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# HENDRICKS COUNTY

## HISTORY BULLETIN



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THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
DANVILLE, INDIANA

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ORGANIZED 1967

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H C H S

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H C H S

The strongest things in the world often seem the weakest. For instance: Gentleness is stronger than cruelty, patience is stronger than impatience, mercy is stronger than revenge, and love is stronger than hate.

Paul S. McElroy

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM YOUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE!

The on-the-ball Program Committee met Jan. 3 at the home of Chairman Lois Crayton and planned the following interesting program for 1983. We are fortunate to have such an alert committee and congratulate them on their long-range planning. These are the kind of folk who make this organization the active, interesting, worthwhile society that it is.

Lois urges us all to save this program, or mark the dates and places on your calendar. And too, a few days before the meetings, why not call a friend ... or friends and invite them to come. This way we'll keep growing.

Present at the meeting were, President, Maynard Noland, Bob and Eloise Castetter, Carolyn Kellum, Audrey Martin, Pearl Edmonson, Delta Hodson, Mary Jeanette Winkleman, and Ruth Hall. Members who were unable to attend are Dorothy Templin and Virginia Joseph.

PROGRAM FOR 1983

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	PLACE	CHAIRMAN OF HOSPITALITY
Feb. 6	Betty Bartley	"Danville Around the Square"	Danville Security Savings and Loan	Grace Cox
May 1	Jerry Handfield I S H S	"Hoosier Homemakers, the Early Years"	Hadley Friends Meetinghouse	Dorothy Templin
August 7	Ruth Pritchard	"Tombstone Story"	Pittsboro Christian Church	Mary Jeannette Winkelman
Nov. 6	Jerry Hankins	"The Battle of Tippecanoe"	Plainfield A. M. E. Church	Cassie Swarn

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Greetings from the president .....

Those of us who have lived since the period of the teens have witnessed more advancements and developments than have occurred in any other era since the beginning of time. Yet, in spite of this progress, not much has been accomplished in our struggle for peace. Our country has agonized through two World Wars, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and still the world is in a turmoil.

Air traffic is now a way of life, but I well remember the first plane I saw. I was in school at Needmore, in Marion Township, when we heard an airplane approaching. Miss Clara Belle Ison, our teacher, sent us out doors to watch the marvel! It was awe inspiring!

Then came radio. I was introduced to that miracle at the home of Dr. Wisehart, whose son, Robert, was my age. It was a small crystal set and very squeaky. I couldn't understand a word that was spoken, but I could hear the music, and it was a thrill I have never forgotten.

Then came the automobile and no car I have ever owned has ever been as exciting as that first Model T!. We have witnessed the horrors of the atom bomb and live in fear of nuclear power, yet those developments and discoveries have benefitted mankind in many other ways. Medical science has progressed so fast it leaves the average citizen agast!

It has been an exciting time to be alive. I promised myself, and I have kept that promise, that I thank God each day for it all.

Remember the next meeting ... February 6, at the Security Savings, Danville.

Maynard

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#### FEBRUARY MEETING

Lois Crayton, vice president and chairman of the Program Committee, announces that the February meeting will be in the Security Savings Building in Old Farms, on the east side of Danville. Meeting time 2:00 P.M. Feb. 6. An interesting program is in store for us. Betty Bartley, historical librarian of the Danville Public Library, has been working diligently on the history of the Danville Public square and she has thoroughly researched it. Grace Cox is chairman of the hospitality committee and the Center and Marion Township ladies promise delicious refreshments. DON'T MISS IT!

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#### NOVEMBER MEETING

Our Society met November 7 at Bartlett's Chapel United Methodist Church, near Avon. The Rev. Kenneth Vettters, pastor of the church, gave interesting devotions reminding us that the Bible is a book of history. The usual reports were given with the treasurer reporting a balance of \$430.07. In reporting on the Museum, Dorothy Kelley remarked that the Museum is becoming quite an attraction for school classes.

Danville and Plainfield Libraries are microfilming old newspapers and are asking for old pictures.

Mary Jeanette Winkleman, chairman of the nominating committee, announced that the present officers have consented to serve again and they were unanimously re-elected.

Jerry Hankins, history teacher at the Plainfield High School, gave a fine discussion of INDIAN WARS IN INDIANA. He used a large map of the Northwest territory which made his talk more graphic. His knowledge of the subject proved that he had given it much study and careful research, and it was most interesting.

