinois Central Railroad Station in Bloomfield at the Turn of the Century.

1947

REID NOTION COMPANY

1959

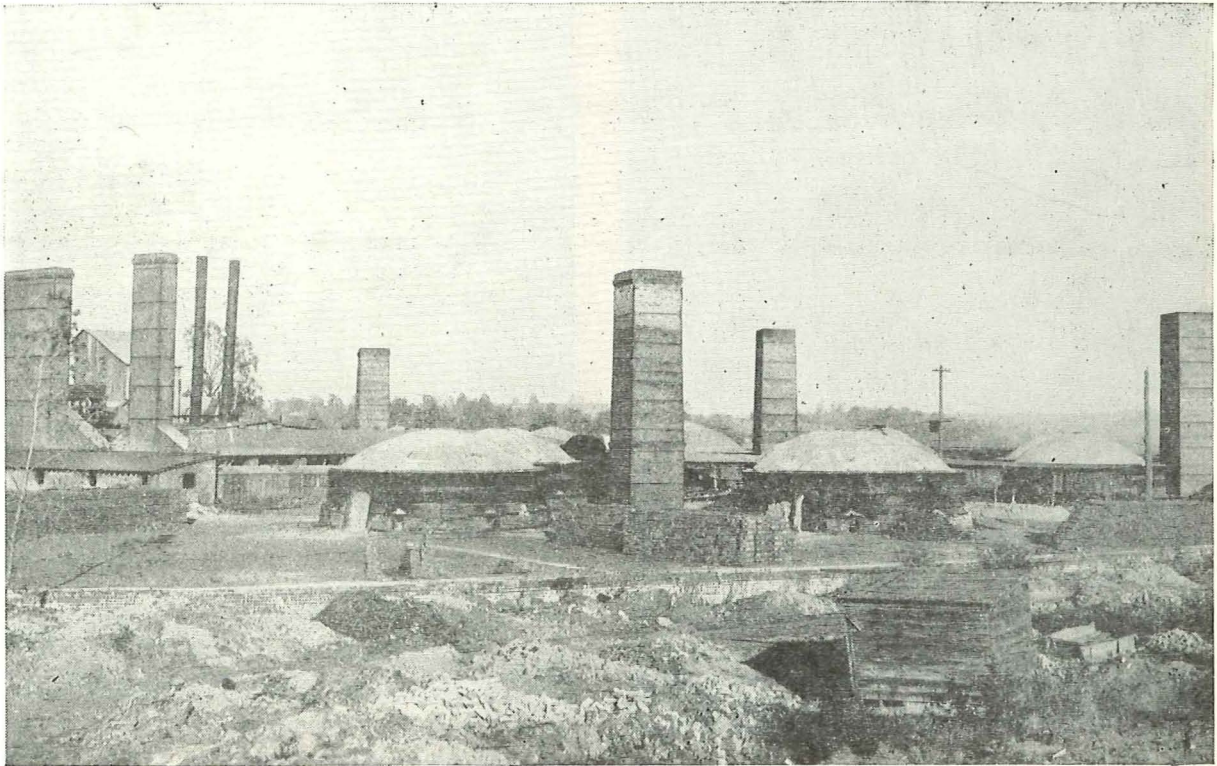
SOUTHEAST CORNER SQUARE



Formerly Index Notion Company, who established a Variety Store at this location in 1937.

The building was built about 1890. Some of the early occupants were:

- T. D. Huff — Dry Goods
- Hurt Graham — General Merchandise
- Jim Hurt — General Merchandise
- Hasler Brothers — Hardware
- Dick and Cy VanMeter — Hardware
- Sherman Osborn — Hardware



Kilns of Bloomfield Brick Company at East Edge of City Limits of Bloomfield.

exercises by children; a poem was read by the Rev. W. H. Wylie; a solo was rendered by G. E. McCracken, and an address was given by Chalmers Hadley, Indianapolis, Secretary of the State Library Commission and State Library organizer, who came especially for the occasion. Every number on the program was enjoyed by an audience that filled the court room. Mr. Hadley's address was full of wise and practical suggestions and greatly increased the interest in the library as he revealed its possibilities.

Miss Grace Burton, of Gosport, who was a graduate of a library school, had been engaged to come and act as librarian for a few weeks in order to arrange and classify the books ready to be circulated when the library finally opened.

The book committee labored faithfully in their efforts to get the very best books in every phase of literature — not light and frivolous books, but books which had stood the test of time or had been

Continued On Page 97

Western Auto Associate Store

132 East Main Street
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

Western Auto's
Golden Anniversary Year
1909 - 1959

Our Fifteenth Year
1944 - 1959

Power Mowers — Fishing Tackle
Baseball Equipment
Picnic Supplies — Charcoal Grills
Bicycles — Tricycles

COMPLIMENTS
OF
**HONEY KRUST
BAKERY**



(Left to right) Dennis Brandon, Ray (Slats) Laughlin, Sam Jackson and Curley Coffee in front of The Klondike Restaurant on east side of square in 1915.

