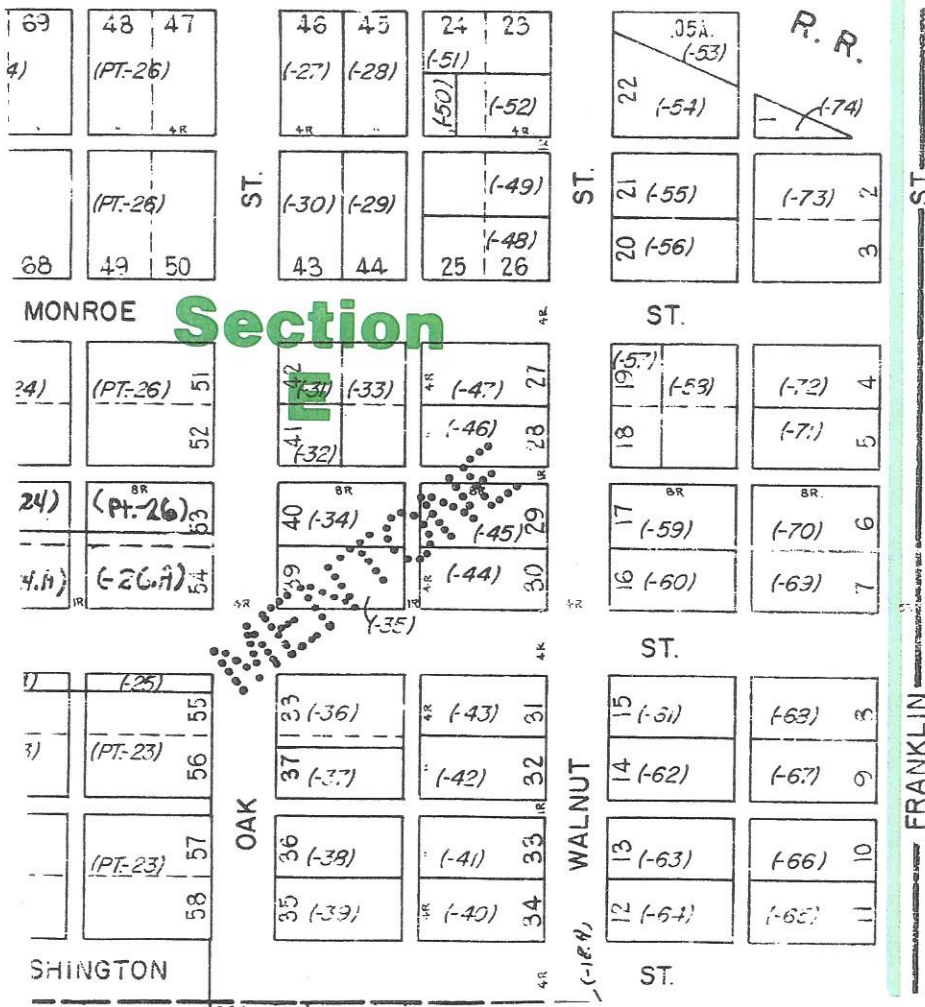
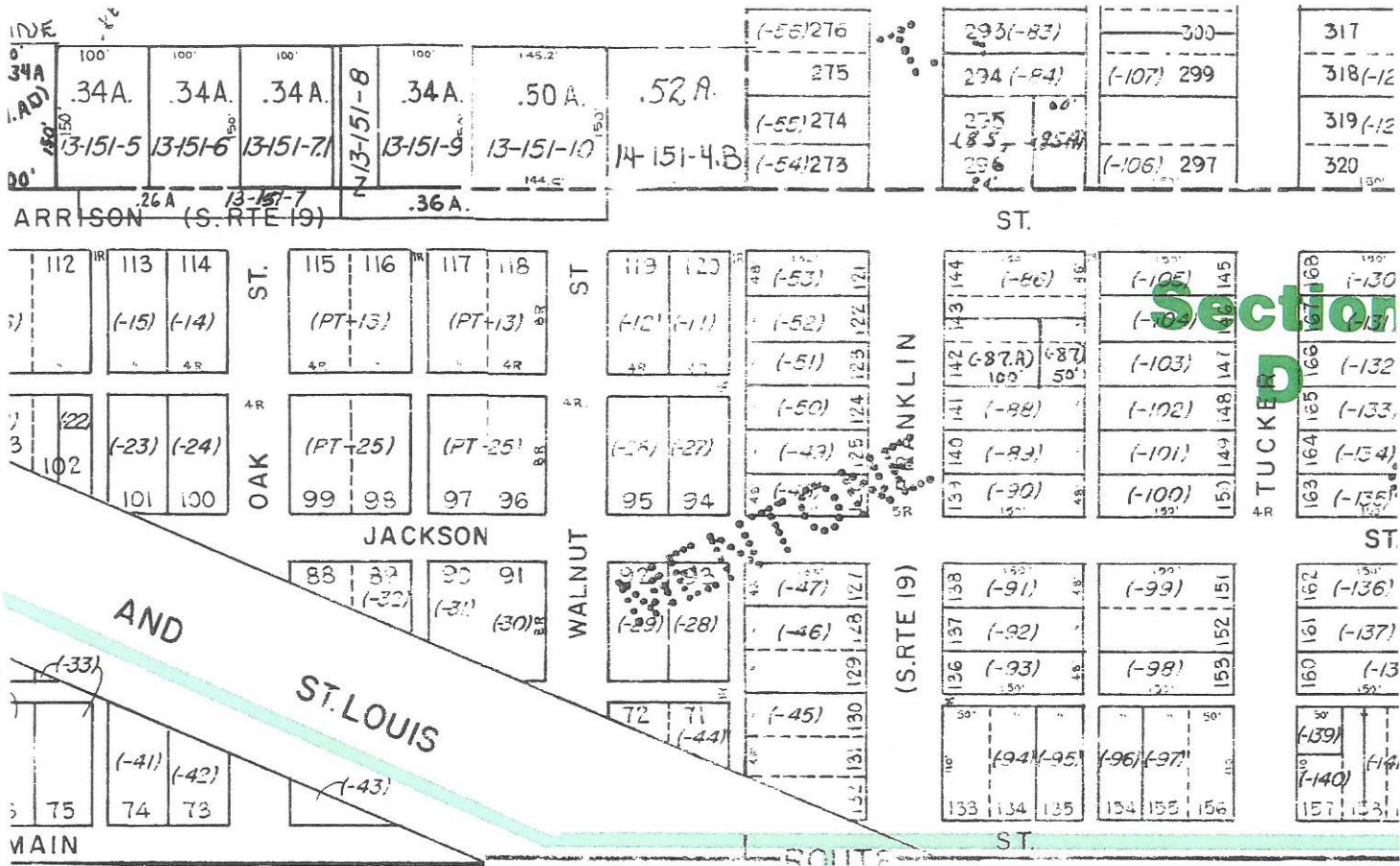




# *Mentone Centennial*











158) 324	341 (-185)	348
157) 323	342	(-219) 347
156) 322	343 (-188)	(-218) 346
321	344 (-183)	(-217) 345

155) 169	192 (-190)	(-216) 193
(-154)	191	
(-153)	190 (-191)	(-215) 195
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(-151)	187 (-194)	(-213) (-214)
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(-147)	183	(-204) 202
(-146)	182	(-206) 203
(-145)	181	(-207) 204
(-144)	180	(-208) 205

124 (-56)	(-53) 117
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122 (-58)	(-52) 119
121 (-59)	120

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112	(-36) 105
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110	107
109 (-38)	108

100 (PT. 14)	(PT. 14) 93
99	94
98	95
97	96

60 (-39)	61
59 (PT. 15)	62
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57	(PT. 26) 64
56 (PT. 26)	65
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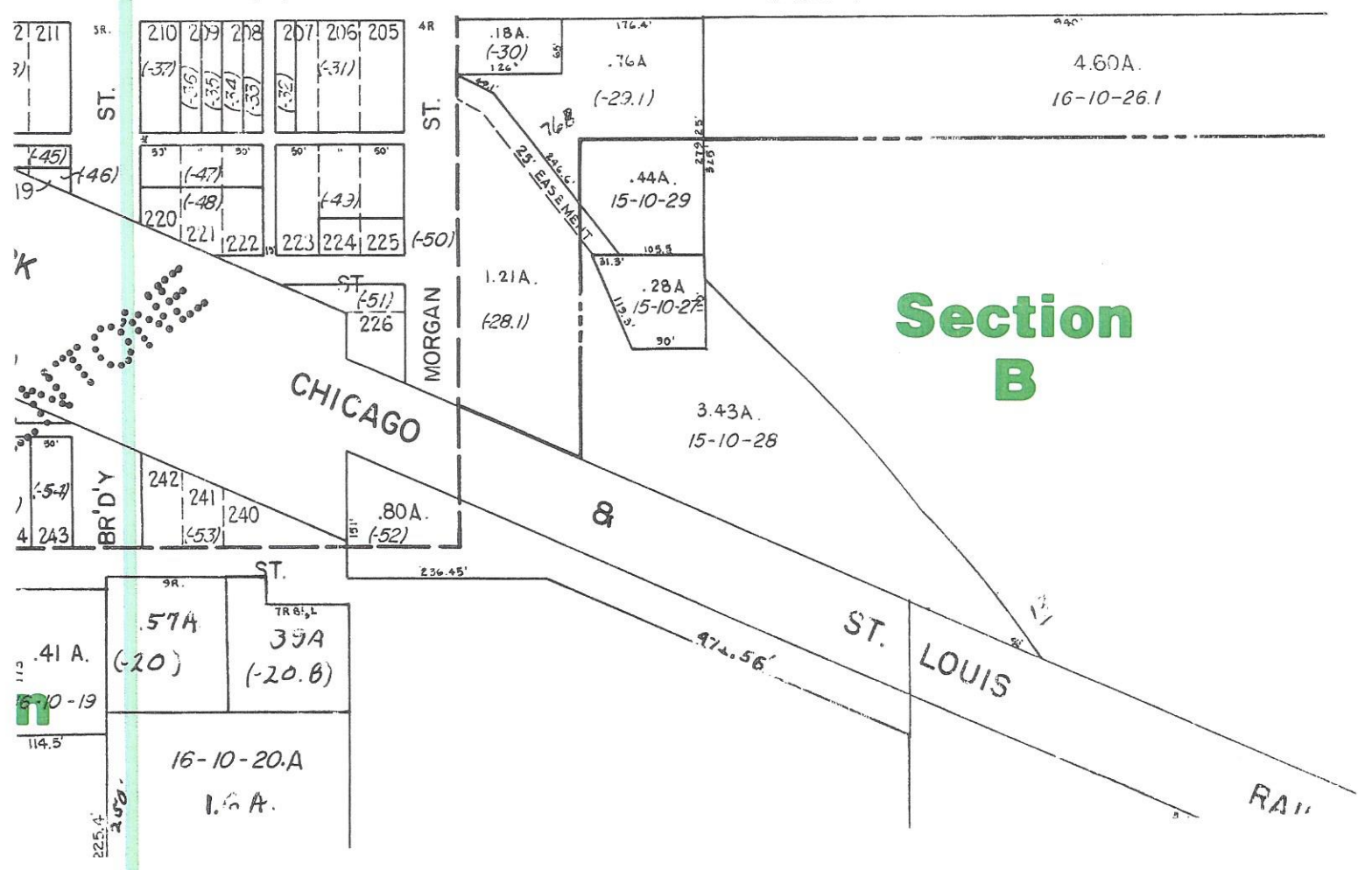
  

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67	78

36 (-40)	(-34) 31
35	32
34 (-41)	(-33) 33
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28 (-28)	(-22) 27
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Section A



Section B





# Map Key

## SECTION A - Old Banner Block

N/181	First Bank, Tabor Bros.	E/202	D.W. Lewis built, Ohler's Grocery, N. N. Latimer Hardware. The space between Lewis Bldg. and corner east was occupied by John Morgan house. The house was moved across the street by Albert Tucker. (The house south of the Methodist Church.)
SW/181	Built by M.C. Forest General Store — now occupied by The Pill Box and Garrett's Saloon		
W/182	Salinger Bros. General Store, L.P. Jefferies Furniture, skating rink, Lemler Grocery (later took in Bldg. E/182) — now Valley Furnishings	W/203	Mentone Gazette, Co-Op News, early Post Office
E/182	Drug Store, E. McCormack, Shinn's Locker — now Valley Furnishings	E/203	Wallace Chevrolet Sales
W/183	Shaffer & Goodwin Drug Store, C & E Hardware — now Cooper's Variety Store	W/204	Library, early 1900's
E/183	Building built by Manwarings, later National Bank business moved there.	E/204	Clothing Store, Shields. Built by S.A. Guy and A. G. Wertenberger, 1888 — now Dr. Cook's office.
		67/1	Interurban Station, Co-Op Gas Station — now Gross' Station



## SECTION B

S/210	George Bechtol, Tinsmith		Ettinger now lives, later moved uptown.
S/210	Creamery Building		Grocery, David W. Lewis
N/210	Building built by Art & Loren Manwaring (one of first store buildings built up town)	205	Methodist Church
W/210	Drug Store, Doc Bennett, built by J.W. Sellers	30	Old Co-Op Office, Laundromat
E/210	Fair Store, J.W. Jenkins	76A	Co-Op Hardware — now Miller's Hardware
		76B	Egg Car (building now gone)
W/209	Grocery, Warner Kimes	13	Tile & Brick Factory, Mr. Hammond (building now gone)
E/209	Harness Shop, John Aughinbaugh, Dave Ellsworth's Shoe Repair	1.21A	Co-Op Elevator — now Ettinger Machine Sales
W/208	At one time a Theatre, Jones Barber Shop	226	Smith Brothers
E/208	Hat Shop, Hayden Rae Harness Shop, Dr. VanGilder, Dentist	16	Heading Mill, Lesh & Summerland (Old building now gone, new building built by Jack Shinn as a slaughter house)
ES/208	Bell Mollenhour's Hat Shop		
W/207	Building moved in from Yellow Creek by Allen Blue. First moved on lot where Bill	Bldgs. 1 - 1A - 2 - 3 - 4	— now are the Farmers State Bank



## SECTION C

219	Depot	W/211	Oliver Sears, Candy-Tobacco-Fruit (building gone). Barber Shop, Poulson, Hank Mills, Jessie Jones
S/45	Mentone Hotel, Bissell House (building now gone)	E/212	Daman Meat Market or Saloon. (He would be in one business then the other.)
N/45	Building moved into Mentone from Oak Grove. Dave Ellsworth's Shoe Repair — now Broadway Tavern	W/212	Saloon, Sandy Feiser (building gone). Later a building was built and called Ford garage, now part of Franks Mfg. Used to show movies inside during the winter.
SE/211	Originally two buildings now one. Farmers Bank, the other the first telephone office.		
E/211	Old Hotel (building gone). South end a restaurant, later Wade Whetstone's tailor shop.	Buildings 4 thru 7	now Franks Mfg. Co.
		E/213	Restaurant and Bakery, Heitzner

## SECTION C - Continued

W/213	Nash and Lem Latimer Hardware, Pontious Monuments, later moved to Valley Furnishings	X	Gas Station, Verdo Smith — now J & J's Elevator — now Agri-Center, Inc.
E/214	Saloon, John Miller, Arulous Vandermark's Pop's Saloon	227	Mentone Lumber (building gone), Ernsberger
W/214	Restaurant, W.L. Fish (sold to D.W. Styles)	229	Roller Mill (building gone) — now Jerry's Body Shop
215	Opera House	N/230	Grist Mill (gone)
216	Livery Stable — now City Building and Fire Station (originally old light and water building).	S/230	Grocery Store, Dunlaps — now Frank & Jerry's Market
X	Blacksmith, Bob Lambert, Dell Hall	254	Old electric plant (gone)
		235	Dickerhoff Trucking
		248-246	



## SECTION D

E/180	Dunlap's Grocery, Mentzer IGA — now Post Office	W/159	Harv Kessler Saloon, second floor; Homer Rockhill Grocery, Ballard Drug, Dodridge, Brown & Bakers
W/180	Ed Wilson Grocery, Mills & Poulson Barber Shop	W/159	Dowell's Saloon
E/179	John Auginbaugh Harness Shop, Barber Shop — now Frank's Mfg.	E/157	Monument Works, J.W. Reed, later Henry Pontious — now Linn's Gas Station
W/179	Meat Market, Ed Tiggart, later Cal Shinn	BE/157	Small building, 40 ft. back from street, Buggy Salesroom, Frank Fieser
E/178	Robinson Drug Store, Whiteside's pool room, Al Leslie's Barber Shop	W/157	Livery Barn, Clark Ernsberger & James Cox, Teeter Bros.
W/178	Railsback Furniture & Undertaking (bought by L.P. Jefferies) — now Teel's Restaurant	156	Reed's Funeral Home — now King's Memorial Home
E/159	C.E. Turner Restaurant, Loves Meat Market, Younce Baker Restaurant & Bakery, sleeping rooms		



## SECTION E

-74	Huff Blacksmith	-43	Pickle Plant (gone) built by H.J. Heinz with Frank Warren, Manager.
-27	Erv Wagner Blacksmith	S-77	Mollenhour Lumber, Mentone Pallets
-2	Rat Emmons Blacksmith & Repair, Horse Shoeing — now Chet Smith Garage	N/77	Box Factory (building gone)
-3	Del Hall Blacksmith	85-86	Val Brown's Veneer Mill & Band Sawmill (building gone) — now Cargill, Inc.
-22	Standard Oil, Igo Oil, Quick Mart	00	Mid-West Spring
-43	Stockyards (gone), built by James Blue		

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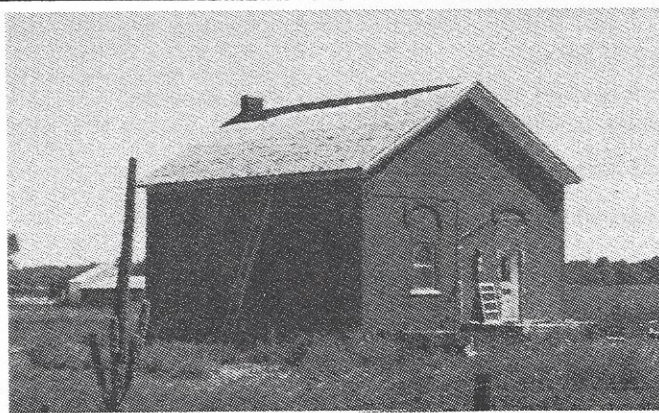
by Milbern School Historical Association

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Bourbon, Indiana 46504



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*The Millbern School Historical Association, sponsored by the Mentone Bicentennial Commission, was organized in 1976. It was formed to restore the Milbern School located three miles east and one mile north on Shilling Road at the corner of Road 775 West.*

*In 1978, this group agreed to take the lead in compiling a history of the Mentone community. For a complete history, a thousand pages would hardly be adequate. The following pages do give a brief glimpse at those early years.*

*We regret so much had to be omitted. Much of this information and many of the pictures will be at the Bell Memorial Library for those interested.*

*Our thanks to Hazel Linn for her inspiration and research, to Eula Smith and Dave Bowser for their continued diligence, and to numerous others. Through everyone's efforts this book was made possible.*



# The Beginning

In 1830, Andrew Jackson was the president of the United States; men's fashions were changing from the knee-length pants of George Washington's time to the long ones of today; and northern Indiana was inhabited by the Potawatomi and Miami Indian tribes. Several pioneer families told of Indians along Yellow Creek, and in 1834, when the men surveyed the land that later became Mentone, they noted an old much used trail, approximately where South Franklin Street is now.

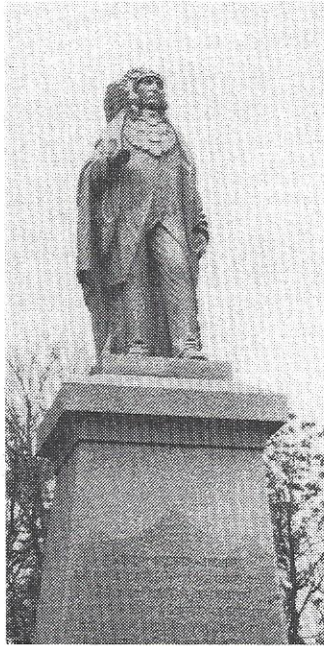
The treaty made in 1832 along the Tippecanoe River north of Rochester was one in a series that gave the white man large amounts of land in exchange for money, goods, and small tracts of land. The land was given to chiefs, those who attended missionary school, and people with special claims. In this treaty, Chop-y-tuck was granted 640 acres. Years later Harrison Center Church was built on the land he had owned. Miss Noqui, a student, was given two sections. One section was west of Chop-y-tuck's land, and another was along the Tippecanoe River. When she sold the land, she was described as a chieftess living west of the Mississippi.

Be-si-ah received two sections near Hobart, Indiana, and two in Kosciusko County. Later the northwest part of Sevastapol was located on the land he had owned.

Anthony Nigo was born in Kosciusko County about 1805. When he was twenty-three, he joined the Catholic Church at Menominee's Village near Plymouth, and there he married a young lady who was part French and part Indian. Anthony's father was a Potawatomi, and his mother was a Miami. According to their custom, a man belongs to his mother's tribe, so he was not forced to leave with the Potawatomes. He was a respected citizen of Marshall County until his death.

Trimble Creek flows north from Palestine Lake and joins the Tippecanoe River just west of Crystal Lake. Topash and others of his family who lived along Trimble Creek probably used the Indian trail which ran roughly parallel to the creek, but on higher ground.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected president; women wore hoop skirts; and local residents enjoyed a much higher standard of living than the pioneers of a generation before.



*The statue of Menominee, near Plymouth, represents the Indians who lived here but were driven to the West.*

In the year 1880, James A. Garfield was elected president; women wore bustles; and there began to be talk of a railroad to be built through this territory. No doubt surveying had been done before this time, but the general public was not aware of what was going on. In a short time actual surveying and probable locations were the talk of the community. At one time the railroad was to come through Sevastopol then another time about halfway between there and the present location. However, the present location was definitely decided, and work was begun.

At the time of the coming of the railroad, there were a number of small settlements near the present town of Mentone: Sevastopol on the south, Palestine on the east, Bloomingsburg on the west, Big Foot on the southwest, and Tippecanoe Town on the river one mile north of the present Tippecanoe. One mile east, where Abe Whetstone lived, was Oak Ridge.

One mile west, at the corner of State Road 25 and Kosciusko County Road 1200, where Harold Lucht (formerly Truman Long) lives was Yellow Creek. this was quite a little settlement, with a drugstore, a general store, a shoe repair shop, a blacksmith, two sawmills, three dwellings and a church.

Allen Blue's store was on the corner on the Truman Long place. Directly west across the road was the Methodist Protestant Church. A drugstore was operated by Dr. Chandler in a house now owned by Don Boyer (formerly Fred Swick). Mahlon Mentzer's father, Sam, had a sawmill on the ground east of Truman Long's place. William Hyers had a blacksmith shop just west of the Fred Swick house, and Mr. Garrison did shoe repairing in a little shop where Sarber's house is now. The post office, established in the 1870's, was in Allen Blue's store until Mentone was made a regular post office. The mail was carried from Warsaw to Palestine and from there to the small post offices at Oak Ridge, Sevastapol, Beaver Dam and Yellow Creek.

This small village (Yellow Creek) uprooted itself in 1882, and moved to Mentone in order to be near the New York, Chicago, and St. Louis Railway. The inhabitants of Yellow Creek, more commonly known as Little Chicago, carted entire buildings including a dry goods store which until recently housed a coin laundry.

Before the railroad, there was a schoolhouse and a church located at the present location of Roads 25 and 19. The school stood on the lot now occupied by the Pac-Rat Palace (formerly the American Legion Home). The church, known as the Lee's Chapel, was just west of the place where J & J Service Station (formerly Utter's) now stands. With the building of the railroad, it was necessary to move the church to a new location. This was done by securing the land where the United Methodist Church now stands.



Mentone was platted in 1882 and lots made available to purchasers by Albert Tucker. The area occupying parts of Franklin and Harrison townships was very good farm land. Tucker, who later operated a grain elevator in Mentone, was the founder of the village and deeded part interest to both George W. Myers and William E. Hackerdorn, both of Ohio, who platted the portion north of the Baptist Church. This is known as the Myers-Hackerdorn Addition. It was Myers who suggested that the community be named after Mentone, France. In a four-year period, 1882-1886, Mentone grew from a population of four to a booming seven hundred.

Mentone was named for a very beautiful resort town in France. Mentone was organized in 1882, but was not incorporated until about 1886. In the meantime, new industries were coming to town, new homes being built. The streets were gravel and sidewalks were oak plank. The boards in these walks would get loose and many falls resulted from flipping of a plank - not always accidental.

From the start, Mentone was an up and coming town. The men who were interested in making it go and grow were young men filled with get up and go. New homes were built very fast, and before you knew it a new home or business was going up, and Mentone was on its way.

Farmers attracted to the Mentone region were not disappointed. More stock of all kinds has been shipped from the Mentone Railroad station than any other station in Kosciusko County.

There was a disagreement about where the business district on Main Street would be located. Allen Blue put his store on wheels and the building was moved onto the lot where the William Ettinger residence (502 West Main) is. Later it was moved on the lot west of the Methodist Church and occupied as the David Lewis store. The post office was moved onto the lot on the corner of Walnut and Main Streets. This building also contained a drug store. The railroad built its depot at the present site; so that pulled the weight of the business east, and the main business section was settled in this way.

When they were building the railroad it was quite a sight for children who knew no other means of travel except walking or horse-drawn vehicles. When the work train finally arrived near the schoolhouse, you may imagine how excited the children were.

After they had built a mile or two they took the teacher and all the children for a ride, which was perhaps the most exciting time in their lives.

After it was definitely decided that the business section would be where it now is, a rush was made to get on the band wagon. A hotel was built on the southwest corner, a two story frame building with a dining room, office and a number of sleeping rooms. A wood stove in the hall heated the bedrooms. You can imagine how cozy it was on a zero night of which it seemed there were plenty. However, people were more rugged then and a little cold did not bother them.

Art and Loren Manwaring built a store building on the northwest corner of the square. This was the first

store building built uptown. J.W. Sellers built a building next to the Manwarings. This was used as a drug store.

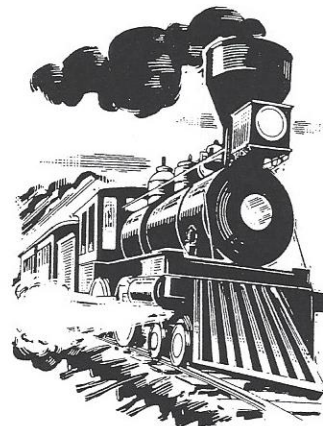
Mack Forest had a store in Sevastapol. He thought that Mentone would be an up-and-coming town so he built the building now occupied by the drug store and tavern. Arrangements were made with the town authorities that no building in this block should be built that was not fire proof. This was known as the Banner Block. All the other buildings on Main Street were of wood construction and were a fire hazard with no fire protection.

The Methodist Protestant Church followed by moving their building onto a lot on South Franklin Street. This building was later bought by L.P. Jefferies and moved onto the lot where Raymond Lewis now occupies.

Mahlon Mentzer's father, Sam, after sawing out the timber and switch ties for the railroad decided that as the timber was almost gone (they didn't use anything but the best in those days) entered into partnership with Art Manwaring. He moved his engine and boiler to Mentone and they built the first steam powered grist mill in miles of this place. There were a number of water-powered burr mills. This mill ran day and night for several years and people came for miles to get the more refined flour. Later Albert Tucker became a partner and they shipped flour and feed over the new railroad as far east as Cleveland, Ohio.

George Jeffries had a saw mill and novelty works just south of the grist mill. The finishing touches were just being completed in 1884 when Jeffries' mill caught on fire and burned. It happened at threshing time. A number of outfits were working near and by hauling water from the creek with their tanks they saved the grist mill.

The Opera House was built by William Mollenhour. This was a place for meetings where the community interests were discussed and everyone turned out to find out what was going on. Today we have to call people and plead with them to come to a meeting that is of interest to all.





# Then & Now

## First Children

Charles Dillingham, son of David and Sarah Dillingham, was the first male born in Mentone.

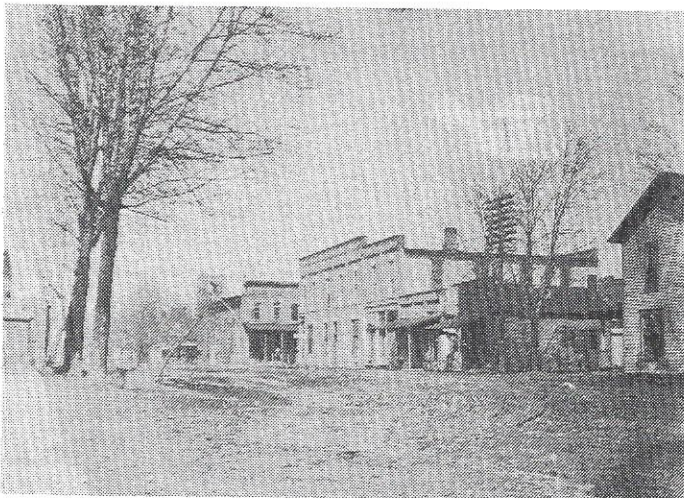
Anna Baker was the first female and first born, beating Dillingham by seventeen days.

Clem Ketterman was close. Some say he was the first born, being born in 1883, the son of Albert and Martha Ketterman.



## First Homes

The first home was built by Wm. Kintzel where the drive-in window of Farmers State Bank is now. It was started October 1, 1882. Lewis S. Clayton was the second resident. The Kintzel home was finished November 5, 1882 and two days later the Artemus Manwaring family moved in with the Kintzel family. They remained until their business-house was completed which stocked a large assortment of general merchandise.

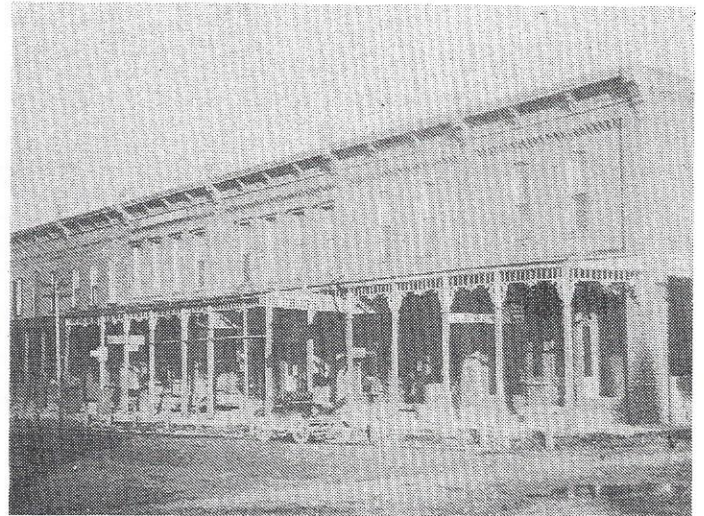


## First Women

The first woman to live in Mentone was Mrs. Charles Biddleman of Sevastapol. She cooked for all the men engaged in building the new town. She and Mr. Biddleman moved into the Morgan house.

## Banks

The first bank was owned by the Tabor Brothers. John Tabor from Argos moved here and opened the Citizen's Bank located back of the present drug store. In 1892, Elmer Eddinger, Art and Loren Manwaring and others organized The Farmers State Bank located next to the office in the old hotel building. They operated there for a few years, then bought out the Citizens Bank and moved into their quarters. The first Farmers State Bank was destroyed by fire, then the present Farmers State Bank was built in 1905. In 1910, there was a First National Bank of Mentone for a short time. John McCullough was cashier, and it was located where Cooper's Store is today.



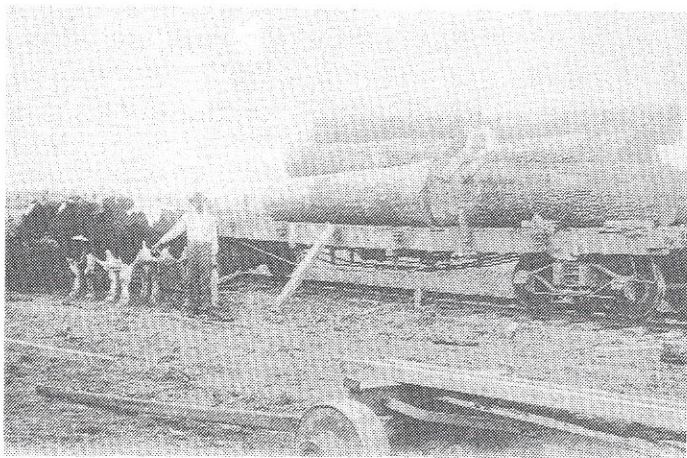
*1st National Bank and Big Drug Store*

## Mills

The first sawmill was started by David Dillingham on the Morgan land. The second was erected by John Cox and was destroyed by fire, but another was soon built.

A.T. Mollenhour operated a sawmill and stave mill in 1903. George and Levi P. Jefferies ran a sawmill and novelty works in 1890. In 1888 log haulers would pull into town with 25 to 30 teams pulling their loads into the sawmills. Eli Turnbull had a sawmill and made boat oars and barrels. Sam Summerland ran a sawmill about 1903.





Val Brown and son moved their sawmill from Churubusco to Mentone. This was a band sawmill and they also had a veneer mill. It was located where Cargill, Inc. is located today.

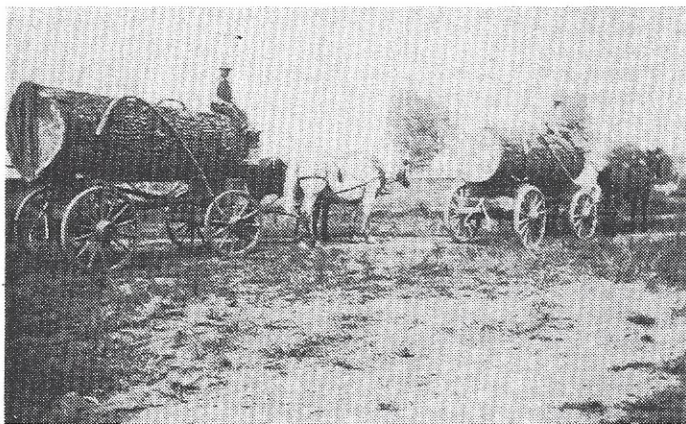
A planing mill was owned by Foulks and Jefferies.

A heading mill was run by Lesh and Summerland in 1896; their top labor cost was as high as 10¢ per hour, unskilled labor 2½¢ an hour.

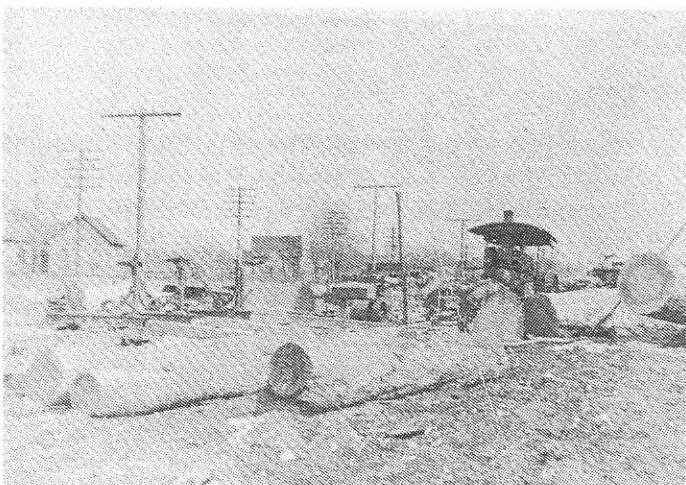
A.C. Manwaring built Mentone Egg Cases.

Fitzgibbons & Company made boat oars.

Art Manwaring and Samuel Mentzer ran the first flouring mill in 1884. It ran day and night to meet the



*Virgin timber of the Mentone region was hauled to mills in this manner. Numerous mills sprang up in the area to service the trade.*



demands. Later, Albert Tucker joined them, then bought them out and ran a grist mill with his partner, Alvin Rockhill.

A Mr. Hammond had a brick and tile mill by the underpass along the interurban track out by Manwarings. Peter Mentzer and John Sellers also had a brick and tile mill.

The Mentone Machine & Novelty Works was owned in partnership by John Foulk, John McClellen and Geo. Jefferies until a Mr. Mentzer bought out McClellen and Foulk.

There were cider mills such as W.M. Shirey's located one mile west of Palestine grist mill.

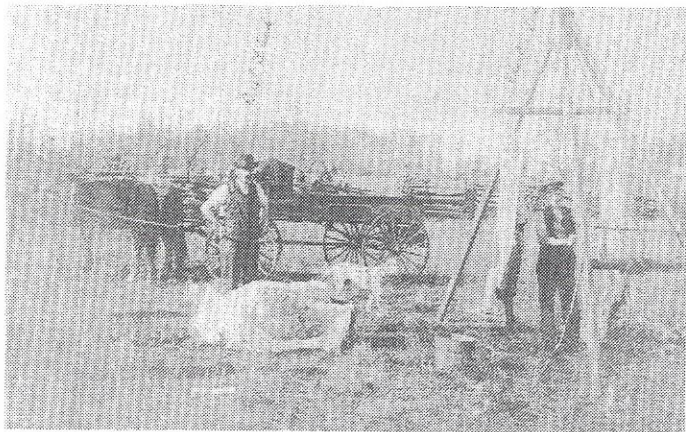
## Butcher Shops and Meat Markets

In early days Wm. Phillips ran a butcher shop. The family lived the second house north of where Carlin Myers lived. The Phillips family formerly lived between Argos and Plymouth.

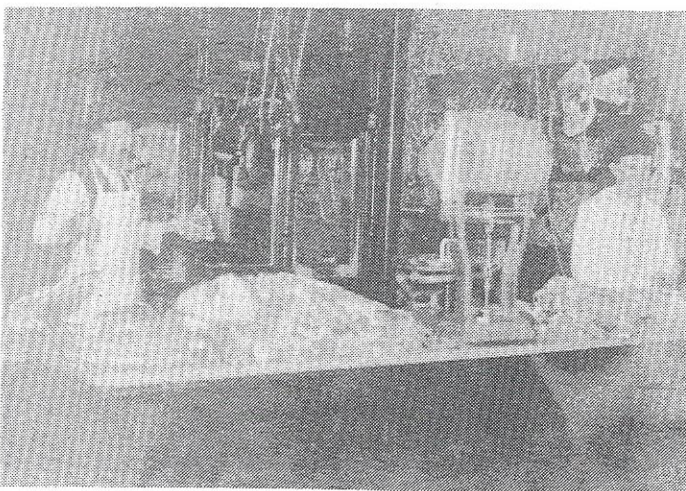
Henry Dammanu opened his meat market January 1, 1983.

Edd Tiggart had a meat market. One meat market was called "Loves Meat Market". Earl Shinn also owned a meat market. And a Mr. Daman ran a meat market part-time west of the old Hotel corner, but most of the time he ran a saloon.

Linus Borton and Ralph Wideman did custom butchering in barns behind their homes in town.



*Charles Dillingham and Chris Fleck shown butchering outside and then cutting up the meat in their meat market.*





Cal Shinn and Chris Fleck were well-known for their meat markets. Chris Fleck's meat cutter was Ray Dillingham.

Cal Shinn came to Mentone from Etna Green about 1890 and had a meat market where Edd Tiggart was, about where Teel's Restaurant now stands. The family lived upstairs and lost everything in 1902, when the whole block burned out. Cal bought a building from Charles Dillingham on December 29, 1919. This later was the locker plant run by his son, Earl.

Chris Fleck's meat market was just west of the old Hotel.

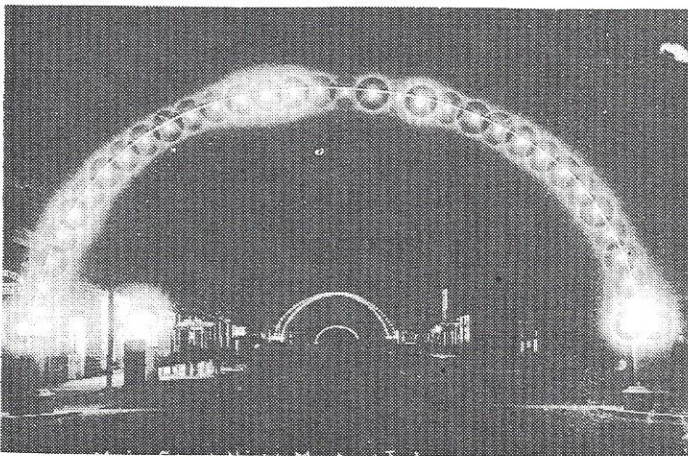
Before the time of refrigerators, Ira Borton delivered ice for the town's iceboxes for many years, and he always brought extra ice and chipped off pieces for all the children along the route.

## Hardware Stores

The first hardware store was opened December 25, 1882, by C.E. Doane and L.S. Clayton. Wertenberger and Mel Millbern ran a hardware store here in early days. Other hardwares were run by Reeds and Carpers. Dobbs Miller had a tin shop. Reed bought the hardware from Chinworth Bros. and Oram from Warsaw in 1920.

## Electric Plants

George Jefferies built the electric plant first where the Standard Oil bulk plant is now and later it was moved into the old Town Hall with the water works.



## General Stores

Samuel Garrison opened his store in the spring of 1883 and sold his exclusive stock of boots and shoes.

The Solanger Bros. ran a clothing store. They were Jewish and sold mostly men and boys' clothing. Their father, Levi, had operated a peddling wagon through the country and made quite a bit of money. He retired the wagon and helped his sons in the store.

A Mr. Shields had a clothing store where Dr. Cook's office is. It was a branch store from one in Warsaw.

Ketrows had a variety store.

Art and Loren Manwaring had a general store where the Farmers State Bank now stands. Art built the building.

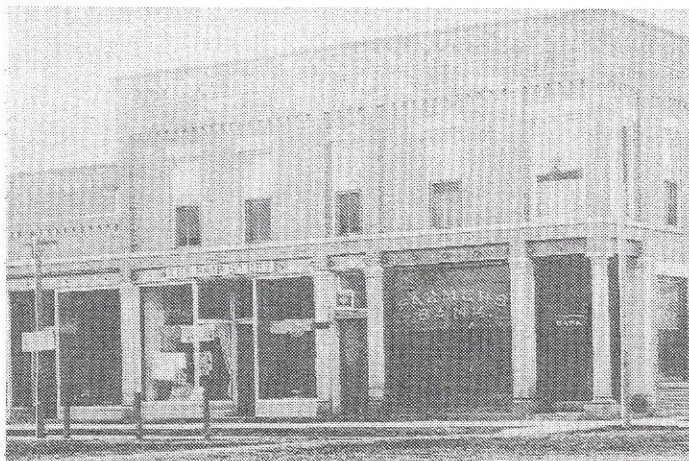
Lewis P. Hudson had a store where he sold dry goods and groceries.

Ben Sells had a general store.

Edward T. Whetstone's five and dime was another.

Mac M. Forst came here from Sevastopol and ran a general store where the Pill Box and Lake Trails Cafe are now located.

F.M. Jenkins ran a general store called "The Fair Store". (Pictured below)



According to the Mentone Gazette, The Fair Store was opened in July, 1901 in The Banner Block (north side of Main and east of Broadway). The store carried notions, toys, tinware, groceries and paid the highest prices for eggs in trade.

Mr. Frank Jenkins, proprietor moved here from South Wabash upon the recommendations of Rev. J.W. Walters, the Methodist minister who had been his pastor before.

In October, 1903 the store was moved to the corner building that had been occupied by Dr. Bennett (southeast corner of Main and Broadway). At this time Jenkins added hardware, fencing, dry goods and shoes to his merchandise. He was also agent for Strauss Bros. fashions and the Indianapolis and Chicago papers.

The first of February, 1906 a fire, which started in the Ben Sells Meat Market burned The Fair Store and most of the buildings on the south side of Main, north of Broadway to the alley. Friends were very helpful in carrying the merchandise out into the street. A Mr. Kitterman even picked up the hot stove and carried it out. What could be salvaged was moved into the D.W. Lewis store in The Kime Building.

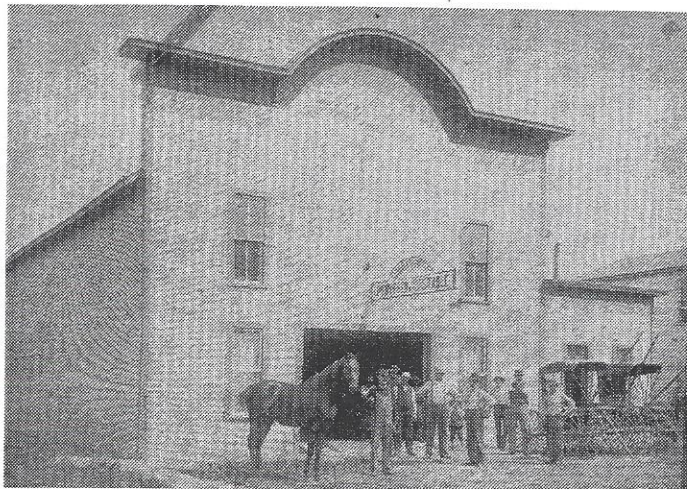
In September, 1906 the Fair Store was moved into the new bank building. The store room was in the shape of an 'L' with an opening both on Main Street and Broadway. Soon after the move they had a big sale with many advertising flyers passed around. This was a sale of shirts, but the printer inadvertently omitted the 'r'.

In February, 1911 the store started reducing the stock because 'the back room couldn't be heated'. The next move was to the C.A. Lewis room (east Main just north of the alley). The stock was completely liquidated and the store closed in November, 1911.



## Livery Stables

One of the very early Livery Stables was run by the Teeter Brothers, Frenchy and Lee. Their father was Vincent Teeter. They were located about where the livery barn run by Clark Ernsberger and James Cox later stood, which is approximately where the Arco Station is now. There was a stable where the Town Hall is which changed hands often and could have been the Bisel Barn run by Hudson and Whetstone. Next to Ernsberger and Cox was a buggy sales room run by Sandy Fieser. Buggies sold from \$50.00 and up. Other liveryies included Welsh and Pearce, Christian O'Dell and Harris Livery.



## Harness Shops

Due to the need to keep horses equipped with harness, Mentone had a number of harness shops. One was run by Hayden Rae, whose shop was where Donald Van Gilder's dentist office is now. J.W. Nichols sold harness, carriages and road wagons.

John Aughinbaugh's shop was in the building west of Boggs & Nelson Insurance Agency. He also sold sleigh bells, buggy whips, etc. Later he had a room in his home where he repaired harness and shoes.

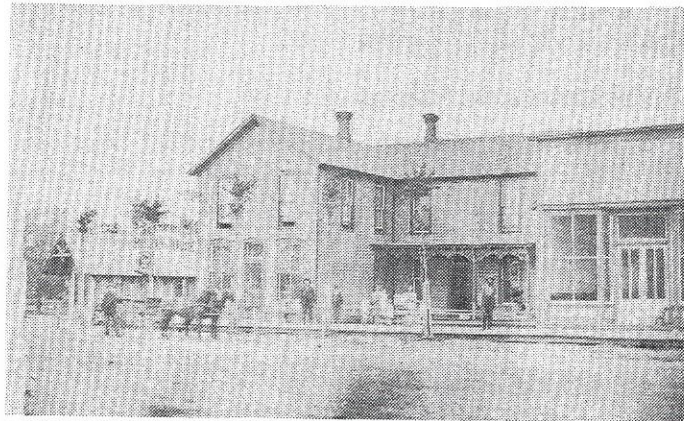


*John Aughinbaugh's Harness Shop*

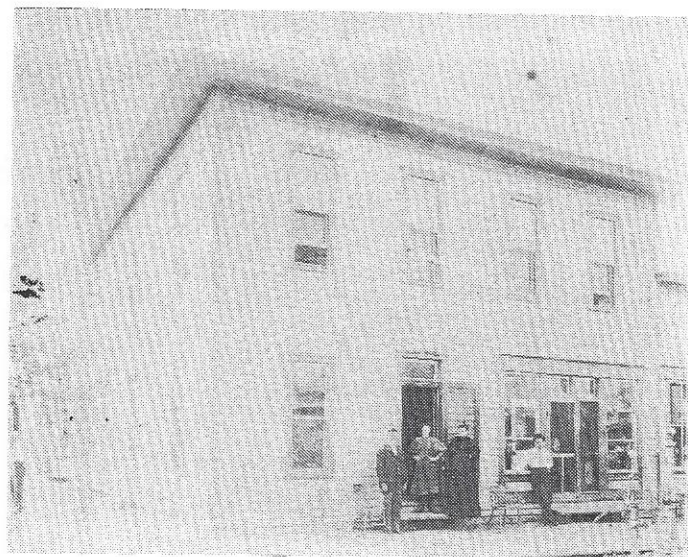
## Hotels

The Central Hotel was built by Wm. Reed from Reed City, Michigan about 1883 or 1884.

Besides the hotel on Main Street, there was another located just south of the Broadway Tavern called the Bisel House. The south end of the Bisel House was used as a restaurant. Lunches were served, as well as ice cream, lemonade, etc. Travelers coming on the train could get a quick lunch. Aurelius E. Vandermark ran the Bisel House as a hotel and restaurant. Railroad passengers could get rooms. Later the Bisel House was called The Mentone House. The Nickel Plate depot was just south of the Bisel House. The old hotel building has been torn down.



*Bisel House*



*Old Central Hotel*

## Jewelers

Among the jewelers of Mentone were F.E. Dumas, a Mr. Dandridge and Mr. Brown of Brown's Jewelry Store where Lazy Jack's Western Store is now.

## Lawyers

Mr. M.H. Mummy was among the first attorneys in Mentone (1890). Tom Fitzgerald came in 1931. Others were J.F. Bowman, J.F. Johnson and Jim Rodibaugh. Lee Bazini is the attorney at present.



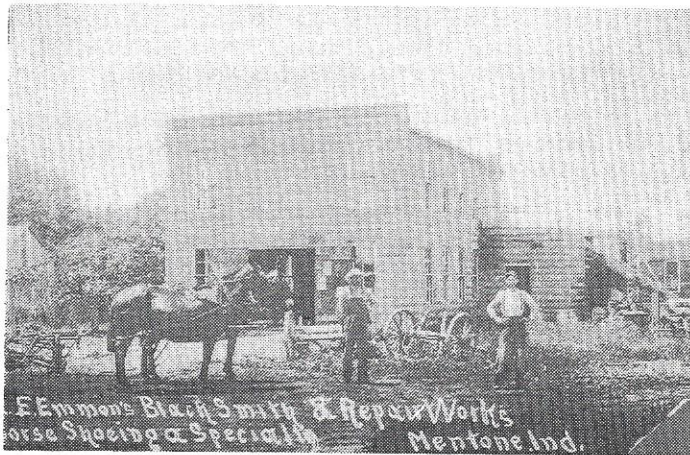
## Blacksmiths

M.O. Mentzer said, "When we would have a hard freeze and sledding was good, everyone wanted his horse shod. I have seen twenty or more horses waiting to get shoes."

Due to the demand, the Mentone area had a number of blacksmiths. Wm. Hyers had his shop just west of the Fred Swick place before Mentone was founded. Verdo Smith had his shop just west of the fire station in a building now torn down.

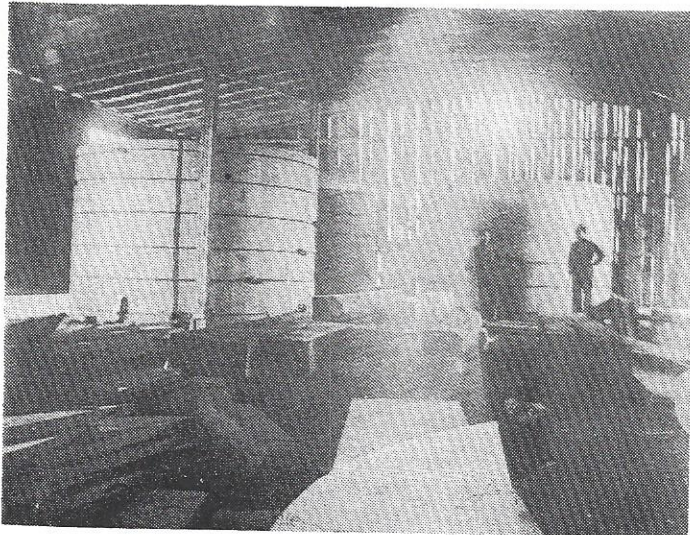
The Wm. Huff Blacksmith Shop was located just north across the street from Hazel Linn's house. Bob Lamber was also a blacksmith. There was an Emmons Blacksmith and Repair Shop - horseshoeing a specialty. "Rat" Emmons ran the place located south of the railroad tracks west of Road 19, where Chet Smith now has his garage. Dell Hall had his shop at this location also.

Erv Wagner was a blacksmith and veterinarian. He worked for Lon Blue.



## Pickle Plant

The pickle plant was built by H.J. Heinz and run by Frank Warren.

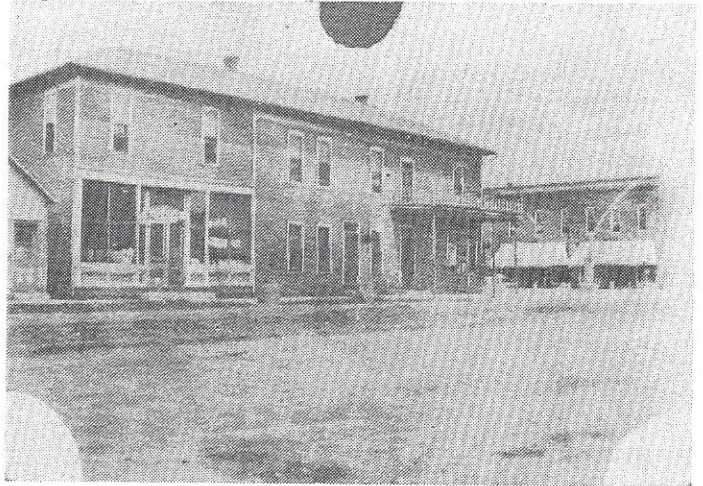


*Inside the pickle plant once located along the railroad track, where DuBois Distributors is now.*

## Tailors

Wade Whetstone had a shop for years on the south side of the Hotel where he made suits and clothes for customers as far away as Chicago. After the hotel was torn down, he moved to where the Towne House Beauty Shoppe is now.

Chas. A. Andlauer was a tailor. Isaac Sarber had his tailor shop above The Fair Store.



*Isaac Sarber's Tailor Shop in the south end of the old hotel.*

## Saloons and Taverns

Charles Hudson ran a saloon in Baker's Electronics present location. Daman's Saloon was the second place west of the Hotel. Close to Daman's was another saloon run by Sandy Fieser. There was another called The Silver Moon. John Miller's saloon was east of Baker's. (He was there before A. Vandermark.) Aurelius Vandermark had Pappa's Saloon just west of Bakers. The building is gone, but Earl Shinn said his father took him there and showed him the bullet holes in the back of the building from a shootout. This was around 1900.

Harve Kesler had a big saloon for those days. It was first located about where Precision Welding is now, but when the building burned in the fire of 1902, he moved to the second building west of the Hotel.

Ray Dillingham, Kelley Eherneman, Walter Barkman, Estel Smith, John Boganwright, Fred Vandermark, Jake McClone, Don "Cork" Barrett, Miner Mollenhour have also been in this business, as was Billy Nagel.

## Movie Theaters

At one time there were two movie houses in Mentone. The first was about where Precision Welding is today. It was owned by Scott Pontius. The piano players were Mabel Dodridge and Erma Meredith. This was about 1910.

Around 1920-27, the other was in the Rynearson Building, where the barber shop is now. Arthur Brown operated the movie projector. Sherman "Tid" Bybee and Verna Nelson were piano players. This movie was owned by a Mr. Jamison, who was from New York.

Scott Pontius also had a photography business.



## Hat Shops and Millinery

Mentone millinery shops included the following: Maggie Dillie's across the alley from Coopers, Bell Mollenhour's south of Dr. Van Gilder's office, Harris Hat Shop, Mrs. A.C. Stoner where the Towne House Beauty Shoppe is now, Fleeta Emmons Hat Shoppe, Dunlap's Millinery north of The Pill Box, Sylvia Mentzer where Dr. Van Gilder's office is, and Lydia Rynerson where the barber shop is now.

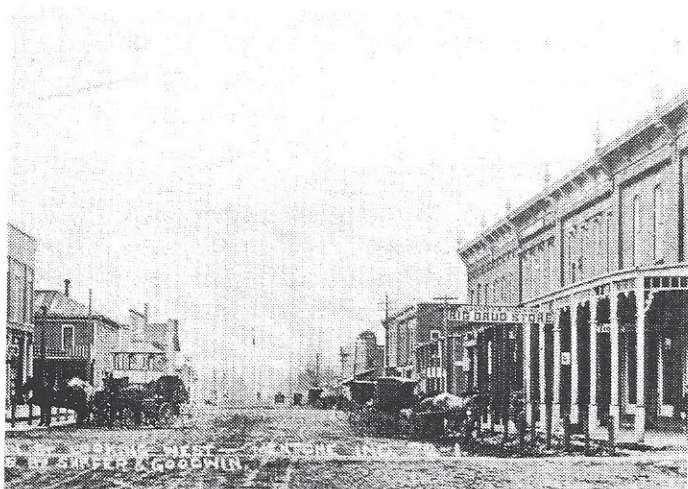


## Pharmacies

A century ago, it was a common practice for doctors to own and/or operate a drug store. Dr. J.A. Chandler was the first who had a stock of drugs for his patients and was located west of Mentone in the vicinity of the Don Boyer residence. In later years, Drs. Robinson, Bennett and McCormick were among those operating as pharmacists.

According to newspaper advertisements, Kilmer owned a drug store and also N.J. Ballard, located where Lazy Jack's store is now.

In later years, the Big Drug Store was owned by Shafer & Goodwin, partners, and later just Charlie Shafer. According to a Mentone news article, Shafer had an "enviable and almost unbeatable record of nearly 46½ years of service" in the Mentone area. Shafer sold in 1944 to Glenn and Louise Denton and for the next



few years, Denton's provided the pharmaceutical needs of this community.

In more recent years, the Rexall brand drug store, called the Pill Box, has been owned by Bob Hibschan, William Westerman and present proprietor, Bill Winn.

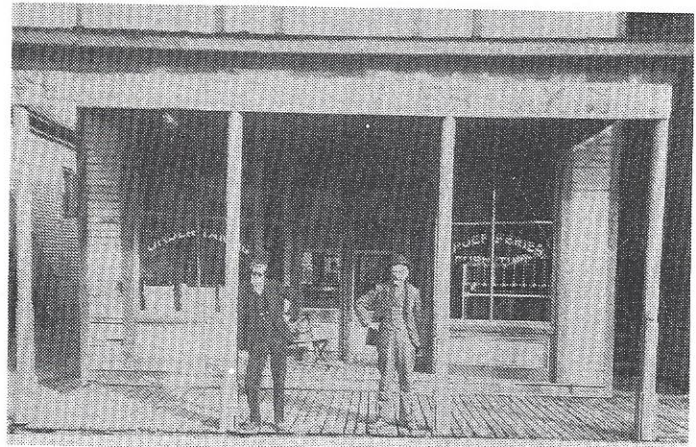


*Inside view of the Corner Drug Store.*

## Undertakers and Monument Sales

Mentone's undertakers included Ezra Railsback, L.P. Jefferies, Tuckers, Robert Reed, Vance Johns, and present day, Darrell King.

Henry Pontius had a monument sales establishment east of the alley by Baker's Electronics and Appliances, until he moved first to Precision Welding's present location and then to Lazy Jack's location. Reed Monument is well known for having made the Summerland monument in Mentone Cemetery.



## Bakeries

A Mr. Heitzner ran a bakery and restaurant in the late 1890's and early 1900's west of the Hotel.

The Burns Bakery was started in October, 1922 by Furel R. Burns who purchased it from Charles and Emma Blue. It was located in the back of the restaurant on the North side of Main Street.

Mr. Burns had been a baker for many years learning

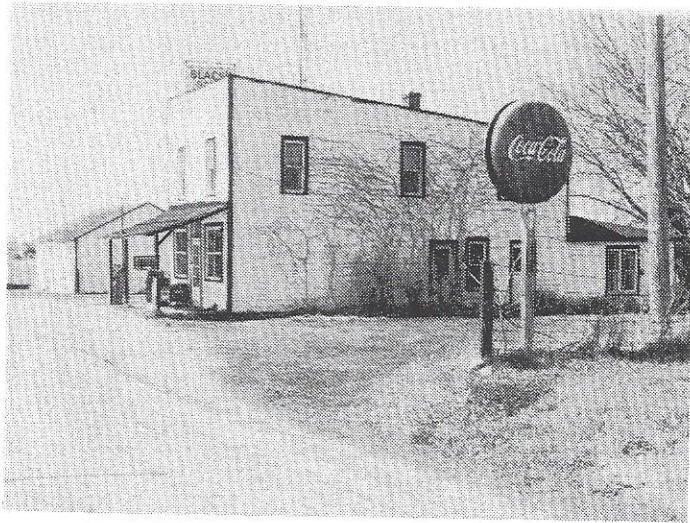


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from a John Fogle of Bourbon. He was given the nickname of "Corky" which followed him his entire life. The first day that the bakery was open in Mentone, Mr. Burns baked 65 loaves of bread, some rolls, cookies and doughnuts. This bread was sold in the restaurant. The Burns family consisted of "Corky", his wife Edna who helped in the bakery, and little daughter Jean who was placed in a bread basket and given a small piece of dough to play with.

