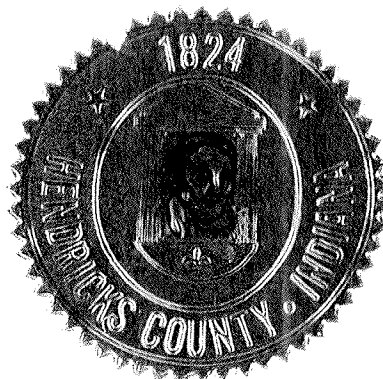


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HENDRICKS COUNTY

HISTORY BULLETIN



VOLUME VI

NUMBER

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October 1975

PUBLISHED BY

THE HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DANVILLE, INDIANA

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HENDRICKS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

ORGANIZED 1967

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Annual Dues \$3.00 Payable in October

H C H S

The Hendricks County History Bulletin is published quarterly in January, April, July, and October prior to our meeting dates. It is distributed without charge to members of the Society, to Hendricks County Public Libraries, and to Hendricks County School Libraries, as well as to a number of other libraries; individual copies \$1.00. Communications concerning back copies or individual copies should be addressed to our secretary. Dues should also be mailed to the secretary. Contributions or suggestions to The Bulletin should be mailed to the editor.

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H C H S

COMMONPLACE

"A commonplace life," we say, and we sigh,
But why should we sigh as we say?
A commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day;
The moon and the stars are commonplace things,
And the flower that blooms, and the bird that sings;
But dark were the world, and sad our lot
If the flowers failed, and the sun shone not;
And God, who studies each separate soul,
Out of commonplace lives makes His beautiful whole.

Susan Coolidge

President's Message

The October Meeting concludes my year as president. It has been a year of great importance to us as a historical society. It is appropriate for us to look back and consider: What have we done to further the aims of the Society? And to look forward: What are we going to do as an active chapter of the National Society of men and women dedicated to the promotion of our American Heritage?

First of all, the programs at the quarterly meetings have been ones that increased our knowledge, or recalled to mind, events and practices of earlier years.

Secondly, the Society has started a museum to house items that belonged to residents of Hendricks County. To do this and to maintain it has been the aim of the Society since it was formed. To accumulate the items that are necessary to make it attractive and worth while, we have found, is a slow and somewhat disappointing process. But the groundwork has been laid, and the work will proceed.

I consider it a privilege to have served as your president, and it certainly as been a pleasure to have met you all at the meetings, and to have worked with the members of the committees. I thank you.

Dessie Huddleston

H C H S

The July meeting was held at the Plainfield Library and the program planned by Frances Fisher was everything we had hoped for. "County Fairs" was the subject covered thoroughly by Lois Crayton, Elizabeth Bray, and Martha Winkleman Carter, the lovely young daughter of Ed and Mary Jeanette Winkleman. The displays were interesting and provocative...trying to put names to faces, etc. Business? Well, we did have a business meeting, but it was secondary to our most interesting program.

H C H S

October 12, 1975

The October meeting will be held the 12th at the Avon Methodist Church. This is a new church located just west of Avon on the north side of Road #36. It will be a lovely place to have a meeting.

The Rev. James Shockley will speak on the subject "Dates that Changed History". The Rev. Shockley is a splended speaker and this is bound to be another interesting program. Elva Watts and Elizabeth Shields, with other ladies of Washington, Liberty, Franklin and Clay Townships will furnish refreshments. The nominating committee composed of Floyd Hufford, chairman, Frances Fisher and Mildred Smith will give a report and we will elect officers for the coming year. The meeting time is 2:00 P.M. Dues are due, preferably paid before this date.

H C H S

Dues Are Due!

Unless you have been secretary or treasurer of a large organization, you probably have no idea how much work it takes to carry out these duties. Most of us pay our dues at the October meeting, and of course, that is when they are due; but we don't realize what this does to our secretary and treasurer. It means that they sit at the table all afternoon, taking money, giving receipts, writing out membership cards, and after it is all over, trying to tally out. So the October

meeting for them is nothing but work...work...work. However, there is a better way. If you would sit right down now and write a check and send it to Mabel or Naomi Joseph, R. R. 1, Box 186, North Salem, In 46165, it would make them so happy, and it would assure them and Blanche Wean, treasurer, that they could enjoy the next program. So, come on now, let's co-operate, for if we don't, I'm afraid they are going to ask for an increase in their salaries, and our budget doesn't provide for that.