COMPLIMENTS OF

C. W. Cooksey Sawmill

Firm Started — February 1946

WELCOME PIONEERS

COMPLIMENTS OF

CARDINAL INN

West Side Of Square
Phone 691

HOME MADE PIES
AND
GOOD FOOD

pronounced as good by the best critics. It was believed that there were books which would suit the taste of interest groups of the reading public.

The people responded to every request in the library and they did it willingly and cheerfully, meaning that the library would be widely patronized and have a sure and steady growth. This interest has been maintained to the present day.

The library was conveniently located, occupying rooms in the northwest corner of the court house. They were rented for the purpose.

Because of the rain on that opening Tuesday evening a number of people who intended to make a donation of books were prevented from coming. In order to accommodate those who wished to donate books or cash, the library was kept open Saturday afternoon from 2 until 5 o'clock and someone was in charge to accept the gifts.

In honor of the fourth anniversary of
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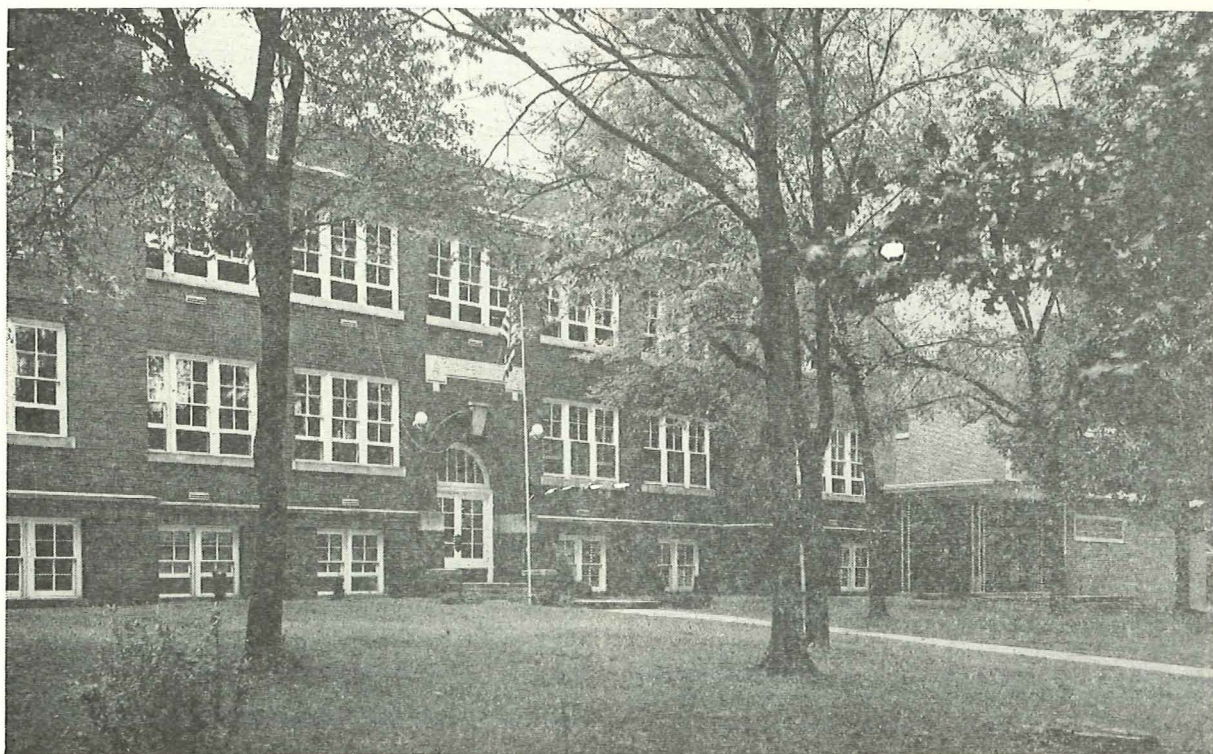


(Left to right) Allan Williams, Dave Kidd and Norval Ockerman at banana tree in court house yard in 1920.

Compliments Of
SHORTY ULAND

Congratulations, Bloomfield,
On Your
135th Anniversary

COMPLIMENTS OF
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Smith
and
Chuck's Barber Shop



Bloomfield High School and Gymnasium Entrance (at right).

We Buy Late Model Wrecks

Hi-Point Auto Parts

EZRA THOMPSON

Phone 463-J2

2 Miles East On 54

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

24 Hour Wrecker Service

New And Used Parts



Instituted July 7, 1874

IOOF LODGE No. 457

Independent Order Of
Odd Fellows

the founding of the Bloomfield Public Library, the handsome and substantial Carnegie Building was formally opened to the public Saturday, June 19, 1911. The books were moved from the rooms in the court house on Wednesday and everything was in readiness for inspection by the public. The building was tastefully decorated inside and appropriately furnished in mahogany. On the lower floor an assembly room with a small stage or platform was provided. It was to be furnished with chairs and was to be used for literary club and commercial club meetings. It still is used thusly today.

