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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME XIV

NUMBER IV

NOVEMBER 1983
PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

Indiana Collection
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PLAINFIELD, INDIANA

HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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ANNUAL DUES \$3.00 PAYABLE IN NOVEMBER

The Hendricks County Historical Bulletin is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society and to Hendricks County School Libraries. Individual copies of \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

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"This time, like all times, is a very good one
if we but know what to do with it."

From THE AMERICAN SCHOLAR,

From speech that Ralph Waldo Emerson
gave at Harvard in 1837

GREETINGS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

My Goodness! Almost another year has passed for the Hendricks County Historical Society! I hope that the last two years have been productive ones for the Society. If they have been, much credit should be given to the respective committees and all members and officers who have been so loyal and willing to help.

It has been my great pleasure to work with and experience the association with members. My wish is for an active and interesting year in 1984 for the H.C.H.S. and with the fine, new leadership coming up, I am sure it will be a banner year!

Thanks,

Maynard

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AUGUST MEETING

Our Historical Society met August 7 at the Pittsboro Christian Church with the ladies of Middle Township serving as hostesses. After the usual business, Mary Jeanette Winkelman introduced guests, Mrs. Artie Thatcher, Mrs. Ella Marsh and Mrs. Kopp. Mr. and Mrs. Ragsdale, who baked the lovely cake for refreshments, were also introduced.

The Rev. Sexton gave the devotions and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Mrs. Pearl Edmondson who passed away July 28th. We also remembered Leona Stuart, a faithful member, who is laid up in the hospital with a broken hip.

EARLY CLUBS was the subject of talks given by Kathryn Armstrong, THE BROWNING CLUB of Danville, Veva Spears, the Plainfield FRIDAY CLUB, and Faye Elmore, the DELPHINIAN CLUB of Clayton. Lois Crayton, program chairman, stated that the purpose of the program on clubs was to point out how people spent their leisure time before the advent of radio and T V.

The nominating committee composed of Frances Fisher, Ruth Rogers and Bob Castetter will announce the new slate of officers at the next meeting.

The social hour was enjoyed by more than 55 members and guests.

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NOVEMBER MEETING

Every one knows how to get to Plainfield, and when you get to Plainfield, you are bound to hit Road #40 sooner or later. Turn north one block east of Center Street on Vine Street and when you get to Lincoln Street, you will find, on the NW corner,

The AME Church. There, Cassie Swarn and her committee will welcome us to the November meeting. Jerry Hankins, who is already well known to those of us who heard his talk last year on INDIAN WARS IN INDIANA, will again be the featured speaker. His subject, November 6th, will be THE BATTLE OF TIPPECANOE.

Mr. Hankins is an outstanding history teacher at Plainfield High School. His keen interest in and thorough research of Indiana history is evidenced in the enthusiastic way he handles his subject and this will be another program you won't want to miss.

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TO: THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORY BULLETIN

The Plainfield Public Library's Historical Collection recently gained a copy of a poem and farewell given on June 24, 1911 at Plainfield by Dr. E. J. Bulgin, a noted evangelist. Grace Cox of Danville allowed the library to copy this interesting item and Historical Librarian Susan Carter has found some fascinating facts about the revival in the Plainfield newspapers.

One outstanding aspect of the 1911 Bulgin meetings at Plainfield was that they were held in a tabernacle which was erected especially for the crusade. While its location is not specifically mentioned in the newspaper accounts, longtime Plainfield resident, Veva Griffin Spear, recalls the event clearly and says that the tabernacle was built at the rear of the Western Yearly Meeting grounds.

The building measured 80 by 114 feet and was erected in two days by the citizens of Plainfield and vicinity. Some of the names mentioned in the article are Rev. Ashby, Charles Symons, Harrison Hufford, Rev. Weston and Rev. Rector. They were among 63 men who worked on the tabernacle the first day. Each of the two days the ladies of Plainfield churches served a free lunch to the laborers.

Every night for a week Dr. Bulgin spoke and his delivery prompted the newspaper reporter to write that, "Plainfield has never heard such a storm of clear cut logic in its history. There are evangelists and evangelists but Bulgin is in a class by himself."

Of George L. Rose who led a local chorus of 200 voices every evening at 7:30 preceding Dr. Bulgin's presentation, the newspaper states, "Rose not only does the Caruso act, but leads the luncheons, builds tabernacles, and obeys his wife; which is more than a lot of Plainfield men have learned to do yet. He acts as business manager in intervals, and is a useful man to have around."

The meetings were attended by standing room only crowds. On one particular evening five hundred people were turned away from the building which was said to be large enough to accommodate every man, woman and child in Plainfield "and then some more." Plainfield's population was slightly in excess of 1300 at the time.