H C H S

One of our members, Mrs. Hallie Mae Kellems, passed away Sept. 5, at Bradenton, Florida, where she and her husband were spending the winter. She has been a member for a number of years, and we shall miss her. We extend our sincere sympathy to her husband, Mr. Anson Kellems.

H C H S

Wanted...Picture Frame

The Museum has been given a picture of "Blue Jeans" Williams, taken June 2, 1877 which is badly in need of framing. The picture measures 24 $\frac{1}{4}$ " by 18, almost 19". Does anyone have a frame suitable for this picture? If so call Rita Lieske, 745-4334, or Ruth Hall, 994-5775.

H C H S

Correction # 2

In our last January issue of The Bulletin, we thought we were so smart when we pointed out a mistake in the numbering of the bulletins. It has since been pointed out, however, by Dorothy Templin (new name Eagle-Eye) that the first error occurred in the July, 1974 Bulletin, so we weren't so smart, after all. So those of you who are keeping your bulletins in order, go back to July, 1974 and correct them to read as follows:

	1974	
July	Volume V	Number III
October	Volume V	Number IV
	1975	
January	Volume VI	Number I
April	Volume VI	Number II
July	Volume VI	Number III
October	Volume VI	Number IV

And may the gremlins stay out of our numbering system from now on!

DUES ARE DUE!

H C H S

The following letter was written by Dora Carson, while she was a student at Plainfield Academy. Dora later became Dora Littler and was the mother of Esther Littler of Valley Mills. The letter was written to Elnora Hadley, who is now, and has been for quite some time, Elnora Shirley, the mother of Lois Crayton. See if you can recall some of the people whose names are mentioned.

Plainfield, Indiana

Nov. 20, 1895

.....Well, I suppose you want to know all about Old Central. There are about 70 students, I think, but so many new ones that you would hardly know the place. I thought at first I could not stand it, for only one of my class are back, Smythie, and so many new students that it did not seem like school and two new teachers besides. I am enjoying it much better now I like Miss Mendenhall as well if not better than Miss Kellum. I don't have any recitations to Mrs. Parker, but haven't taken much of a fancy to her. I am boarding at Dr. Harvey's together with Alice Kellum, Carrie White, and Ella Hadley. Ella and I room together and Alice and Carrie. Dr. Harvey's nephew Herbert Harvey also stays there and goes to school. The hired girl, Ona Powers, is just about our age too and some High old times we have. Today is Mrs. Harvey's birthday and they made a surprise for her, or tried to but she was not very surprised I guess. She and Dr. went to the city yesterday and came back this morning. She went marching in on the company and told them she was expecting them. We had a splendid dinner, roast chicken, sweet and irish potatoes, beef, chicken dressing and gravy. Several kinds of pie, two kinds of cake and lots and lots of other good things. I suppose you know Ella's sister Josie. She came and Ella didn't know it and was lots more surprised than Mrs. Harvey. Willis Doane was there too. I guess you remember him, if you don't just think of the time when he and Charley Bray met you and Elsie and I on the street and wanted to take us to a oyster supper and you told Charley you didn't think you would. I don't think I'll ever forget the way you looked when you said it. We didn't get to speak to Willis at noon for there was such a crowd we wouldn't go out to the setting room at all. I do hope he won't be gone this evening when we get home.

The algebra class is reciting now. Prof is trying to teach them those same old theorems that you learned last year.

Evan's folks are all well so far as I know. Elsie is at least and as gay as ever. She sits just behind me in school and of course I get shook and my hair pulled and ever other imaginable thing almost. I get it back once in a while when Prof looks the other way but he doesn't often do that for he knows he can't trust us. Bessie Hadley sits in front of me. She said give you her best.

Elsie and Osie gave a social to the students Halloween night. We had a most splendid time and saw witches and ghosts and all kinds of scarry things.

This week we received a lot of new machinery for the science classes, especially the philosophy and chemistry classes. The Academy is almost as well fixed for science work now as some of the colleges. We are going to have some new reference books soon too.