Washington and Guilford Township ladies were in charge of the social hour.

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#### PLAINFIELD HISTORICAL LIBRARY

A major milestone was reached in December when Betty Bartley completed indexing all of the Plainfield Public Library's Plainfield newspapers through the year 1957.

This completes the first phase of the indexing project which was begun in October of 1979 utilizing CETA funds. When CETA funding ceased the Plainfield library board of trustees assumed the responsibility for the indexer's salary.

In addition to the approximately 10,000 typed cards currently in the personal name/subject index about twice that many cards will be added when volunteer typist Sue Lamb types the information now on handwritten paper slips.

While only Plainfield newspapers are indexed, still there is much county-wide information included. Examples of some of the subject headings are: Accidents - train/auto; Businesses - variety stores; Chautauqua; Disasters - Blizzards; Employment - Hendricks County; Fads; Gypsies; Houses - Danville; Immigrant workers; Ku Klux Klan; License Branch; Missing persons; North Salem; Organizations, Hendricks County; Poets - Hendricks County; Relics; Social life and customs; Transportation; U. S. 40; Veterinarians; World War I; Y.M.C.A.

Family reunions are indexed, too, as are thousands of personal names of county residents. News items might indicate when an individual was discharged from the service, won a scholarship, was injured, moved into a new house, visited relatives, received a patent on an invention, began attending or graduated from college or trade school, or opened a new business.

One Plainfield resident who is currently making use of the index is Dorothea Anderson. Her interest is in researching various types of disasters which have occurred in Guilford Township and Hendricks County and the newspaper index lends itself to this use very well. In addition to blizzards, there are listings for drought, earthquakes, fire, floods, ice storms, storms and tornadoes.

The results of Dorothea's research will be presented at the Guilford Township Historical Society's January 27 meeting, 7:30 at the Plainfield Friends Meeting-house.

Anyone desiring further information on the Plainfield Public Library's newspaper index or any other aspect of the historical collection should call Susan Carter, Historical Librarian, at 839-6602.

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REPORT FROM THE INDIANA ROOM

BY BETTY BARTLEY

DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

As many of you know by now, the microfilming of the Danville newspapers is nearing completion. Copies dating from 1854 to 1941 are now available for viewing in the Indiana Room. It is hoped that by the end of the year we will have copies through 1982 on microfilm. The library recently purchased a special cabinet to keep the census and newspaper microfilm stored safely. We will be looking into the purchase of a reader-printer in the near future.

As most people who are interested in genealogy know, the newspapers are sometimes the only source of information on the death dates of some elusive ancestors. For that reason, an obituary index for the Danville newspapers has been started. Libbe Hughes has been combing the old issues for death notices and obituaries. These will later be typed and put in a card file for use by our patrons.

Our New Year's resolution in 1983 is to make the material in our collection for accessible to those wishing to do research in genealogy or local history.

This summer, Libbe Hughes will be working in the Indiana Room on a full-time basis, to help with the organization of material, and to aid patrons. A subject and biography card file will be started, in addition to the obituary file. We hope to make more people aware of the Indiana Room and its purpose; to preserve the past.

As always, we welcome any suggestions from members of the Hendricks County Historical Society on books, or other materials they would like to see added to the Indiana Room.

While going through the old issues of the newspapers looking for a particular article, one often comes across some humorous little articles like the following, taken from the October 6, 1898 issue of the Republican:

#### POSTMASTER REAGAN'S TROUBLES

Taylor Reagan, postmaster at Plainfield, was in a serious condition for a time Friday afternoon. His friends feared total collapse. A young lady came to the office and asked for a dollars worth of stamps. "What denomination?" asked Taylor. "Oh, that's all right. We were all for the country against the Spaniards. Just a dollars worth," said the young lady. Taylor looked at her closely, and not knowing what to say said: "Certainly, madam, but ah-h-h you have to have some preference as to the denomination." "Er-well-yes I have," said the lady as much embarrassed as Taylor. "I'm a Methodist myself, but-ah, well, the young man I'm writing to is a Presbyterian. Does it take different kinds?" Taylor gave her fifty ones and twenty-five twos, and gasped for breath as the young lady went out.

#### HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

Although the Christmas season has come and gone, the following was written by Bob and Eloise Castetter and used as one of their many unusual Christmas greetings. But it is delightful at any season!

#### REMEMBER! REMEMBER!! THE "GOOD" OLD DAYS!!!

Remember when an automobile had to be cranked. When touring cars had to carry isinglass side curtains that had to be snapped on when it rained. When roadsters had rumble seats. When cars had running boards with the extra spare tire and had repair kits. When tires had to be inflated by a hand pump. When the electric buses came along and operated on trolley wires. When trolleys and interurbans were transportation.

When each home had a coal bucket and ice tongs. When the ice box was the refrigerator and the water pan that had to be emptied. When you went to the ice house and carried the ice home in the kid's wagon or on the bumper of the car -- or when you had an ice man deliver the size you needed by looking at the card in your window. When cream froze on top of the milk bottle and rose a couple of inches -- with the kids battling to get it. When you carried out the ashes from the stove and spread them over icy spots on the walks or driveway. When rugs or carpets had to be carried out to the lawn to be beaten by hand with a carpet beater, then newspapers placed thickly on the floor before the carpet was replaced. When a Victrola was the record player. When there were cardboard fans at home and in the racks on the back of church pews. When men wore spats. When young boys wore short pants and then graduated to the knickers. When zoot suits were the thing. When a wrapped brick was put in the bed to warm the feet. When children were born at home. When each house had a lamp rather than a flashlight.

When class outings were a hay ride. When folks danced the Charleston, Black Bottom and the Big Apple. When all dance bands played "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" and ended with "Goodnight Sweetheart." When music was soft and sweet and the waltz was in vogue. When movies came in serials, such as "Perils of Pauline," and you had to wait for the reels to be changed. When a pianist played varying music to fit the mood of the silent films.

When families gathered together in the living room to talk over family problems after dinner. When children played hopscotch and kick the can. When you wrote with a pen dipped in an inkwell. When a teacher was allowed to swat a student with a ruler - and did. When people used ink blotters. When kids didn't worry about being bussed because they all walked a few miles to school. When, if you got a paddling from your teacher, the smart thing was not to mention it at home because good old dad would give you another. When kids were afraid of the truant officer. When kids wore cigar band rings. When kids played marbles with aggies and peewees, and knuckled down with no hunching. When kids rolled hoops and rode scooters and walked on stilts.

When a letter took a two cents stamp. When lunch was called dinner and dinner was called supper. When there were fly paper and oilcloth. When the Ouija board was the ESP of the day. When you didn't dial a phone number but gave it to "Central." When radios were crystal sets and you had to share a part of a headphone. When doctors made house calls and rarely collected old bills. When the circus set up on the largest vacant lot in town.

When the general store had its cracker barrel, pickle barrel, pot bellied stove and the spittoon. When the grocer sold only loose crackers and coffee was ground to your need. When pocket stem-wound watches were the thing. When golfers wore knickers and swung niblicks. When the wonder drugs were quinine, castor oil, sulphur and molasses or a mustard plaster.

When women wanted to be captured rather than liberated. When there was the black market in nylon stockings. When flappers rolled their stockings below their knees. When dad got up early to start the fires in the heating stove and cook stove. When factory chimneys were a sign of progress not pollution.

Bob and Eloise Castetter

HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS HCHS

"LEST WE FORGET"

Now that the trees around my house are bare, I have an uninterrupted view across the fields of a modest white cottage which was the farm home of a dear friend of long ago. Murat Keeney and his wife, Daisy, lived there many years until for health and age reasons, they sought residence in a new brick home in Pittsboro.

There are many reasons why Murat Keeney was a special favorite of folks in this part of the county. His parents, John and Mary Waters Keeney, were descendents of early settlers, lived in the same home all the years of their married life, a home, built at a cost of \$2000, which still stands west of Pittsboro on St road 136 and is still used as a residence. Murat, an only child, was a serious, well read boy, much interested in history, politics, and affairs of county and state. In 1898, he graduated from Pittsboro High School in the second class as high school had been organized in 1894. It was an interesting class with four ambitious young men and one handsome girl. My uncle was in the class and often brought Murat to

our home. Being an impressionable little girl, I always remembered the good looking young man with the strange name "Murat Quentin". Later I became one of his ardent admirers. His brilliant mind, practical knowledge, and personal charm made him a delightful conversationalist. He was one who lamented the passing of the old days, yet welcomed the modern era with interest and even curiosity.