The librarian, at that time Miss Mary Lamb, was assisted at the opening by Miss Carrie Scott, of Indianapolis, state organizer for libraries.

A short program was carried out. Vocal and instrumental music was rendered by Miss Alice Martin of New Harmony and Miss Emma Ryan. Walter T. Brown, one of the board of directors, made a short talk, in which he reviewed the progress of the library from its beginning to the installation in the handsome new building.

Among the substantial gifts offered at the dedication was a \$500 collection of books by standard authors by Francis Marion Dugger. Another gift of importance was the \$500 set aside by Sim Smith as a perpetual fund from which only the annual interest earning was to be expended for new books. The lot for the library

Continued On Page 101

Phyllis Greves

Charles Greves

GREVES FLOWER SHOP

Phone 499

601 South Seminary

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

PLEASING YOU PLEASES US

Make

BLOOMFIELD HOTEL BARBER SHOP

Your Shop

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

— Air Conditioned —

THOMPSON FURNITURE

Kroehler Furniture

Willett Solid Maple and Cherry

Mohawk Rugs and Carpets

"SHOP WITH CONFIDENCE"

Phone 122

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

COMPLIMENTS OF

BLOOMFIELD WOOLEN COMPANY

CONGRATULATIONS, BLOOMFIELD

On June 18, 1889, a group of men filed papers to incorporate Standard Oil Company in the state of Indiana. Its purpose — to manufacture, transport, and sell products of crude petroleum. Its capital stock — \$500,000.

From this relatively small beginning, Standard Oil Company (Indiana) has grown over the past 70 years into one of the nation's most successful oil companies. Although Standard's tremendous growth would not have been possible without faithful stockholders, its loyal employees and many thousands of satisfied customers have been the keystones of success.

Demand for petroleum products in the early 1900's was confined mostly to kerosene — but with the development of automobiles and manufacturing machinery, demand for fuels and lubricants grew. Farmers began using harness grease, axle grease, and other related products.

To better serve its customers, Standard Oil began to acquire property for bulk plants and service stations. The property for the Bloomfield bulk plant was purchased in 1906. Property at Jasonville was acquired in 1908. Greene County has prospered since the turn of the century and Standard Oil has grown to serve its many customers.

As our need for petroleum products has increased, the list of quality products has expanded. Since 1906 demand for petroleum products has changed from kerosene and harness grease to high octane gasolines, motor oils for high compression engines, water and heat-resistant greases, diesel fuels, home heating oils, lighter fluid, light machine oils, cutting oils and special lubricating oils for industrial uses.

As we look to the future, petrochemicals — chemicals from petroleum — will help shape destiny. Plastics, synthetic rubber, miracle fibers such as nylon, jet fuels, solid propellants for rockets, and hundreds of other products of this modern age are derived in whole or part from by-products of petroleum.

Standard Oil is proud to have served this community for so many years — and is looking forward to providing friendly service and quality products in the years ahead.

Congratulations, Bloomfield — on your 135th anniversary. You may be proud of your past history, and we join with you in looking to a most promising future.

B. David Workman

— AGENT —

Phone 116R

Max Page

— AGENT'S SALESMAN —

Phone 373W

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA



First women jurors in Greene County were (left to right) Bertha Crane, Susie Graham, Nellie Forst, Win Slinkard and Agnes Combs Crosman. Man in first row is Sheriff Greely Wines. Male jurors in rear row are (left to right) Ben Cox, Max Terhune, El McElroy, Luke Cochran, Troy Mood, Walter Blackwood and Ernest Quimby. These five first women jurors in Greene County served in 1920.

was contributed by Dr. H. R. Lowder and H. W. Letsinger. The first money turned into the library fund was raised by the Argonaut Club from a lecture by Hecter Fuller on the Japanese-Russian war.

Many citizens donated sums from \$25 and the funds were used for new books, for filling the lot, and for paying other indebtedness incurred in the establishing and building of the library.

Mrs. Margaret Wonder is the present librarian, and the library is open every afternoon from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. and on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. The public is welcome to visit it and use its facilities at all times.

COMPLIMENTS OF
HARTLING GROCERY

NORTH DRIVE

PHONE 539-J1

RESLER TRUCKING

Wm. R. Resler

465 East Main

Phone 485

J. L. WILSON LUMBER COMPANY

April 1, 1950, the J. L. Wilson Lumber Company was added to the businesses of Bloomfield and is located on Judson Street. Business began with a concrete block office and two storage buildings. Since that time new display rooms and offices and more storage buildings have been built. The company supplies building materials and supplies for this area, as well as a large radius around Bloomfield. Nationally advertised products and West Coast Lumber are featured.