The groceries in Mentone immediately put the Burns Bread in their stores to sell. This made it necessary to wrap the bread. Mr. Burns made the design for the wrappers and the bread became known as "Plezum Bread". Besides designing the bread wrapper, Mr. Burns patented a doughnut glazing machine. It was patented around 1925.

With a volume increase in business, Mr. Burns needed larger facilities and bought the cement block building on So. Franklin street just south of the Eberly Machine Shop south of the railroad tracks in 1923. As business grew bread trucks were added to carry the bread to small towns and to the farmers living in the rural area around Mentone, Tippecanoe, Talma, Sevastopol, and Black's Grocery south of Mentone. The bread trucks not only carried bakery products but ice cream and cold meats. Each truck had a small freezer that held the meat and ice cream.



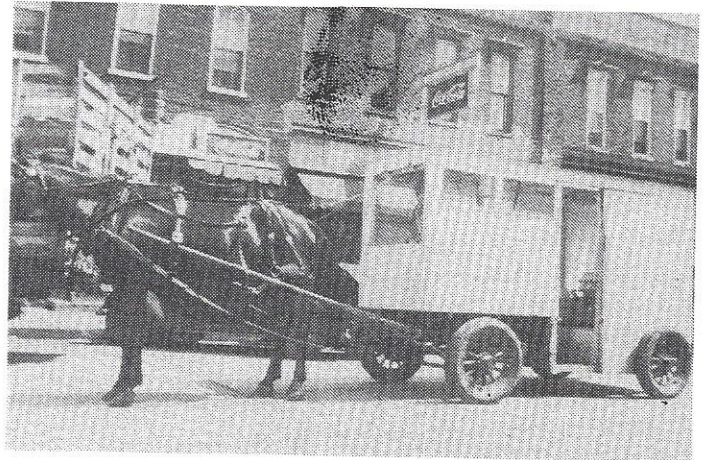
*Doran Crossing, George Black - proprietor.*

Bakers and truck drivers included: Moyer Gray, Harley Gruwell, Cloice Paulus, Lyman Mollenhour, Floyd Elliott, Paul Smith, Fred Kurtz, Ray Linn, Don Boggs, Charles Flenar, Seth Flenar, Hap Utter, George Utter, Dale Hawley, Truman Long, Barney Nellans, Earl Kern, Heston Creviston, Harold Stickler, Maurice Greulach, Robert Rice, Kay Paulus, Verl Roose, Charles Goodman, Paul Troyer, Howard Shoemaker, Clarence Julian, Howard Showley, Deloise White, Merle Wilson, Herschel Linn and many others. Freda Borton and Esther Shoemaker worked in the office. Andy Goshert worked through the summer months operating a route around Manitou Lake.

In 1937 Mr. Burns purchased a bakery in North

Manchester and during World War II production was stopped at the Mentone Bakery and everything was shipped there by semi-truck during the night. Many restrictions during the war affected the bakery, such as those on sugar and the requirement on the use of retread tires for trucks.

The Mentone Bakery was closed in 1942 when the Burns family moved to North Manchester along with many of the employees. Mr. Burns retired in 1954 and the bakery was then closed.



## **Tucker's Dairy**

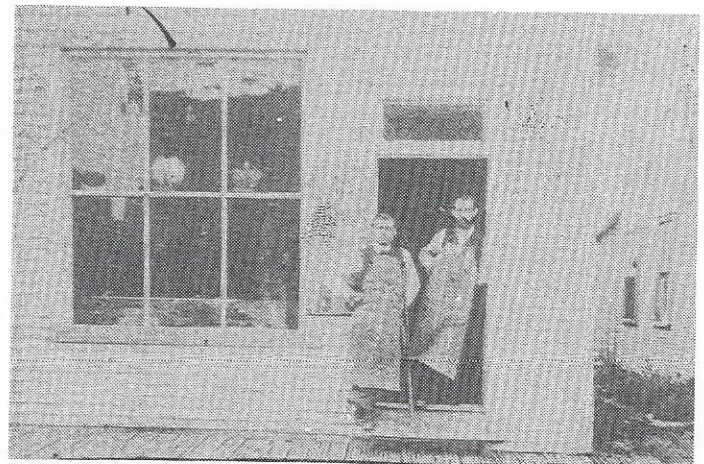
With his two sons, Dearl and Rex, Albert Tucker started Tucker's Dairy in 1915.

Starting early in the morning so the boys could be finished in time for school, they would milk, bottle and as a later process, pasteurize, the milk. Their customers were assured fresh milk as it was delivered twice a day.

When their delivery horse needed new shoes, it is said they would take him to E.E. Wagner for them. Seems Wag would give the horse some chewing tobacco, which the horse liked, to get him to stand still.

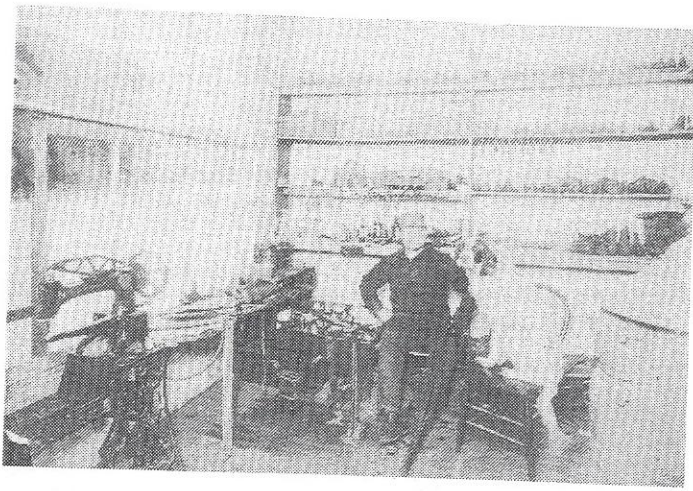
## **Shoe Repair Shops**

Harvey Watkins, Samuel Garrison and Dave Ellsworth had shoe repair shops. Mr. Ellsworth then put in a line of novelties to sell.



*Dave Ellsworth and Samuel Garrison's Main Street Store.*





*Dave Ellsworth inside his Main Street Shoe Repair.*

## Barber Shops

Henry Mills and Harvey Poulson's Barber Shop was in the old Hotel building. Al Leslie had a barber shop then joined Mills and Poulson making a three-chair shop after the fire in 1902.

Claude Hudson had his barber shop where Baker's

Electronics store is. J.H. Holly and Benjamin McCuen were early barbers.

Bechnell's Barber Shop was here around 1932.

In later years Phillip Blue, Chet Creakbaum, Mervin "Porkey" Jones, Tom Wright, Robert J. Hill, and Rick Doud had barber shops here. Our present barber is Max Flenar.

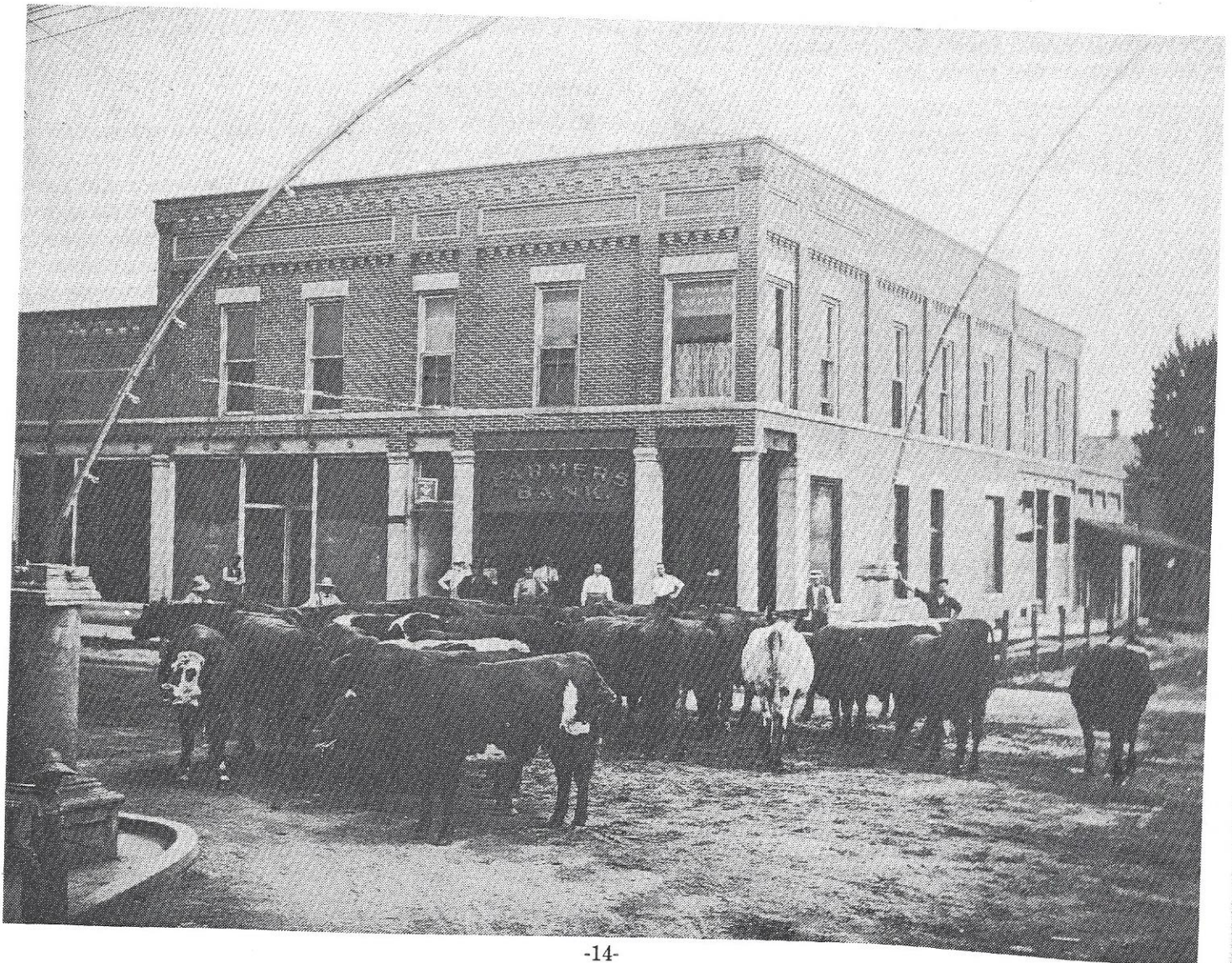
## Photographers

Harvey Blodgett in 1925, lived at 301 Oak Street where Gilbert Griffis does now. Others were Mrs. Ora Doddridge on West Main, J.G. Hughey, Scott Pontius Foto, and Baughman and Knight.

## Stock Yards

An early stock yard was built by James Blue. At one time more animals were sent to market from Mentone Stockyard than all the rest of the stockyards in the county combined. Most of these went to Buffalo, New York.

Today the Mentone Stock Yard is owned by Loren Tridle. The animals are shipped by truck.





## Grocery Stores

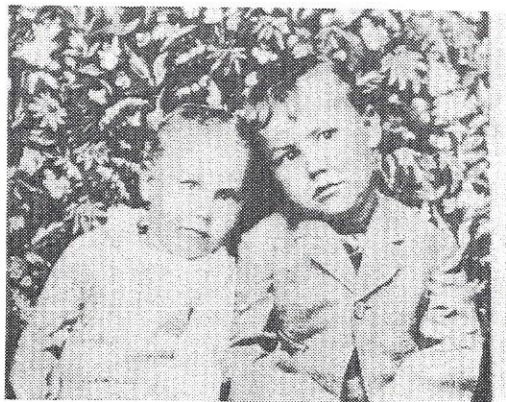
Allen Blue had a store on wheels located about 1½ blocks west of the railroad crossing. He moved it into Mentone from Yellow Creek. He later moved the building onto the lot just west of the Methodist Church where David Lewis ran the store. The following had grocery stores in Mentone: Ohlers, Kaiser, Lewis P. Hudson, Teel Bros., Homer Rockhill, Warney Kimes, Dunlap's Corner Gro., Ed Wilson, Sarbers, Burt W. Whetstone, Vernon Jones, Oliver Sears, Mrs. Cockran, Mentzer's I.G.A., Hill & Lemler, L & B, Clark's, Frank & Jerry's, Ernest Igo, Tuckers, Dillingham and Arnsberger. In 1932, there were eight places you could get groceries. There was also a grocery in Squire Johnston's place, which also acted as a post office for Oak Ridge.

Oliver Sears had a room west of the Old Hotel Corner where he sold candy, tobacco and some fruits. Mr. Thompson had a Tobacco and Cigar Store in the area of the Old Hotel.



*Samuel S. and Hannah (Shatto) Mentzer*

About 1855 Samuel Mentzer came with his family from Van Wert County, Ohio to Kosciusko County. His son, S.S. Mentzer was seven years old at this time. In 1876 he married Hannah Shatto, and they moved to the settlement west of Mentone, known as Little Chicago, where he operated a saw mill. when the railroad was started he continued operating the saw mill, sawing out bridge timbers and switch ties.



*The Mentzer's children, Mahlon and Virgie*

Inasmuch as the timber was running out (nothing but the best was used in those days) he moved his boiler and engine to Mentone and went into business with A.C. Manwaring (1884). They operated the first roller grist mill within miles. The mill ran day and night, grinding refined flour which was shipped as far east as Cleveland, over the new railroad. Albert Tucker became a partner in the operation and the business was eventually sold to him.

In 1898 Mr. Mentzer bought a grocery from John Dunlap and went into partnership with his son, M.O. Mentzer. The business was known as S.S. Mentzer and Son. They operated the grocery in the Boggess building until it was destroyed by fire in February, 1902. Most of the merchandise was saved, and it was moved to temporary quarters in the Kime building on the south side of the street, east of the present bank. The business operated in the temporary quarters until that fall when the Boggess building was completed, a modern brick building (Post Office building).

The opening of the new store was held in November, 1902, with a general store being added to the grocery.



A.C. Manwaring became associated with the business during the early 1900's. During this time, the store was known as Mentzer-Manwaring Company. He sold his interest in 1911.

Mr. Mentzer's daughter (Ersie) assisted in managing the Dry Goods and Ladies Ready To Wear after graduating from high school in 1904, until her marriage in 1912. At this time, she and her husband, C.B. (Bud) Cole, became members of the firm, and he assisted in management of the grocery. They sold their interest in 1926.

The store had its own delivery service, delivering twice daily. A huckster was also employed for some time.

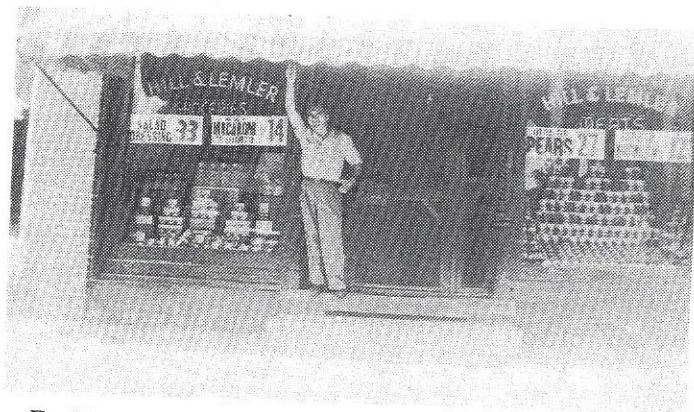
In the fall of 1925 the general store was closed out. However, the grocery business was continued, also selling men's work clothes and shoes.

Mr. Mentzer, Sam as he was known for miles around, continued coming to the store each afternoon until a short time before his death, in June of 1938, at the age of 89. M.O. Mentzer continued the business until selling to Hill & Lemler in 1941, having been in business a little over 40 years.



## L & B Foods

August 10, 1932, S.M. Hill and Fred Lemler bought the grocery business located in what is now the east half of Cooper's Department Store, from Isaac and Myrtle Sarber. The business was moved to the building formerly occupied by Levi Jefferies Furniture Store and Undertaking establishment and operated there under the name of Hill & Lemler until Mr. Hill's death in 1949. The business then took the name of Lemler's Market. In 1974, the adjoining room, which had been occupied by Shinn Locker Plant and later Romine Electric was purchased by Fred and Lois Lemler and became a part of the business. Due to the failing health of Fred Lemler, half interest was sold to Wayne Bowser. The name then became L & B Foods (Lemler and Bowser). Later Wayne and Phyllis Bowser became sole owners and continued operation until March, 1979 when they sold the stock and fixtures to Royal and Karen Baum, who moved them to Frank & Jerry's Grocery on State Road 19. The Lemler building was purchased by Jack and Rita Simpson in 1981 and now houses the beautiful furniture store known as Valley Furnishings.

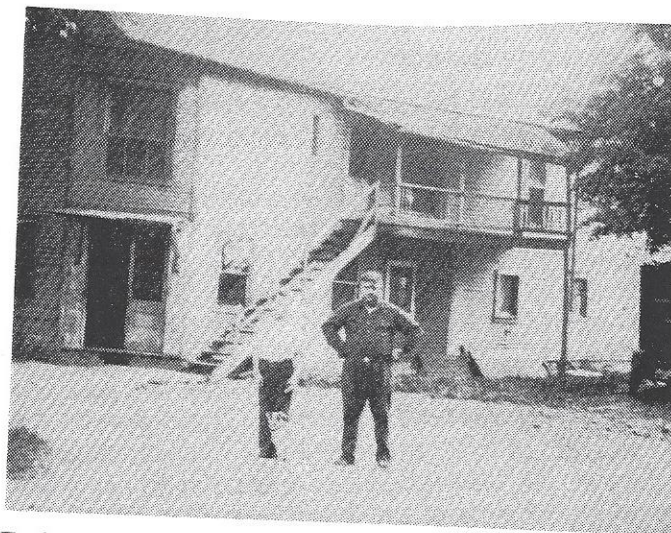


*Fred Lemler, pictured in front of Hill & Lemler located where Cooper's Variety Store is now.*

## Frank & Jerry's Market

Reading the abstract of the real estate pertaining to the present Frank & Jerry's Market, is a trip back in time to 1835 when 175.3 acres were deeded by the President of the U.S., Martin VanBuren, to James Hill. In 1839, Hill sold 172.3 acres to Richard Lee, who passed away in 1866. Samuel, his son and heir, sold to Albert Tucker in 1881. A condition of sale clause stated that Tucker was to make a Warranty Deed to New York & Chicago and St. Louis Railroad Co. for a right of way through said tract of land.

Thru the selling of plots of this acreage thru the years, the Lloyd W. Dunlap family secured the ground where Frank & Jerry's Market is now. The Dunlap family were carpenters who moved to Mentone from Sevastopol. They brought a part of a building and used it in their building in Mentone, later being used as a grocery in the lower portion. This building is the original south part of the present structure on the same site. Lloyd W. and Rella Dunlap lived upstairs and kept



*Early picture of the building that is now Frank & Jerry's Market*

a horse and wagon downstairs so they could drive to their work when they first purchased the property.

In March, 1925 the Dunlap's sold the west 15' of lots 252 and lots 253 and 254 to John L., Nora and Alice Borton who ran an auto garage in the lower part. Ray and Della Dillingham bought this in 1928 and operated it as a grocery, also living in the upstairs.

In 1936, the Dillingham's sold to Russell and Annetta Arnsberger (husband and wife) and to Martha Arnsberger who also operated a grocery. Ernest W. and Lena M. Igo purchased the same real estate in 1940 and it remained a grocery with the Igo's living upstairs. Frank D. and Geraldine L. Smith purchased the real estate in total in 1947 and operated as Frank & Jerry's Market in the same location for 30 years. The Smith's also lived upstairs for 26 years. The real estate is retained by the Smith's and the fixed assets and inventory have been sold.

## Lumber Yards

Eberly, Clark Ernsberger (later Don Ernsberger), O.L. McKinley, Co-Op Hardware and Lumber, Miller Lumber, is a list of the well-known lumber yard names, others include Albert Tucker who sold coal, salt, lumber, lime, cement, plaster and building mortar; The Mentone Novelty Works, and Gus Jefferies who dealt in soft and hard wood lumber.

## Ernsberger Lumber Company

In 1894-95 Clark L. Ernsberger started the Ernsberger Lumber and Coal Company which occupied a cement block and wood building that still stands just north of the present Dickerhoff Trucking Company. Other buildings connected with the new company were located where the Standard Oil Bulk Plant now stands. In the early 1930's Mr. Ernsberger purchased the Eberly Lumber and Coal Company on South Franklin Street. The main building was wood frame and was located where Lewis Motors' Used Car Lot is now. Additional buildings were located on the south side of



the railroad from South Franklin Street to where Agri-Center is now located.

The new business grew rapidly in the 1930's and employed several men. The company not only sold lumber and coal and general hardware but manufactured cement blocks, constructed chicken and hog houses, and offered general millwork. Mr. Ernsberger and his son operated the business until 1944 when it was sold to a group of out-of-town businessmen who renamed the company the Mentone Lumber Company.

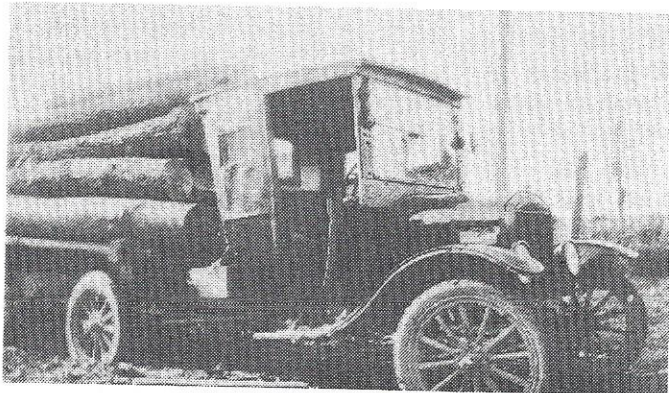
## Mollenhour Lumber & Mfg. Co.

Chauncey O. Mollenhour, a telegraph operator for the Nickle Plate Railroad in Tippecanoe, came back to Mentone where he was born to start a sawmill business with his brother, George, in the spring of 1914. The sawmill was located on the right-of-way of the Nickle Plate Railroad. Chauncey moved his family to Mentone in the fall of that year into the house on Tucker Street, now owned by Mrs. Gertrude Hill. George moved his family from Akron, where he had been working in a sawmill, into the second house east on Jefferson Street from State Road 19.

The brothers cut their own timber and used horses to skid and haul in the logs. They closed down the sawmill in the winter and filled the millyard with logs ready for sawing in the spring and summer. Farmers would come to the sawmill and buy just the kind, length, width, thickness and number of boards that they wanted.

In 1921, the brothers bought land from the John Blue heirs and moved their sawmill onto their own land. In June of 1921 they built a two-story frame building and started to make other wood products. Through the years they made porch swings, hose reels, ironing boards, ladders, bookcases, children's desks, boat oars, dowels for Russel Eber and egg cases. The egg cases were started about 1931. Ernest Dillman nailed the cases by hand on an egg case machine. There were three of these machines.

They still sawed lumber and sold it. Some of the better lumber was sold to Mutschler Brothers of Nappanee to make kitchen cabinets. Many times LaMar Mutchler and the Mollehour brothers bought whole woods together and each took the trees that worked best for their business.



*First log truck owned by Mollenhour's.*

In 1935 they purchased a Cheese Box Machine from a company in Alabama. They made their own veneer for the boxes, egg cases, and also cut stripes for the Hoover Basket Company in Warsaw and a basket factory in Michigan.

George's son, Lyman, worked for the company from 1940 until early in the year 1952.

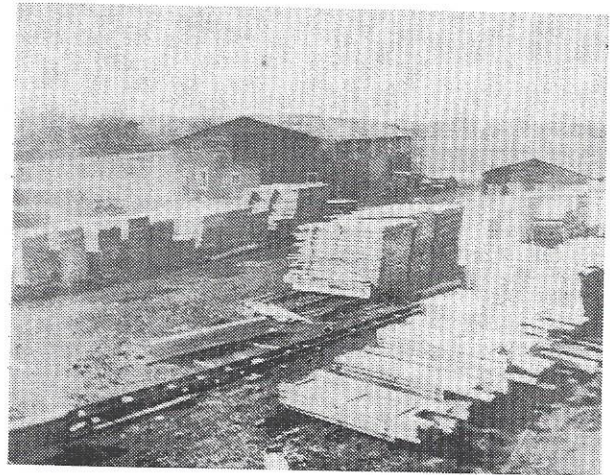
In April, 1942 the brothers built a new cement block building on the front of their lots along State Road 25. Another cheese box machine was purchased. They could now make "Daisy" and "Longhorn" boxes for cheese. During the war the boxes were shipped overseas.

Chauncey's son-in-law, Dale J. (Cornie) Wallace returned from the service in 1945 and started working for them. The brothers were in business together for 36 years. In 1952 they dissolved their partnership and Chauncey bought George's share of the business.

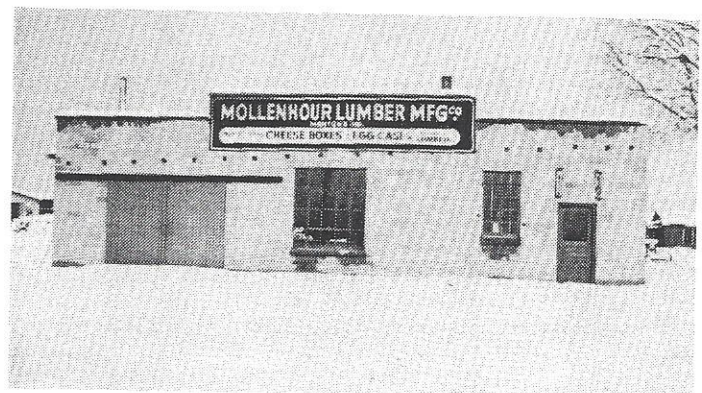
Due to numerous businesses closing their Indiana plants, the Mollenhour Lumber Company then started to make "pallets", the first in 1958 for Oliver Implement Company.

The old wood frame building burned down on February 3, 1959. In March of that year, after the rubbish was cleared away, a new steel building was erected where the old stood. This was also the year that Chauncey partially retired and turned the business over to his son-in-law, Cornie Wallace.

"Pallets" are still being made at the Mollenhour Lumber & Mfg. Co.



*Finished product ready for shipment on the railroad.*





## Restaurants

In early times W.L. Fish ran a restaurant where Baker's Electronics and Appliances is now located. Fish sold out to D.W. Styles. At the location of the former King's Furniture Store, the following people once had a restaurant: Sade and Edd Turner, Yonce Baker, Bert and Julia Whetstone, Foster and Emma Jones, Charlie Blue, Bert Simcoe and Martin Kiser, Irwin Snyder, Kenneth Van Curren, John Boganwright, and Ben Turner. Frank Warren had a restaurant in the old hotel building, later west of Fleck's meat market.

Fred and Blanch McCarter had a restaurant in the old Hotel, as did Emanuel and Clara Mentzer. They sold it in the early 1900's and went to South Whitley and ran a restaurant in the hotel there.

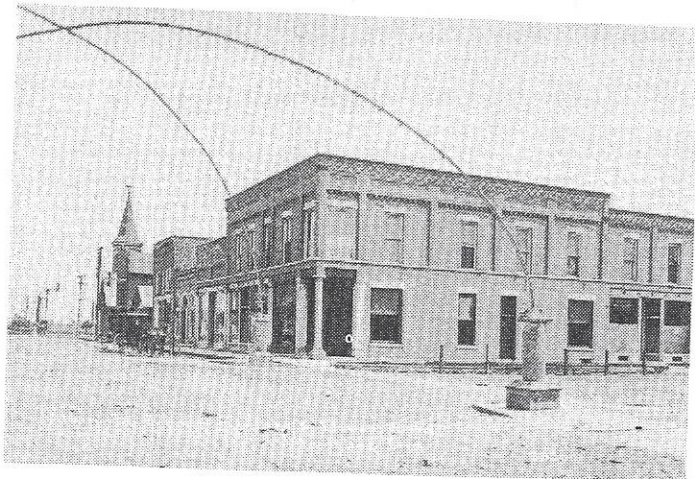


## Farmers State Bank

Farmers State Bank is celebrating their 90th anniversary this year, having served the community with continuous service since 1892.

The original stockholders of the bank started with a capital of \$20,000. The bank was known as Farmers Bank. The four stockholders: A.C. Manwaring, M.E. Hire, E.M. Eddinger, and L.D. Manwaring elected A.C. Manwaring as its first president.

The Farmers Bank purchased all the assets of the Citizens Bank in 1894 and in 1911 the assets of the First National Bank of Mentone.



In 1920 the Farmers Bank was granted a state charter and became known as Farmers State Bank. Loren D. Manwaring served as the second president of the bank until 1910 when E.M. Eddinger was elected president. Mr. Eddinger was followed by Frank Manwaring who served until 1933 when A.I. Nelson was elected president.

The bank moved from the small room at the rear of the present Pill Box Drug Store to its present location on the corner of Broadway and Main Streets in 1905. Much remodeling has been done since that time; both interior and exterior in 1962, drive up windows in 1968 and 1976, and an Installment Loan Office in 1973 using the room that had been used as the Walburn Insurance Office for several years.

In the late 1970's, branch offices were set up in Warsaw and Burket for residents in those areas.

Most of the bookkeeping was transferred to computer in 1980, and in June, 1981 another remodeling begun to enlarge the home office at Mentone with more office spaces.

Presidents of the Farmers State Bank since its inception: A.C. Manwaring, Loren D. Manwaring, E.M. Eddinger, Frank Manwaring, A.I. Nelson, K.A. Riner, Charles L. Manwaring, and Forrest D. Miner, present.

## Clark's Store

In the late 1900's Mac M. Forst and his brother, William, from Atwood established a general store on the north side of Main Street. Forst Brothers General Mdse. was situated in the buildings now occupied by The Pill Box and the Lake Trail's Cafe. The dry goods, groceries, ladies shoes, china and glassware, and office were located in the west room; men's wear was located in the east room. They also took orders for men's suits. The measurements were sent to a reputable tailor shop in Chicago for the tailoring. Rugs, carpeting, linoleum, wallpaper and blinds were located in a room above the east room.

One of Forsts' first clerks was W.F. Clark of Silver Lake. He was recommended by Frank Dumas, druggist, who was a college roommate. A lady clerk, Broda Creamer (a former school teacher) was hired. She married W.F. Clark in 1896 and continued working in the store.

After Mac died, the name of the store became Forst & Clark, with William Forst as bookkeeper and Will Clark as buyer and manager. In 1914, Mart Kizer purchased a one-third interest in the store for a short time, then Ed Turner purchased his interest.

In 1918, his interest was purchased by the other partners. In 1928 Wm. Clark became the sole owner and the name was changed to Clark's Store. At one time Clark bought the Beyer's Store in Talma and the Secore Grocery in Palestine. Jerry Beyers and his daughter, Nancy, ran the Talma store and Dale Secor the Palestine store. The stores phoned in their orders and they were delivered to them by "Pony Express". This



mode of transportation was not very practical in winter, so those stores were sold.

In 1929, the Mentone building was sold and the store moved across the street to the building east of the bank and the stock was reduced.

Soon after the store was located here, huckster routes were organized, first under the responsibility of Lloyd Shoemaker and then Frances Clark, with the help of Adrian Doran and later Donald Blue. The truck went out every weekday except Saturday and traveled within a radius of 10 miles.

During the life of the store the following persons served as clerks: Clint Strong, John Minear, Cal Price, Merrill Smith, Harley Teel, Excel Jones, Ivo Wagner, Fred Kurtz, Charles Cole, Charles Whetstone, Rondo Minear, Garth Underhill, Snowden Teel, Lizzie Riner Igo, Laura Rockhill Cox, Letha Jenkins Klingenhagen, Fern Carter, Faye Bunner, Mr. and Mrs. A. Bachman, Ottie Walburn, Frances Gibble, Frances Smith, Anna Belle Baker, Wayne Bowser, Kenny Romine, Tom Fitzgerald, Jr., Emma Cook, Henry Bradway, Kenneth Gragg, Myron Coplen, Dean Bowen, Hardy Songer, Lineus Borton, and Joe Burkett. Mary Jane Borton and Gerry Clark were bookkeepers.

After the death of William Clark, his son George took over the management until its sale on November 19, 1947 to Ray Smith. Mrs. Broda Clark had worked in the store over 50 years until after she was 80 years old.

When the store was first founded, the lighting was by kerosene lamps, then later by an acetylene system; electricity was furnished in the early 1900's. Before electricity there was not much business at night because of the poor lighting and before automobile transportation. Saturday was the big busy day when the farmers would come in to do the week's shopping and visiting. Some of the men would play cards at the pool room while their wives would congregate around the stove in the store. These customers became very dear friends and seemed as close as relatives.

Saturday nights were band concert nights and sometimes free movies were shown. All of this entertainment was paid for by the businessmen.

Some of the hard-working farmers would do most of their shopping only once a year, after they harvested and sold their crops. I remember a Franklin Township farmer who raised onions and potatoes, and had a large family, who would buy flour and sugar by the barrel and would bring different lengths of string to get the size of shoes they needed. His bill would range from \$750.00 to \$1,200.00 and he always paid cash.

Clark's always tried to furnish their customers with first-class merchandise, so they bought from reputable firms.

### Cooper's Store

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cooper came from Marion, Indiana, in the fall of 1945 and purchased the store building from George Cook of southwest of Mentone. The building was then occupied half by Secrist Cigar Store and half by Carper Hardware.

They opened the store after Thanksgiving in the east half of the building with a stock of variety type merchandise.

Throughout the years as their business grew and prospered, and to meet the needs of the community, they were able to expand the store into all of the building. They added a line of shoes and boots, men's work clothing and clothing for all the family, and grew into a small department store-type of operation.

Major remodelings of the building throughout the years included removing the partition between the two rooms, installing two furnaces, removing the old wood floors and pouring cement floors and installing tile. They added a basement toy land and ladies ready-to-wear room, rebricked the store front, and stuccoed exterior walls, enclosed stairway to upstairs apartments.

Mrs. Cooper was forced to retire in 1972 by her health. Raymond retired in 1975, when they sold the business to their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Cooper, present owners and operators.

### Baker's Electronics

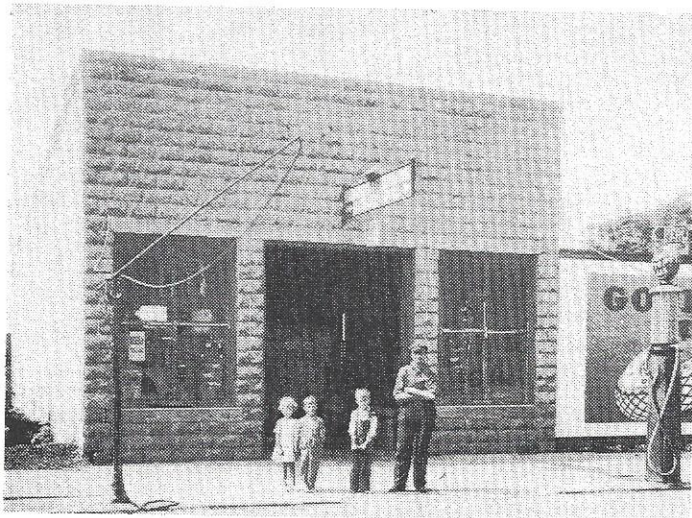
This lot is one section of an original 172.30 acres first purchased by James Hill from the United States on December 10, 1836. As near as can be determined, the building was put on the lot in 1886.

Joseph A. and Clara E. Baker purchased this building on September 23, 1950 and owned it until their death, at which time their son, Wayne K. and Bonnie L. Baker purchased it in February, 1972.

### Filling Stations

Mentone has had numerous stations. The prominent ones are Standard Oil - Albert Tucker, Hap Utter, Raymond "Bunk" Hudson, Jim Miller and Dennis Anderson; Sinclair Oil - Paulus Bros., Roy Cox, and Herschel Linn; Citgo - Ned Igo; Co-op - Fleetwing; Sunoco - Dick Gross; Philipps 66 - J & J

Byron Linn built the building where Lee Bazini is now. He sold Shell, Texaco, and Standard.



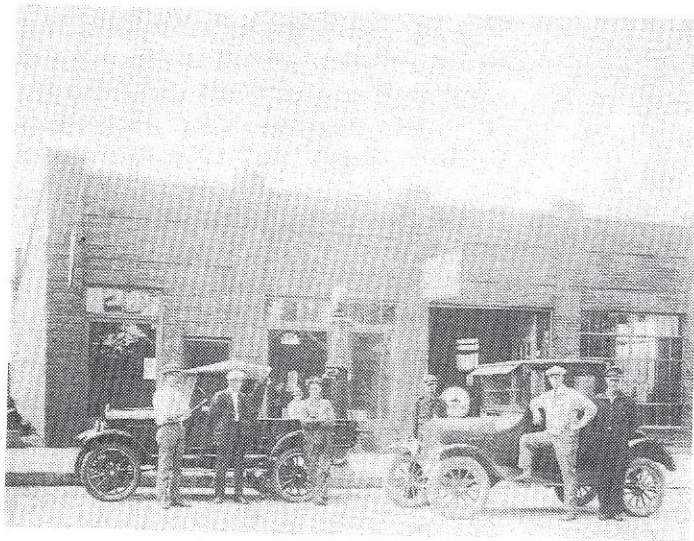
*Garage, fueling station and welding shop of Byron Linn.*



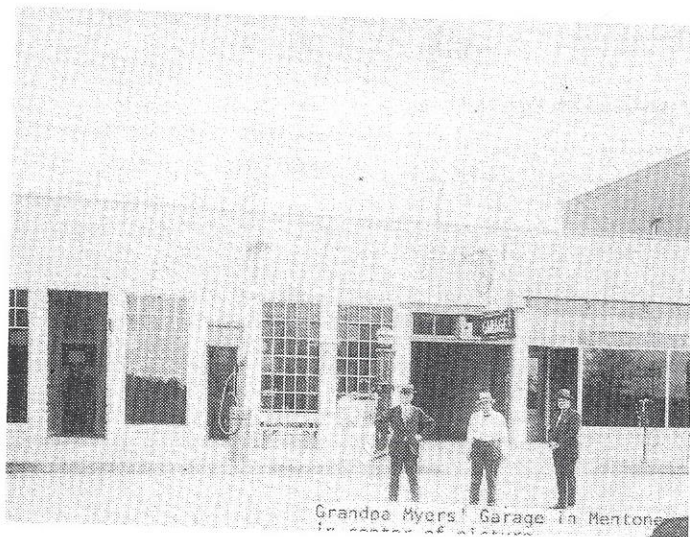
## Garages and Auto Sales

Many garages operated in Mentone through the years. Some of the earlier ones were Karn's Garage, Carter Bros. (Boaz and Emmet), Motor Inn (Dale Wallace), Claude Barkman and others. An announcement dated August 27, 1932, states that "Overmyer Motor Co. has opened a sales room for Ford and Ford Parts on Main St. Mahlon Jefferies, Mgr."

Auto Sales dealerships include Roy Cox, John Boggs, Boardman's and Lewis Motors.



*Overmyer Ford Motor Company*



*Grandee Myers' Garage in Mentone*

## Smith Bros. Diesel Injection Service, Inc.

In 1938, Max and Chet Smith formed a partnership and began repairing cars, trucks and tractors under the name of Smith Brothers Garage. After Chet enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940, he was no longer associated with the business.

The original garage was about where the service bays of the Arco Station are now. They later moved to where Frank Mfg. warehouse is, and built the present building in 1950.

During the period of 1952-66, they were also known as Max Smith and Son as they operated an International

Harvester Sales business as well. In 1948, the company invested in a larger wrecker and provided 24-hour wrecker service until 1968. During this period they concentrated on the repair of large trucks.

In 1967, they were incorporated as Smith Brothers Diesel Injection Service, Inc., and have specialized in diesel fuel pumps and injectors, but they have actually been involved in diesel repair since 1939. In 1946, they invested in their first test stand, which Max installed in a semi-trailer and offered mobile 24-hour service.

## Chet Smith Garage

In October, 1958 Chester C. Smith started an automobile repair business east of the Sinclair station. Later both of these buildings became Arco. Although Fred Orland shared the space, each was responsible for his own customers.

After Fred retired, Chet Smith Garage occupied the east part of Rex Tucker's Pontiac Sales on Road 19 South.

Boardman Chevrolet moved from the old Burns Bakery building to Bourbon in April of 1963. In December of that year, Mr. Smith moved into the space they had vacated, and there he has continued repairing automobiles.

## Lewis Motors

April 1, 1950, Raymond Lewis opened the doors of Lewis Motors to the people of the Mentone Community. Raymond had started his career as a mechanic in Mentone working for Max Smith, then for 3½ years served as a mechanic with the Combat Engineers in the Pacific during World War II. Returning to Mentone, he again worked for Smith, then at Bourbon for Wayne Love Motors. Raymond purchased the business at 108 N. Tucker Street from Tom Stanford who had converted the building, formerly a church moved into Mentone as one of the first buildings, into a garage. In 1958, a new building was erected at the same address and the old building, which had housed L.P. Jefferies hearse and horses, Bud Todd and Wayne Nellans chicken dressing plant and the Stanford garage, was torn down. Today, after 31 years at the same location under the same ownership, Lewis Motors is still open to the public six days a week.

## Carpenters

The Dunlaps were early builders and carpenters, building homes, etc. and first started where Frank & Jerry's Market is today.

Oscar Metz, who lived a block west on West Monroe on the southwest corner, made small pieces of furniture and bric-a-brac (wood cutouts of birds and other designs) that was used in double door spaces.

L.H. Middleton was a carpenter, builder, painter and paper hanger.

Others mentioned as carpenters were Clement L.



Teel, Russell Norris, John Latham, Fred Horn, Alonzo Blue and his son, Arlo Friesner, and Will Vernetto, along with current carpenters, Freeman Gruenewald, Willard Wagner and Secrist Builders.

### Beauty Shops

In 1930 the two beauty shops were run by Mrs. Vause (Golda) Polen and Mrs. Lyman (Jeanette) Mollenhour.

Since then the following have been operating beauty shops in the Mentone area: Mrs. Mervin (Bernice) Jones, Mrs. Everett (Babe) Long, Mrs. Wilvin (Lucille) Teel, Mrs. Kenneth (Wanda) Simcoe, Peg Walters, Mrs. Terry (Cindy) Spitler, Mrs. Fred (Darlene) Anderson, and Mrs. Bill (Jacque) Bradley.

### Frank Manufacturing Co.

Frank Manufacturing Co., Inc. located on West Main Street was established in August, 1948 by the founder, owner and only president, Mr. Franklin I. Saemann. Prior to 1948 the company was known as Lake City Machine Shop, and owned by Mr. Saemann.

Several of the early items developed and manufactured were a "Low Recording Tractor Speedometer" and a "Coverall Coulter". Both items were used in the agricultural rich area around Mentone and the Midwest farming communities. They also pioneered in the medical field with a hospital drop bottom fracture bed with overhead traction frames.

During World War II the company became involved in producing various items for the U.S. government. Currently the company is producing many items for both the military and civilian markets in the medical equipment line.

In 1951 the Peterson Hardware Building on West Main Street was purchased by Frank Mfg. Co. The first floor was used for assembly of products, with a sewing department on the second floor. In December, 1966 fire destroyed a major portion of the building, along with its contents and caused damage to neighboring establishments. With an urgent need for an assembly plant to fulfill contract commitments to the U.S. government, a building on State Road 19 South was purchased in early 1967. This building is still used as an assembly and painting plant.

The building at 117-121 East Main Street was purchased from the Co-Op Association, and is currently used as a warehouse. Several other buildings in Mentone are also owned by the company.

Frank Manufacturing Co., Inc. is a subsidiary of Orthopedic Equipment Company (The OEC Group), with headquarters in Bourbon, Indiana.

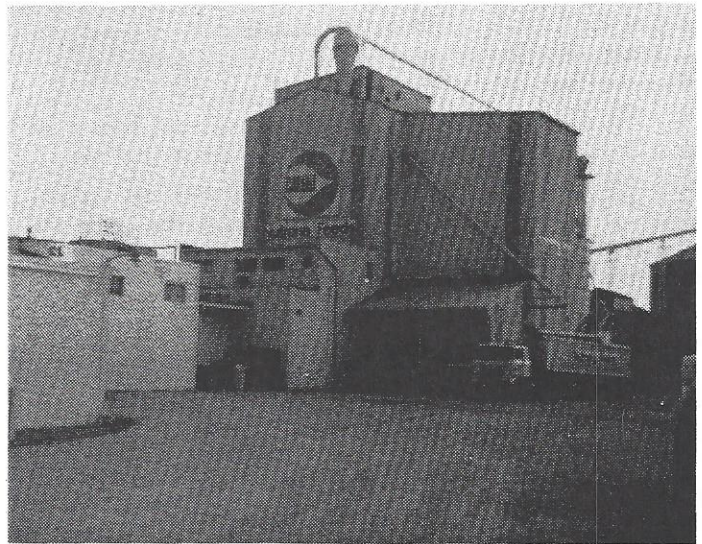
### Cargill-Nutrena Feeds

What is now Cargill, Inc. - Nutrena Feeds was built in 1956 by Hales & Hunter Co. The plant opened in October of 1956 to primarily produce broiler rations.

In the early days employees consisted of a Manager, one office employee and four plant employees. Hales & Hunter Co. operated the plant from October, 1956 to June 1, 1968. In that time the business expanded to a complete line of livestock and poultry feeds, including a large volume of duck and turkey feed business in Indiana and Michigan.

In 1968 Hales & Hunter Co. was purchased by Cargill, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minnesota. At that time expansion was accelerated to its present size. Employees now number thirty-one people including a sales force of 8, management team of 3, office staff of 5, production staff of 11 and 4 truck drivers. The plant services dealers in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan and also manufactures some products for other Cargill Nutrena plants in Rushville, Indiana; Flora, Illinois; and Princeton, Illinois.

Further expansion is planned for the future.





In 1928 Mid-West Spring Mfg. Co. was started in Chicago, Illinois just a few months prior to the crash of the stock market in 1929.

The company came to Indiana looking for a skilled labor market, which they found here. The original building still is in existence at the corner of North Princeton & East Jackson Streets (just east of the Mentone Elementary School). The original plant was a chicken house and is still used as a warehouse. The company was here only a few months while a quonset building was being constructed on the present site.

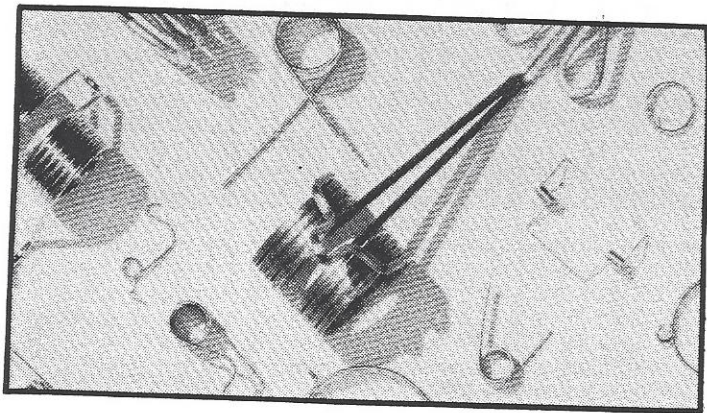
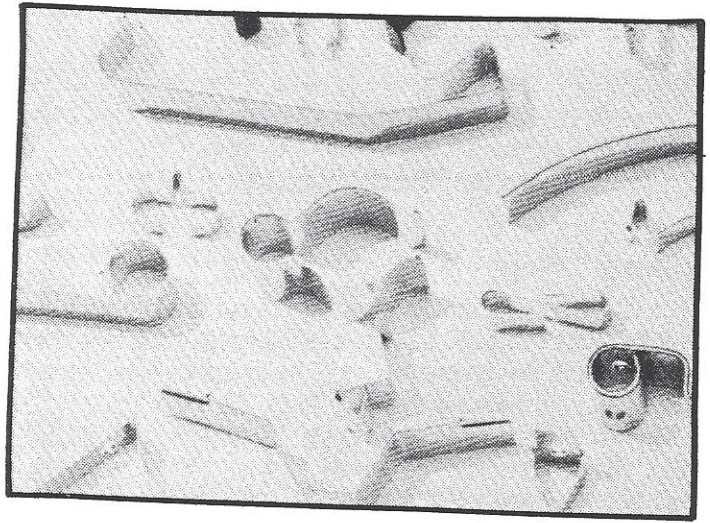
The company went to multiple plants in 1947, with the first plant expansion at Mentone. In 1948, it moved into the new building on Etna Street.

The original quonset structure at this location has been completely surrounded by numerous expansions. In fact, some of the expansions have been removed and replaced. The latest additions were made in the summers of '78, '79 and '80, at a total cost of over a million dollars. The current facility is an acre and a half under roof and is only two to three years old.

At the current time the Indiana location employs approximately seventy-five employees.

Mid-West Spring is now in six states, with complete manufacturing and office facilities in each state. Besides the Mentone plant, plants are in Romeoville, Illinois; St. Paul, Minnesota; Muskegon, Michigan; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Dallas, Texas. The corporate offices are located in Romeoville, Illinois.

At the Mentone plant, precision coil springs are manufactured from .004 diameter wire up to 5/8" wire, out of pre-tempered spring steel. Wire forms and metal stampings are also produced along with the tools to manufacture these parts, and if necessary, build their own equipment for manufacturing.



*My research on the history of Mentone and its businesses has included the writings of Mahlon Mentzer, Hazel Linn, George Meyers and the use of the Bell Library. Of course, I learned a lot from talking with a lot of people and remembering some of the stories that Earl "Bull" Shinn told me. There are probably inaccuracies, which I hope you will excuse and help me correct.*

*There are probably some places and people which are not mentioned.*

*If you, the reader of this book, know of any deletions or inaccuracies, please write the correct information down and take it to the library, where my notes and papers will be on file.*

*There were so many fires, that there are bound to be mistakes, so please, help put the places and people where they belong, if you can.*

*I had a lot of help from people who wrote a short history of their or their ancestors' business. A special thanks to everyone who helped me.*

*David Bowser*

**COMPLIMENTS OF — CLAYPOOL ALUMINUM, PRODUCTS, INC.**  
d/b/a/ Guy's Bending Fixtures, Rt. 1, Mentone • Guy & Nancy Ausbaugh



## Mentone - 1890

A town of 1200 inhabitants on the NYC & St. L.R.R., had two newspapers (Gazette and Enterprise), Tele., B & O. Postmaster and agent for American Express Co. was Lew S. Clayton.

Chas. A. Andlauer, Taylor  
 H.W. Baker, Sawmill  
 A.E. Batchelor, Restaurant  
 Boggess & Beyer, Meat Market  
 P.H. Bowman, Hotel  
 Burwell & Co., Hardware  
 Mrs. W.L. Carmack, Dressmaker  
 Christian O'Dell, Livery  
 Citizens Bank, Tabor-Tabor, Prop.  
 C.G. Clark, Meat Market  
 N.A. Clay, Farm Implements  
 J. Cox, Livery  
 Henry Dammons, Saloon  
 J.H. Deeter, Boots and Shoes  
 Philetus Leiter, Books & News Depot  
 Enterprise, Smith Bros. Publishing  
 Forst McM, General Store  
 G.W. Jeffins, Saw-planing Mill  
 J.F. Johnston, Justice of the Peace  
 J.M. Dodge, Milliner  
 W.B. Dodridge, Druggist  
 M.A. Dunlap, General Store  
 Fanny Ellis, Dréssmaker  
 A.N. Hamlet, Tinner  
 J.W. Heffley, Physician  
 Hire, Bybee & Co., Livestock  
 J.H. Holly, Barber  
 J. Jamison, Wagonmaker  
 Mrs. Wm. Kintzel, Hotel  
 Robert Lambert, Blacksmith  
 N.N. Latimer, Hardware  
 Elmer E. Leiter, Grocery  
 W.H. Lesh, Planing Mill  
 D.W. Lewis, General Store  
 J.F. Love, Meat Market  
 M.C. McCormick, Druggist  
 Benjamin McCuen, Barber

Manwaring Bros., Chair & Toy Factory  
 Mentone Machine & Novelty Works  
 Foundry, Saw & Planing Mill  
 Emmanuel Mentzer, Restaurant  
 Sam Mentzer-Tucker & Co. Flour Mill  
 J.B. Middleton, Doctor & Druggist  
 J.W. Miller, Saloon  
 W.H. Mollenhour & Bro. Saw & Planing Mill  
 Railsback & Smith, Furniture  
 Hayden Rae, Harness  
 A.B. Ronison, Physician  
 H.L. Singrey, Agent NYC & St. L.R.R.  
 C.M. Smith, publisher of Mentone Gazette  
 E. Stockberger, Physician  
 M.H. Mummy, Lawyer  
 Taber & Taber, Prop. of Citizen Bank  
 Mrs. S.E. Tilman, Notions  
 Albert Tucker, Grain & Livestock  
 E.F. Wilson, Grocer  
 S. Garrison, Boots and Shoes  
 O.J. McGee, Boots & Shoes

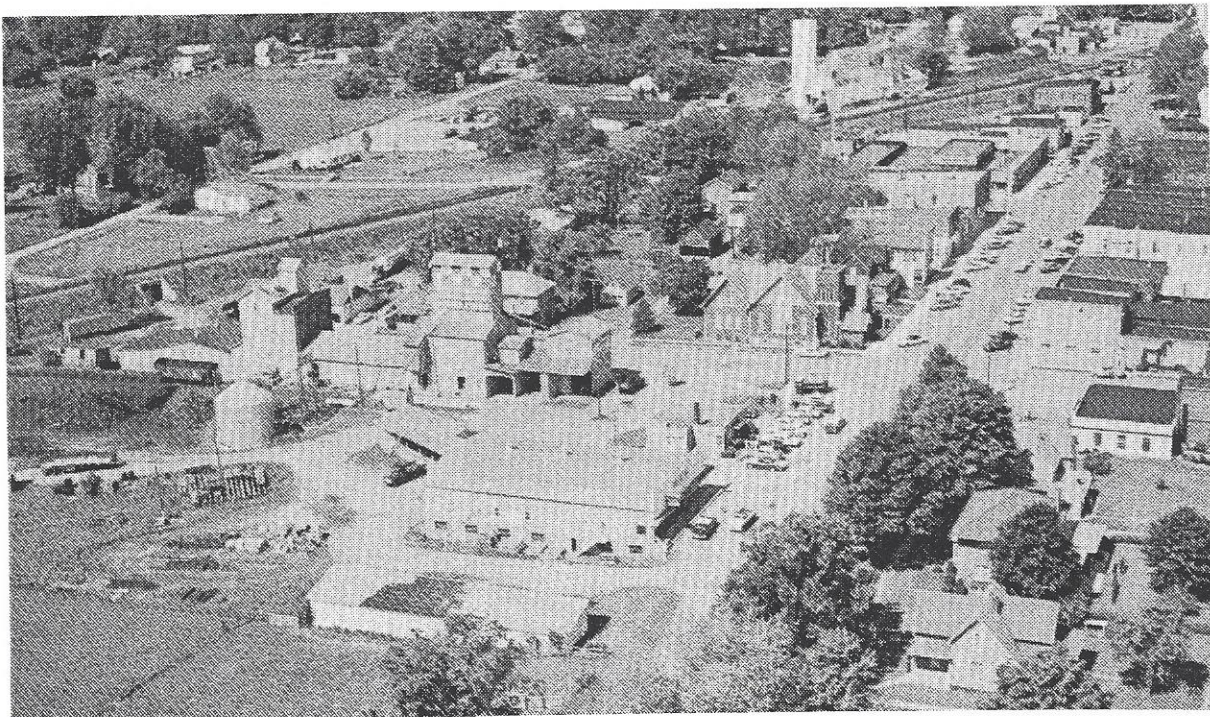




## Mentone - 1982

The Pill Box - Bill Winn  
Garrett's Sports Saloon, Inc. - John Garrett  
Valley Furnishings - Jack and Rita Simpson  
Cooper's Variety Store - David and Doris Cooper  
Romine Electric - Gerald and Donna Romine  
Mentone Office of the Mentone/Akron News  
Frank Manufacturing Company Warehouse  
Dentist David Cook  
Sunoco Gas Station - Dick Gross  
Moriarty Insurance - Roger Moriarty  
Hammer's Insurance - Terry Hammer  
Farmer's State Bank  
Boggs & Nelson Insurance - Joe Boggs  
Barber Shop - Max Flenar  
Beauty Shop - Bernice Jones  
Dentist - Donald Van Gilder  
Laundromat  
Miller's Hardware - Doug Miller  
Mentone Lumber Co. - Darrel Miller  
Harmony Inn Drive In - Tom and Deloris Harman  
Manwarings  
Producers Marketing Association  
Broadway Tavern - Sally Smithson  
Dickerhoff Trucking - Richard Dickerhoff  
Miller's Energy Products - Ned Miller  
Frank Manufacturing Co.  
Baker's Electronics - Wayne Baker  
J & J Sales - Roy Jeffers  
Pizza Place - Dale Chaney  
Attorney Lee Bazini  
Town Hall and Fire Department  
Phillips 66 Gas Station - John Jewel  
Mentone Quick Mart - John and Joyce Sexton  
Pack Rat Palace - Ellanora Yazel  
Chet Smith's Garage  
Jerry's Body Shop & Wrecker - Jerry Gross

Agri-Center, Inc. - Paul Haist  
Frank & Jerry's Market - Jay and Donna Woodruff  
Stock Yards - Loren Tridle  
Frank Manufacturing Co, South & North Plant.  
Ristance Assemblies  
Market Place - Bob and Mary Jane Hill  
Smith Bros. Diesel Injection Service - Robert Smith  
Ettinger Machinery Company - Bill Ettinger  
Kralis Brothers  
Telephone Company  
Post Office  
Towne House Beauty Shoppe - Cindy Spitler & Peg Walters  
Wymond Wilson, M.D. office  
M & R Egg Company - Millard M. Laughlin  
Beauty Shop - Jacque Bradley  
Teel's Restaurant - Mary Teel  
Used Furniture - Jack and Rita Simpson  
Lazy Jack's Western Wear - Jack and Rita Simpson  
Precision Welding - Don Elick  
Express Gas Station - Herschel Linn  
Lewis Motors - Raymond Lewis  
King Memorial Home - Darrell King  
Bushel Basket - Jo Bush  
DuBois Distributors, Inc.  
Mentone Pallets - Dale Wallace  
Midwest Spring Manufacturing Co.  
Cargill, Inc.  
Cullison Tomatoes - Steve & Margaret Cullison  
Tip-E-Pac Inc.  
Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals  
Niff-Corr, Inc. - Harold Shafer  
Niff-Tone Dist. - Jerry Secrist  
Secrist Builders - Ron and Steve Secrist  
Tibbets Realty - Jim and Agnes Tibbets  
Clupper Airport - Bob Clupper  
BNW Industries - Lee Norris  
Delft Blue of Indiana





# Local Government

## A Century Ago

The day had finally arrived and Mentone would become a legal corporation. Minutes of a meeting to nominate officers indicate that the "town fathers" had made arrangements to organize a Board, the members of which would be elected by the citizens of the town. Prior to the election, the town had been laid out into three wards. Each ward was to elect a councilman to represent the citizens of their ward. In addition to the councilmen, a treasurer, a clerk, and a marshall were elected for the Board. Results were as follows: councilman of the first ward, John Yantiss; second ward, R.E. Railsback; third ward, Solomon Arnsberger; clerk, Stephen A. Boggess; marshall, Solomon Zentz; treasurer, Loren Manwaring. The election judges were John D. Heighway, C.E. Doane and John F. Johnson. Mentone was now in business.

Bonds were required for the treasurer, clerk and the marshall. The clerk's bond was for \$500, and the bonds for the treasurer and the marshall were \$1500. Citizens came forward and offered to pay for the bonding.

These members for the Town Board were actually elected at a special election on January 18, 1886. The Board on this date gave their approval of the bonds.

They were to serve a term of five months or until a successor was chosen. It would appear that the persons who were elected to serve were able and willing to carry responsibility. They began at once to set up by-laws for the trustees as follows: 1. Ordinary rules of parliamentary procedure would be used. 2. Regular meetings of the Board would be on the first Monday of each month. 3. In the absence of the president, a president pro-tem would be chosen and to continue if necessary. 4. Each trustee should be allowed the sum of fifty cents for service in attending meetings. 5. The clerk shall be allowed the sum of fifty cents plus ten cents for each one hundred words used for all writing done for the town. 6. The marshall shall receive one dollar for each arrest made by him if the arrest is found guilty and one and fifty cents for working on the road, and a sum not exceeding five per centum upon all taxes collected by him.

