

# Monmouth Memories

**A small collection of Memories, Pictures,  
Recipes & History of the oldest town in  
Adams Co., Indiana**



Compiled by Linda Drake, Donna Owens & Nola Rains  
- with a lot of help from their families, friends & neighbors!

## IN THE BEGINNING . . . . .

Platted in 1836, Monmouth owed its original growth to the logging industry. For a number of years Monmouth even had it's own saw mill—owned by P. W. Smith & Co., it stood in a field near the railroad. A spur line from the railroad ran to the loading area so lumber could be loaded onto cars for shipment. The field where the sawmill stood is now owned by David Schieferstein.



*P. W. Smith & Co. Saw Mill at Monmouth.  
Tall man standing in front of the office is believed to be Martin Lord.*

The exact location of the scene at the right is unknown. In the early years of Adams Co. the entire area was covered with thick woods like that shown in this picture. Only a few scattered clearings existed where settlers had cleared the land, built cabins, and started farming.

A former resident of Monmouth, George Schieferstein, told that when he was a young man, there was solid woods from Monmouth south to Decatur, with just a narrow dirt road leading in to town.



*Monmouth area men at work cutting timber. Tall man on left is Martin Lord. Man next to him is believed to be John Wolford who married one of Mart. Lord's daughters. Man holding the team of horses is Jim Watts.*

## IN THE BEGINNING . . . . .



*Teamsters with their logs lined up and waiting to unload at the P. W. Smith & Co. Sawmill at Monmouth.*

*The village of Monmouth can be seen in the background.*



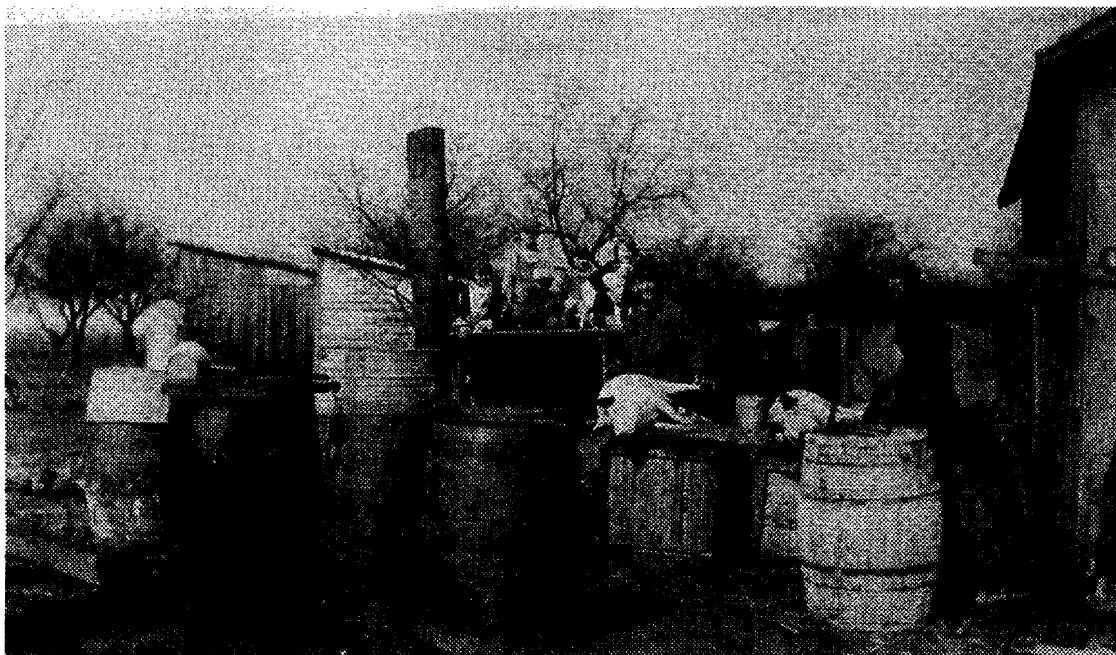
*The gravel pit just north of Monmouth. Location was a short distance behind the house at the southwest corner of present-day U.S. 27 North and County Road 900N. Man in the lower center of the picture is Jim Watts.*

## EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE EARLY YEARS . . .



*Butchering Day at the Fritzingers. The lady holding the rifle is Mary Martha (Dutcher) Fritzinger, known to her family as "Matt". The older lady holding the spoon is Catherine Alice (Dutcher) Grandstaff. The man behind her to the right is Oscar Fritzinger, husband of "Matt", and the older man on the far right is Lemuel Grandstaff, husband of Catherine. Picture taken about 1900.*

A typical scene from the early years of the Monmouth area was butchering day. Families worked together and would put up enough meat to last through the winter. The men did the hard heavy work of killing and scraping the hogs, while the women prepared the sausage casings, and mixed the ingredients for several kinds of sausages. None of the hog went to waste. The blood was caught in a pan and used to make blood pudding. The meat from the head and jowls was turned into scrapple, and even the feet often became "pickled pig's feet"! After the hams, shoulders, side-meat for bacon, and tenderloins had been cut out, the remaining meat was cut into small pieces to be ground into sausage. The fat was also cut into pieces to be cooked in huge kettles and made into lard. The lard would be poured into large crocks and stored in a cool cellar where it would keep for months.



*Butchering Day at the Kunkel's. The men are (middle) Calvin D. Kunkel, and (left) Sherman Kunkel.—  
1926.*



## EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE EARLY YEARS . . .

During the early years, nearly every community had their own weaver. Monmouth had at least two ladies who wove rag rugs for their friends and neighbors. Rosa Watts, wife of Jim Watts, lived in the north end of Monmouth, in the house now owned by Dennis Hankins.



*"Mag" - Margaret (Lord) Ziegler—  
one of two rug weavers in the early  
days of Monmouth*



*Margaret (Lord) Ziegler—wife of Louis  
Ziegler & her sister, Capitola (Lord) Clark,  
wife of Frank Clark.*

Mag Ziegler, wife of the local veterinarian, Louis Ziegler, lived in the south end. The Ziegler home was later owned by the Elzey family. The house burned in the mid-1960's and a new home, was built. It is now the home of Don & Flo Bauer.

As clothing and bedding wore out, it was "re-cycled" by cutting it into strips. The strips were sewed together and rolled into balls. When enough material was gathered, the balls of fabric were delivered to the local weaver who would weave rugs to order for their customers.

Many of the early homes had floor coverings made from long strips of rag carpet sewed together to make a room-size rug. For additional warmth some people put old newspapers on the floor beneath the rag carpet. Others, like the Lord family, covered the floor with a layer of straw, then stretched the rag carpet over the straw and tacked the carpet down along the edges.

In the Spring, these carpets were taken up, hauled outdoors, draped over a clothes line, and thoroughly beaten with a rug beater to remove the winter's accumulation of dirt!



*Lady in the front row on the right is Mag (Lord) Ziegler;  
lady on the left in the back is Mag's sister, Capitola Clark.  
The other two people's names are not known.*

# **EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE EARLY YEARS . . .**

## **Early farm Scenes from Monmouth**



One of the  
Pillars  
girls with a  
horse-  
drawn  
grain drill.



Cutting, binding & shocking wheat on the Kunkel farm.

## EVERYDAY LIFE IN THE EARLY YEARS . . .



*A scene from Kunkel's maple sugar camp. In late winter the sugar maple trees were tapped, & buckets to collect the sap were hung on the spiles. When enough sap was collected, it was boiled down in large kettles as seen above. It takes 40 to 50 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup.*

*Left to Right: Sherman Kunkel, Mary Jane & David Kunkel & Calvin D. Kunkel*



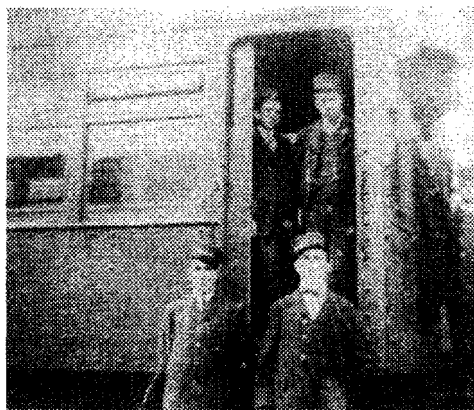
*Calvin D. Kunkel & two of his grandchildren, David & Mary Jane Kunkel , on old "Kate". - March, 1918*

## OCCUPATIONS IN THE EARLY YEARS . . . . .

Early Monmouth residents represented a variety of occupations. Most people in the area were farmers, but there were others like Roy Wolford, Sam Magley & his daughter, Maud (Magley) Mahan who were mail carriers. When the interurban line was built through Monmouth, Jim Mahan worked as a conductor on the line. Martin and William Lord were blacksmiths, Jim Watts was a teamster, while his father, William Watts, was a minister. Lemuel Grandstaff was a teamster, raised horses, was Postmaster at Monmouth, and for a time was Justice of the Peace. Minola Grandstaff was Postmistress until her death in 1893. Dora (Grandstaff) Schieferstein, Ethel (Mann) Grandstaff, and a number of other young ladies were school teachers until they married. Dora also gave piano lessons. George Schieferstein followed the occupation of painter and along with Vesta Brokaw, was one of the first school bus drivers for the Monmouth School. Theodore Purdy was an early doctor in the Monmouth area, and Louis Ziegler was a veterinarian. Charlie Gage taught school for a number of years and in later years



Hauling logs to the sawmill. Team on the left is driven by Jim Watts.



Jim Mahan & several other conductors with an Interurban Car.



Left:  
Sherman  
Kunkel work-  
ing at his tur-  
key brooder  
house.

Right: Mon-  
mouth resi-  
dent, Sam  
Magley, was  
one of the  
early mail  
carriers out of  
Decatur.





OCCUPATIONS IN THE EARLY YEARS . . .

*Louis H. Ziegler, Veterinarian  
1852—1936*



*Dr. Theodore Purdy, abt 1870. He was a Botanic Physician (specializing in the use of herbs) in the Monmouth area for a few years in the late 1850's, then moved to Wabash Co., IN. Some of the family later moved back to this area. Dr. Purdy had an office in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in the early 1870's. Dr. Purdy, his first wife, Sarah Lewis, and an infant daughter are buried in the Monmouth Cemetery. Dr. Purdy is the Great-Great Grandfather of Linda (Owens) Drake, Donna Owens & Carolyn (Owens) Baumgartner.*

## THE PEOPLE—(1870's) . . . . .



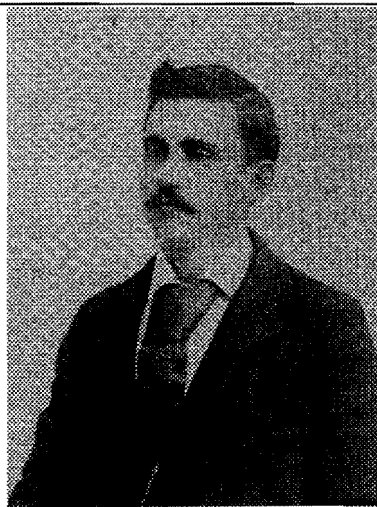
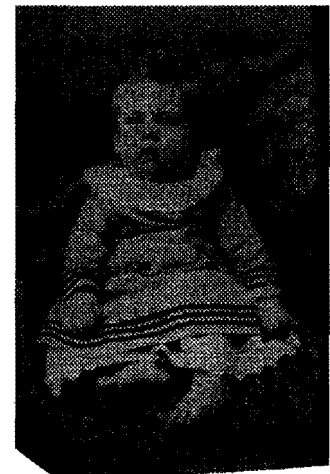
Lemuel Nelson Grandstaff, father of Dora Grandstaff Schieferstein and Dr. John Curtis Grandstaff. He was born and raised in Allen Co., Indiana near Middletown. A Civil War veteran, he joined the Union Army at age 16 after both of his parents died in 1863. Lemuel Grandstaff is the great-grandfather of David Schieferstein & Nola Schieferstein Rains.



Girl on the left, front row, is Minola Alice Grandstaff, former Postmistress at Monmouth, & sister of Dr. John Grandstaff & Dora Grandstaff Schieferstein. Next to her is Ida (Magley) Houk, others girls' names are unknown. The young man in the back is Ed Christen. Picture taken abt. 1892, shortly before the death of Minola Grandstaff from typhoid fever.

Louis W. Grandstaff—  
1881—1885

Son of Lemuel & Catherine  
Grandstaff.



Dr. John Curtis Grandstaff, son of Lemuel & Catherine, brother of Dora (Grandstaff) Schieferstein. John grew up in Monmouth, graduated from Eclectic Medical College in Cincinnati in Ohio. He began his practice of medicine with Dr. J. L. Smith at Hoagland, moving to Preble in 1901. His first wife, Drusilla (Lillie) Fleming was also a native of the Monmouth area. She was a sister to Josephine, wife of Samuel Magley. After her death in 1897, Dr. John married Ethel S. Mann, former teacher at Monmouth Graded School. Doc tended many patients in the Monmouth area and was well known here.