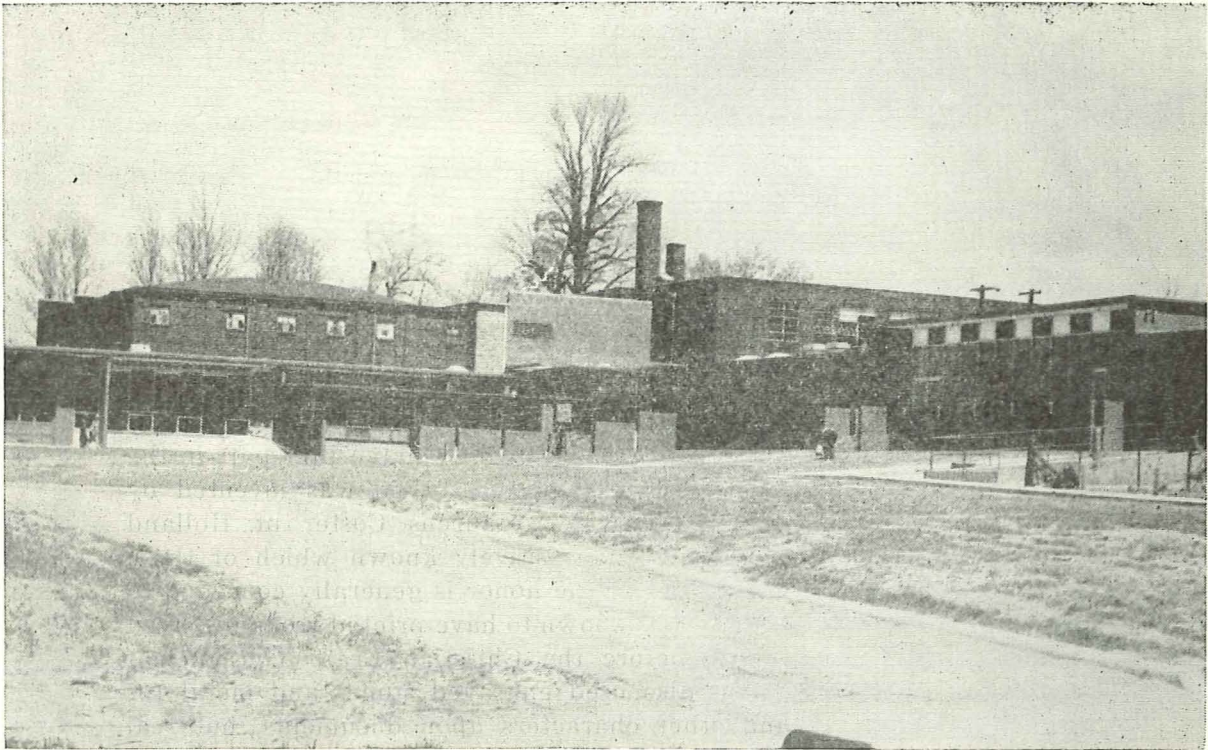
The first employees were Jack Woodward, William Ooley and Franklin Bogard. The next year Mr. Harley Strauser replaced Mr. Ooley and remained with the company until he retired in 1957. Present employees are Jack Woodward, Manager; Harold Lacer and David Walters. Maynard Dowden joined the firm as bookkeeper in 1952.



J. L. WILSON CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

The J. L. Wilson Construction Company has its offices in Bloomfield, and a number of the employees make Bloomfield their home; but operations are throughout Southern Indiana in the construction of bridges, culverts, and miscellaneous concrete construction. The business was started in 1940, by J. L. Wilson, but was interrupted for three years by Army Service.

Both the Lumber and Construction Companies are home owned and home operated and are boosters of all Civic and School Activities.



Bloomfield High School addition completed this spring shows shop area at left and cafeteria at right with entrance to main building at center.

**Smart Fashions
For The Miss and Mrs.**



THE SMART SHOP

Phone 73

East Main Street
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

LENA CARPENTER, Owner

SPARKS D-X SERVICE

Phone 77

525 West Main Street

Started In Business In Bloomfield

In 1940

Station On Hill

Present Location Since 1944

GAS — TIRES — BATTERIES

WASH — GREASE

Bernard (Sparkie) Sparks

HISTORY ...

HISTORY, a word derived from a Greek word meaning a *search for knowledge*. Like philosophy, history was originally a branch of research; it meant investigation and inquiry, and the historian was a man who sought the truth. As men began to tell what they had learned, the name *historian* took on a new meaning — it meant the man who recorded or told what he had found; and in the course of time “history” became story or record and also the events themselves, not just the record of events.

Down through the years, Printing has played an important part in the recording of history. Printing with movable type was invented by Johannes Gutenberg of Germany and Laurens Coster of Holland between 1420 and 1440. It is not positively known which of these inventors was first in the field, but the honor is generally conceded to be Gutenberg's. The Chinese are known to have printed from engraved blocks at least fifty years before the Christian Era. The ancient Egyptians and the Romans also used engraved stones and metal for stamping signatures and other characters upon documents, but real printing is considered to have begun with the invention of movable type. Gutenberg carried on his work at Mainz, Germany, where he formed a partnership with one Fust or Faust, a jeweler. The first work that came from his press was the Gutenberg Bible. The partners soon quarreled and Gutenberg retired, leaving Faust to carry on the work. From Germany the art spread to Italy, France and England; William Caxton introduced it into England in 1476.