Dr. Bulgin's sermons covered such topics as "Booze," "Hell," "The Ten Virgins," and "The Ten Commandments." On Sunday afternoon, Bulgin spoke to the men on "Wine, Women and Gambling" while Mrs. Rose spoke to the women about "White Slavery."

After a month's stay in Plainfield, Dr. Bulgin's campaign came to a close on Sunday, June 24. "Plans have been made to close the meeting in a blaze of glory. Three services will be held commencing at 10:30 a.m. with a second sermon at 2:30 p.m. and the day closing with a final special song service at 7 p.m. followed by

Dr. Bulgin's great sermon, "The Triumphs of the Cross." A basket dinner will be served on the splendid grounds of the Friends church, and hot coffee served with ice water on the side. The churches at Amo and Avon have signified their intention to close for the day and come to Plainfield with dinner. If the weather is right it is estimated that four or five thousand people will see the finish of the great Bulgin campaign."

The poem and farewell which Dr. Bulgin presented read as follows:

"Build for yourself a strong box,
Fashion each part with care,
When it's as strong as your heart can make it,
Hide all your troubles there.

Put all your sorrows in it,
So the world will never guess half,
Build for yourself this strong box,
And sit on the lid and laugh.

Make the bottom out of grit,
Make the wall out of determination,
Make the castors out of brass,
Make the corners out of the shining steel of Hope,
Make the lid out of the golden promises of God,
And you can sit on the lid and laugh."

"Farewell to the good people of Plainfield and Hendricks County. God bless some of the best people on the world. You have treated me like a prince. I shall never forget your royal kindness, your generosity and friendship. I came with the kindest spirit and leave with the heartiest goodbye. Let the poem be my expression to all. Goodbye. Fraternally, E. J. Bulgin."

The Plainfield Library's Historical Collection also has a copy of E. J. Bulgin's Seven Selected Sermons and a small paperback songbook, Bulgin Revival Songs. A message on the red, white and blue striped cover of the songbook states, "Please leave me in the Seat. If you take me Home leave 10 cents." Both items are inscribed and autographed by E. J. Bulgin.

These books, and the newspaper accounts which are quite lengthy and detailed, may be seen at the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library during the collection's regular hours, noon to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Appointments for other times may be arranged by contacting Susan Carter, Historical Librarian, at 839-6602. Mrs. Carter welcomes gifts of materials concerning the history of Plainfield and the county for the library's collection.

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HISTORICAL COLLECTION AT PLAINFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The following materials are recent additions to the Guilford Township Historical Collection of the Plainfield Public Library and may be seen during the Collection's regular hours, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon until 5 p.m.

Memories of the Mitchell "Mansion" -- gift of Ruth Mitchell Pritchard
 History of the Mitchell family -- gift of Ruth Mitchell Pritchard
 History of the Durham and Tucker families of Eel River Township, Hendricks County,
 Indiana -- g. John Durham
 Country cooking with a gourmet twist, vol. II - g. author, Eula Epley
 Cadle Tabernacle songs -- g. Jay Small
 Cadle Tabernacle 28th anniversary song book
 The Tommy John story -- g. Sally Simmons John
 Concise statement of the Christian doctrines of the Society of Friends (1855)
 Byram-Irons family -- g. Genivie Irons Frazer
 The Indiana Years, 1903-1941
 Wooton patent desks -- g. John C. and Ida Mae Miller in memory of Roy H. Pritchard
 Rosen. A judge judges mushrooms (Indiana mushrooms)
 A history of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, 1916-1980
 Year book of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, 1982
 Guide to manuscript collections, Friends Historical Library
 The pageant of Hendricks County, Indiana, 1824-1924
 Powell. Caves in Indiana
 County government statistical report: 1983 (Indiana) -- g. of Farm Bureau
 School Statistical Report: 1983 (Indiana) -- g. Farm Bureau
 State of the community report, Community Service Council, Indianapolis
 Guide to genealogical research in the National Archives
 Index to marriage record, Putnam County, Indiana, 1850-1920 (3 vol.)
 The seven monks of Gethsemane -- g. of author, Ben Jones
 Indiana Always: the state guide/magazine for all counties
 Morgan's great Indiana-Ohio raid, July 1863
 MacLean. Gene Stratton-Porter: a bibliography and collector's guide
 The Sally and Tommy John story
 Relander. Treaty centennial, 1855-1955, the Yakimas
 Browning. Index to deceased, Guilford County, North Carolina Court records,
 August 1781 - February 1911
 Salvatore. Eugene V. Debs: citizen and socialist
 Baker. Hoosier folk legends
 Cook. A guide to southern Indiana
 Hornaday. Piedmont North Carolina cemeteries, vol. 1: Cane Creek Friends Meeting
 Arnold. Feeding our families: memories of Hoosier homemakers
 Buley. The Old Northwest
 Searight. The old pike
 Bruce. The National Road
 Liddell. The Carter family history
 A history of churches, Central Indiana Baptist Association -- g. of the association
 Wolka. Indiana obsolete notes and script
 Stryker-Rodda. How to climb your family tree
 Historical sketches of the Wabash Valley (1916)
 History of Fayette Co., Indiana (1885)
 History of Johnson Co., Indiana (1888)
 History of Rush Co., Indiana (1888)
 History of Vigo and Parke Cos. (1880)
 Stein. Indiana (poem) on the one hundredth anniversary of her statehood
 Butler. So they framed Stephenson!
 Moores, comp. Sons of the American Revolution in Indiana (1908)
 Marsh. I discover Columbus (Indiana) (1956)
 Ludlow. From cornfield to press gallery; adventures and reminiscences of a veteran
 Washington correspondent (U.S. Senator from Indiana)
 Indiana Code, 1983 supplement