His long time dream of an active and growing County Historical Society became a reality when, following our successful Sesquicentennial jubilee, we were formally organized. But one other dream remained, that of establishing a Hendricks County Museum. To this effort, he enthusiastically made the first contribution, \$1000. It was a wise investment, an evidence of Murat's usual good judgment. He would be proud of its growth and appreciative of the efforts and dedication of those who have worked so hard to promote it.

Let us treasure his memory.

Frances Fisher

This essay on Abraham Lincoln was written during the school days of Mr. Murat Keeney who was a great admirer of Lincoln. It was found among Mr. Keeney's papers. It seemed fitting to offer it to the Bulletin since February is the birth month of the Great Emancipator.

Abraham Lincoln, in whose memory we have met, was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. When eight years of age, with his father, he moved into the forests of Indiana in what now is known as Spencer County. Here the family lived in a rude log cabin and young Lincoln was engaged daily in the hard work of pioneer life. A very limited opportunity was offered him of obtaining an education. A private school was opened occasionally in these remote settlements by wandering teachers who were able to instruct in the merest rudiments of Learning.

Lincoln attended such a school at different times, in all not more than ten or twelve months. His mother possessed shrewd practical common sense combined with deep religious feelings. It was she who taught him to read and write. Although but nine years of age when his mother died, he had received the lasting impression of her power for good in the deepest recesses of his life. Three favorite maxims she had thoroughly instilled into his mind: never to swear, never to touch liquor, and never to lie. These three things he never did.

In 1830 with his father, he moved to Macon County, Illinois. He split the trunks for a log cabin, built it, and enclosed ten acres of land with a rail fence of his own make.

Soon after, being twenty one years of age, he hired himself to a Mrs. Offut, living in Sangamon County, to build a flat boat and float it down the Sangamon, the Illinois, and the Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. He then became a clerk in Offut's store in New Salem. He diligently employed his spare time in reading and especially to the study of English Grammar, receiving assistance occasionally from the village school master. Next year, the Black Hawk War broke out (1832) and he was a volunteer to fight for his country. He was at once elected captain of a company and served with honor for a season in military life.

At this place a page was missing but the text is interesting, it continues in the original.

Mr. Lincoln married Mary Todd in 1842. Four children were born to them. He had moved to Springfield, the capitol of Illinois and it afterward became their permanent home.



The Republican party of Illinois was organized in 1856 and after a long and vain discussion by the committee on platforms, Mr. Lincoln was sent for to give advice. It was a critical time. Mr. Lincoln said: "Let us build our new party on the Rock of the Declaration of Independence and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against us." What he advised, was done. On May 16, 1860, the Republican National Convention met at Chicago. "No extension of Slavery" was the cardinal feature of its platform. On the third ballot, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President. On November 6, he was elected and on March 4, 1861 he was inaugurated in Washington, D.C. In his inaugural address he declared the acts of secession "null and void" and declared that the union was perpetual and inviolate. On September 22, 1862, he issued a Proclamation, declaring the freedom of all slaves in the states and parts of states then in rebellion, from and after June 1, 1863. He said "I can see Emancipation coming, Whoever can wait for it, will also see it. Whoever gets in the way of it, will be run over by it". In the wintersession of the congress of 1863 and 64, Lincoln urged the passage by that body of a constitutional Amendment, abolishing slavery. It failed to receive the necessary two thirds vote. In his message of December 6, 1864, he pleaded again for the adoption of such an amendment and this time with success, for by joint resolution, January 31, 1865, the thirteenth amendment was proposed to the various states, "that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction". Before the year ended, 27 of the 36 states had ratified the amendment with the president's own state, Illinois, leading. With consummate skill and wisdom, President carried on the affairs of the government. On June 8, 1864, Mr. Lincoln was unanimously renominated for the presidency by the National Republican Convention at Baltimore, Maryland. General McClellan was his Democratic opponent. Lincoln received 212 electoral votes and McClellan received 21. On his second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865, President Lincoln delivered an address which will stand forever as a model of lofty eloquence and august morality.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, accompanied by Mrs. Lincoln and his friends, he attended a performance of "Our Country Cousins" at Ford's Theater on 10th Street in Washington. In the middle of the play, John Wilkes Booth, an actor, stepped into the box where Mr. Lincoln was sitting and discharged a pistol at his head. On April 15, the President died from the wound in the house where he had been taken from the theater, surrounded by his family and the leading men of the nation.