## THE PEOPLE—(late 1800's-early 1900's) . . . . .



*Nancy Ann (Dutcher) Lord and granddaughter, Lilah Lord, in front of the Lord home in Monmouth. This house was the former tavern & hotel owned by Ziba Dorwin. Nancy worked in the hotel as a young girl, earning 50 cents a week for her labor.*



*4 Generations of the Lord family: l to r: Catherine (Polly) (Lord) Davis, Clarissa Baker, Lilah (Lord) Baker & Nancy (Dutcher) Lord*



*Mary Sophronia Dutcher, lived in Monmouth in the early 1850's. She married Charles Erickson, and moved with her husband and 3 children to Moniteau Co., Missouri about 1860.*



*Catherine Alice (Dutcher) Grandstaff, wife of Lemuel Grandstaff and youngest sister of Nancy Lord, and Sophronia Erickson.*

## THE PEOPLE—(late 1800's) . . . . .



*The Samuel Dutcher, Jr. family—*

*In the back is John (married Belle Evans). Middle row: Samuel, Fannie (married Charles Nyffeler), Nancy (Bailey) and Blanche. (married Herman Bosse)*

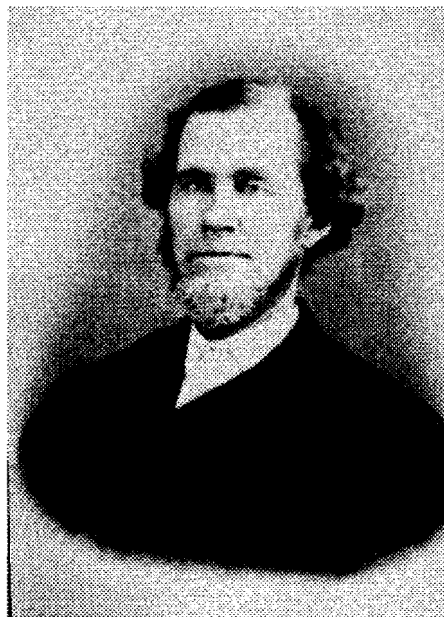
*In front is Agnes (married Harve Ginter)*

*This family lived in the house where Bob & Evelyn Luginbill now live, and were Leo Roe previously lived.*

*Samuel was killed when the team he was driving was spooked by a train. The team ran out of control, the wagon hit a stump and Samuel was thrown off the wagon. The wagon standard fell, hitting him, and crushing his skull. This accident occurred in the field north of the present Kunkel home.*



*The George Dutcher family—Back L to R: Charlie (married Flora Warner); Nellie (married Amos Fisher); & Minnie (married Lewis Lewton) Middle L to R: George & Nancy (Glass) Front: Grace (married Delmas House)*

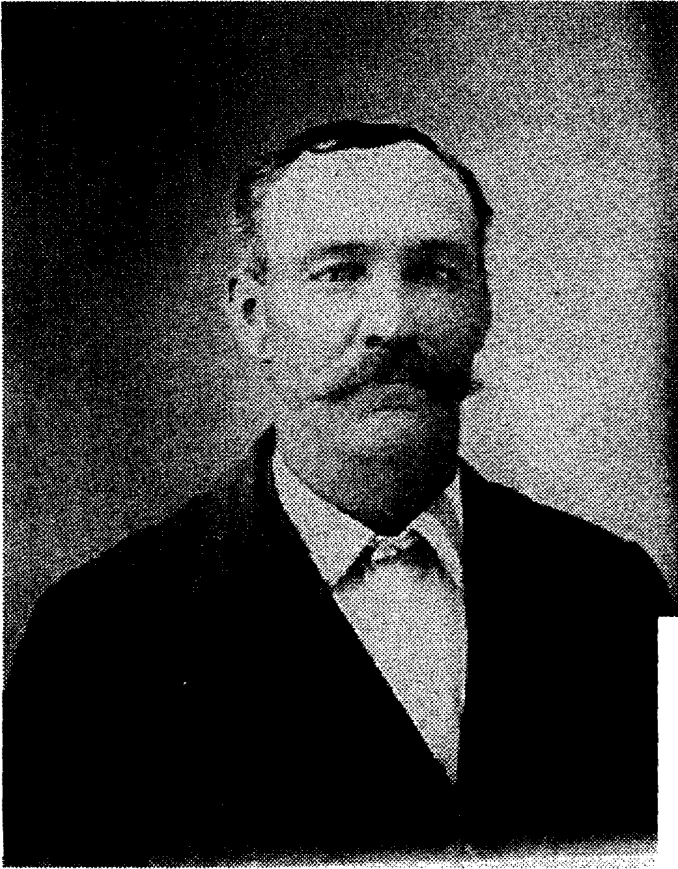


*Almond Dutcher, father of David, Emma, Martha, Drusilla & George.*

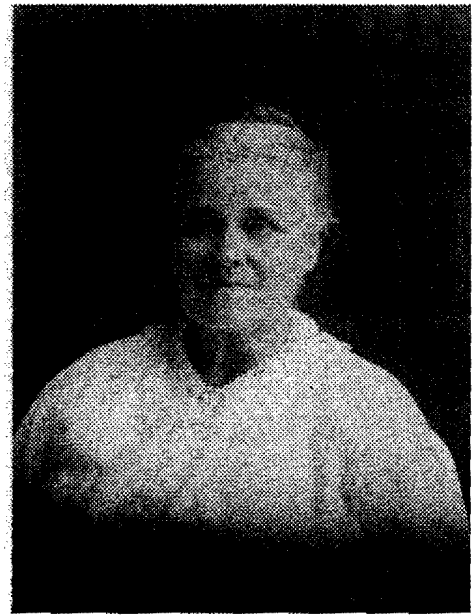
*Emma & Drusilla married Fuhrman brothers while Martha married Oscar Fritzinger. There are many descendants of this family still living in Decatur & the Monmouth area.*



**THE PEOPLE — (late 1800's—early 1900's) . . . . .**



*John Wolford—well-known resident of Monmouth. He was a timber cutter in the early years. He sang with a men's quartet, along with Lige Houk, Lem Grandstaff & Samuel Kunkel, providing entertainment at many local social events. John was a custodian for the Monmouth School for a number of years. He died at the home of his sister in Van Wert, Ohio. He was brought back to Monmouth and his funeral was held in the Monmouth School. He is buried in the nearby Monmouth Cemetery.*



*Jenny Lind Lord Wolford, wife of John Wolford, daughter of Martin & Nancy Lord*

**THE PEOPLE—(1915—1935) . . . . .**



*Charles Gage & family: standing in back, Mary Gage,  
baby is Louise Gage, standing on right is Erma Gage Owens*

*Louise Gage posing on the old bridge over  
Seventeen Mile Creek at Monmouth.*



*Charles & Gertrude (Kitson) Gage on porch of house where  
Linda & Mike Drake now live.*



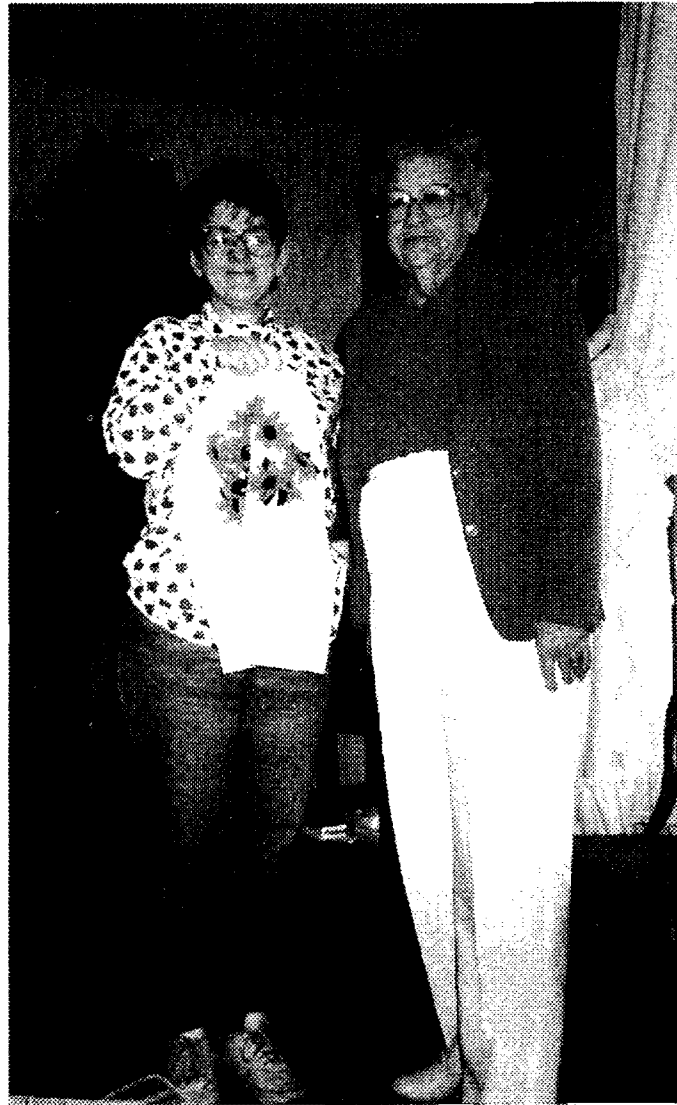
## ***THE PEOPLE—('40's thru 60's) . . . . .***

*Anyone who remembers Monmouth in the 1950's will recall Harold Owens' gorgeous flower beds!*



*Harold Owens watering his flowers—and spraying water on his mother, Gertrude (Campbell) Owens.*

**THE PEOPLE—(1980'S thru 1990's) . . . . .**



**THE STORY BEHIND THIS PICTURE—**

***Linda Drake spent most of one summer working in her flower gardens. Neighbor Florine Elzey told her, "All I saw of you this summer was your rear end as you were always bent over pulling weeds."***

***So—Florine presented Linda with a pair of shorts with flowers appliquéd on the rear! - just so she'd have a change of scenery!***



# The BROWN family . . . .

*Geneva Brown hard at work on her flower garden.*



*David Brown with daughter Sondra & son Donnie*



*The Brown Family—*

*L to R: Sondra (now the wife of Al Lehman), Donnie, David holding Mike, and Geneva..*



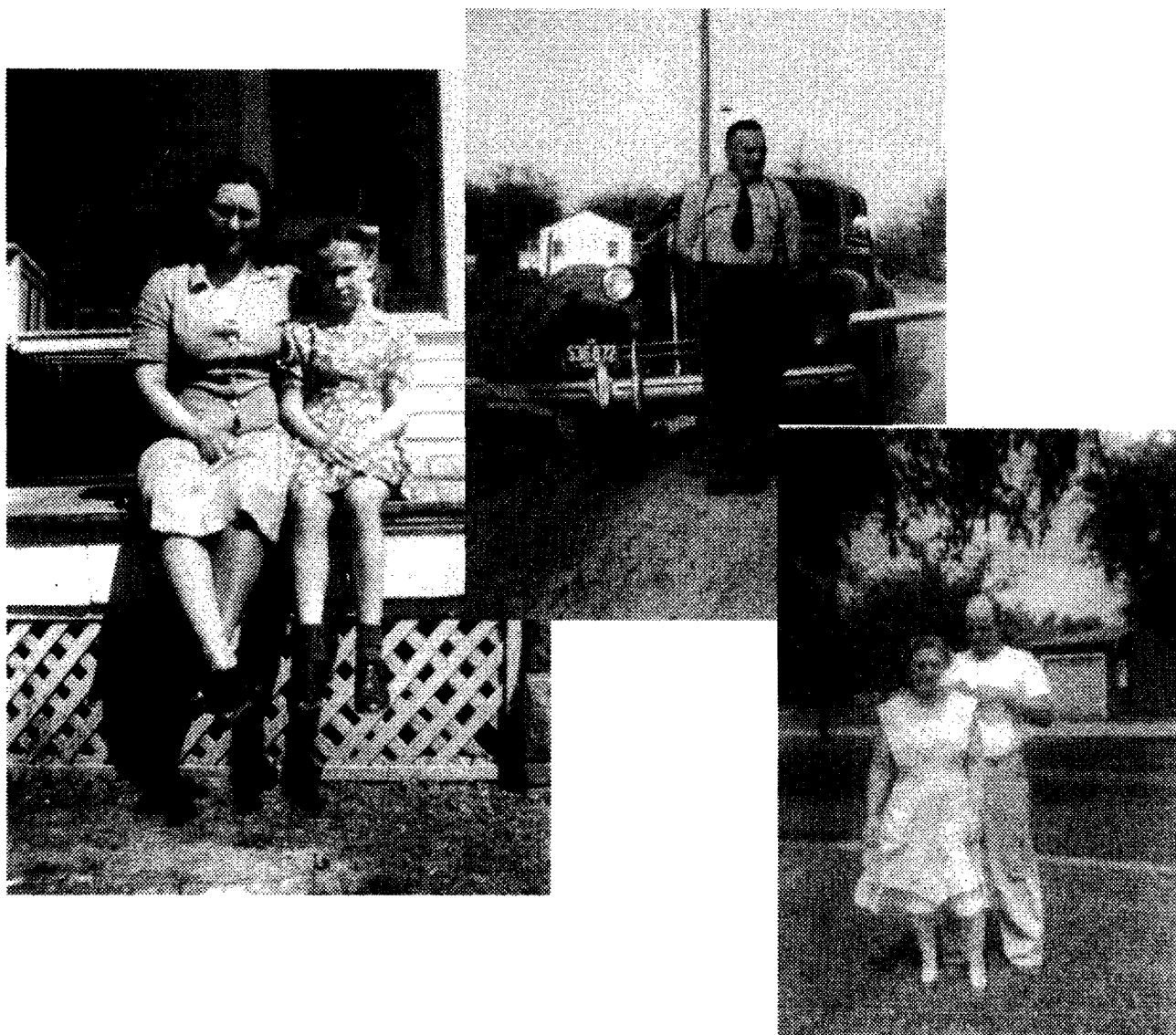
*David & Geneva Brown*

## The COURTNEY/HEATH family . . . .

About 1944, the Phillip Courtney family moved to Monmouth; they lived for a year or so in the house on the southeast corner of Piqua & Eagle Roads (where Greg & Joyce Ellenberger now live). After moving back to Decatur for a few years, the Courtneys bought the store at Monmouth and moved back here for a few more years.

Phillip Courtney's sister, Aldean and her husband Warren Heath & their family also lived in Monmouth for a few years. The Heath family lived in the last house on the west side of Piqua Rd., heading north. This was the house formerly owned by Lemuel Grandstaff—the house has been torn down.

Below left: Freda Courtney with daughter, Pat, on the porch of their home at Monmouth. Below center: Phillip Courtney. Below right: Aldean & Warren Heath.