The citizens of the town looked to the Town Board for local government, a government that carried out the wishes and needs of the citizens.

The treasurer of the Corporate Board was, of course, responsible for the money belonging to the corporation. Their money came from sources such as taxes, borrowing, and licenses.

One of the most lucrative methods was selling licenses. These ranged in price from fifty cents to seventy-five dollars: Pool table, \$15.00; Liquor, \$75.00; Skating rink, \$2.00; Show, \$4.00; and Theatrical, \$2.00.

On March 23, 1886, the board being aware of fire danger, passed a hook and ladder ordinance, and organized the first fire fighting company. They also saw a need for keeping law and order and ordered a calaboose built on Lot 226-size 10x14x9 to be completed on or before the tenth day of April. (This building was later used by George Craft in perfecting Craft's Distemper Cure, which is still on the market.)

February 7, 1887, the board passed an ordinance prohibiting trains from running through the incorporated town of Mentone faster than 15 miles per hour.

May 6, 1887, the new board met and organized as follows: S.S. Mentzer, president; O.J. McGee, clerk. A resolution was made to build a structure 20x30x10 feet to house the fire equipment.

June 16, 1887, the following taxes were levied. Corporation 75¢ on each \$100 valuation, 25¢ street and 25¢ poll. The marshall's salary was \$60.00 per year, and if he should resign before the end of his term, he was to receive only half of his salary. On July 5, 1888, the board met and agreed to all go to Warsaw and inspect a fire engine they wished to sell and have it tested. During this time the board had built fire cisterns at different points over town. The fire cisterns were located at Broadway & Main, Tucker & Main, Tucker & Harrison, Harrison & Broadway, and Monroe & Franklin streets.

July 3, 1889, the board passed the cow ordinance. This had to do with cows running at large. Most of the citizens had a cow allowed to run at large as there were a number of vacant lots and this was one way to keep the weeds down, but they were supposed to keep them up at night or they would be placed in the stock yards and locked up. It would take a dollar to get the cow back. A very amusing thing happened one night. There were several cows and one calf taken by the marshall and locked up. Early the next morning a man by the name of Bill Hertz came after his cow. He asked the marshall if he might take his cow home and milk her and said when he came after the calf he would pay for both. He took his cow and left the calf, which belonged to another man. A lot of fun was had by kidding the marshall.

A School Board was appointed, and the Corporate Board of Trustees met in the Council meeting with them while the new school house was discussed.

The old school house was used a short time, but the town was growing so fast and so many new people were bringing more children to town that it had been necessary to build a larger building. The ground where the library, Mrs. Feldman's home and Dr. Wilson's office now are, was provided by Mr. Tucker as a gift and a two-story frame building had been erected. Later a partition was made in each room so it made four rooms. Eventually there was a two-year high school, and the







first class graduated in 1892. C.M. Sloan was principal. In the year 1893, there was a necessity for an even larger building and a new building was planned.

The building, constructed of brick, had six rooms, three downstairs and three upstairs, with a three-year program. On account of the lack of high school students it was 1896 before the first class was graduated. O.H. Bowman was principal of the school at this time.

In order to pay for the new school, the School Board moved and seconded that the Corporate Board bond the town to furnish the means to build the building.

The School Board presented a petition showing this needed new building would cost about \$8000. The petition showed that the school fund fell about \$5500 short of this. The bonds were to the amount of \$4000.

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The present members of the Town Board are Frank Hardesty, Jim Miller and Wayne Tombaugh. Mrs. Robert (Kate) Whetstone is the clerk.

## Marshalls

The first town marshall was Solomon Zentz. Others mentioned as marshalls and night watchmen were: E.M. Crall, Clark Ernsberger, Ed Mollenhour, Ed Hickman, Mr. Harman, Lum Horn, Frank Warren, Arthur "Cappy" Zent, Earl Besson, Eli Julian, Bill Cook and Bill Schooley.

Night watchmen used to sweep the streets. Mahlon Jefferies operated a sprinkling wagon.

## Fire Department

Mentone was a thriving new town in 1886, but most of the buildings were made from wood, and there was no city water system, so the danger of fire was a constant threat. Soon after J.W. Christian's grain storage buildings burned, citizens met at the school to arrange for fire protection.

When the Hook and Ladder Corporation was organized on April 3, 1886, S.A. Boggess was elected captain. A town ordinance required building owners to keep a ladder in their buildings, and the Mentone Dramatic Troupe presented a play for the benefit of the Fire Department. However, to secure fire equipment it was also necessary to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,000 with interest at 7% payable semi-annually.

An engine house was started in October, 1888. Later a bell was placed on top to notify people in case of fire, but an ordinance was passed prohibiting the ringing of the firebell except in case of fire. A new 24-inch fire bell purchased in 1895 cost \$43.00.

Minutes of an 1889 meeting tell that three captains were appointed to enlist men to equip an engine. The fire engine was one of those old type pumpers operated by man power. A number of men on each side would work the pumps. It was a satisfactory piece of equipment and saved several buildings in the time it was used. Water was supplied by the large tanks placed at places where it was most likely they would be needed.

In 1901 a reward of \$1.00 was offered for the first person or persons to haul the fire engine to the fire with horses when the fire was one block or more from the engine house.

On February 4, 1902, Oren Thompson was authorized to attend to getting the fire engine and engine house in repair. He was further authorized to purchase galvanized buckets for the fire department at a price not to exceed \$2.00 per dozen. Later that year the engineer at the light plant began care of the fire engine.

In 1903 it was moved and supported that the fire engine should not be taken out of the building except in case of fire or by consent of trustees, and notice was to be posted in the engine house prohibiting the removal of any apparatus belonging to the fire department.

On August 4, 1904, the marshall was instructed to inspect the flues and chimneys of the buildings in the town. They purchased one hundred feet of 2½ inch hose at 35¢ per foot.

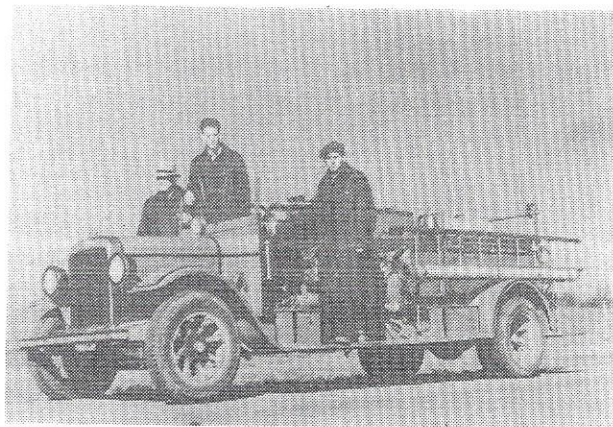
In February, 1912 they authorized the marshall to purchase a broom and snow shovel to keep the water tanks in readiness in case of fire. The engine house was sold for \$90.00.

The following year they purchased a hose cart for \$95.00 from Johns Manville Co. The fire department still has this cart.

There was a time when the electricity for the town was turned off at a certain time each night, so the night watchman was instructed to light a lantern to furnish light to get fire apparatus.

In 1918, the fire chief received a salary of \$5.00 per month.

In 1921 the Chamber of Commerce requested the Town Board make arrangements for a better fire signal and better fire organization. The following year a 1922 Ford 1-ton truck with a chemical water system was purchased and an ordinance made for this chemical fire truck.



In 1930 they purchased a Dodge fire truck with Boyer Fire equipment for \$1500.00. This truck was kept and is now used in parades. It is the pride of the department.

*(See end of chapter)*

In 1965 the Tri-Township Fire Control Board, representing Harrison, Franklin, and Newcastle Townships and the town of Mentone, was formed to







build the new fire station. Since that time the fire department has been governed by that board.

These men have served as fire chief: S.A. Boggess, Aurelius Vandermark, Charles Dillingham, Abe Mollenhour, Richard Greulach, Kenneth Riner, Arlo Friesner, Lyman Mollenhour, and Joe Good.

At present the Mentone Fire Department consists of eighteen to twenty volunteers, all dispatched by telephone and radio. They have two pumpers, one tanker, one 4-Wheel drive grass fire truck, and a walk-in emergency truck. All trucks are radio equipped, and the men are equipped and trained in auto extrication.

For other than major expenses the Fire Department raises money through fish fries, donations, and parking cars at ballgames.

### Superintendent of Public Works

Harry Sullivan began as Superintendent of Public Works in September, 1964, and continued until he retired on June 30, 1981. Harry recalls working day and night during snow storms but said everyone was nice to work with.

Ed Davis preceded Harry, and the water tower was built during the eight years that he was in charge. Earlier Marshall Bill Schooley handled some of these responsibilities.

### Four-Way Ambulance

The Four-Way Ambulance Emergency Service, Inc. began in November, 1975 with citizens of Mentone, Burket and Talma, and townships of Harrison, Franklin, Seward and Newcastle. From this group a thirteen member Board of Directors was formed to govern the Ambulance Service.

The Board proceeded to establish the official name, determine rates, purchase an ambulance and supplies,

and establish a fund raising drive to get the service started financially.

The goal set by the board was \$25,000. It was hoped that all communities would get involved, both financially and personally. Community spirit prevailed as everyone rallied around the need for a local ambulance service. The goal was exceeded.

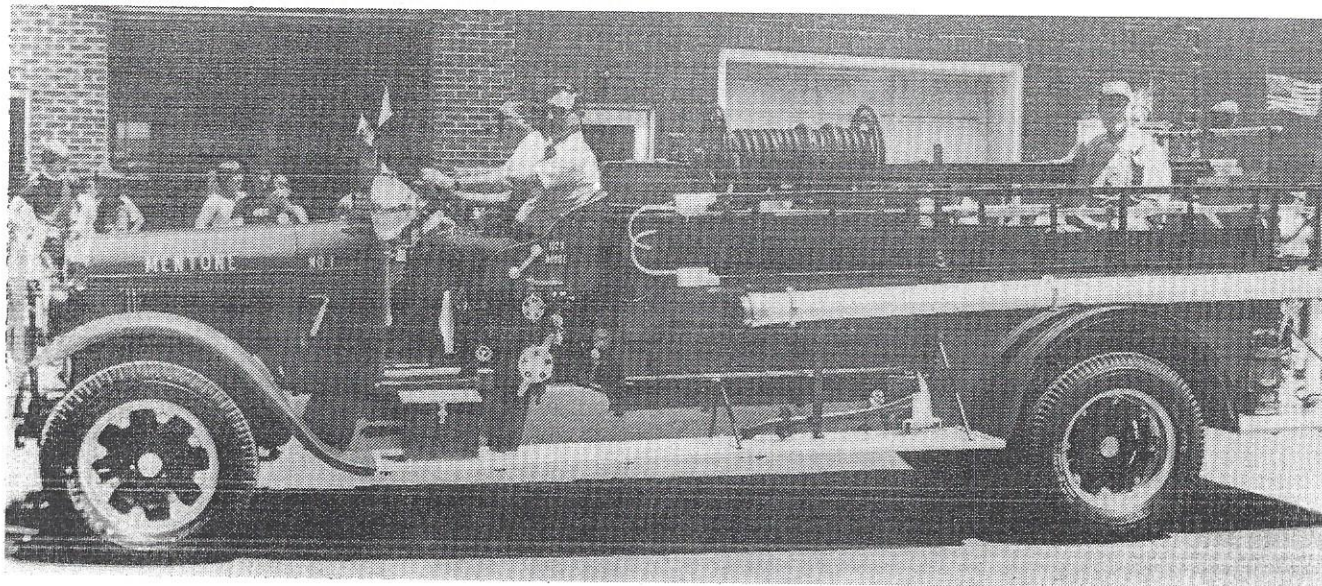
In January, 1976 the Board purchased a used ambulance. By the end of the month the ambulance was fully equipped as required by law, and staffed by two certified Emergency Medical Technicians, and two drivers. They began supplying the community with 24-hour ambulance service.

In March, 1976, a class began in Mentone to train more people to help staff the ambulance. This training involved 84 hours classroom and 16 hours working in a hospital emergency room. They not only had to pass the course exam but also a state certification exam. To maintain state certification, each EMT is required to have 20 classroom hours each year for two years, a 20 hour refresher course during the third year.

At the completion of the first class, the community had a total of 24 state certified EMT's staffing its ambulance service. Since then some have left and others have trained to replace them. Volunteer drivers have also been added.

Some of the highlights of the six year old Four-Way Ambulance Emergency Service, Inc. are: • Not 1¢ in tax money has been used to set up, operate, or maintain the service. • All original financing was donated by the community. • The service has been maintained solely by patients paying their bills. • Continued community donations have allowed the service to buy needed radio equipment and other required equipment. • All EMT's and drivers serve voluntarily (no pay). • The service has and is operating in the black. • The community has continual 24-hour-a-day 365 days-a-year service. • The service is available because the community cared.

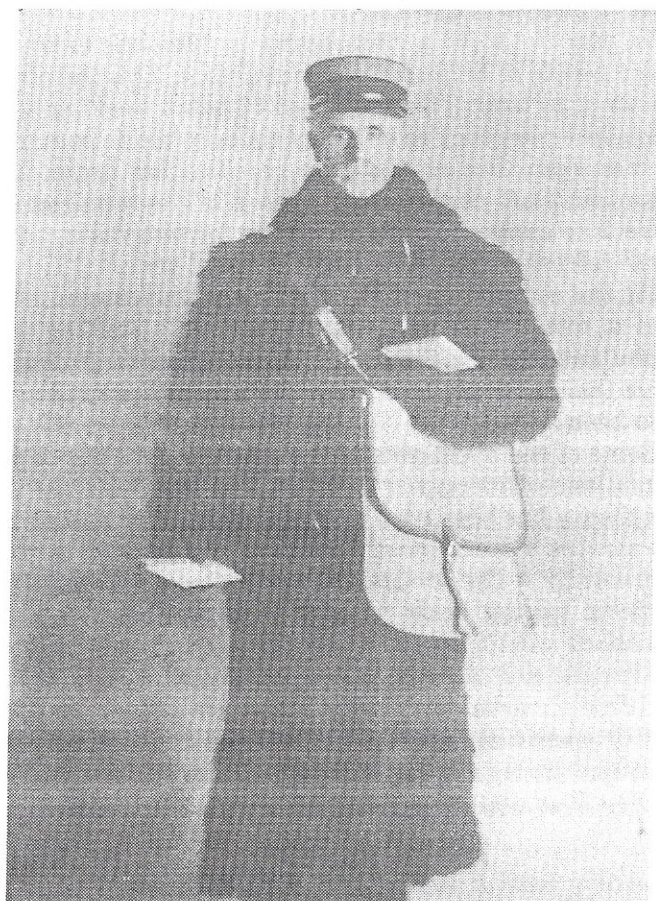
*Driver is Fire Chief Joe Good with passengers Roger Montel and Ollie Smith at the rear of the Dodge fire truck purchased in 1930, which is the pride of the department.*





## Mentone Post Office

Mail service in this area began in the 1860's with a Star Route which operated by horse and hack, and carried both mail and passengers. From Oak Ridge Post Office (which was established in the 1870's and located east of Mentone on what is now the Abe Whetstone farm) the mail was carried to Yellow Creek Post Office by a man on foot. The Yellow Creek Post Office, one mile west of Mentone at Little Chicago, was operated by Allen Blue. The Star Route was abandoned with the building of the Nickel Plate Railroad and the founding of Mentone and Burket.



On December 6, 1882, Esquire John Johnston (an uncle of Levi Jefferies who also operated a store at Oak Ridge) moved his store and post office to Mentone and located where Emma Yocum lived or the corner of West Main and Walnut.

The following is a record of the Mentone Post Office which was changed from a 4th class office to a Presidential office on July 1, 1913. On the chart of postmasters, the longest duration of appointment is held by current postmaster, Kenneth Romine.



*Early mail in Mentone was delivered by means of horse and buggy. Pictured is Richman P. Smith delivering the U.S. Mail. Pictured to the left is the classic attire of early mail carriers.*

### POSTMASTERS — APPOINTMENTS

John F. Johnston . . . December 6, 1882

Location: corner of West Main & Walnut

Artemus C. Manwaring . . . October 24, 1883

Location: Farmer's State Bank

Clarence E. Doane . . . April 8, 1884

Location: same

Lewis S. Clayton . . . September 1, 1885

Location: Dr. Urschel building/Boggs Insurance

Clayton served as the first American Express Agent

Watson C. Wilkinson . . . May 18, 1889

Location: where Wade Whetstone operated his tailor shop for many years (Van Gilder's office)

Unie Clark . . . June 22, 1893

Location: same

John G. Owen . . . August 27, 1896

Location: same

Austin Milbern . . . August 2, 1897

Location: site of new Lake City building

John Frank Bowman . . . February 14, 1907

Location: same

Lloyd Dunlap . . . August 30, 1913

Location: east of present location of telephone office (Old Hotel)

Earl Shinn . . . March 23, 1922

Location: warehouse beside Dr. David Cook, dentist, later moved to corner of Main & Broadway

Lloyd Rickel . . . June 16, 1934

Location: corner of Main & Broadway

Kenneth Romine . . . August 31, 1949

Location: same





# *CENTENNIAL CONGRATULATIONS MENTONE*

**WE ARE PROUD TO BE A PART OF YOUR HISTORY,  
AND LOOK FORWARD TO HELPING BUILD  
YOUR FUTURE.**

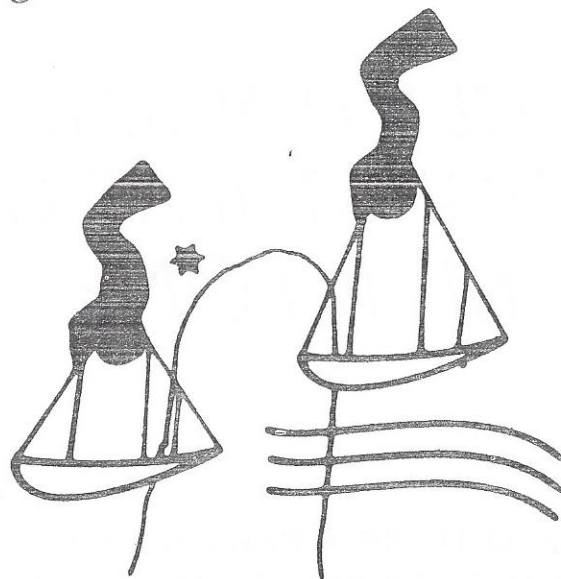


**A SUBSIDIARY OF  
ORTHOPEDIC EQUIPMENT CO., INC.  
BOURBON, IND.**

**"Our Concern is the Quality of Life"**



*Congratulations Mentone*



**Mentone Airport**

**ROBERT & MARTT CLUPPER**

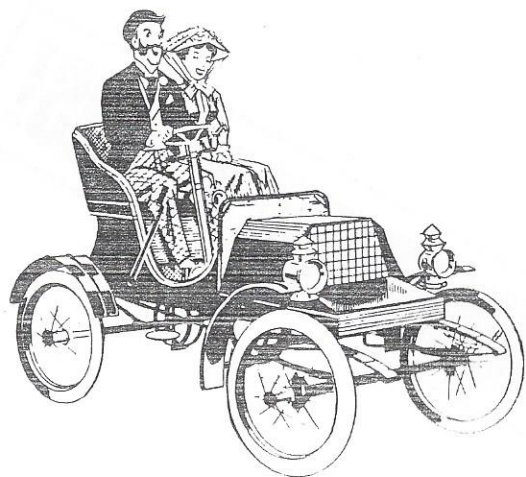


*FAMILY DINING  
AT IT'S VERY BEST*

**SINCE 1966**

**HERSHEL & MARY TEEL  
MENTONE, INDIANA**





*"Service  
and  
Satisfied  
Customers"*

Lewis Motors has done their best to uphold this motto for over 31 years as they have counted it a privilege to live and work in the Mentone community. Doing all kinds of auto repair, they also have available pre-owned cars that are serviced and ready for the road.

*You Know Them* — they have been at the same location for 31 years!

**Lewis Motors**

MENTONE, IN.

353-7266

***"Congratulations  
Mentone"***

**EGG BASKET OF THE MIDWEST**



*We're glad we invested all of  
our "EGGS" in your basket  
and we are proud of you!*

Have a Great, Great, Great  
Centennial Celebration

**Moriarty Insurance Agency**





on your  
Centennial Year

**Dr. & Mrs. W. Wilson**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

on your  
Centennial

Mollenhour Lbr. Co. started in the spring of 1914 by Chauncy & George Mollenhour. Sold in 1959 to Dale & Lola Wallace who own and operate it still under the name of Mollenhour Lbr. Co., Inc.

*Congratulations*

**Mentone**



**Baker's**  
Electronics and Appliance

— ESTABLISHED 1929 —

Mentone, Indiana 46539

**"ONLY QUALITY MERCHANDISE"**

Regancy

Philco

Bearcat

**THE BIG DRUG STORE**



**THE BIG DRUG STORE ON THE CORNER**  
Shafer Goodwin



**DENTON'S DRUG STORE**



**CORNER DRUGS**



**THE PILL BOX**

Although the name has changed - many times Mentone has become accustomed to a long history of reliable prescription service. BILL WINN at the PILL BOX is continuing to maintain that tradition.

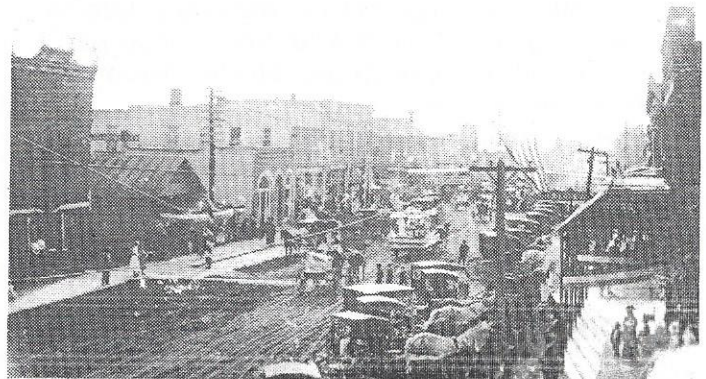
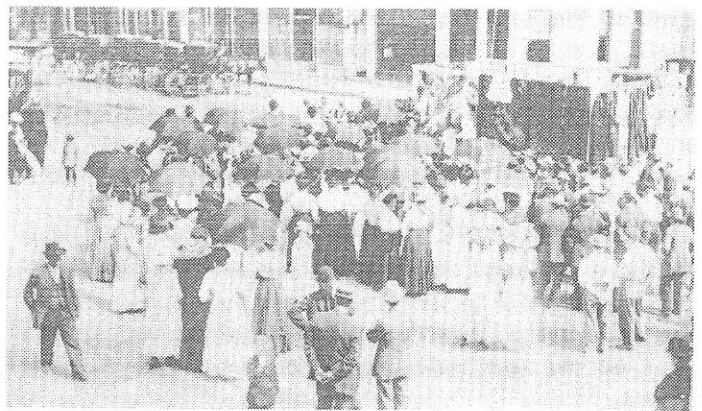
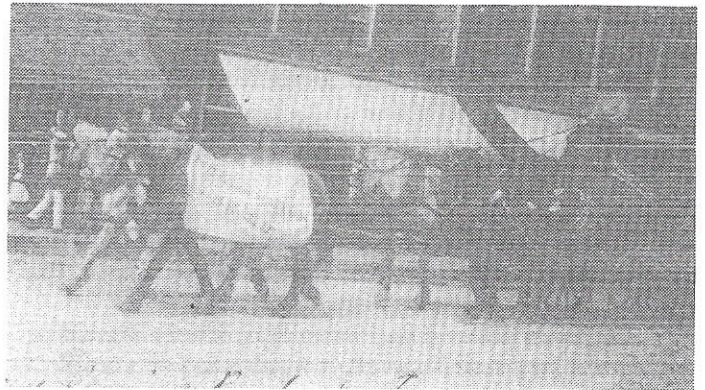
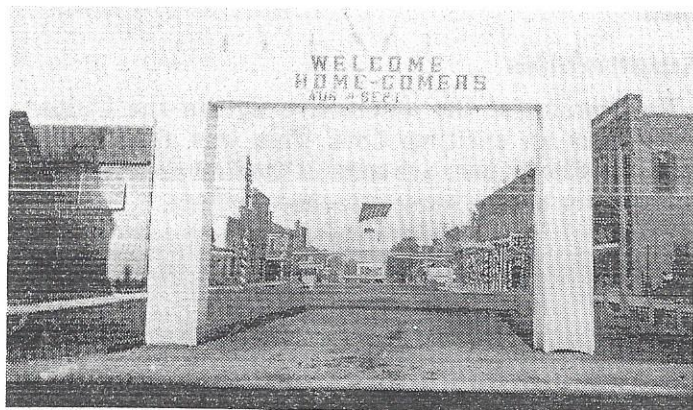


# Special Events

The town of Mentone and area around it have seen many happy times and many times of peril. In both good and bad times, the people of the area have pulled together and the community has grown in spirit.

## Homecomings

The excitement of a parade, the fanfare of bands and the thrill of watching the exhibits and floats have brought much joy to the people of this area. Homecoming was the highlight of years past and the following pictures tell the story.





## Origin of the Mentone Egg

The idea was conceived by Ed Ward who was the manager of the Northern Indiana Co-op Association, and some of the "egg farmers" in and around Mentone.

Hugh Rickel, of Palestine, designed and built the egg. It was built in the building next door to the late Dr. Davison's dental office which was on the northwest corner of Main and Morgan Streets in late 1946.

He stated that Dobbs and John Miller, who operated a sheet metal shop in Mentone at the time, wanted to make it out of sheet metal but Rickel felt that it wouldn't last, so he, himself used steel rods, welding them up and down and around, with a steel rod up the middle. He said the concrete plastering was done by Pete Goble, but we had another call that it was done by Clyde and George Reed. We do not know which is correct.

The egg was painted and lettered by Harry Meredith.

After the egg was finished, it was loaded on a truck (it took twelve men to load it as it weighs 3,000 lbs.), and taken to Warsaw and placed on the courthouse lawn where it stood for about two weeks to advertise the Mentone Egg Show. In searching through the Mentone papers a picture of the egg on the courthouse lawn was found in the March 13, 1946 issue of the Mentone Co-op News. We would assume that it was built early in the year rather than in the fall.

Fred Beeson, who was on the Board of Directors of the Northern Indiana Co-op Association, said that when the egg was returned to Mentone they did not know what to do with it, so the Co-op donated the land where it stands today on the southeast corner of Main and Morgan Streets.

## Mentone Egg Show Queens

The first Egg Show was held in April of 1936, but no queen contest was held until 1940, when Delta Deane Doran of Burket was the winner. Ileen Sarber, daughter of Earl Sarber, was selected in 1941. Five years later, during the epidemic of 1946, she was stricken with polio.

Patricia Gaerte was the first queen when the Egg Show resumed after the war. Phyllis Latta, the 1947 winner, also won the State Egg Show at Indianapolis.

Mylan (or Wylan) Titus from Atwood was chosen in 1948, followed by Miss Beaver Dam, Kathleen Perry, who was the daughter of Warden Perry. Tomaline Witham, daughter of Thomas Witham, was crowned in 1950. The Mentone High School contestant, Geneva Whetstone, daughter of Casel Whetstone, won in 1951. She was followed by Joyce Metzger, Shirley Overmyer, Sally Shively and Sandra VanLue.

Betty Griffis, daughter of Gib Griffis of Mentone was Egg Show Queen in 1955. JoAnn Tucker was next, followed by Boni Spradlin and Sandra VanKirk. Diana Ballenger, daughter of Gerald Ballenger, was the last

queen. Due to varied and rapid changes in the poultry industry, the committee decided to discontinue the Egg Show.

## Bands

The first band was called the Sevastopol Band. Frank Lane was the director. When Mentone was founded, he brought all his band members to Mentone to live. The band was then called The Lane Band. Allen Dillie, a well-known musician in Mentone played in the band.

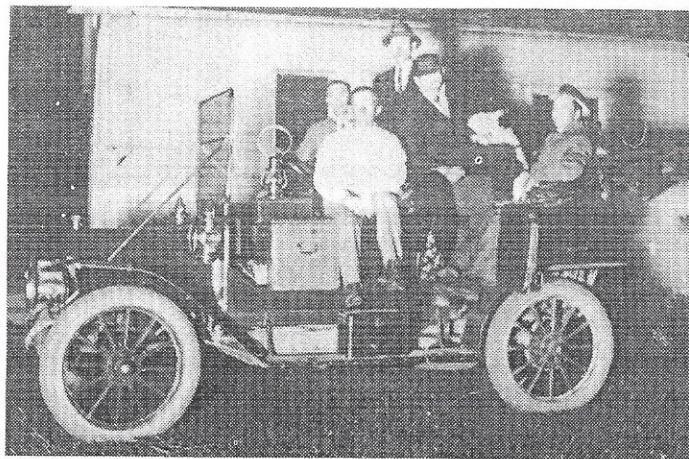
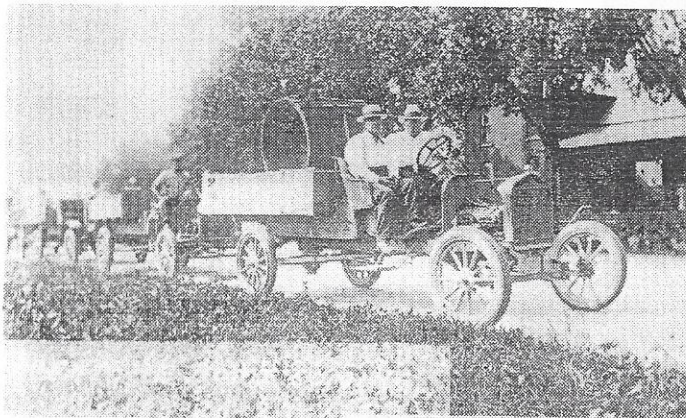
The Mentone Band was composed of Edd Turner, director; Frank Staner, Del Meredith, Don Jenkins, Leonard Smith, Scott Pontius, Charlie Blue, Charlie Jefferies, Ben Sells, Geo. Ralston, Max Turner, Fred Beagle, Max Dunlap, Eherneman, Harley Teel, Allen Dillie and Frank Lane.

The Mentone Band was also known as the Mentone Modern Woodsmen of American Band.

The Agricultural Military Band was also an early band.

## Automobiles

The coming of the automotive age in the United States was an exciting time. This was also true in Mentone. Shown here are some of the first area vehicles that did not have a horse attached to them.



*Mahlon Mentzer's first automobile.*

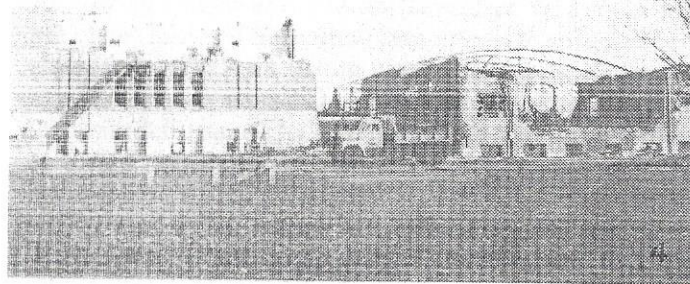
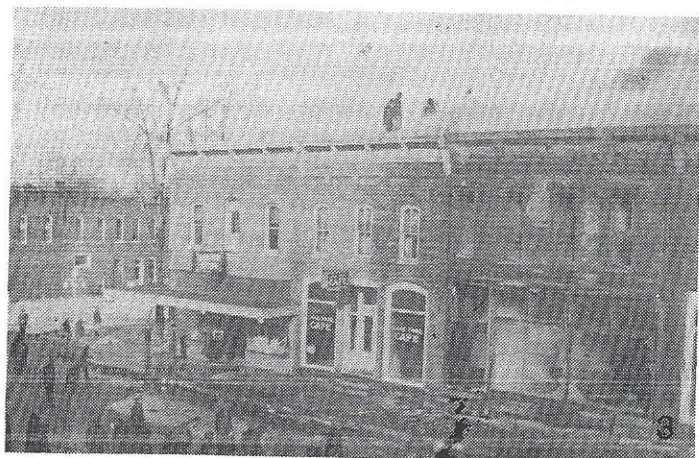


## Perils and Destruction

The peaceful town of Mentone also had its share of hazards. A few of these are pictured here, such as the fire in February, 1906, which totally wiped out a part of the business section of town (1 & 2). Also, pictured is a later fire in what now houses Valley Furnishings (3).

On April 3, 1974, a killer tornado swept through Kosciusko and Fulton Counties, killing seven people and destroying millions of dollars worth of personal property. In Kosciusko County alone, it was estimated that 29 houses, 121 mobile homes and 43 barns or farm buildings were destroyed. Pictured is some of the destruction done to the town of Talma (4 & 5).

Blizzards have swept through northern Indiana on various occasions and these pictures show past (6) and recent accounts of the snow depth. The latter picture (7) was taken in 1982.





## Mentone Celebrates Bicentennial

The United States of America Bicentennial . . . 200 years, July 4, 1776 to July 4, 1976. Surely for all Americans this was the number one holiday in a lifetime. How exciting it was to be here and to be a part of the commemoration of the 200th birthday of the greatest country in world history. All were instilled with a greater appreciation of those blessings won by the Founding Fathers and dedicated themselves to the continuation of those basic moral and patriotic ideals adhered to by our ancestors. Citizens considered the celebration as not a looking back at accomplishments of the past but rather a renewal of spirit, a chance to sharpen our focus so that our vision of the present and the future would match our accomplishments of the past. Our commitment was to honor the past and work in the present to safeguard the future. In a talk to the public, the Bicentennial Commission Chairman, Mrs. Frank (Jerry) Smith stated that it would seem that to our National Motto, "In God We Trust", we should add the words, "And Forgive Us O Lord, For Taking So Much For Granted".

Jerry Smith was appointed chairman of the Bicentennial Commission by the Mentone Town Board. Representatives from many community organizations and churches comprised the Commission. Mrs. Doug (Connie) Haney was elected Secretary and Gail Law, Treasurer.

The goal of the commission was to become a designated and official Bicentennial Community. To achieve this goal three areas of qualification had to be completed. *Past . . . Heritage '76; Present . . . Festival U.S.A.; Future . . . Horizon '76.* To complete the first category, Heritage '76, public and school convocations were conducted at Tippecanoe Valley High School where cedar signs, constructed by TVHS shop classes were presented to 100 year family farm owners. "In God We Trust", a dramatic motion picture was shown and the TVHS band and choral departments provided inspiring music. Arts and crafts were also on display by students. Forst Dunnuck and Kenneth Bush, Principal and Band Director of TVHS were responsible for the well received Heritage '76 program.

Festival U.S.A. was incorporated into the annual Mentone Egg Festival, a community event held during the second week in June. Connie Haney served as chairman of this event and plans were made for activities for all ages. Among the activities were: quilt and antique display, homemaker demonstrations, queen contest, adult band concert, Senior Citizen reception, relays for kids, activity displays, talent shows, gospel sing, square dance, teen dance, old craft demonstrations, art and craft judging, style show, planting of red, white and blue flower gardens, the largest parade ever held at the Egg Festival, road race, carnival rides, flea market. All indoor activities were held in the Mentone School.

The Horizon '76 area for qualification required much detailed effort but resulted in the awarding of a \$2,000 grant to the Lawrence D. Bell Aircraft Museum, which

has since been built in Mentone. Both national and local history are to be involved in this project to preserve and house the personal collections of aviation and space related artifacts, given to the town native son, Larry Bell, of Bell Aircraft Corporation. Also incorporated into this program was the beginning restoration of a one-room brick school house, dated 1888, on Shilling Road about four miles north-east of Mentone. The building was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Severns, to be restored and preserved as a historical site. The Milbern School Historical Association was formed and sponsored by the Mentone Bicentennial Commission to accomplish restoration. A fund raising was immediately begun by the printing of Bicentennial cookbooks of community recipes. Under the direction of Eula Smith, all books were sold.

In a letter of appreciation published in a local paper, Mentone Bicentennial Commission Chairman Jerry Smith expressed these words of thanks "to the many community persons involved in the success of the Mentone Bicentennial Egg Festival. Little did the Bicentennial Commission envision, a year ago, that we would become involved in such an undertaking! Only because of the thoughtful consideration of many husbands and wives of commission members and also many friends, during the months of work involved, were we able to persevere.

"The most gratifying part of all, to the chairman, was the fantastic cooperation achieved as we worked together to make "anything possible."



*Mentone is a Bicentennial community, the first in Kosciusko County. Having been so designated, the town is entitled to fly a Bicentennial flag along with its American flag and any residents of the community may purchase their flags for individual displays. Presenting Mentone's flag Sunday afternoon in a ceremony attended by more than 200 people was Gary Lucas, center, director of the Indiana American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, Indianapolis. Kenneth Bush, town board president, accepted it while Jerry Smith, right, chairperson of the Mentone Bicentennial committee, watched. Harry Sullivan, standing right of Lucas, raised the American and Bicentennial flags while the Mentone Jr. High School band played the national anthem. Lea Hudson chairs the flag committee. Other members are Donna Romine and Jerry Smith.*



# Community Services

## The Winona Line

When the late Earl Shinn went from Mentone to Chili, Indiana, to pay court to Mariam Fouts, he took the Winona, the same "trolley-urban" Miss Fouts had ridden to high school in Akron. And when a patient further down the line went to the hospital in Elkhart, she and her doctor took the trolley car to Goshen, transferred to another line, and were there within a few hours.

The Winona Railroad - 71 miles long at the height of its passenger-carrying days, was the connecting link between northern and southern Indiana in an interurban network that once included 5,000 miles of track in Indiana, Michigan and Ohio.

Financed by such men as J.M. Studebaker of the South Bend wagon and automotive family, and Pittsburg pickle king H.J. Heinz, the Winona was only three miles long when it was built as the Winona & Warsaw Railroad Co. to take people from Warsaw to the Winona Assembly, the religious settlement at nearby Winona Lake. It carried as many as 15,000 persons a day to hear such notables as William Jennings Bryan, James Whitcomb Riley, Madame Ernestine Schumann-Heink, Louise Homer and, later, the renowned Billy Sunday, an evangelist who aimed to make the country "so dry a man would have to be primed before he could spit."

Pleased with the success of their small line, operators of the Winona Assembly formed the Winona Interurban Railway Co., and began an expansion program, first to the north as far as Goshen and then, a section at a time from the south, from Peru to Chili, and Chili to Akron. They then returned to the north to complete the line between Warsaw and Mentone. Finally in 1910, the remaining section, between Mentone and Akron, was completed. To aid in this construction, each township that the interurban passed through was asked to grant a subsidy to assist in the building of the tracks on narrow boards running parallel and close enough to slip your foot between. The vote won in Franklin Township but

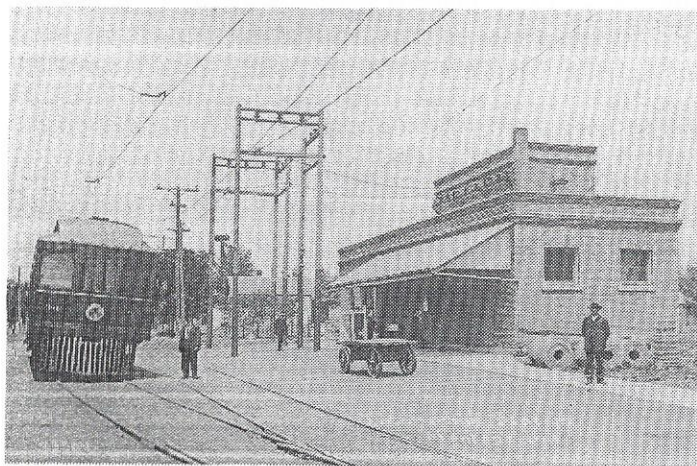
lost in Harrison. However, it was believed that a few progress-minded individuals made contributions in Harrison, so the building project was started with wheelbarrows, mules and horses. Construction often was delayed by farmers who refused to sell their land for the right-of-way and by such quirks of nature as quicksand that consumed equipment and teams of horses. Casel Whetstone, at the age of fourteen, helped construct the interurban out of Sevastopol where he tamped ties. He later shoveled gravel into cars which traveled the same tracks. Other cars carried hundreds of people on special outings to the next town for band concerts and road company plays.

The new sixty-eight miles of track were dotted with eighty-six waiting stations, small shelters in which passengers could wait the arrival of the car. At the sound of the car's whistle (blown as it passed a "whistling post" at a distance of 80 to 100 rods from the station), passengers flagged the car, either by waving their arms during daylight hours or by lighting matches or flares after dark. Cars ran every two hours, and there was continuous half-hour service between Warsaw and Winona Lake. The first car came as far as the Claude and Mary Barkman residence, located at the corner of Morgan and High Street. The youngsters were also fascinated by this new mode of transportation and it was not unusual for them to lay pennies on the tracks to see how flat they would become when the car ran over them or to cross two straight pins that would be pressed into a pair of play scissors.

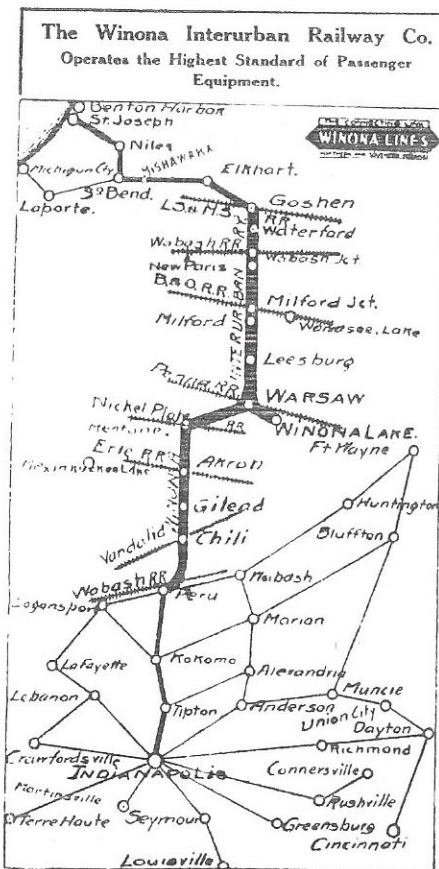
A one-way ticket from Goshen to Peru in 1915 cost \$1.35, and the 68-mile run could be made in two hours and thirty-five minutes. The speed never varied much during the line's existence, and, although it was considered fast, it was an acknowledged fact that no one who had to be at a certain place at a given time should depend on its schedule. There were too many variables. The weather, especially in winter, could change the schedule. And so could the passengers. The eighty-six stations were by no means the car's only stops; it stopped for anyone who flagged it, almost anywhere.

But the many stops were a minor price to pay. Ending forever the rural isolation, the Winona not only made it easier and less expensive for people to move from one community to another, but it also opened new vistas for traveling salesmen, students, teachers, farm families and couples bent on eloping, but never on Sunday. The Winona's religious operators did not begin Sunday service until a creditor forced them to do so to increase the line's earnings and meet bond interest payments.

The Indiana interurban network, of which the Winona was a part, criss-crossed sixty-seven of the state's ninety-two counties, but financial woes mounted and many lines failed. Within six years of reaching its







full length, the Winona was in the first of several receiverships and its founder, the Winona Assembly, whose directors had invested \$1,500,000 of their own funds in the inter-city electrical line, was bankrupt.

After eight years of receivership, the line was sold, emerging as the Winona Service Corp., a name later changed to Winona Railroad Co. Agreements with other lines sent "through" passenger cars speeding between Indianapolis and South Bend, and the future looked bright with one menacing exception - the growing popularity of the automobile.

Correctly predicting the doom the automobile could deal the interurban, the Winona's management looked for new sources of income, seeing its ultimate salvation as coming from the steam lines it crossed. Moving into what railroaders call "bridge traffic", the Winona became the first interurban in the midwest to solicit business from steam lines.

By the time the automobile's popularity forced it to cease passenger service in 1934, it was already involved in handling freight, primarily coal between separate lines of the Wabash Railroad at Peru and New Paris junction, gravel from Leesburg and eggs from Mentone.

According to Garold Horrick, once a vice-president of the Winona and eventually its last employee, the freight business was the sole reason the Winona continued into the automobile age.

Constantly looking for more economical means of operating, the Winona abandoned electrical power in 1938 and switched to a propane gas-electric unit and two Diesel locomotives to eliminate expensive maintenance of trolley wires and substations. These changes helped, but with the advent of World War II and the

restriction of certain commodities, it was apparent nothing could stem the company's financial problems that were compounded by new pipelines between Indianapolis and East Chicago area that cut tank car business, irregular coal production, and the need for repairs that had been deferred from wartime.

Its back to the wall, the Winona began a series of self-amputations as it cut off five miles from New Paris junction to Goshen, two miles from Wabash junction to Peru and, in 1947, all thirty-nine miles south of Warsaw, including the line through Akron and Mentone. The latter, had once shipped as many as 20 cars of eggs a week on the Winona. Now, however, semi-trucks had replaced the interurban, and the road's passing was noted rather tongue-in-cheek by the Northern Indiana Co-op News: "Salvage men are now working near the Main Street crossing in Mentone removing the rails from the old Winona railway right-of-way. In a day or two the tracks will be completely removed from Mentone. However, just because the rails are removed is no sign that Winona engine won't come galloping through the town again. It didn't always stick too close to the rails anyway."

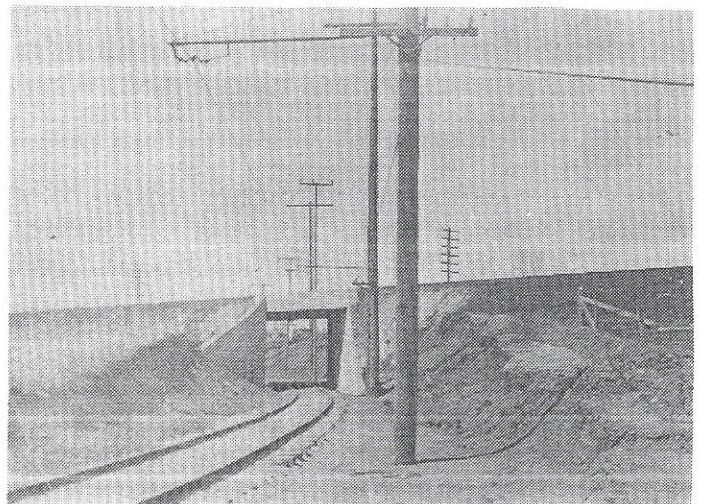
All that remained was a 21-mile section between Warsaw and New Paris, and in 1952 the Winona's second petition to the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon the line was granted.

The last remnant of Indiana's once sprawling interurban network was dead.

On May 31, 1952, the propane-powered engine pushed two gondola cars filled with seated dignitaries from Warsaw to New Paris and back in a nostalgic final ride. It was an occasion of mixed emotions. Nearly fifty years of existence were ending, but the automotive age was so firmly entrenched that the interurban's passing was hailed as a stepping-stone to the future.

Founded on religion and kept alive on a diet of coal, gravel and eggs, the line that had become the "little engine that could" among Indiana's traction lines had served its purpose. It had ended forever the isolation of rural living, but it had been eclipsed by automobiles and trucks and its passing, like its formation, was hailed as a boon to the towns it served.

(Printed in the South Bend Tribune's "Michiana" section, written by Ann Kindig Sheetz.)





## The Nickel Plate

Between 1880 and 1883, the railroad industry in the United States was dominated by Jay Gould and William H. Vanderbilt. Vanderbilt controlled the route from New York to Buffalo to Chicago. Gould had large holdings in the West and some in the East.

Probably George I. Seney and his associates, who met on February 3, 1881, to form the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railway Company (commonly called the Nickel Plate) were motivated more by desire for profit on an investment than by love of operating a railroad.

They planned to build a 340-mile road from Cleveland to Chicago, roughly parallel to Vanderbilt's, and a 385-mile branch from Fort Wayne to St. Louis.

During the five hundred days it took to build 513 miles of railroad, Vanderbilt publicly criticized the quality of the construction, and newspapers reported rumors that Gould was going to buy the Nickel Plate. However, it was Vanderbilt who bought the controlling interest.

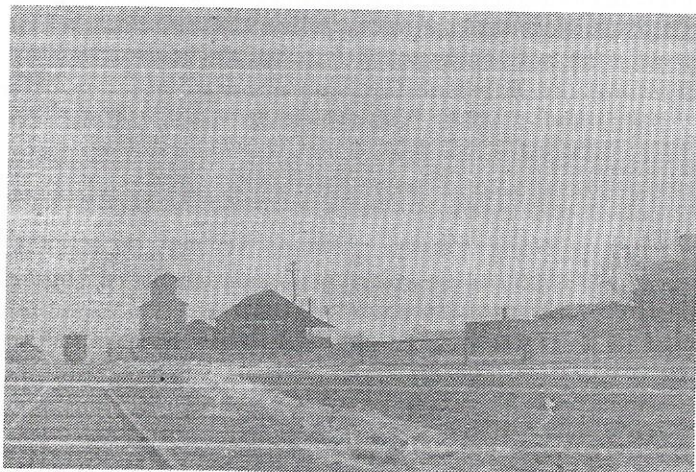
That was the first of many management changes that occurred before the Nickel Plate merged with Norfolk and Western on October 13, 1964.

Mr. Seney and some of his group had been associated with other railroads, so they had most of the surveys completed, some of the right-of-way promised, and a construction company hired before they organized the Nickel Plate Railway on that February, 1881 afternoon.

One of Seney's friends, Senator Calvin S. Brice of Ohio, mentioned to George W. Myers that the proposed railroad would run near Myers' Indiana farm. William E. Hackedorn, an attorney and secretary to Brice, and Myers joined Albert Tucker in promoting a new town along the railroad.

The company in charge of building the Fort Wayne to Chicago section advertised in April of 1881 in a Fort Wayne newspaper for 3,000 men and 1,500 teams for steady employment for one year. Laborers received \$1.35 and teams \$3.00 per day.

The grading began at Knox on April 15, 1881 and was almost completed by the end of summer. One local man who participated in this project was Clark Ernsberger. He, with his team of horses, operated a slip scoop and helped build the grade between Mentone and Burket.



Mr. and Mrs. John C. Smith and family lived a mile or two south of the track, and she (Silence) cooked for some of the men who worked on the railroad. With the money she earned, she bought a nice kitchen range which she used until she died about forty-five years later. A granddaughter who knew her in the Twentieth Century recalls she was good at baking bread, sugar cookies and pies. She made large kettles of apple butter and her own soap.

To assure quality construction, the railroad company planned to use steel rails which weighed sixty pounds per yard and to support them with three hundred oak cross ties per mile. Mahlon Mentzer wrote that his father sawed ties at his Yellow Creek saw mill.

Three gangs laid the track. One gang began at Wanatah in mid-August and worked east. By December 1, they reached Argos, and by New Year's Day, 1882, they were as far as Tippecanoe.

On April 5, 1882, six hundred people gathered at the new town of Sidney to celebrate the joining of the rails in the western section. After the speeches and music, Mrs. W.L. Sarber of Claypool and Miss Brown of Packerton, joined the rails.

The Nickel Plate was first opened for business in the summer of 1882. It was considered one of the construction feats of that time. By July 1, the road had 2,000 freight cars and 70 locomotives but no passenger cars as they were not ready for them.

Later Mentone had three passenger trains a day. Hundreds of people from the East traveled this route to the World's Fair in Chicago and during World War I, the government sent troops on the Nickel Plate.

*Whereas Accidents have and will happen, by persons jumping or attempting to climb upon moving trains, be it Resolved that all persons violating the State law which prescribes a punishment for the offense of Climbing on Moving Trains, shall be brought before the Court of Justice and tried.*

*It is hereby agreed by and between the following undersigned Citizens of Mentone, Indiana, that they or any of them will report any and all such offenders to the proper authorities, and will stand ready to testify in the case when they personally see the offending act committed.*

*Signed, Foster Grove*

The petition reads, "Whereas accidents have and will happen by persons jumping or attempting to climb upon moving trains, be it Resolved that all persons violating the State law which prescribes a punishment for the offense of climbing on moving trains, shall be brought before the Court of Justice and tried.

It is hereby agreed by and between the following undersigned Citizens of Mentone, Indiana, that they or any of them will report any and all such offenders to the proper authorities, and will stand ready to testify in the case when they personally see the offending act committed."



Don Bunner worked the last twenty-five years as the station agent. The Nickel Plate had a big egg business - usually shipping a car a week. Livestock and grain were big business, too, along with other freight and express. Besides all this there was a telegraph.

After Bunner retired in 1955, Kenneth Menzie worked at the depot until Verne Wittkamper's bid was submitted and accepted.

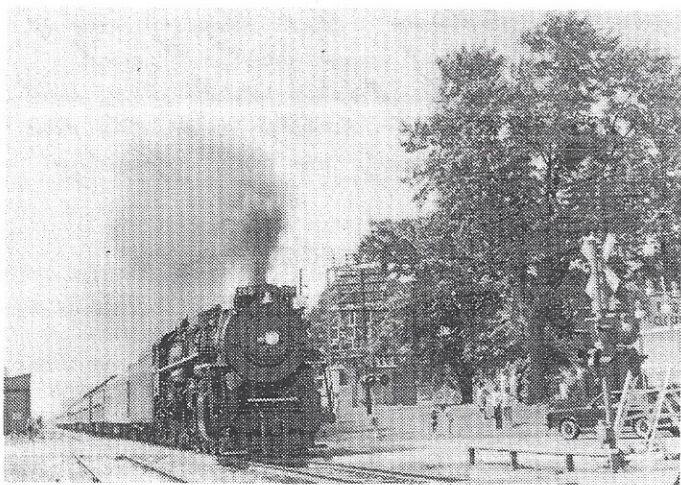


*The Mentone Depot, still in Mentone, however not in use today.*

The day's work at the Mentone Depot was a busy one. First, there was the fire to build, freight bills to look over, notify those who had freight, and collect bills, all took time. Tickets were sold for the passenger trains. The telegraph was important, too. Train orders were put on the train with a "train-order fork".

Asa Dirck hung the mail sacks to the train on the fly for many years.

In 1964, the Nickel Plate merged with the Norfolk and Western. The station was closed in 1969, and Verne went to Argos as the operator there until his retirement in 1975.



*Engine 765 was one of the last steam engines.*

## Mentone Newspapers

A four-page, stock-printed newspaper which included the center pages plus front and back, containing local news and advertising was the set-up of the first newspaper ever published in Mentone. As the town's main source of information, the MENTONE GAZETTE was published on February 5, 1885 by H.R. Putman. Within two months, Putman relinquished his duties as editor to W.C. Wilkson. However, by June of 1885, the publisher's job was again changed to Constance H. Smith, who for thirty-four years was editor, publisher, and proprietor. Smith, one time owner of the SILVER LAKE TIMES, was a small but energetic individual who like today, depended upon advertising and subscriptions for income. In July of that same year, Smith consolidated the Mentone paper and the WARSAW HERALD under the name of MENTONE-GAZETTE. The first issue was published July 4, 1885.

At the beginning of the year 1888, Mentone was at the height of its prosperity. Its population was estimated at 1000. During that year a new newspaper, the ENTERPRISE, was started, and the MENTONE GAZETTE became a daily paper with it's own telegraph line to the outside world in its own dispatch room and engraving department. By 1889, the weekly became eight pages in length and discontinued the daily feature. However, the ENTERPRISE was still published weekly in Mentone.

Although the publisher remained the same, the heading was changed in 1891 to THE TRI-COUNTY GAZETTE. During the years 1915 through 1920, the publication of the paper was discontinued until Claude Taylor restarted the presses in 1921 until 1923. At this time the paper's name was changed back to MENTONE GAZETTE but this was short-lived because publication was stopped between 1924-1926.

Printing of the local paper was attempted another time in 1927 by G.W. Kline but circulation stopped until 1929 when Editor Claude Taylor and publisher C.W. Krathwohl started THE COMMUNITY FARM NEWS with a yearly subscription rate of \$1.50. During the early 1930's, several changes of ownership again occurred with Julius Perlman as editor and publisher of THE MENTONE NEWS. During the last part of 1932, Hugh Auginbaugh served as editor with the slogan that it was "the only newspaper that reaches every home in Mentone and Surrounding Community."

February 1, 1933, Francis Rush began publishing THE NORTHERN INDIANA CO-OP NEWS. Later publishers included Jessie Rush (1937-1959), Artley D. Cullum (1943-1959) and Ruth C. Cullum (1959).

Born in Noble County, Indiana, Artley Cullum was four years old when his father secured an original homestead of 320 acres in eastern Montana. The following year, 1912, he and his mother joined the husband to live in a one-room shack near Horse Creek, Montana. Artley's schooling included a one-room school near Horse Creek, high school in Circle, Montana with graduation from high school at South Whitley, Indiana.



It was here in South Whitley his newspaper career began. In September, 1923, he started in as a 20-cents an hour "devil" at the TRIBUNE with W.J. Miller, publisher. (A printer's devil was one who threw in type and did general clean-up work.) From this position he worked his way up to operating a Model 15 Linotype.

On July 4, 1925, Mr. Cullum was married to Ruth Cardner of South Whitley, and throughout the years that followed, she was a great help to him.

Editing experience really began in 1925, when L.W. Yeiser, then publisher of the TRIBUNE, spent the summer as an employee of the Indiana State Highway Commission, leaving 18-year-old Cullum in charge. In early 1928, the paper was leased by Cullum and operated until 1931.

In August of 1931, the first issue of the McCONE COUNTY SENTINEL went into the mails at Circle, Montana, and Cullum became its editor and publisher.

The depression, drought and the hordes of grasshoppers that attacked eastern Montana made some very difficult years in the county seat town. In early December of 1939, the publication was sold and the Cullum's returned to Indiana with their son and daughter who were born in Montana.

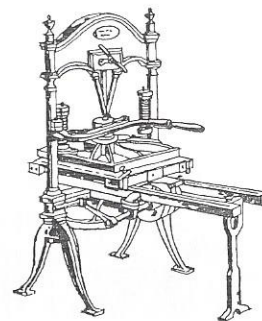
In April, 1941, the Country Print Shop was purchased at Mentone, where job printing was done. Cullum was also editor and manager of the Co-operative Association newspaper, THE CO-OP NEWS. In 1958, Cullum purchased the newspaper from the Co-op Association and it became the MENTONE NEWS.

The MENTONE NEWS was sold to Ann and Loren Sheetz of Akron in 1964. The Country Print Shop was moved to Bourbon when Cullum became editor and owner of the BOURBON NEWS-MIRROR before retiring in 1975.

The Sheets had purchased the AKRON NEWS in 1962 before purchasing the MENTONE NEWS. Each was operated as a separate paper until lack of a linotype operator made it necessary to convert to offset in 1968. At that time the two papers were merged into one because it was more economical to make one trip a week to the printer than to go twice a week. The switch to offset also meant they had to render obsolete all the previous equipment, including a press all hated anyway. Outside of the school consolidation controversy which made combining the papers at that time a very difficult task, the biggest story was the tornado of April 3, 1974. By a fluke that involved many communities being without power and with the help of the printer in postponing the press run, the AKRON-MENTONE NEWS was able to photograph the ruins and come out in print before anyone else did. Basically, efforts were concentrated on local news about the people in each town and the area between, developing what was called the "centerfolds" to highlight individuals with interesting hobbies and/or work. Mrs. Ann Sheetz column called "Odds and Ends" became the basis for *"Born Again . . . but still wet behind the ears"*, which was published in 1979 by Christian Herald Books, and their actual experiences were used in *"Someone Has to*

*Pop the Corn"* published in 1981 by CHB.

Robert and Renee Norlander owned the AKRON-MENTONE NEWS from November, 1977 to May, 1980. From May, 1980 to April, 1981, Richard Linn was the owner. Richard and Mary E. McKee, present owners, purchased the paper on April 1, 1981.



## Mentone Telephone Service

In 1918, the telephone service for the Mentone area was basically a co-operative venture and under the name of the Farmers Telephone Co.

The majority of the lines were owned and, in some cases, maintained by the farmers themselves. Otherwise, a lineman was hired to do all the repair work on the telephones, lines and switchboard. Most all of the telephone lines were "party lines". Some had as high as eighteen on a line.

The first office was a green building three doors south of the Central Hotel (where Frank Mfg. is now). The office was later moved into the present Broadway Tavern building. It was later moved upstairs where Romine's is now and could be reached by outside stairs. In 1935, when the building was remodeled, the telephone office was brought downstairs.

The switchboard was a magneto-hand crank type that used the two short - one long type combination signaling method, and the operator was the "Queen" of the system, since she knew everybody in town and provided help when needed. She was also a secretary for the doctors, a messenger, as well as an answering and message service for all.

Mrs. Ethel Whetstone was just such a person when she was an operator from 1918 to 1921. Allen Long and his wife, Jenny, took over the operation until 1930. During that period Elsie (Minear) Elsen Roth was also an operator.

In 1930, the Northern Indiana Telephone Company purchased the Farmers Telephone Company.