Appropriate funeral services were held on April 19, and the body of our martyred president was conveyed through the principal cities of the north and west to Springfield where he was buried. His untimely death and the manner of it threw back the settlement of our national troubles fully five years.

The sublime and crowning characteristic of Mr. Lincoln was his self reliance. He was the liberator of the slaves and the savior of the Union.

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This article, written by David Mannweiler, appeared in the August 13, 1982 issue of THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS:

HISTORY KEPT IN STACKS

Eleven miles west of Monument Circle, just over the Hendricks County line at 9801 W. Washington Street, is a whitewashed pile of cinderblocks that should be beamed aboard the Children's Museum.

It would make a dandy display of how a service station looked in the 19 30's, and Fred Welch and his wife Marie would make dandy curators.

Yesterday was the 50th anniversary of the day in 1932 when Welch opened his Mobil station and pumped his first 16.1 cent gallon of gasoline. Somewhere in the improbable mess of his station, he probably has the sales receipt.

"I don't think he's thrown anything away in 50 years," said Marie, 67. She's probably right. Fred Welch is an ace automotive pack rat.

"I don't know why I held on to all this stuff," Welch said as he moved through narrow aisles that cut through ceiling-high stacks of "stuff" in his three storage rooms. "Let's see. Here's a Gargoyle oil chart for 1928 to 1931. Gargoyle became the Vacuum Oil Co. and then Socony-Vacuum and then Mobil."

Welch ran a thick finger down a column giving the recommended oil weights and oil capacities for the Auburn, Blackhawk, Cunningham, Durant, Elcar, Erskine, Essex and Gardner cars. He set aside a cigar box of old sparkplug wrenches to free a 3-cylinder hand air pump. "Some of those old tires needed 65 pounds of air," he said.

He passed by a wooden sign advertising "Gas 30.9." - "That's old," he said - to reach a glass jar with a metal funnel. "Oil used to come in bulk and I had to hand-crank it into these," he said.

He moved aside a stack of old Indiana license plates - oldest one, 1916 - to lift a cover off an A.C. Dayton three-tube radio with a speaker cone. "This used to run off a six-volt battery that was charged by a big wooden propeller up on the roof," he said. He has dozens of other antique radios in the station.

Welch opened a drawer in a wooden cabinet and pulled out a 1928 instruction book for a Model A Ford. He put it aside to look at a Dodge Brothers Motor Cars parts catalogue dated May 10, 1916. "This is a Y4758 muffler assembly," Welch said. "It cost \$2.50."

A 1913 catalogue from American Auto Supplies was flipped open to reveal pictures of driving goggles, flared leather driving gloves and limousine speaking tubes.

"I got all kinds of stuff in here," Welch said, digging deeper into the drawer. One booklet was titled "Things Worth Knowing About the Telephone." Another, from the Cole Motor Car Co. at the corner at Capitol and Vermont, had a lead story on "The Auto - A General Necessity."

On a metal card on a shelf were four chrome handles with keys in the locks. Welch brushed aside a decade or two of dust and oil to reveal the words, "1932-38 Ford Trunk Handles."

"Haven't had a call for those lately," he said.

Back by an antique Coke machine that still works, he pointed out an air compressor. "It's 40 years old and has never had anything done to it. It's still got the original belts on it."

Welch picked up an En-Ar-Co motor oil can and pointed to a figure on the can. "They used to have figures like that on signs by service stations, and the signs

had sayings like the Burma Shave signs. I've got a book around here somewhere with a lot of those sayings."

Inside the small station where his wife sells penny-candies from a glass display case, is a small library of books.

"Customers bring 'em in," Welch said. "They bring 'em in and they take 'em out. They can sit and read while their car is being worked on. That keeps their head out from under the hood, too, so it don't cost 'em quite as much to get their work done."

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#### HENDRICKS COUNTY NEWS BRIEFS

In a recent issue of THE HENDRICKS COUNTY FLYER a picture of an interesting Hendricks County landmark appeared. Located near Belleville, it is an old barn with advertising painted on it. This on the roof: "SEE JESSE JAMES HIDEOUT - MERAMEC CAVERNS, on U.S. 66 near St. Louis" and on the side "Chew MAIL POUCH tobacco. Treat yourself to the best." Such landmarks are getting fewer and farther between.

