

# Editorially



'You Shall Know The Truth, An

It is not important that the reader agree with these views. Purpose of editorial ex

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## Burket Centennial

This has been a big year for centennial celebrations. Burket will observe it this coming week on Aug. 28 and 29. It will join Mentone, Sidney and Tippecanoe that have already held their 100th year observance.

The fact that these towns hold their centennial programs reminds us of the significance of the railroads in the growth of this state and others. As the New York, Chicago and St. Louis Railroad was built moving westward, new towns sprang up.

Burket was surveyed and platted in the spring of 1882 by Elias Burket. The first buildings along the newly-marked streets were houses, a hotel and a pharmacy along with a hardware, general store and post office. There has been a Burket School continuously for 100 years.

The first industry of many of the small towns



# Speaking

and The Truth Shall Make You Free'

pression is to stimulate thought about issues which vitally affect the reader's life.

Friday, August 20, 1982

along the new railroad was the shipping of lumber. Burket soon had three sawmills, some running 24 hours a day in order to meet the demand for lumber needed to build the houses and businesses along the new railroad and in the growing country.

Many of these buildings, erected a hundred years ago are still in use. The first business building in Burket is still standing. The house built by Elias Burket has never been vacant.

The Burket community has been continuously a strong agricultural center. During much of the last 50 years it has served as a collection point for eggs to be shipped to population centers in the East, first by railroad and later by truck. It was also the headquarters for one of the nation's largest businesses for the shipping of hides from the Midwestern slaughter houses to the shoe manufacturing centers.

In more recent years the egg industry has changed from a shipping point to a processing center with thousands of dozens of eggs being hard cooked, (we used to say hard-boiled) and processed into commodities that are widely used in the airlines food services.

Grain and livestock production remains important to the Burket area, but it is no longer just an agricultural service town and the second hundred years will surely see changes in the social structure far greater than the first.

It seems to me that Burket is typical of a fact that we often overlook. That is our small towns are alive and well — much more so than some Midwest areas. The group that is staging Burket's Centennial on Saturday and Sunday consists of young people. They seem to be a part of the growing industrial complex that makes up Kosciusko County but have chosen to live in a small town.

They are a part of what Ben Wattenberg wrote of the other day and called it America's rural renaissance. They are proud enough to publicly celebrate Burket's 100 years and interested enough to take over the reins to begin a second.

I like what I see going on in places like Burket, Indiana.

— Don Frantz