In 1943, Ethel Whetstone again became the operator and worked until 1952. Mrs. Velma Horn took over until 1953 when Olive Frye became the operator.

In 1950, the Indiana Associated Telephone Co., the predecessor to General Telephone Company, purchased the Northern Indiana Telephone Company. During 1957, the magneto-switchboard, the crank telephones and many of the party-lines disappeared when the office was changed to automatic dial telephone system. Pearl Horn was the last operator before the change. On Saturday, April 15, 1978 at 7:00 a.m. GTE replaced this



dial system with a new automatic system which is still in service.

There are presently 822 customers in Mentone and 1355 telephones. The Mentone customers place approximately 6316 telephone calls each day.



*Third building from the right hand corner was the location of the telephone office in the early 1950's. Today, that building is owned by Romine Electric.*

## Dentists

George R. Jones came to Mentone from Valparaiso at the age of 24 on May 25, 1899. Following him were a succession of dentists.

John Petry came from Beaver Dam, May 21, 1900, age 23. T.A. Barney came from Elkhart, December 6, 1901. Frank Leslie Lane came from South Bend, March 17, 1904, age 40. (He was the first band leader.) B.M. Van Gilder migrated from Silver Lake to Claypool, May 7, 1904, age 25. Fenton B. Davison came from Marshall, Illinois on February 7, 1919, age 22. Donald Jefferson Van Gilder started his practice in Mentone, November 23, 1935, age 23. L. Lichtenwalter came from Pierceton, June 5, 1899, age 38. David L. Cook came from Indianapolis, October 22, 1975, age 44. Bert (B.M.) Van Gilder's first office was above the bank. He then moved to where Dr. Cook is now and about 1914, he remodeled the building and made his home behind and above the office.

## Mentone Doctors

Dr. Joseph A. Chandler was Mentone's first physician. He left Mentone in 1886 and Dr. Jon Heffley, physician and surgeon filled his position.

Dr. Casebeer was here a short time. His wife was a niece of Dr. Heffley.

Dr. Emanuel Stockberger was one of the oldest practicing physicians in the state. He was born in Perry County, Ohio in 1852. When he was young he found employment various places in order to study at Rush Medical School in Chicago. He practiced medicine in Mentone for seventeen years beginning in 1882. He was located in Mentone with his office in the Walters house just north of the Don Bunner residence. In 1892, his wife, Alida, bought the Walters place of William Kintzel. Emanuel signed the mortgage (according to

information from abstract). He and his wife spent their later years at Milford where Dr. Stockberger continued to see patients until just before his death in 1937.

Dr. Surguy was also here for a while. Dr. Toll was from Sevastopol. Dr. Pearman was at Palestine.

Dr. A.B. Robinson had his office about where Teel's Restaurant now is, and also he was in the northwest corner above the post office.

Dr. Herbert Bennett was a well-known Mentone doctor who later became a suicide victim.

Dr. Melvin G. Yocum was one of the most beloved of Mentone's doctors.

Dr. T.J. Clutter was also a beloved doctor of Mentone.

Dr. Davis had an office here for a while.

Dr. Dan Urschel, well-known specialist, was one of our outstanding doctors in later years. He graduated from Tippecanoe High School, Adrian College, and Rush College in Chicago. He completed internship and residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. In 1937, he began his practice in Mentone purchasing the office of Dr. M.G. Yocum. During World War II, he served three years in the Army Medical Corps and left the service as a major. After the war, he specialized in heart disease and was on the staff of many area hospitals for consultation work. These included Warsaw, Rochester, Plymouth, Peru and Winamac. In addition to many local organizations, he was very active in Flying Physicians, both in Indiana, and nationally; serving as national president in 1963-64. He was a ten-year member of Kosciusko County Board of Health (from its beginning) and helped activate the Red Cross Blood Bank. Dr. Urschel's accomplishments also included the following: Fellow, American College of Cardiology; Fellow, American College of Physicians; Fellow, American College of Chest Physicians; Fellow, Council on Clinical Cardiology, American Heart Association; Senior Member, American Federation for Clinical Research; Member, American Society of Internal Medicine; Certified in Internal Medicine and in Cardiovascular Diseases by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Dr. F.C. Waltz, native of Hagerstown, moved his equipment into the Urschel Clinic in 1952.

Since 1954, the Mentone community has been fortunate to have Dr. Wymond Wilson as a general practitioner. After serving in the U.S. Air Force and being decorated with an Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, he received his M.D. from Indiana University in 1953 and interned at Edward Sparrow Hospital, Lansing, Michigan. While living in this community, his dedicated service has extended to various medical and local organizations. At the present time Dr. Wilson serves on the: Board of Directors and staff at Kosciusko Community Hospital; Medical Director at Miller's Merry Manor in Warsaw; Member of Kosciusko County Board of Health since 1965.

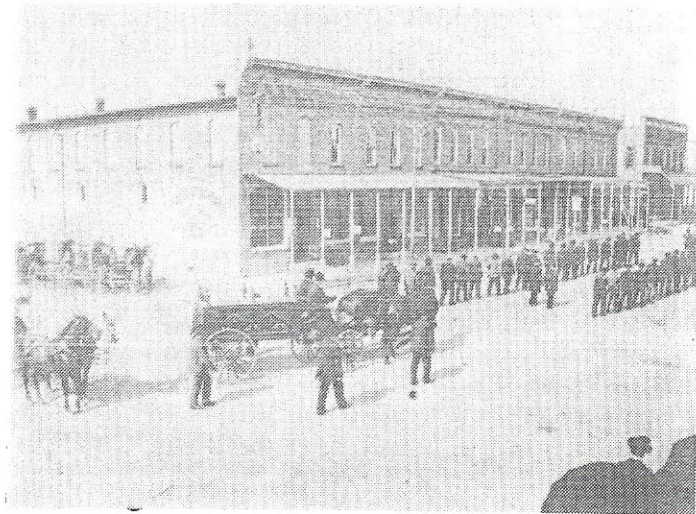
Dr. Wilson married Esthel Arleda Henry on June 27, 1953.

During his obstetrics practice in Mentone, he delivered a total of 759 babies.



## Mentone Cemetery

The original plot of ground for the Mentone Cemetery was donated to the town in the early 1800's by a family named Lee. Upon the death of all family members, the grounds were taken over by the International Order of Oddfellows. In 1920, this organization disbanded, and the upkeep was turned over to the town of Mentone. This is still in effect today. The local morticians in the 1950's were Vance Johns and Bob Reed, who remained the local funeral director for forty years. As an apprentice, Reed worked for a man named L.P. Jefferies, dating back to 1923. The present funeral director, Darrell King took over after Mr. Reed's retirement.

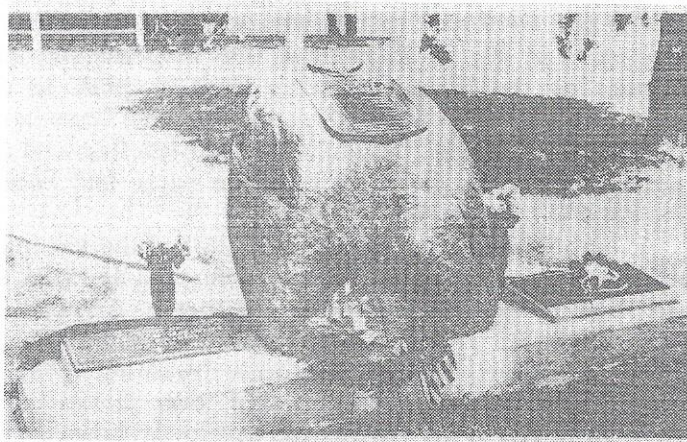


*Funeral procession makes it way around Broadway and then east on Main Street in Mentone while the mourners walk ahead of the horse-drawn hearse to the cemetery.*

There are many unusual tombstones located in the local cemetery, one which is of a girl sitting with embroidery in her hands. The cemetery also has one mausoleum. As the story goes, this was supposedly bought by two brothers, Mc. N. Forest and William

Forest. Mc. Forest was born on Feb. 22, 1846 and died on Nov. 11, 1920. When William died in 1942, Mc's wife, Susan, claimed he had never paid for his half and she wouldn't let him be buried in the mausoleum. So William and his wife, Letitia, are buried approximately six feet outside the front door of the tomb.

The price of a funeral in the 1930's ran from \$75.00 which the county paid for, to \$800 for the very best memorial service.



*It was reported that George Clark moved this rock from a Barkman farm to the cemetery. The War Mother's organization then took on the tradition of honoring the local veterans and presented a plaque in their memory. This plaque was constructed by Arthur Brown so that it would fit directly on the rock.*

*In 1977, Geraldine Clark, on behalf of her late husband George, along with Bob Whetstone, dedicated two bronze markers alongside the memorial stone, honoring two (Missing In Action) Vietnam veterans, Major William Lee Nellans, USAF, and First Lt. Neil Bernard McKinney, USAF.*

## Mentzer Park

After the death of Mahlon Mentzer in 1961, it was suggested the city park in Mentone be named Mentzer Memorial Park. His son offered to donate \$1000 if the town would match this sum. There was a rush of bake sales, fish fries, etc., and soon the money was raised.





## Mentone Airport

The Mentone Airport began as "Chick's Landing Strip" in Allen "Chick" Herendeen's back yard two miles south of Mentone when Chick built a grass runway and a hangar to house his own plane.

In June, 1945 Chick's Landing Strip was officially designated a Landing Area for Civil Aircraft Operations.

Chick added more hangars in 1946 and an office in 1957.

The late Dr. Dan Urschel, who was a National Past President of Flying Physicians, was instrumental in organizing the Mentone Flying Club in 1956. In a community improvement effort, the Mentone Chamber of Commerce and the Mentone Flying Club financed a paved runway in 1969. By then the name had been changed to the Mentone Airport.

A highlight of the Chamber's many fund-raising activities was an aerobatic show performed by Chick's son, Bob, in his Pitts Special Experimental Aircraft.

Through the years, strangers driving along State Road 19 probably thought they were dreaming as they glanced to the west and caught Bob Herendeen presenting one of his impromptu aerobatic shows over the airport. Bob is a two-time United States National Aerobatic Champion and flew three times as a member of the United States team in World competition. He placed second in the world in 1970. Also a Trans World Airlines Captain, he pilots a Lockheed L1011.

Another pilot who added prestige to the airport was Art Swango, who instructed there several years. Swango, "Mr. Impossible", was probably the only one-armed licensed pilot in the United States. He died in a plane crash in Fort Wayne in 1980.

Chick sold the airport in April, 1978, to Jerry Howell. Howell and his six-year-old son, Jeffrey, were killed in a plane crash near the airport in November of that year. The single engine plane Howell was flying once belonged to cowboy singing star Gene Autry.

Next the airport was sold to United Airline pilot Bob Clupper. Under Clupper's management, skydiving has become an important activity at the Mentone Airport.

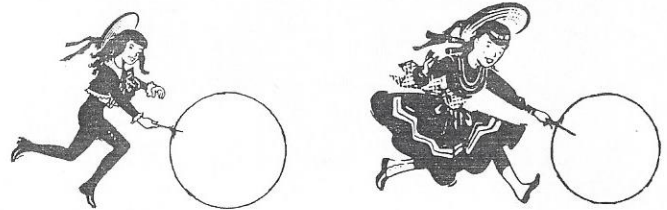
## Mentone Youth League

During the last fifteen years, the Mentone Youth League has given hundreds of young people an opportunity to participate in baseball, softball, and T-Ball. The program is possible because of the enthusiastic support of parents, other volunteers and local merchants in the community.

The Youth League Building is used by various groups in the community. For a few weeks after the tornado at Talma, the building was used for elementary classes. Now it is used for meetings and reunions.



*The annual awards presentation of the Summer Little League held at the ball park with participants and their parents attending. A carry-in meal is followed by the presentation of the awards to each of the team members by their coaches. Pictured receiving their awards are Stephanie Lewis and Gaynell Smythe from coaches, Fred and Darlene Anderson.*



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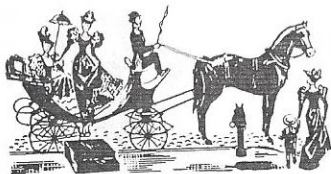
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# Military



## Revolutionary War

The Revolutionary War was fought about sixty years before the Mentone area was settled, so few if any of those men came here. However, the Daughters of the American Revolution honor their ancestors who served in that war.

## Daughters of the American Revolution

The Anthony Nigo Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized January 21, 1935, with Mrs. Furel R. Burns as organizing regent. The fourteen charter members were: Mrs. Edna Burns, regent; Mrs. Yolande Riner, vice-regent; Mrs. Ethel Nellans, secretary; Mrs. Dora Taylor, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Helen Brown, treasurer; Mrs. Mary Boggs, registrar; Miss Rozella Ford, historian; Mrs. Ersie Manwaring, chaplain; Dr. Ladoska Bunker, Mrs. Wanda Davison Reitz, Mrs. Zadie Kesler, Miss Anna Murdock, Mrs. Golda Polen, and Mrs. Lydia Sanders.

The chapter name "Anthony Nigo" was chosen in honor of the last Indian to reside in this area.

The primary objectives of the chapter are to perpetuate the memory and the spirit of the men and women who achieved American Independence; to promote the development of an enlightened public opinion; to foster patriotic citizenship, and to acknowledge our spiritual heritage as is confirmed at each regular meeting in the opening ritual: "Our Father in Heaven, we thank thee for Thy guidance and for Thy abiding presence in the life of our country. Continue, we pray, Thy blessings upon this nation, that all who are a part of it may learn true nobility of manhood and womanhood. Grant us growth in understanding and increasing devotion to righteousness.

## War of 1812

At least three veterans of the War of 1812 are buried in Mentone Cemetery. These were William Wilcox and his brother-in-law John P. Blue, and John Bybee. John Bybee entered the army about Sept. 1, 1814, in Fluvanna County, Virginia, and marched about fifty-five miles to Richmond but was discharged a few days later due to illness. At that time soldiers were paid \$8 a month.

## Civil War

During the Civil War, companies were organized locally, so men often started off to war with their relatives and neighbors. Our area was well represented in Company F and Company K of the 74th Regiment of the Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Thomas Morgan and William H. Cattell were among the men of Co. K who were captured at Munfordsville, Kentucky by General Bragg. They were paroled and

returned home after being in service six weeks. They returned to their unit at Castilian Springs, Tennessee, a short time later.

Allen Bybee, along with his brother Levi, enlisted in Co. F of the 74th at Fort Wayne and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. Levi was killed at the battle of Chickamauga.



Levi Bybee

In describing John C. Smith's service with Co. F, Allen Bybee wrote that they crossed the Tennessee River on rafts constructed by the Army and marched all night before the battle of Chickamauga. "He also participated in the famous march through Georgia to Savannah, arriving in the city on the 25th day of December, 1862."

William Raber was twenty-one years old when he enlisted in Co. F. According to family tradition, he had measles and complications, a situation which was not unusual considering the living conditions and available medical care. He was given a medical discharge in February, 1863, at Gallatin, Tennessee. Washington Bybee went down and brought him and another young man home. When William Raber died a few weeks later, his weight had dropped from 150 to 80 pounds.

Some of the other members of the 74th Regiment were: David W. Brown, Lyman Borton, Moses Herron, Amor Jefferies, Charles G. Wileman, John K. Elder, John Raber and Joseph Turner.

More than sixty men from this war are buried in the Mentone Cemetery.

## Grand Army of the Republic

The Grand Army of the Republic, a national organization of Civil War veterans, began in 1866 and continued until 1949.



Locally thirteen veterans met on a wintry December day in 1885, and were mustered into the organization. The group was named the William Raber Post in honor of that soldier who sacrificed his life for his country. Some of the early members were McNeal Forst, C.E. Doane, G.W. Kime, Austin Milbern, William Fifer, Asa Silsby, W.H. Cattell, W.C. Thompson, J.W. Sellers, Lyman Borton, George H. Mott, W.T. Baker, and Isaiah Katherman.

The G.A.R. worked to establish Memorial Day, promote patriotism and encourage Soldier's Homes. As the years passed, the list of veterans to honor became longer, and the number able to march in the parade decreased. William Cattell in the 1920's was one of the last in Mentone.

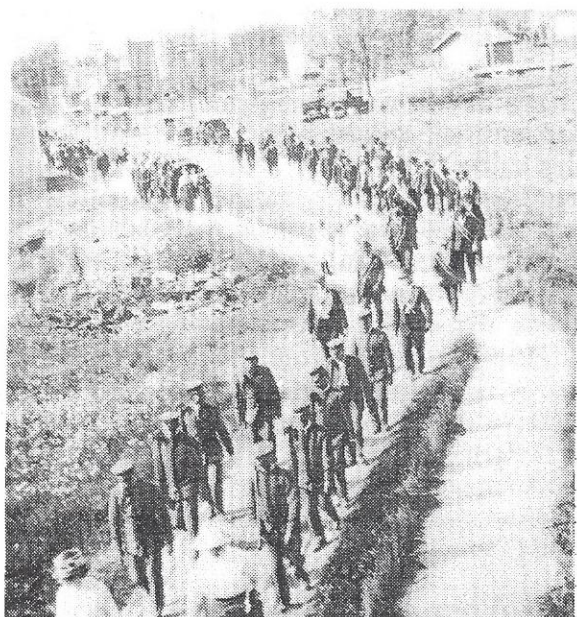
## Spanish-American War

During the Spanish-American War the editor of the Tri-County Gazette printed a series of letters from two soldiers.

A May 19, 1898 letter from Orville B. Kilmer told that he had arrived at Camp Mount, Indianapolis where they were fed bread, hardtack, bacon, beef, potatoes, tomatoes and coffee. (Hardtack is a hard biscuit or loaf made of flour and water without salt.) A week later he was in Company H, 160th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry at Chickamauga, Georgia.

By July 7 more recruits had arrived to make a total of 1200 men in the regiment. Among the new men in Co. H were Curtis Sarber and Clark Chapman from Mentone. The equipment that each man had to carry weighed seventy pounds. They thought they were going to Cuba or Puerto Rico.

Early in August the name of their unit was changed and they traveled by train to Newport News, Virginia. They were scheduled to board a ship there for Puerto Rico, but the war ended.



*Memorial Parade down South Morgan Street, under the viaduct to the cemetery. The procession is being led by the Veterans and Odd Fellows organization.*

Four veterans of this war are buried at Mentone: Dr. Thomas Clutter, Edward Fawley, Robert J. Owen, and Harvey Poulson.

Robert J. Owen served in the Idaho Volunteers. In June, 1898 he wrote that they had expected to be far on their way to Manila, but the boat had needed repairs. The boat was repaired and ready for 700 men. The bunks were 1' 10" wide and 5' 9" long.

After an hour and a half march to the boat, they spent a week getting to Honolulu, arriving July 3. Owen was not impressed with that city. "The street-cars are of the ancient date and drawn by the meanest mules that one would wish to look at."

On August 6, they arrived in Manila. "I got to see the great Admiral Dewey of these waters this morning. He came aboard our boat," Owen wrote.

Owen's unit guarded Spanish prisoners, watched a thirty minute battle and went - at night, through mud, - to help another group, but did not find the enemy.

## World War I

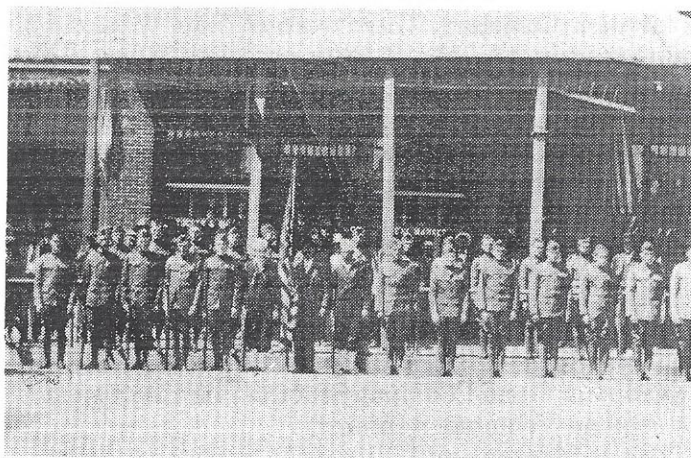
The United States government took over the railroads during World War I, and at first Ralph Arnsberger served his country as a fireman on the New York Central from Cleveland to Buffalo. A fireman's job was to scoop the coal that kept the steam engine running properly. Later he entered the service and was stationed at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana.

Earl Shinn was one who was not stricken when the influenza epidemic reached his unit. After he returned to Mentone, he went out with the doctor to help with flu cases here.

Roy Rush was a member of the 16th Engineering Regiment whose job in France was to build railroads and bridges. Roy worked in the office paying the troops.

W.E. Fowler, a Mentone resident for twenty years, grew up in Wabash County. In France he was in the Headquarters Company of the First Pursuit Group and later the 94th Aero Squadron which was commanded for a time by Captain Eddie Rickenbacker.

Dale Kelley served as a lieutenant in France in the 82nd Division of the 319th Field Artillery.



*World War I veteran, Second Lieutenant Earl Shinn is pictured at the far left.*



## Red Cross

Until recently the government did not provide soldiers with all the basic necessities. During World War I local Red Cross volunteers sewed, knitted, and purchased items to help meet this need.

The Warsaw Daily Times, January 3, 1918 listed the contributions of the Mentone Branch of the Red Cross: 8 bath robes, 3 bed shirts, 22 pairs bed socks, 5 pairs pajamas, 1 hot water bottle cover, 36 napkins, 6 tray cloths, 4 operating helmets, 32 pairs yarn socks, and 1 sweater.

## Recent Wars

During World War II the Mentone newspaper printed items almost every week about local servicemen who had been transferred, promoted, wounded, or captured. George Clark's newsletter which went to hundreds of those in military service gave them news from home and addresses of other servicemen from the community. This area was also well represented during the Korean War and the Viet Nam Conflict.



*Father and two sons in uniforms from three wars, about 1952. Pictured is William Franklin Hudson, Sr. - World War I; William Franklin Hudson, Jr. - World War II; and (seated) Jerry C. Hudson, Sr. - Korean War.*

## American Legion

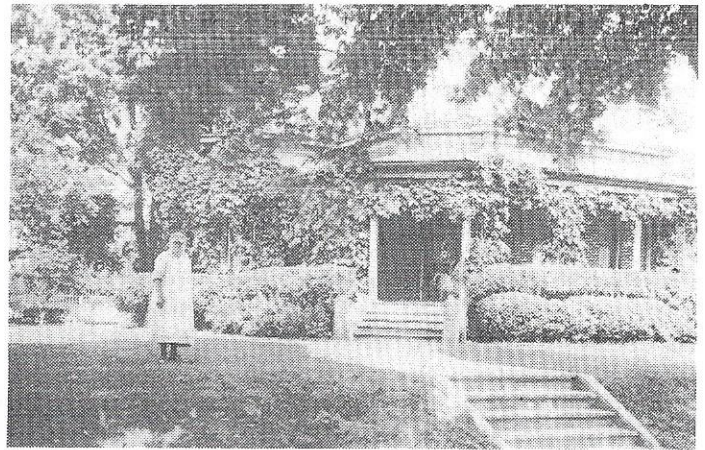
Mentone Post 425 of the American Legion received a charter June 10, 1946. Under the direction of Walter T. Spicer, Legion organizer from Indianapolis, the new post was formed with thirty-nine charter members and ten transfers. The membership grew to more than one hundred and remained at that level for many years.

At the organizational meeting, Don Ernsberger, veteran of World War I, was elected temporary commander. Other officers were Robert Reed, vice-commander; Robert Kinsey, adjutant; and Miles Manwaring, finance officer.

The first meetings were held at Mentone School. In February, 1947, they purchased the Omer Igo home on

the corner of State Roads 19 and 25 which was known as the Legion Home for many years. Royse Tucker presented the flagpole to the post. Clark Ernsberger and John Sutton gave them two large flags.

Charter members were: Eldred Paulus, Herschel Linn, Thomas A. Stanford, Philip K. Lash, Jack T. Shaffer, Valours J. Janke, George Buchtel, Donald A. McGowen, Ralph G. Ward, Edward J. Smelser, Robert L. Kinsey, Robert J. Whetstone, Russell Eber, Russell D. Besson, Orville G. Kern, Wilber H. Smith, Paul G. Horn, Donald J. Smith, Clifford L. Breeden, Harvey D. Tucker, Mervin J. Jones, Raymond L. Lewis, Deverl Jefferies, Harold Linn, Emery G. Mosier, Richard L. Gross, Robert M. Tinkey, Tom L. Wright, Donald Creakbaum, Kenneth E. Romine, Wayne Bowser, Howard J. Gross, Don A. Herendeen, Russell L. Borton, Lewis D. Blue, Kenneth D. Simcoe, R.Q. Tucker, John E. Ellsworth, and Byron Nellans.



*The Igo residence became the American Legion Home.*

## American Legion Auxiliary

Mentone American Legion Auxiliary Unit 425 was organized January 9, 1947. Later that month in a meeting at Mentone School the following officers were elected: Nettie Arnsberger, president; Juanita Paulus, vice-president; Rowena Molebash, secretary; and Nell Reed, treasurer.

There were thirty-one active members when the charter was made on January 29, and fifty-four when it was recorded at Indianapolis on February 8, 1947.

The new unit made their first visit to the Veterans' Administration Hospital at Marion on February 13, 1947.

Their first Poppy Day was May 24, 1947. At that time they offered veteran-made poppies to the public and collected contributions for needy veterans and their families. This has been an annual project, and Mentone Legion Auxiliary Unit 425 continues to support the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Lafayette and Knights-town Home for children.

Another annual project is sending a delegate to Hoosier Girls' State to learn more about government in action.



On October 25, 1943, Mrs. Ervin (Ethel) Wagner organized Unit 106 of Mothers of World War II and became the first president. Before that, she went to Elkhart where the boys got on the train, with cookies, combs and other small items to give them.

of shirts, scuffs, lap robes, bibs, cushions for wheel chairs, and neck pillows.

Mentone Unit 106 has been active in the district meetings, and Ethel Whetstone has served as state president.

[illegible]



# Organizations

As a town grows, its need for involved citizens increases. Volunteer organizations have met this need, and the services they provide have made this community a better place to live.

## Odd Fellows

The Mentone Lodge of International Order of Odd Fellows was originally Sevastopol Lodge No. 403 I.O.O.F.

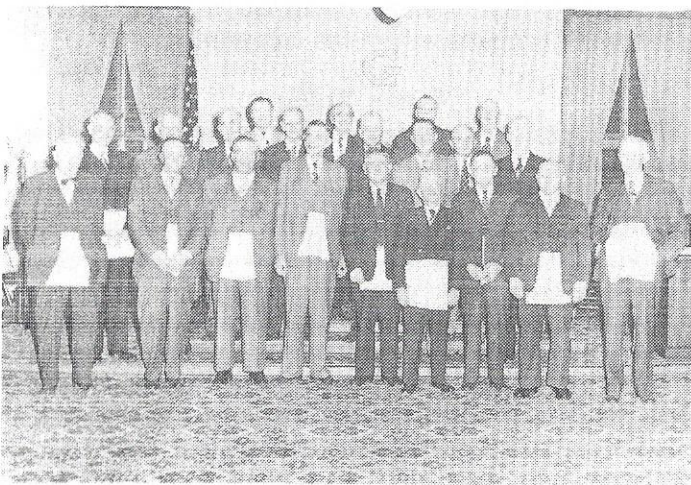
(Newspaper item) *March 31, 1932 — The domino party held last Friday evening by the Mentone Odd Fellow and Rebekah chapters was a grand success.*

## Royal Neighbors

Royal Neighbors, a women's group affiliated with Modern Woodmen Lodge, was active in the early part of the twentieth century. The organization provided both insurance and fellowship. Some of the members were Mary Goodwin, Fern Blue, Mae Borton, Lydia Ryneanson, Emma Lash, Cora Williams, Emma Cook, Mary Borton, Pearl Fenstermaker, Snowden Halterman, Julia Whetstone, Mildred Friesner, Thelma Hibschan, Delta Miller, Freda Borton, Pearl Smith, Della Dillingham and Vera Mollenhour.

## Masonic Lodge

Mentone Lodge No. 576, Free and Accepted Masons began in 1888. First officers were: Dr. Emanuel Stockberger, W.H. Wiler, William Thompson, Rev. Reeves, L.L. Latimer, A.E. Batchelor, John Dunlap, Pierce Arnsberger, W.C. Wilkinson and William Fifer.



Front row (l-r): James Markus, Herschel Nellans, Raymond Lash, E.E. Dewitt, Dale Kelley, Isaac Sarber, Stanley Boggs, Lyndes Latimer, Lloyd Rickel. 2nd row: —, —, —, Dr. F.B. Davison, Frank Warren, Charley Dillingham, Guido Davis, George Clark, Richard Greulach, Wade Whetstone, Mahlon Mentzer, Homer McGinley. Picture taken in 1950.

The Masonic Order, not a religious organization, is a fraternal organization practicing charity and benevolence to its members and recognizing God as its guide. For more than sixty years Mentone Lodge No. 576 has supported the home for the elderly and desolate at Franklin, Indiana. It is not a secret organization since it is registered with the county, state and national government.

For many years the Lodge Hall has been on the second floor of the current Farmers State Bank building. Present officers are: Jerry D. Hohman, James R. Groves, Lynn E. Phillips, Charles T. Yates, Chester C. Smith, Kevin N. Hohman, William A. Smith, John L. Roadarmel, William M. Cochran and Albert L. Hiers.

(Newspaper item) *March 3, 1937 — Masons enjoyed an oyster supper, a musical program and an address by E.E. Dewitt.*

## Order of the Eastern Star

On January 19, 1906, twenty-one prospective members of the Order of the Eastern Star petitioned the Indiana Grand Chapter for a chapter in Mentone. On February 9, 1906, they met with a group of Grand Officers for the purpose of getting the Chapter organized. After meeting all of the requirements, the Mentone Chapter was instituted and charter granted on May 4, 1906, with the following officers being installed: Worthy Matron, Margaret Jefferies; Worthy Patron, S. Lindsay Blue; Associate Matron, Alice Bowman; Secretary, Minnie Mentzer; Treasurer, Rose Eddinger; Conductress, Orpha Blue; Associate Conductress, Emma Yocum; Chaplain, Anna Manwaring; Marshall, Hannah Mentzer; Organist, Daisy Ketterman, Adah, Myrtle Sarber; Ruth, Rose Boggess; Esther, Alice Latimer; Martha, Ersie Latimer; Electra, Phoebe Jefferies; Warder, Margaret Wertenberger; and Sentinel, Solomon Zent.

The Chapter grew quite rapidly. The Masonic Hall was a focal point for social functions, and often the members of the Masonic Fraternity and the Eastern Star held joint parties, with the families of the members as guests. For years, joint installations were held on New Year's Eve, with a carry-in dinner for all family members.

The Masonic Home Day has been observed by all state chapters, with the Mentone Chapter contributing generously.

Over the past years, the Chapter has seen many changes. At the beginning of the 1930, the office of Associate Patron was added to the list of elective officer. On February 5, 1945 the Chapter was dark (no meeting held) due to the coal shortage. The Chapter celebrated



its 50th anniversary on April 16, 1956. In 1978 they voted to surrender the charter and become affiliated with Warsaw Chapter #88.

Mentone Chapter has had the following Grand Office appointments: Bessie Clutter, 1922 Grand Warder; Eileen Koenig, 1948 Grand Esther; and Cara Lynn Tucker, 1970 District Deputy.

## Home Ec

Home Economics, Home Demonstration or Extension Homemakers — the name of the organization has changed more than once, but the emphasis has remained on the home since this national organization was formed in 1914. Purdue University and the Co-operative Extension Service provide lessons and educational material. Most local clubs hold monthly meetings and participate at the county level in the Kosciusko County Fair and the Homemakers' Christmas Bazaar.

### Mentone Home Extension

One of the first extension clubs in Mentone, the Mentone Home Economics Club (as it was first known) was organized April 3, 1934. Mrs. Rhoda Jones was hostess to the group.

Clara Riggs, president of the Harrison Center Club and Zedna Mollenhour were present and assisted in forming the club and electing the first officers: Mary Barkman, president; Blanche (Paulus) Whitmyre, vice-president; Lydia Sanders, secretary/treasurer; and Grace Weissert, publicity chairman. Clara Riggs and Zedna Mollenhour gave a demonstration on dish washing and soap making.

Four of the original group are still members: Mary Barkman, Blanche Whitmyre, Esther Sarber and Olive Tucker.

Highlights of the first year included a play put on for the Farmers Institute that netted \$7. Carry-in dinners were frequent, as were ice-cream socials with Eva Laird as a popular hostess.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted in 1952 with some revisions in 1972.

There have been sad memories in the loss of several members and the tragic automobile death of the 1962 president, Opal Tucker. But there are pleasant memories, too, like helping surprise the Fred Swicks on their 41st anniversary. Several members and their husbands celebrated 50th or later anniversaries. These include Esther Sarber, Mary Borton, Lenna Anderson, Effie Rathfon, Eva Laird, Myrtle Leininger, Maude Cox, Genevieve Warren, Mildred Fowler, Olive Tucker, Donnis Fisher, and Grace Sullivan.

One member, Pearl Horn, was the recipient of the Kosciusko County Jane Award for outstanding volunteer work.

### Friendly Neighbors

The Friendly Neighbors Extension Homemakers Club was organized in 1946. A group of ladies wanted to become better acquainted while sharing activities and learning from lessons that would be available from time

to time. Thus, the name Friendly Neighbors was selected.

The first meeting was held at the home of Reatha Ballenger, and she was elected the first president. The group voted to limit the membership to twenty-four. Each member drew the name of another member for a cheerio pal. Gifts were given for birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas with the pals being revealed at Christmas time.

Each year an interesting trip is planned on the club's anniversary day. Over the years, tours have included Miles Laboratory at Elkhart, the cut glass factory at Elwood, and places of interest at Fort Wayne and at South Bend. Members of the group especially recall lots of good meals and two movies, "The Sound of Music" and "Bridge on the River Kwai".

Present officers are Frances Olson, president; Virginia Peterson, vice-president; Berniece Gibson, secretary; and Jennie McGowen, treasurer. Other members are Ellener Manwaring, Golda Mollenhour, Mary Shirey, Alice Brugh, and Maude Romine. Faye Bunner is an honorary member.

### Jolly Janes

The Jolly Janes Home Economics Club was formed in January, 1948, with a starting membership of nineteen and grew that year to twenty-four. The club was affiliated with Kosciusko Extension Homemakers Clubs until the year 1972, when it became an independent organization. Three charter members have remained continuously; Phyllis Bowser, Mary E. Romine and Grace Lewis.

Meetings of the Jolly Janes Club are held in members' homes with programs being the responsibility of the hostesses. Many interesting and creative programs have been given since this practice was started in 1972.

An active community organization, members can be found during Mentone Festival Days working at the egg-throw booth or helping with other projects. Any excess money that is made during the year is donated to worthwhile projects within the community.

### Merry Mollys

The Merry Mollys began in November of 1949. The first meeting was at the home of Mrs. Artley Cullum, who was from the sponsoring club, the Jolly Janes. The first officers were: president, Mrs. Noble Oyler; vice-president, Mrs. Clayton Holloway; secretary, Mrs. Kenneth Simcoe; and treasurer, Mrs. Gene Sarber.

The county organization encouraged active clubs to sponsor new clubs, so when a few young women around Mentone expressed interest in Home Demonstration work, the Merry Mollys began. The name, paraphrased from the Jolly Janes, was suggested by Mrs. Royal Blue.

The goals were varied; new friends, learning from lessons presented by Purdue University, and a night out for fun were some of the goals.

Through club work, members learn how to conduct business meetings, act as leaders in such areas as singing, cultural arts, citizenship, gardening, health and safety, and to present lessons.



Three charter members still in the club are: Mrs. Marion Smith, Mrs. Clayton Holloway and Mrs. Carl Whetstone.

Members August 1, 1981 are: Mrs. Everett Besson, Mrs. Lester Blackburn, Mrs. Bill Cochran, Mrs. David Cooper, Mrs. Robert Foltz, Mrs. Loren Gross, Mrs. Roy Haney, Mrs. Luke Hiers, Mrs. Clayton Holloway, Mrs. Merlyn Holt, Mrs. Hubert Keirn, Mrs. Dale McGowen, Mrs. Glenn Mellott, Mrs. James Romine, Mrs. Marvin Romine, Mrs. Doug Simpson, Mrs. Bernard Peters, Mrs. Marion Smith, Mrs. Dale Stiffler, Mrs. Joe Tucker, Mrs. Everett Welborn, and Mrs. Carl Whetstone.

### **The Merry-Go-Arounds**

In June, 1977 the Merry Mollys held an organizational meeting for a group of young women, some of whom had dreamed in high school of having their own Home Economics club just like their mothers. The county president was there to install the first officers: Gloria Paseka, president; Becky Thomas, vice-president; Janet Blair, treasurer; and Cindy Spitler, secretary.

The name, Merry-Go-Around, came from the sponsoring club, the Merry Mollys and also refers to the various county locations of member's homes.

Lessons cover making bread, candy, macrame articles, straw wreaths, silk flowers and many other learning activities.

The club helps with benefit bake sales and provides food for the bloodmobile each year. They have donated to the Library fund, Mentone United 4-H Club, Ronald McDonald Home and helped send a 4-H student abroad.

Charter members of the club are: Becky Thomas, Janie Teel, Virginia Haywood, Cindy Law, Cindy Spitler, Linda Pitts, Sheila Busenburg, Janet Blair, Beverly Faulkner and Gloria Paseka.

### **Girl Scouts**

Girl Scouting began in the United States in 1912 and about ten years later there was a troop in Mentone. Marie (Ellsworth) Workman was a member of the troop and Retha Snyder was a leader. Rosalind Mentzer also led an early troop.



*Mentone Girl Scout troop in the early 1960's.*



*Scout Troop in the 1960's.*

Through the years Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Senior Scouts have been busy taking tours, attending council events, working on badges, and making crafts.

Mentone is a member of the Indiana Lakeland Girl Scout Council which is made up of Elkhart, Noble, Whitley and Kosciusko Counties. The Council office is in Elkhart, Indiana.

One of the famous fund raisers is the annual cookie sale. Through the purchase of Girl Scout cookies, the community has provided trips, troop flags, flowers to plant around meeting places, troop equipment, and many other things. Also, many girls have earned a week at the Indiana Lakeland Council Girl Scout Camp near Middlebury by selling cookies.

Some of the local residents who have served as leaders and assistants are: Joan Harman, Tony Carmean, Barbara Allen, Emma Lou Hiers, Helen Good, Shirley Burkett, Mary Ettinger, Vi McGowan, Jackie Gible, Mary Tridle, Lea Hudson, Janet Johnson, Bev Irons, Nancy Smith, Doris Cooper, Alice Secrist, Sharon Senff, Sharlene Ross, Donna Deal, Mrs. Paul Howard, Ellen Secrist, Beverly Surface, Cindy Spitler, Charlene Shoemaker, Carol Carter, Linda Oden, Dixie Secrist, Judy Stokes, Pat Dunnuck, Jessie Bentley, Mary Manwaring, Sharon Surface, Jennifer Manwaring, Melanie Jones and Araminta Gross. Denton and Harriet Abbey were also leaders, and Denton helped raise money for the camp near Middlebury.

Members of Brownie Troup #142 for the 1981-82 year are Rachel Stone, Sarah Melton, Anita Mikel, Teresa Surface, Shelly McGlennen, Angie Mikel, Debbie Carter, Amy Bradley, Missy Frances, Nicole Black, Amy Hughes, Missy Mikel and Angie Miller. Leaders are Kathy Melton and Helen Wise.

Dixie Secrist is the current leader of Junior Troop #25; Lorrie Erp, Diana Erp, Paula Leiter, Michelle Blalock, Missy Lewis, Brandi Calvert, Jennifer Bradley, Heidi Grame, Emma Payne, Carolee Beeson, Sherry Mullins, Jodi Dunn and Becky Dunn. Dixie is also chairman of Service Unit #34.



## **Psi Iota Xi**

For over 50 years the Beta Epsilon Chapter of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority has sponsored fund raising activities to benefit the unfortunate. It all began with an impressive service on September 7, 1929 when the Alpha Xi Chapter, located in Logansport, Indiana, initiated the members of LaPetite Club into Psi Iota Xi and installed the local chapter. The charter members were: Mildred Anderson, Artella Kesler Becker, Thelma Harris Becker, Mary Jane Borton, Francis Clark Carter, Louise Black Chinworth, Thais Gruelach, Annabel Mentzer, Rosalind Mentzer, Eunice Reed and Nellie Lyon Reed. In December of that same year, the first pledges were initiated. They were Bernice Bowen, Mrs. Devon Eaton, Helen Jontz, and Mrs. Curtis Riner. Their first sorority project was the giving of baskets to the poor at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Within the following years, this health-minded organization has furnished the first-aid room for the new high school (1930), milk for needy families, and sponsored spastic children being sent to Goshen for special training. In 1937, an incubator was purchased for McDonalds Hospital in Warsaw. During the war years, war stamps were bought to apply towards bonds. The stamps were purchased in place of the Christmas gift exchange and penalties of war stamps were charged to members for tardiness and absenteeism. The main projects in other years consisted of donating pints of blood to the Red Cross and money toward surgery expense of community citizens. Time and labor has also been donated to school-related functions such as the school cafeteria, band department, and the purchase of a scoreboard for the new gym (1954).

One community-minded project was a donation to purchase DDT to help combat the spread of polio. The local fire department did the spraying during the polio epidemic.

One of the largest projects ever ventured into was the wrestling match sponsored in 1961 starring some professional wrestlers.

In more recent years, the Psi Iota Xi projects have centered around Speech and Hearing. One way was sponsoring of scholarships for local students interested in these careers. In 1975, the sorority organized a cancer clinic for women in the community and assisted with Heart Screening for the preschool children.

The organization has been selling cheeseballs and geraniums the past several years to make money. The money from this group has been used to contribute to many worthwhile projects in our community.

## **Lions Club**

The Mentone Lions Club was organized March 31, 1933, and the club will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1983. There were thirty charter members, and two are still living at this writing, Ralph Arnsberger and H.V. Johns.

The officers in 1957 were Kenneth Romine, Raymond

Lewis, Forrest Miner, John Fredrick, Wayne Bowser, Lewis Pulling, Noah Tinkey and Fred Lemler.

The motto of the club is "We Serve". It has had many fund raising projects, such as the traditional sausage sale for the benefit of both the community and worldwide. This club has donated to the following: Four-Way Ambulance Service, Fire Department, Bell Memorial Library, Ronald McDonald House, collected eye glasses and hearing aids for students who could not afford them, cancer control, Leader Dog, Eye Bank and Eye Care, and Youth Exchange Programs.

A few activities listed from the 1982 program consist of a computer demonstration, helping an exchange student, grading baseball diamonds, Ladies Night, helping 4-H, and Christmas plates for shut-ins.

## **Mentone Reading Club**

The Mentone Reading Club was organized in 1933 by several women in Mentone. The organization of about thirty-five members joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs in March, 1934.

The idea of starting the club came from Dora Taylor, who had moved to the area from Fort Wayne. She had been a member of a similar group there and felt that Mentone needed a club that was affiliated with the national federation.

In the beginning the organization was primarily a cultural group that met monthly to give book reports. Gradually the purpose changed to include a broader range of cultural and philanthropic work. The local club presently follows the purpose of General Federation of Women's Clubs "to unite the women for mutual benefit, and to promote their common interest in education, fine arts, philanthropy, public welfare, moral values, civics and science." The theme of the local club for 1981-82 is "Truth and Honesty".

Members of the 1937 Mentone Reading Club were Mrs. C.O. Mollenhour, Otta Walburn, Lois Fenstermaker, Isabel Johns, Mrs. Walter Bowers, Mrs. Paul Smith, Mrs. John Weissert, Mrs. Vivian Snyder, and Mrs. G.C. Taylor.

## **Mentone Flying Club**

The Mentone Flying Club began in 1957 with six members. Those from Mentone were Dr. Dan Urshel, Dale St. Clair and Allen (Chick) Herendeen. Through the years the group has grown to over fifty members. Over 250 people have earned their pilot's license as club members.

At the time the group was organized, Chick Herendeen was owner and operator of the Mentone Airport. Jerry Howell purchased it in 1976. Howell died tragically in an airplane accident at the airport. After Howell's death, the airport was purchased by the present owner, United Airlines Pilot Robert Clupper.



## Firemen's Auxiliary

Firemen's Auxiliary was organized in late 1967, with Mrs. James Gates as president. Before the group dissolved in late 1973, there were seven presidents: 1968 - Mrs. Gilbert Griffis, 1969 - Mrs. Joe Good, 1970 - Mrs. William Cochran, 1971 - Mrs. Kenneth Boggs, 1972 - Mrs. Carey Landis, 1973 - Mrs. Lyman Mollenhour.

The group's primary interest was to help the firemen during serious fires by serving food and coffee. They also helped with bake sales and served coleslaw during the firemen's fish fries. Several families that had burned out were helped with food, clothing and furniture.

The Mentone street signs were a result of a fund raising activity sponsored by the auxiliary.

The organization, though small in number, believed in the unity of those who were banded together for the protection from the hazards of fire. They promised to strengthen this unit and to work for the safety of the homes in our community, and this they did.

## Fair Stand

The Mentone Chamber of Commerce purchased the Mentone Community Fair Stand from the Morris Chapel Church in the fall of 1972 for \$4250.

Frank Manwaring, with the help of Joe Boggs, had the job of opening the fair stand for the first year. With the help of the community, they were off to a great start with a profit of \$1988.

Frank Manwaring along with Rod and Jackie Gibble were in charge in 1974, and again they made a good profit. In 1975, Terry and Anne Utter, and Frank Manwaring ran the stand. It was a special year because they paid off the note on the stand and also purchased a new refrigerator and freezer with the profits of \$2175.

Jim Miller, Jo Gamble and Tom Fugate were the committee for 1976 with profits of \$2453. Vic Gamble replaced Tom Fugate on the 1977 committee.

They were followed by Jim Miller, Dixie Secrist and Raymond Cooper, with a profit of \$2940, the largest in the history of the Mentone Stand. This, combined with the 1977 profit, was used to keep the stand in good shape. Secrist Builders of Mentone put a new roof on the stand, and Randy Haist painted the outside of the building. These were the only repairs made to the stand since its purchase in 1972.

Ron and Dixie Secrist served as chairmen from 1979 to 1981. Linda Cochran and Nancy Alspaugh helped in 1980. In 1981, Roger Moriarty and Guy Alspaugh assisted with the operation of the stand.

It was decided to use the 1981 profit for the 1982 Centennial. Earlier profits were donated to community organizations such as Bell Memorial Public Library, 4-Way Ambulance Service, Mentone Youth League, Mentone Fire Department, Bell Aircraft Museum, Mentzer Park, Milbern School, Mentone Junior High Athletic Fund.

Participation at the fair stand is truly a community spirit.

## 4-H Clubs

The 4-H Clubs have been a part of the community for about fifty years. Originally planned for rural boys and girls, the program now is for any young people from age ten to nineteen.

During the last decade Doug Simpson, Miles Nellans and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Lewis were leaders of the Harrison Hustlers, a boys' or agriculture club, while Connie Haney was leader of the Mentone Merry 4-Hers, a home economics or girls' club. In the fall of 1978, the two groups combined to become the Mentone United 4-Hers Club. Approximately 75 members are enrolled in 1982, and the leaders are Tresa West, Melva Smith and Connie Haney.

Earlier leaders of the 4-H Clubs were Mrs. George Clark in 1932, Mrs. Walter Lackey in 1931, and Maude Romine.

## Chamber of Commerce

The Mentone Chamber of Commerce was organized in the mid 1940's with the purpose to promote economic well-being of Mentone and the surrounding area. The group has now grown to forty-one members that is comprised of merchants and interested community citizens.

Activities that began with the Mentone Egg Show now include the Mentone Egg Festival, sponsorship of the Miss Kosciusko County Scholarship Pageant, and elementary basketball games between Burket and Mentone. A portion of the monies raised in this project goes to the schools for various functions.

This non-profit organization was also the spearhead of the financial drive for paving the Mentone Airport runway and food stand at the County Fair.



*Pictured in front of the Mentone Egg are members of the Chamber of Commerce kicking off the activities of the Centennial celebration. They are Frank Hardesty, Jim Miller, Max Flenar, Margie Gans, Miss Kosciusko County for 1981, Roger Moriarty, Ora Belle Meredith and Ron Secrist. Numerous activities and shows are planned by the Chamber for the gala celebration.*

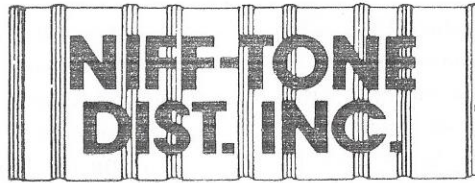


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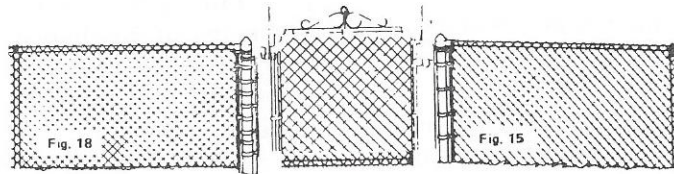
SCREWS

WINDOWS

DOORS

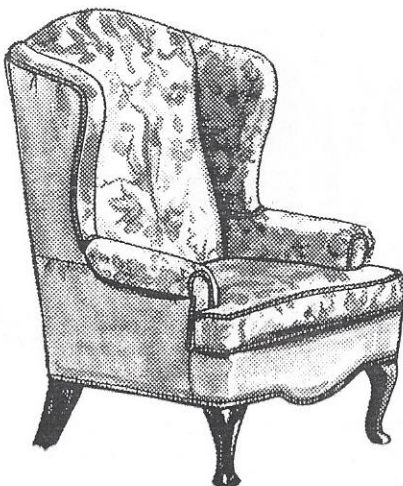
DOOR TRACK

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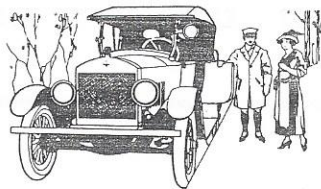
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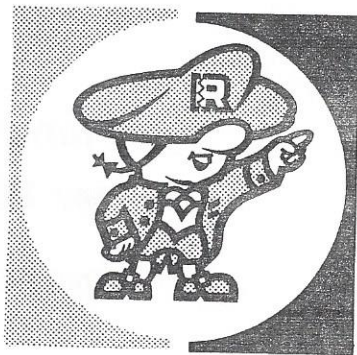


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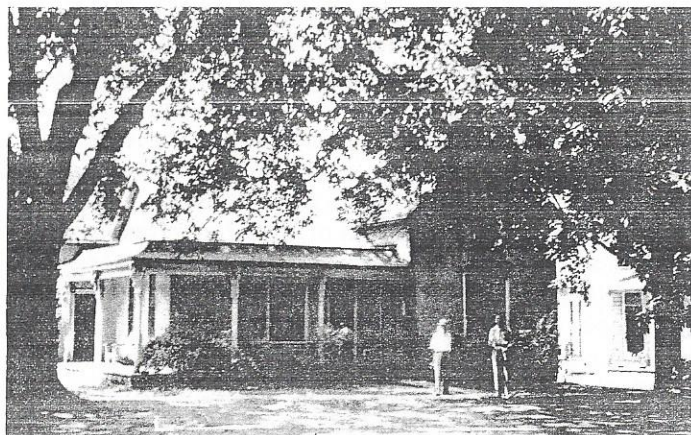


# Lawrence D. Bell

## Early Flying Experience

Lawrence Dale Bell, aviation pioneer, designer, manufacturer and executive, devoted forty-five years of his life to the aircraft industry.

Larry Bell was born in Mentone on April 5, 1894, to Isaac and Harriet Sarber Bell. The youngest of ten children Larry lived in Mentone until he was thirteen. He had already become interested in aviation, as he and Ruggles Dunlap, a boyhood friend, used an umbrella for a "flying experience" from the Bell's hayloft. In 1907, the family moved to Santa Monica, California, where Grover, an older brother lived. Larry's first job was as a mechanic for Grover E. Bell and Lincoln Beachey, exhibition pilots.



*The Bell Home on North Broadway, March 9, 1941.*

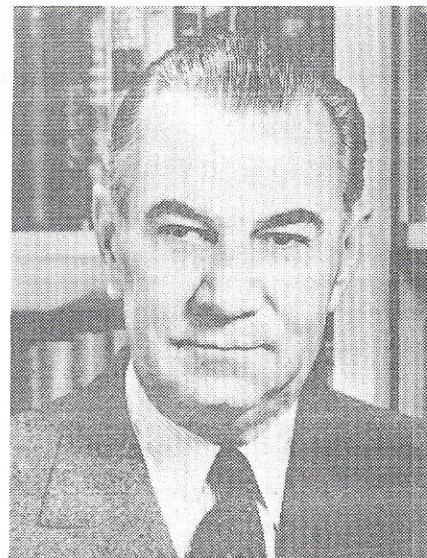
Bell at age 20, became a superintendent, later vice president and general manager for Glenn L. Martin's company. In 1928, he moved to Buffalo to join Consolidated Aircraft Corporation where he was to be vice president and general manager. Consolidated moved to California in 1935, leaving behind an empty factory and some labor and management personnel. Larry and three associates stayed behind and launched Bell Aircraft Corporation in the midst of the Great Depression. The Airacuda, Bell's first aircraft, was produced in 1937; next the P-39 Airacobra; the P-63 Kingcobra; the P-59 Airacomet, the nation's first jet-propelled airplane; and the RP-63.

In March 1946, Bell Aircraft was awarded the first commercial license for helicopters, and soon the company ranked as the world's leading manufacturer of helicopters. The 1947 flight of the Bell X-1 with Capt. Charles (Chuck) Yeager at the controls, along with succeeding X-series airplanes, added understanding of high speed flight which made possible the dawn of the space age.

When Bell died in Buffalo, New York, October 20, 1956, he left \$20,000 to his hometown, Mentone, Indiana, for construction of a memorial in honor of his parents. The resulting Bell Memorial Public Library on North Broadway Street stands within view of the Bell's boyhood home.

"LARRY, A Biography of Lawrence D. Bell", was written in 1981 by Donald J. Norton, a Buffalo news reporter who was associated with Bell Aerospace Textron as a writer and editor for ten years.

A museum to house Larry Bell's personal collection of papers and memorabilia was opened in 1981. This was made possible by the efforts of Mentone citizens and the corporate friends of Larry who wished to preserve his memory.



## The Lawrence D. Bell Museum

Lawrence D. Bell Aircraft Museum began in 1975 when the Mentone Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee of local, interested citizens to plan a way in which to house and display the priceless Bell Collection.

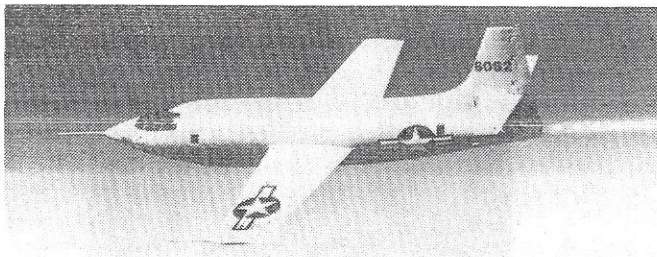
Bell remembered his boyhood town when he willed his collection of valuable papers, aircraft models, memorabilia and personal records to the Mentone High School. The Bell Collection arrived in Mentone by train on a rainy evening late in 1956 soon after Larry's death. For years, portions of the aircraft items were shown in the school and public library where space was limited, and the need to have a central location for displaying the collection was evident. In January, 1975, Chamber of Commerce President William R. Westerman appointed Gerald Romine to be chairman of a committee responsible for planning, financing and constructing the Lawrence D. Bell Aircraft Museum. Also on this board were William Ettinger, David Cooper, Elaine Fugate,



Sue Pyle, Robert Hill, Lois Miller and Mary Jane Hill. Others serving since the original committee have included Lloyd Harrell, Jerry Hudson, Sr., Don Smythe, Robert Whetstone, Roger Moriarty and Linda Cochran.

The committee formed a not-for-profit organization and initiated a fund raising campaign on April 23, 1976. Featured speaker for the Kick-off Program was Brigadier General Charles E. Yeager of Cedar Ridge, California. World history was made by Captain Yeager on October 14, 1947 when he became the first man to fly faster than the speed of sound in the nation's first research rocket aircraft, the Bell X-1. Private donations have come from various companies, organizations and individuals throughout the country who recognize the accomplishments of Bell.

Built in the autumn of 1979, the brick structure stands on a one and one-fourth acre site adjoining Mentzer Park in southwest Mentone. The museum opened its doors to the public in June, 1981.



*Bell X-1, first airplane to fly faster than sound. Original is in the Smithsonian.*

## Air Force Association

The Lawrence D. Bell Museum Chapter of the Air Force Association (AFA) was chartered November 9, 1975 with Robert Whetstone, president; Gerald Romine, vice-president; Robert Hill, secretary; and Richard Webb, treasurer. The AFA is a national association which supports adequate armed strength to maintain the security and peace of the United States and the free world.



## National Junior Honor Society Chapter

A National Junior Honor Society Chapter was organized at Mentone Junior High School and was chartered on January 11, 1980. The chapter was named for Lawrence D. Bell because he was an outstanding man from our community, and he exemplified the five ideals of the Society: scholarship, citizenship, leadership, service, and character. The sponsor is Mrs. Eloise Eberly.

There were twenty-three charter members; Eighth grade: Matt Brown, Laura Cochran, Angie Farner, Mark Fugate, LaVaun Hanes, Joe Hughes, Patty Irons, Tom Lester, Kim Martin, Mike Martzloff, Annetta Metzger, Tina Shepherd, Robin Smith, Scott Teel and Greg Van DeWater; Seventh grade: Lori Anderson, Erin Fitzpatrick, Mark Hughes, Mike Keirn, Lori Marcella, Roger Scott, Paula Riedel, and Betty Smith.

## History of Mentone Public Library

The first actual library service for the town of Mentone was the H. Parmalee Company of Chicago. By subscribing to a particular amount, a town or neighborhood was entitled to the use of 2000 volumes for two years, sent by Parmalee in installments of fifty books. Parmalee also encouraged the establishment of book clubs, and would, for a fee, arrange for home delivery. The Parmalee Library is first mentioned in the Mentone Tri-County Gazette in late 1899.

In April, 1916, a petition of fifty-five citizens of the Mentone Community subscribed a total of \$158 as a guarantee of good faith for a proposed library in Mentone. A Carnegie library was first suggested but was voted down. After the Court found the list was according to law, the Mentone Council, the Mentone School Board, and the Judges of the Circuit Court appointed the following people to serve as a library Board of Trustees: Charles Dillingham, Mrs. Flavia Myers, Levi Jefferies, Mrs. Emma Yocum, LeRoy Smith, Mrs. Allen Jefferies, and George Ralston.

A room was found over the bank to serve as temporary headquarters and Mrs. Allen Jefferies was appointed as librarian for the first year.

The Board of Education donated all books in the school library, except reference books, and fifty books were borrowed from the State Library. In March, 1917 the librarian reported a total of 644 volumes in the library and stated that 53 books had been loaned. Miss Marie Heighway was appointed librarian for the following year.

On November 1, 1918, the library was moved to a room in a building owned by Carlyn Myers on the north side of Main Street and also that year Miss Frances Clark was appointed librarian. Miss Clark served until September, 1919 when Miss Madge Lyons was named to the position.

In October, 1920, Mrs. Cora VanGilder was appointed librarian and she served until her death on July 7, 1946. Mrs. Mabel Emmons served as acting librarian until 1947 when Mrs. Walter (Pearl) Lackey was appointed.



In 1936 the Library Board voted to purchase a building and lot on the south side of Main Street for \$2600 as permanent quarters for the library. The Library remained there until 1960 when the present library building was opened to the public.

The new building was built with a \$20,000 grant to the town of Mentone from the will of Lawrence D. Bell. Mr. Bell requested that the money be used for a suitable memorial to his parents, Isaac and Harriet (Sarber) Bell, and the Mentone Board made the decision to use the money, plus \$3000 from the sale of the old building, to build a new library. The decision was also made to change the name from the Mentone Public Library to the Bell Memorial Library.

A one-room addition costing \$4500 was added in 1971, paid for from the Library Improvement Reserve Fund.

Mrs. Lackey retired in 1973 and Mrs. Harold (Madeleine) Fisher was appointed to take her place. Mrs. David (Eileen) Bowser has been assistant librarian since 1962.

The library remained a "town-library" taxing unit (with Harrison, Franklin and Seward Townships donating funds) until the summer of 1980 when Harrison Township agreed to merge with the town to form a new library taxing unit.

From the first 644 books in 1916, the library now has over 23,000 volumes for loan.