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Avon Little Hoosiers, a club for 4th-6th graders with a special interest in history of Indiana, held an old fashioned Christmas party. The youths researched to discover what food, decorations, and games might have been a part of a Christmas party 100 years ago. They enjoyed taffy-pulling, stringing popcorn, bobbing for apples and dancing.

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"The Last Mans Club" held their annual dinner recently. A bottle of Virginia Dare wine, purchased nearly 50 years ago, was the guest of honor at this gathering of World War I veterans. Other guests were Norman Jared, Roland Osborne, Claire Sellars, Merrell Dorrell, Horace Parsons, Albert Gabel, Horace Hadley and Raymond Calbert.

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Long-time Danville Postmaster Max Lee retired recently. Dwight Eisenhower was President when Max became Postmaster by presidential appointment. Max is a former president of the HCHS.

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The Danville and Plainfield Public Libraries have just received the 1910 Census on microfilm. Hendricks and Morgan Counties can be found at the Plainfield Library, and Hendricks, Putnam and Boone Counties are at the Danville Libraries. Susan Carter, historical librarian at Plainfield and Betty Bartley, historical librarian at Danville, welcome any one who has need of these important data.

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A picture of the Hanna and Son Livery Stable in Plainfield about the turn of the century appeared recently in the HENDRICKS COUNTY FLYER. This fine brick building was owned by John and Walter Hanna and was replaced later by the Carnegie Library on the west side of South Center St. Joe Lease, Plainfield historian, is

presenting an interesting series of scenes from Plainfield of years past. He would be happy to see photographs anyone has in their attic or albums. They may be copied or donated to the Plainfield Public Library Historical Collection.

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### HELP SOUGHT IN WRITING STATE FAIR HISTORY

Star 12-17-1982 p 41

Help is being sought from the public in gathering information and pictures to be used in writing a history of the Indiana State Fair. The book, "Our Fair Lady, The Story of the Indiana State Fair," will trace the fair's history from its start in 1852.

"Official records and historical documents available to us often are merely records of business transactions," O.K. Anderson, fair board president, said. "We would like to include as much of the true flavor of this 130-year-old traditional harvest time event as possible in the book."

An appeal for informative stories and old photographs has been issued to newspapers in the state and "we hope that many readers who know of interesting incidents or have stories to tell about past State Fairs also will share them with us," Anderson said.

Pictures or pieces about past fairs should be mailed to: Publicity Department, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, 46205. Donors may request that materials be returned after use or permit them to become a part of the State Fair's historical library.

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### MUSINGS FROM THE MUSEUM

"Christmas at the Museum" Open House was on December 4 and 5, 11 and 12. The first Saturday was warm and wet. Ole Man Weather tried to drown us. The next day was very nice as though he sort of got ashamed of himself.

Approximately 100 persons visited us during both weekends. It is amazing how many people will tell us that this is their first visit, while others know the place almost as well as we do.

Rita Lieske, Danville, Sharon Brock, Stilesville, and Lois Neff, North Salem, decorated the house. Thanks, gals, for a bang-up job!

The Little Hoosiers from Avon decorated the tree. This is their second year to do those honors. The youngsters down through the years have had a grand time decorating the tree. It's different, this business of decorating a tree with non-electrical decorations. What used to be a necessity is an adventure now. With our modern love of crafts, old fashioned is treasured.

Randall Joseph brought the tree. It was a cedar, the kind you'll find growing in a woods. It touched the ceiling, which, as a lot of you know, is approximately 12 feet high. High? Yes, but hold your breath, those of you who

haven't seen it, the one in the original kitchen is approximately 16 feet high. A long way up! Especially so from a step-ladder.

Dorothy Kelley made her spiced-cider punch. Now, its been said before that you haven't lived if you haven't tasted that punch.

Most every-one who visits the jail cells agree on one thing. It is much better to visit the cells on a tour of the museum than on a "required" visit several years earlier. "Gives you chills!" "Spooky!" "Gives you goose-bumps!" These expressions are often heard by docents.