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ADDITIONAL MICROFILM AT PLAINFIELD LIBRARY

Fifty-six more reels of microfilm containing local newspapers have been added to the Historical Collection at Plainfield Public Library.

Most of the film contains the Hendricks County Flyer covering the years from 1973 to 1982. Also filmed and available for consultation are the (Plainfield) Friday Caller for 1941, 1942 and 1947-1956; the Indiana Boys' School newspapers (Plainfield Reformatory and Indiana Boys' School Herald) for 1893-1896, 1928-1929, 1933-1942; and the Indiana County Agent (published at Plainfield) for May 1914-May 1916.

Interested persons are encouraged to call Susan Carter at the library if further information is desired (839-6602).

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NEWS FROM THE INDIANA ROOM

BY BETTY BARTLEY

DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Indiana Room recently acquired a large collection of photographs and miscellaneous papers from the estate of Chauncey Holiday Phillips, of Coatesville. Fortunately, the majority of the photographs were identified on the back. Unfortunately, most people (myself included) still have stacks of old and new photographs around the house still waiting for identification. Now that the days are getting cooler, and we are spending more time indoors, all of us procrastinators should make a resolution to properly identify all photos, so that future generations won't have to "guess who?".

Starting in October, the Danville Public Library began operating on an expanded schedule. The new hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Indiana Room staff will be on hand Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings, as well as during the days that the Library is open. It is hoped that researchers and all visitors to the Indiana Room will be better served by these new hours.

December 5, 1983 will mark the 80th anniversary of the official opening of the Danville Public Library. Plans are underway for an open house to be held on Sunday, December 4, to celebrate the anniversary of the opening of the first Carnegie library building constructed in Hendricks County. Full details about the open house will appear in the county newspapers.

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With winter coming, people will be tuned to their televisions for information on how rainy, windy, cold or snowy the weather will be. The following article, taken from the March 8, 1888 issue of the Hendricks County Republican, shows that Danville once had its own "Accuweather" service:

THE WEATHER SIGNALS

Danville has been constituted a weather signal station, with Lon Talbott as reporting clerk. The following is an explanation

of the service: White flag, clear or fair weather; blue flag, rain or snow; black triangular flag, temperature signal; white flag with black square in center, cold wave.

These signals will be displayed here from a horizontal support, consisting of a line stretched across the street just north of the court house. When you see the black triangular flag first to the south of the station and the white one next to it, the signal means warmer, fair weather. Blue and white with black in center, snow or cold wave.

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MUSEUM MUSINGS

The museum has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum wishes to thank Bob Carroll, Hendricks County Engineer, Deckard Studios and all others who helped make this honor possible.

There has been lots of moving and shaking going on in the museum all summer. The two rooms in the basement that were recently concreted are now housing the contents of the former Primitives Room on the street floor. The room where the Primitives were now houses the Veterans' display from Civil War to more recent times.

The Hendricks County Garden Club had a very pretty flower bed on the lawn of the museum this summer. The ole sun-ball tried it's best to ruin it the same as everybody elses'. Lately, the scarlet sage is one blaze of color. Success, gals!

Do you ever wonder when your great-great aunt on your father's side, or maybe it was your mother's, you've forgot which, came to this county? You heard someone say where she went from this county but you forgot. Well, a copy of the Hendricks County History Book just might have the answer. And to help find it sooner, the History Book Index will be a big help. Saves a lot of nail chewing, and that is a habit that always has been frowned on.