## Friends of the Bell Memorial Library

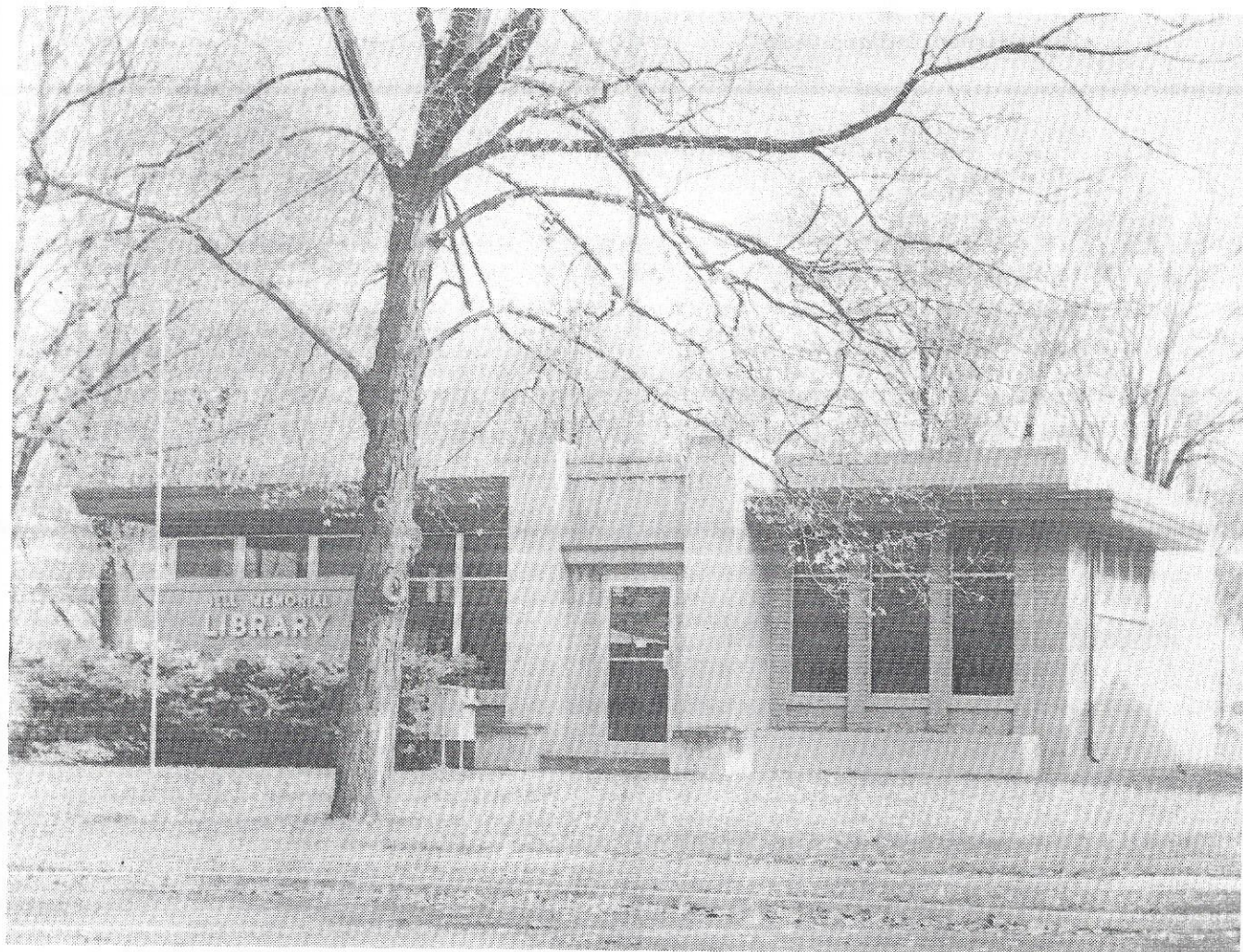
The first meeting of the Friends of the Bell Memorial Library was held in April of 1980. The purpose of the group was to raise money for library needs which the budget does not cover.

The following officers were elected: Linda Cochran, president; Debi McFadden, vice-president; Jean Pritchard, secretary; Marsha Scott, treasurer. Ed LaMar, Dottie Hoffer, and Betty Blackburn were appointed directors.

During the first year, the group raised over \$3500 through memberships, donations, a rummage sale, a bake sale, and book sales. The money was used to paint the interior of the library, replace three windows, provide heating fuel and furnish a reading nook.

The officers for the 1981-82 year are Debi McFadden, president; Jean Smith, vice-president; Jean Pritchard, secretary, and Marsha Scott, treasurer. This group purchased three new sections of book shelves and continues to raise money through memberships, donations and activities at the Egg Festival. They are in the process of furnishing a reading area for the children.

*The Bell Memorial Library located at 306 North Broadway, was a memorial tribute to the parents of Lawrence D. Bell.*







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1982

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## DIRECTORS

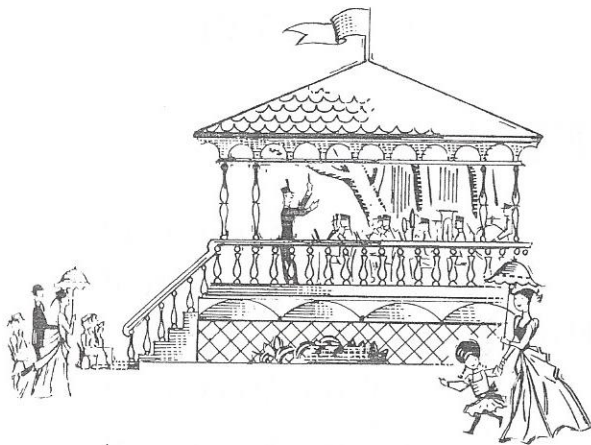
Floyd Tucker, Chairman  
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Donald B. Poulson  
Thomas M. Fugate  
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Farmers State Bank  
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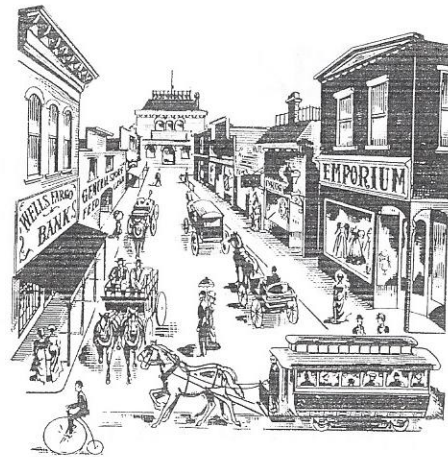
Member F.D.I.C.



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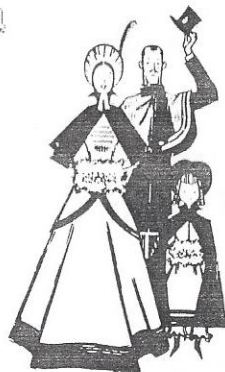
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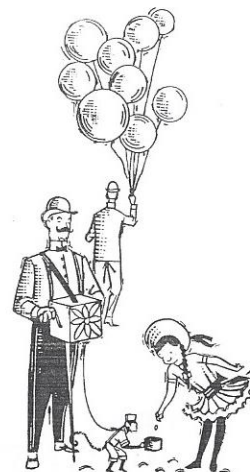
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# Homes

Mentone has been richly blessed since the first pioneers erected their homes in this area. Many residential and business structures have been built and a few remain standing from long ago. Some of the local housing styles reflect the building trends of the era such as the Mansard roof of the Donald Van Gilder home.

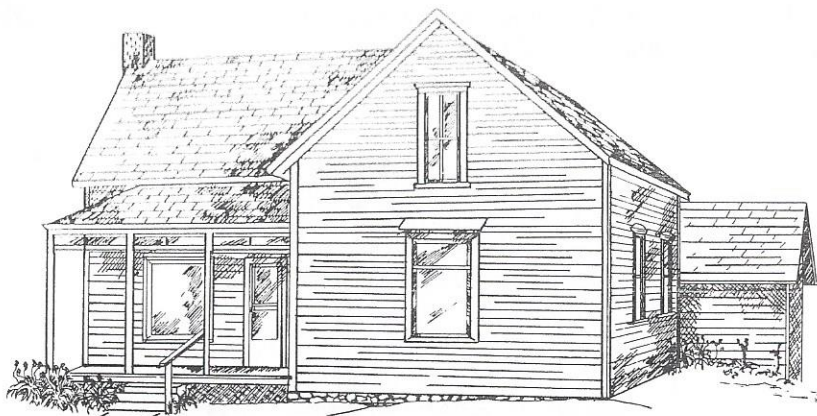
Others represent the strength and richness of this community's pioneer tradition like the Helen Brown residence. These architecture styles span one hundred years of community growth and adaptation of a growing nation.

## *South Walnut*

*Carey Landis, owner*

The present real estate is a part of the area's original land grant from the United States Government sold to Benjamin Blue, dated March 30, 1837.

This home, built by Simeon Blue, appears to be of early farm-area style. It has nine rooms of poplar wood floors and woodwork with eight-foot ceilings.



## *109 N. Broadway*

*Mr. and Mrs. David Teel, owners*

Elmer Eddinger, local banker, purchased lot #176 in 1886 from Albert Tucker for \$10. By May of 1887, this brick home was completed for a total of \$1225 and described in the Mentone Gazette as "an edifice which for neatness and utility will compare with anything in the country."

Today this home still displays the original oak woodwork and carved arches above the doorway.

A fire on Feb. 6, 1902 almost destroyed this home but was stopped at the first house south.

This home was also reported to have the first bathroom in Mentone. Senior citizen Ruby Smith remembers when a female passer-by stopped at the Eddinger residence and asked if she might use the restroom. Not knowing the lady, Mrs. Eddinger showed the visitor the "can" in the backroom. She later discovered that this visitor was Mrs. Dessauer, wife of part-owner of Wolf & Dessauer Department Store in Fort Wayne.





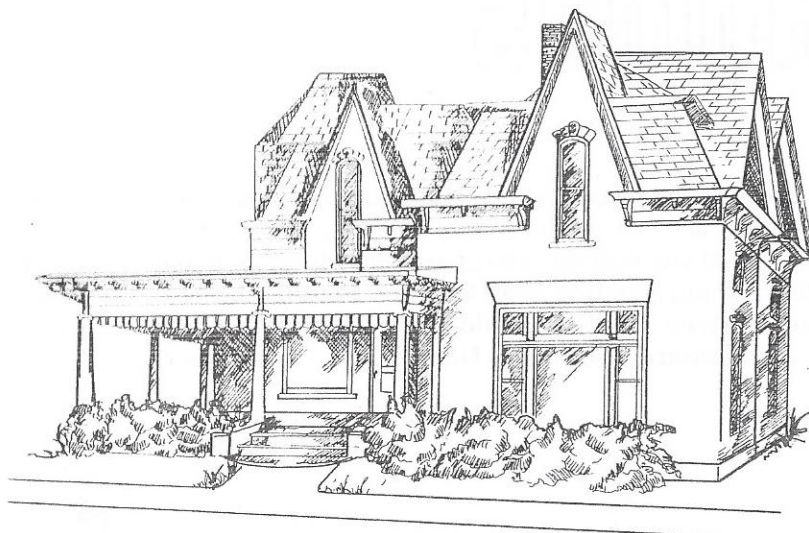
*209 N. Broadway*

Home of the late Ray Smith, dates from 1891 and was built by Clarence Edwin Doane, owner/manager of the second business establishment (hardware) to open in Mentone.

Albert Tucker later remodeled the home in 1898 and engraved the date underneath the front window.

The house has a series of sharply pointed dormers, one for each window on the second floor, which has given the residence the name "the house of gables".

The bricks for the home were reported to have been made in the Akron vicinity.



*112 W. Main*

*Mr. and Mrs. Jack Simpson, owners*

This early 1900 brick structure has been the home of local residents, a bakery, meat market, furniture store and a number of restaurants.

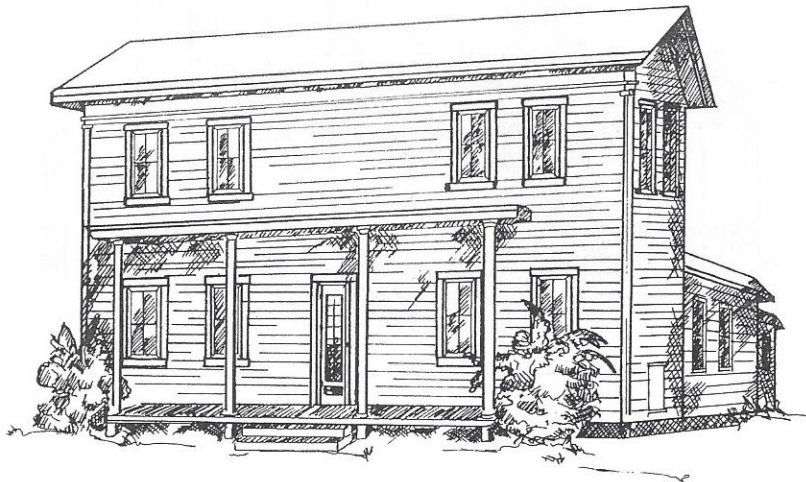
Although the large front windows have been replaced, upper level window-arches and roof-line brackets still remain.

*State Road 25 West*

*Mrs. Arthur (Helen) Brown and  
Everette Rathfon, owners*

This 100-year-old country home was the first frame house built in Franklin Township by Benjamin Blue, Zelda Lash's grandfather.

The woodwork, wainscoting and open stairway were constructed from the black walnut timber in the area. The home still retains the hand-carved doors and nine-foot ceilings.





*205 N. Broadway*

*Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tibbets, owners*

This wood-frame, Mansard roof residence was built in 1888 by Jacob and Laura Deeter.

The outside stairway was added on during the early 1940's to accomodate upstairs tenants, but has since been re-converted to a single-family residence.

This home still displays the original walnut staircase and wainscoting.

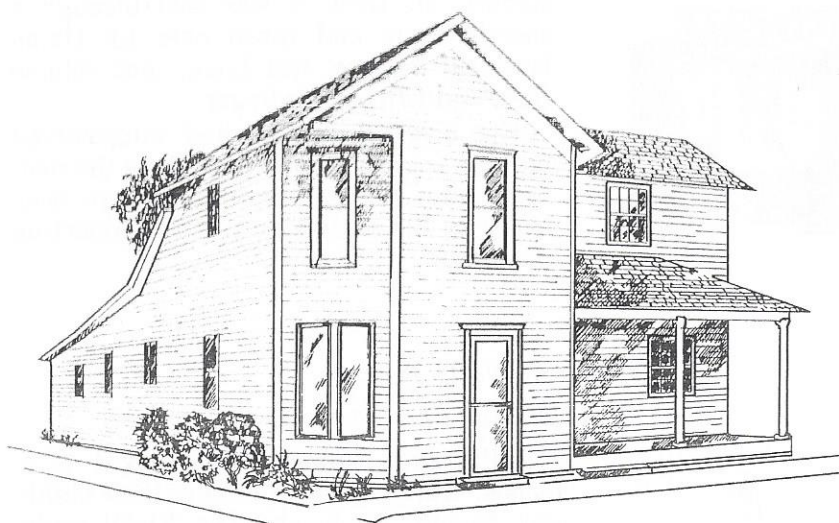


*107 N. Broadway*

*Towne House Beauty Salon*

The original structure burnt because of a "hot" poker game and was then rebuilt in 1909.

Rumor has it that the home was built close to the sidewalk to block the neighbors view of uptown activities.



*208 N. Broadway*

*Mr. & Mrs. Jim Brazo, owners*

This Italianate style home was built in the late 1800's. For many years it was the home of the Mentzer girls, Annabel, Rosalind and Peg.

Bay windows once lined the entire front of the structure until the owner installed plate glass, because it was in vogue.

Today the home still has the open oak trim stairway and colonnades with leaded glass. One unusual detail is the many corner window arrangements.





*309 E. Main Street*

This large two and one-half story clapboard home was built for McNeal and Susie Forst. Their flower house (now Dana Starr's home) was moved to the west of their residence.

In later years, this home became the residence, office and sometimes hospital of the town's medic, Dr. George C. Taylor. At one time, the open cherry wood stairway shined from many polishings by Mrs. Taylor.



*116 W. Harrison*

*Mr. and Mrs. Jim Tibbets, owners*

Built in 1884 by Henrietta and Watson Wilkinson, this home has had a total of nine owners. In 1896, it was sold through a sheriff's sale and taken over by Union National Savings and Loan, then sold to Rosa and Elmore Eddinger.

The original cornice and gingerbread lattice work can still be seen along the roofline. Also, Indian arrowheads have been found in the stone-base pillars supporting the porch.

*201 North Tucker*

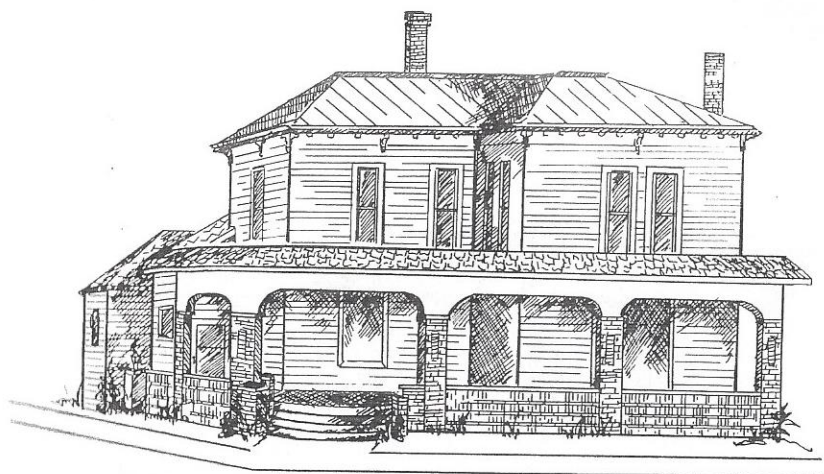
*Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hudson, owners*

Hollis and Emma Bybee moved to a modest frame home in 1893 so their children, Bessie, Verna and Lea Virgil could attend town school. About 1915, the Bybees covered the house with a stucco called kellistone, added the present brick porch and lead glass windows. Inside, quarter-sawed oak was used to fashion the open stairway, collonades and other woodwork. Matching old-world chandeliers and wall sconces are made of a "mystery" metal no one has been able to identify.

Daughter Bessie and her husband "Doc" Clutter bought the house in 1927. At one time, Doc had his office in the dining room of the home.

When Doc's second wife, nee Emma Goodman, was widowed in the early fifties, she converted the house into apartments.

The Jerry Hudsons bought the house in 1966 and returned it to a one-family home. An original kellistone wall, once an open back porch wall, is an inside wall of the present kitchen. The original hitching post is still in the side yard.





305 N. Broadway

Gerry Clark - Frances Clark Carter,  
co owners

At one time, the Broda Clark house, built approximately 1895, was a three-story, wood-sided structure. According to Frances Clark Carter, the home was "built for the purpose of renting out as apartments to those who attended school across the street."

This home also had a dumbwaiter that transported the butter and milk from the cool basement to other floors when needed.

Approximately 1912, this house became the first to have stucco siding. At the time the house was being stuccoed, the Baptist Church next door, was also having the roof tarred. The combination of the black smoke and white stucco resulted in a gray color to the Clark home.

This home was also one of the first to have electricity.



112 N. Broadway

Dr. and Mrs. Donald Van Gilder, owners

This original brick structure was built in 1886 by Steve Boggess, teacher in the Mentone School. Early diagrams illustrate the cross-shaped design of the house before the present kitchen and porch were added.

The green Mansard roof with dormer windows which protrude from the roof and gingerbread detail underneath the eaves, are striking details for this home.

In 1925, stucco was added. With the help of a conveyor belt that moved dirt and other materials, a basement was built underneath the present building in the early 1930's.

107 North Morgan Street

Ima Taylor, owner

Since the deed was recorded on June 30, 1888, dozens of families have lived in the house that Ima Taylor has called home for more than 25 years.

Peter and Mary Mentzer sold their house and lot on July 5, 1889. We assume they built the house, since they had purchased the lot about two years before from the developers of Mentone.

Typical of that period, the solid brick dwelling had high ceilings, transoms, and tall narrow windows. It also had a bay window and two porches.

J.S. Johns installed the bathroom because his wife was an invalid and several other changes have been made during the last quarter of a century.





111 N. Franklin

*Mr. and Mrs. Frank Meredith, owners*

Built approximately 1885, this 11-room home has nine-foot ceilings and walnut woodwork in the upper portion.

The architectural style is based on the provincial Italian farmhouse design with the distinctive wide eaves with brackets.

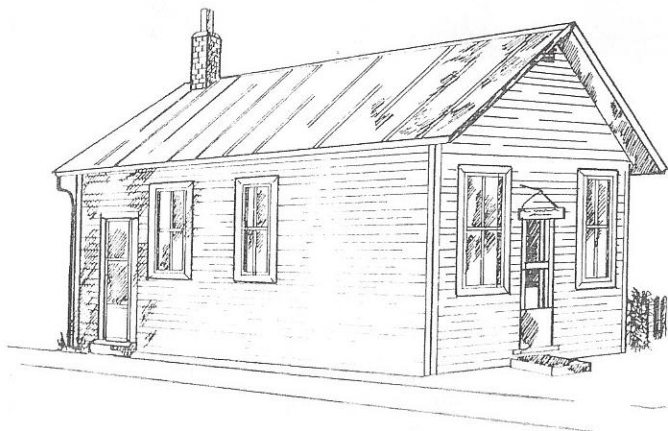


112 E. Main

*Donald Van Gilder, D.D.S.*

This modest, clap-board sided structure was originally built in 1886 to house a harness shop owned by Hayden Rea.

During the 1906 fire that destroyed the south side of main street, this building and those east of it were spared.

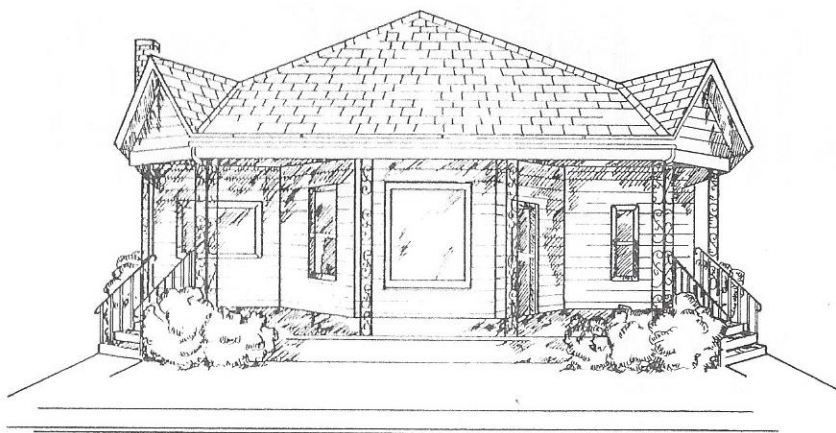


307 E. Main

*Mr. and Mrs. Dana Starr, owners*

The carature-shape design, which was once a round flower house, can still be seen on the front portion of this home. The children in the community called it the "merry-go-round" and was originally located on the site where the Church of Christ now stands.

Originally the porch circled the entire house.



#### *Other Interesting Homes in Mentone*

The home of Mrs. Curtis J. (Pauline) Riner, 112 Tucker Street, was built approximately 90 years ago and was believed to be the first residence with inside plumbing. It was reported that this residence was used as a test for the initiation of the town's new water system. Prior to this time, the house operated on a gravity water system and it was thought "ridiculous" to bring water on the inside when a pump was on the outside. When the water was at last brought in ... every pipe joint leaked from the added pressure.

Today, part of the past still remains in that immediate neighborhood with buggy sheds located at various alley ways.

The home of Maude and the late Roy Cox was once a

log cabin which stood in a field near the area of the laundromat on Main Street. According to Zelda Lash, old-timers Clyde Reed and Adam Bowen moved the cabin in two sections to the present location. Although the house itself has been remodeled over the years, the log part is still visible. Rumor has it that the log portion was once used as a post office.

Part of the home of June Auginbaugh was moved into Mentone from the sight of Harmony Inn Drive-In. She has lived in the house she was born in longer than any other person living now in Mentone. She is remembered for her many years of dedication to teaching having taught 46 years, starting at age 18.



# Churches

The strength of the community lies in its people. The source of this strength comes from the religious heritage that they have. Mentone has been blessed with strong church ties throughout the years and is honored to give short histories of the churches of this area.

## Baptist Church

In the early history of Mentone, a few members of the Baptist Church at Sevastopol lived in the new town and soon felt the need of a church of their faith and order. As a result the Sevastopol Church on July 18, 1885, permitted her members living in Mentone, to organize into a mission of the mother church. The mission branch chose J. Heighway and Elliott Manwaring as its first deacons; with Solomon Arnsberger, clerk, and Loren Manwaring, treasurer.

On October 20, 1885, the new church called as their first pastor Rev. G.C. Graham who served until January, 1888. The new organization was permitted the use of the M.E. Church building for worship as neither church had services each Sunday. This arrangement continued until the Baptist congregation completed their building located at the corner of Harrison and Broadway in the fall of 1887. Soon after the building was dedicated, a special revival service was conducted by Rev. J.D. Allerton at which time there was a large increase in the membership.

The sixteen charter members (14 from Sevastopol and 2 from Yellow Creek Baptist Church) were: John D. Heighway, Sarah W. Heighway, Elliott Manwaring, Sarah Manwaring, Solomon Arnsberger, Hannah Arnsberger, Loren Manwaring, Riley Ralston, Lodemia Ralston, Susan Clay, Isaiah Hipscher, Nancy Hipscher, Lucinda Wertenberger, Eliza A. Dillie, Etta Martin and Socratus Martin.

On June 19, 1886, the small body asked the mother church for the privilege of being recognized as an independent church. This was granted.

The church records show that the membership had reached 104 by the end of 1888. By 1914, the membership was 265.

A great tabernacle meeting was held in Mentone in 1913, and nearly one thousand people professed conversion to Christ. Many of these united with the Mentone Baptist Church. In 1914, the Yellow Creek Baptist Church, which was located approximately three miles west of Mentone, closed and most of their members united with the Mentone Baptist Church. The influx of new members crowded the church facilities and a movement was begun to build a new building.

In the spring of 1916, the old building was torn down and construction of the present structure began.

During the construction period of the new building, services were held in the upstairs of the old town hall. Some Sunday School classes were held in private homes.

The eight art glass windows were installed by a skilled workman for the Pittsburg Glass Co. for a total cost of \$600.

Rev. O. Ernest Miller was pastor during the construction and was ex-officio member and chairman of the Finance and Building committees. Russel Norris was construction superintendent.

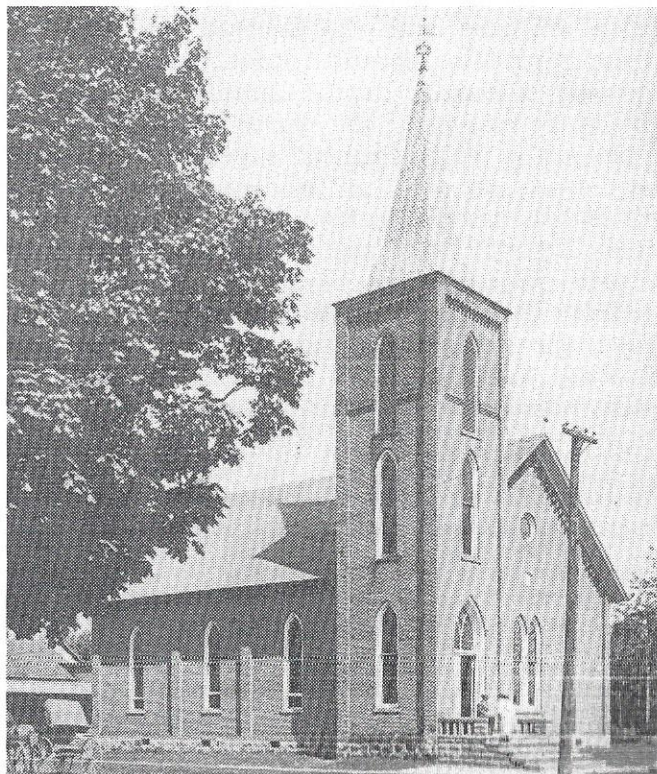
One of the highlights of the dedication service was the announcement that the money borrowed had been fully repaid. The pastor burned the cancelled note and saved the ashes.

The painting on the back wall of the baptistry portraying a Jordan River scene was painted by Everett Ralston in the early 1920's and was retouched years later by Mrs. Ida Norris.

The first parsonage of wood construction was built just west of the church on the same lots in 1893-94.

Mrs. Jane Sarber made a bequest of her home, 108 East Jackson Street, to the church to be used as a parsonage. The gift became a reality in 1924. A garage was built and a number of improvements were made to the house. The old parsonage was sold and moved to another lot in town.

The present parsonage at 207 E. Main Street was acquired in 1965 from the A.I. Nelson estate for \$15,000, and the Jackson Street parsonage was sold.





The first Baptist testimony in the Mentone area was conducted by Rev. James Martin in the home of Benjamin Blue, who was a leader of eight families who settled in Franklin Township in 1837-38. He was the progenitor of some of the present members as well as many others in the community.

The first officially recognized Baptist Church in the area was the Clear Creek Baptist Church of Franklin Township. In 1851, this group and the Yellow Creek Baptist church sent representatives to sit in council for the organization of the First Baptist Church of Warsaw. The Clear Creek Baptist Church voted to disband and unite with the new Warsaw Church.

In July, 1840, the Yellow Creek Baptist Church was organized and for ten years the congregation met in the homes of the members.

In 1850, Peter Meredith donated an acre of ground located about three miles west of Mentone for a church and cemetery, upon which, in the same year, was erected a frame house of worship where services were conducted for a period of twenty years. In 1873, a larger building was constructed on the same lot but on the opposite side of the road. The church was under the pastoral care of Rev. E.M. McGraw and had a membership of 220.

The Baptist Church of Sevastopol was organized in 1858, by fifteen members under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Babcock. The schoolhouse was their meeting place until 1860, when a frame edifice 36 x 40 feet was constructed at a cost of \$900.

No meetings were held in the Mentone Church from October 3, 1918 to November 10, 1918 because of the Spanish influenza epidemic. The W.W.I service flag of the church contained 32 stars for the young men of the membership serving our country.

In 1937, the First Baptist Church of Mentone withdrew from the Northern Baptist Convention and became affiliated with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches (G.A.R.B.C.) and the Indiana Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches (I.F.R.B.C.)

One of the reasons for the church's withdrawal was the manner in which financial support was used for missionaries, as well as modernism which had infiltrated the association. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. and Blanche Oglesby were the first missionaries to be supported directly by the church. Lova Bush first went to India in 1941, and returned to the field in Oct., 1981.

When the Kosciusko Broadcasting Company was organized, Pastor Dowden recommended that the church broadcast each Sunday morning worship service over Station WKAM, Warsaw 1220, at a cost of \$168 per month. This practice continued from 1949 to 1954. He also had a 15-minute Family Altar broadcast.

Pastor Irwin Olson saw the need for a church library of Christian books and with the help of Mrs. Melissa Unzieker, the few books which were purchased and donated were marked and indexed, in 1959. Mrs. Helen Shunk was appointed librarian and Mrs. Mable Norris, assistant; they have continued in these capacities to this writing. In recent years, Mrs. Nellie Zent and Mrs. Viola Lisdat have served on the staff. There are

currently two thousand forty-six books in the library plus a variety of teaching aides. This is one of the largest, if not the largest, and most complete church library in the state among G.A.R.B.C. churches.

New books are introduced to the congregation via the church bulletin inserts each month. Another service is provided by recording most Sunday services and having these tapes and players available to "shut-ins".

The AWANA Club program was started in November, 1973, with the Chums for girls grades 3,4, & 5, and Pals for boys grades 3,4, & 5. The Guards, 6th grade girls, and Pioneers, 6th grade boys, were added in December, 1973. The Pioneers and Guards were subsequently extended to include 7th and 8th grades. The Sparks group, boys and girls K through 2nd grade, was added in 1978. Jerry Eaton was the first Commander. Pastor Charles Jones is the current Commander. Many adults participate in various capacities and over one hundred boys and girls from the community take active part each year in the program.

The following men have been ordained by the local church: Charles F. Beitzel, Harry Elder, John Rea, Robert Munn, Jon Rouch, Norbert Darr, Fred Burklin, Duane K. Waterland, Steven Olson, Gordon Chitty, Charles Jones, and George Shoemaker.

The following men have served as pastors: G.C. Graham, J.D. Allerton, C.M. Bragg, O.A. Cook, W.R. Shelt, J.F. Huckleberry, W.H. Rutherford, W.F. Smith, A.E. Clem, J.C.F. Scherick, D.W. Sanders, J.P. Green, S.L. Essick, F.B. Nafe, W.E. Grinnell, O.E. Miller, P.O. Duncan, A.S. Dodgson, V.E. Squibb, R. Orville Yeager, Horace J. Barnaby, Howard O. Fowler, Emmet C. Ralston, Zane Mason, Milton L. Dowden, Chester Doden, Irwin L. Olson, Howard Addleman, Norman McVey, Gordon Chitty, Kenneth Marken, present pastor and Charles Jones, assistant pastor.



*First Baptist Church Choir: (front row) Helen Weirick, Esther Markley, Annabelle Rathfon, Margaret May, Lena Eaton, Elma Zent, Pearl Gates, Effie Rathfon, Ruby Smith, Lois Lemler, Mona Lou Darr Smythe, Pastor Mickey Dowden (holding Bible). (Second row) Anna Mentzer, Carolee Eaton Crawford, Marilyn Goodman Miller, Carol Shoemaker, Marlene Reed Bathrick, Norene Bibler Norris, Elener Norris Grossman, Lois Dowden, Richard Dillman, Norbert Darr. (Third row) Everett Rathfon, Harl Nottingham, Irvin Nelson, Ora McKinley, Chancey Goodman, Raymond Weirick, Leroy Cox, Robert Nottingham, Malcolm Long. Picture taken in 1950.*



## Church of Christ

A congregation of the Church of Christ was organized at Sixteen School House, Newcastle Township, on the first day of May, 1871 with Abner Wood, Alva Shaw, and William O. Thompson as elders, and James Thompson and Samson Eley as deacons. After Sycamore Chapel was built, the congregation met there.

In 1875, John Nellans and Stephen Cooper were deacons. John Nelson and Frank Laird were elders during this early period. The preacher in 1890 was S.C. Hummel. At the turn of the century, A.W. Harvey, V.I. Trimble and Emson Heighway were officers.

In 1908, Brother W.W. Otey of Lynn, Indiana held a tent meeting in Mentone. After the tent meeting, Lord's Day services were continued in the old Opera House. Later that fall a lot a half block north of Main Street on the east side of Broadway was purchased from Mac Forst and is the present site of the church building. Ground was soon broken and work was started on a solid brick structure with a slate roof. Bad weather retarded the work during the winter, but by mid-summer the structure was completed and Brother Otey returned for the dedication service and also held a short meeting.

In 1910, Brother Omer Porter of Williams, Indiana divided his time between the two congregations, Sycamore and Mentone. Brother Porter moved here in September of 1910, but due to sickness in the family, returned to Williams after several months. However, he continued to fill his appointments at Mentone.

The next preacher, Brother A.A. Bunner of West Virginia, was here for two years. During times when there was no regular minister, Brother Piety, young Brother Harter, Brother Shannon Baker, and others would fill the pulpit.

Early in 1917, Brother and Sister Bachman, better known as Albert and Grace, of Portsmouth, Ohio came and stayed six years.

Brother J.S. Johns of Salem, Indiana came in 1925 and stayed until 1936. He was a "man among men".

Next was Brother Edward Alexander and his wife, Mabel, of New Albany, Indiana. It was a very cold winter, and their three-year-old son contracted pneumonia and died. Soon after this, the Frank Vernet property was purchased and the Alexanders moved there for the remainder of their two-year stay. This is still the minister's house.

The next minister was C.G. Vincent of Vincennes, Indiana. He and his wife, formerly Miss Hanna Klingerman, had spent five years as missionaries in Tokyo, Japan. While he was here, five classrooms were built and a new baptistery added. He left in 1942.

Brother Clyde Sloan of Oklahoma was followed by Brother Lloyd Boyll and Stella, of Sullivan, Indiana. He started the first Vacation Bible School in Mentone.

On January 1, 1950, Joseph Jones and his mother, Mattie, moved here from Hopewell, Virginia. Leslie and Ruth Grant from Canada began work here in 1952 and were followed by Ralph and Geneva Burris from the Bedford area, in 1956.

The next three young couples to occupy the minister's

house were Harold and Jean Driscoll of Green Bay, Wisconsin; Frank and Leah Binford of Terre Haute, Indiana; and John and Martha Claypool of Pittsfield, Illinois.

Ermil and Lola Norman came from Newcastle, Indiana in 1964. They were followed by Stanley and Pam Day of Lincoln Park, Michigan. T.R. and Louise Jones moved here from Watervliet, Michigan in 1969. The auditorium was carpeted in 1970. Terry and Betty Stockman moved here January 1, 1976. Billy and Carole Steele became Mentone residents in the fall of 1979.

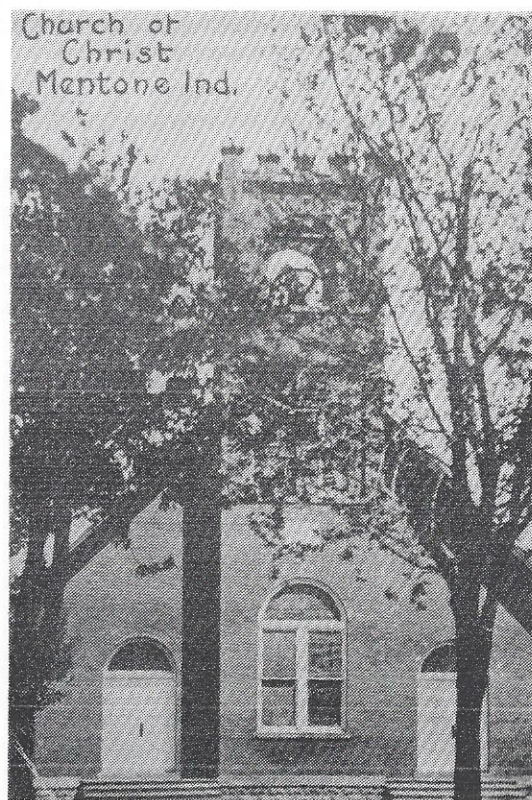
Keith Besson of Mentone, and his wife, Lois, left the U.S. in October, 1965 to work as missionaries in Zambia, Africa, where they remained, except for brief furloughs, until July 7, 1977.

At present Harry Sullivan and Rex Witham are elders, and James Wise and Alton Bruner are deacons.

Some of the other men who have served as officers include Riley Nelson, Masa Nelson, Earl Meredith, Delmer White, Dr. Emra Anderson, Lester Bruner, Vere Kelley, Frank Laird, Sam Kelley, Ed Newton, Francis Kehoe, Robert Hewlitt, Leroy "Bud" Wise, Clarence Leininger, Granville Horn, Howard Horn, Elgy Vandermark, and Herb Carlile. The last two mentioned later moved to Rochester.

Some of the early members of the Sycamore and Mentone congregations were Mary (Laird) Barkman, Delmer and Myrtle White, Dale Kelley, Emra and Lenna Anderson, Mable Delano, Mary (Nellans) Kehoe, Dr. Leslie Laird, Virgil Nelson, Nancy Nellans, Elva Rush, Ottis Swick, Stella Snyder, Leona Snyder, Clem and Nora Teel, Maggie Teel and Goldie (Teel) Kesler.

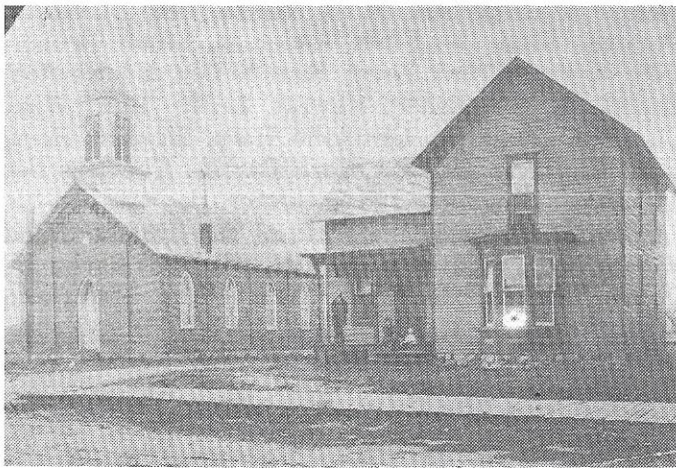
They come and go, And some are gone forever, But that which is done for the Lord, is eternal.





## Mentone United Methodist Church

The Mentone Methodist Church had its beginning in the pioneer days, about 1840. The Lee appointment was established at that time, in the home of Dr. Richard Lee, located east of the present site of Mentone. Later a log cabin known as Morris Chapel was built at the point which is now the southwest corner of Main and Franklin Streets. A frame building replaced this structure and was used until 1880 when a brick edifice was built on the present location of the church. This building stood until the spring of 1893, when after having been wrecked for the third time by heavy windstorms, it was torn down and the building replaced by another brick structure. The cost of this building was between \$5000 and \$6000. The dedication was held February 25, 1894 with the Reverend Cranston preaching at this service.



In the year 1936, an extensive remodeling program and educational unit was accomplished during the pastorate of Reverend E.E. Dewitt.

Many gifts and memorials from members throughout the years have helped to transform the building into a beautiful place of worship.

A decision was made in 1962, during the ministry of Reverend Glenn Campton, to build a new parsonage. This is located one mile north of Mentone on State Road 19. Ground breaking was held on June 9, 1963 and dedication services were led by Dr. Robert Yunker,

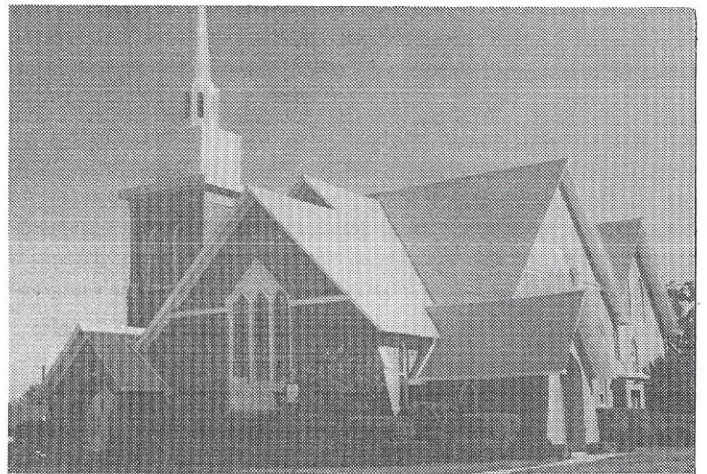


District Superintendent on October 25, 1964.

Another major remodeling project on the church was accomplished during the summer and fall of 1979. This included the removal of the bell tower, which was replaced with a new fiberglass steeple. (A steeple was part of this original building.) A new roof was installed and the exterior walls of the church were sandblasted. Reverend E. Robert Heckman was the pastor.

On May 10, 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church. On April 23, 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church and the Methodist Church united to form the United Methodist Church.

On June 2, 1940, the congregation observed the 100th Anniversary of Methodism in Mentone.



This church building is dedicated as a place where people can come to worship God and meet in fellowship and service.



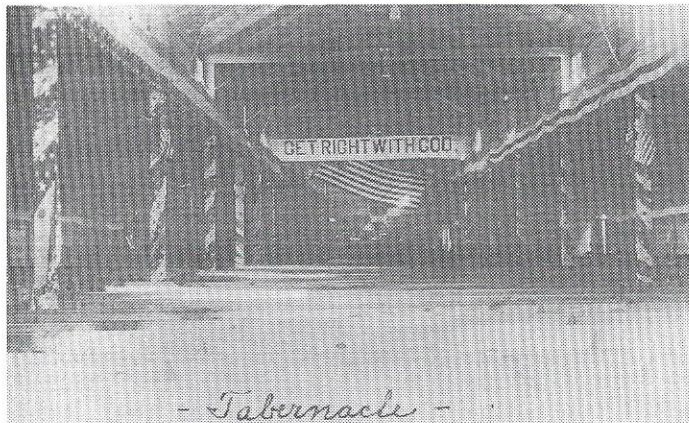
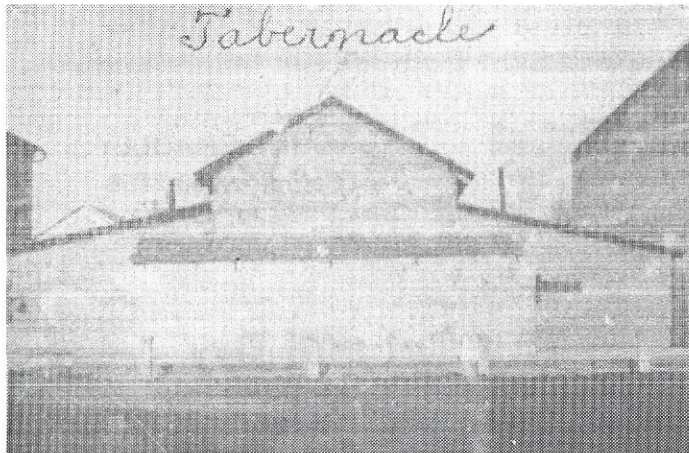
*Friendship Class of the Mentone Methodist Church, taken before 1919. Standing: Mrs. Henry Meredith, Mrs. Ohler, Mrs. C. Fleck, Mrs. J.K. Sensibaugh, Mrs. J.W. Aughinbaugh, Mrs. Ella Nellans, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. Cletus Borton, Mrs. Hatfield, Mrs. Werkter, Mrs. Bonnell, Mrs. Dillingham, Mrs. Bonewitz, Mrs. Frank Warren, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Wm. Cattell, Mrs. Jim Gill, Mrs. S.A. Guy. Seated front row: Mrs. Hickman, Mrs. Hammer, Mrs. Julian, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. W. C. Davis, Mrs. Allen (Sadie) Turner, Mrs. L.P. Jefferies, Mrs. Mentzer, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Thresher, and Mrs. Hollis Bybee.*



## Mentone Tabernacle

Mentone's Tabernacle was located where Teel's Restaurant is now. Each town was proud to have a tabernacle as it was a sign revival meetings had been held and at least some citizens had reformed.

Tabernacles became popular as the fame of Evangelist Billy Sunday grew. Sunday had one built in each town before he held a crusade. They were built by specific plans as Sunday was extremely safety conscious. He insisted each board in the walls at the ends of the rows of seats, be fastened with only two nails, allowing for easy exit in case of fire. He did not like



competition from crying babies, so most tabernacles had nurseries. A raised stage at the end, stretched the width of the building. Sawdust cushioned the floors and reduced noise.

## Harrison Center

Harrison Center United Brethren Church was organized in 1875, and in the same year its members erected the present house of worship, a 36 x 46 foot building costing \$1,500.

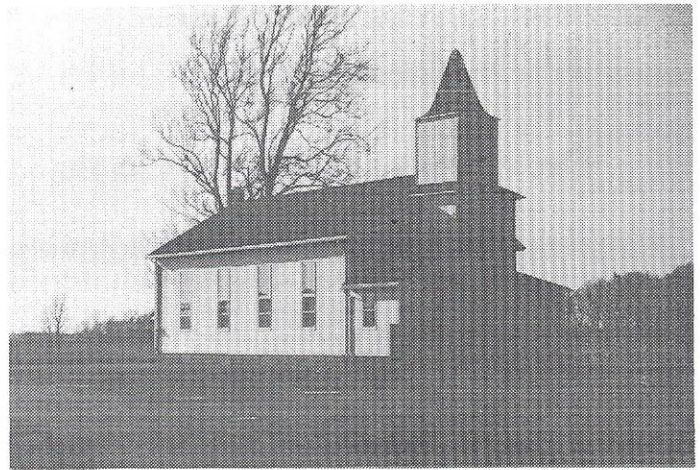
Before the church was built, meetings were held in a

dwelling north of the Kyle Gibson residence. The land in Section 13 was purchased from George and Sarah Fesler, and in 1878, it was deeded to the church trustees who were: Charles Teegarden, George Brant, Phillip Snyder, Thomas Shoup, and J.C. Sensibaugh.

In 1920, the basement was dug and a furnace installed. The building was remodeled in 1946, and restrooms were added.

Henry Snep was the first pastor, with George Brant as Class Leader and C.K. Sensibaugh as Steward.

The following is a list of those who have served as pastors: J.A. Parker, J.T. Kesey, W.H. Rittenhouse, J.M. Martin, C.J. Miner, J.A. Farmer, Noah McCoy, W.H. Rittenhouse, J.A. Keck, E.A. Goodman, D.E. Young, R.A. Stump, D.F. Highly, L.F. Sharp, L.G. Bears, J.R. Champlin, H.E. Swihart, Leo R. Erny, Stacy F. Shaw, E.M. Cornelius, R.D. Smith, J.P. Slaughter, Herbert LePage, John Schroeder, Fred Pflugh, Charles Fife, Howard Steele, Ruben Siemens, Luke Miller, Richard Austin, Jergen Schonwetter, Russel Mikels, Robert Wyman, and Herbert Edwards.



Nationally, the United Brethren and Methodist combined to form the United Methodist Church

The Harrison Center Church was closed February 2, 1975, and the building was purchased by Wooden Cemetery, Inc. The church re-opened November 23, 1975 as an independent fundamental Christian church.

Recent pastors have been Robert Provost, Robert Gray and James Bauman. Harrison Center Church has seventy-five members. They help support six Foreign missionaries, have helped meet several local needs, and set a new attendance record of 173 on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1981.

The first white person to die in Harrison Township was a child of Andrew Sell. The land that he donated for a cemetery is often referred to as the Harrison Center Cemetery because it is near the church, but it was incorporated in 1907 as the Wooden Cemetery.





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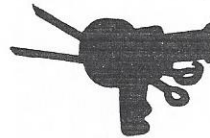
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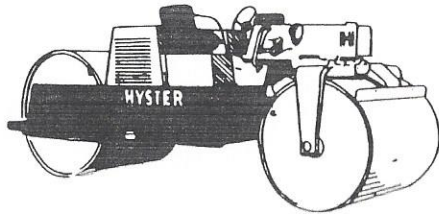
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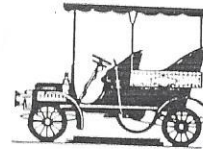


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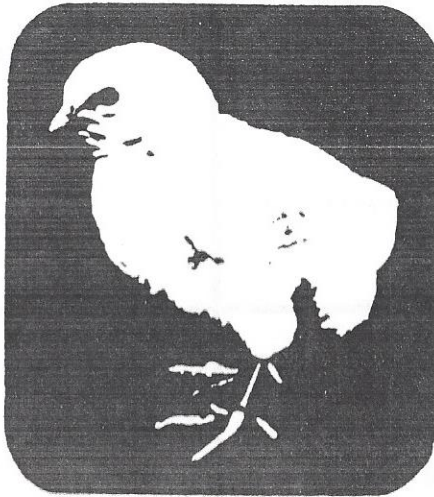


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# Schools



When the early settlers started coming to this territory, there were lots of trees and no sawmills. After several families settled in a vicinity they would get together and build a school house.

Lots of the early school houses were 16 feet by 18 feet. They were built with logs. For a window, they would cut out a section of log and leave it open or put a piece of greased paper over it. Others would not have any windows. Candles were used for extra light. The door was large and strong to protect the children from wolves and other wild animals, also Indian raids. The floors were made of split logs with the flat side smoothed with an ax or adze. Some of the school houses would have dirt floors. The benches were made of split logs smoothed on the flat side. Then two holes were drilled on each end of the rounded side to fasten the legs in. The benches were generally lined along the outside wall. The fireplace was generally in one corner for heat. They would put on a clapboard roof without nails and fasten it down with ridge poles. Sometimes an abandoned log house was used for a school.

A lot of these school houses were put up in a days time. After they were up the men would get together and decide who they would get to teach school. Possibly one of the best qualified fellows would teach until a regular teacher was hired. Men were the most desirable teachers in this period of time. Some of the older pupils were large and husky, needing a man teacher to control them. The parents in the school district paid all of the school expenses. If the teacher lived a long distance from school, he would board at one or more of the students homes. This would help pay his salary. Some of the pupils walked two or three miles to school.

The McGuffey Speller was the most common spelling book. It served as a spelling, reading and language book. Also writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography and history were taught.

They had their special school events, too. Their singing groups were well attended. A teacher who could sing would lead the group that was made up of pupils from different schools.

Also there were spelling contests. They would have candles for lights since they were held in the evening. There were school members and parents there to cheer their contestants on. The spelling bees had the excitement of the present day football or basketball games.

At this period of time a lot of the creeks did not have bridges over them. An old story tells of spellers from Harrison and Wayne Townships getting together one evening north of Warsaw. A group on one wagon came to a ditch north of Warsaw that they could not cross with their team because of high water. The spelling bee meant so much to them, the men got out of the wagon, put the boys that were going to do the spelling on their

shoulders and carried them through the water to the opposite side of the ditch. They made it to the spelling contest. It was after 4:00 a.m. the next morning before it was over. If any school refused to join a contest when asked, they were really considered poor sports.

In 1886, a Normal School was established in Mentone. The following articles from the Mentone Gazette illustrate the school's progress:

June 19, 1886 — Normal School

The matter of establishing a normal school at this place has been talked of by the teachers and citizens for some time. After thorough consideration of the advantages possible, the scheme appears quite practical. Mentone is a progressive growing town, easy of access, located in a splendid tract of county, and made up largely of an intelligent class of people who are liberal-handed and large-hearted toward educational works, fully able to anticipate and appreciate the good results of an enterprise of such a nature. The initatory term of ten weeks will open July 9, 1886, under the superintendence of Professor Boggess and Sellers, excellent teachers, whose past work fore-shadows success in the present undertaking. The plan of the school, in the instruction, boarding of students and general management, will be similar to the Valparaiso Normal methods. Located as Mentone is, near the junction of three counties, the name Tri-County Normal will be applicable. Special invitations will be extended to teachers and students in Kosciusko, Marshall and Fulton Counties and a very large attendance is anticipated for the opening term. A prospectus giving fuller particulars, advantages offered, etc., can be had by applying to teachers. The Gazette, on behalf of the people of Mentone, extend a welcome to all who feel disposed to accept the courtesy of the town by coming as students to our midst.

July 31, 1886 — Normal Notes

The normal is progressing nicely and the attendance still increases. The present number is 78, the largest in the county by a significant majority.

August 21, 1886 — Normal Notes

The normal enrollment is 82! . . .

## District Schools

In 1879, there was reported 13 schools in Harrison Township with a total of 657 pupils. School district had been marked off so pupils did not have to walk far to school and with numerous sawmills in the area, the buildings were being made of sawed lumber.

The first school house on record in Harrison Township was built in 1838, with Henry Bradley the first teacher. The school was located on section 29, which joined Palestine on the northwest corner.

Charles Hudson taught there during the school year

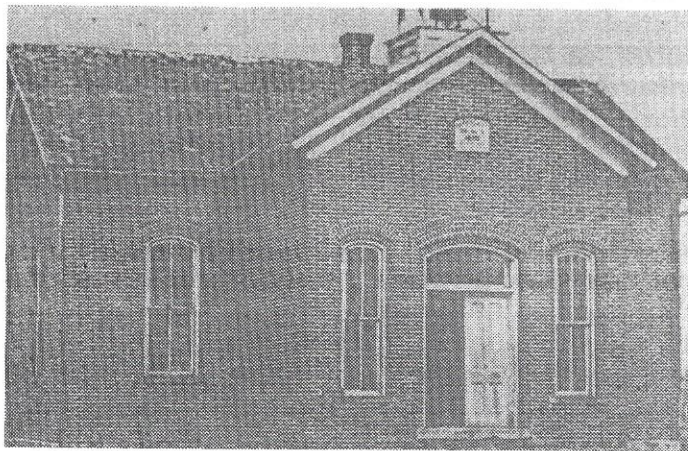


of 1910-1911. Mable (Hudson) Rickel taught her first year there in 1914. Also teaching there was Orvel Wilson, the father of Merle Wilson.

The Loehr School Number 7 was located about 1½ miles east of Palestine, on the southeast corner of the Loehr farm, next to the Sam Boggs farm. Lawrence Bell's sister, Blanche, began her teaching at the Loehr School. Her teaching there lasted a short period of time because of sickness, which brought on her death. The Loehr School was used through the early 1900's. The children were then taken to the Huffer School by hack.

In later years, the school house was sold to Sam Boggs and he moved it to the west of his barn where it still stands with an addition on each side.

One fourth of a mile east of the Loehr School at the crossroads, School House Number 15 set on the Dr. Sarber farm. North of this school, two miles, on the northeast corner of the crossroad set the Cook School House, made of brick. North of the Palestine Christian Church one mile, then west about three-fourths mile on the north side of the road the Huffer School was located. Two miles west of the Palestine Mill was the Milbern School Number 9. At the present time, plans are underway to renovate this old school house. One-half mile south of Burket was School House Number 6. School House Number 13 was on the present sight of Mentone about 15 years before Mentone was actually founded.



*The Milbern School, District No. 9, Harrison Township is located at Shilling Road and County Road 775 West. It is the goal of many Mentone residents to restore this historic building.*

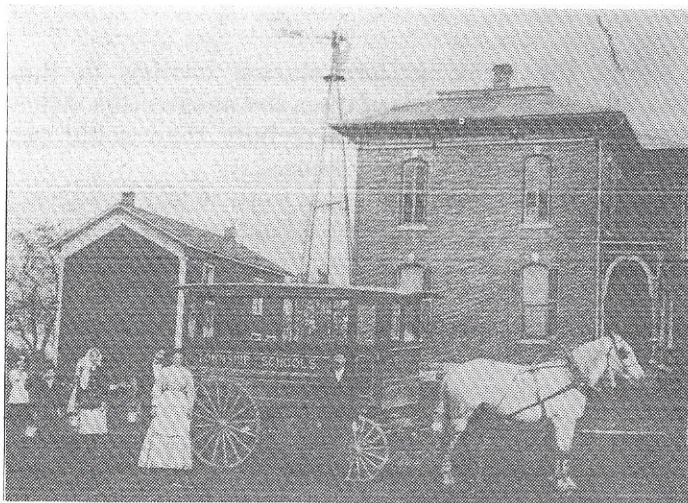
William Jefferson Blue was superintendent in the school year of 1910-1911. Township Teachers were Mae Lash, the teacher at Palestine School; Caurel Cook, Charles Christian, Laura Huffer, Chloe Fawley, Ora Beeson, Donnis Kelly, Orvell Wilson, and Chester Manwaring. There were about 25 pupils per school. Sometimes the number would increase to 50 pupils making it hard for one teacher to handle.

Then the consolidation of school started about 1900 under the leadership of Edison B. Sarber. It was about 1930, before most children of rural school were hauled into a central school.

The first school hacks were horse drawn. They were heated with charcoal in a unit under the hack floor, or

on one corner. Some, however, never had any heat.

A road building program started in the 1920's which made it easier for the school hacks. About 1925, the use of motorized school buses began.



*School hack, 1911 style. The picture of this 1911 Franklin Township school hack was taken at the William Nelson homestead in southern Franklin township. Driver of the hack was Edwin Hagans who daily drove the hack to the Beaver Dam school. Others shown in the picture include Anna Hagans, David Nelson Hagans and Lewis Hagans.*



*Milbern School pupils in 1909. Back row: Fred Latta, Cecil Cook, Jessie Zent, Clifford Eherenman, Eva Burket, Lena Zent, and Zelda Blue, teacher. Front row: Eddie Latta, Victor Cook, Harry Eherenman, Mary Bedleman, Edith Burket, unknown, and Gilbert Bidleman.*

## Mentone Schools

Up until 1883, the school building of the immediate vicinity was located at the corner of State Road 19 and State Road 25. In appearance the building resembled the rural district school house. Miss Dora Gochenour and Mary Uplinger were some of the last teachers of that school.

In the spring of 1883, since Mentone had increased in population, the old building was no longer large enough to accommodate the pupils. After some discussion, Mr. Rickel and Mr. Everly, the trustees, decided to build a larger building where the school house stood. The construction was soon begun and in the fall was



finished. It was a large frame building, heated by stoves and unlike our present buildings, it was surrounded on the north and east by woods and a rail fence.

Frank Cretcher, assisted by Miss Anne Melick, taught the first term in the new building. Following these were: O.A. Harding, Miss Effie Brindley, Mr. Boggess, Mr. Porter, Mr. Gunder, Mrs. Poffenberger and Mr. Sloan. The High School was first established by Mr. Gunder and more thoroughly organized by Sloan, the last teacher in the old frame building.