Well, "school is over, work is done, bedtime is swiftly coming on" so I must not say much more, but I must tell you what Mrs. H got for birthday presents. Dr. gave the nicest silver set I ever saw. There is a teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, spoon holder and a dozen silver spoons each with her initials on it. There was also a nice vase, some towels, a handkerchief, a bottle of wine, a bottle of perfume, and a few other things. She was 43 years old and she said this evening if she lived to be 86 she would never have any use for the wine.

(Ed.'s note: Seems that in 1895 girls were just as giggly, giddy and interested in the boys as they are today!)

H C H S

DOOZERDOO!

Voting Records - 1835

Ruth Pritchard can always be counted on to come up with some fascinatin' tid-bits (and some of them are much more than tid-bits) and this time it is a zexored copy of voting records of an election held in Marion Township, 1835. We wish it were possible to reproduce the old document with its hard-to-decipher script, but since it isn't, here is the way it goes:

At an Election held on the 3rd day of August 1835 in the Town of New Williamsburgh in Marion Township Hendricks County Ta to elect 1 representative to Congress 1 Representative to the state Legislator One Sheriff, and one probate Judge, the poles were opened, the Votes for the several Candidates Stod (stood) thus

The candidates were: for Congress, Jacob B. Lowe, George L. Kennard; for Representative, C. C. Nave, James Anderson, Job Osburn; for sheriff, James Sigerson, Edmond Clark, Thomas Walker; for probate judge, Henry H. Marvin, James McClure, Solomon Blount.

The 31 voters were as follows (and the way they voted is there for all the world to see!): William Hodges, Elijah Sutton, David Fox, Henry Tomlinson, William Bailey, Abraham Lewis, Alexander Bryant, William Tomlinson, James Turner, Bradford Samuel (should that have been Samuel Bradford?) R. W. Shannon, Jeremiah Culbertson, Joseph Lewis, Jr., James MacCoun, (although he didn't capitalize the second 'c') John Higgins, Jacob Fox, Henry Bland, William Hayworth, John Mahan, John Robins, Jordan Denny, William Robins, John Vicory, Joseph Robins, Wesley Morgan, Hiram Tomlinson, B.S.B. Parker, Moses Tomlinson, Zimeriah Hunt, Martin Hancock, Thomas Higgins.

The final tally "stod" thus:	Jacob B. Low - for Congress	15
	George L. Kennard for Congress	14
	C. C. Nave for representative	14
	James Anderson for representative	13
	Job Osburn for representative	3
	James Sigerson for sheriff	7
	Edmond Clark for sheriff	23
	Thomas Walker for sheriff	none
	Henry H. Marvin for probate judge	24
	James McClure for probate judge	none
	Solomon Blount for probate judge	none

H C H S

Time to pay your dues! \$3.00

H C H S

QUERY

Would anyone please contact me who know of any of the descendants of Samuel B. Hall. Samuel B. Hall, b. Oct. 8, 1812 m. July 12, 1835 to Mary A. Fitch. They came to Clayton from Nicholasville, Kentucky in 1855. He was a charter member of the Clayton Christian Church, was a "silversmith" and had a store in Clayton. They had ten children, Thomas, Charles, Elisha Henry (who had a son named Albert F.) Mary, Lola, Julia Amanda (who married Aaron Acton) Maria, Emma, Olive and Aurelia Hall.

Please write or call, Ruth A. Hall, Lizton, In. 46149 or call 994-5775.

THE EARLY RURAL SCHOOLS

In Our County

It has been said with perhaps some truth that in early times a man who had failed at everything he had tried would finally try preaching or teaching a school. Early teachers were handicapped for most schools of higher learning were far away and money was too scarce in most homes to pay for transportation, board, room and books. There were teachers and others who were self taught as was Abraham Lincoln and became good teachers in all schools they taught.

My grandmother Harris must have had a good teacher in Liberty Township where as a girl she attended a subscription school and learned to read quite well and to write a letter. Over in east Putnam County a Coatsville Quaker teacher named Abner Miller taught for several years and some place or other he had learned to do beginning problems in algebra and plane geometry.

The early school had no frills. Three subjects were enough for any boy or girl. The subjects were reading, writing, and arithmetic. Reading was important for folks took county papers, they wanted to read tax receipts and government news and politics. Many people had one book, a Bible and they longed to read it and understand it.