The museum had a booth at Brownsburg Outdoor Fun Festival (BOFF). We were again sponsored by Hendricks County Bank and Trust of Brownsburg. The "whatsit board" was popular again this year. This board, approximately four feet square, has small tools and gadgets once used around home and farm displayed on it. More than likely today's children never saw these tools in use. That could apply to their parents, too.

We were open both days of Swap and Shop, a fall festival in Danville.

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. Paintings, needlepoint, each demonstrates a skill. We 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 for the stove, which had to have its yearly coat of stove polish to keep its look. Don't forget 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 is of a covered bridge, done in color. Another is of a burro that looks too contrary to notice the spines on the cactus he appears to think about eating. Then there is a season coming up depicted by an old barn beside a tree bereft of its leaves. That horned owl in the next picture makes one 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 walnut owls beneath a corn-moon that could screech to beat the band. There are 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". It goes ahead to tell the symptoms and the dire word that "there's no known cure"! Either runs its course when the money runs out or becomes addictive. Both are bad.

There are lots of little name magnets. If your name or message isn't shown you might talk right nice to Kathi Kelley and see if she wouldn't make you one. Don't forget to say "please".

Jewell

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??? QUERY ???

Need information: OOLEY - ZANE

Stephen H. Ooley b. 1833 Indiana m. Margaret Zane of Ohio. They lived in Vigo Co. Terre Haute, Ind he died in 1902. Their children: Lillie Mae b. 1865, Della E. b. 1867, Richard N. b. 1870 d. 1900, Charles E. b. 1875, and another son named Moses b.? who ran away from home as a small boy. Moses got on a boat on the Wabash River and was never heard from again. What happened to and where did Moses go?

ALSO

OOLEY - ZANE - WHARTON

Need parents, brothers, sisters, other children of Thornton Ooley b. ca 1810-1814 in Kentucky? He is listed in the Monroe Co., Bloomington, Ind. census 1830. He married Elizabeth Wharton 5-13-1830 in Monroe Co., Ind. she was from Virginia. Who were her parents? Where and when did they die? Thornton Ooley was the father of Stephen H. Ooley b. 1833 in Ind. died 1902 Vigo Co., Terre Haute, Ind.. Stephen H. Ooley m. Margaret Zane where? She was from Ohio either Zanesville or Cincinnati. Who were her parents. She died in 1893 Vigo Co. he then married Nancy J. Roll in 1898. Any information would be appreciated.

Mary Lou Ooley Shogren
248 Main Street
Glen Ellyn, Illinois 60137

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The following article was clipped from a September issue of the HENDRICKS COUNTY FLYER:

Back-To-School
Changing 1-Room
To Prime Home

DANVILLE - One of the county's few one-room schoolhouses still standing is buzzing with activity again. The Mill Creek school, southwest of Danville, is being transformed into a home, by Steve and Linda Bone, of Brownsburg.

They are living at the school while the work is being done, because Steve is doing all the work himself, with a little help from his friends.

He is 25 years old and he has owned seven homes-so far. He is tickled to have the schoolhouse to work over, but he has no intention of letting it be his ultimate home. A professional musician, he also earns his living by restoring older or rundown houses and reselling them.

"In real estate, three things about a home are important," Steve explained. "Location, location and location. This house has all three-near Danville, still out in the country, and a beautiful wooded setting. It can't miss."

He's retaining the outer appearance of the school, but from the front door on, its former pupils wouldn't know it was the same place.

"My only concern with the old building was the brick walls," Steve said. "We took it down to just the walls, and I'm framing it like a new house...with the exception that we could make a new house square and true, and this one isn't, quite."

He had some contract work done for a new roof, but the rest of the work is all his. He had to design and make frames for the old-style windows himself, and he has made maximum use of the interior space. There will be three bedrooms, kitchen, living area, and an 11 by 25 recording studio, for Steve's other profession, music.

"However, since future families in the house probably won't need a sound studio, I'm making it to be instantly convertible to a rec room," he said.

The old schoolhouse had an entryway built onto the square front of the building, with cloakroom space on either side. Steve and Linda don't exactly need that much cloakroom, so Steve is retaining the old brick look, and creating a greenhouse on the left (as you enter) and a breakfast room on the right. A skylight has been built overhead for the greenhouse.

The Mill Creek School was built in 1890, according to Danville Library Historian Betty Bartley, and continued to function until the end of the 1928-29 school year. It still has a loyal alumni group who have reunions at an adjacent church, and got their first glimpse of the new life for the old building this summer.

"A lot of people have come down this road, seen us at work, and stopped to see what was going on," Steve noted. "The beginning stages always look a little tough; I hope people will look again when we are done."

