

*Harrison Township  
Rivers & Lakes*

# Letters From Cousin Clem

By Art Chaney

## A Tippe River History Lesson

Dear Herb,

From time to time, a little bit of history is dropped in my lap, usually by word of mouth. But this story can be authenticated by local real estate records. In chapter IV of "The Life of Phoebe Ann Rockhill" by Mrs. William (Ann Melick) Hess this information includes:

A village named Charlottsville, long ago forgotten, was budding north of our home and, likewise, Palestine to our south; both starting the year of my birth, 1837. Charlottsville was on the south bank of the Tippecanoe River, as laid out by Jacob Baker for Joseph Robinson and Prescott A. Mes. It had 92 lots, four by eight rods or 33 by 133 feet.

A brilliant future was foreseen for this place, which was thought to be the head of navigation of the Tippecanoe River. The proprietor reserved two lots, 92 by 93 feet, along the river for the building of wharves and store houses for the anticipated freight business for flatboat trade to Logansport. However, this never developed, and the village site was lost in history.

This location would be at the junction of Trimble Creek and the Tippecanoe. Now, on our recent county maps it would be in Section 7 of Harrison Townships, near Snyder Road. Trimble Creek comes into Crystal Lake from the south and leaves from the west. This route would have covered a distance of about 60 miles to Logansport. There doesn't seem to be any mention of Charlottsville in the history of Kosciusko County, and I am indebted to Ethel Melick for this information.

**HISTORIANS DO RECORD** some interesting information regarding the flatboat business. The boats varied in size and capacity according to the size of the stream where they were operating. On the Tippecanoe River, 15-20 feet would have been the widest and 25 feet long. The going rate for most all boats was \$2 per day, and they were capable of hauling 15 tons. The power of operation was by "poling" long, strong poles pushed into the bottom of the stream with a forward motion. It appears that this trip to Logansport would have taken about two days. The "help" on these boats was usually frontiersmen who wanted to see the world, and

## State Medical Group Supports

Legislation tightening the state's intoxication level in Indiana's drunk driving law has gained the support of the...

*Note!  
Trimble Creek does not enter Crystal Lake.  
It come close, but turns to empty directly into Tippe. River.*

"there was never any lack of men wanting to get out of the rugged frontier life." River boat men were never the most popular visitors in a town, as they worked hard and played hard.

Another landmark still visible is the Tippecanoe River bridge three miles west of Warsaw, what we now call Old Rd. 30 West. The present steel bridge was erected by the Bellfountain Bridge Co. in 1897, but it cannot be used, as it has been leased to the Kosciusko County Historical Society. This is by no means the original bridge at this location: a wooden bridge was erected in the 1830s or near that time. When it was built, it was one of the few bridges across the Tippecanoe.

A road had been laid out to connect the western part of the county to the northern part. It seems, from the history of Kosciusko County, that the southwest was the last part of the county to be pioneered. This bridge railroad stop was made where this road crossed the now Pennsylvania Railroad.

A village had sprung up near this bridge and was called Orion. At one time it consisted of a telegraph office, general store, other various shops, and a school — the school building is still standing. Most of this town was built on the south side of the Pennsy, and the school a little farther south and west. Orion was never a large village — only 50-75 people at the most.

**ANOTHER BRIDGE WAS** erected on the "river road" which goes west and east. This was possibly just south of where the Creighton Brothers buildings are now. This was a wooden bridge, but it was torn down and a new structure erected recently, and this was the original Orion bridge. The only remaining structure is the Chinworth home on the north side of the railroad.

This family settled several acres in this area on both sides of U.S. 30. This remaining dwelling is reportedly paneled in pure walnut lumber, seasoned and cured so that the original black walnut colors and features are visible. Walnut, cherry and quarter oak furniture interiors and furniture was popular in homes a century ago. Yellow poplar was another wood used many times for its lighter texture.

But these times have passed by and very little of this decorative work is preserved until this time. So much has been lost through "modernization." I am sure you can still dig up some memories of this "period" in your three quarters and then some half century of living.

P.S. Don't give up — "old" is getting fashionable!  
Your Cousin, Clem

## Magaz Univer

BLOOMINGTON — of Music at Indiana University, only the nation's largest its best," according story in the January Smithsonian magazine

Written by freelance Joseph Roddy, who lives on Hudson, the story of "musicians bloom in B Roddy points out that 1,626 students from a Puerto Rico and 41 fore attend the largest music the nation. It is a student numbers those at Juilliard and Curtis music

It is the IU School of Music that draws young musicians over the world, says a phrasing that the Carnegie Higher Education "fourington's music faculty a try's best, and a poll of administrators" ranked school first in the nation.

Among the faculty mentioned in the article are Josef Gingold; violinist Buswell, a member of the Music Society of Lincoln

## They Bigger

Langston also said the ISMA is Two other bills supported by backing legislation requiring all ISMA would.

statutory definition of death. Authored by State Reps. Marilyn Schultz, D-Bloomington. John