## ***The DEAM family . . . . .***



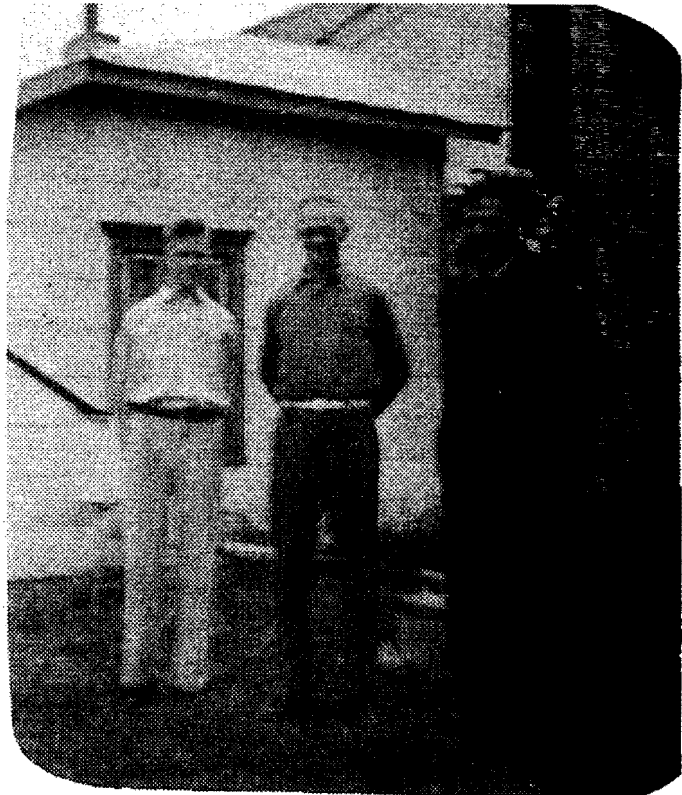
*The Deam Family in 1942—*

*Left to Right—Marcella & Russell Deam, Alfred & Edna Deam. Little girl in front is Betty Deam; girl in back is Bonnie Deam*

*Left to Right: Russell, Alfred & Ralph Deam.*

***The Deams lived in the last house on the south end of Monmouth—west side of the road. The house was the home of the Wm.***

***Watts family in the late 1800's. It was extensively remodeled in the 1950's by David & Geneva Brown. Geneva still lives in this house which is one of the most attractive homes in Monmouth.***



# *The ELZEY family . . . .*



*Vilas Elzey & the boys: 1 to r: Dick, Charlie & Max -  
mid 1940's*



*Florine Bunner Elzey*



*Jim Elzey holding  
John Schieferstein's  
beagle, Dixie—early  
1940's.*

*Jim was an uncle to  
Vilas Elzey.*



# *The FRIEND family . . . .*



*In the early 1940's Royal & Esther Friend rented a home in Monmouth. This is the house where Velma & Larry Steven now live.*

*Top left: Royal Friend with daughter Madeline*

*Top right: Esther (Schnepp) Friend with daughter Madeline.*

*Middle left: Madeline Friend (now the wife of Roger Blackburn)*

*Bottom left: Madeline in the back yard of her home at Monmouth.*

*Bottom right: Charlie Friend, father of Royal & grandfather of Madeline.*



## ***The HARKLESS/WILDER family . . . . .***



*On January 6, 1887, at Monmouth, Charles Harkless, son of William Harkless & Lucinda Rice, took for his bride, Minnie V. McCampbell, daughter of William B. McCampbell & Frances Robinson*

*The picture to the left is Minnie McCampbell. She was born about 1866 at New Corydon, Indiana.*

*Charles & Minnie Harkless lived in Monmouth for a number of years. Their son, Richard, married Jessie Doris Wilder.*

*Dick & Doris and their daughter, Sharon, lived in the house at the top of the hill south of Monmouth where Dr. Dorman Hughes & his family recently lived.*

*Picture on the right is Winnie (Watts) Wilder, wife of Chauncey Wilder, with two of their children. Chauncey & Winnie were the parents of Jessie Doris Wilder. Chauncey was the son of Edwin & Mary (Barkley) Wilder—pioneers of the Monmouth area, and Winnie was the daughter of Rev. William & Annice (Gates) Watts.*



## The HARKLESS family . . . . .



Above left: Richard Harkless & Doris Wilder at the time they were dating. They later married and adopted a daughter, Sharon Sue (Sherry) Harkless, now married to Rick Seymour.

Above right: Richard & Doris with Mabel Lewton (daughter of Amos & Anna (Mumma) Lewton).

These pictures were taken at the Amos Lewton home on County Road 900 North – (the property is now owned by the Augustyniak family.)

***The JOHNSON family . . . . .***



*Edith Kitson & Charles  
Johnson*

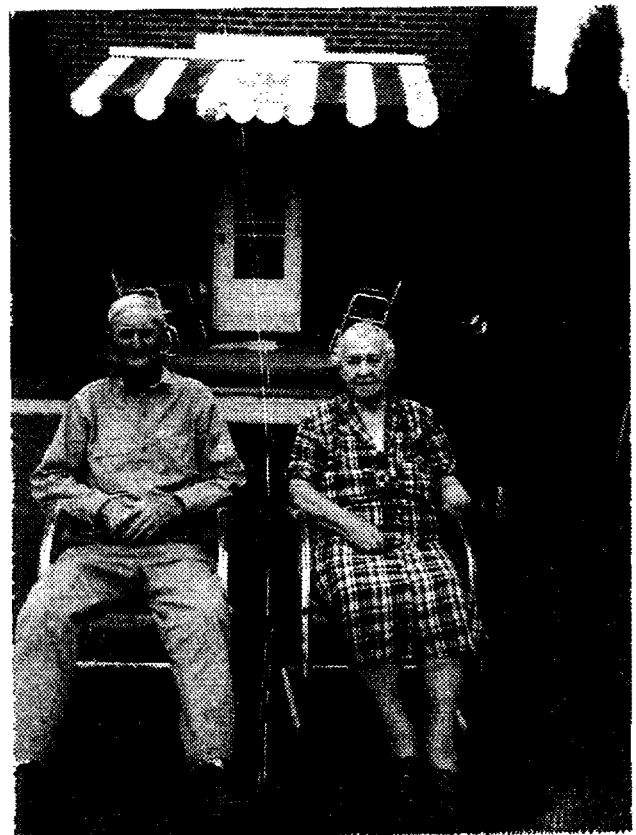
*Wedding Day*

*March 31, 1897*

**62 years later!**

*Charles & Edith  
Johnson—*

*July 26, 1959*



***Charles & Edith (Kitson)  
Johnson were the grandparents  
of Mrs. Frank (Marlene) Bittner.***

***The JOHNSON family . . . . .***



***A family reunion at the Johnson Home. Top picture—L to R: Donna Rawley, Paralie Johnson, Erma Owens, and on far right is Linda Owens Drake.***



## ***The KUNKEL-PILLARS family . . . . .***



*Front Row:  
Sampson & Mary  
Jane (Auten) Pillars*

*Back Row: Sarah  
Ann "Sanna" (Pillars)  
& Calvin D. Kunkel*

*Abt. 1900*

***Sampson & Mary Jane (Auten) Pillars were  
the parents of Sarah Ann "Sanna" Pillars.***

***Calvin D. & Sanna (Pillars) Kunkel were the  
parents of Sherman & Florence Kunkel.***

***Florence Kunkel married Dale Moses and  
they were the parents of James, Richard &  
Margaret Moses.***

***Sherman Kunkel married Fannie McConnell.  
Their children were Mary Jane, David,  
Harriet, Sanna & Fred.***



**Sanna & Calvin D. Kunkel**

*The KUNKEL—PILLARS family . . . . .*



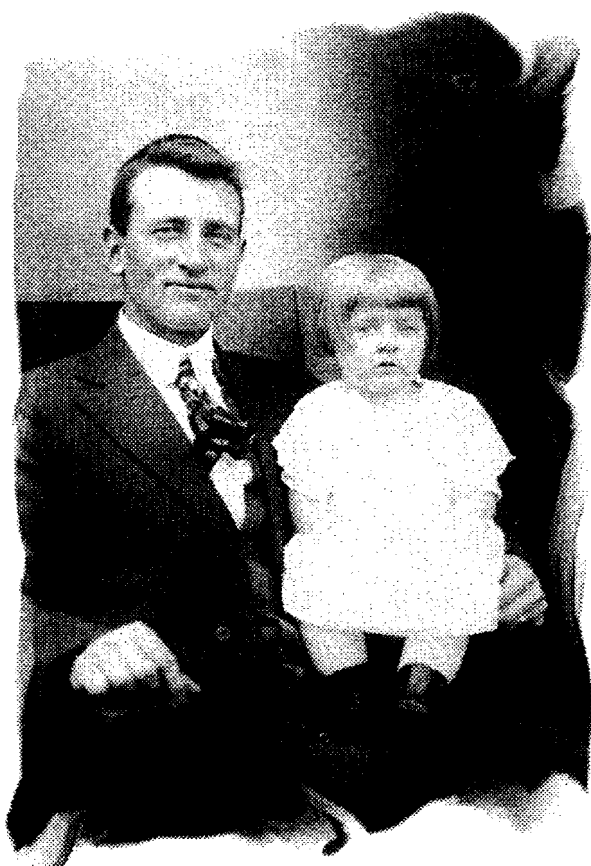
***FOUR GENERATIONS OF THE KUNKEL—PILLARS—MOSES FAMILY***

***Back Row: Sampson Pillars, Calvin D. Kunkel & Sherman Kunkel***

***Front Row: Sanna (Pillars) Kunkel holding David Kunkel, Mary Jane (Auten) Pillars, Florence (Kunkel) Moses, Fannie (McConnell) Kunkel***

***Standing on chair: James Moses & Mary Jane Kunkel***

*The KUNKEL—PILLARS family . . . . .*



*Sherman Kunkel holding  
his daughter, Mary Jane  
Kunkel—Abt. 1913*

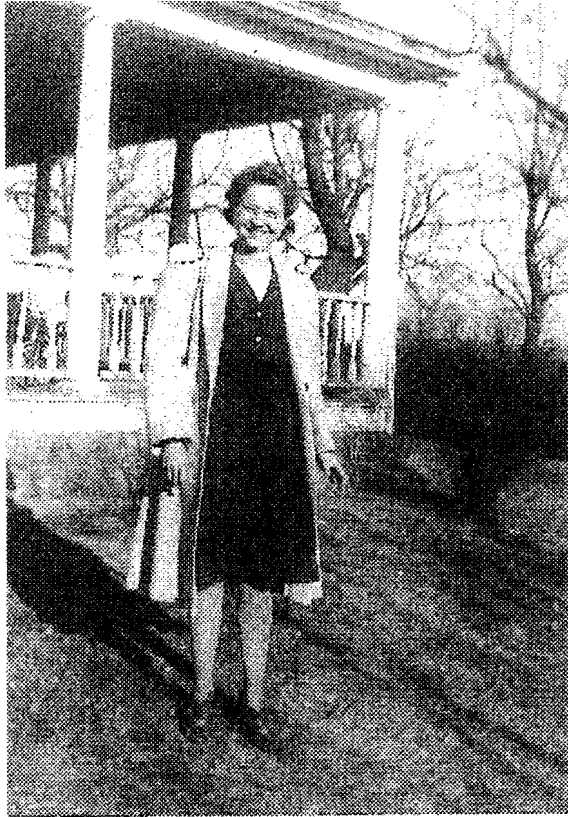


*Fannie (McConnell) Kunkel, wife of  
Sherman Kunkel*



*The Kunkel Kids—L to R: Harriet, Mary Jane, David, Fred & Sanna—abt 1928*

## The LEWTON family . . . . .

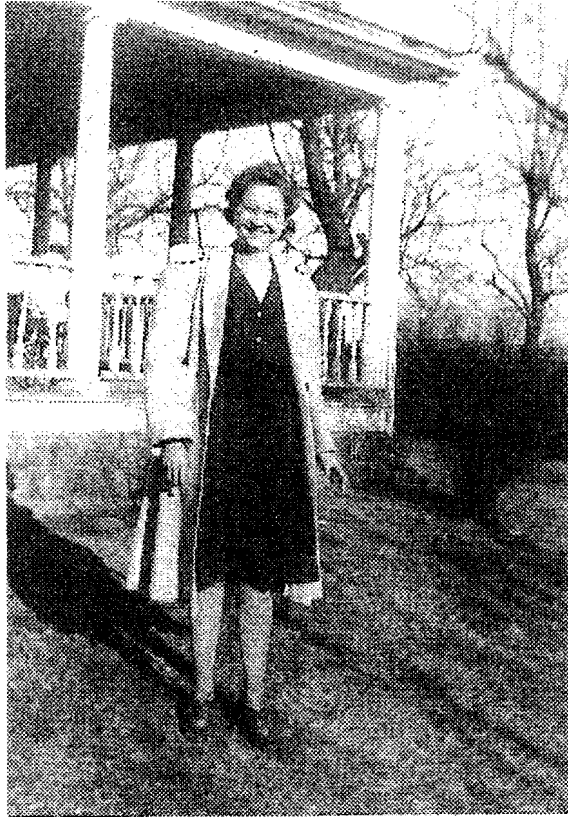


Above – left: Frieda (Amstutz) Lewton, wife of Richard Lewton, in front of their home at Monmouth. (This is now the home of Kathy Miller.)

Above – right: Frieda in front of the barn behind their Monmouth home.

Left: Amos Lewton (father of Richard) with his grandson Dickie (son of Richard & Frieda).

## The LEWTON family . . . . .



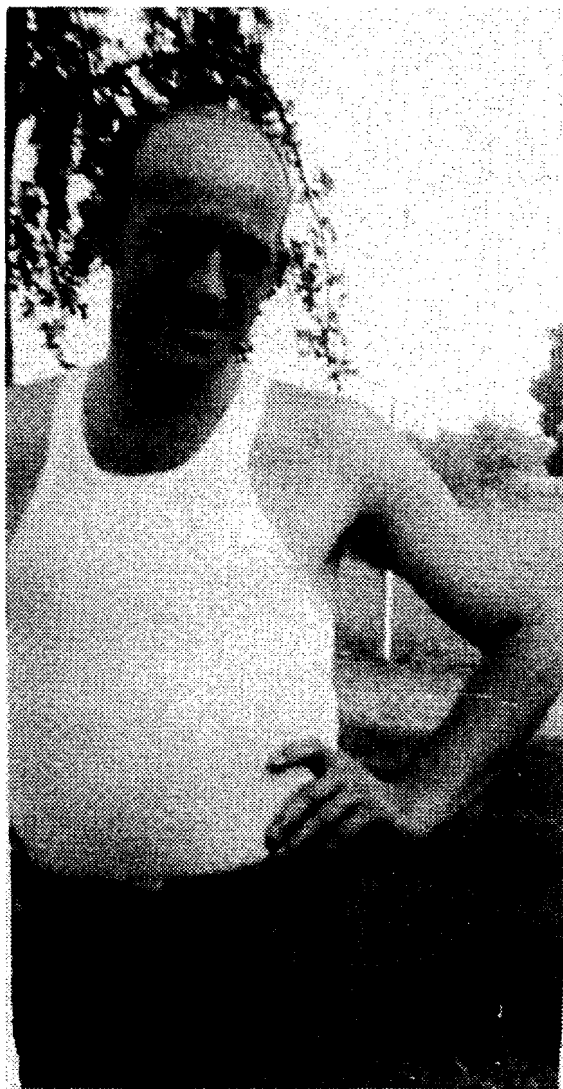
Above – left: Frieda (Amstutz) Lewton, wife of Richard Lewton, in front of their home at Monmouth. (This is now the home of Kathy Miller.)