He has an uncle in the real estate business who got him started on his house-work, he said. "It's true," Steve declared, "real estate is the best investment." - L.S.H.

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The First "Wireless" in Hendricks County

Laurence W. Franklin (1901 - 1966)

It was a soft, warm night in the summer of 1919. Mother was sitting on the front porch and my father, my brother, Edgar, and I were lying on a blanket on a comfortor in the yard. We were looking up at the heavens, talking about the stars, the funny forms of the clouds, and the planets. Maybe we talked about God, or why my beloved cat had to die, and where do cats go when they die. These are just a few of the things I can remember talking about on those wonderful, peaceful nights of my childhood.

Occasionally a car, or a "machine" as we called them then, would come slowly around the curve and pass our house on the Cartersburg Road. They came slowly by modern standards, but in those days they seemed to be hurtling dangerously down the gravel road at break-neck speeds of up to twenty or twenty-five miles per hour! Edgar had learned to distinguish the kind of car it was by the sound of the motor. Maybe it was a Studebaker or an Overland ... or whatever kinds of cars they had in those days. They all sounded alike to me, but it was very exciting when one came by and we watched it until it disappeared from view.

So this was a typical summer evening for the Franklin family, although one member was missing. But then, he was usually missing. He was my older brother, Laurence, who was upstairs in his room tinkering on some contraption which, he told us, would one day be a "wireless".

Most people his age thought Laurence was a little odd, because, when he didn't have his nose in a book or a magazine, he would be tinkering. He read, from cover to cover, "The Electrical Experimenter" which was the most up-to-date magazine on what we now call "electronics". In school he was recognized as a "brain"; he wanted to be normal, like the other guys, but he was shy, and never really quite made it. He couldn't be a basket ball hero, the only school sport at that time, because he lived in the country and had to go home immediately after school when the practice sessions were held. He didn't have the gift of gab, nor did he have what we would now call "charisma", although he had a delightful sense of humor and was ready with a joke for any occasion. He was just a sweet, unassuming kid, but no one paid too much attention to him except his teachers and his parents. They believed in him.

Especially his mother.

After studying and dreaming about it for several years, he decided to build a "wireless". Gathering all the materials and parts needed was a slow process, but putting it all together was more difficult. One of the first things he had to build was an induction coil, something he could not do alone, and that's where mother came in. According to well memorized instructions, they took a round Quaker Oats box, and, together, the two started to wind fine copper wire around it. Hour after agonizing hour they worked, night after night. The fine wire was guided around the box by the forefinger, slowly, slowly, to make it perfect, and when at last one layer was finished, it was shellacked. When that layer dried, they started on another layer. I have no idea how many layers it took, but the finished product contained several miles of fine copper wire. I can remember how sore their fingers were and how, at times they bled. I can remember how my father used to scold, oh so gently, about the late hours, and I think I can remember how tired my mother used to look sometimes at the breakfast table.

But there was something special between these two ... my mother and her first born. It was a beautiful relationship, an adoring mother and her gifted son. They knew something exciting was going to happen. Then the war came along ... World War One ... and the government stopped work on all private projects such as his. But as soon as the war was over and the ban was lifted, work went feverishly on in that little room upstairs.

He was getting close, and he knew it. We had an understanding: whenever we heard pounding on the floor upstairs, we were to come running.

Thus it was, on this gentle, quiet night in 1919 that we heard the urgent pounding. Away we went scampering upstairs, almost falling over each other in our haste. There was only one set of earphones, so we each had to take our turn. But when they were placed over my ears and I heard the strains of "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" coming out of the nowhere, my knees buckled slightly. It was wierd, I felt unreal. It passed through my mind that maybe this was the end of the world. But what my childish mind could not then grasp ... nor could many adult minds ... was that this was not the end, but the beginning of a whole new wonderful era!

My brother soon became a modest celebrity. People came from miles around to listen in awe to music and voice from the airways, for his was the first "wireless", not only in Hendricks County, but in much of central Indiana. Soon he received his license to send messages as well as to receive, and his station call letters are engraved indelibly on my mind - 9 A D N.

In following his star, his accomplishments were many. He established and was manager of the first "wireless" station at Purdue University, and was its first broadcaster of basket ball games. He helped Prof. Ratliff install a small station at Central Normal College at Danville.

After his graduation from Purdue with honors, Mr. Franklin was employed by Western Union Telegraph Company. While in their employ, he was granted many patents; we don't know how many, for, since he was an assignor to the Western Union Telegraph Company of New York at the time, he did not receive financial benefits from his inventions.