We are fortunate to have so many people in our midst who can express themselves in crafts. Lining the north wall of the craft shop in the museum we find several different kinds. Paints, needlepoint, each demonstrates a skill. Noticed two small pictures side by side. One has an old arm-chair beside a stand-table and a parlor lamp, with a cat curled up in front of the chair. Remember the time when such a combination was too old-fashioned for utterance? Same goes to the stove, which had to have its yearly coat of stove polish to keep its look, and a shiny coal bucket. Always a must, for not only did they hold fuel, but they were the forerunner of the waste basket. Whatever one was through with went into the coal bucket.

There are etchings. One of a covered bridge, done in color. Another of a burrow that looks too contrary to notice the stickers on the cactus it appears to think about eating. Then there is the autumn season depicted by an old barn beside a tree bereft of its leaves. That horned owl in the next picture makes you get cold chills just to look at him, let alone hearing him ask you who you are when you're getting home some night. There are two small owls beneath a corn-moon that could screech to beat the band. Several other plaques to suit lots of tastes.

There's a poster on the west wall which posts a warning all done up in bold red lettering. The subject is "Antique Pox". Here are the symptoms:  
Continual complaint as to need for fresh air, sunshine and relaxation.  
Patient has blank expression, sometimes deaf to wife and kids.  
Has no taste for work of any kind.  
Frequent checking of antique catalogs.  
Hangs out in all sorts of odd places.  
Makes secret night calls.  
Mumbles to self.  
Lies to everyone.

NO KNOWN CURE!

Treatment: Medication is useless, disease is not fatal. Victim should attend as many auction sales and shops as possible.

Writer's note: Patient recovers when the money runs out or gets interested in something else.

Jewell

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NOTABLE WOMEN

In a series in THE INDIANAPOLIS NEWS, Jean Jensen has proved without a doubt that Hendricks County certainly has an abundance of NOTABLE WOMEN, as if we didn't already know it!

Mildred Smith, Brownsburg, our second president of HCHS, was featured as a teacher for 50 years in Brownsburg High School. Her many accomplishments could fill a book: graduating first in her class at I.U. with a Phi Beta Kappa key to prove it; state president of the American Legion Auxiliary, director of Hoosier Girls State 7 years and Girls Nation 2 years.

Another member of the HCHS, Cassie Swarn, grand-daughter-in-law of a slave, is known throughout Plainfield as the lovable matriach of the large Swarn family. Her contributions are too numerous to mention, altho here are a few of them: 47 active years in the AME church, 32 active years in the Hendricks County Church Women United, spear-heading a committee to complete the building for Senior Citizens, a volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, a Jaycee plaque for community service and the Indiana Layman of the year award of the AME Church.

And Blanche Wean ... well, is there any one who doesn't know who Blanche Wean is? All HCHS members know many things about Blanche, but did you know that she was the first female to be enrolled in the I.U. School of Business? and of all her accomplishments, I think her greatest is the fact that, widowed at 30, with three babies, Jane 2½, Doris, 15 months, and Ruth, 2 months, she helped them develop from babyhood into three lovely, highly educated women who gave her a number of grandchildren, several of whom are college graduates with others well on their way. "Her price is far above rubies..."

Another Brownsburg Notable Woman is Lois Campbell, who has been head of the Brownsburg Public Library for many years. She is credited for much of the growth of the library, and in 1981, she cut the ribbon at the dedication program celebrating the opening of the \$2 million Brownsburg Library.

Congratulations to all these lovely ladies, and isn't Hendricks County lucky to claim them?

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Death has again entered our ranks and claimed two of our active members. Frank Litherland, our first president guided our faltering steps through our first year. He loved all things old, but his first love was antique cars, and he continued that hobby throughout his life. We will miss him.

Lena Rutledge McDonald was a faithful member, and, although she lived in Speedway, she attended most of our meetings as long as she was able. A music teacher for many years, her influence will be felt for many years to come.

Let us remind their grieving families, "The Lord is near to the broken hearted, and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalms 34:18

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WE GET LETTERS

As I sit at the typewriter starting the 14th year of the BULLETIN, I wonder again, as I often do, what keeps us ... so many of us ... at this job year after year. Four times a year that old dead line pops up before we realize it, so we go scampering around for material ... begging, borrowing or stealing whatever we can get.

Do we get tired and discouraged? Of course we do, so the only answer to my question is that is HAS to be a labor of love.