Above – right: Frieda in front of the barn behind their Monmouth home.

Left: Amos Lewton (father of Richard) with his grandson Dickie (son of Richard & Frieda).



*The LEWTON family . . . .*



*Left—Dick Lewton.*

*Below: Dick & Frieda (Amstutz)  
Lewton*



## The MAGLEY-MAHAN family . . . .



### *The Magley Family—*

*L to R:*

*Samuel, Maud Lillian, Luella (Conrad), Lloyd Kenady, and Josephine (Fleming) Magley. Sam*

*& Josephine were the parents of Maud & Lloyd.*

*Luella was the wife of Lloyd. Lloyd Magley died Sept. 4, 1923; his widow later married Clarence Ellsworth.—picture taken circa 1920.*

*Fred Watts Mahan & Maud Lillian (Magley) Mahan enjoying the water at Sylvan Lake—early 1920's*



# The MAHAN family . . . . .



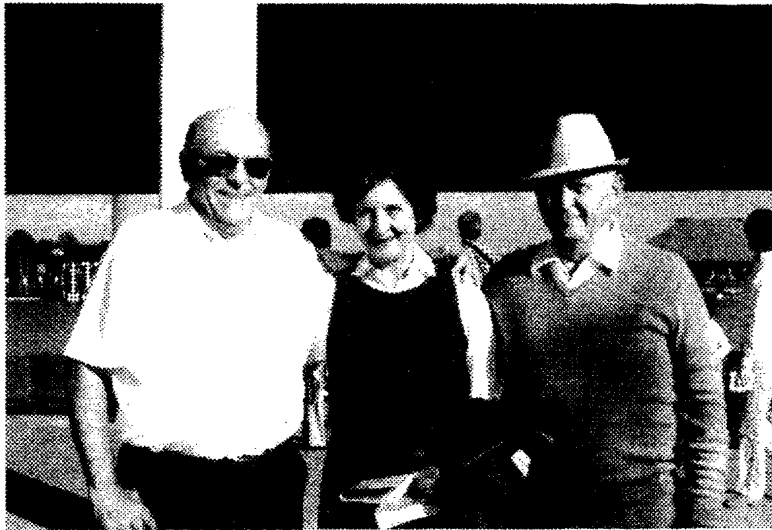
The Mahan kids –  
 Front – Mary Margaret Ann  
 Rear – L to R – Richard Edward, Ivan  
 Fred, Lloyd James & Jack Magley  
 Children of Fred & Maud (Magley)  
 Mahan

Below Left – Maud Lillian (Magley)  
 Mahan, daughter of Samuel &  
 Josephine (Fleming) Magley. Maud  
 was born Oct. 13, 1885 & died Dec.  
 31, 1975. She married Fred Watts  
 Mahan on March 28, 1921. Fred was  
 killed in an automobile accident near  
 Ottoville, Ohio on Aug. 29, 1932.

Below Right – Jack & Regina (Didien)  
 Mahan. Jack's first wife was Mary  
 Jane Bunker who died on July 30,  
 1945, one week after the birth of their  
 daughter, Judith Ann.



## *The MAHAN family . . . .*



*Jack & Regina Mahan  
with Jack's brother Ivan.*

*Left to Right:  
Ivan, Lloyd & Jack Mahan*



*Jack Mahan with the "Catch of the Day"!*

## ***The MILLER family . . . . .***



*Left—Florence Tinkham & Nevin Miller - Wedding Day*

*Nevin & Florence Miller lived for a number of years in the old rambling house in the north end of Monmouth. The house had originally been a church parsonage, later was the home of Reuben & Harriet Baxter, and still later was owned by Charles & Minnie (McCampbell) Harkless. The old house was later torn down and a new modern ranch-style house was built. This house is now the home of their daughter Patsy & her husband Harlen Shaffer. Nevin & Florence were the parents of Robert, Sue (wife of Bud Shaffer), Patsy & Carl Miller.*

*Florence & Nevin Miller  
50th Wedding Anniversary*





## ***The OWENS family . . . . .***

*Erma Gage Owens*



*Harold & Erma Gage Owens*



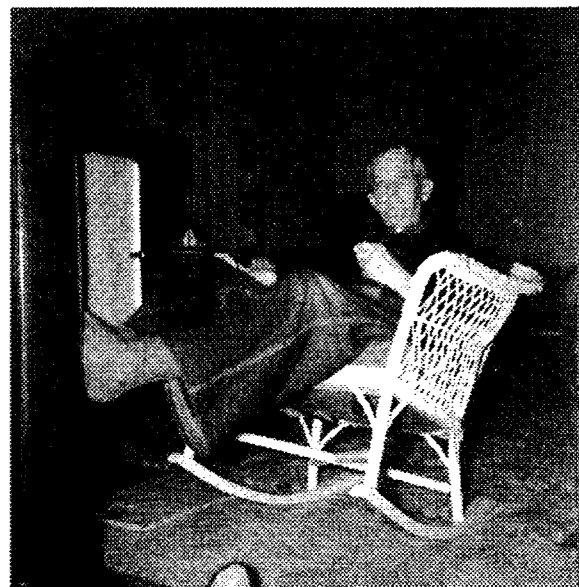
*Harold Owens, holding Buffy.*

***Harold & Erma (Gage) Owens were the parents of Mrs. Jack (Mary Ann) Lybarger, - now deceased; Mrs. Richard (Carolyn) Baumgartner, Donna Owens & Mrs. Mike (Linda) Drake.***

## ***The SCHIEFERSTEIN family . . . . .***

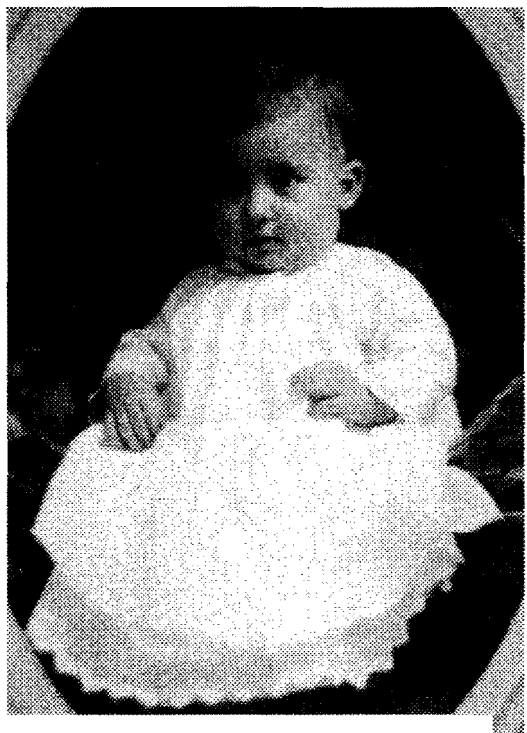
*Dora Grandstaff  
&  
George Schieferstein  
Wedding Day —  
May 9, 1907*

***George & Dora Schieferstein were the  
parents of John H. Schieferstein, and  
the grandparents of David Schieferstein  
& Mrs. Rodney (Nola) Rains.***



***50 years later - Dora & George Schieferstein—1957***

***The SCHIEFERSTEIN family . . . . .***



*John Henry Schieferstein - 1911*



*Esther (DeBolt) Schieferstein with Dixie*



*above: John Schieferstein and his beagle, Dixie , abt. 1939*

*right: Esther (DeBolt) Schieferstein, with David & Nola—abt. 1947*



## *The SEAMAN family . . . . .*



*Ruth Seaman—ready for work. Ruth was a cook  
at the Monmouth School*

*Ruth & Wendell Seaman*

*2001*

*From the mid-1950's until the mid-1960's Ruth & Wendell Seaman, along with their daughter Ann (now the wife of Dan Bieberich, lived in Monmouth in the house where Rod & Nola Rains now live. Wendell raised chickens in a large two-story chicken house on the back of the property. Later they built a new home just south of Monmouth on the east side of the Piqua Rd. Ann and Dan now live in this house while Ruth & Wendell live in a condo at Woodcrest in Decatur.*



*L. to R.*

*Ruth Seaman, Ann  
(Seaman) Bieberich &  
Wendell Seaman*

*March 30, 2002*

## *The STEVENS family . . . .*



*Chalmer & Velma (Kelly) Stevens moved to Monmouth in 1941. They first rented a house from Maud Mahan—(where David Scare now lives). Later, when a house across the road became available they rented it for awhile and later bought it. Chalmer passed away in 1988, but Velma & Larry still live in this home.*

*Top Left: L to R: Larry, Beverly, Chalmer, Kay & Velma Stevens*

*Top Right: Chalmer & Velma (Kelly) Stevens in the back yard of their home at Monmouth.*

*Right: Front Row: Chalmer & Velma Stevens*

*Back Row: Larry, Kay & Beverly -*

*Chalmer & Velma's 50th Wedding Anniversary*





# The WILLIAMS family . . . . .

Carl & Eva (Brown) Williams

**A Tribute to Grandma & Grandpa  
Williams  
By  
Linda (Owens) Drake & Donna  
Owens**

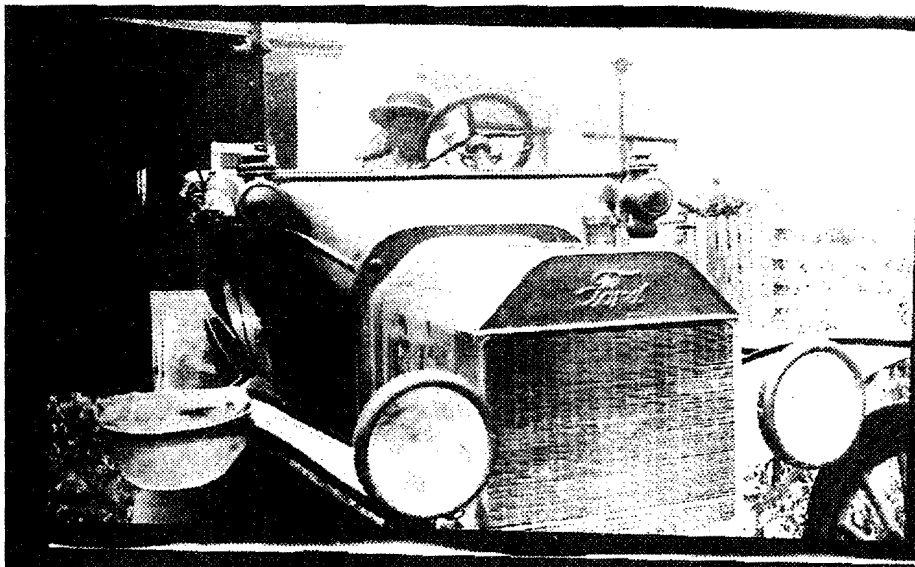
Grandma & Grandpa Williams lived next door to us all our growing-up years. Grandpa raised rabbits and Fox Terrier pups and Grandma did sewing. Grandpa was a Nazarene Evangelist. He and Grandma lived their lives in service to God. If we entered their house during prayer time, we knelt with them in front of the old sofa, and they always prayed for us girls.



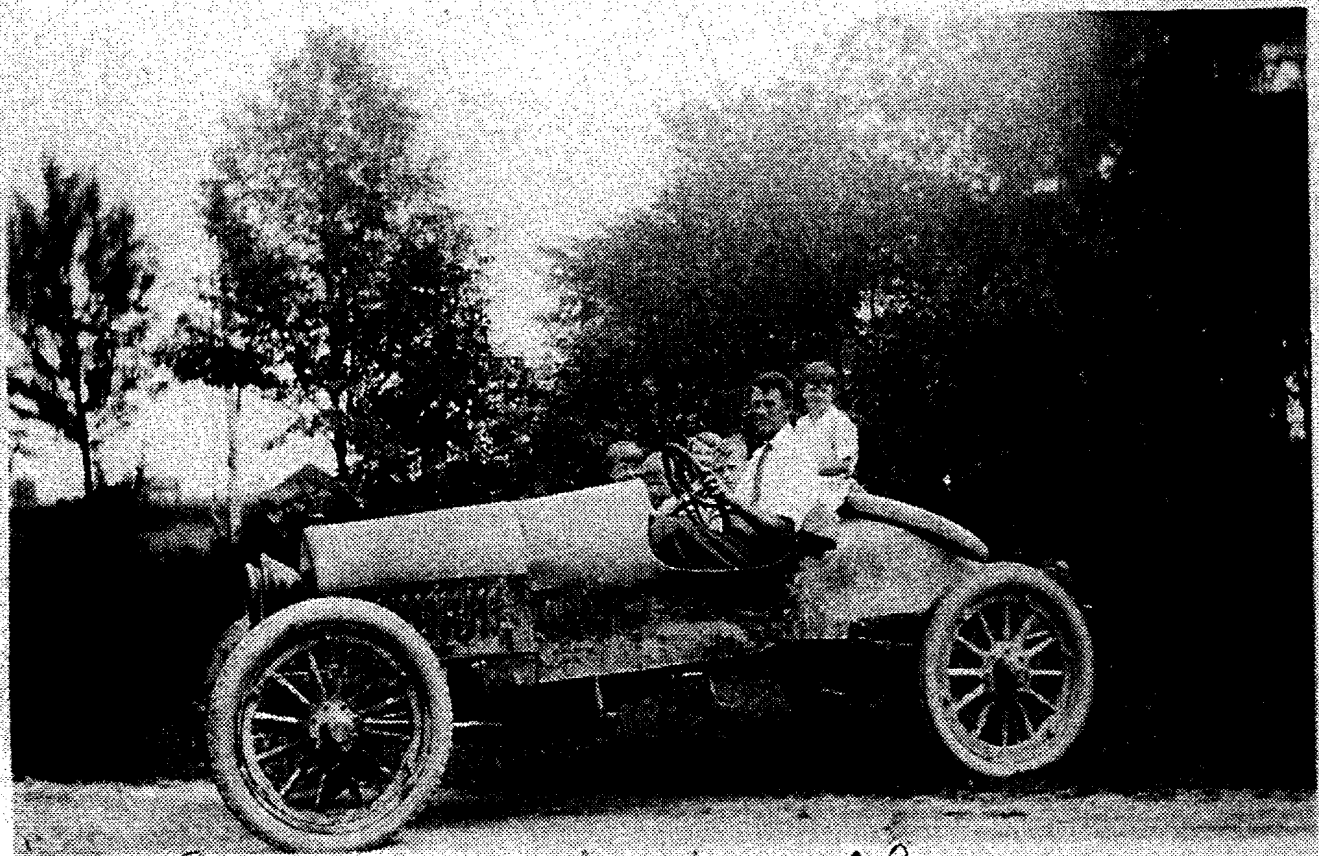
Grandma made the most wonderful sugar cookies, big round cookies with a raisin in the center, always stored in an apple-shaped cookie jar, and she was so generous with them.