He was a short wave addict, and was one of the first members of the elite "Century Club" which was composed of "hams" who had talked to 100 foreign countries. Much of his interest and adeptness in electronics was passed on to his twin sons, William S. and Robert W. Franklin. Both are electrical engineers, and William, especially, has carried on his father's activities in short wave. Living in Phoenix with a station of his own, much of which was his father's, he was inexorably pulled to Barry Goldwater's station. One of the largest and most powerful stations in the world, it was manned 24 hours a day taking messages from service men located out of the country and relaying them to their families. Drawn like a moth to the candle, soon Bill was one of the volunteers, and he spent one night each week at the station. Barry Goldwater and his volunteers have become a closely knit family. Laurence Franklin, who received the first "wireless" message in central Indiana, back in 1919, would have been proud to have a son working at the largest short wave station in the world ... voluntarily.

Margaret Baker

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Ruth Pritchard has compiled a delightful booklet entitled MEMORIES OF THE MITCHELL MANSION. The following was lifted from that collection of enjoyable recollections and your editor reserves the right to print others from time to time.

MEMORIES OF THE MITCHELL "MANSION"

For many years this place was called the Henry H. Mills home. It was in the south east part of Liberty Township of Hendricks County Indiana, in the Joppa - North Branch - Salem community. This farm was well known for the large orchard of a variety of fruit, and plantings of ornamental trees and shrubs around the house. These were a wedding gift in 1878 to Henry H. Mills and his bride, Clara K. Ragan Mills from her father, William S. Ragan, nurseryman at Clayton.

On February 28, 1910, Frank and Clara Mitchell with their three daughters, Gladys, Ruth and Florence moved into this house. Fifteen days later another daughter arrived. This was Edith, soon called "Sunshine".

This house, affectionately dubbed the "Mansion" by the Mitchell kids years later, stood at the north end of an eighty-rod lane. This had been in pioneer days, a part of the public road through the forest.

The sturdy but drafty seven-room frame house pretty well measured up to standards of farm dwellings of the times. The brick-walled dug well was conveniently located right by the back porch on the north side of the house. This was a big improvement over carrying water from the spring below the hill as early settlers had done. A plaster sealed brick-walled cistern for rain water was also close by. It had a wood pump. An attached coal house on the north east corner of the house kept rain and snow off the fuel supply. The brick-walled cellar was under the kitchen at the west end of the house. It had an outside entrance with a sloping door that raised and lowered with a weight and pulley device.

There was no plaster on the walls inside the house. Instead, wide poplar boards lined the perimeter walls and made interior partitions. Before Mitchell family occupancy, muslin had been tacked on the walls and wall paper added. Board ceilings, covering the ceiling joists in the kitchen and living room, were painted. The three by eight inch ceiling joists in the east room were left exposed.

The "central" heating for the Mitchell "Mansion" consisted of anthracite coal burning stoves called "base - burners", located as nearly as possible in the center of the eighteen-foot square living room in the middle of the house and in the center of the equal sized bed room on the east end of the dwelling, plus a coal and wood burning range stove in the kitchen.

The large double fire place between the kitchen and the living room was never used by the Mitchell family. No doubt in its more than seventy years many fires had burned there and many meals had been cooked on the kitchen side of the fire place. The living room mantle served as a clock and what-not shelf for the Mitchells. On the kitchen mantle stood kerosene lamps that underwent a refueling and chimney polishing ritual each morning.

The Mitchells found good neighbors in this community. Elwood and Emma Stanley lived just across the road at the end of the lane. This jovial and understanding pair of new "grand parents" were a delight to the little girls. Emma Stanley had lived in the "Mansion" when she was a child. One afternoon about two years later the four Mitchell girls without parental permission or knowledge visited the Stanley's and proudly announced, "We came all by ourselves".

William and Emma Cook lived in the first house west. They had two sons, Haskell and Glen. Will's father, "Uncle Milton" lived with them. There were many happy associations with this family and a "well beaten path" across the fields attested to the travel between the homes.

In the first house east lived Arthur and Sally Cook with their son, Claire and daughter, Helen. It was Arthur Cook who, by previous arrangement, had the fires going and the house warm when the Mitchells arrived that February day in 1910. Helen was close in age to the Mitchell girls and spent quite a bit of time with them.

Other neighbors were: Charles and Mary Brown with daughter, Helene, in the second house east; Charles and Sally Lamont with daughter, Agnes, at Jappa and Granville & Nancy Love with daughter, Flossie, near the North Branchs Friends meeting house.

Farmers were often their own carpenters and mechanics - some times their own farriers. This was true at the Mitchell place. During the first few years the building program included: twenty-four portable hog houses; a two story combination scale-house, implement storage and shop and a barn addition of two graneries, two sheds and a corn crib. Some of this carpenter work was done after dark by the light a kerosene lantern.