The invention of the Linotype by Ottmar Mergenthaler, of Baltimore in 1884, after twenty years of experimentation, gave the printing industry a faster and more efficient method of type composition.

The first printing press in America was set up in Mexico in 1536. The first press in the United States was established at Harvard College in 1639. The first press in Indiana was the *Indiana Gazette* at Vincennes, established by Elihu Stout in 1804. The first press in Greene County was the *Worthington Advertiser*, established by Issac N. Morrison in 1853.

The Haywood Printing Company is proud to have had the opportunity of recording the history of early Bloomfield and Greene County by printing “Pioneer Days” for the Bloomfield Lions Club, Inc.

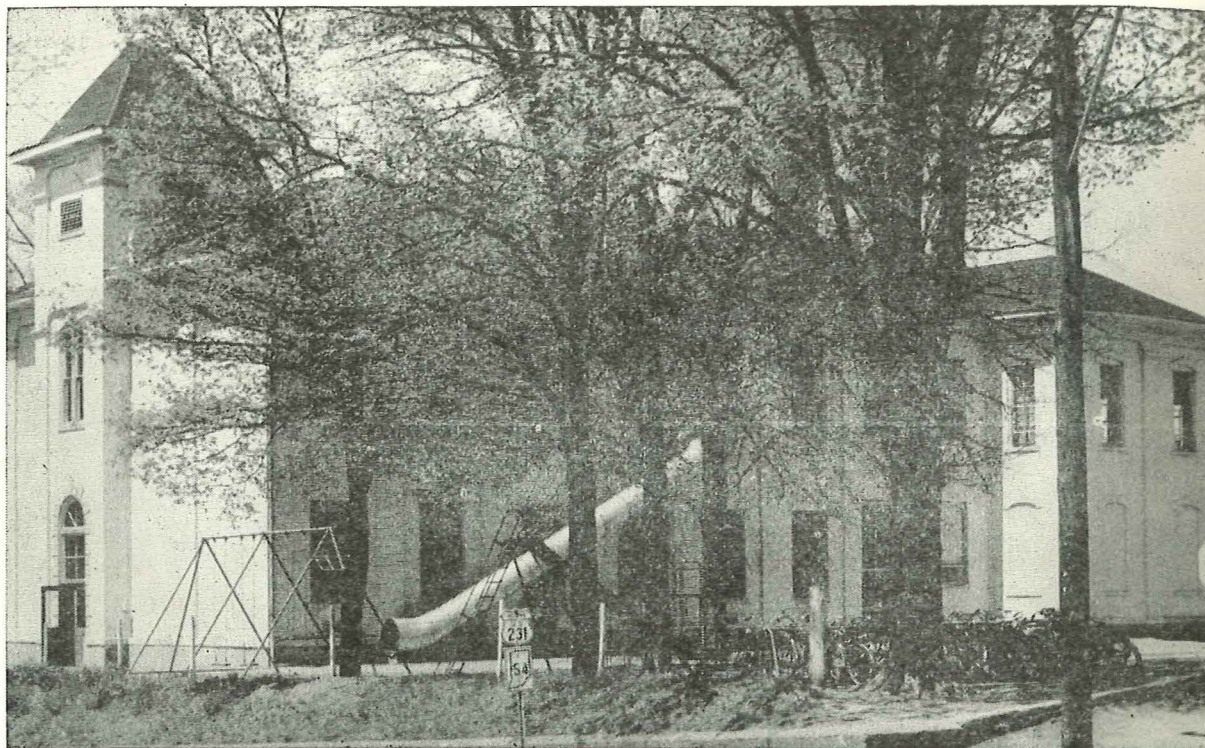
HAYWOOD PRINTING COMPANY

Commercial Printing — Office Supplies — Office Equipment

Phone 121W

Duncan and Jefferson Streets

Bloomfield, Indiana



Boomfield Elementary School on West Main Street.
Part of the present structure originally was the old Normal School.

COMPLIMENTS OF

J. L. Terrell

and

M. D. Bright

— **PHILLIPS 66** —

BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

CITADEL THEATRE

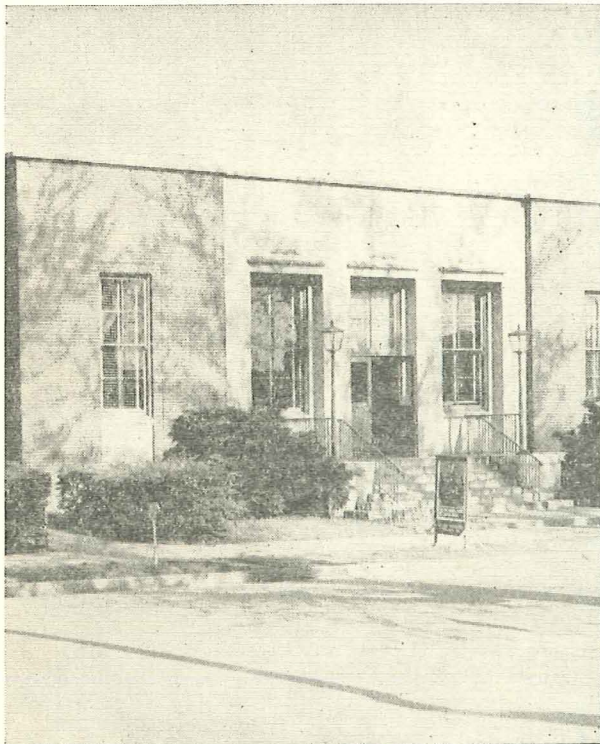
BLOOMFIELD, INDIANA

"The Pick O' The Pictures"