A lot of our childhood revolved around Grandpa & Grandma Williams and we really thought they were our grandparents. A day doesn't go by that they don't come to mind. Never once did we enter their home that we were not made to feel that we were loved – and that was many, many times a day! We always knew they genuinely cared and loved us.

## ***The Automobiles . . . . .***



*Abt. 1918—John  
Schieferstein  
pretends to drive  
his father's Model T  
Ford*



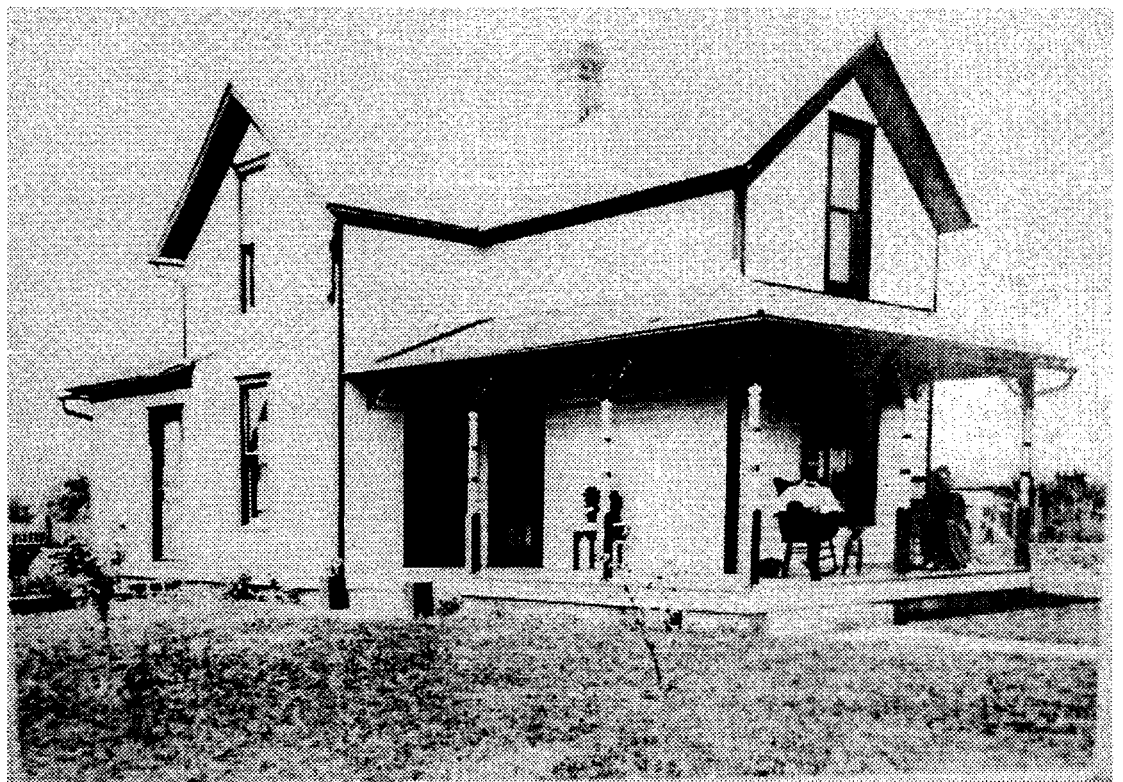
*Sherman Kunkel & his family in their Buick—Abt. 1930*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

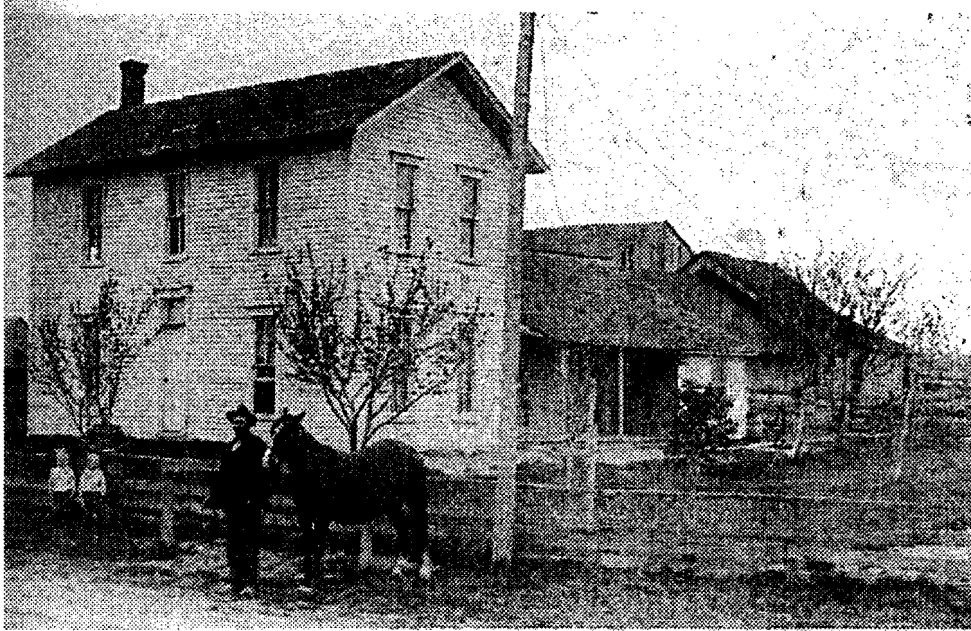


*Home of George & Dora Schieferstein—built in 1907—now the home of their great-granddaughter Esther Rains Bard, her husband Seth & their children, Caitlynn & Lauren..*

*Below—George & Dora relaxing on their front porch—about 1909*



## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

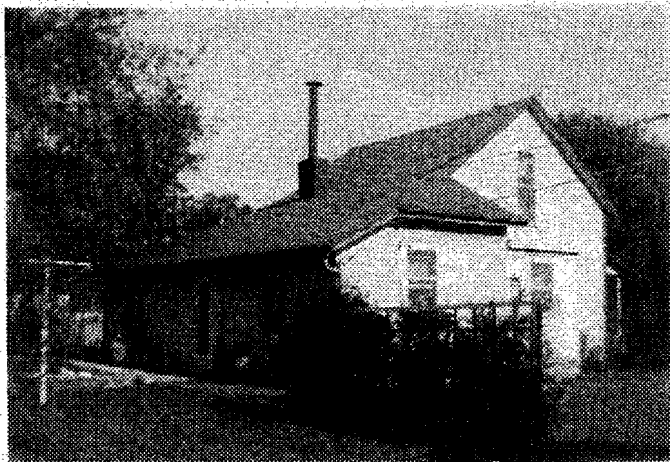


*Reuben Baxter with his wife, Harriet (Potts) and twin sons, Calvin & Curtis. This house was once the Methodist Church parsonage; years later it was owned by the Charles Harkless family. In more recent years it was the home of the Nevin Miller family—it stood near where Harlen & Pat (Miller) Shaffer now live.*

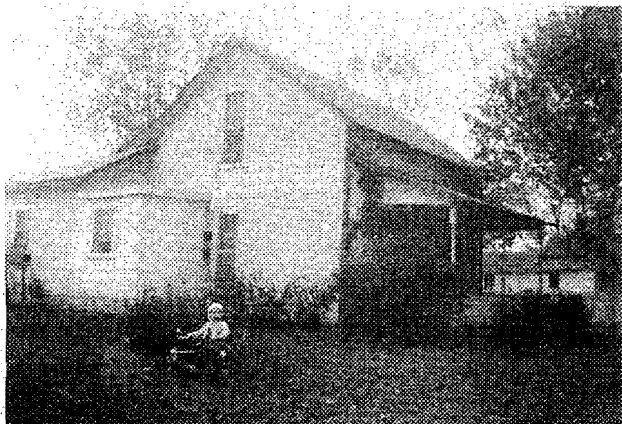


*William & Annice (Gates) Watts relaxing on their front porch—about 1900. In the 1940's this house was the home of Alfred & Edna Deam.*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .



*Two views of the home of David & Geneva Brown—about 1946. In the late 1930's-early 1940's the property was owned by Ralph & Edna Deam. In later years David & Geneva completely remodeled the house and Geneva still lives there. The child in the lower picture is Donnie Brown.*



*The same house a few years earlier when Alfred & Edna Deam owned it. On the left side of the picture is the barn that stood behind Chauncey & Winnie Wilder's brick home to the south.*





## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

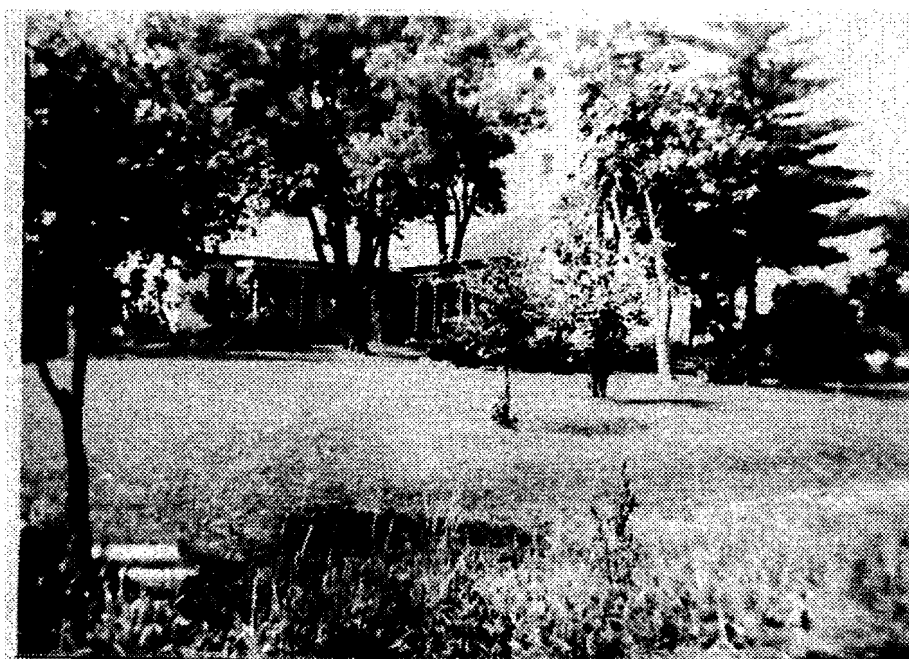


*The Lemuel & Catherine (Dutcher) Grandstaff home as it looked about 1923. The house was rented for a number of years. The Sherman Kunkel family rented it after their home was destroyed by fire & their new home was being built. Some of the Kunkel children are playing on the porch. Notice the Interurban tracks in front of the house.*

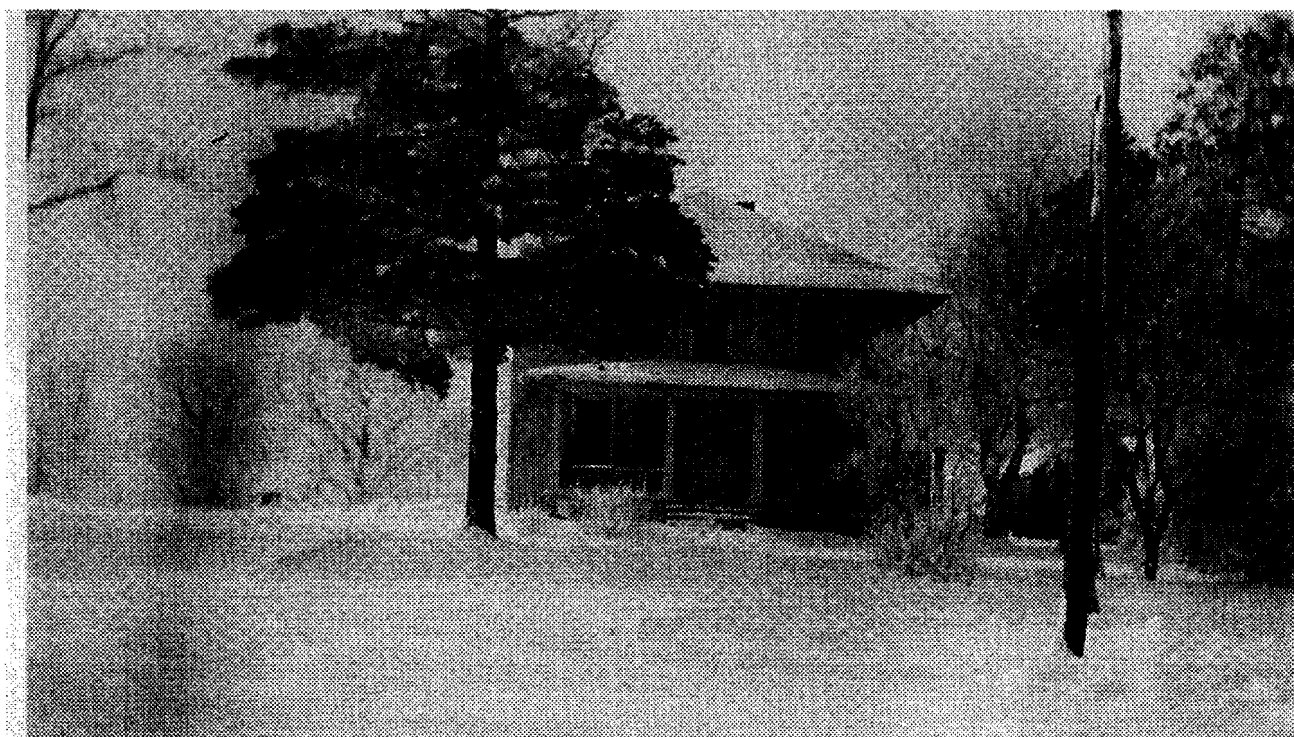


*View of the Grandstaff home from the backyard. This picture was taken about 1950 when the Heath family lived in this house. The house had a number of owners throughout the years and by the 1980's had fallen into such a state of disrepair that it was torn down.*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