Then, occasionally, in will come a nice note of encouragement, and we are all pumped up ready to go again! I wish I could quote all the nice things you have written, but space will not allow it, but here are a few quotes that make us feel good.

Mrs. Marjorie Enid Thurber, Indianapolis, made the suggestion that, since the INDIANA GENEALOGICAL BULLETIN was mailed without envelope, maybe we could do the same and save money. The HCHS Executive Committee agreed to try it, and apparently it is working. Thanks, Mrs. Thurber!

A lovely note from Reva Chaney, Librarian at Tri-West High School, Lizton, thanking us for their free copy.

Mrs. Howard Parker, Cherokee, Oklahoma writes: "I appreciate your efforts. I know those at home are the ones whose efforts make the Society a success." She sent \$10.00 "for whatever it may be needed." Thanks!

Mildred Masten Todd: "I enjoy reading the BULLETIN. It is a super three dollars worth to me!"

George R. Harvey, Speedway, IN: "I enjoy the BULLETIN very much. Thanks for your good work in keeping it going."

Don and Violet Keller: "We love the BULLETIN and keep every issue!"

Mary Bell, Danville: "Enjoy getting the BULLETIN."

About our effort to keep costs down, Dorothea J. Edwards, Mooresville writes: "This is a very good idea. I enjoy your BULLETIN very much."

And from Ray and Ardelle McClellan: "Thank you for your valiant efforts to keep costs down - wouldn't it be wonderful if the Government did that!!"

So folks, keep your cards and letters coming! We love them!

And I think this quote taken from Vol. I No. I 1970 BULLETIN bears repeating:

## IN CONCLUSION

Abraham Lincoln once said: "I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives; and so live that the place will be proud of him."

The Hendricks County Historical Society is a sentimental organization. We are proud of our country and we revel and glory in our heritage. For those who would scoff at our seeming obsession with the past, may we say that, without a past, there would never be a present - without a present, there will never be a future.

So our Hendricks County Historical Society is a stepping stone between the past and the future. It is our hope and our prayer that future generations will appreciate our efforts - that they will continue our work, so that all who come after us will know - and understand - and treasure their knowledge of the past - and perhaps realize, better than we - whence they came.

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Recently I came upon a copy of the Sears, Roebuck catalogue for 1900. In the musical department the "New American home upright parlor grand piano" was advertised for \$98.50. The "cottage organ" could be had for \$33.50.

Other items: Men's blue serge suits a bargain at \$8 each; "natural black dogskin long coats" for men, \$16; ladies' felt button shoes, \$1.50; men's linen collars and cuffs, 9 cents; suspenders, \$1.50; ladies' glove-fitting union suits, \$1.95; gray bed blankets, 48 cents per pair; human hair switches, 65 cents to \$3.25; real ostrich feather plumes, 35 cents; ladies' jackets, \$2.85 to \$5.35; ladies' skirts, \$1.35 to \$3.45; "our high closet 6-hole Acme sterling steel kitchen range" for \$22.50.

The items pictured took me back to my boyhood. Everything was cheap (or expensive) then, according to the way one looks at it. Wages were as low as the prices.

Those were the days B.I. (Before Inflation).

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Just a line to say I'm living  
That I'm not among the dead,  
Tho I'm getting more forgetful  
And more mixed up in the head.

For sometimes I can't remember  
When I stand at the foot of the stair  
If I must go up for something  
Or I've just come down from there.

And before the fridge so often  
My poor mind is filled with doubt,  
Have I just put food away  
Or have I come to take some out?

And there are times when it is dark out  
With my night cap on my head,  
I don't know if I'm retiring  
Or just getting out of bed.

So if it's time to write you  
There's no need in getting sore,  
I may think that I have written  
And don't want to be a bore.

So remember, I still love you,  
And I wish that you were here,  
And now it's nearly mail time  
So I must say, "Good by, dear."

There I stand beside the mail box  
With a face so very red ...  
Instead of mailing you my letter,  
I had opened it instead.

Curtis Hostetter (Putnam Co. native and former editor of the Lafayette JOURNAL.)

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## LATE BULLETIN

Because of the serious illness of our dear friend and one of our most faithful members, Roy Pritchard, Ruth has asked to be relieved of her responsibilities, so a change will be made in our August program. In the meantime, our prayers will be with Ruth and Roy.

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