Writing was just as important. One was called on time and again to write his name or make his mark and the latter was unsatisfactory and one felt ashamed when his neighbor signed his name and taught his children to sign theirs. Folks in pioneer days parted and were never to meet again but those who left home and could write, could send home word of where they were and what they were doing. It was a pleasure to have one in a home who could read the letters and later answer them.

Some of the old time letters were modeled on the style of ancient Rome. One letter comes to mind that began like this: "I now seat myself and take my pen in hand to write you a few lines. It will inform you that we are all well and hope that you are enjoying the same great blessing."

Along with reading and writing came a series of readers that took our state almost by storm and the old McGuffey Readers for all grades were in our early schools for years. The stories and poems in these books were true to life and appealing to those who could read. They increased the desire in folks to want to read. Cleaner texts were never put before the public. They were a boon of early education.

An old time arithmetic was Ray's. A small book known as Ray's 2nd Part Mental Arithmetic was used in the grades and covered many phases of the subject. The latter part of the book brought the students to beginning Algebra and the problems had to do with land and cloth measurement, problems of grain, pastures, live stock and money. Seldom can one find so many problems that require thinking, and clear thinking. Any boy or girl who could solve most of the problems of Ray's 2nd and 3rd Part Arithmetics had girded themselves well for most of the problems they might encounter as working and progressive citizens. But few ever dreamed of college in by gone days and the three R's as taught by some of the dedicated teachers such as Uncle Abner Miller, a Coatsville Quaker, farm man and educator fitted the growing citizen to meet his rural problems.

Since nearly all people farmed, the following example of problems will illustrate what a future farmer might have to assume and the problems were his preparatory steps to success. Following are some sample problems. A man bought a sheep, a cow, and a horse. The sheep cost \$8.00; the cow cost as much as the sheep and $\frac{1}{4}$ as much as the horse, and the horse cost twice as much as both sheep and cow;

what did each cost? To fill a certain bin with wheat at 6 dimes a bushel requires \$8.00 more than to fill it with oats at 3 dimes a bushel: how many bushels will it contain?

A, B, and C rent a pasture for \$92; A puts in 4 horses for 2 months, B 9 cows for 3 months, and C 20 sheep for 5 months. What ought each to pay, supposing 2 horses eat as much as 3 cows, and 3 cows as much as 10 sheep?

Some fraction problems are as follows: If $\frac{5}{9}$ of a ton of hay cost \$15, what will a half a ton cost?

If $\frac{3}{8}$ of an orchard contains 30 fruit trees, how many trees are there in $\frac{7}{16}$ of it?

If 3 bushels of corn feed 4 horses 6 days, in how many days will 16 horses eat 14 bushels?

Below are some fractions problems that could be puzzling to many pupils of today: $\frac{2}{3}$ of $1\frac{1}{5}$ is $\frac{2}{7}$ of what number?

$\frac{5}{7}$ of $5\frac{4}{5}$ is $\frac{7}{10}$ of what number?

These were all problems to set one's mind to work. Most of them had to do with rural living.

One might say that during the 1880's and well into the 1890's the three R's gave a farm girl and boy a chance for a better than average education. There could be no objections to many of the early books unless one figured the arithmetic might be too difficult. The little, old Ray's Second Part today has plenty of problems that modern youngsters from our best schools cannot solve. The excuse generally given with a shake of the head, is, we have never had a problem like that! Well, it's arithmetic is it not, that requires thinking to solve? Here is a final, easy, but a "think" problem from Ray's. A man had 80 eggs that he wished to sell as follows: 36 eggs at 3 for 4 cents: 24 eggs at 4 for 3 cents, and the remainder at 10 for 17 cents. Getting them mixed accidentally, how much must he sell them out per dozens to get his intended price?

Pioneer teachers maybe had trouble as well as their pupils in finding the correct answers to these many problems.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Have you paid your \$3.00 Dues?

H C H S

McCloud Valley

The McCloud Valley story gains dimension and from one who has Eel River Township "by the hair of the head," or so he claims.

Ethridge Morpew third generation of the "McCloud Clan" who lives on S.R.136 entering Crawfordsville told us a marvelous story, Wednesday afternoon. And time flew like magic.

It seems the McClouds and Morphews have been marrying each other until they are nearly all cousins, some close and some far removed. And he knows the story and tells it well. Mr. and Mrs. Morpew, both in their eighties, were most gracious hosts the entire afternoon. They asked us back to "set a spell".