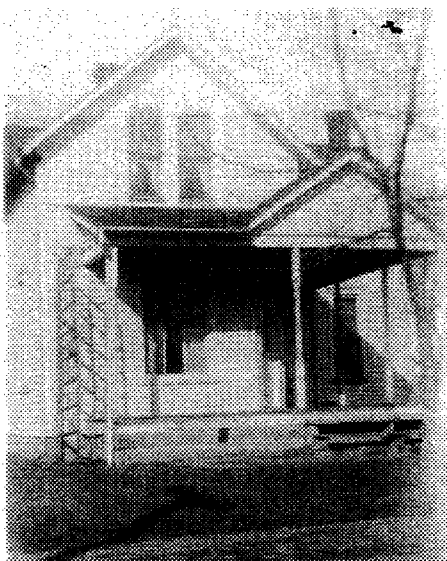


*The original Kunkel homes—destroyed by fire in 1923. The houses met at the corner—one was the home of Calvin D. & Sanna (Pillars) Kunkel, and their son, Sherman & his wife Fannie (McConnell) Kunkel lived in the other.*

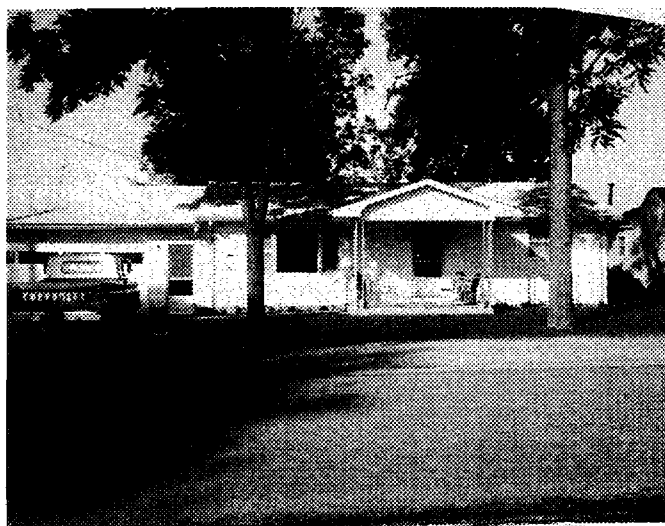


*The new home of the Kunkel family, about 1924 —now the home of Mrs. Fred (Ruth Fuelling) Kunkel*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

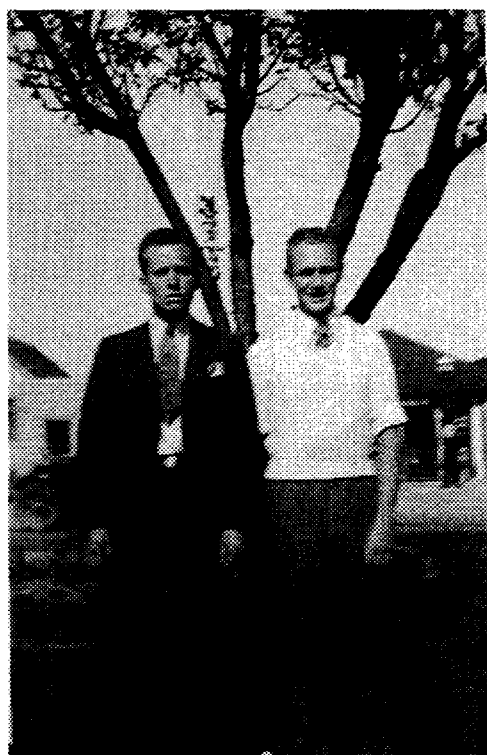


*Home of Charles & Gertrude (Kitson) Gage—now the home of Linda and Mike Drake. Linda is the granddaughter of the Gages.*



*The new home of Vilas & Florine Elzey, built in 1965 after their old home was destroyed by fire.*

*This is now the home of Don & Flo Bauer.*

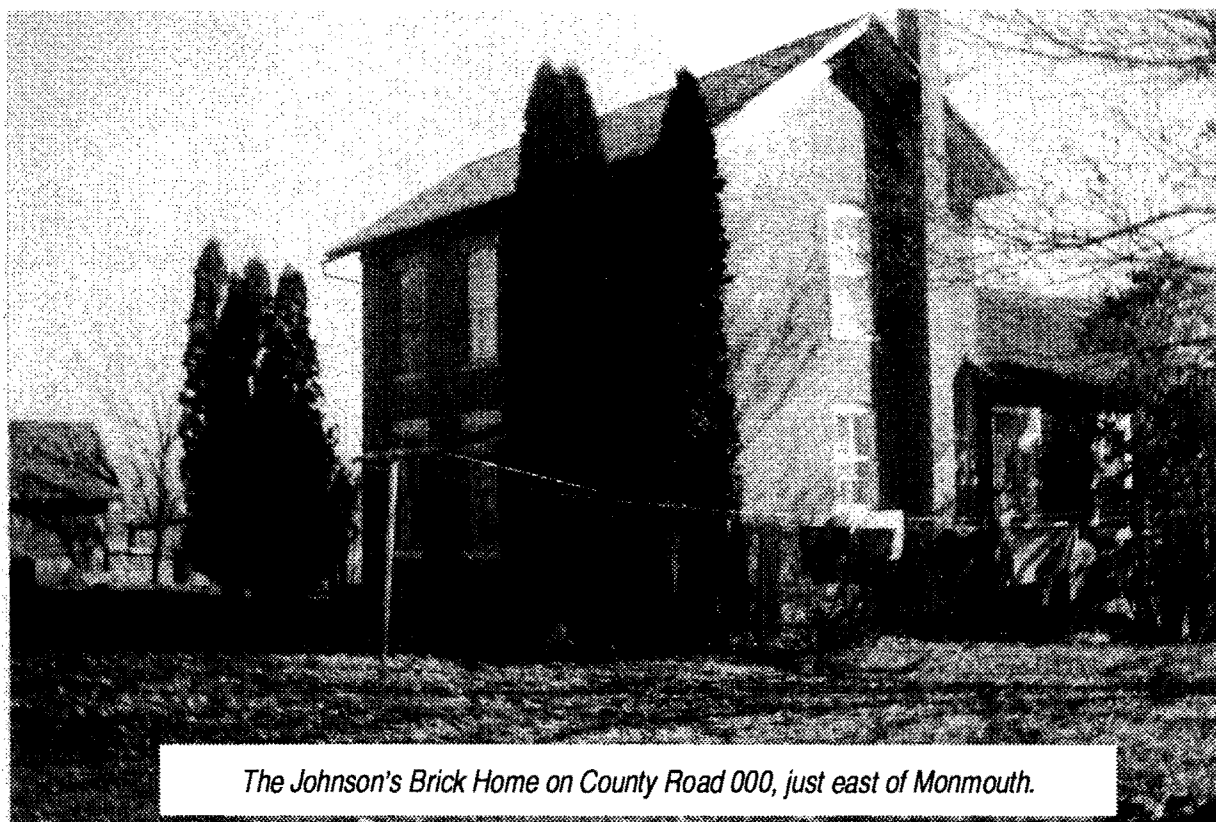


*Two unidentified young men in front of the gas station at Monmouth—1931*



*Looking northwest in Monmouth from in front of the gas station. About 1932-1933. Jerry Grandstaff (son of Dr. John Grandstaff) ran the gas station for a few years. The dog belonged to Donna Grandstaff.*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .



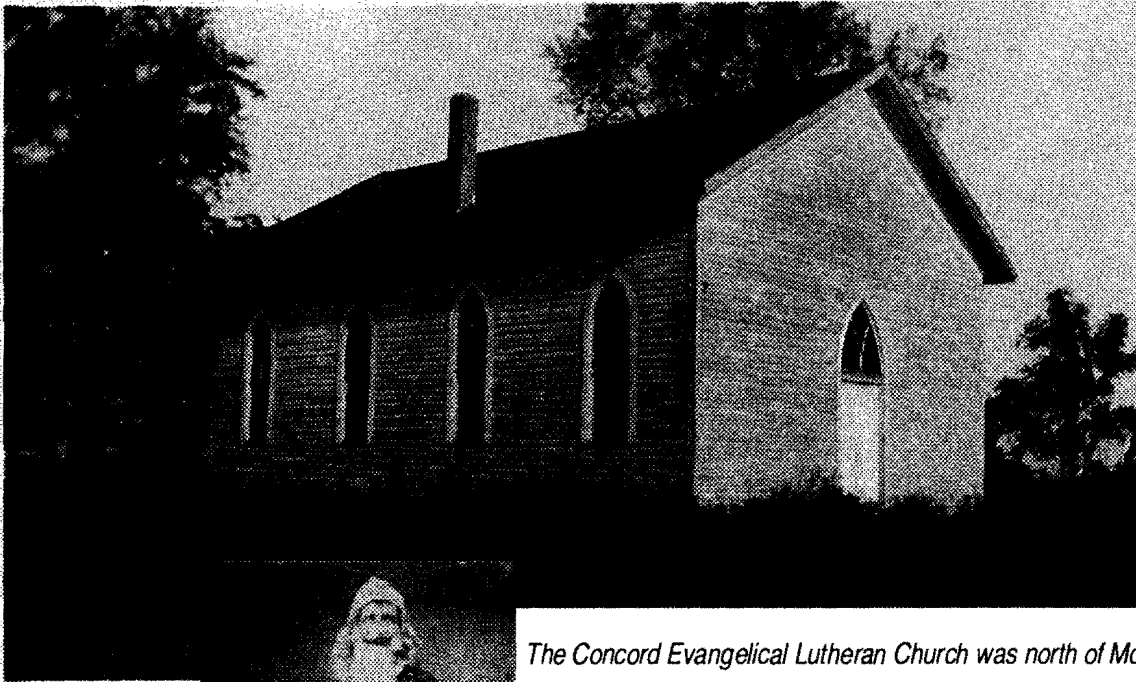
*The Johnson's Brick Home on County Road 000, just east of Monmouth.*

*The Wilder Brothers ran the brick kiln and each one built themselves a brick home. Only one is still standing and that is located east of Monmouth. One was occupied by the Johnsons (Charles & Edith) and the other was built in Monmouth and it burned to the ground many years ago. Johnson's home was hit by a tornado in 1917, taking off the south wing of the house and doing damage to the barn, crops and garage (see tornado picture).*

*The 1876 map shows the owner of this land to be Oscar Fritzinger. Charles Johnson bought the property on January 26, 1909. The house was believed to have been built in the 1850's or 1860's. The Wilders, brick makers, came to Monmouth in 1845. Wilders also owned the land along Co. Rd. 900 N. & 000, north of the Johnson farm.*

*Edmond & Edwin Wilder (twins), their older brother Alvin, their mother, Sarah (Davis) Wilder, and many other members of the Wilder family, are buried in the Monmouth Cemetery.*

## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .

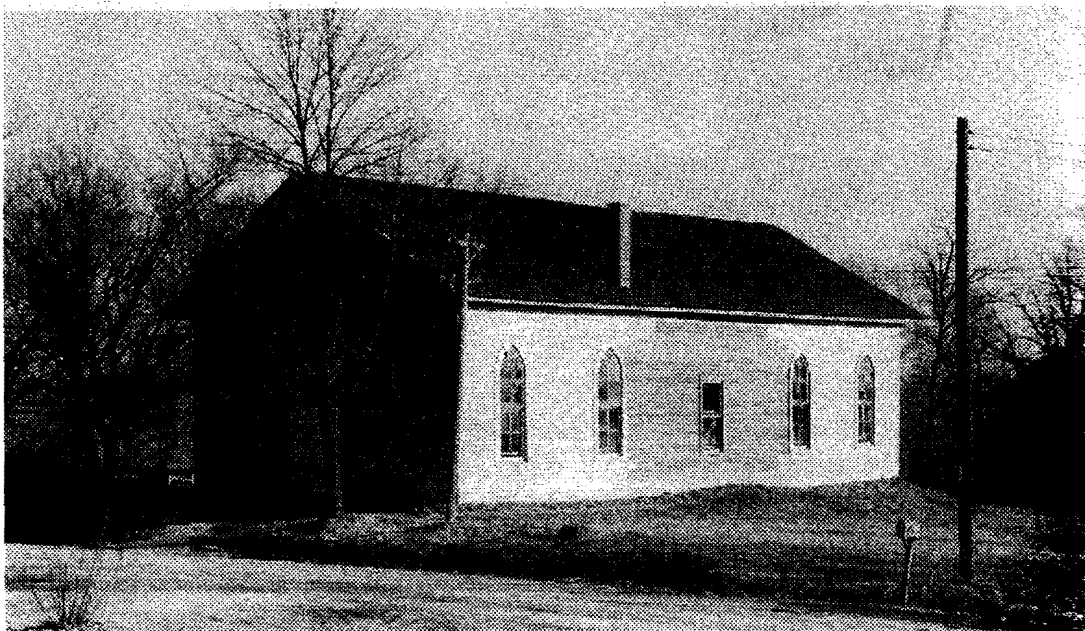


Lemuel  
Grandstaff  
playing Santa  
Claus for the  
children at  
Concord Church.



The Concord Evangelical Lutheran Church was north of Monmouth on County Road 100 West in the woods on the north side of the road just west of the railroad tracks. Many of the early residents of Monmouth attended church at Concord. The church closed in the late 1920's and a few years later was moved to a location across the road from the Monmouth School. It was used as a gymnasium for a number of years, and later converted into a bus garage. **Above**—Concord Church in its original location.

**Below**—The building right after it was moved to Monmouth to be used for a gym. Notice the area on the side where the building was extended to make it large enough for a gym.





## THE BUILDINGS . . . . .



The house on the hill—south end of Monmouth at the bridge. The Richard Lewton family lived in the house at the time this picture was taken. This is now the home of Kathy Miller.

One of the oldest houses in Monmouth, this was formerly the home of Jim & Rosa Watts. This picture is from about 1950 when the property was owned by Bill & Marie Huston. It is now the home of Dennis "Hank" Hankins.