All this building furnished a lot of nice new blocks that were toys for construction minded daughters and later for the four sons: Thurman in 1913, Delbert in 1916, Luther in 1918 and Dennis in 1921. Other home made toys, a few bought ones, some dolls, a wagon, a sled, books and various materials in our father's shop were instruments for fun and many kinds of pretend occupations.

One such venture in make believe housekeeping ended in disaster. Small blankets draped from the top of a table (formerly the school teacher's desk in District #2 in Ervin Township of Howard County) made a nice play house if something for a weight secured the top edge of the blankets in place. Mamma's basket of one and one half dozen eggs was handy and made just such a weight one time. All went very well until the blanket under the egg basket got an accidental pull. Down came that whole side of the "house" along with the basket of eggs. What a mess! Mamma did not scold me. She knew that I would not do that again. She just cleaned the scrambled eggs from the floor.

Mamma's hair cutting skill fascinated me. I was sure I could do very well at the job but I did not discuss the matter with her. My first attempt to imitate her was one evening during one of her hurried trips to the barn to milk the cow. She occasionally did the milking when Papa was going to be late. My two year old sister, Edith was my willing "customer" and I enjoyed every whack of the scissors. I had cut off three curls by the time Mamma returned to the house and stopped my fun. She took one look and said, "Don't do that again!"

The "Mansion" was not a school house but Mamma seemed to do quite well as a teacher there. She did her teaching usually in the kitchen while she was ironing clothes or performing some other time consuming housework. She taught my sister, Gladys and me to read and to count before we started to school. Apparently she understood the principles of teaching and methodically proceeded step by step with the alphabet, words and numerals. She drilled us in such a way that learning was an interesting experience.

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IN MEMORIUM

Since the publication of the last BULLETIN, death has claimed three of our members. Pearl Edmondson passed away shortly before our last meeting; Josephine Wright and Pauline Mackey have died recently, Josephine suddenly and unexpectedly and Pauline after a long illness. Our organization is poorer because of their passing and we extend sympathy to their families.

Let us all be comforted by these words:

"The day which you fear as being the end of all things is the birthday of your eternity." Seneca

"There is no death! What seems so is a transition."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"My peace I give unto you ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

John 14:27

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HENDRICKS COUNTY GAINS NATIONAL ATTENTION

THE PLAINFIELD MESSENGER carried the following report Monday, March 28, 1966:

Hendricks County First In Nation
To Reject O.E.O. Poverty Program?
By Dennis Abell

Hendricks County residents voted last Thursday night to reject a proposed Tri-County Community Action Program and became the first county in the nation to turn its back on the National Office of Economic Opportunity by referendum, according to a spokesman at the national O.E.O. office in Washington, D.C.

Over 200 Hendricks and Montgomery county residents attended a scheduled meeting at the Hendricks County Court House with 165 local county residents voting against the proposed poverty program. Twenty voters were in favor of the measure.

The following morning, Morris Moriarty, assistant director of the state O.E.O. told The Messenger that it was his opinion that Hendricks County was the first to reject the program in Indiana with over two-thirds of the 92 counties already participating in some phase of the program.

A reporter for an Indianapolis television station, Larry Smith, reported to The Messenger that he had talked with a spokesman at the national O.E.O. office and was told that, although several counties have rejected the program, Hendricks County was

reportedly the first in the nation to have rejected the poverty program by an actual vote of the residents.

The Thursday night meeting was officially advertised in county newspapers two weeks prior to the meeting.

Those in attendance at the meeting were required to sign a registration form before they were permitted to vote on the proposal. The actual voting was done by secret ballot.

Counting the votes were Vaughn D. Kirtz, Coatesville, and Robert Vannice, Mrs. Sharon Leisch, and Louis Card Jr., all of Danville.

Acting as chairman for the voting group was Pittsboro resident, Marvin Adams.

The voting followed a meeting held earlier in the month when state O.E.O. director Roger Hunt explained the proposed action program before some 75 county residents telling the group that a total of \$106,000 had been allocated to the three counties including Montgomery, Boone and Hendricks for an anti-poverty program. Allotment for Hendricks County was set at \$38,000; Boone, \$33,000; and Montgomery, \$35,000.

It was explained by Hunt that sufficient funds were not available to the individual counties to permit an effective CAP program, that the three counties were to be joined as a single unit.

Following the meeting, a group of interested county residents, who had been following the proposed program since September, met to set up a date for a county vote. Among the residents were Henry Cox, Marvin and Helen Cook, Grave Gibbs, H.C. Disney, John Mowrer, and Paul Hanebutt.