He asked the first question like "are you related to Lottie Walker?" I answered, "She is my sister-in-law and lives in Asheville, North Carolina." With that out of the way, along came a vivid remembrance of a beloved school teacher in 1902 who taught the Mahoney School near McCloud Park. He even remembered the names of most of the pupils. And they were "mostly" McClouds, Morphews, Pages and Rev. Ray Brittan who "actually accumulated nearly 2,000 acres of good farm land," according to Ethridge.

When we got the subject back on McCloud Valley, he said in no uncertain terms, "I know all there is to know about it."

Straightaway he brought me a large atlas containing maps and pictures of by-gone era. There was a plat book of each township in Hendricks County.

On the county-line road can almost be pinpointed where the first McCloud entered Eel River Township. Dr. Hall Ellis of Lizton owned a cottage and acreage there. The entrance looks like the spot where Dr. Ellis has his chained gate. Down the hill is a small stream, called Little Walnut, which is fed by another stream called Rany's Run and there lies McCloud Park. It contains several acres of rich land which has not been in cultivation for several years. And what a corn crop could be raised there! No wonder a lady from Utah called it a beautiful valley. And here Mr. Morpew left me speechless with his vehemence and eloquence.

He informed me that the government made a treaty with the Eel River Indians of the Delaware tribe in 1810. The land was surveyed in 1819 and opened for settlers. The Indians left in 1820, but to this day remains of their village can be found in McCloud Valley. Eel River is the Indian name for "slippery fish."

"Red Buck John" McCloud purchased 80 acres of land for \$1.25 per acre, where McCloud Park entrance is now located. He came here from southern Virginia, in a covered wagon pulled by one horse and one ox. He brought along one cow, six hogs and twelve chickens.

Then later Joseph Morpew also of Virginia came to this valley, after a sojourn in North Carolina. The map shows plats of ground all in 40, 60, 80 and 100 acres. Nearly all in the names of Morpew, McCloud and one marked S. Page. All these settlers had a skill. A McCloud operated a blacksmith shop near the Clinton Anderson house. A Morpew had a grist mill where the Vickery house stands. The creek running through the valley furnished power for these operations. It was a self sustaining community. The land and streams furnished raw materials. Settlers kept coming, mostly from the southern states.

The wagon train tragedy was well known. Mr. Morpew told of the deaths and burials. The bodies were laid on a wide board then another board covered it. Then the torso was wrapped in a large blanket and placed in the final resting place. He said they were buried in the McCloud cemetery, unmarked and unkept.

A man and wife came bringing with them a goodly amount of gold coins. The gold was never found. The assumption being that the man hid it in McCloud valley for safe keeping until he and his wife could recover from their illness.

Mr. Morphew had no hesitancy in proclaiming their loyalties to the southern states during the Civil War along with the McClouds. So while the war was in progress between the states, they joined the organization called "Knights of the Golden Circle" which was dedicated to furthering the Southern cause. People's sympathies often die hard.

The land of the McClouds was held intact for many years. Some of the kinfolk went back to North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. Even Ethridge lived in Tennessee and Kentucky for some time. In later years some of these came to reclaim the land settled by these pioneers. They could find no legal claims to it. As one of them said "it caint " be claimed "cause interest and taxes gobbled it up".

My Utah correspondent will be disappointed since we could find no mention of the Henry Bray family or Rushton in that vicinity. Could be that they were relatives who returned to the South.

McCloud Valley is yet to be seen and enjoyed in all the majestic glory; however it is a far cry from where the Eel River tribe of the Delaware Indians roamed the hills and valleys. Be it said that no Indian or white settler ever had any trouble in Eel River Township. There was good hunting and fishing and "corn patches for all."

Zona Walker

H C H S

VANDALISM IN DAYS GONE BY

Have you ever given a thought as to where and when Vandalism started? The name comes from a great mob of ignorant warriors of Southern Europe who ravaged the French province of Gaul, robbed and burned churches, destroyed and sacked the city of Rome.