### LAST BUT NOT LEAST

*We must not fail to mention that little building that was of supreme importance until the middle of the 20th century when indoor plumbing became the rule rather than the exception —the "OUTHOUSE", or "PRIVY".*

*Here we see former Monmouth resident, Bill Huston, "caught in the act" of exiting the privy!*

*This was property formerly owned by Jim & Rosa Watts. The old barn in the background was Jim Watt's horse barn.*

The following are excerpts from the Decatur Daily Democrat of Saturday Evening, March 24, 1917 about the tornado that struck the Monmouth area the day before:

**CYCLONE SWEEPS OVER NORTH PART OF COUNTY  
WRECKING HOMES AND BARNS AND CAUSING DAMAGE THAT WILL TOTAL MANY  
THOUSAND DOLLARS—NO LIVES LOST**

*Several families are rendered homeless; many residences heavily damaged; the Monmouth schoolhouse ruined; many large farm barns and buildings demolished; live-stock injured or killed; trees uprooted and broken off; when what was probably the tail end of the tornado that swept through the state from the southwest dipped down into Kirkland, Preble and Root townships this county around 3 o'clock Friday afternoon causing thousands of dollars loss to residents near the villages of Magley, Preble and Monmouth.*

*The most lucky and seemingly miraculous thing about it is that no one was killed and few only were slightly injured, although houses were crushed and roofs torn off, flying glass and broken timbers being sent through the air like straws.*

**Funnel Cloud Leaped**

*Probably the best description of the tornado was given by Sherman Kunkel who lives just west of Monmouth. He was working out of doors when he saw the black funnel shaped cloud approaching from the west, heralded by terrific roaring. He immediately dropped to the ground to prevent being carried away by the wind. The black funnel shaped cloud advanced, passing a short distance from his side. It sliced off one side of a large straw stack in the Kunkel field. The black funnel shaped cloud dipped at frequent intervals, often skipping vast spaces, giving the appearance of a gigantic grotesque animal hopping along. Wherever it dipped, it sucked up into the inverted maelstrom all things in its sweep of a few hundred yards in width.*

**Monmouth a Heavy Sufferer**

*Monmouth was undoubtedly a heavy sufferer. The greatest danger centered at the large, new, graded brick schoolhouse, where scores of pupils were in the midst of their recitations. The slate roof over the central part of the building was torn off, and practically all the windows blown in. The children, who were marched to the basement, narrowly missed the fragments of flying glass and the falling of large, two by four, ten by twelve foot beams from the ceiling as they dropped.*

*In fact, it was only by the prompt action of the teachers, Lawrence Spuller and Miss Helen Fonner, that all are living. They were hurried quickly to the basement, thus escaping the falling timbers which fell only to the first floor. The teachers themselves had not time to reach the basement, waiting until all the children were there safe. The cyclone lasted only a few seconds, probably less than half a minute.*

*One little girl had her cheek bruised, and a small boy, Cleo, son of Charles Magley, had his arm slightly cut by a falling piece of timber. Little Ralph Wilder, who had gotten outside the building, was picked up and dropped into the cemetery across the road. Several children received minor bruises and cuts from glass and flying bricks.*

#### **Houses Wrecked**

*Those rendered homeless were the families of Charles Burr, south of the schoolhouse; and Floyd Baker and George Schieferstein, residing in territory south in the central district of Monmouth.*

*The tornado, coming from the west, played a queer prank. It jumped over the west end of the Burr house, dipping down and crushing out the east end, tearing off the roof and pushing out the walls. The main part of the house was crushed in, the interior being totally ruined. Joe Burr, the son, was the only one at home at the time. He was sitting playing the phonograph when the shock came. Glass and timbers cut him about the head, but he escaped serious injury. Mrs. Burr was also away.*

*The residence of Floyd Baker was also ruined, the east wall being torn out. Both were at home at the time. Mr. Baker restrained his wife from rushing out when the shock came, thus preventing what might have been serious injury to her. They have been married but a year and came to Monmouth only a few weeks ago to live in the house which had been presented to Mrs. Baker by her grandfather, Martin Lord. Even their clothing and much of their household goods was picked up by the wind and carried away, nearly all their possessions being swept away.*

*George Schieferstein is one of the heaviest losers in Monmouth. His fine large two story residence is practically ruined. The timbers were twisted, the plastering crushed, the doors of the interior twisted from their hinges and split. The house must practically be rebuilt. A summer kitchen at one side, was picked up and carried to the front of the yard.*

*The residence of S. S. Magley, adjoining, had every window in the house broken. Mrs. Magley escaped injury by running to the basement. Just as she reached there, she heard the glass crashing through the upstairs room which she had just vacated; the dishes, with their contents, were swept from the table; the canary bird in its cage was killed; glass and pictures were torn from frames, which were left hanging on the wall. Above the table a piece of plate glass had been sent into the hard plastering to great depth, protruding like a miniature shelf.*

*The Mart Markenke house was turned on its foundation; the S. S. Magley barn unroofed and several other barns and minor buildings were totally wrecked.*

*The residence of Mrs. L. N. Grandstaff at Monmouth was among those badly damaged and the roof of the James Watts barn was torn off.*

#### **Monuments Crushed**

*The city of the dead was also visited. Across the road from the wrecked schoolhouse is the old Monmouth cemetery. The wire fence is in a mass of tangle and monuments that have stood for a half century or nearly a century have been crushed to earth, their tall shafts being broken and splintered into many fragments. Large timbers, good sized logs, lie among the ruins to tell the story of the monuments' destruction.*

#### **Johnson Home Damaged**

*The storm swept further east through the woods, felling or tearing up large trees until it reached the Charles Johnson farm, northeast a quarter of a mile. There it struck the south part of the brick house, crushing the south and west brick walls of the kitchen, leaving the east wall standing. The contents are totally ruined. No one was at home at the time. Mrs. Johnson was visiting at the E. S. Christen farm, north, at the time, and thus escaped death. Had she been at home she would have been in the kitchen and buried under its ruins. The barn and the large silo on the farm were practically ruined. The large old orchard and large cedar trees were uprooted. A new orchard was also heavily damaged.*

#### **Buggy Crushed**

*Another peculiar feature of the tornado is this. Mrs. Vesta Brokaw had driven to the Ed Lewton home in Monmouth and had hitched her horse and buggy in front of the house. This was out of the general storm sweep. The buggy, however, was shattered and the pieces carried away. Enough wreckage was left however to need the assistance of Dr. Zeigler in untangling the horse.*

#### **Incubator Lights Burning**

*Among the peculiar things of this storm was noted at the Charles Johnson home. The kitchen of the brick home was completely wrecked. The doors and windows of the adjoining room were blown out, but the lights in the incubator was turned on and the hatching of the chickens is continuing as though nothing extraordinary had occurred. At the Charles Burr home one of the rockers from a chair is driven into the wood and plastering of the wall so firmly that it cannot be removed. In the corner of the room, opposite, Joe Burr, who sat playing a phonograph, was uninjured except for scratches from flying glass. The record he was playing was broken.*

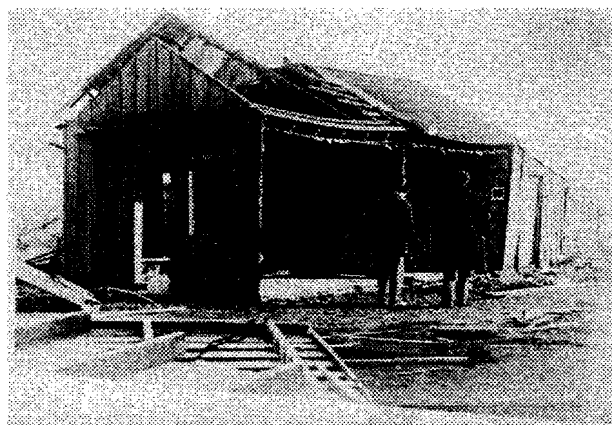
# THE 1917 TORNADO . . .



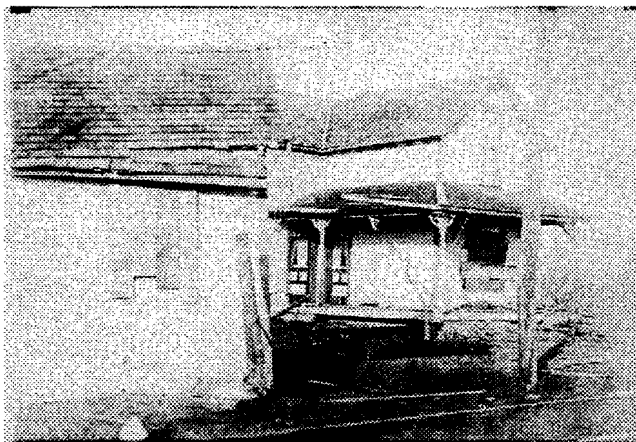
*The aftermath of the tornado. Picture taken at the intersection of present-day Eagle Rd. & Piqua Rd. looking north. The tracks on the west side of the road were for the interurban line that ran from Ft. Wayne to Decatur.*



*Martin Lord's blacksmith shop. Debris in front of the shop is the roof from the Schieferstein barn across the road.*



*Martin & Reuben Lord studying the damage to the home of Floyd & Lilah (Lord) Baker*



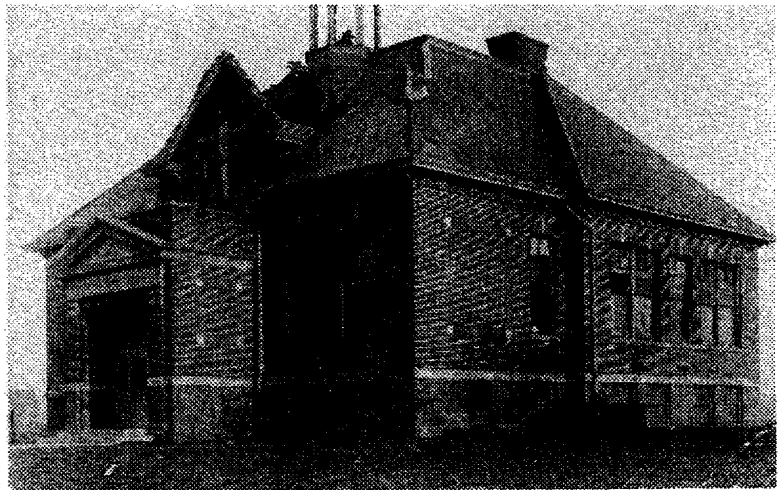
*The 10 year old home of George & Dora Schieferstein*



## THE 1917 TORNADO . . .

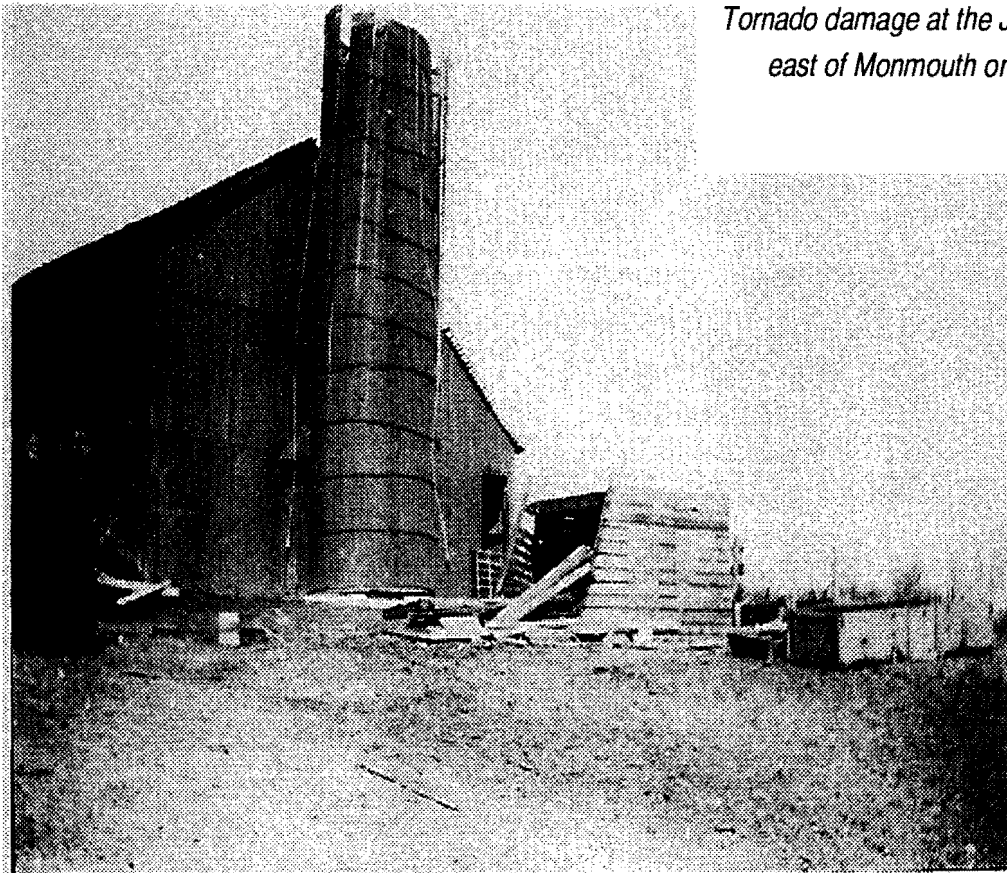


*Above: Back of the George Schieferstein home. On the left is the Grandstaff home, & across the road is the Jim Watts home.  
Right: View from the north side of the Schieferstein home.*



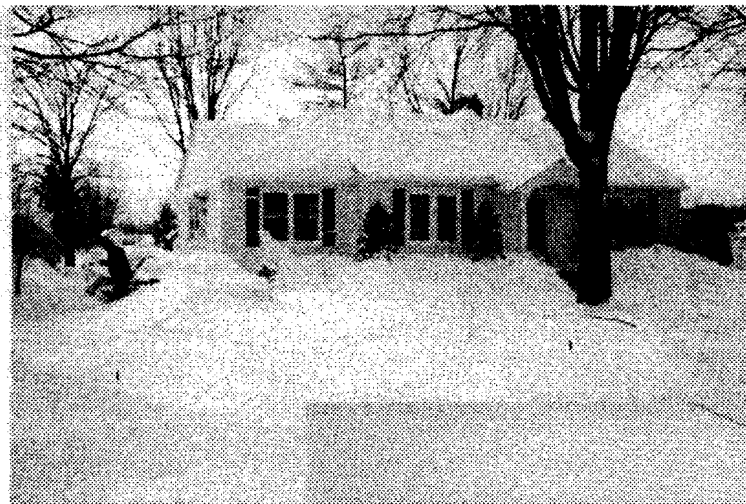
*Two views of the tornado damage to the Monmouth School.  
The building was only 6 years old when it was nearly  
destroyed by the 1917 tornado.*