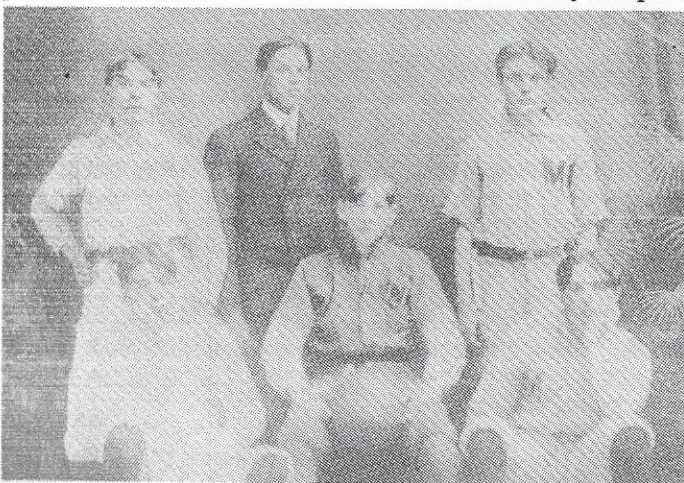
The history would not be complete if it did not mention one peculiarity of Mr. Sloan. He was not satisfied with the diligence of the teachers of the lower rooms, in observing the discipline of the school and consequently holes were bored in the doors of the different rooms. Through these holes, the gentleman often took a birdseye view of the rooms and many times the unruly youngsters were surprised by the appearance of the professor with a hickory paddle. You know what followed.

In 1893, the school building was built by the architect A. L. Kramer, under the supervision of the trustees, A.G. Wertenberger, L.P. Jefferies and C.F. Doane. It consisted of six rooms, well lighted, heated and ventilated. It also had all of the latest improvements for the comfort of the pupils.

The instructors of the school after its construction were: O.H. Bowman, Mrs. Beldon, Miss Esther Martin, W.I. Fish, Miss Mary Otis, Miss Leona Blue, O.E. Goshert, C.E. Hudson, I.A. Meredith, Miss Alice Jennings, Miss R.C. Cretcher and W.H. Davis, principal.

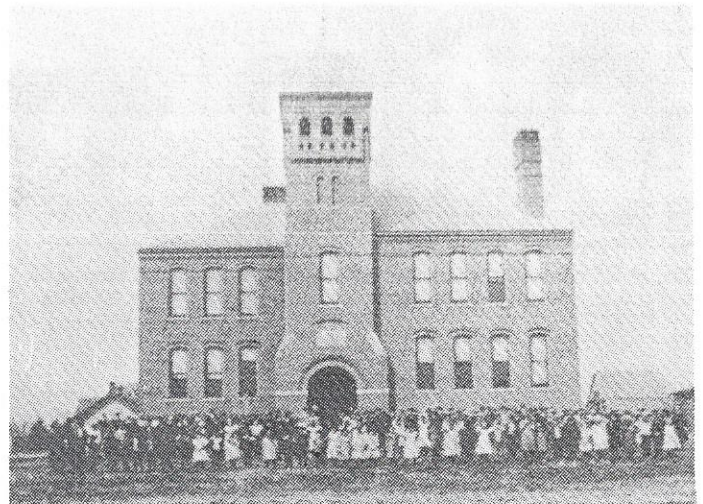
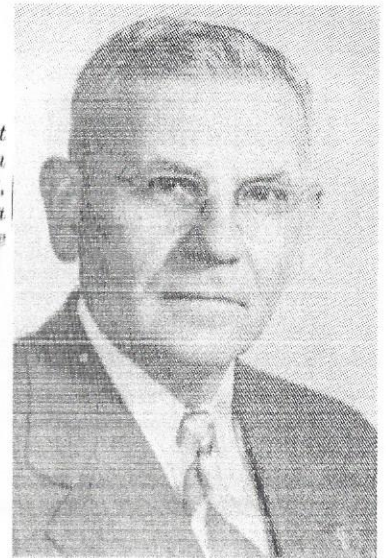
Other teachers in that early school were: Lindsey Blue, A.G. Wood, Frank Cretcher, Leah Blue, Miriam Boggess, George Ralston, Ike Meredith, Helen Blue Van Doran, Ethel Smith, Adeline Bogges, Edna Wolfe, Clara Warren, Mr. and Mrs. H.A. Thomas, Zelma Meredith Summe, Frances Carter and Dale Kelly.

The Mentone School was declared a 4-year high school in 1908. In those days school plays were presented in a theater where Berniece's Beauty Shop is.



Members of the Little Giants, Mentone's first basketball team are from left, back row: Mack Turner, Coach Clark Mollenhour and Homer Mentzer. Front row: Earl Baker, Herbert Bennett and Emmett Dunlap.

*Dale Kelley, who taught at Mentone High School from 1930 until retirement in 1958, was honored May 14, 1958, at a carry-in, supper by the community that loved him.*

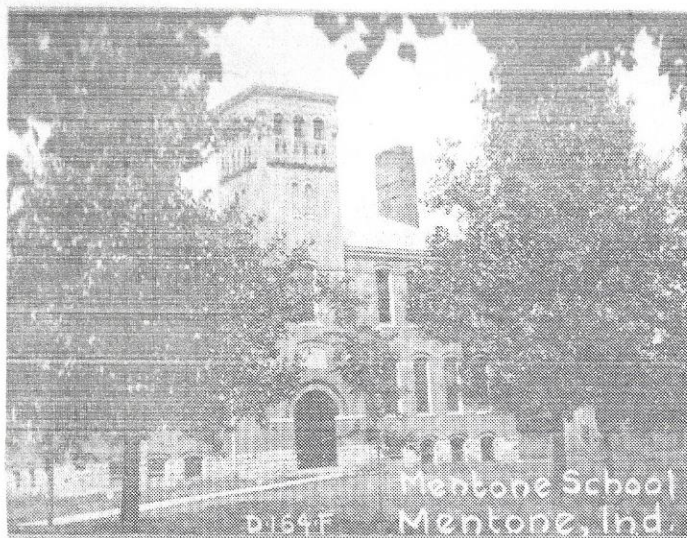


*Built in 1893, the Mentone School housed all 12 grades and was used until 1932 when the present building was built. The old building, which stood on the corner of Broadway and Harrison streets on the present site of Dr. Wymond Wilson's office, was destroyed by fire in 1944 or 1945.*



*Early area students (back row): Marvin Romine, Harly Mellott, Mary Decker, Beatrice McGowen, Maurice Paxton, Cecil D. Long, Everett Long, and teacher Mary Sanders Twait. (Second row): Carol Eiler, Edna Pittman Nellans, Elizabeth Welch, Esther Riggs Fenstermaker, Bethel Eiler, Ralph Long, Ruth Decker, Geraldine Webb Hudson. (First row): Hershel E. McGowen, Paul Long, Glenn Mellott, Evertt Mickel, Carol Ellis, Mable McGowen, Annabelle Long, Evelyn Mickel, Richard Eiler, and Marvinne Pittman.*

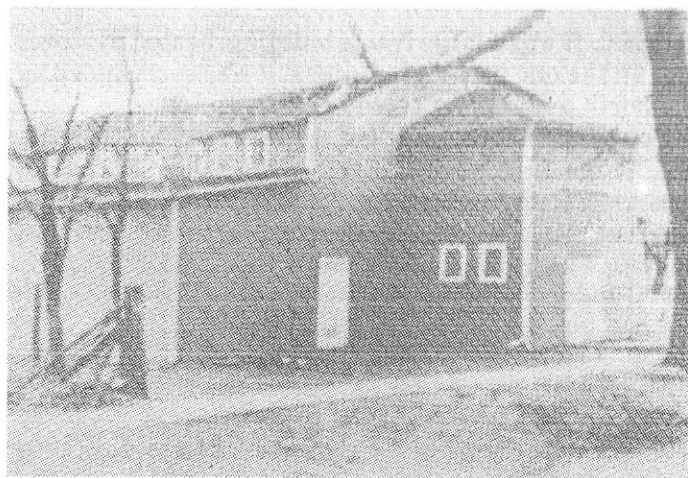




*Mentone High School girls' team, 1911: Back row from left: Eva Dille, Don Jenkins, Audry Turner, Irma Meredith. Second row: Velva Leavitt, Von Jenkins, Ruth Holland. Front row: Margurite Dunlap and Mae Bowman.*

In 1932, a new high school was built in the north east corner of Mentone. From 1926-1953, the all important high school basketball games were played in the Mentone Community Building. It was a wood frame building just west of the school, built on land donated by Mrs. Susan Forst. It was heated by a furnace located in one end of the building.

In 1937, the Mentone Bulldog colors were changed from black and orange to green and white.



*Many heated basketball games were played on the old Mentone Community Building floor between 1926-1953. The building was constructed in 1926 at a cost of \$5,000. It is said that part of the Old Mentone ball park fence was torn down and used in its construction. The building still stands today across from the old high school in Mentone. The above photo was taken in 1953, the last year the building was used as the Mentone Bulldogs home court.*

In 1953, a new gymnasium with a stage, band room and classrooms was added to the east end of the school. A well equipped machine shop, home economics room and science laboratory were just some of the modern features of this school house.



*1960's class at the present Mentone Elementary School. (Front row): Lowell Davis, Melvin Cooper, Jim Keirn, Chester Walters, Ray Bixler, Lloyd Bowerman, Steve Persons and Steve Olson. (2nd row): Cheryl Horn, Linda Barkman, Steve Shirey, Glenda Secrist, Patty Houck, Judy Wagner, Larry Beeson, Sheila Drudge. (3rd row): David Teel, Lyle Long, David Manns, Eddie Tridle, Joe Banghart, Bonnie Hudson, Martha Nelson, and teacher, Eula Smith. (4th row): Fred Mellott, Steve Mikel, Bill Nellans, Bonnie Warren, Larry Eiler, Marsha (Fisher) Scott. (5th row): David Cochran, Sandra Reed, Janet Rackewig, Nash Brailler, Larry Booth, and Eddie Creighton.*

During the 1960's, the State of Indiana put pressure on the existing high schools to consolidate. Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation was formed and Akron and Mentone High Schools absorbed the students from high schools that were closed. They were: Burket, Beaver

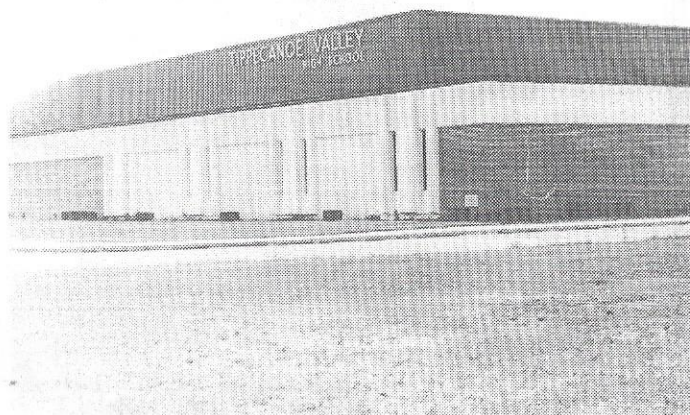


Dam, Talma and part of Atwood. After a long and bitter struggle by some citizens to retain Akron and Mentone High Schools, they were finally merged into one new building, Tippecanoe Valley High School, on Road 19 between Mentone and Akron in Franklin Township, Kosciusko County in January, 1975.

The new high school offers electronics, computer classes, building trades and many more sophisticated subjects. All sports are now available including swimming in the school pool, which is often open to area residents. Many evening adult education classes are also available.

The Mentone and Akron buildings still house elementary and junior high schools and an elementary school still operates in Burket.

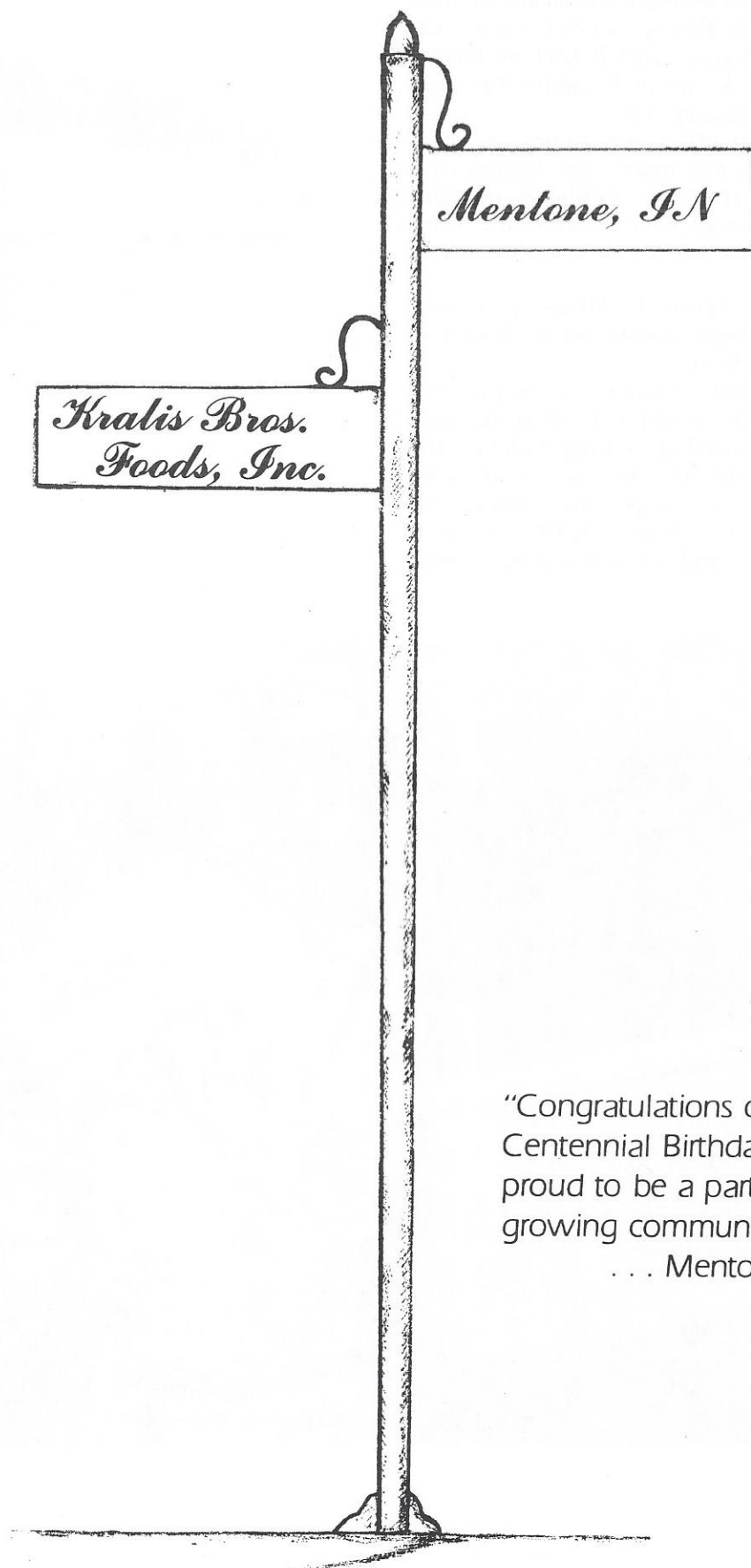
Tippecanoe Valley High School had a unique fan in George Black. He took so much interest in school activities and was so beloved by "Viking students", they presented to him a gold lifetime pass to all school activities. He had his own Tippecanoe Valley school sweater. When George died March 29, 1982, at age 78, his front row seat was retired, too. It will always remain empty in his honor.



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# Farming



## Poultry Business

Art and Chester Manwaring were the pioneers of the poultry business in the Mentone Community commencing around the turn of the century. Eggs being a good price around World War I attracted several other area men into the poultry business producing eggs for market.

Men such as Chester Manwaring, Forrest Kesler, Herschel Nellans, Ora Beeson, Masa Nelson, along with Hobart and Russel Creighton ran hatcheries to produce their own baby chicks and sold baby chicks to the other farmers in the Mentone and surrounding area.

It was not uncommon for large eggs to sell for 60¢ per dozen in the early fall and winter months in the 1930's. The egg producing business grew quite rapidly during these years with many people having 500 to 1000 laying hens or more. Elmer Sarber, Clarence Leininger, Clarence Eiler, Royse Tucker and many others contributed to help make Mentone "The Egg Basket of the Middle West".

As the best price for eggs was in the eastern markets, eggs were graded and packed in wooden egg cases and expressed by rail to Jewish egg buyers in New York City. The price being much above what the local stores could pay for eggs, and the abundant supply becoming available in the Mentone area, these same pioneers of the business got together and formed an Egg Shipping Association. They would have a refrigerated box car spotted on the rail siding on the Nickel Plate Railroad every Saturday and area producers would bring their eggs to be sent to New York. The freight was around 60¢ per case, and this method of pooling eggs enabled the producers of the Mentone area to take advantage of the best market available in these early years.

Following this, the need to promote this rapidly expanding egg business in the Mentone area was recognized by this group of pioneer poultry farmers. Thus, the Mentone Egg Show was organized commencing around 1935-36. Trophies and cash prizes were offered for the most uniform dozen of large eggs. There were several classes entered: 4-H Class; for producers with flocks under 1000 laying hens; a commercial class open to any producer; and from these displays, a grand champion dozen of eggs would be judged the winner. Judges were from the staff of the Poultry Department at Purdue University. Educational programs for the producers on various poultry situations were held with speakers from the Purdue Poultry Department. The Egg Show was usually a three-day affair with a banquet on the closing night, at which time the awards were presented to the winners, along with some outstanding entertainment and speakers. Several of our Indiana Governors came

and attended the banquet and were featured speakers. Among those who came were Governors Henry Schricker and M. Clifford Townsend. An Egg Show Queen was also a feature each year. The candidates were chosen from the high schools of the area. The New York egg buyers were always in attendance, making contact with the producers of the area. All in all, the Mentone Egg Show was quite an affair in Northern Indiana. Yes, the big egg on display in Mentone was part of the Mentone Egg Show promotion.

While we have only mentioned a few egg producers of the Mentone area, it must be remembered that almost every farm in the area had a chicken house that would house from 200 to 1000 laying hens. Many of these old poultry houses, while obsolete, are still standing in the community, having given over to the much larger commercial complexes. But it still places Mentone and Kosciusko County well up in egg production and Mentone is still known as the Egg Basket of the Middle West.

## Manwarings

In 1911, Artemus, who had seen "chicken ranches" in Colorado, started the White City Egg Farm and Hatchery, which is now Manwaring Leghorn Farms, Inc. He was later joined in the business by his son, Chester, who came into the business in 1932 after teaching for a while. Miles and Richard Manwaring came into the egg business after World War II.

Since the death of Miles in 1960 and Charles in 1974, the business is run by Richard and his nephews, Frank and James. The Manwaring Leghorn Farms, Inc. is located on land first owned by Elliot and Artemus Manwaring and is the oldest hatchery and egg farm in Indiana.

Leghorns are a breed of chicken especially valued for their egg production rather than for meat. In the 1940's, Manwarings were known nationally as Record of Performance breeders. These high performance records came about by using large Leghorn hens mated to sires from mothers that produced 300 eggs annually. Compared with hens of the 19th century which produced around 100 eggs annually, these Leghorns show the advances of modern day agriculture. Through years of research, they have developed a hybrid strain of birds known as Kimber Chicks.

Manwaring Leghorn Farms, Inc. hatches in excess of 4,000,000 baby chicks each year. Manwarings also share in the ownership of 2,000,000 laying hens and in the growing of replacements for those laying hens. The operation employs approximately 175 people.



## Kralis Brothers Foods

Kralis Brothers Poultry Company, Inc. was founded by Joseph, Dan, George and Louis Kralis in October, 1922. The purpose of this company was for wholesale marketing of live poultry and eggs in the local markets around Gary, Indiana. The company increased in wholesale distribution and many buying stations were established in northern Indiana.

During World War II, the company shipped eggs (still in the shell) to servicemen and refugees overseas and maintained chicken dressing operations in a time of scarcity and difficult buying conditions.

It was not until 1950 that Mentone entered the Kralis picture. In that year, land near Mentone was purchased for the purpose of establishing an eviscerating plant. By 1953, with a freezing facility, automatic icemaker and new evisceration building and equipment, Kralis Brothers began processing poultry under voluntary USDA inspection.

Within the next few years, processing plants were remodeled to comply with mandatory USDA standards or completely phased out. The general company offices were moved from Gary to Mentone in May, 1971.

At this time, Kralis Brothers Foods, Inc. operates two processing plants in Mentone and in Olney, Illinois. With remodeling of the Illinois plant in 1974, and the Mentone plant in 1979, Kralis Brothers Foods now operates two of the most modern and efficient poultry processing plants anywhere in the world. More than 90,000 birds are processed a day due to efficiency created by modern equipment and a 400 employee work force.

## M & R Egg Company

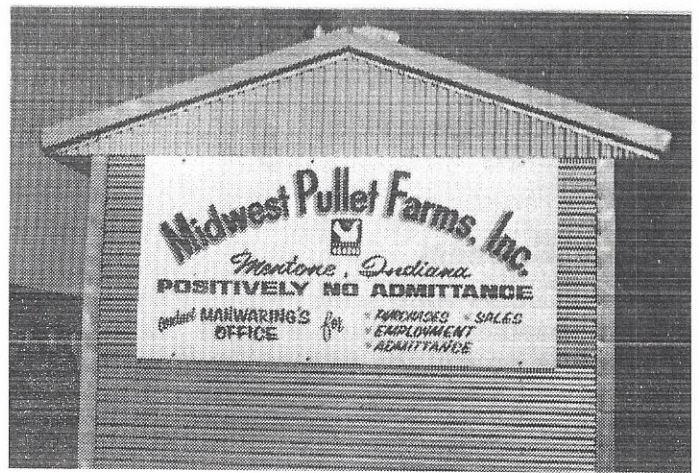
The M & R Egg Company, established in 1959, prepares canned liquid or frozen eggs for noodle makers, bakers, candy and pie companies. The processed and frozen eggs will keep indefinitely and must be government inspected. The eggs retain their shape when thawed and are packaged according to color of yolk and consistency because each user has different specifications.

## Tip-E-Pak

Tip-E-Pak, established in 1973 in Mentone, specializes in hard cooked eggs. In 1975, the business moved to Burket but still remains this community's most recent poultry-related industry. They are responsible for preparing over 10,000 pounds of cooked eggs a week.

Tip-E-Pak and N-K Associates have eliminated the middle man by establishing a complete chicken production operation. This operation can be described as a continual process from day-old chicks to growing facilities and caged layer houses. The firm also has control over the quality and quantity of the processed eggs.

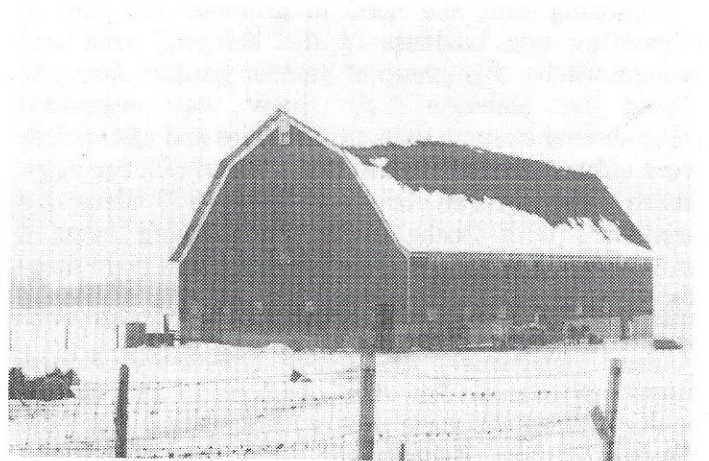
The eggs are cooked, chilled for 20 minutes and peeled before being packed in plastic buckets. A preservative is added which keeps them good for nine weeks when refrigerated. The eggs are shipped to distributors for resale to specialized markets.



*Midwest Pullet Farms, Inc., one of the largest complexes of pullet and laying hen houses in the area, is owned and operated by Manwarings.*



*Offices for Kralis Brothers Foods, located in Mentone, spearheads the total operation of one of the most modern and efficient poultry processing plants anywhere in the world.*



*Barn construction around the turn of the century placed emphasis on space in cubic feet for the storage of hay and straw. One example is the Yocum barn on County Road 1150W which is currently owned by Nel Farms.*



## Veterinarians

The following is part of a letter written by Dr. O.L. McFadden.

Dr. Emra Anderson was the first veterinarian to locate in Mentone. He started around 1900. He was a graduate of McKillips Veterinary College in Chicago, Illinois. He was born and raised on a farm south and west of Mentone.

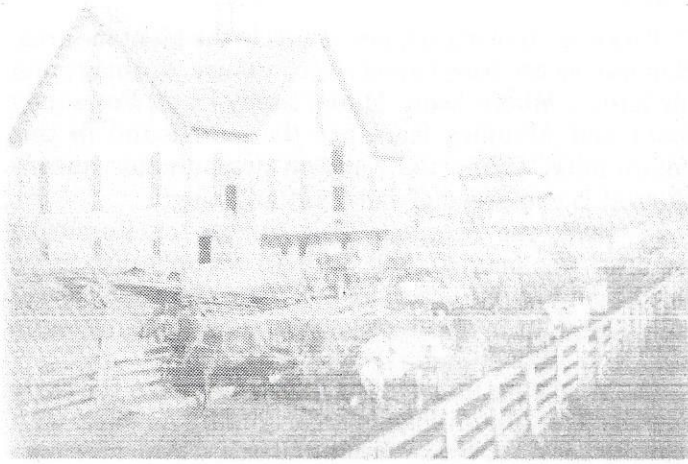
In the early years only horses were considered worthy of a call for a "vet". If a cow or hog was unlucky enough to be sick at this time, it was brought to the attention of the attending veterinarian.

Many calls were for colic in the horse. The horse suffers severe pain with this condition and will lie down, roll and kick. This was the alarm that the owner would hear at night. A call would be sent out, either by telephone if he were one of the more progressive farmers or by directly hitching a horse to a carriage and driving to town.

I came to Mentone in 1951. We established a partnership practice consisting mostly of the large animals. Horses were not at all numerous — only a few race horses and those owned by older farmers who refused to part with their horses. Cows, hogs and chickens were the big thing then. Dr. Anderson and I worked together until his death in 1961.

At the time that I came to work with Dr. Anderson, he was 71 years old with a bad case of emphysema. This condition caused him to be short of breath along with intensive coughing spells. Horse owners at this time considered him an authority on horses, and since I was a recent graduate of Michigan State College with little experience with this animal, they would insist that he accompany me on the calls.

The farmer would call him, he would call me, and in the dead of night off we would go to render our services. One particular night we were called to a farm near Bourbon. We had treated a big mare for colic earlier in the day. She had seemed to respond, resting comfortably when we left. About midnight Dr. Anderson called and asked me to go with him to see the mare since the owner had called in a panic indicating that the horse was much worse. We arrived at the farm and found the owner and his wife standing in the box stall watching the mare. All were in a depressed mood. A huge mass of watery material running from the horse's ear to the jaw made an even more unlikely situation. We examined this unsightly mess and found it was the medication we had left earlier to give as a drench by mouth. Dr. Anderson turned to the owner and asked how in the world the medicine could come out of the ear when it was put in the mouth. The farmer said that he could not get the horse to swallow, and since the ear looked as if it would go to the same place, he had poured all that he could into the one ear. Dr. Anderson coughed and coughed until he had to sit down and then began to laugh. Finally the farmer was given instructions on the anatomy of the head and ear. We left him more medication. Returning home we contemplated other developments on this case.



*In 1886, John C. Smith had materials on hand for the construction of a large bank barn. The barn, located on County Road 600S, was more recently owned by Art Golden. This is one of the older barns remaining in the community.*



*In the 1980's, many local farm operations are based upon pork production. Some are complete farrow to finish operations while others specialize in only one aspect of the business.*



*Morgan Smith is showing a team of horses owned by Gus Mollenhour at the Warsaw Fair in the 1930's. Mollenhour also showed horses at the Mentone Fair in the same decade.*

*(Newspaper item) January 27, 1937 — Dr. E.D. Anderson was elected head of Indiana Veterinary Medical Association at the convention in Indianapolis.*



## Horses

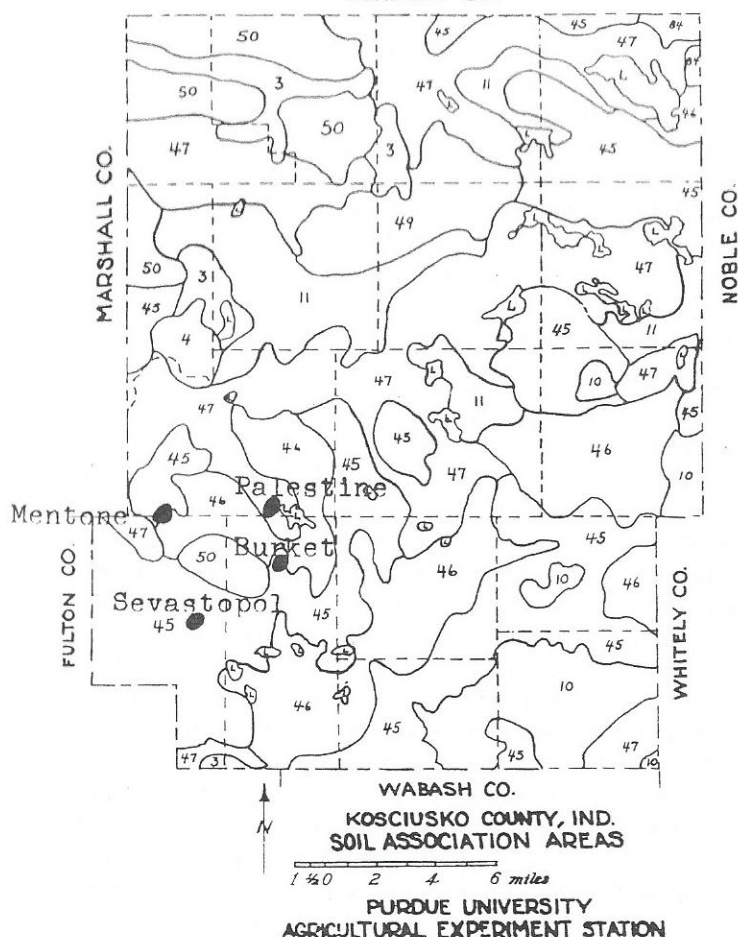
In a recent conversation (Fall of 1981) with George Black, he recalled the important draft horse business operated by his father and grandfather. They were two of the local men who imported Percheron-Norman horses from France. Norman draft horses are large black animals, often with a blaze.

At the 1918 State Fair, Blacks showed the champion and reserve champion sires. Sultan, the reserve champion, was a son of the champion. Seventeen mares were shipped to Kansas in a boxcar and sold for \$500 each. The price of a stallion was \$3000.

Before the tractor revolution, horses were the mainstay of the farm and farmers were nearly self-sufficient in that they raised a variety of crops and animals. An important crop was oats for horse feed. Bran and oats were soaked in five gallon buckets and fed along with hay to horses.

## SOIL MAP

ELKHART CO.



- 47 Fox Sandy loam
- 45 & 50 Miami loam with Brookston loam  
Maumee loam along Yellow Creek
- 46 Miami Sandy loam

## Soils

There are five main types of soils in the Mentone area. Soil names are based upon color, texture, drainage and structure. Miami loam, Miami sandy loam, Fox sandy loam and Maumee loam are the ones found in this community. Loam, the common demoninator, means the soil is composed of sand, silt and clay.

In 1929, the original "Soil Survey of Kosciusko County" was printed. Soil Surveys not only give maps but also cropping practices and yields for each type of soil. The data in this booklet was actually collected in 1921 and 1922 or earlier.

The following information was taken from the early survey. The Miami loam was originally forested with walnut, hickory, sugar maple and oak. The price range per acre was \$125 to \$150 for rolling land and somewhat higher for smoother land. Corn yields range from 30 to 50 bushels per acre.

The Miami loam contains patches of Brookston loam. The Brookston loam requires artificial drainage for cultivated crops. Elm, ash, white and post oak are the trees common to this soil.

Fox sandy loam has rarely any hardpan development and winter wheat does well because there is little injury from heaving. The cost per acre was \$100 and the land requires drainage. Corn yields 25 to 40 bushels per acre, oats 25 to 50 bushels and wheat 20 to 25 bushels.

The rolling areas of the Miami sandy loam were devoted to pasture or timber. The tree species in this area were walnut, hickory, poplar and elm. Corn yielded 35 to 50 bushels and an acre price was \$125 to \$175.

Within the last several years, methods of farming have changed drastically but the soil types have not. Today, what with improved seed genetics, increased fertilizer and pesticide usage, the crop yields and land costs are quite high. An acre of land costs around \$2000 and the average Indiana corn yield per acre is 120 bushels. Soybeans, rarely mentioned sixty years ago, are now ranked second in production and wheat is third.

## Threshing Machines

Fifty or sixty years ago, threshing machines were an important part of the summer farm scene. A threshing machine was a steam engine with a separator, a huller or a shredder depending on the grain being harvested.

One steam engineer in the Mentone area was Granville Horn, who lived on Birch Road in Marshall County where Kenneth Horn lives now. Granville Horn worked for farmers within a couple of miles of his house.

The season lasted six or eight weeks. Wheat, rye and perhaps a little barley were first, followed by oats. Later, clover was hulled, and in late fall corn was shredded.

Although the threshing equipment was moved from farm to farm, it was necessary to haul the grain to the threshing place, and since ripe grain shatters during handling, harvest work started a week or two earlier than combining does now.



Granville Horn's son, Howard, remembers starting once on the Fourth of July, which was especially early, because the grain had to be cut and shocked before that time. First a horse- or tractor-drawn binder cut and tied the grain into bundles which were piled together to form shocks. Clover was cut and raked more like hay.

Granville Horn's first steam engine was a Case. Later, he had a Keck-Gonnerman which had approximately twenty horsepower. Usually three men were needed to operate the actual threshing equipment. Granville usually ran the separator, another man ran the engine and the third hauled water.

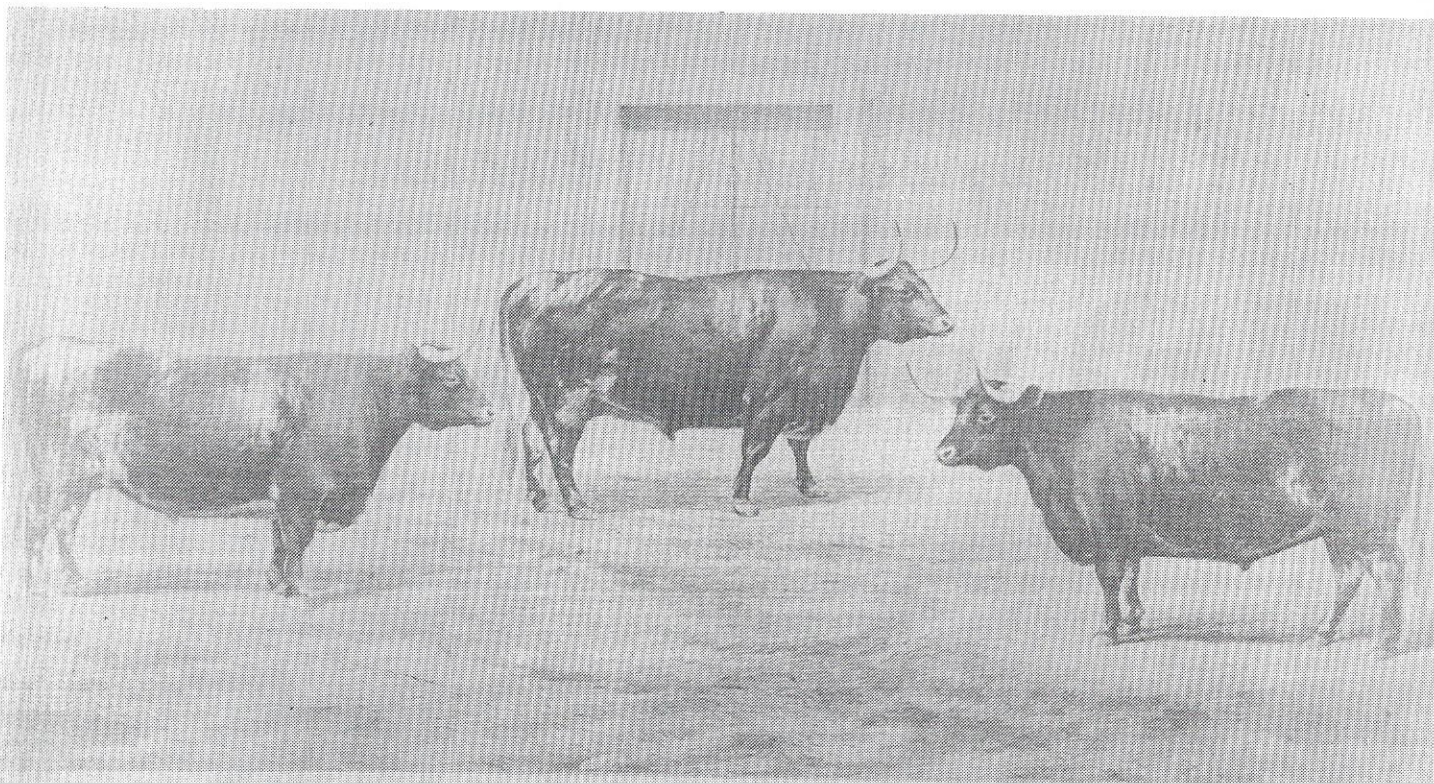
Each farmer needed five or six men with teams and wagons to haul the bundles from the field to the thresher and two or three more men in the field to pitch the bundles onto the wagons. A threshing ring was formed and a captain was selected to assign the tasks. The ring consisted of twelve to fifteen men. A child was given the task of "water boy". The team drivers were responsible for feeding and watering their horses before they could sit down and enjoy the noon meal.

When it came to food, the women tried to outdo their neighbors. Three or four women helped the hostess prepare and cook great quantities of food. The menu might include fried chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, beef and noodles, green beans, salads, homemade bread, butter and apple butter, and an assortment of pies and cakes.



*In the fall, threshing crews would often harvest clover seed. This picture, from the Hazel Linn collection, shows one of the early steam engines and crew.*

*Triplet steers bred and raised by Horace Tucker, Kosciusko County, Indiana. Calved February 4, 1888. Weight over 9000 pounds. Exhibited at Philadelphia.*



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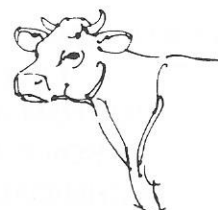
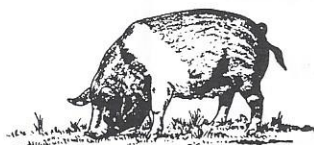
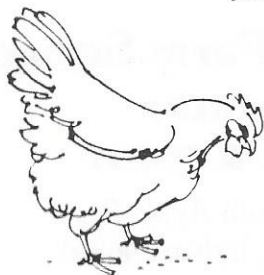
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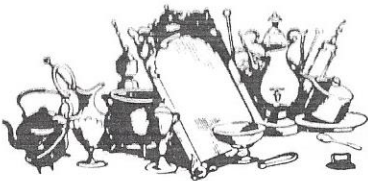
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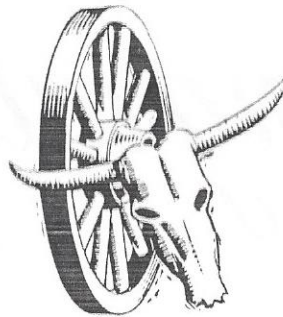


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# Genealogy

## Family History

With the passing of time, the Mentone community has acquired a heritage that has been passed down from generation to generation. Many of the people of the Mentone area are descendants of the first pioneers. With this in mind, the following are a few of the families that have traced their ancestors to those first brave early settlers.

There is additional information about some of these families at the Bell Memorial Library, 306 North Broadway. Researchers are encouraged to look there. If it is necessary to write the library, allow money for photocopies, and send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Library, Box 368, Mentone, Indiana 46539.

In some families, the children of an early generation are numbered and some of them are underlined. When the underlined name and number is used later in the section, there is more information about this person. Underlining without numbering is used for the next generation, or for smaller families.

### ALDEN-LAIRD Family

Two descendants of John and Priscilla ALDEN came from Massachusetts to northern Indiana, and some of their descendants are still in the Mentone area.

Catherine ALDEN (1821-1908) married Dr. A.M. TOWL of Sevastopol.

Mary Jane ALDEN married John M. LAIRD (1831-1910), eldest son of Robert M. and Elizabeth (BRADDOCK) LAIRD, and they were parents of ten children: Charles D., Hollis, Franklin, Herbert, Laura, Alfred, Allen, Minnie, John who married Eva VERNETTE, and Bessie. Several of these children were teachers.

Franklin W. LAIRD (1858-1931) married Nancy TAYLOR, and they were parents of Dr. Leslie A., Lilly Mae, Maggie who married Walter CLEM, Tessie who first married a Mr. Newton, Bertha who married Elmer E. MEREDITH, and Mary who married Claude BARKMAN (See BARKMAN Family).

### ANDERECK Family

ANDERECK is also spelled ANDERICK, ANDRECK and ANDRICK.

Lydia (ANDERECK) SARBER, who died April 18, 1899 was the ninth child of Jacob (1771-1819) and Catharine (SMITH) ANDERECK. Both Lydia (See SARBER Family) and her brother, Daniel, moved from Ohio to Indiana with their spouses and children.

Daniel and Mary ANDERECK settled near Palestine. One list of their children has these names: Jacob, Benjamin, William, Oliver or Olivia, Irvin, Elizabeth, Isaac, Rebecca, and John.

### ANDERSON Family

Ira and Sarah (RICE) ANDERSON's family lived in the Bigfoot community of Newcastle Township, Fulton County. Their children were 1. Emra, 2. Loy, 3. Laverda, 4. Una, and 5. Ora. Later, Sarah ANDERSON married Franklin LONG (1856-1904) and had a son, Wilvin LONG.

1. Dr. Emra ANDERSON (1880-1961), a veterinarian, first married Lennie COPLEN, and they were parents of Ira, Mildred, Wendell, Kathleen, and Robert. Later he married Mrs. Tessie (LAIRD) NEWTON (See ALDEN Family).

3. Laverda married a cousin, and her name was still ANDERSON.

4. Una married an EATON.

5. Ora was the father of Bernice and Ernest.

### BARKMAN Family

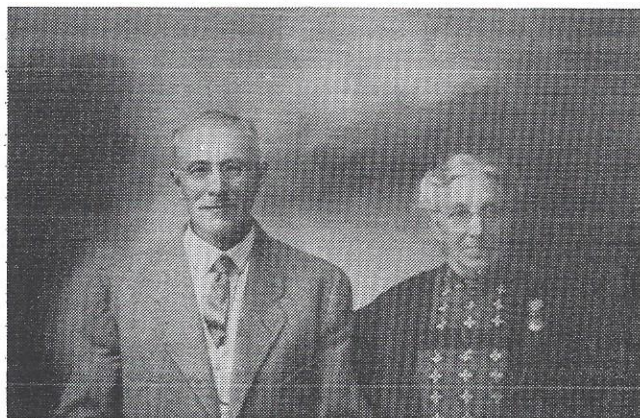
Kenneth BARKMAN's grandfather, George M. BARKMAN (1857-1940) was a small child when he and his parents, Isaac and Mary E. (HAMLETT) BARKMAN, moved to Indiana. Traditionally, Isaac and his brother or brothers came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

George M. BARKMAN married Sarah E. "Betty" COPLEN (1864-1916), daughter of Isaac H. and Sarah (SEVERNS) COPLEN. Their son, Claude, grew up in Fulton County and married Mary LAIRD (See ALDEN Family). They were parents of Walter (1912-1953) and Kenneth.

Kenneth BARKMAN and his first wife, Louise WILSON, were parents of four children: Sandra who married James IRWIN, George I., Judy who married Richard LONG, and Linda who married George Fred BRUNER.

### BLACK Family

John Riley BLACK and Lucinda BYBEE (See



*John Riley and Lucinda (Bybee) Black*



BYBEE Family), were married in 1864. He was the son of Henry and Rachel BLACK, and she was the daughter of Washington and Polly BYBEE (See BYBEE Family). The young couple established their home on the land where Tippecanoe Valley High School now stands.

John Riley was a general farmer and an astute businessman. The grove on the hill south of their home was the scene of many religious meetings in the summer. The camp meetings were attended by people from other states, so the BLACK home housed and fed many friends during these meetings. Pack peddlers also spent the night with the BLACKS as they made their routes through the country. Behind the house was an ice house where ice from the lakes was cut for making ice cream in the summer. Reunions, butchering, apple butter making, and hominy making brought neighbors and family to the BLACK home.

After Daisy, their last child at home, married Charles BORTON, John Riley and Lucinda left the farm to them and moved to the young town of Mentone. Their home was where the late Conda WALBURNS lived. They took "Old Doll", a favorite driving horse, with them. They had a barn on the back of their lot where "Old Doll" and the everyday buggy, and the Sunday buggy were housed. Once a week they spent a day in the country visiting with their children who lived close to the old home. This was a "fun day" for children and grandchildren alike.

To this union were born eight children: Willie who died as a small child, Allen, Joseph, Minnie, Readie, Charles, Nellie and Daisy. Allen married Margaret COOK, and they had six children. Joseph married Eva ERNSBERGER, and they had three daughters. Minnie married Omer IGO (See IGO Family), and they had twelve children. Readie married Lloyd RICKEL, and they had three children. Charles married Sarah RICKEL, and they had two sons. Nellie married Orven HEIGHWAY, and they had four children. Daisy and Charles BORTON had two children.

When this couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1914, John Riley paid the Mentone Methodist Church \$100 for one-hundred dinners for family and relatives that day. John Riley died in 1919 and Lucinda in 1933. They were laid to rest in Nichols Cemetery close to their old country home.

Of their thirty-two grandchildren, only ten are living, most of them not too far from Mentone. They are Louise CHINWORTH, Warsaw; Ruby ELLIS, Akron; Lillian ANGLIN, Clunette; Kathryn PLETCHER, Goshen; Robert HEIGHWAY, and Wanda SWICK of Akron; Edith HEIGHWAY, Rochester; Ethel HAAS, South Bend; Readie GAUNT, Arizona; and Isabelle CLIFFORD, Florida. George BLACK died in March, 1982.

### BLUE Family

Peter K. and Susan (KELCH) BLUE of Ohio were parents of eleven children, several of whom moved to Indiana. Among these were 1. John, 2. Abraham, 3.

Benjamin, 4. William, 5. Phillip, and 6. Alice who married William WILCOX.

2. Abraham BLUE (1786-1859) married Mrs. Nancy (YOUNG) LINDSEY (1803-1872). Her daughter, Hannah LINDSEY, married Rudolph HIRE. Abraham and Nancy BLUE were parents of Rhesa who married Martha CARMEAN, Peter A., Sarah, Margaret Jane, Elizabeth who married Nelson DORAN, and Susan who married Nathan BYBEE (See BYBEE Family).

Peter A. BLUE (1838-1915), son of Abraham, married Esther A. EILER (1842-1914). Among their children were Ella who married Willard TEEL (See TEEL Family), Emma who married Hollis BYBEE (See BYBEE Family), Nancy Jane who married Dr. JOHNSTON, Susan Inez who married George ALEXANDER, Orville who married Fluella TUCKER, Effie who married Charles HUFFER, Samuel Lindsey who married Orpha LEIGHNER, Pearl who married O. MERIDITH, Edith who married Orville ULERY, Dessie, and Eliza.

Jane BLUE married Regulus TUCKER, and Sarah married his brother, Albert (See TUCKER Family).

3. Benjamin (1802-1867) and Margaret (RILEY) BLUE moved to Kosciusko County in 1835 and entered land the following spring. It is said they were the first white people to locate permanently in Franklin Township. At first they lived in an Indian hut made of bark until they could build a typical log cabin with a huge fireplace, puncheon floor, and clapboard roof. Later part of their land became the town of Mentone.

Benjamin served in the state legislature.

Benjamin and Margaret had two children that died in infancy. William who married Temperance MEREDITH, Sarah who married John VAN TREESE, Peter B., and James H. who married Phoebe BLOOMER.

Peter B. BLUE (1829-1906), son of Benjamin, first married Minerva MILBERN and had a daughter Margaret Elizabeth who married a Mr. MOLLENHOUR. Later, Peter B. married Mrs. Elizabeth (JOHNSON) GRUBBS, and they were parents of John who married Pearl ROUCH, Etta, William F. Austin, Alonzo, Benjamin and James.

Etta BLUE married Edward HALTERMAN, and they were parents of Verl who married Snowden TEEL, Daisy ENYERT, and Opal who married Chauncey TUCKER (See TUCKER Family).

Austin BLUE married Netta SARBER, and they were parents of Delta who married A.O. MILLER and Vern who married Fern BIDELMAN.

Alonzo BLUE married Olive MOLLENHOUR, and they were parents of Alonzo and Charles. Alonzo married Susan DECKER, and they were parents of Jack BLUE and Norma NORTON. Charles married Emma SHOEMAKER and were parents of Mildred, who married Arlo FRIESNER, and William BLUE.

Benjamin BLUE married Amanda WHETSTONE, and they were parents of Estel, Melva, Zoa, Marie, Osie, and Ruth.



James BLUE married Ida BREWER, and they were parents of Peter, Lee, Philip (See WELCH Family), and Tommy. Peter married Mary BUSENBERG, parents of Royal, Donald and Phyllis Jeanette.

James H. (1830-1916) and Phoebe BLUE had ten children: Elijah Allen who married Emma SARBER, John who married Mary BORTON, Charles, Margaret Catherine who married Amasa WERTENBERGER, William Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin (b. 1866) who married Osie HAIMBAUGH, Marion Elmer, Rose E. who married Stephen A. BOGGESS, Anna (b. 1876) who was Mahlon MENTZER's second wife, and Minnie who was his first wife.

Mahlon and Minnie MENTZER were parents of Annabel, Rosalind, James and Margaret MENTZER.

William Jefferson and Anna R. (SARBER) BLUE were parents of Ralph W., Helen R., Zelda, Catherine and Tressa Fay (See BEESON Family).

Ralph W. BLUE married Bessie HOOK, and they were parents of Lewis, Merl, Boyd, Paul, Julia Ann, Adam and Glen.

Helen BLUE married Estel VAN DOREN and they were parents of Myron, Carol, Myra, Anna Esther, and Jane.

Zelda BLUE married Raymond LASH and they are parents of Philip, Eleanor CHAMBERLAIN, and Ruth ELLISON.

Catharine BLUE married Maurice DUNNUCK, son of Joseph Ed and Alice (WHEELER) DUNNUCK (See ancestors of Diane Marie COLEMAN), and they were parents of Kenneth, Forst B., Elaine who married Thomas FUGATE, and Marilyn Jean.

### BEESON Family

The Bartlett Yancy BEESON family moved to Kosciusko County in 1855, settling in Seward Township. In the spring of 1880, he moved to a farm in Harrison Township. Bartlett (1825-1903) was a native of North Carolina. His family left the south because of their hatred of slavery, they being Quakers. He married Lydia, daughter of Amos and Margaret SMITH who were also Quakers. Four of their ten children survived: Margaret J who married Absolom BURKETT, Melinda (See CREAKBAUM Family), Marquis D'LaFayette, and Isaac who lived in Nebraska.

Marquis D'LaFayette (1853-1931) was often referred to as "Lafe". He was also a farmer and married Martha A., daughter of John and Elizabeth ELLIS and they had three children: Nora, Opal, and Ora.

Opal (1894-1963) married Royse TUCKER, son of Lewis and Kathryn (HATFIELD) TUCKER. Royse was a Harrison Township trustee at the time of his death, and Opal served the remaining term of office for him. They were parents of four children: Robert of Argos, Joe of Etna Green, Mary Jane who married Robert J. HILL, and John who lost his life serving in World War II.

Nora (1883-1956) married Edward KIMES.

Ora E. BEESON (1894-1959) married Tressa Fay, daughter of Jeff and Anna (SARBER) BLUE. Ora

owned and operated the Beeson Egg Farm located north of Mentone. His two sons, Fred and James, assisted with the business.

### BOWSER and HATFIELD Family

John A. BOWSER and wife, Jeanette (HATFIELD), daughter of Martin and Elizabeth (VANATOR) HATFIELD were married in 1888 and settled one mile north of Palestine on their farm in 1890, where they raised seven children.

John was the son of Frederick and Ruhama (BOWEN) BOWSER. They lived east of Palestine. John's grandparents, Henry and Emily (HAMMOND) came and settled east of Palestine in 1852, coming from Ohio.

Jeanette's grandparents, Samuel and Arien, also came to and settled east of Palestine in 1847, coming from Elkhart County.

### Ancestors of Sandra BURDI

Many of these people lived in Marshall County, Indiana.

James and Jane (EMMONS) WARREN were parents of Jesse Edwin WARREN (died 1956) who married Zoa Belle MILLER, the daughter of Lewis F. and Minnie Belle (WHITEHEAD) MILLER of New Paris. Jessie Edwin and Zoa Belle (MILLER) WARREN were parents of Ralph WARREN (1906-1975), who was Sandra BURDI's maternal grandfather.

Richard D. and Addillaide (WILLARD) McGRUFF were the parents of Willard McGRUFF who married Willa Fern STEVENSON, the daughter of Charles Allen and Viola (FOX) STEVENSON. Willard and Willa Fern (STEVENSON) McGRUFF were the parents of Genevieve McGRUFF, who was Sandra BURDI's maternal grandmother.

Lott and Corean (HAGENBUSH) GROSSMAN were the parents of Leroy GROSSMAN who married Donna Belle WARREN, the daughter of Ralph and Genevieve (McGRUFF) WARREN. Sandra BURDI was the daughter of Leroy and Donna Belle (WARREN) Grossman.

### BYBEE Family

John BYBEE (1792-1867), a native of Fluvanna County, Virginia, and his wife, the former Catherine GREENE (1789-1867), moved to Ohio in 1838. After a short time in Ross and Fayette Counties, they moved to Indiana. They had fifteen children: 1. Washington, 2. Catherine, 3. Joseph, 4. John, 5. George, 6. Millie, 7. Pleasant, 8. Nathan, 9. Samuel, 10. James, 11. Marie, 12. Rebecca, 13. Wesley, 14. Mary, 15. William.

1. Washington (1809-1884) and Mary "Polly" (SHOBE) BYBEE (1812-1888) and four little children came to Franklin Township in 1842. Their old home still stands on Manwaring land one mile east of Mentone and a mile south. It is now used as a barn for feed storage.

Washington farmed and also traded. In later years he



bought and shipped livestock. His prominence and sound business abilities caused his fellow citizens to elect him to two terms as County Commissioner in the 1880's. During the time he served, the Court House at Warsaw was erected. He died during his second term, and his son Allen, served the unexpired portion of his term. Washington and Polly were parents of Jacob (b. 1835), Allen (1837-1914), Levi (1839-1863), Catherine, Mary (1843-1914), Lucinda (1846-1933) (See BLACK Family), and Reeda (1851-1914) (See LATIMER Family).



*Mary (Shobe) Bybee*

Jacob BYBEE married Anna H., the daughter of Jacob MAYER, in Palestine, Indiana. Later she married Stephen B. COOPER. Jacob and Anna (1833-1912) had four sons: Lyman Lee (1856-1946), Marion M., Benton B., and Wallace Ward (1860-1942). Wallace Ward married Mary Ellen Haimbaugh and moved to Michigan. One of their descendants, Lyman E. BYBEE, provided much information for this section.

Allen and Levi both fought in the Civil War. Their great-grandfather had owned slaves in Virginia, but freed them. The family felt that slavery was not right, so both boys enlisted, and Levi was killed at the battle of Chickamauga.

Allen married Nancy GRANT, and to this union was born five children: Hollis, Mary "Mollie" (See LATIMER Family), Cora (See MANWARING Family), Addison and one who died in infancy.

Hollis, born in 1859, married Emma BLUE (See BLUE Family), and to this union were born three children: Bessie who married T.J. CLUTTER, Verna, and Lee.

Addison married Bessie WERTENBERGER, and to this union was born one son, Sherman (1902-1982).

Mary, daughter of Washington and Mary BYBEE, married Joseph SMALLEY. Olive TUCKER (See TUCKER Family) is one of their descendants.

6. Millie BYBEE (1816-1888) married James TURNER (See TURNER Family).

8. Nathan (1820-1877) married Susan or Savannah BLUE (1829-1857) (See BLUE Family), and they were

parents of five children: Nancy who married J.M. DAVENPORT, Martha who first married Benjamin MONTGOMERY and second John KESSLER, Joseph BYBEE, Hannah who married John BRYANT, and Phoebe "Jane" who married Levi M. SHOEMAKER.

After Susan's death, 8. Nathan married Clarisa (TAYLOR) GOCHENOUR and they were parents of four children; Cynthia who married Ambrose EHERENMAN, Almeda who married Albert EHERENMAN, William Harvey who married Mary STOCKBERGER, and Levi who married Flora ELY (1867-1948).

### Ancestors of Diane Marie COLEMAN

Diane Marie COLEMAN's ancestor chart starts with John DUNNUCK (1773-1846). His son, Samuel (1798-1868), married Rebecca BELL (1799-1845). Their son, Isaac W. DUNNUCK (1831-1907) married Sarah Catherine (1834-1908), the daughter of Joseph (1807-1857) and Catherine (WOLFE) HANKINSON (1808-1855).

Isaac and Sarah Catherine DUNNUCK had a son, Joseph Eddie (1868-1959) who married Alice Elzada WHEELER (1881-1965), the daughter of Thomas Sanford Henry WHEELER (1849-1931) and Mary Susan REED (1854-1919). Thomas S. was the son of Sanford WHEELER (1808-1879) and Harriet E. PRATT (1826-1893). Mary Susan REED was the daughter of John N. (1823-1894) and Samantha (NUTTING) REED (1829-1909).

Joseph and Alice DUNNUCK were parents of Helen Marie who married Luther T. COLEMAN (1904-1964).

Luther T. COLEMAN's paternal grandmother was Nancy GOTHARD, and his father was Larkin Thomas COLEMAN (1867-1928) who married Ida Jane NEWMAN (1873-1951), the daughter of Calvin and Sara Ann (GROSS) NEWMAN (1836-1928).

On Diane COLEMAN's maternal side, Oliver Henry (1835-1919) and Sally (BASSETT) PERRY (1848-1934) were parents of George Bassett PERRY (1873-1944) who married Nellie I. LEEDY (1875-1943), the daughter of Jacob (1853-1917) and Dorcas (RALSTON) LEEDY.

George and Nellie PERRY were parents of Ford Oliver PERRY, who married Harriet Lucille SEARER (1905-1966), the daughter of Abraham (1863-1936) and Martha Mattie RARICK (1863-1955).

Martha RARICK was the daughter of John H. and Esther (KREITZER) RARICK (1825-1897). Abraham SEARER was the son of John and Susan (WENTZ) SEARER.

Diane Marie COLEMAN's father is Donald Edward COLEMAN, the son of Luther T. and Helen Marie (DUNNUCK) COLEMAN, and her mother is Arlene Veryl, the daughter of Ford and Harriet PERRY.

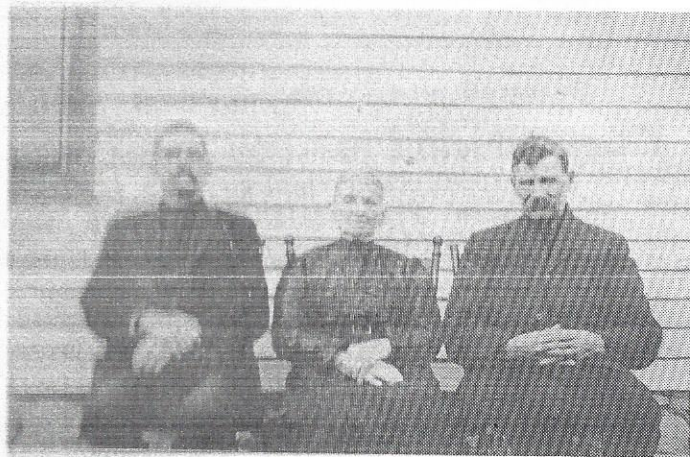
### CREIGHBAUM Family

KREIGHBAUM, KREECHBAUM, CREAKBAUM, KREAKBAUM, and CREIGHBAUM are five



was in spell the same name, Daniel CREAKBAUM was born in Ross County, Ohio in 1808. Later he settled in Franklin Township, Kosciusko County, about two miles south of Nevastopol. He and his wife, the former Elizabeth PYLE (1811-1882), were parents of thirteen children: 1. William, 2. Nancy BOWERS, 3. Peggy MILLER, 4. George Washington, 5. Marie SNYDER, 6. John, 7. Rebecca MOORE, 8. Louise SAGER, 9. Elizabeth KUHN, 10. Zelda BEESON, 11. Merinda BYRNE, 12. Sarah SUGORT, and 13. Nathaniel.

A John CREIGHBAUM (1846-1929) married Susanna HIPSCHER (See HIPSCHER Family). Among their twelve children were Oliva Elmeda (1872-1940) who married Silas PAXTON (See PAXTON Family), Charles, William, Floyd John, James Russel, Ethel who married Elza MOLLENHOUR, Roy Encil,



*George, Susanna (Hipscher) and John Creighbaum*

Pearl, Harry, and Chester who married Ola MARTIN was a barber in the Tippecanoe and Mentone area.