Hunt had advocated that the attenders of the first meeting set a date and take a vote on the proposed program.

Several county residents, following the voting, were wondering where Hendricks County stood after its residents rejected the program.

Moriarty told The Messenger the following day that if Boone and Montgomery combine that room would most likely have to be allocated for the addition of Hendricks County in the tri-county constitution.

When asked if both counties were presently ready to get started on the program, Moriarty said, "At the present time, Montgomery has nearly 100 residents in favor of the program and have already set up their by-laws. Boone County is still debating the issue."

Moriarty re-stated a petition condition that Hunt suggested to the county residents earlier in the month.

Said Moriarty, "If the county does decide to enter the program, a represented group of businessmen, town and county officials and other interested parties would have to apply for the program at the state Office of Economic Opportunity."

Moriarty stated that the state office would have to be fairly certain that the county was really behind the program before an application would be granted.

He also advocated that individual school systems could apply.

The committee handling the voting last Thursday were reportedly prepared to go one way or the other depending upon the vote. A slate of candidates had already been prepared to be elected to a 12-member board of directors with four directors serving from each of the three counties.

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ANOTHER ARTICLE FROM DANVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Birth announcements in today's newspapers just give you the cold facts: a boy to Mr. and Mrs. John Smith; a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Brown. Newspapers in the late 1800's gave the same information, but in a more colorful form. The following birth announcements were found in issues of the Hendricks County Republican and the Danville Union by the staff of the Indiana Room at the Danville Public Library:

- Sol Lewis has a 12 pound visitor. (5-18-1876 p3 c2)
- An increase in the fold is expected at this time of year, but William Shepherd is doubly blessed, and has made an extra cradle out of a boot box. (4-6-1876 p3 c4)
- It is a boy and looks like Johnnie. (9-21-1876 p3 c2)
- What if it isn't a boy, Elihue? It is a nice one. (10-5-1876 p3 c4)
- It dates from last Sunday, is a boy and weighs seven pounds. T. J. Jessup for particulars. (12-14-1876 p3 c2)
- D. W. Carter will not hire a hand this season--it is a boy and he takes it quietly. (4-5-1877 p3 c3)
- Mr. Sturges' last and tenth is of the feminine gender and is the 6th of that persuasion in the series. (5-3-1877 p2 c5)
- It's a bouncer, and its daddy, D. S. Barker, is as happy as a big sunflower. (8-21-1879 p2 c5)
- See that smile on the left side of Thomas Wilson's face--it's a girl. (12-4-1879 p2 c4)
- George Merritt is better. So is the little nine pounder. (7-29-1880 p5 c3)
- Bart Parker seemed so very pleasant the last week. It is a boy. (9-2-1880 p5 c3)
- News from across the Rhine, the Fatherland. It is a girl at Lewis Euergelin's. (3-23-1888 p5 c3)
- John McCollum is slowly recovering. It's a girl. (3-29-1883 p8 c3)

---A little squall aroused J. Alva Owen from his peaceful slumbers on Sunday morning. It's a girl. (4-12-1883 p8 c3)

---Dr. T. J. Adams believes in the saying "Suffer little children to come unto me". It is a baby boy. (11-15-1883 p8 c1)

---Jim McLaughlin, notwithstanding the late cold snap, smiles from ear to ear, on account of his being sonstruck. (2-7-1884 p5 c3)

---Ed Sawyer's little boy's father is the proudest man in town. (6-18-1885 p8 c1)

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THIS AND THAT

..... The Casteters, the Josephs, Mary Ann Moore, Dorothy and her grandson ... and others whose names will haunt me when I find out whose I have left out ... have reportedly done a tremendous job at the MUSEUM. If you haven't been there recently, make a firm resolve to get there. I will. That museum is putting us on the map!

..... Ida Mae Miller is the County Historian, but as we go to press, we don't know what her duties are, but congratulations, anyway!

..... Have you noticed the signs pointing the way to the Museum? Don't be too noseey about where they came from. Suffice it to say that a good fairy helped Maynard get the job done. Another sign is needed in the yard. Any one want to help Maynard?

..... Your editor is going to suggest to the Executive Committee that the price for back bulletins be raised. We can't come out even charging only a dollar when we have to mail them separately.

..... Illness in the family called me out of town recently. Restless nights spent worrying about my brother were made more so wondering how I would get The BULLETIN out. When I arrived home - what, to my wondering eyes should appear but a number of contributions from my faithful contributors. Thanks to Betty, Susan, Jewell and Mary Elizabeth and others. Without you, there would be no bulletin.

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