The dictionary defines this vicious action of mankind against people, places and things as the ignorant and malicious destruction of good and useful property oftentimes art. We sometimes wonder how soon after the landing of the Pilgrims came the first case of vandalism in America. Did some boys or men go some night and under cover of darkness destroy the stocks and pillory established by law of that day to punish certain evil doers? We are told that Thomas Jefferson once carved his initials on railing or seat in the Burton Parish Church in old Williamsburg, Virginia. The poet Whittier in his well remembered poem "In School Days" mentions the "Jackknife's carved initial" on the desk that helps destroy its usefulness as a place for writing. This minor form of vandalism could be found in hundreds of pioneer schools over our state; in Hendricks and adjoining counties. It was stopped when trustees and school boards collected the price of the defaced desk from the lad who occupied it.

Halloween night was often the chance needed for wanton destruction of property. Farm gates were often lifted from the hinges and carried away which permitted live stock to escape pasture and barn lot and wander about over the township. Since the wooden pump was found on all farms fifty and more years ago, it became a sort of sport of the Halloweener to snap off the wooden pump handle and the spout.

Gangs of lads with much energy, but lacking in brain power have been known in Clay and Marion Townships to visit a watermelon patch, be courteously treated by the owner, treated on all the ripe melon they could eat and then, on a Saturday or Sunday night, call again at the patch, and haul away dozens of the best melons or

worse still, burst all the melons, pull the vines and stack them in the center of the patch. A case of this kind came years ago to a Coatesville farmer.

One of the lowest types of vandalism came when lads with little or no conscience invaded the village or rural cemetery and overturned all the stones, many of the old marble monuments breaking apart by the fall. At other times paint has been used to blot our names and dates of the dead and the paint oil has been absorbed by certain stones and ruined.

In Clay Township long ago a prominent man put a few acres into an orchard and when the trees had grown to some size a young man went one night with a hatchet and girded all the trees. Other boys came to the same man's farm and destroyed the dam to his fish pond sending a great flood of both water and fish down stream.

Our study of vandalism takes us some 20 years ago to a village grade school. A lady teacher presided. One Friday night an ignorant and malicious young man visited this school on the back of a horse. He rode on the two sides of the building that contained the windows and wielding a heavy club he beat out every window, even the sash. Some good police work months later located him.

Some folks hint that the devil is in some people and they can't help from rampaging against property and people. Others call it ignorance and lack of proper home training. When too many boys get together, a mob spirit can make itself manifest that cannot be resisted. It would seem that as long as humanity exists, forms of vandalism, like Tennyson's "Brook", will run on and on forever.

Joe Davidson

H C H S

Museum News

Rita Lieske, chairman of the Museum Board, and her various committees have spent a busy summer doing the many things that must be done to work up a museum. Don Keller and George Weilhamer have assumed to duties of the maintenance committee and for their services we are truly grateful. Catalogue indexing of articles received by the museum have been done by the clerical committee which consists of Dianna Helton, chairman, of Hazelwood, Ellen Keeney and Evelyn McKee both of North Salem. I think our organization should know that Dianna is Librarian at Tell City Junior High School. I wondered aloud to Rita how she was so fortunate to secure the services of such a competent and trained person, and she confessed that Dianna is her niece. So it pays to know or to be related to, the right persons! We want to thank Dianna, Ellen and Evelyn for their help, for it is most important that these articles people are kind enough to give to us are properly marked and catalogued.

From funds from the Sesquicentennial, the Board bought filing cabinets for Grace Cox in which to file the material gathered in the ancestor-descendant project.

The museum desperately needs kitchen and living room furniture. These are large articles, but the committee will accept these items on a loan basis with a guarantee that they will be properly cared for. Surely some one, some where in Hendricks County has something of this nature he would be willing to loan for awhile. If so, give Rita a ring.... 745-4334.

H C H S

Leter to the Editor.....

Dear Ed:

You have been harping about paying dues. In fact, almost nagging. One question I would like to ask: have you paid your dues?

Signed: Just Wondering

Dear Wondering: Nope. But I am writing my check right now, because, you see, it is one of the rare bargains we get these days....for \$3.00 you belong to a great organization that furnishes four interesting programs (with refreshments) and four bulletins per year. And this year I can mail my check for 10¢. Next year it will cost me 13¢ or more. Ed.

H C H S

Some of the bulletins this time will come without seals on the cover for the simple reason that we ran out of them. The seals add much to the attractiveness of the Bulletin but at the same time increase the cost. We are thinking of eliminating them in the future, although this decision will be the responsibility of the new Executive Board.

H C H S

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