**SERVING BLOOMFIELD AND
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES**

**WITH THE BEST
IN MOTION PICTURE
ENTERTAINMENT**

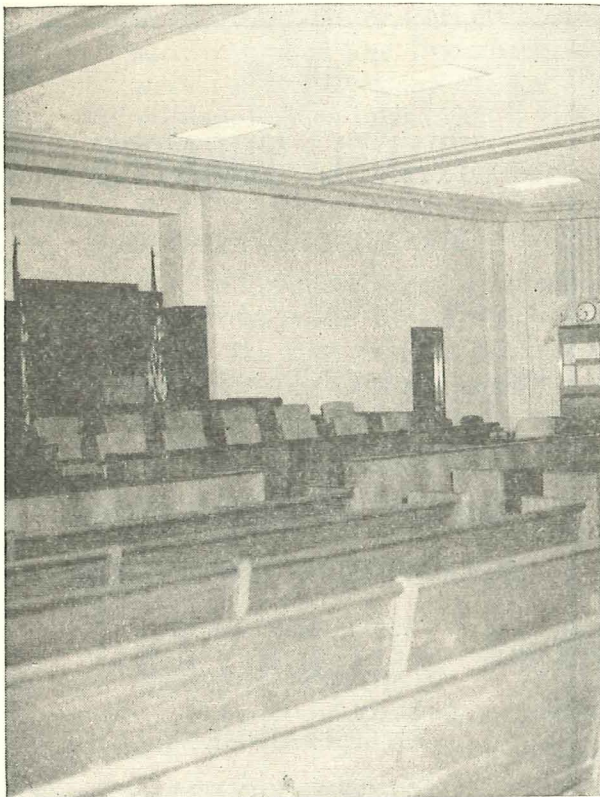
FOR 38 YEARS



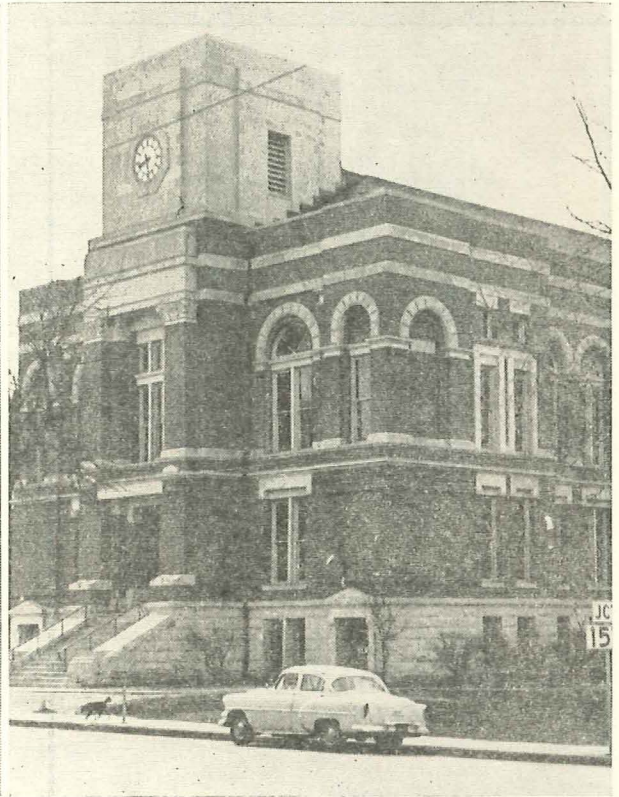
Bloomfield Post Office.