#### **EATON Family**

Calah EATON, who was born in 1819 in Maryland of English descent, married Martha HARTUP. They settled near Beaver Dam in 1846 and were parents of thirteen children: Henry, Levi who wed Sarah LEWIS, William who fought in the Civil War, James who wed Lucinda WILTROUT, Oliver who wed Rozella WALTERS, Thomas who wed Sara Catharine BOWMAN, Isaac who wed Mary CREIGHBAUM, John, Martha, Alonzo who wed first Lydia SANDERS and second Clara BUTLER, Elizabeth, Louis who wed Emma MORRISON, and Sarah.

Henry C. EATON (b. 1841) wed Susannah GARVIN in 1860. They lived in Harrison Township and were parents of William Wesley, Levi A. who wed Lillie FINNEY, Clarinda, and Noah C. who wed Mary SMITH.

William Wealey EATON (b. 1861) wed Amanda JACKSON after his first wife (See HAINES Family) died. They were parents of Noah Carver EATON who wed Ethel F. SILVEUS.

#### **ELLSWORTH Family**

John ELLSWORTH (1849-1925), son of Moses and

Martha ELLSWORTH, was born in New York and married Mary Magdaline Elizabeth (CLAYTON) BURNS. This Mrs. BURNS and her first husband were parents of three children: Eva (BURNS) ELLIS, Alice (BURNS) GARRISON, and William BURNS.

John and Mary (1841-1931) ELLSWORTH were parents of two children, 1. Lot Davis, and 2. Blanch (ELLSWORTH) McCLONE.

1. Lot Davis "Dave" ELLSWORTH (1876-1950) married Sarah Ellen "Sadie" JOHNSON (1884-1981). She was the daughter of Edward Toppin (1848-1932) and Alvira (1846-1910) (CARPENTER) JOHNSON. Dave and Sadie ELLSWORTH were parents of six children: Marie (ELLSWORTH) WORKMAN, Mary (ELLSWORTH) SARBER, John, Alice (ELLSWORTH) (SECRIST) SCOTT, Betty (ELLSWORTH) FLORY, and Leota (ELLSWORTH) (SCHORI) CSENAR.

#### **FAWLEY Family**

Jack D. FAWLEY, son of Milo Jacob (1898-1968) and Mildred (DUNUCK) FAWLEY (1903-1956) married Betty Lou WALTZ, daughter of John Henry and Hazel (CLAY) WALTZ. They were parents of three children, Jack Steven, Lucinda Ann "Cindy", and Carol Lee who married Wayne HINTZ.

Cindy FAWLEY married Mike Lynn WHETSTONE, son of Carl and Faye (SARBER) WHETSTONE (See Sarber Family), and they are parents of Scott Michael and Carrie Ann.

#### **HAINES Family**

Joseph HAINES, born in Muskingum County, Ohio, in 1828, married Isabella GLADMEN. Among their children were the following: Robert who married first Alice WIRICK and second Margaret JUSTICE, Joseph who wed Clara GARVIN, Nancy Jane who wed George GOCHENOUR, John who wed Ida COX, Franklin, Amanda, Mary who wed William COOK, Isabella who wed Isaac COX, and Susan.

Amanda (b. 1868) married William W. EATON (See EATON Family), and they were parents of Mary O. and an infant son. Mary O. (b. 1891) married Jacob L. SMITH in 1910, and they were parents of Anna WILLIAMSON of Burket, Wesley of Peru, and Jacob L.

#### **Ancestors of Brett HARMON**

Brett HARMON, and his sister, Cheryl, have a long list of ancestors who were pioneers in northern Indiana. Most or all of the great-grandparents of their maternal grandfather, Hobart PAXTON, settled in Kosciusko County.

Many of the ancestors of Brett and Cheryl's maternal grandmother, Lois (SHUMAKER) PAXTON, lived in northern Marshall County. Lois was the daughter of Victor Ivan SHUMAKER, and the granddaughter of Elijah (1848-1933) and Elizabeth Margaret (SMITH) SHUMAKER (1855-1921). Elijah's ancestors were SCHUMACKERS from Germany. Lois' mother was Alice Ethelyn (WHITEMAN) SHUMAKER, the daughter of Dorsey Dee (1877-1944) and Celesta Estella



Mae (HODGES) WHITEMAN (1881-1972). Dorsey Dee was the son of Marcus DeLafayette (1839-1911) and Druscilla (PENROD) WHITEMAN (1853-1931). Celesta was the daughter of Joseph Seymour (1844-1923) and Elizabeth (HELTZEL) HODGES (1845-1938).



*Lois (Shumaker) Paxton with family.*

### **HARSH Family**

Descendants of John K. (1818-1875) and Eliza (TEETER) HARSH (1823-1904) are a familiar part of the Mentone scene. This couple moved from Ohio to Franklin Township in 1856. Mr. HARSH died as a result of a fall while building his home which is now occupied by his great-granddaughter-in-law, Mrs. Harold (Edith) WALTERS. She and Steve own a portion of the original land.

The sills for the Sycamore Church, built in 1872, came from Mr. HARSH. For several years this has been used as a farm building.

John and Eliza were parents of 1. Sam, 2. Adam, 3. David, 4. Elizabeth, 5. Mary and 6. Nancy.

1. Sam HARSH married Adeline SHOUBE and they were ancestors of Sam NORRIS, William WALTERS and Floyd WALTERS.

3. David HARSH married Rachel WIDEMAN, and they were ancestors of Mrs. James (Lois) MILLER, Mrs. Emory (Iris) DAVIS, Dick BOGANWRIGHT, Harold SHAFFER, and Steve WALTERS. Formerly one daughter, Cleo (SCHOLL) OAKS, had a dress shop where Valley Furnishings is now located.

4. Elizabeth married Jacob HINKLE. Among their descendants are Mrs. Joe (Emma) MELLOTT, David and James ROMINE, Jack and Howard FAWLEY, Kenneth and Gerald ROMINE, Richard and Loren GROSS.

5. Mary married Dayton TOWNSEND. Carl ZOLMAN is their grandson.

6. Nancy married John SWICK, they were parents of Fred SWICK.

### **HIPSCHER Family**

There was a Daniel HIPSCHER who emigrated from Holland to Ohio. His son, also Daniel HIPSCHER, moved from Ohio to a farm near Palestine where he worked at his trade of blacksmithing. He married

Nancy VANDERMARK. Among their children were 1. Lydia, 2. Kate, 3. Samantha, 4. Suzanna (See CREIGHBAUM Family), and 5. Malinda.



*Suzanna (Hipscher) Creighbaum's children*

1. Lydia HIPSCHER (1846-1932) married Daniel SMITH (1848-1928). Their children were: Luversia Dell who married Frank MIKESELL, Eva who married Charles COPLEN, Omer, Ernest, Therman, Foy and Charles SMITH.

3. Samantha Ellen HIPSCHER (1842-1921) married William HICKMAN (1837-1913). Their sons were Edward and Alfred HICKMAN.

5. Malinda C. HIPSCHER married Andrew J. SMITH. Their children were Mary A. who married David ENGLE, Laverne, Frederick, Clement, and Eithel V. SMITH.

### **IGO Family**

Omer N. IGO (1866-1934) grew up in the West and came to Indiana as a young man. He married Minnie BLACK (See BLACK Family). Their children include the following: Icie, Joe, Fro (See TUCKER Family), Nellie, Othello, Ernest, Lewis, Virgil, Edgar, and Lillian.

Ernest IGO (1902-1960) married Lena TUCKER (See TUCKER Family), and they were parents of Miles D., Ned B., Shirley who married Wayne SMALLEY, and Barry.

### **KINTZEL - DILLINGHAM**

William L. KINTZEL (1829-1896), son of David and Mary KINTZEL, was born in Pennsylvania. He married Mary, daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth McNEIL. They moved to Indiana in 1865 and operated a meat market at Sevastopol for a short time. In 1882, they built the first residence in Mentone.

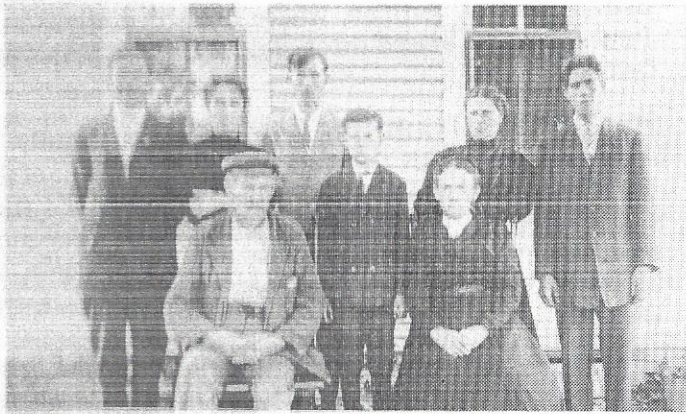
David and Mary were parents of five children: Charles, Emma, Ella and Clara KINTZEL.

Emma married David Dillingham. Among their children were: Ada, Mollie PRISER, Charles, Heston, Lee, Clara and Ray.

Ray DILLINGHAM (1889-1965) married Della (1889-1979), daughter of David and Anna HOLLOWAY. Their daughter, Georgiana, married first Elwin TEEL, and they were parents of Connie who



married Doug HANEY, Donita who married Steve HUBERT, and Ronnie. Later Georgiana married Raymond GRUBBS.



*The Dillingham Family: Charlie, Ada, Heston, Lee, Clara, Roy, David and Emma.*

### **LATIMER Family**

Lyman LATIMER, early Warsaw resident, married Susan HARTMAN, and they were parents of five children: Tom L., Marion M., Hannah BAKER (1860-1889), Sophia, and Norman Nash. The boys were known by their initials. After Lyman's death, she married Christian BARBER (See SARBER Family).

M. N. LATIMER (1859-1904) was born in Palestine. He married first Mollie (1863-1881), daughter of Allen BYBEE (See BYBEE Family), and they were parents of Archie and Ericie (See MANWARING Family).



*M.M. "Mugg" Latimer and wife, Reeda*

M.M. "Mugg" LATIMER married Reeda BYBEE (See BYBEE Family), and they were parents of Lyndes and Minnie. Lyndes married Nellie LYON and they were parents of Marion and Wilbur. Minnie married Roy SMITH, and they had one son, Stanley.

### **LEE Family**

Richard LEE became a Franklin Township land owner in 1839. Years later, part of his farm became the south part of Mentone. Richard LEE was a man of many talents — farmer, physician, merchant, and

justice of the peace. He was the father of at least four children: Samuel A., Isaac or Isaiah, Lydia and Mary Ann.

Lydia (1819-1870), daughter of Richard and Susan (ABENNETHY) LEE was born in Ohio. (See MORGAN Family).

Mary Ann was born in Putnam County, Ohio. (See SARBER Family).

Samuel and Elizabeth LEE had at least one son, James W. LEE.

### **McFADDEN Family**

Dr. O.L. McFADDEN began practicing veterinary medicine in Mentone in 1951. Also that year he married Judy SPRAGUE, who was born on a farm not far from Lansing, Michigan. Their children are: Deneice, Karen, James, Roland, and Dean.

### **MANWARING Family**

John MANWARING (1786-1860) and his wife, Fanny COMBS (1783-1866) came with their son, Elliot, to Franklin Township, Kosciusko County, from the East in 1844. He built a cabin on a tract of land when the county was almost an unbroken wilderness. John and Fanny are buried in the Palestine Cemetery.

Elliot MANWARING (1834-1924), born in Oswego, New York, and Sarah DULANEY (1837-1888), a native of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, were married in Warsaw, Indiana. To them were born seven children, four of them growing to adulthood: 1. Artemus D., 2. Loron D., 3. Susan A., and 4. John A.

After the death of his wife, Sarah, in 1888, Elliot married Eliza Ann DILLE in 1897. He died at the home of his daughter, Susan CLAY in Oberlin, Ohio, and was brought back to Indiana and buried in the Palestine Cemetery.

1. Artemus (1857-1920) was educated in Warsaw Schools and became a school teacher starting at the Benton Sarber School when he was seventeen. In 1877, he went to Kansas where he was in the confectionery and mercantile business. He married Anna Leah PLANK (b. 1857), daughter of E. Pryor and Katie PLANK in Severence, Kansas.

In 1882, he returned to Kosciusko County with his wife and children, Frank PLANK and Emma Nell. Artemus built the first business building in Mentone and on October 1, 1882, he opened his mercantile store. At one time, Artemus and Loron, known as Manwaring Brothers, manufactured wooden egg cases and boxes. Artemus was also a State Representative.

Artemus and Anna had two sons, Charles E. (1887-1903) and Chester Louis.

Frank P. MANWARING (1880-1933) married Ericie Grace LATIMER (1884-1946) (See LATIMER Family), and they had three sons, Charles Latimer, Miles Leroy and Richard Burke. They lived in Mentone, and Frank was active in the Farmers State Bank until his death.

Charles L. (1908-1974) married Ellener Nye, and they had two sons, Frank Nye and James Louis. Frank



married Mary Helen MINER, and they have three children, Jennifer Lynn, Julie Ellen, and Neil Samuel. James married Jo Anna WILLIAMS, and they have four children: Deron Kent, Dayne Kary, Derek Kyle, and Deneal Kara. Frank and James live just east of Mentone near the Manwaring Hatchery.

Miles MANWARING (1910-1960), son of Frank P. and Erchie, served in the Air Force in World War II from 1941-1945 and came out of service as a captain. He was a glider pilot and landed in the first glider landing in Normandy. He married Mary Louise RUSH, and they had two children, Larry Dean and Elaine Kay. Larry married Lu Ann PATRICK, and they have three children: Tracie Rae, Jason, and Miles Kevin. Elaine married Ted HITE, and they have two children, Nicole Janelle and Douglas James.

Richard B. MANWARING married Bess A. NAPIER (1927-1971), and they had two children, Daniel Ray and Kim Kristine. Later Richard married Betty Sue DUNCAN. Dan married Kay MANNON, and they have two children, Cassandra Lynn and Travis Burke. Kim married Daniel BARAJAS, and they have a son, Phillip Ryan.

Richard enlisted in World War II in the Air Force in 1942. He became a fighter pilot and flew 130 missions. After the war he was in the Reserves and retired in 1967 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Emma Nell "Nelly" (1881-1968) married Linden BLUE (1880-1945), and they had two sons, James E. and L. Stanley. They lived in Chicago and then moved to Denver, Colorado, where Linden started the Blue Real Estate Company which has been carried on by James and Stanley.

Chester L. MANWARING (1889-1967) married Bess SHAFER. He was a school teacher and then was in the chicken business with his father. He was also very active in the Baptist Church and Farmers State Bank. They had a daughter Jean, who married Corlyss J. PAULUS on July 11, 1945. Corlyss was in the Air Force and was killed in an air accident at Dyersburg, Tennessee, July 24, 1945. Later Jean married Merle GIBSON, and they live in the Harrison Center area. After the death of his wife in 1949, Chester married Nina CLAY.

2. Loron D. MANWARING (1859-1932) married Cora BYBEE (See BYBEE Family). They were very public spirited and were active in the Baptist Church. They had a daughter Loa, and for her health moved to Denver, Colorado about 1902, where he engaged in the banking business.

3. Susan married N.A. CLAY. They had two daughters, Gladys who married Karl NOTTINGHAM and Nina who married Chester L. MANWARING. The CLAY's moved from Mentone to Ohio in the early 1890's.

4. John A. (1867-1930) married Luda THOMPSON, and they had a daughter, Mrs. Selby FINN.

### **MARQUESS and PARKS Family**

James MARQUESS and Ella (PARKS) lived north of

Mentone about two and a half miles. They bought their farm from Ella's father, Thomas PARKS about 1914. James and Ella moved here from South Dakota where they homesteaded about 1908. Thomas moved back to Benton County, Indiana, where he owned other land. James and Ella raised three children, Opal, Mabel and George.

### **MILBERN, MILLBERN or MILBURN Family**

Austin MILBERN (1835 or 1836-1915) was one of the ten children of Hiram and Elizabeth (BLUE) (See BLUE Family) MILBERN. Austin married Amanda BORTON (1840-1913) and they were parents of Minerva, Allen, Tilden, Melvin, Elizabeth, Lura, Blanche, and Rosella.

Minerva (1865-1952) married Elias HAMMER, and they were parents of Charles and Russell. Charles (1890-1971) married Grace LEEDY, and they were parents of Charles, Zanna L., Betty who married Robert GOSHERT, and Gloria who married Ned E. MILLER.

Allen MILLBERN (1868-1947) married Carrie FESLER (1871-1946) and they were parents of Harlan, Lola, Opal, Fesler, Gretchen and Dorothy.

### **MOLLENHOUR Family**

William A. MOLLENHOUR (d. 1863) married Elizabeth (1828-1908), daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth HARTMAN, and they were parents of eight sons: 1. John H. (d. 1899), 2. Isaac D., 3. William H., 4. E. Minor, 5. Edward C., 6. Lyman L., 7. Amos T. and 8. Hiram A.

6. Lyman L. MOLLENHOUR (b. 1860) married Mary Josephine MORGAN (1861-1938) (See MORGAN Family) and they were parents of seven children: George, Minnie, Wilbur, Rhoda, Chancey, Harvey (1892-1979), and Lydia who married Virgil NELSON.

George MOLLENHOUR married first Vera HARDESTY. One of their children, Lyman M. MOLLENHOUR (1913-1981) married Jeanette F. BAILEY, and they were parents of Janice FELIX and Jo Ann ROBINSON. George and his second wife, Helen MILLER, operated the Palestine Store for many years. They had a daughter, Marjorie.

Minnie MOLLENHOUR (1884-1977) married Ernest B. WILLIAMSON, and they were parents of Porter, Lenna, Ward and Lura.

Lenna (d. 1938) married Denzel D. NELSON, and they were parents of Jerry and Michael NELSON.

Ward (1909-1967) and Phyllis (HIRE) WILLIAMSON had a daughter, Sharon, who married Brook DORAN.

Lura (1905-1967) married Hobart STIFFLER, and had a son, Dale.

Rhoda MOLLENHOUR married Vernon JONES, and they were parents of Mervin D., Devon O., and Paul.

Mervin JONES (1907-1975) married Mrs. Berniece PLUMMER, and they had a son, Kenyon who married Linda BLACKBURN. Ken and Linda are parents of Melanie, Sharon, Audra, Mervin, Keith and Valinda.

8. Hiram MOLLENHOUR (1865-1945), married Ettie TEEL (1866-1953). Augustus "Gus" MOLLEN-



HOUR (1898-1971) (See TUCKER Family), was one of their children. Mrs. Wilbur (Helen Higgins) McSHERRY is Hiram's granddaughter.

### MORGAN Family

A metal worker named Griffith MORGAN and his ten-year-old son, Thomas, left Wales in 1831 and sailed to the United States. Soon Griffith's wife, Jane (LONG-MORE) MORGAN, and the other children followed. During the next few years he followed his trade as a moulder of iron and brass in Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Virginia, but after the Panic of 1837, the family moved to a farm in Franklin Township, Kosciusko County.

Griffith and Jane MORGAN were parents of 1. Jane, 2. Thomas, 3. Griffith, 4. John, 5. William, 6. Henry, 7. George, 8. James, and 9. Albert.

In 1854, 2. Thomas MORGAN spent some time in Kansas in connection with the problems that occurred after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. During the Civil War, he enlisted as a captain in Captain Morgan's Company (later Company K) of the 74th Infantry Regiment of Indiana. Near the end of the war, his superior officer was killed, and Thomas became a lieutenant colonel and commander of the regiment. This regiment participated in the fighting at Chickamauga, Atlanta, and Sherman's march to the sea.

Thomas MORGAN was a carpenter by trade. He built a house for Benjamin BLUE, which is still standing on West Main Street. Also, he was a class leader in Lee's Society which was an early Methodist Church in the Mentone area.

Thomas MORGAN (1821-1915) first married Mrs. Lydia (LEE) WILLIAMS, and they were parents of two daughters, Susan and Lydia. Susan J. MORGAN married first George GREGG and later Mr. PATTERSON. Lydia MORGAN married Daniel WILLIAMS.

In 1871, Thomas MORGAN's work took him to Illinois where he met and married Jennie BROWN. Their daughter, Mary, married Clyde SMITH.

3. Griffith, son of Griffith and Jane MORGAN, died before 1878 leaving five heirs. The four of them who were under twenty-one were Mary (Mrs. E.K. STEWART), Wilber, Edward, and Henry.

4. John (1826-1877) married a Franklin Township neighbor, Catherine A. SARBER (1835-1887) (See SARBER Family). Later she sold some land to Albert TUCKER for the new town of Mentone. John and Catherine MORGAN were parents of thirteen children: Henry who married Sarah E. "Lizzie" SHATTO, John Tilden, Sarah, William, George, Mary (See MOLLEN-HOUR Family), Hiram, Rosella, Griffith, Humphrey, Jane, Isadora, and Charles.

Sarah MORGAN (1856-1937) married Charles H. COX. Four of their five children were John, Edna, Nellie, and James.

William MORGAN (1858-1933) married Martha EMMONS. Their son, John, died when quite small; their daughter, Pearl married Ora A. SMITH (See SMITH Family).

Charles MORGAN (1877-1950) and his wife, Daisy had three sons and one daughter. Lulu and Lonnie were twins. Lulu married Floyd BREEDING and lived in Warsaw. The other sons were Harry and Griffith.

The annual MORGAN Reunion was well attended in the early 1900's. Often there were letters or visits from Australian cousins. John, Benjamin, and Albert MORGAN were mentioned, and one year the history of Henry MORGAN, native of Indiana, was read.

### MYERS Family

Carlin MYERS (1860-1935), son of George W. and Sallie (CARLIN) MYERS came to the Mentone area in 1880 and lived on a farm north of Mentone. In 1912, he was elected as state representative and served two terms in that office. He married Flavia (1884-1957), daughter of John (1859-1942) and Emma (WHETSTONE) UNDERHILL (1864-1958). Carlin and Flavia were parents of George 2nd and Squire Carlin MYERS. George 2nd MYERS died in a plane crash near India in 1943. He and his wife had a daughter, Mary Ellen, who married Zanna HAMMER (See MILBERN Family).

### NELLANS Family

Six of Patrick and Nackey (TIPTON) NELLANS' children were early settlers in Marshall, Fulton or Kosciusko County: 1. Keziah Jane, 2. James, 3. Moses, 4. Thomas, 5. Mark, and 6. Absalom.

1. Keziah (1815-1873) married Stephen MEREDITH and they were parents of Oscar, Marilla, Isaac and Sarah.

2. Thomas (1818-1902) and Mariah (STROSNIDER) NELLANS and infant daughter moved to Newcastle Township, Fulton County, in 1840. Their children were Marinda Jane, Margaret (See SARBER Family), Nackey, Lavina, Mary Elizabeth, John Newton, Isaac, George, Alwilda, Ami B., and Mack.

John Newton NELLANS married a neighbor girl, Nancy Emaline NELSON, daughter of William and Maria (PENTECOST) NELSON and lived near Sycamore Church in Newcastle Township. Their children were William Curtis, Enzy Earl, Herschel Vern, and Mary Mariah.

William Curtis NELLANS (1879-1954) married Ida Leone SIBERT, and they were parents of Ruth who married Clyde BERKEYPIL, John, Hugh, Velma, Frank who married Wilma SPONSELLER, and Wayne who married Doris FISHER.

Enzy Earl NELLANS (1883-1963) married Fawn VANDERMARK, and they were parents of Barney and Ellery (See Ancestors of Edna NELLANS)

Herschel V. NELLANS (1885-1976) married Mabel Joan SINGER, and they were parents of Helen BLACK SPITLER, Max and Dale Singer NELLANS.

Mary (1895-1974) married Francis KEHOE, and they were parents of Donnabelle who married John MAROZSAN, and Esther who married Leroy "Bud" WISE.



### Ancestors of Edna NELLANS

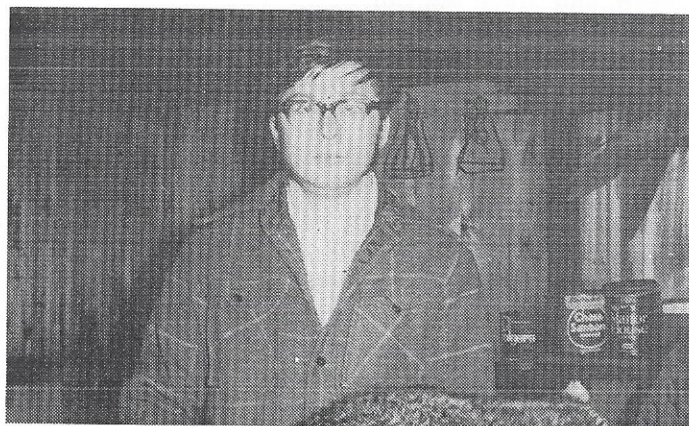
Josiah (1796-1878) and Hannah (1795-1860) ELSTON were parents of Hannah Elizabeth ELSTON who married Elias PITTMAN (1824-1863). Their son, Levi PITTMAN (1857-1884), and Mary Elizabeth Lucretia ZENT, daughter of William and Elizabeth ZENT (1834-1899), were Edna NELLAN's paternal grandparents. Her father, William Elias PITTMAN (1880-1953), married Nellie SPRAGUE, daughter of Grafton SPRAGUE (1851-1940) and Sarah Elizabeth ROOP. Mr. SPRAGUE's second wife was Jane ZENT. Edna Elizabeth, the daughter of William and Nellie PITTMAN, married Elery Van NELLANS (See NELLANS Family).

### PAXTON Family

Nathaniel PAXTON, Jr. (1799-1874) and his family moved from Ohio to Yellow Creek Lake vicinity in 1844. His ancestors can be traced back to Ireland and possibly to England during the time of Cromwell. Nathaniel and his wife, the former Ruth LUCE (1807-1878), were parents of eight children: 1. Jesse who married Mary WILTROUT, 2. Jonathan who first married Catharine KROFT and later Hannah CALLAHAN, 3. Eliza Ann who married Samuel ROBINSON, 4. Rebecca who married Andrew Robinson, 5. James who married Rachel KESSLER, 6. Ellen Jane who married Samuel BURKETT, 7. Joseph who married Matilda PARKER, and 8. Abbey who married Thomas FOGLE.

2. Jonathan (b. 1836) and Hannah PAXTON were parents of James Lenius who married Laura Ellen ADAMS. In addition to twin daughters, Lula and Bula, born on Halloween night in 1889, James and Laura were parents of two sons, Lloyd A. and Russel Marlin PAXTON.

7. Joseph (1840-1899) and Matilda PAXTON had three children, Mary M., Harmon Edward, and Silas Mitchel. After Matilda's death, Joseph PAXTON married Nancy BLACK and moved to a farm north of Mentone known as the Brown farm, and he lived there from 1886 until his death in 1899. A short time later his son, Silas, moved to that farm, and the farm has been rented by three generations of the PAXTON family from three generations of the Samuel DOUGHTY family. Silas (1871-1951) and Olliva (See CREIGH-



*Edward Paxton, son of Hobart Paxton.*

BAUM) PAXTON had five children: Hobart J., Bernice who married Cloice BEBER, Cleo Mabel who married Emmett KROHNE, Donald Glen, and Maurice Victor.

Hobart J. PAXTON (1896-1975) married Lois Evelyn SHUMAKER. Their children were Kathleen Lois who married Raymond KNIGHT, Edward, and Betty Marie who first married Robert Edward HARMON and later Thomas DOTSON. Silas and Hobart bought furs for many years.

### RINER Family

Henry Clark RINER, a native of Ohio, married Nancy LEITER. At least one of their children, Raymond Elmer RINER, was born in Sevastopol. Ray was a buyer and shipper of livestock and a breeder of purebred cattle. He was stricken with a heart attack while working at the Lions concession stand at the Mentone Community Fair.

Ray RINER married Nellie HIRE, daughter of Milton E. (1842-1904) and Louisa (EILER) HIRE (1844-1911). Their children included Curtis Jack, Kenneth, and Mrs. Don Baum.

Curtis was a grain and livestock farmer. He was also a full time worker of the Mentone Fair showing purebred horses.

Curtis J. RINER (1903-1961) married Jeanette Pauline CASNER, daughter of Charles Douglas TEEPLE CASNER (b. 1861) and Mary Elizabeth ESTEP (b. 1866). Curtis and Pauline were parents of Jack Keith, Kent Raymond, and Larry Ray.

### Ancestors of Esther SARBER

Martin (1811-1856) and Christiana (1813-1896) HORN were parents of Hiram HORN (1847-1933), who married Louisa Elizabeth GRASS (1850-1931), daughter of Jacob W. and Mary GRASS. Hiram and Louisa (GRASS) HORN were parents of Isaac Hiram HORN (1879-1959), Esther SARBER's father (See SARBER Family).

Adam and Elizabeth (STEVEN) STUKEY were parents of David STUKEY (1854-1933) who married Louisa MICKEY (1851-1933), daughter of Hiram (1826-1901) and Rachel (NICHOLS) (1832-1900) MICKEY. David and Louisa (MICKEY) STUKEY were parents of Esther's mother, Vida (STUKEY) HORN (1882-1978).

### SARBER Family

Adam SARBER was born in Pennsylvania about the end of the Revolutionary War. In 1813, Adam, a young man with a wife and children, left Luzerne County, Pennsylvania and headed to the wilderness of Ohio. A generation later, the sons of Adam and Catharine (ENSLER or EUSLEU) SARBER decided to tackle the wilderness of Indiana and Illinois.

The parents moved to Indiana, too, and resided on a farm which now is located on State Road 25, just east of Mrs. Earl BOGGS' farm. They were parents of nine



children: 1. Abraham, 2. George, 3. Christian, 4. John, 5. William, 6. Hiram, 7. Sarah (SARBER) CLEVENGER, 8. Elizabeth (SARBER) CLEVENGER, and 9. Lucinda (SARBER) RIMER.

When the oldest son, 1. Abraham, decided to move to Illinois, he hired two of his brothers, John and Hiram, to take his team and goods by way of Fort Wayne, while Abraham and his family made the trip travelling through Dayton and Indianapolis. Four years later, Abraham decided to move to Kosciusko County, Indiana. He was mentioned in connection with the mill at Palestine and farming near Atwood.

1. Abraham (1806-1880) and his wife, Louisa (HENDREN) (1803-1863) SARBER, were parents of eight children: William, Adam, Melissa, Amanda, Mary, Thomas Benton, Dorothy and John. Later Abraham married Eliza CRANE, and they had a son, David.

Thomas Benton SARBER married Martha A. TIMMONS, and they were parents of Edson B. and Andrew. Both of these sons, from the Burket community, were educators.

About the time that Abraham went to Illinois, his brother 3. Christian, and his family became early settlers in Harrison Township, Kosciusko County, near the present site of Mentone. The land office at that time was at LaPorte, so he had to walk there and back through the woods, blazing his own trail. While he was gone, Indians visited the Sarber cabin, and his wife gave them nearly all of their provisions. That was his first wife, the former Mary Ann LEE (See LEE Family).

3. Christian and Mary were parents of Harriet, Catherine, Martha J., Hollis, William L., Susan, and Mary.

Catharine married a Mr. GIBBS and moved to Michigan. Martha married Jefferson ELY and had a daughter, Maude. Hollis was a doctor in Michigan. William married Martha DELANEY.

Harriet married Isaac BELL, and they were parents of eight children: Mary who married a Mr. MILLS, William, Margaret who married William KENT, Clyde, Blanche (1875-1894), Grover, Lawrence (1894-1956) (See Lawrence Bell Chapter), and Vaughn.

After Mary died, 3. Christian married Mrs. Susan (HARTMAN) LATIMER (See LATIMER Family), and they became parents of Netta Lucinda who married Austin BLUE, Anna Rebecca who married Jefferson BLUE, Julia Etta who married Albert WHETSTONE, and Isaac who married Myrtle ROCKHILL. Many of their descendants live in the Mentone area.

2. George moved his family from Putnam County, Ohio to a Franklin Township, Kosciusko County farm, one and a half miles west of Mentone which is still owned by his descendants.

2. George SARBER was born in 1810 in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia ANDERHECK (See ANDERHECK Family), and they were parents of Hiram, Catharine, and Albert. Hiram and Mary Ellen (LEE) SARBER were parents of three children. One

was William (1862-1889). Catharine married John MORGAN (See MORGAN Family).

Albert SARBER (1841-1923), and his first wife, Margaret NELLANS (See NELLANS Family), had four children: Miranda H. (SARBER) WHETSTONE, Mary M., Clara Estella (SARBER) BORTON who later married John KING, and John Elmer SARBER who married Mary NELSON.

In 1874, Albert SARBER married Amelia Ann GARRISON (1850-1940), who was the daughter of Samuel (1822-1891) and Delia (1822-1855) (GRAVES) GARRISON. Albert and Amelia were parents of Cora and Nora who died young, Mrs. Oral BOWMAN, and Amaca.

Amaca SARBER (1879-1939) married Bertha SMITH (1882-1971) (See SMITH Family). They were parents of Elmer and Mabel. Elmer SARBER (1902-1976) married Esther HORN (See Ancestors of Esther SARBER), and they were parents of Eugene, Fay, and Zelda.

Mabel SARBER married Leroy NORRIS, and they were parents of David and Eleanor.

5. William (1822-1859) SARBER was a doctor at Palestine. He married first Keturah FRUSH and they were parents of Emma who married Allen BLUE, Alberta, George W., and Alice M.

Dr. SARBER and Mary E., his second wife, were parents of Andrew L., Frank and Orville. Orville married Emma Lee KESSLER and was a painter and decorator in Mentone. Later Dr. SARBER married Jane SNYDER.

### SHINN Family

John Calvin SHINN (1861-1921) was born in Etna Green. He moved to Mentone and opened a meat market in the 1890-s. His wife, Alvira Lavina BAKER (1870-1951) spent her last days living above where the post office is now. They were parents of three children: 1. Ethel Fern, 2. Harlo and 3. Earl Raymond.

1. Ethel married John CHAPMAN and lived in Warsaw. Their children were John Sanford and Charles Calvin.

2. Harlo never married. He lived and died in Wisconsin and was the inventor of an alcohol-driven sleigh plane.

3. Earl (1887-1978) went to school in Mentone, was a member of the first basketball team, and graduated in 1904. He was a second lieutenant in World War I, and began corresponding with a red-headed school teacher from Chili, Indiana named Mariam FOUTS (1895-1981). They were married in 1920. Earl joined his father in the meat business and took over after Cal's death. He operated the locker plant until his retirement. In later years, he could be seen, always dressed up in a suit, walking the streets of Mentone.

Earl and Mariam were parents of three children: John L., Mary Beth, and Patricia. John L. "Jack" SHINN married Gertrude CAREW. He is owner of Top of Indiana Beef and lives in Fort Wayne. Mary Beth



wed James MINER and lives in Etna Green. Patricia married Kenneth SHOEMAKER.

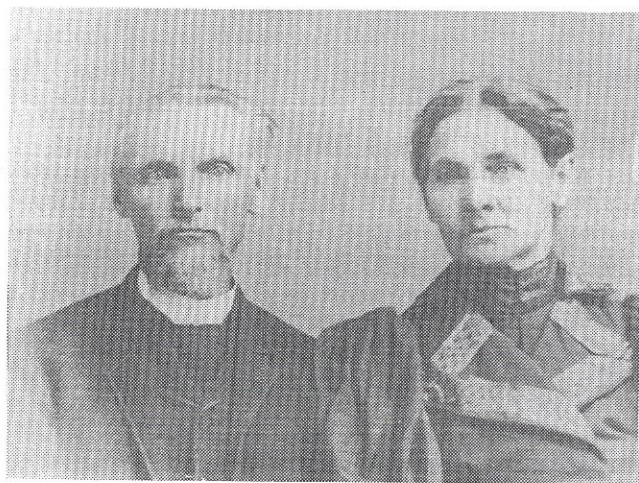
Earl and Mariam were survived by ten grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

### SMITH Family

John C. SMITH (1841-1904) was about seven years old when his family moved from Union County, Pennsylvania to Franklin Township, Kosciusko County, Indiana. During the Civil War, he enlisted in Company F of 74th Regiment, Indiana Infantry. After the war, he married Silence RABER (See TURNER Family). Among their children were: 1. Cleanthus (1868-1909) who married Rebecca MARTIN, 2. William O. 3. Rosella (1876-1900), 4. Alpheus, 5. Bertha A. (See SARBER Family), and 6. Ora A.

2. William Omer married Emma JEFFERIES, and they were parents of Nora, Vesta, Ruth, and Merl.

4. Alpheus (1879-1941) married Myrtle BROWN, and they were parents of twelve children: Floyd, Edna,



*John C. and Silence (Raber) Smith*

Donnis, Roy, George, Estil, Garland, Frank, an infant, Marion, Delta, and Leonard.

Floyd married Hazel SWIHART and had two sons, Harold and Arthur.

Edna CHRISTENBERRY'S children were Howard and Jane.

Donnis married Charles FISHER and had three daughters, Margery, Lena, and Dorothy.

Roy married Bertha HOLDERMAN and they were parents of Wanda who married Kenneth SIMCOE, Walter, Charles, John and Carol.

George married Ruby RAILSBACK, and they were parents of Geraldine and Ronald.

Frank and his wife, the former Geraldine NELLANS (See TUCKER Family), operated Frank and Jerry's store in Mentone for many years.

Marion married EvaBelle BROCKEY, and they had two daughters, Linda and Patricia.

Delta married Edward SMELSER, and their children were Nancy and Rick.

Leonard has two sons, Devon and Leon.

6. Ora (1884-1969) married Pearl MORGAN (1883-

1949) (See MORGAN Family). They were parents of John Morgan (1904-1961), Ray (1906-1978), Malcolm "Max" (1908-1975), Paul, Blanche, Oliver Austin (1916-1978) and Chester C. In addition to Ray's foster son, Lynn PHILLIPS, Ora and Pearl had ten grandchildren: Kent, Jolane, Robert C., Barbara, Herbert K., Angenetta, Glenn A., Melva, James A., and Betty.

### TEEL Family

David TEEL and Caroline JEFFERIES were married in 1854. He was the son of Adam and Margaret TEEL, and Caroline was the daughter of Amos and Mary (PIERCE) JEFFERIES. David and Caroline established their home two miles south and about a mile west of Mentone. The house has been remodeled and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam NORRIS.

David was a farmer. No one specialized in those early days, so David and his sons kept busy with field work, cows, pigs, chickens, etc. They always had fruit trees and berries. Besides his own family, two little granddaughters who had lost their mothers made their home there. They were Goldie TEEL who later became Mrs. Forrest KESSLER, and Nellie TEEL who became Mrs. George WAGNER.

Early settlers were very hospitable. In the days before telephones, radios, or television, someone from outside the community was very welcome for the news they might bring. One evening a band of horsemen rode into the TEEL barnlot. They wanted a night's lodging, so their horses were put in the barn, and the men enjoyed supper with the family. Next morning they ate breakfast and took off on the gallop. After they were gone, David revealed to the family that their guests had been Jesse James and his gang. David knew if he told the family, they would have a sleepless night, so he waited with the news until the horsemen had gone. He said he was well paid for the lodging and food.

David and Caroline were parents of eight children: Keziah, Williard, Alfred, Herschel, Margaret, Clem, Theodore, and Melvin. Keziah married Empson HEIGHWAY. They had six children. Williard married Ellen BLUE (See BLUE Family), and had three children. Alfred married Lougardy HIBSCHMAN and had two sons. Herschel married Laura BARKMAN and had two sons. Mary Margaret, fondly known as "Aunt Maggie" TEEL never married. Clement married Minnie HEMMINGER who died three years after their marriage. He then married Nora NELSON, and they had one son. Theodore married Nora GROVE, and they had one daughter. Melvin died as a small child.

David and Caroline moved from the farm to a home in Mentone. They died in 1912 and were buried in Sycamore Cemetery.

Two grandchildren of this pioneer couple are still living, namely, Lloyd TEEL, Fort Wayne; and Nellie WAGNER, Gilead. Another Goldie KESSLER who was a Mentone resident nearly all her life, died recently.

Teel's Restaurant, a popular place to eat in Mentone, was founded by a great-grandchild of David and Caroline TEEL, the late Herschel TEEL, and his wife, Mary.



who married Jerry NELSON (See MOLLENHOUR Family).

Ora TUCKER (1883-1972), son of Alfred and Katie (McNEAL) TUCKER married Nora SARBER (See TURNER Family), and they were parents of Ralph, Winifred who married Max SMITH (See SMITH Family), Lillie, and Albert.

There are many other TUCKER descendants in the area.

### TURNER Family

Adam TURNER (1767-1841) and Silence (KERR) TURNER (?1774-1852) were not young when they came to the Kosciusko-Marshall-Fulton County area of Indiana. Some of their children stayed in Ohio; some of them came to Indiana. The latter group included: 1. Silence who married William SHIREY, 2. Rebecca who married Alexander BARCLAY, 3. Jane who married Ezekiel LLOYD, 4. Eliza who married Jacob RABER, and 5. James who married Millie BYBEE (See BYBEE Family).

William SHIREY and 1. Silence (TURNER) SHIREY (1811-1900), were parents of at least four children: Martha, Catherine, Willim, and John SHIREY. Martha (1833-1874) married John McPHERSON. Their great-grandson, Robert McPHERSON of Wabash, Indiana, provided some of the information for this section. Catharine SHIREY (1836-1902) married Alfred UNDERHILL. Harmon HIRE was their grandson. William SHIREY (1849-1932) had a daughter, Ruth, who married Floyd BLACKWELL. John SHIREY (1853-1924) was the grandfather of Allen Guido SHIREY.

After their marriage in 1838, Jacob and 4. Eliza (TURNER) RABER settled in the southeast part of Tippecanoe Township, Marshall County and became parents of five children. As in other pioneer families, death struck often. Within a few years Jacob, Eliza, and two of their sons died. According to family tradition, one boy choked to death on a grain of corn. The two remaining boys, William and John RABER, enlisted in Company F of the 74th Indiana Infantry Regiment on August 18, 1862. Both died the following year. After the death of Jacob and Eliza, their daughter, Silence (1846-1926) (See SMITH Family) was raised by the TURNERS.

Bessie BYBEE, a longtime resident of the Mentone community once described Jimmie TURNER as a very kind-hearted, — the kind of person who would take anyone in who needed a home.

In addition to Silence RABER, 5. James (1814-1887) and Millie TURNER had a large family of their own: Catherine, Rebecca who married Stacy ROCKHILL, Silence who married Zachariah GRIFFIS, Martha who married Alexander MENTZER, Mary whose second husband was Clint BOGGS, William, John, Joseph K., Nathan, Allen, James, and others.

Zachariah and Silence GRIFFIS were grandparents of Joe BAKER. Mary BOGGS was the grandmother of

Lillie TUCKER and Winifred (TUCKER) SMITH (See TUCKER Family).

### URSCHEL Family

Dan Lowell URSCHEL (1910-1968) was the son of Charles M. and Lulu (SHOCK) URSCHEL. He married Ruth A. WILLIAMS, and they were parents of Charles W. URSCHEL, M.D. (1936-1977) and Sarah who married Roger BECKLUND.

### VANDERMARK Family

Jeremiah (1815-1887), son of Daniel and Sarah VANDERMARK grew up in Ohio and went to Terre Haute as a young man. There he married Mary Deliah HANSON. They were parents of John H., Nancy Ann who married Isaiah HIPSCHER, Sarah E., Mary J., and Daniel.

After his wife's death, Jeremiah married Mrs. Diana (DUNNUCK) LLOYD, widow of Abel LLOYD, and



Mary A. "Nettie", granddaughter of Nancy Ann (Vandermark) Hipscher.

they had seven children: William A., Cornelius, Elvira who married Isaac CREAKBAUM, Levi who married Mary Ann MELTON, Margaret, Linneous E. (1866-1938) who married Ella May CREAKBAUM (1879-1911), and Rosa A.

John H. VANDERMARK (1839-1913) married Livonia TUCKER (See TUCKER Family), and they were parents of Aurelius (1861-1930), Mary A. (1862-1951) who married Charles BIDE LMAN, Nettie S., and Hollis E.

### VAN DORAN Family

Shortly after Myron B. VAN DORAN married Elizabeth TEEL in Ohio, they came to Indiana seeking a new home. They came with most of their possessions on a wagon and a single cow following behind, and the journey took thirteen days.

After several years on his first farm near Sevastopol, he moved to where Burket now stands. He bought the Isaac HIRE farm, cleared the land, and then sold it. Then he bought fifty acres near Burket, where he lived until his death.



## TUCKER Family

John TUCKER (1792-1878) was no stranger to wilderness travel. He was born in Henniker, New Hampshire, and spent his early life in that state. During the War of 1812, he served three months at Portsmouth, N.H. In 1818, he headed west looking for farmland. After he had cleared some land in Richland County, Ohio, he walked back - about 800 miles - to New Hampshire, married Mary WARD (1800-1876), and brought her to Ohio. In 1846, John and his son, Horace, made a trip to Kosciusko County to look for farms. John and Mary moved to Indiana and spent part of their later life near Sevastopol. They were parents of 1. Horace, 2. Aurelius, 3. Albert, 4. Serena, 5. Regulus who married Jane BLUE (See BLUE Family), and 6. Livonia who married John VANDERMARK (See VANDERMARK Family). Solomon ERNSBERGER's mother died when he was born, so John and Mary raised him as their own.

1. Horace TUCKER (1825-1907) built the brick house where the Richard RALSTON family lives. Horace married Eliza JOHNSON (1829-1904), and they were parents of Albert, Rosella and Hollis.

Horace and Eliza's son, Albert (1849-1939) and his first wife, Elizabeth BECHTELHEIMER (1852-1888) were parents of eight children: Elmore, Effie, Ida, Ivan, Roy, John, Millie and Franklin C. who was a veterinarian at Claypool.

Ivan TUCKER (1878-1974), son of Albert and Elizabeth, married Cecil McFARLAND, and they were parents of Mirabel, Alton and Dale. Information for this section came from Mirabel's book, **Genealogy of the Morris Tucker Family**. Alton was killed in a plane crash. Dale was elected mayor of Warsaw in 1975.

John TUCKER (1883-1961), son of Albert and Elizabeth married Lulu TIPTON, and they were parents of Ethel, Lena (See IGO Family), and Anna Pauline.

Ethel TUCKER married Dean Nellans, and they were parents of Geraldine who married Frank D. SMITH, Juanita who married Eldred PAULUS, Norma Jean who married Glenn CLAUSS, and Dean Nellans, Jr.

Albert TUCKER (1849-1939) and his second wife were parents of two children. He and his third wife, Lulu TIPTON, had two sons, Dearl and Rex.

Dearl TUCKER married Olive SMALLEY (See BYBEE Family), and they were parents of Marylin, Marita, and Terry. Marylin married Don COLEMAN, and they were parents of Kim and Pamela. Marita married Robert BOGGS, and they were parents of Brent and Lisa. Terry married Sandra WENTZEL, and they were parents of Scott, John, and Patricia.

Rex TUCKER married Annabel LONG, and they had a son, Jay.

John and Mary (WARD) TUCKER had a son Albert (1831-1920), whose Franklin Township farm was north of the present-day Tippecanoe Valley High School. This Albert was one of the founders of Mentone, a Mentone businessman and an early resident.



*Albert Tucker*

3. Albert TUCKER (1831-1920) first married Mary FRAME (d. 1860). His second wife was Sarah BLUE (See BLUE Family) (d. 1864). Next he married Katie McNEAL (1848-1889), and they were parents of six children: Norman, Charles Melvin, Lee, Curtis, Nellie and Ora. Later, Albert married Mary (ODELL) BAKER.



*Albert's wife, Katie McNeal Tucker*

Charles Melvin TUCKER (1870-1935) married Susannah M. EILER (1872-1940), and they were parents of nine children: Nellie V., Mars, Floyd, Lester, Mary Ellen, Chauncy, Lillian, Chester Edison, and Curtis.

Mars TUCKER married Fawn DORAN (1895-1956), and they were parents of Devon TUCKER and Geraldine who married Rex PARKER.

Floyd and Fro (IGO) (See IGO Family) TUCKER had a foster daughter, Frances who married Gene MARSHALL.

Mary TUCKER married Augustus MOLLENHOUR (See MOLLENHOUR Family), and they were parents of Velva who married James ROGERS.

Chauncy TUCKER married Opal HALDERMAN (See BLUE Family), and they were parents of Iola who married James GOSHERT.

Edison TUCKER married Mary Elizabeth MILLER, and they were parents of Charles, and Joan



Myron and Elizabeth were parents of six children: M. Lafayette, Hiram, Margaret who married Lon ALEXANDER, Noah and two who died young.

M. Lafayette grew up in Seward Township and bought his father's farm. He was a teacher for twenty years. When the town of Burket was laid out, he bought two lots, built a house, and moved there. He also operated the Peoples Mutual Telephone Company Exchange.

M. Lafayette and his second wife, the former Maggie EVERLY (d. 1914) were parents of two daughters, Ollie BENTON of Elkhart, and Mrs. Robert EATON.

The VAN DORAN Family was a fine singing group consisting of Hiram, Noah, Respa, and Vesta. Vesta played the organ. They were a Christian family all the way.

#### **WARREN Family**

James (1792-1867) and Sophia (b. 1792) (GALION) WARREN and most of their children moved to Franklin Township in 1845. James was born in the South, but his grandfather, General Joseph WARREN was born in Massachusetts and associated with John Adams, John Hancock and Paul Revere. James and Sophia were parents of nine children: 1. William, 2. Jane, 3. Thomas, 4. James, 5. Peggy, 6. Sarah, 7. Huldah who wed George SMITH, 8. Elizabeth, and 9. David.

3. Thomas WARREN (1819-1903) married Elizabeth SMITH (1824-1912) and moved to this area in 1851. Among their children were: Isaac, Eliza Jane who wed Sam JONES, Maria who wed Isaac HYER, Sophia, Anna who wed William ANDREWS, Lydia, and Sarah who wed Gilbert ALEXANDER.

Sophia WARREN wed Isaac ANDERECK in 1869, and they were parents of Cora, Cari, Rosa, William who wed Bertha BYBEE, and Dessie.

Rosa ANDERECK wed Jesse SMITH. Their children included the following: Jacob (See EATON and HAINES Families), Donald, Calvin, Esther who wed William FOSTER, and Clay.

4. James WARREN (1821-1901) wed Polly BEESON. One of their children was William W. who lived in Franklin Township and wed Nancy GOCHENHOUR. Their daughter, Clara, was a teacher at Beavern Dam and Mentone. William was a stockholder in Farmers Bank, also a farmer and carpenter.

#### **WELCH Family**

John WELCH, son of Benjamin and Rebecca WELCH, and his wife, Christena, daughter of John and Margaret BROWN, came to Harrison Township, Kosciusko County in 1851. Typical pioneers, they built a long cabin, cleared land and suffered from malaria. He was the first trustee of Harrison Township. Among their five children were: 1. Charles W., 2. Benjamin F., 3. John B., and 4. James H.

1. Charles W. WELCH (1854-1925) married Martha (ca. 1856-1931), daughter of Abel and Elizabeth HARTMAN, and they had a daughter, Grace.

2. Benjamin F. WELCH (1857-1930) married Clara (1859-1931), daughter of Thomas and Catherine HAY-

HURST. Mrs. C.O. EILER was their daughter.

4. James Harris WELCH (1859-1935) married Martha E. (1873-1957), daughter of Levi and Julia WORKMAN. They had a son, Oral.

Oral WELCH (1894-1960) married Mary LONG, and had a daughter, Elizabeth, who married Philip BLUE. Their daughter, Jacqueline, married Earl YEITER.

#### **YANTISS Family**

John (1819-1888) and Mary (IDEN) YANTISS settled near Tippecanoe Town in Marshall County in 1846. Among their children there was a David Crockett YANTISS (1863-1926), who married Cassie (1866-1942), the daughter of Alva and Sara (OBENTTE) SHAW.

In 1873, another son, Joseph J., and his wife moved to a farm in Section 31, Tippecanoe Township, and their descendants have lived there for more than one hundred years.

Joseph J. YANTISS (1842-1925) married Mary Elizabeth RILEY (1848-1893), and they had three children, Malvin P. (b. 1868), William L. (b. 1870), and Manferd E. (b. 1878).

William L. (1870-1936) and Kathryn Grace YANTISS had three children, 1. Chloe, 2. Joseph Glen and 3. Jacob C.

1. Chloe YANTISS married Milo GRIFFIS. Their children were Gilbert and Isabelle.

Gilbert GRIFFIS married Mary M. FORD, daughter of George and Jennie (COAR) FORD, and they had three children: Billie Gene, Betty Jane, and Bobby Jan.

Isabelle GRIFFIS married Howard HOLBROOK and had a son, Robert. Howard served as a Kosciusko County Sheriff.

2. Joseph Glen YANTISS married Odie BUCKLER and had two children, Letha and Kenneth. Letha married Carl HESTER and had two children, Judith and Brian.

3. Jacob C. YANTISS (1897-1967) married Audra LEMLER and their sons William and John, still own the home place. Audra later married Wayne TOMBAUGH.

#### **Addendum:**

George W. NELLANS (See NELLANS Family) married Ella FUNK, and they were parents of Dean, Charles and Goldie. Dean married Ethel TUCKER (See TUCKER Family), and they were parents of Geraldine, Juanita, Dean Jr. and Norma Jean.

Geraldine married Frank D. SMITH.

Juanita married Eldred PAULUS. Their children are Rita FUNK and Brent PAULUS.

Dean NELLANS, Jr. married Geraldine NINE and their child, Sonny later married Jeannine YAZEL (See BLUE Family).

Jean married Glenn CLAUSS. Their children are Michelle BORMET, Bruce, Linda and Mark.



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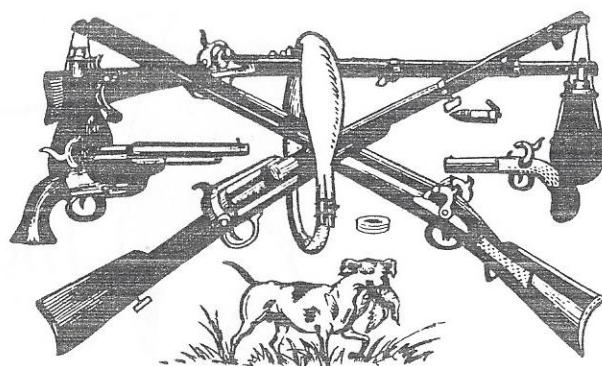
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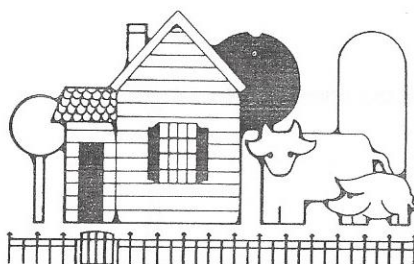
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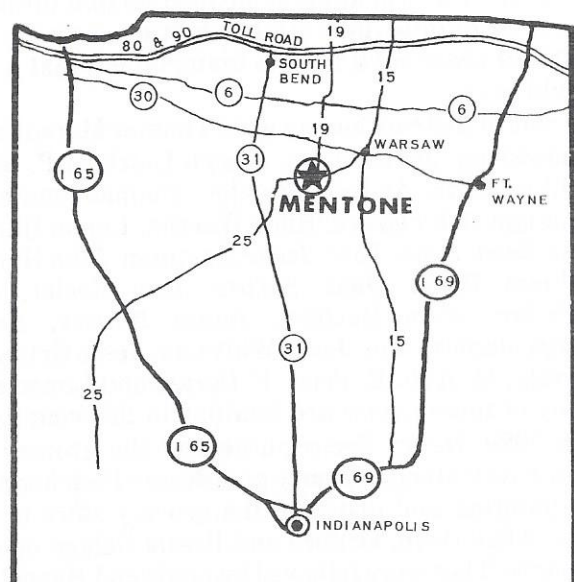
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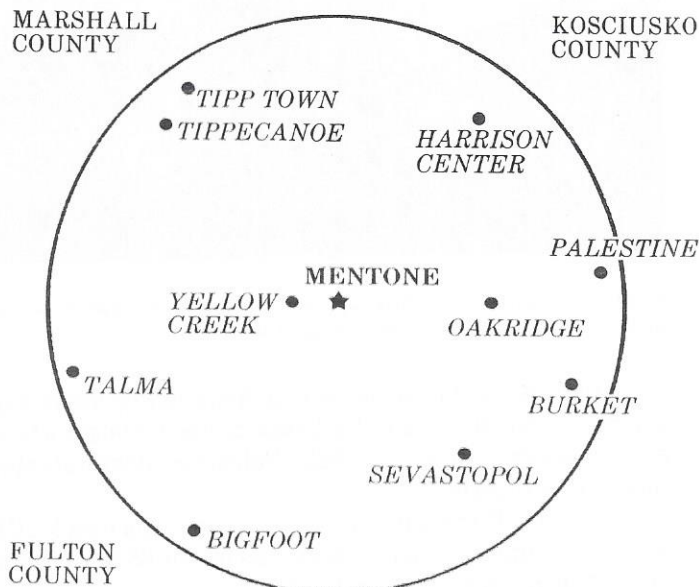


# Surrounding Towns



MARSHALL  
COUNTY

KOSCIUSKO  
COUNTY



The boundaries of Kosciusko County were established by the General Assembly Session of 1834-1835. The county was named after Thaddeus Kosciusko, a Polish Noble, who came to America and offered his services to George Washington, in the cause of American Freedom.

Harrison Township was organized, March 8, 1838, from territory originally included within the boundaries of Wayne Township and is the second largest township.

The town of Mentone could not have succeeded without the support of the people on the farms and in the surrounding towns. Some of the highlights of the surrounding towns are given as to their early beginnings.

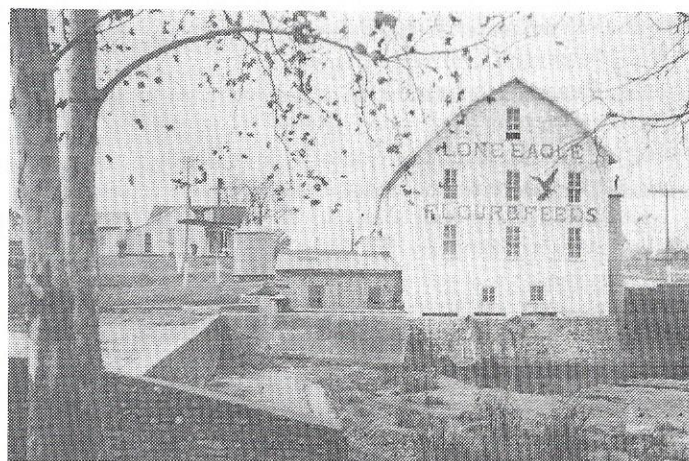
## PALESTINE

The first store in the township was started in 1836, by Daniel Underhill who sold general merchandise in a log cabin on the site of present Palestine.

Isham Summy filed the plat of Palestine with 96 lots on May 3, 1837. His next venture was to build a grist and flour mill by Trimble Creek; also, a sawmill was built there. This was Harrison Township's first grist mill, started into operation in 1838.

In the pioneer days, bands of Indians would stop and buy or beg supplies of cornmeal at the mill.

When Samuel and Richard Croxton, the next operators, rebuilt the mill after the first fire, they put in an overshot water wheel but they used steam power in case of emergency. John Thorn rented and operated it in 1868. From 1877 until 1902, it was run by N. Henderson, Charles Ward and John Slone. At this time



*Trimble Creek in Palestine before the 40 acre reservoir contained water.*

flour was still being made at the mill and being hauled to Warsaw, Burket, Mentone and other towns around.

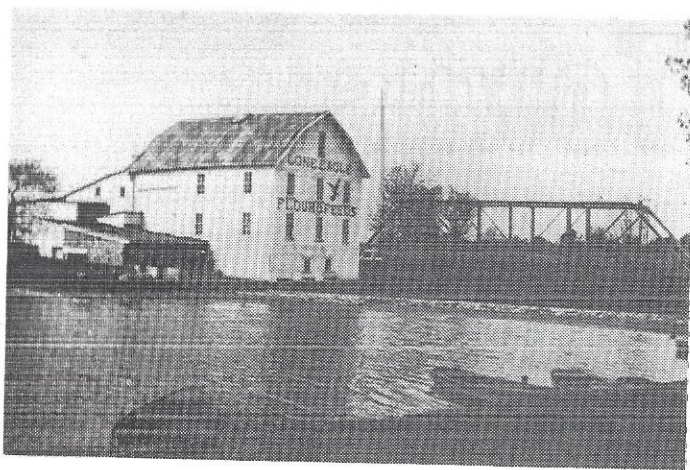
It burned down November 9, 1938, when Edwin Shirey rebuilt the mill and had it operating in 1939 on electrical power. He owned it until he died in 1953. His family kept it operating until 1977. Henry Pletcher was an employee.

After the mill was rebuilt the last time, the principal product was feeds and feed mixing.

With Trimble Creek dammed up making a 40 acre reservoir with a large water shed, the water supply generally lasted all year. This was a better supply of water than some of the early mills had.

The early wood dam was replaced with stone and cement in the early 1900's or before and it was repaired again in the early 1970's.





*D. Doggett's pictures of Palestine Mill on Trimble Creek. Courtesy of William Henry Smith Memorial Library.*

In the 1870's Palestine was a flourishing town, but after the Nickel Plate Railroad came through about a mile south of town in 1882, Palestine stores started moving to Burket.

George M. Wirick had a boot and shoe store on lot 61. Ezra Uplinger's general store was on lot 68 and Adam Horn's drug store was on lot 80.

On lot 82, John Wainwright and his father had a shop where they made and sold wooden water pumps. Pupils at the school on lot 80 used one of these to get their water. The Methodist Church was on lot 81.

Dr. Pearman's home and office were on lot 65. Bonnie Latta, who was just a young boy then, took care of the team of ponies that the doctor drove hitched to an open buggy to make house calls.

Rueben Kibler had a blacksmith shop on lot 41, and there was another on lot 76. Kibler was a good violin player, too.

William Hatfield, Dave Fawley and Milton Black owned a threshing machine to do threshing for the farmers. William Hatfield had a barber shop also. Libby Yarnel wove carpets; Milt Black was a paper hanger; Frank Mortimore was a stone mason. Lyman Dunnuck was the sexton at the church. In the mid 1900's Wilber Hudd had a gas station at the southwest corner of State Road 25 and Shilling Road.

L. L. Latimer's records from 1852 to 1861 provide details of that time. Items used for a building job were as follows: shingles \$7.33; 260 feet of square timber \$5.20; 3250 lath \$4.88; 2 door handles \$.25; 1 bottle turpentine \$.13; 1 lock \$2.50; 12 pounds white lead \$1.50; and 2 bushels hair, \$.50. The hair was used in plaster to make it stonger. On one invoice he received 5 kegs of nails shipped from the east to Fort Wayne by railroad but the Fort Wayne station and Mr. Latimer had to find a way to get them to Palestine.

Latimer's Store sold the following foods: 1 lb. rice \$.08; 6 lb. rice \$.50; 20 lb. rice \$1.40; 5 lb. raisins \$.62; 22 lbs. lard \$2.64; 20 lb. coffee \$3.00; 21 lb. shoulder meat \$1.89; 39 lb. side meat \$3.12; 4 lb. butter \$.40; 4 dozen eggs \$.25; 1/2 lb. tobacco \$.10; and 1 gallon molasses \$.63.

In the dry goods line there were 8 yds. calico \$1.00; 31 yds. muslin \$2.79; 16 yds. muslin \$1.00; 3 yds. tweeds \$1.13; 3 yds. lining \$.37; 1 doz. buttons \$.15; 1 thimble \$.05; 1 pr. gloves \$.25; 1 pr. hose \$.25; 1 pr. boots \$4.50; 1 pr. boots \$3.00; 1 pr. shoes \$.63; and a spelling book \$.10. There were a lot of kinds of medication sold through the store, 24 quinine pills \$.50; 1 bottle castor oil \$.19; 1 bottle of sweet oil \$.18; and many others that a doctor would give.

Some of their customers were Thomas Meredith, John Manwaring, John Polson, Joseph Clark, R.P. Shipley, Phillip Smith, Andrew Stickler, Thomas Romine, I.H. Jennings, John Bybee, Riley Warren, Limon Hartman, Alex Reed, Amos Towl, Isaac Hartman, John Hartman, William Baker, John Sarber, Levi Reeler, Limon McViker, John Hatfield, James Bowser, Anthony Boggs, James Blue, Jesse Whitman, Jesse Grubbs, Joe Snively, M. Ault, E. Price, P. Doran, and Limon Smith. Many of these names are familiar in this vicinity now.

In 1929, Henry Secor purchased the grocery store from Alvey Mendel. Henry and Bessey Pletcher rented the building and operated the grocery store in 1936-1937. After them, Delford and Bessie Deland operated the store. They were followed by Louie and Hazel Kratz. George and Hatti Clark followed them. Adolph and Grace Heckrote purchased the building plus contents and moved it across the road. He operated it for a time and sold it to Clarence and Ester Lackey. Robert and Eleanor Hoover purchased it in 1951. Then George and Helen Mollenhour purchased the store in 1952, and operated it till 1970. Paul and Lavina Nelson purchased the store, and a short time later their daughter started operating the Canine Castle, where she groomed pets, but the store and grooming business was discontinued about 1979.

A store was operated by James Hartley on lot 37. After Nelsons closed theirs, it was closed in 1981. In the early 1900's, this building was a dance hall. About 1930, Merl Yocum stored and repaired his threshing machine in it. He did threshing for a few years. He also operated a gasoline station west of the building for a few years. Later Harry and Buthene Smythe operated the station. About 1939, Mr. Smythe got a factory job later, then he closed the station. Marburgers had an aquarium in the building where they are selling groceries now. They sold several species of small fish.

Naomi Cain now has the camping grounds in Palestine which has acreage enough to serve lots of people. It lays close to the State Road 25 back to Palestine Lake.

### Early Doctors

Dr. J.W. Heffley, Dr. F.M. Pearman, and Aaron Liskey, were the early physicians. In the 1869's, Dr. W.E. Sarber practiced medicine in the Palestine vicinity. He lived east of the intersection of State Road 25 and 450 West, the second house. He owned 160 acres of ground and also owned a drug store in Palestine.

His work was in a time when there were no telephones



and hospitals. Dated 1861-1862, the daybook he kept had such entries as:

A list of drug sales with such drugs as gargling oil, castor oil, quinine, cough syrup, turpentine, vermifuge, red precipitate, calomel, lunar caustic, paregoric, camphor, iodine, sweet oil, sweet spirits of nitre, oil of clover, chloride of lime, morphine, McLane Pills, tonic bitters, Robacks Pills, Dovers Powders and others listed.

His records tell of childbirths that he attended and whether the new-born was a boy or girl. He charged \$5.00 for the case. He gave the number of hours he was in attendance. Sometimes he did not get there in time to see the birth. In these cases, the cost was less.

Someone would have to ride in to get the doctor, then he would have to make his call by horseback or horse and buggy. So there was quite a delay.

One item reads "Aron Leighty, medicine for children at night 62¢". The cost of Dr. Sarber's visit ranged from 25¢ to \$1.50. The biggest item shown is amputating of John Skinners finger for \$8.00.

In his book he would sometimes note the weather such as "a bad night", or "roads very bad".

Some other items in his book were: paid George Dreischbauch 75¢ for plowing, Tom Foster \$13.75 for 6075 wood lath. He credits another man with a peck of cranberries at 50¢. Martin Bissort was given credit for 37¢ for making and setting horse shoes. At two different times he bought beef from Ben Andrick, once for 17¢ per lb., the other time 41¢ per lb. He paid David Blue \$1.25 for tanning calf skin. There were cranberries 50¢ peck, sugar 10¢, apples 25¢ bu. and beef 3½¢ lb. He paid \$1.50 to get a pair of mittens knitted, another time a teamster got \$2.00 a day for himself and his team.

Dr. Sarber also made deeds and other documents for the people of Palestine.

Dr. Sarber, a conscientious and hard working person, was less than 50 years old when he died with lung trouble in the year 1869. Some other doctors he mentioned were Dr. Brocket, Dr. Gray and Dr. Davenport.

### **Palestine Band**

The "Star Band" was directed by Elmer Vandermark. It operated for several years. The band was so accomplished, it was often invited away from home. During some of Warsaw's street fairs, the Palestine Band furnished the music.

The members were Edson Vandermark and his wife Esta, Charles Vandermark, Elmer Vandermark and his wife Bess, and daughter Louise, Freemont Fisher and wife Lillie, and Arthur Brown and his wife Helen. In later years, Edson led the band; his wife Esta played the piano.

### **Farmers 1866**

Some of the farmers living in the Palestine vicinity in 1866 according to a map of that date, were: W.

Gochenour, J. Andrick, M. A. Calkins, L. Andrick, R. Andrick, A. Philpott, J.H. Mayers, J. Rupe, J. Everly and J. Hastings living northeast and east of Palestine.

Then to the northwest, S. Shirey, J. Romine, S. Vandermark, E. Clark, L. L. Latimer, J.M. Jacobs, J. Borton and A. Melton.

South and west of Palestine were: C. Sarber, D. Williams, S. Vandermark, J. Hartman, Porter and Blackmore, W. E. Sarber, H. Milburn, J. Kibler, A. Messersmith, A. Warren, McSherry's and Miller's.

To the southeast were: D. Williams, A. Ault, J. I. Best, H. Sewell, W. Wagner, M. Hatfield, W. H. Bowser and A. E. Rupe. Some of the owners may not have lived on the farms.

During the period that Paul Summy and Stanley Boggs were County Surveyors, about 1917, a hard-surfaced road was built from the west edge of Palestine and run through Mentone. It was sponsored by Elmer Vandermark. He was the first man in the county to deliver mail in an automobile. Then the pavement was built through Palestine to Warsaw, about 1926. It was known as the "Turner Road".

After getting out of college, Stanley Boggs spent several years as Civil Engineer on the building of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, living in Texas and Oklahoma. He came back to Indiana about 1912 or 1914 and spent about 16 years as County Surveyor.

Joseph Boggs, the son of Stanley Boggs, operates the Boggs Insurance Agency in Mentone.

When Harry and Buthene Smythe ran the filling station, jobs were hard to get. There were lots of people fishing on Palestine Lake. Sometimes Mrs. Smythe would take care of their child and pump gasoline, and Harry would go out to the lake and sell hamburgers and drinks to the fishermen.

Buthene's parents, Alvin and Jeanettie Bowser owned a farm north of the Palestine Christian Church where their family was raised. It was owned then by Ray and Reba Tucker, and now David Koldyke, owner, has a large poultry house on it.

Reubin Kibler, the blacksmith, was a good friend of Alvin and Jeanettie Bowser, coming to their house often to visit. Buthene said she would walk to Palestine Store when she was young to pick up things for her parents. On one of her trips, she stopped to watch the blacksmith work. He had to go into the house for something and so he threw the leather apron which he always wore, over the anvil. Buthene tried out his anvil with his big hammer, but she did not take the apron off. When Mr. Kibler came back and picked up the apron, it had holes in it. He asked her if she did it. She would not admit she had then, but now some 60 years later, she does.

George Wirick was having a theft problem in his store. He started spending his nights there. One night there was a noise at the back door and two fellows broke in. George shot, hitting one in the stomach. The fellow fell and crawled to a nearby building where the men found him and carried him to a house where he died the next day. The other burglar got away.



Zelda Lash taught at the Palestine School across from the Methodist Church. She rode the Winona Interurban back and forth to Mentone, however it was a mile and a half walk from the school to the interurban track north of Palestine. She later taught at the Sevastopol School.

Jim Chiverins was a candy maker who went around to the different homes and made candy during the early 1900's. He made several different kinds of candy.

The Dr. W.E. Sarber farm is now a poultry farm where Maynard Kauffman now lives. It was previously owned by Dale Sinclair and Dean Marble.

Samuel Boggs Sr. purchased the farm east of Palestine at the intersection of State Road 25 and 450 West, in the early 1900's. His son Samuel lives there now. The barn on the Sam Boggs farm has a cement block exterior which were all hand made. This barn is approximately 100 years old. Before the present house was built, a log house was located there. It was then moved east of the crossroads on the north side. It still stands having been added to and covered with a modern-type siding.

### **Palestine Churches**

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized October 9, 1854. The meetings were held at the pastor's home, Rev. James A. Hallord, until the next spring. John Fresh was class leader. The thirteen members then renovated the old blacksmith shop and converted it into a House of Worship.

Starting in the fall of 1856, they erected a new church which was completed in 1859. The church was dedicated by Rev. Jacob Colelazer. Trustees were William Sarber, Elijah Baker, John Fresh and William Daugherty.

Sunday School was held only during the summer until 1876. By 1879, the Sunday School enrollment had increased to 140 members, with average attendance of 100.

Remodeling was done in 1914, and later in 1951, when a new hardwood floor was purchased and the men of the church donated the work under the direction of Orval Secor. In 1952, an addition to the front of the church was a classroom and an entrance room. Since then, new shingles, an oil furnace, and the remodeling of the basement has been accomplished.

The Christian Church was built sometime between 1860 and 1873. Records dating back before May 13, 1868 speak of previous meetings. The purpose of this meeting was "to locate and properly lay off and take care of a graveyard." The first burial was Mary Sarber's body in May, 1868. Older tombstones appear in the cemetery, but they were moved there.

No doubt some people wish they could shingle their house as did the olsters in 1886! S.D. Henderson bid to give the church 17,000 shingles at \$2.90 per thousand, and put on the same for \$.75 per thousand.

The Palestine Christian Church did not always set at the present location. Actually the first spot was several

hundred yards east, and the church entrance was in the opposite direction. At this time, the parishioners entered and left past the pulpit. On May 20, 1890, the church was moved northwest to its present spot. In the fall of 1901, a Montgomery Ward Church Bell made of 1300 lbs. of steel alloy was purchased by the church for \$67.50.

The church remained mostly idle after October, 1896 until a layman with passion and love, W.T. Morgan, reopened the church and started Sunday School in 1900. During the next idle period, the Church of Christ from Mentone and the Church of God from Warsaw held meetings in the building.

On July 1st of 1912, evangelist H.E. Wilhite and singer F.H. Shaul began services. People experiencing conversion and/or those uniting with the church numbered over sixty. Then, Brother Morrison lent the church money to purchase hymnals.

On April 15, 1919, the church negotiated for the land of Mrs. Joseph Hartman to enlarge the cemetery grounds. Mule-team grading of the cemetery was then accomplished by Emmet Clark, Fremont Fisher, Herman Snodgrass, E.R. Hubber and Lloyd Lowman. Carpet and window blinds were also purchased that year.

A barbed wire fence with metal gates enclosed the cemetery in 1921. On May 19, 1923, Henry Binkley was paid \$35.00 for raising the church, and changing its direction as it is today. Several men from the church aided in this large task. The belfry and vestibule with double doors were added to the church over twenty years before this. The brick facing was added in the summer of 1923.

All these things were done in preparation for dedication services on January 20, 1924. At least four ministers from the area participated. But there was a real scare thrown into the day of blessings. Several hooded Ku Klux Klan members entered the building and donated \$200. At the highest moment of agitation and disturbance, Rev. J.W. Keefer said "Let us kneel and pray". The masked visitors then disappeared.

Beginning in 1939, a series of pastors have been elected from students and faculty of Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Indiana.

In 1951, the cemetery was incorporated and the first missionary offering was made to European Bible Mission.

### **BURKET**

The first actual settler in Seward Township was Samuel Bishop who came in the spring of 1836. Alone, except for a team of horses, he built a cabin and later cleared a farm.

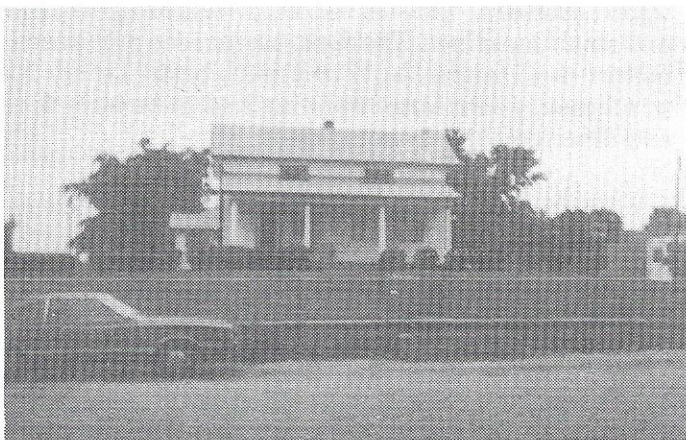
Other early settlers included William Anderson, William Washam, Frederick McSherry, Samuel Magner, John and Nathaniel Paxton, James Garvin, and Mark Smith, Sr.



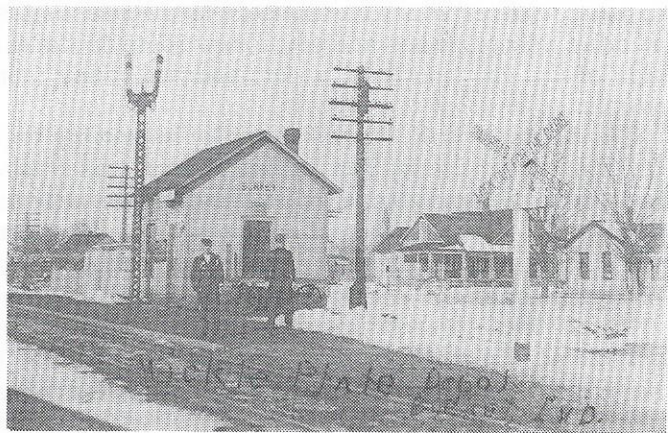
At first this land was the eastern part of Franklin Township, but it was organized as Seward Township in 1859. In the early days this township had a library of one hundred volumes which were kept at the trustee's house.

In 1836 Jesse Shortridge purchased one hundred sixty acres of land located in northern Indiana from the United States government. No sale price was given on the abstract. The land changed ownership a few times before Elias Burket bought it for \$1,315.00 and built his house.

The Burket house was well built. W.G. Davis purchased it in 1933 and lived there twenty-seven years until he moved to Florida. The house has never been vacant.



Originally this house was not located on a public road. The only exit to a public road was a lane running east to the angling road south of Warsaw. This road began at the southwest curve in the road at Palestine and continued southwest through the east side of Fred McSherry's woods and on south to the north side of the Dreisbach property.



Before the railroad was built in 1882, a new north-south road was built on the east side of Burket which extended to Yellow Creek Lake. This road replaced most of the angling road, but there is a usable portion which begins one and a quarter miles south of Burket and continues southwest.

The town of Burket was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1882 by Elias Burket. It was named in honor of its founder and became a prosperous village of 300 inhabitants. The first improvement in the new town was the sawmill erected by Samuel Banks, completed in the autumn of 1881. He cut lumber for the first residence, also for the first business house, the drugstore occupied by Adam Horn, which was erected by Thomas Benton Sarber. (This is the 1982 post office.)

The second building was a hotel erected jointly by Horace Tucker and Peter Blue. This, when completed, was conducted by Samuel and Mrs. Banks, who with their family were the first residents of Burket.

In the spring of 1882, J.J. Mohler opened a hardware store that was soon afterward purchased by John Sarber. He sold to George W. Nellans who greatly increased the stock, and in 1885 had a cash trade of \$3,400.00.

The first general stock of merchandise was opened by David H. Petry in the spring of 1882. He was also the first dealer in grain, but was soon succeeded by Mr. Nellans who purchased over 45,000 bushels of wheat.

The post office was established the same year with Absalom Kistler postmaster, followed by Owen Gaskill. Adam Horn was the first postmaster in the new town under Democratic rule, his commission bearing the date April 28, 1885. Later postmasters were Lemuel E. Hatfield, George Graff, Aaron E. Mayer, James W. Howard, William E. Davis, Harry Clifford Hatfield,

Dr. John Heffly was the first practicing physician, but he remained only a short time. He was succeeded by Dr. Ensenberger and later by Dr. Freeman A. Williams, an accomplished physician who located there in April, 1885.

Another building erected in 1882 was a brick schoolhouse for 125 pupils.

The principal industry of this village was the manufacture of lumber with three mills running constantly. The main one was owned by Samuel Banks. During the first three years, the three mills cut and shipped an estimated 5,500,000 feet of lumber in addition to local sales. A sufficient quantity of timber still remained in the vicinity to keep them running for ten years.

The third building erected was used jointly as a drug store and saloon and was operated by John Newby. The business may or may not have been profitable, but after the drugs were taken from the stock, it frequently changed owners. It was last owned by Harvey Bybee.

The first business building is still in good condition. It was first used as a drugstore owned and operated by Adam Horn. It was located due north of the Davis store. West of the drugstore was the house where the Horn family lived. One night in the early 1900's the house burned. With the aid of the bucket brigade, the store was saved. Soon after the fire, the drugstore building and contents were purchased by W.E. Davis, who moved the drugs and fixtures to the new west room of the Davis store. The Horn family moved to Thorosby, Alabama and operated a drugstore there.

The Horn building was first rented for a hardware



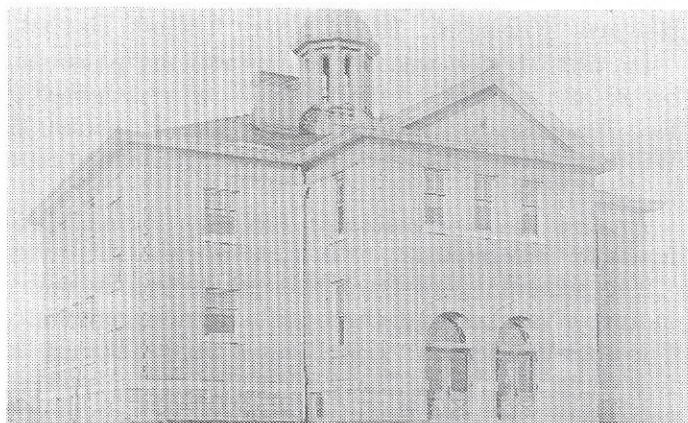
and post office. The mail and passengers were brought to and from Warsaw twice each week by Morris Robinson. He had a canvas covered wagon which was pulled by a team of black ponies.

On the north side of the extreme east end of Main Street was a blacksmith shop belonging to Daniel Howard. The next building west, where Mr. and Mrs. Howard live, was the other blacksmith shop belonging to George Kern. The next lot west was where Knott Fuller had a cabinet shop. North of the shop was his small home.

Farther north, on the south side of the alley running east and west was a saloon. Another saloon was located in the second house west of the fire station office, and the third one was west of the old Methodist Episcopal Church. All three saloons vanished about 1900. The foundation is all that is left of the first one, but the other houses have respectable families.

West on the north side of Main Street was several buildings. Alva Shatto had a meat market and grocery in the first building west. On the west side of the second floor was the Red Men Lodge and on the east side was a large room for public meetings.

The room on the lower floors of the next building was used for meetings and dances for the Red Men and their families. The music for the dances was furnished by George Kern who played chords on the piano. The next



## School

The Banks Hotel on West Main Street was vacant for several years. In 1907 the school department rented it to teach the upper classes until the new high school was completed in 1908. The teachers of these grades were William McHatton and Andrew Sarber. The first five grades used the vacant building north of the Davis Store. The teachers were Bertha Blue, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Blue, and Emma Graff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Graff, Sr. Until 1909, the Burket High School had only three grades. Any student wanting to graduate from high school had to attend a school offering the fourth year.

In 1950 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Powell purchased the Horn building and operated a very good restaurant (also the Bank of Seward operated in the same building for a time). In 1960 they rented the building to the

Postal Department for a new location of the Burket Post Office. This was during the twenty-five years (1944-1969) that Mrs. Clifford Eherenman served as postmistress.

## Fire Department

Mentone gave Burket the first equipment for fighting fires. It was a two wheel trailer equipped with two long round tanks laying side by side. They were operated with soda and acid. When one tank was empty, the full tank would be turned on and used while the empty tank would be recharged. This equipment was manufactured by the American LaFrance Company. The next equipment used by Burket was a Ford Truck with a large water tank and a gasoline pump to produce a good water pressure. This served very well for grass fires and small buildings. The department soon purchased a factory built tanker. In 1978 a much better tanker was purchased, and a large building had to be built for it and other emergency equipment.

## Churches

In the beginning Burket had no churches. The nearest ones were the Brethren Church one mile south, and the Methodist Church at Palestine. A few years before 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Gaskill moved from Bourbon to Burket and built the Gaskill sawmill. She wanted a church in Burket and donated freely for the building of the Methodist Church. It was built and dedicated in 1889. It was a well built one room brick church with frosted glass windows, and the church was well attended.

The Burket Circuit consisted of Burket, Palestine, and Cook's Chapel. The minister was paid about \$500 per year. Later on Talma was added and the salary was increased to \$700. Rev. Charles Modlin was the Burket minister during 1914 and 1915. He, being a good carpenter, directed the building of a large basement for Sunday School classes and also a new room on the east side of the church which accommodated many more people.

The Mentone M.E. Church was also improving their building at that time. The Burket church was getting new leaded colored glass windows, and as a friendly act, bought one for Mentone. It was placed in the north window on the west side of the Mentone church. The bottom glass states "donated by Burket M.E. Church".

When the Methodist remodeling was about completed, the United Brethren members decided to build a new church in Burket. It was built on the corner lot east of the Davis Store. The brick for the church was laid by Rowland Ketterman who lived in Mentone. The church was dedicated by Rev. Modlin in 1915.

After the two churches merged, the membership and interest has greatly increased. A beautiful new room was built on the east side. The M.E. Church was torn down, and the United Methodist building was remodeled and a new addition added.



## Bank

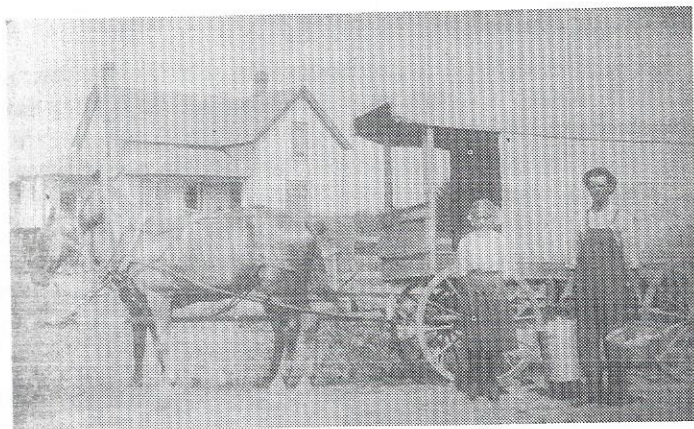
All of the equipment of the bank which was located on the north side of Mentone's Main Street, west of Cooper's Store, was bought and moved to Burket and placed in the building north of the Davis Store. It was named the Bank of Seward. O.S. Gaskill was the president. The other officers were Ida Huffer, vice-president, and H.H. Roberts, cashier. The directors in addition to Mr. Gaskill and Mr. Roberts were W.S. Howard, George Alexander, and Clem Jones. Other bankers were Horace Tucker and Gaylord Doran. The bank ceased operation during the Depression.

On October 16, 1979 the Burket Branch of the Farmers State Bank of Mentone began operation.

## Creamery

The Burket Elgin Creamery was started in 1910. The equipment was installed by William English and J.E. Daniels. These men were employed by the company who built the equipment. A Mr. Netland was employed to manage the creamery. Four country routes were established and served by Joe Burket, Oliver Davis, Vernon Jones and Del Meredith. They furnished their horses and enclosed wagons and ran their routes six days each week, and received for their weekly service eighteen dollars.

Lewis Foor, who dealt with butter and eggs, started coming to the Davis Store each Monday with his team of horses and wagon to buy the butter and eggs the store purchased that week. He did another service for the



store that would not be safe today. W.E. Davis would put the cash receipts in a drawstring bag and lay it on the wagon seat for him to deposit in the Mentone bank.

W.E. Davis was the president of the creamery, and Laura Snodgrass, sister of Earl and Dr. Samuel Snodgrass, was the bookkeeper. The Creamery prospered for several years. During May of 1930 there were 700 cases of eggs valued at \$6,000 sent to New York from Burket by the Nickle Plate Railroad.

Each week the Davis Store sent letters to the customers. Examples of the letters and prices are:

*February 13, 1932 — The store purchases 47 cases of eggs for 12 cents per dozen.*

*March 7, 1932 — paid 16 cents for large clean eggs.*

*July 8, 1936 — Notice! In the future the egg car will be loaded on Saturday. Because of the weather and reduced prices of eggs, we have reduced our paying price to 18 cents for all colors and sizes.*

*December 1, 1937 — We will pay 26 cents for large eggs and 22 cents for medium.*

*September 20, 1939 — Large white eggs 20 cents, Large brown 18 cents, medium white or brown 10 to 14 cents.*

## Burket Detective Association

When Elias Burket surveyed part of his land for the new town, he named it Bellview. Because a town in Ohio had the same name and was located on the new railroad, they changed the Indiana one to Burket. At this time there were no elected officials. When one was needed, the county sheriff was notified. During this time honorable men were suggested to keep order, but the system was not always honorable.

One time a poor, weak-minded man stole a small jar of lard. He was taken to one of the blacksmith shops where he confessed to a group of loafers. After they held a kangaroo court and declared him a thief, they put him in a buggy, tied his feet to the foot rail and took him to Warsaw jail. The sheriff released him the next day.

The stealing of horses became a problem. In 1888 the town organized twenty-five men to search for thieves. This order was called "The Burket Detective Association" with W.E. Davis serving as president, and Albert Hagenbrook as secretary/treasurer. When anyone reported a theft, three men were ordered to leave at once on horseback to try to find the thief. They were paid \$1.50 a day to search three days. If not found by them, they could return home.

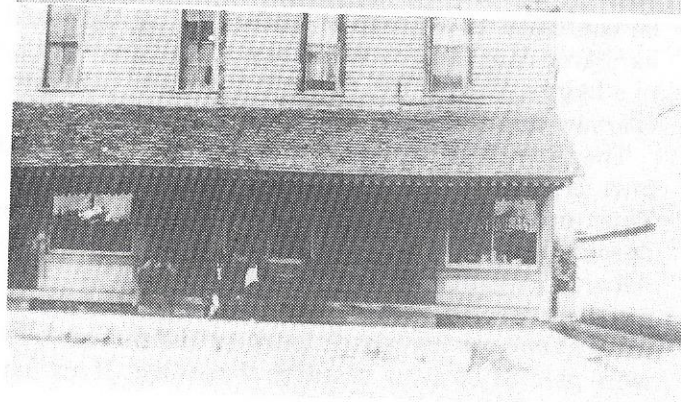
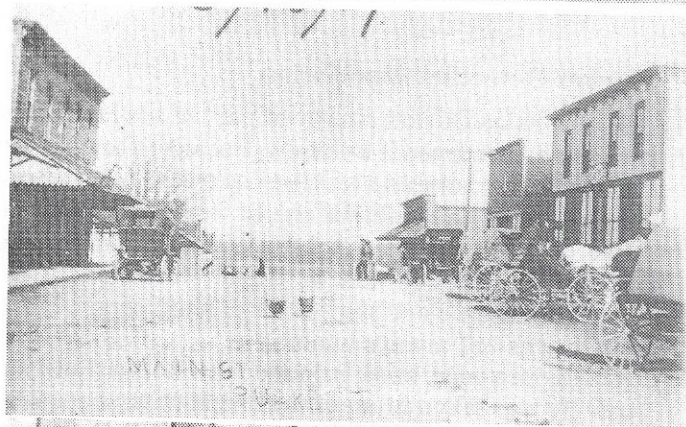
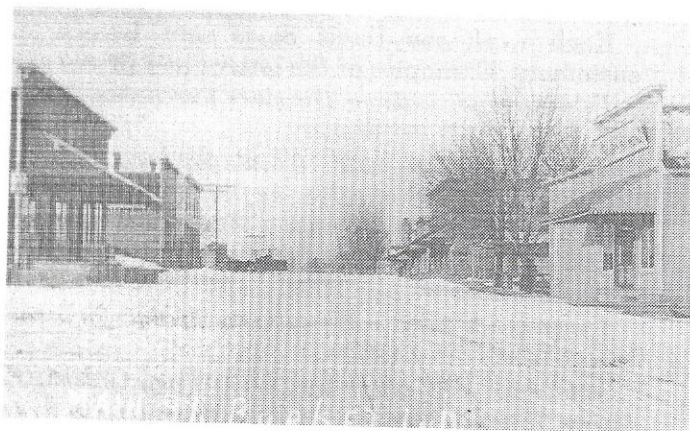
Homer McGinley began working at the Davis Store in 1898. At night he slept on a cot to detect any trouble. One night two men broke into the store while a train was going through town. He refused to open the safe, so they tied him and placed him on the top of it. They poured nitro on the door. Before they lit it, they moved him from the safe. The door of the safe faced an outside wall about three feet away which had shelves that contained plug and smoking tobacco. When the nitro ignited, the door of the safe went through the wall, spreading the tobacco all over the gravel street. The next morning about everyone in town was busy getting the tobacco out of the sand.

When Burket was incorporated in 1930, marshalls were elected.

## Mendel Store

The Mendel Bros. General Merchandise Store was built in the 1880's and located one half block west of the Davis store on the north side of the railroad tracks.





*Scenes of Main Street in Burket*

Three brothers, William, Alva, and Louis (or Lew) ran the store for a few years. Then William left to become the Nickel Plate station agent at Burket. Later Alva sold out to Louis, moved to Claypool, and operated the telephone office there.

In the early days of the store they had a horse-drawn huckster wagon. It was filled with grocery staples, and stopped at country homes to supply their needs. It also went to Sevastapol and Beaver Dam.

Also in connection with the store were several coal bins, built beside the railroad tracks between the station and the elevator. They sold hard and soft coal.

In front of the store was a large platform scale where the coal was weighed. Farmers came there to weigh grain and livestock also.

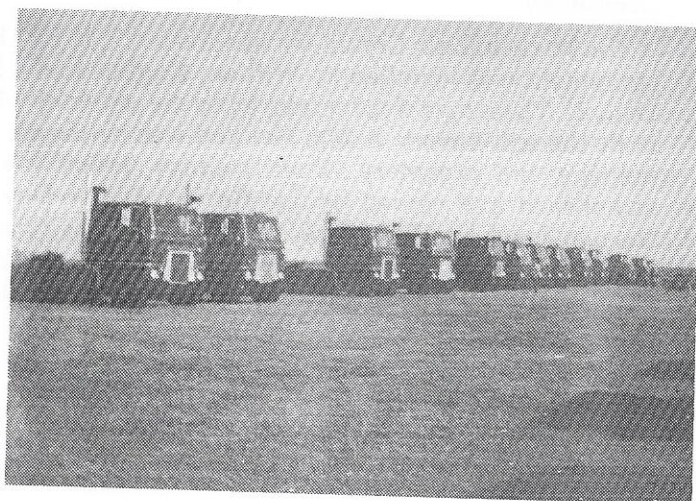
When cars came into use, Mendels installed a gasoline pump and sold gas at less than fifteen cents a gallon.

In the grocery section of the store was a row of

perhaps a dozen chairs, where the customers could sit and visit and solve the problems of the day. Farmers brought in eggs and homemade butter to sell and exchange for groceries and dry goods. Coffee came in the bean form, so they had a large coffee grinder and ground it fine or medium as the customer wished. Business was very good, and at times they hired six or seven clerks. Then with the coming of good roads, part of the trade went to Warsaw.

Over the thirty-some years that Louis Mendel had his store, there were many interesting episodes, burglaries, visits by gypsies, etc. In the end, his life's work went up in smoke. One February night in the late 1920's the store burned to the ground. On the alley next to the store was a small building used for a barber shop. This building burned also, but the original Burket house next to it only suffered paint damage.

The Mendel Store was not replaced. Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mendel moved to Bourbon and operated a hardware store for a few years.



### Other Businesses

Denzel Nelson began operating a trucking business, and within a short time it developed to a very large business. Many people were required to operate it. When he sold his business, he and his business were greatly missed.

The building where Mr. Nelson had his trucking business was purchased by Wade Powell to furnish more room for his expanding tire business. The building Mr. Powell left was sold to the Warsaw Black Oxide for their expansion.

In 1941, W.G. Davis began operating a machine shop, making many different items. Business developed quickly and in 1950 he purchased the vacant lot where the former Mendel Store stood and built a much larger block building. It was known as the Davis Manufacturing Company. In 1960 he sold the entire factory to Sun Metal Products of Warsaw.

They retained the use of the building for several years, and in 1973 sold it to Dean Goshert, who in turn sold or rented it to the firm "Tip-E-Pak" to produce boiled eggs. In 1979 a new addition was added on the east side of the original building.



## Tent Show

The memories of a tent show that came to Burket should remain with those who attended it. The tent was located on the ground belonging to the railroad. To pay for the privilege, the owner of the show gave the foreman of the railroad a free ticket for each of his children.

It was a very thrilling show. They had a monkey named Nellie, who did stunts, and a lady dressed in tights who walked the tight wire which was located outside the tent. When her act ended, she got off the wire and began selling tickets for a more interesting act in the tent. No one saw the lady inside, but they saw their first movie.

The light in the projector was made by burning a piece of lime. The operator of the projector controlled the speed of the picture by turning the crank, and he talked all the time, telling what was shown in the picture.

The picture was about a man who was the night operator of a railroad station that was far down the track. His daughter was taking him his midnight lunch. When she was nearing the station, she discovered her father tied to the track. A train was coming very fast, but the daughter freed her father in time to save him. Everyone cheered. The operator explained the expression, "They were in the limelight".

After the salesman sold some "Sure Cure" medicine, they went home and explained the show to their parents and hoped someday they could be "in the limelight".

## SEVASTOPOL

In 1837, Benjamin Blue came from Ohio and settled on Section 2, Township 31, Range 4 east. His house was the first in the township made of logs. His neighbors were the Potawatomi Indians who were peaceable. Mr. Blue was a man of enterprise and energy, and bore a prominent part in the development of the township. He spent his lifetime here.

Benjamin West also settled in 1837 on Section 7, Township 3 north, Range 5 east. He spent two years there before he left the country. His land was purchased by John Bybee, who spent his lifetime on the farm. In 1838 came Dr. I.H. Jennings who settled in Section 10, Township 31 north, Range 4 east.

Sevastopol is at the crossroads of Kosciusko County 700 South and 1000 West. It was laid out in 1856 by George W. White, John Mollenhour and John Tucker, who were owners of the ground.

Franklin Township was covered with timber at the time the early white settlers started coming. The land was cleared for farming. A portion of the timber was used for building. Of course, much of the timber was destroyed at first because there was little demand for it.

In the fall of 1838, Jesse Myers settled on Section 19, Township 31 north, Range 5 east, near the sight of Sevastopol. He remained there about two years and sold to Rudolph Hire and left the country. Richard A. Lee also came in 1838 and settled on Section 1, Township 31

north, Range 4 east, and cleared the land for a farm. Prosper Nichols, a former resident of Harrison County, Ohio, settled on Section 35, Township 31 north, Range 4 east. For thirty years he was a very prominent person in public improvement of the community before his death in 1868. In the fall of 1839, his son, Solomon Nichols settled on the same section. He also cleared land for a farm and worked for the advancement of the community.

In 1841, Amos Baldwin settled on Section 31, Township 31 north, Range 5 east, and George Sarber settled on Section 2, Township 31 north, Range 4 east. Others who came at various periods and helped develop the community were: J.E. Day, John Mollenhour, William Provault, Simon Hartman, Abraham Blue, William Bell, Enoch and William Sturgeon, John D. Highway, John Smart, William Horner, Omer Pierce, William Jefferies, John, Horace and Albert Tucker, Henry Black, James Warren, Robert Cook, Allen Judd, George Barr, Levi Shively, Thomas and James H. Burns, and Caleb Rogers.

There was an Indiana trail from Peru northwest which went across Franklin Township. It remained well-marked for many years after the white man settled the township. The first road was surveyed in 1836 and was known as the Logansport and Mishawaka State Road. In 1838 the Logansport and Warsaw State Road was surveyed.

The first white child born in the township was James, a son of Benjamin Blue in 1839.

The first nuptial ceremony was the marriage of Hugh Bryant and Miss Anna Nichols, daughter of Prosper Nichols in 1840. In 1842, other marriages were: Samuel Shields and Miss Mary Nichols, William Wagner and Miss Sarah Nichols, Charles W. Holman and Miss Delilah Burns, and Peter Bryant and Miss Lucy Nichols.

The first cemetery ground was donated by Prosper Nichols in 1843, section 55. Richard A. Lee donated a lot for the same purpose.

The first school was a log cabin erected on the land of Solomon Nichols, the teacher was Jeremiah Burns in 1842. The school was financed by the citizens of the community who had children. In 1846, the first public school was erected. By 1879, there were eleven schools in the township with 455 pupils.

The first sawmill was erected in Sevastopol in 1848 or 1849 by Edwin C. Gordon. Several years later he added a Buhr Mill for grinding corn, also a flour mill and they were still in operation in the year 1879.

The first tannery started in 1842 by Benjamin Blue. It was the only one in Franklin Township and received its power from Yellow Creek. It operated about four years.

In 1853, the first bricks were made by David Hammon. He continued the kilm until his death and then it was run by his son, Franklin Harrison.

In 1858, the Baptist Church was organized through the influence of Rev. Andrew Babcock. Meetings were held in the Sevastopol school until 1860, when a church was erected (36 x 40 feet) for \$900. By 1879, the church



had about a hundred members. In 1879, Rev. Peter Hummer was the pastor, and the church officers were Solomon Ernsberger, John D. Highway, and Elliott Manwaring, Trustee. The latter two were deacons. In 1860, Sunday School was organized in connection with church with John I. Cox, Superintendent.

The first general store was opened by Thomas and A.J. Whittenberger.

The Post Office was established in 1857. William Dunlap was appointed postmaster and kept the office in his house, 1/2 mile west of town. In 1861 when A.J. Whittenberger was appointed postmaster, the Post Office was moved to his store in Sevastopol. Dr. A.M. Towl was appointed next postmaster, followed by Dr. C.R. Grubbs, a second appointment of Towl, and then H.C. Riner.

The first blacksmith shop was established by Mr. McCowick in 1856.

The first physicians were Dr. C.R. Grubbs and Dr. A.M. Towl.

In 1879, the town of Sevastopol had the following businesses: Dunlap and Burns, general merchandise; H.C. Riner, groceries; David L. Lewis, hardware; C.E. Newhouse, drug store; Mott and Mollenhour, undertakers and furniture dealers; Richard Doremire, boot and shoe manufacturer; R.J. Lambert and George Kern, blacksmiths; T.M. Paschall and Philetus Leiter, wagon makers; Towl and Keesecker, steam flouring mill; J.C. Cox and Bros., steam saw mill; Dr. H.B. Ernsberger and Dr. A.M. Towl, resident physicians.

Dr. Towl came to Sevastopol from Palestine about the time the town was being laid out. He had a drug store on the northwest corner of the crossroads. For thirty years he was the leading physician of the community. He was postmaster for many years with the office in the drug store. He was also an agent of the Northern Indianan, a newspaper. At one time he was trustee for Franklin Township. In 1879, he was the proprietor of a hotel by the name of Locust Grove. In those days the roads were very poor, and doctors went by buggy or horseback with saddle bags to carry their supplies. He was a person to make use of newly developed medicines. In his day there was much fever, ague and much rheumatism. These were partly due to the many mosquitoes which bred in the low swampy places not yet drained.

Dr. Towl was born in Maine in 1819. He read about medicines in a doctor's office in the state of New York and began his practice there. In 1852, he came to Palestine, Indiana, and four years later moved to Sevastopol. He was the father of seven children. In 1886, Dr. Towl died very suddenly, a great shock to the community.

Sevastopol prospered during the Civil War times and until a time after the Nickel Plate Railroad was constructed in 1882 and the town of Mentone was laid out. At that time, Sevastopol was at its peak with a population of 200. It was large enough that in September of 1863, a large meeting was held there to arouse the war spirit. It is recorded that 1000 people

were there in attendance. There were speeches by J.J. Cooper, Governor "Billy" Williams and Captain Atkins. This is only one of many large meetings held in the town. There is also a record of a grand cotillion party held there during the civil war days at \$1.50 per couple.

#### I.O.O.F.

Sevastopol Lodge, No. 403, I.O.O.F. was organized in July of 1872, but in 1885 was moved to Mentone.

#### Gleaners

The Ancient Order of Gleaners was a secret fraternal order combined with insurance protection. Local groups were called Arbors. Sevastopol Arbor 786 held meetings above the store in the early Twentieth Century.

#### Birthday Celebrated in Style

As Mrs. Washington Bybee's 70th birthday approached (Oct. 3, 1883), friends decided that would be a good occasion for a surprise celebration. Neighbor women started four or five days ahead - baking, frying, boiling beets, preparing pickles, etc.

On the day before, Mr. Bybee the County Commissioner, helped keep the secret by suggesting a visit to the Rochester Fair. Along the way, the Bybees stopped to visit relatives who insisted they spend the night. The following morning the host, who was in on the secret, discouraged their trip to Rochester. He had heard a rumor of smallpox there. Mrs. Bybee, "Aunt Polly" as she was familiarly known decided to go back home, and her husband agreed.

As they neared their home north of Sevastopol, they heard music and then saw the Sevastopol Cornet Band. Mr. Bybee explained that there must be something going on at Mentone on the Nickel Plate.

When they turned the corner, Aunt Polly saw her yard filled with people and vehicles, and the truth dawned on her. Long tables set on the lawn were filled with good things to eat. One dish which caused comment was Mrs. Horace Tucker's beets. She had raised a large one which she brought to the dinner. One slice measured eleven and a half inches.

There was plenty of food left after the crowd had eaten. Between four and five hundred people had been present, with someone counting one hundred fifty-seven wagons, carriages, buggies, and other vehicles.

During the afternoon several men made speeches, and gifts were presented.

#### Sevastopol Alumnus

Among the young people who attended school at Sevastopol earlier in this century were Arnold and Ralph "Jakie" Jefferies, Ed and Lester Creakbaum, Max and Ruby Smith, Lucile (Jefferies) Fisher, Doris (Creakbaum) Feldman, Blanche Smith, Ruth Igo, and Thelma Eherenman. For some of them maple syrup time was an opportunity to get together for a cookout. They took eggs and chickens back to the sugar camps to roast or boil and used some of the bubbling syrup to make taffy.



## BIGFOOT

The village of Bigfoot began in Newcastle Township, Fulton County soon after the Civil War.

According to a publication of the Fulton County Historical Society, there is some question about the origin of the name. At first the name was "Henpeck" but in the 1870's when they applied for a post office, the postmaster replied that there were other Henpecks in the state, so the name "Bigfoot" was selected.

One tradition says the name came from an Indian chief who lived with his tribe in that vicinity. Another source credits the name to the heavy clay soil which sticks to a farmer's boots and gives him a "big foot".

The first mail to Bigfoot was carried on horseback from Warsaw. Later it came twice a week from Talma or Athens. Saturdays were special days because dozens of farmers congregated at the store to wait for the mail.

Mary (Laird) Barkman's family, the Frank Laids, had to walk two miles to get their mail, and Mary recalls walking two miles to Yale School, a one-room school west of Sycamore Cemetery, which served the Bigfoot



*Allen Long's family of the Big Foot community. He is in front on right.*

community. Fences at that time were made of rails and in winter when the drifts were high enough, they walked over the fences.

Around the turn of the century, progressive communities were starting telephone exchanges, and Bigfoot was no exception. A citizen could become a member of the company by building a half-mile of telephone line or paying ten dollars. At one time there were about one hundred members who paid \$1.00 per month for the service. Later Bigfoot exchange combined with Mentone and then this combination was purchased by Northern Indiana Telephone Company.

Mary helped operate the Bigfoot switchboard when she worked for the Barretts. However, she had other duties, too, because Barretts had the grocery and post office.

After approximately forty years of progress, rural free delivery took away the post office, automobiles made it easier to shop in larger towns, fire destroyed buildings and Bigfoot faded into memory.

## TALMA

Talma was established as Bloomingsburg in Newcastle Township, Fulton County on June 13, 1851. Through the years this quiet rural village along the Tippecanoe River has provided a variety of services to area residents.

The importance of mills in early days is illustrated by the street names, which are River, Race, and Mill. One of the millers was John Bowman, great-grandfather of Eldora Calvert. While repairing the mill dam at the mill he owned in Bloomingsburg, he contracted typhoid fever and died in September, 1862.

In addition to a sawmill and a grist mill, Talma has had a wagon maker, a harness maker, a blacksmith and turner, a hotel, a meat market, general stores, a shoemaker, doctors, a wool buying shop, an ice house, an ice cream parlor, a restaurant, and a bakery.

Four different fraternal organizations met there: Masonic Lodge, Oddfellows, Red Men, and Gleaners.

A professional puzzler living in Bloomingsburg tired of writing the long name, so he circulated a petition to change it to Talma. He found the name, Talma in an encyclopedia. It was a town in Italy and now is the only one in the United States. Officials in the United States government were happy to have a shorter name, and the change was made on January 25, 1896. However, the Talma post office was discontinued in 1907.

One of the many buildings damaged or destroyed by a tornado on April 3, 1974 was the Talma School. An earlier school built in 1903, was destroyed by fire in 1915. The brick building completed in 1917 was used until the tornado. The old gymnasium with a playing floor approximately 24 x 60 feet was in the basement of the building, and water seepage made it necessary to change the wooden floor occasionally. This space was used for a cafeteria after the new gym was dedicated in 1950. A few years later a runway was built between the main building and the gymnasium.

Charles Good came to Talma in 1931 and taught math, physics, manual arts and science in the high school until the school was reorganized in 1963. Mary Norris taught first grade for many years.

After Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation was formed, the Talma School building was used for the Grades six thru eight.

After the tornado, both churches were rebuilt, but the school site was cleared and used for a new community building. At present the town also has a factory, a grocery store, and a new restaurant.



## TIPP TOWN - TIPPECANOE

The present town of Tippecanoe, like Mentone and Burket, started a century ago when the Nickel Plate Railroad came through the area. At first it was called Tippecanoe Town Station, then Ilion for about twenty years and finally Tippecanoe.

In the 1832 treaty along the Tippecanoe River, north of Rochester, most of the land in this vicinity was transferred from Benack, Che-kaw-case, and other Pottawatomis to the white men. By 1842, there were enough white settlers to petition authorities to form Tippecanoe Township, Marshall County from the south part of Bourbon Township. Some of the early families were Bybee, Whetstone, Kessler, Yantiss, Blue, Parker, Horn, Turner, Lewallen, and Hodges.

However, in the thirty years before 1882, the only town in the township was located in Section 18 along the Tippecanoe River and called Tippecanoe Town. (Now it is usually called Old Tipp Town.) Approximately twenty-five families lived there, and there was a post office. There was also a flouring mill for many years and a woolen mill for a time. The woolen mill burned, and after the new town began, the other buildings were moved nearer the railroad, leaving the memory of Old Tipp Town.

According to tradition, four old buildings were moved. One was the Dawson Building which was down by the railroad for a while before it was moved downtown. Rile Dawson used it for a beer parlor with a dance hall upstairs. His wife, Callie, had a lunch counter on the east side. Creighbaum's barbershop was in that building. Bud Burke and Sowelishes lived there. In the 1950's this building west of Lewallen's Station was used as the post office.

Another old building was a drug store operated by Bill Crane, Wren Crane's father. More recently, this was a restaurant operated by Dolly Kern (or Curran).

The original part of the I.O.O.F. Lodge was moved also. Willis Hardesty had a store there and there have been restaurants at this location, also.

The fourth was probably the Bill Yaiser building on the southeast corner of Highway 331 and County Road 18B. J.C. Harmer had a store there, then temporarily used the St. John building, and finally moved into a new building on the old site. The new building was destroyed by fire about sixty years ago.

J.S. St. John purchased a store November 29, 1903. This was a hardware on the northwest corner. Kelsey's hardware store was in the old Crane building after Nolan's general store on the corner went out of business.

The southwest corner has been the site of a bank, a drugstore, and more recently a grocery. A four-room building to the south had two grocery and dry goods stores. Ralph Poulson's father, Charlie Poulson, had a barber shop and the post office there during Wilson's administration. The building burned November, 1922.

Quincy Cram, a man who enjoyed horse racing, had a

livery stable and hotel about one block west of the corner.

Van Gundy's Hotel was south of Harmer's store. His wife did the cooking for the hotel, and a customer could get all he could eat for a quarter. Mr. Van Gundy was an undertaker, too, so he kept an old fashioned hearse in the barn.

Among the other businesses were Ike Rhodes' butcher shop, Cormican's ice cream store, Hardesty's garage in the old school, Cal Beltz' store south of the bank, Morrical's harness shop, and the blacksmith shop.

Calvin Beltz built the elevator and operated it for about twenty years. There was no electricity, so he powered it by a gas engine. He handled grain, seeds, flour, feed, salt, lime, coal, cement, lumber and shingles until he sold the business to Charlie and Jack Urschel in 1912. Later this became the Co-op mill.

Jim Worsham's sawmill, started in 1899, and cider mill, east of the brick church, was a favorite place for school boys to visit at noon. Earlier his mill was south of the railroad track.

Joseph Gaskill operated a sawmill which also had a lathe and hominy grinder.

There was a pickle factory in the 1920's where they sorted and made dills for Heinz Salting Station. These were shipped by tank cars to Pittsburgh. Cucumber seed was available at the post office. Some of the more prominent cucumber growers were Jacob Yantiss, Valous B. Fisher, Charles Smith, and Christ Martin.

In January, 1924, interest on notes at the Tippecanoe State Bank were 6% and 8%, and the bank officers were W.L. Yantiss, president; Welcome J. Miller, vice-president; C.H. Sellers, cashier; and Lydia Sellers, assistant cashier.

The Argos State Bank, organized by William Railsback and T.O. Taber, took over the Tippecanoe Bank in 1928, but Mrs. Sellers was in Tippecanoe two days a week to transact business for those unable to go to Argos.

Dave Herrington was also mentioned as a banker.

One Tippecanoe merchant did not trust banks, so he buried his money in the garden and left the garden plow to mark the place.

The first postmaster at Ilion was W.A. Hardesty. He was followed by Wilson Roberts, David Harrington and Dr. Lorenzo D. Ely. During Dr. Ely's term, the name was changed to Tippecanoe. Some of those who have served since then are Bonnie Hardesty, Charlie Poulson, John Noland, Milo Ritter, A.B. Rhodes and Dale Blackford.

The first telephone switchboard measured about 2 x 3 feet and was in the waiting room of Van Gundy's Hotel. The doctor was one of the first to have a telephone.

Barbara (Cooper) Smith's grandfather, William L. Gaskill, and his brother, Sherm Gaskill, helped start the telephone company at Tippecanoe. Except for a short time, the company remained in the family until it was changed to dial about 1950. Mrs. Charles (Ethel Gaskill) Cooper and Mrs. Walter (Bertha Gaskill) Wood were operators. After Mrs. William Gaskill died in 1947,



Coopers continued with the company for awhile, then sold it to Mr. Mote, but repossessed it and sold it to Northern Indiana. Later it became part of General Telephone.

William E. Elliott of Tippecanoe was a telegraph operator for the Nickel Plate Railroad for many years. Operators read the message by the sound of properly spaced dots and dashes. As Mr. Elliott's hearing diminished, he learned to watch the hammer on the sounder and read the dots and dashes by sight. Later he devised another method. He fastened part of a horse whip to the telegraph sounder and the other end to a metal plate which he wore on his forehead.

The railroad had an operator there twenty-four hours a day. Chancy Mollenhour worked the third shift. When William Gaskill was an engineer on the Nickel Plate, he went from Burr Oak to Fort Wayne.

In the early days, the train brought groceries in from Fort Wayne on the local, and there was a dray wagon pulled by two ponies to haul groceries up town. There were two locals, one westbound and one eastbound, each day except Sunday. It cost about 15 cents to ride from Mentone to Tippecanoe, but finally the local quit hauling passengers.

The regular passenger trains ran every day and every evening a gang of people went down to the station to watch eastbound No. 4. Boys also liked to go to the pumping station west of town where George Marks pumped water from the river into a tank with a steam engine to supply the train engines.

The physicians in Tippecanoe were Drs. Ely, Spencer, and Ringle. Dr. Thomas Franklin Ringle moved there in 1897 and established a general practice which lasted until his death in 1939. His office was on the west side of the river between the railroad and the road. He treated people in the community for the usual ailments and set their broken bones. Often people came from a distance during his Sunday morning office hours to be treated for stomach trouble.

In 1928, he charged \$2.50 for a house call and \$1.00 for a package of pills. Some patients paid their bills with corn which sold for twenty-five cents a bushel.

There was a United Brethren Church built at Tippecanoe Town in 1850, on the lot that is now occupied by the cemetery.



The Methodist Protestant denomination erected a frame building in Tippecanoe which was dedicated July 25, 1886. Years later this was called Congregational Christian. The Dunkards built a church in 1900, one fourth mile west of downtown which was later used for a school.

In 1915, Rev. Hogan of Inwood, organized a Methodist Episcopal class of thirty-five members. They met in a tabernacle in the west end of town until a new church (the Brick Church) was built. This remained a Methodist Church until approximately 1950, when it became the Community Church. Some remodeling has been done because of fire damage.



Tippecanoe High School began in 1891, with professor S.A. Laird in charge. His pupils had a thorough grounding in the fundamentals as well as such subjects as advanced algebra, plane and solid geometry and three years of Latin. About 1912, this school offered only three years of high school, so after completing these, Ralph Beltz rode the Nickel Plate back and forth each week to Argos and attended the high school there.

Charles Creighbaum, another Tippecanoe grocer, was township trustee in 1917, when the new Tippecanoe School was built. One-room schools were discontinued about this time. After the township became part of Triton School System, the building was used for a few years as a Junior High School.

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# Still Lives On . . .

In 1982, Ronald Reagan is the president of the United States; young men and women's fashions are designer jeans and Nike shoes; and northern Indiana is inhabited by the descendants of those first early settlers and others who have chosen this as a good place to live and raise their families.

Oak Grove, Yellow Creek, Tipp Town and Bigfoot, towns of the past, have since then disappeared.

The railroad that sparked the growth of many small towns along its path still hauls tons of freight through Mentone, Burket and Tippecanoe. However, now it no longer carries passengers, groceries or stops at each place. It is no longer the focal point of their growth.

Automobiles, industry, computerization and automation have all had a part in changing the way of life from yesterday to today's standards.

This book has been a brief look back at the way life was and some of the changes that have taken place. To the generations to come, might it be a reminder of the strong sense of pride and determination that it took to carve out the future of freedom we now enjoy.

C.L. "Clem" Teel in the August 20, 1947 issue of The Northern Indiana Co-op News wrote the feelings each of those who worked to compile this book have, when he said . . .

"Who lives now that can recall the old mud streets, the town sprinkler to keep the dust down in dry weather, the

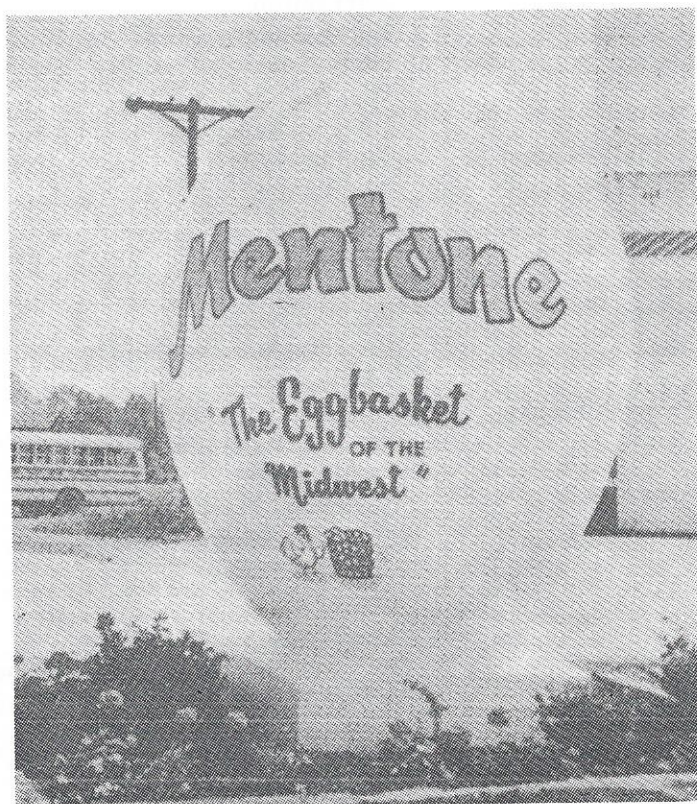
cisterns in the street intersections as a water supply to fight fires, the old pump to fight fires pumped by teams of men on either side of the pump, the arched street lighting system, and before that the carbon lights at street intersections, the open toilets and swarms of accompanying flies, the hitchhacks, the people now dead who came into town in the buggy or the wagon to visit or do shopping, the old wooden seats in front of all the business places where the people sat and enjoyed the scenery or fought flies or missed the curb with their tobacco? Who can now recall when we all rushed down to the depot to see the train come in? Who still remembers the staggering drunk and the stench that came from the drinking places? There were the street brawls and the "cooler" where they got a chance to think things over. And who remembers the oil well located just east of the cemetery where the writer has fifty dollars worth of post holes still for sale. And best of all, who living today does not recall when we got the city water system and the streets paved and the Winona railroad which has now been abandoned.

"In fancy, I look back and see all these people and businesses pass and fade away as the morning fog before the rising sun and a new day is ushered in. So has the fog been taken from our town and a new era ushered in, making our town not only a good place in which to live but a place where every citizen should be proud to say —

## Mentone . .

## My Home

## Town!





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