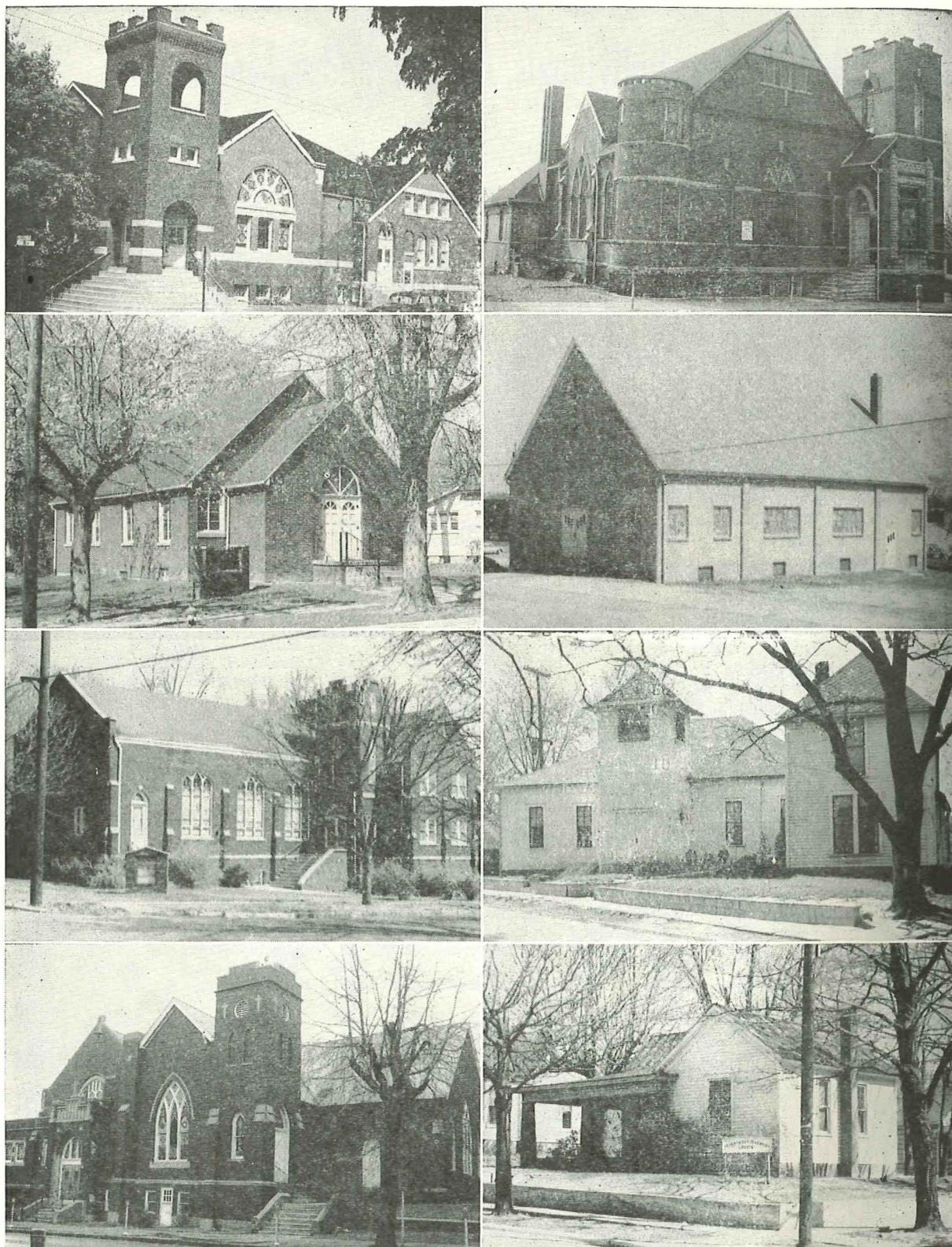
Bloomfield Park
showing shelterhouse on right and bandstand on left.



Greene Circuit Court Room.



North Entrance to Greene County Court House.



BLOOMFIELD CHURCHES: Top left, First Christian Church; Top Right, First Presbyterian Church; Second row left, Church of Christ; Second row right, First Pentecostal Church; Third row left, First Baptist Church; third row right, Wesleyan Methodist Church; Bottom row left, First Methodist Church, Bottom row right, Seventh Day Adventist Church.

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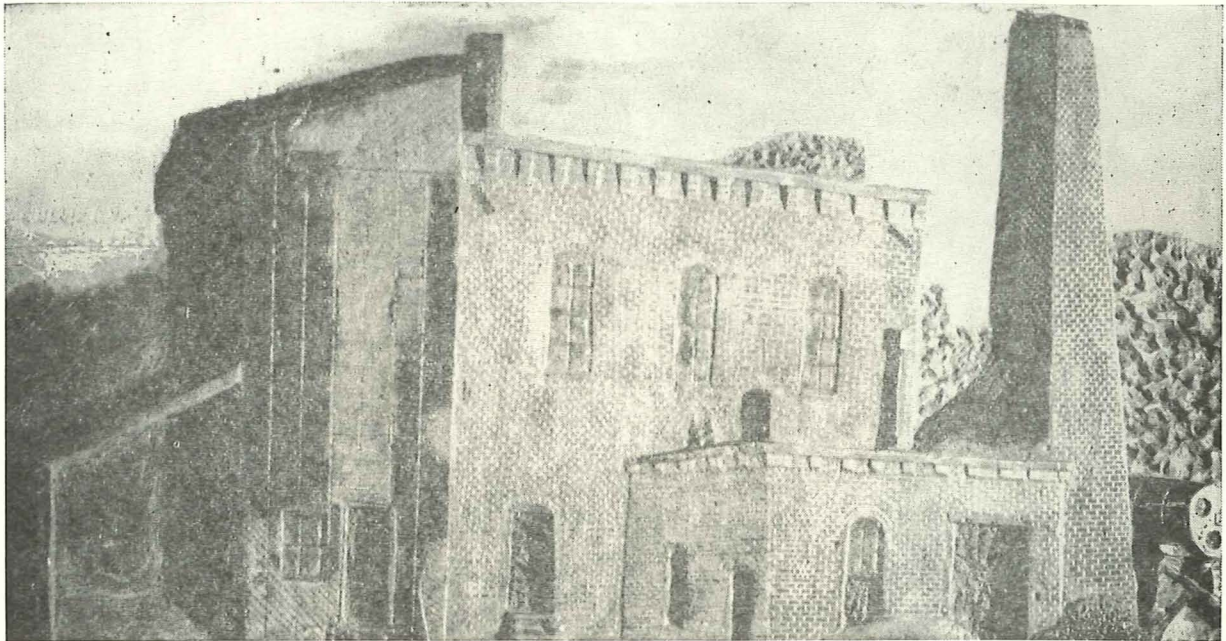
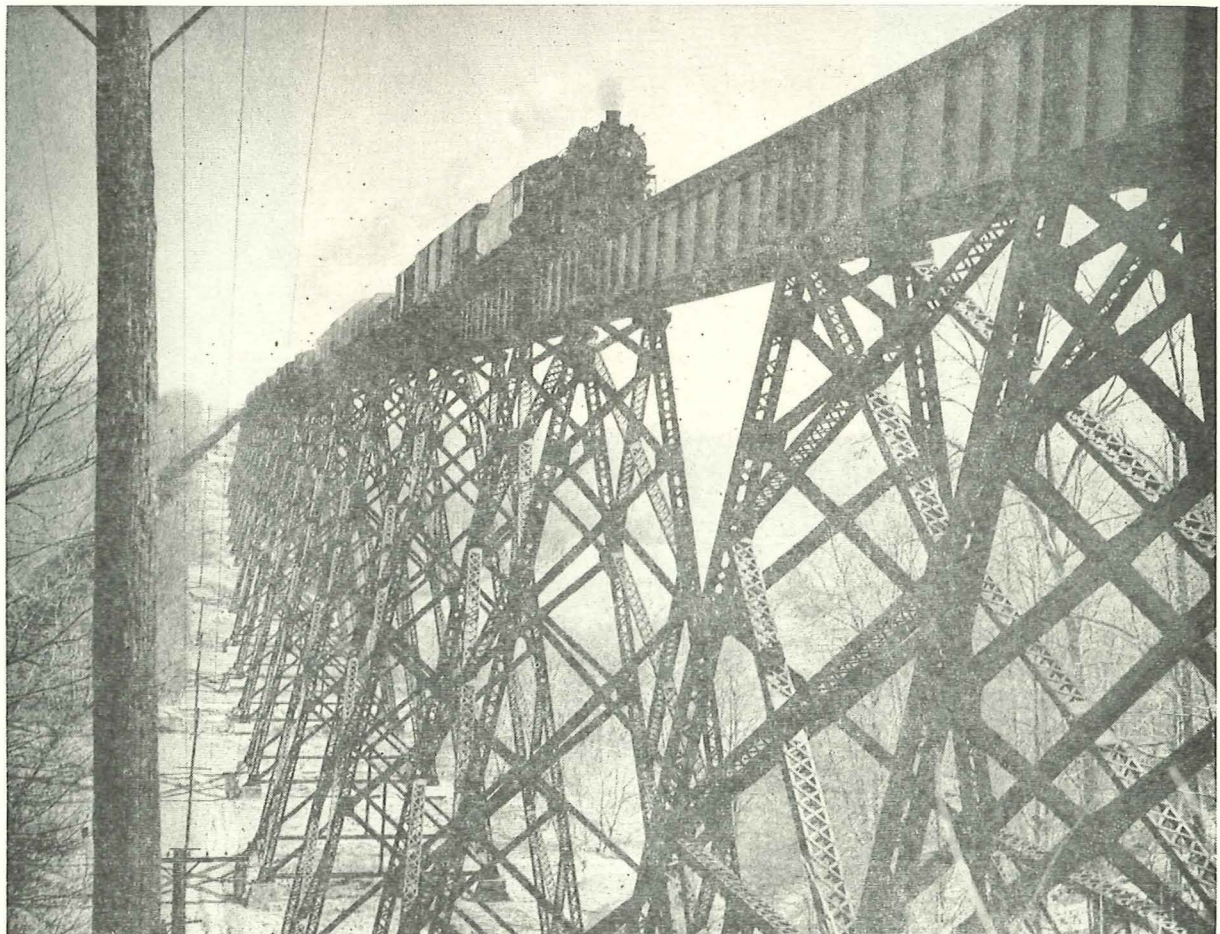


Photo of Plaque Showing Old Flour Mill at Furnace.



Illinois Central Train Crossing Viaduct Northeast of Bloomfield, Near Tulip.

PIO
REF

5-27-08

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Circulating**

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