## THE 1917 TORNADO . . .



*Tornado damage at the Johnson farm just  
east of Monmouth on Co. Rd. 000*

## THE 1978 BLIZZARD . . .



*The John & Esther Schieferstein home*

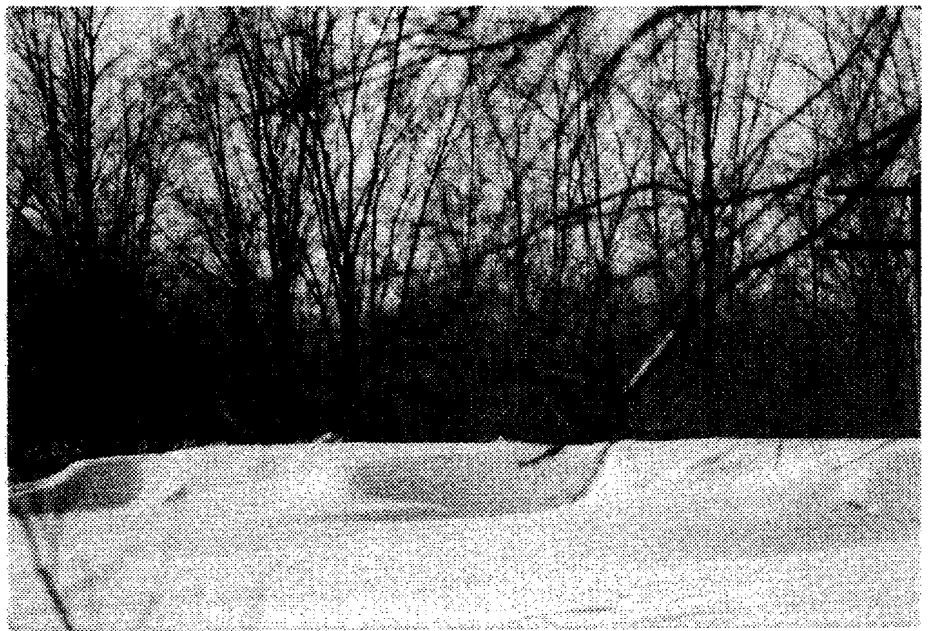
*Looking west down Eagle Road from in front of the Mormouth School.*



*Looking south toward the bridge on the Piqua Rd. from in front of Mike and Linda Drake's home.*

## **THE 1978 BLIZZARD . . .**

*Huge drifts in a pasture field  
near the railroad.*



*Looking south down the Piqua Rd.*



## SCHOOL MEMORIES . . .



*Monmouth School as it looked in 1947*

*The first school in Root Township, Adams Co., Indiana was a log cabin that stood in Section 7 on the Bingen Road (now Co. Rd. 200W). It was known as the Gorsline School and was built in 1839. Also it is believed that there was a "subscription school" in Monmouth about 1840. The teacher was Sarah McKinsic.*

*A brick school building was built at Monmouth in 1879. This was a two-room, two-story building and was built by Trustee Perry Robinson. This school was known as District School #6.*

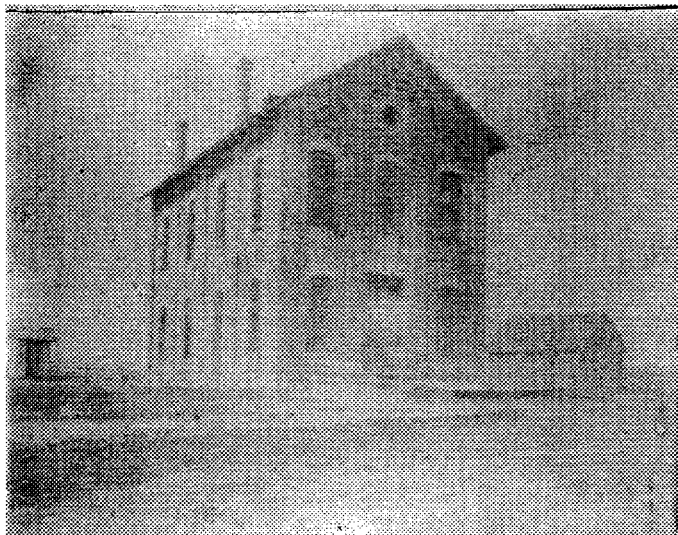
*In 1911 a new modern five-room brick school was built – this is the building that almost everyone who lived in the Monmouth area from 1911 to the present time is familiar with. It cost \$12,000 to build! The 1911 building was remodeled several times, and two or three additions were built onto the original school. The first addition was added in 1937, and included a gymnasium. In the mid-1940's a cafeteria was started at the Monmouth School in a small room beneath the stage. It was the first one in a public school in Indiana, and was started by Trustee George Schieferstein. The first cooks were Phyllis Grandstaff and Florence Susdorf. In 1952 the next addition was built and housed a modern principal's office and grade school classrooms. Another addition, built in 1965 housed a modern library and cafeteria. In 1974, the original 1911 section and the 1937 addition were torn down, and the modern up-to-date building we have now was built.*

*In the pictures of both the 1879 building and the 1911 building on the following pages, you can see the little barn on the east (right) side of the building. This was used to shelter the horses that the students either rode or drove to school. In the oldest picture, you can see on the left side the "out-house" or "privy" that served as a bathroom!*

*About 1922, Root Township went "modern" and bought school buses and hired drivers. The first drivers were George Schieferstein, Vesta Brokaw, John Magley & William Aumann.*

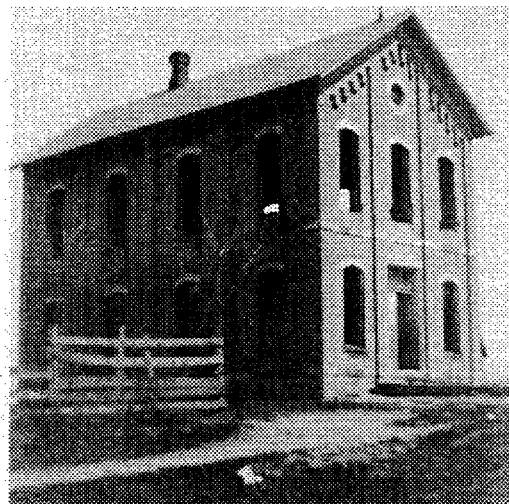


## ***SCHOOL MEMORIES—late 1800's***



*Two views of the first brick school at Monmouth, built in 1879 — replaced with a more modern brick building in 1911. Notice the outhouse on the left side, and the horse barn on the right side.*

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*The 1879 building shortly before it was torn down to make room for the new, modern building.*

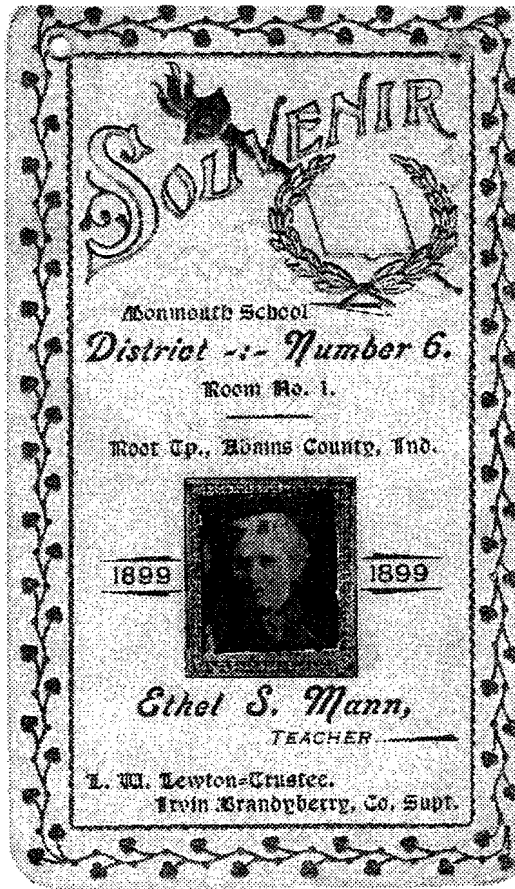


*Monmouth School students—about 1896.*

*1st on left, 3rd row is Dora Grandstaff; next to her is Daisy Lewton; boy in center of same row is Sherman Kunkel; tall boy in back row, right side is George Schieferstein who spoke only German & went back to school at age 18 to learn English.*

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## SCHOOL MEMORIES— early 1900's

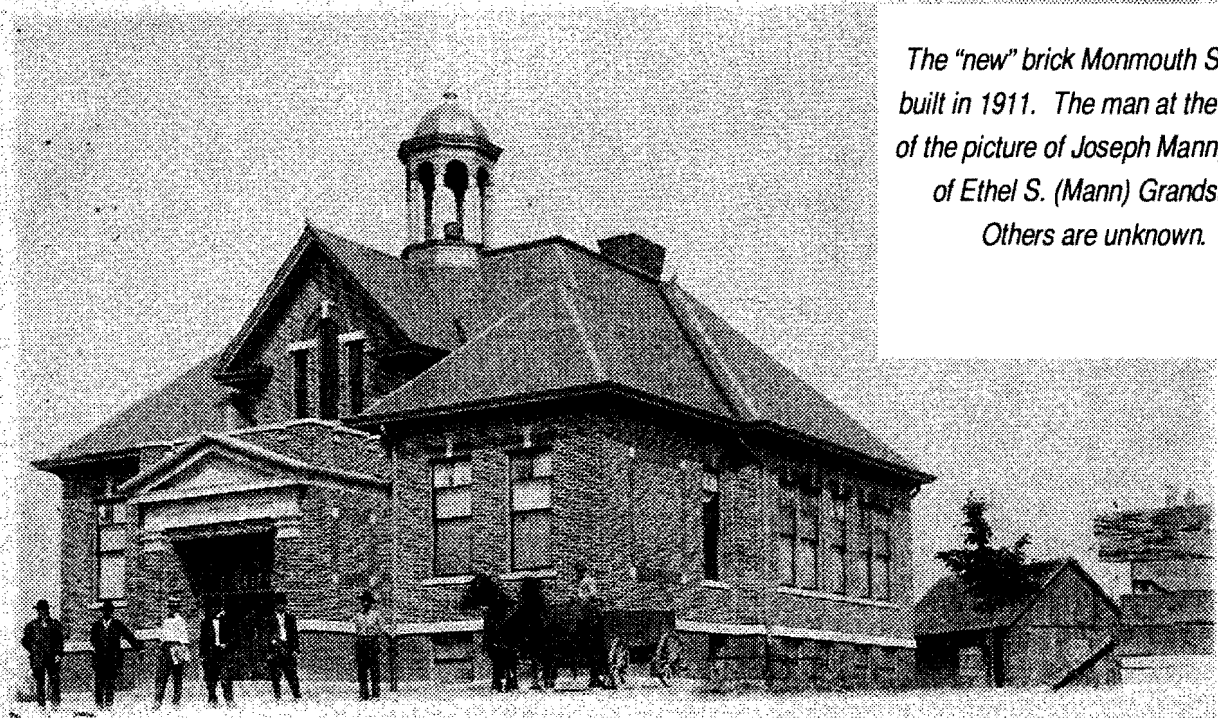


*Souvenir Card given to the students by their teacher, Ethel S. Mann, who later became the 2nd wife of Dr. John C. Grandstaff.*

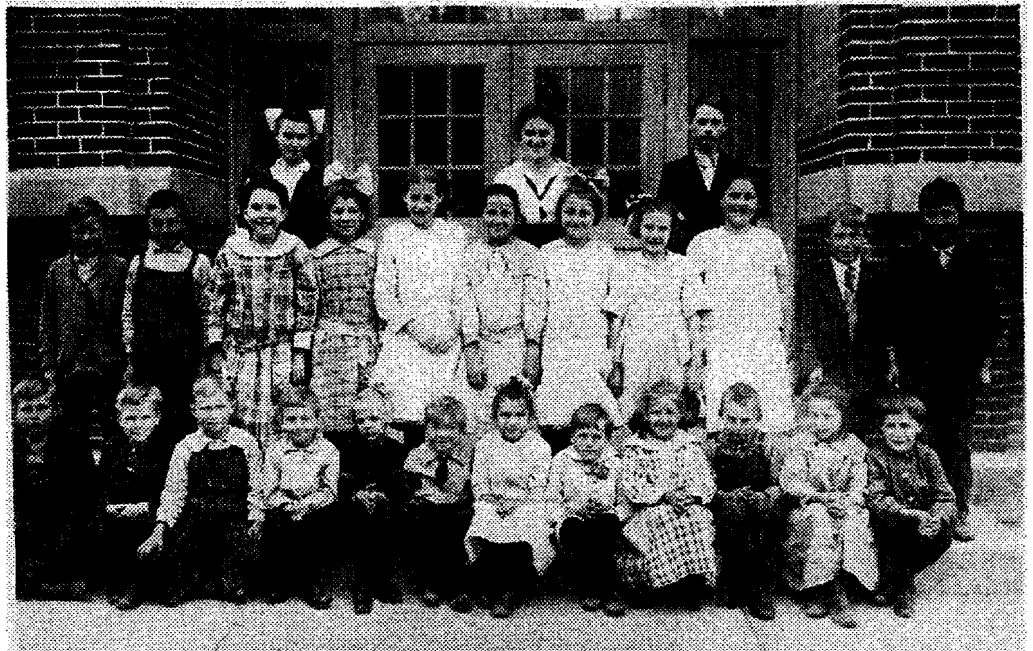
*Monmouth School students—about 1905—the teacher in the back row, 5th from the left is Dora Grandstaff.*



## SCHOOL MEMORIES . . 1910–1920



*The "new" brick Monmouth School, built in 1911. The man at the far left of the picture of Joseph Mann, father of Ethel S. (Mann) Grandstaff. Others are unknown.*



*Monmouth Students—about 1917 at the "new" brick building built in 1911—front row, 4th from left is John Schieferstein (1st Grade); middle row, 3rd from left is Erma Gage Owens.*

## *SCHOOL MEMORIES . . 1910–1920*



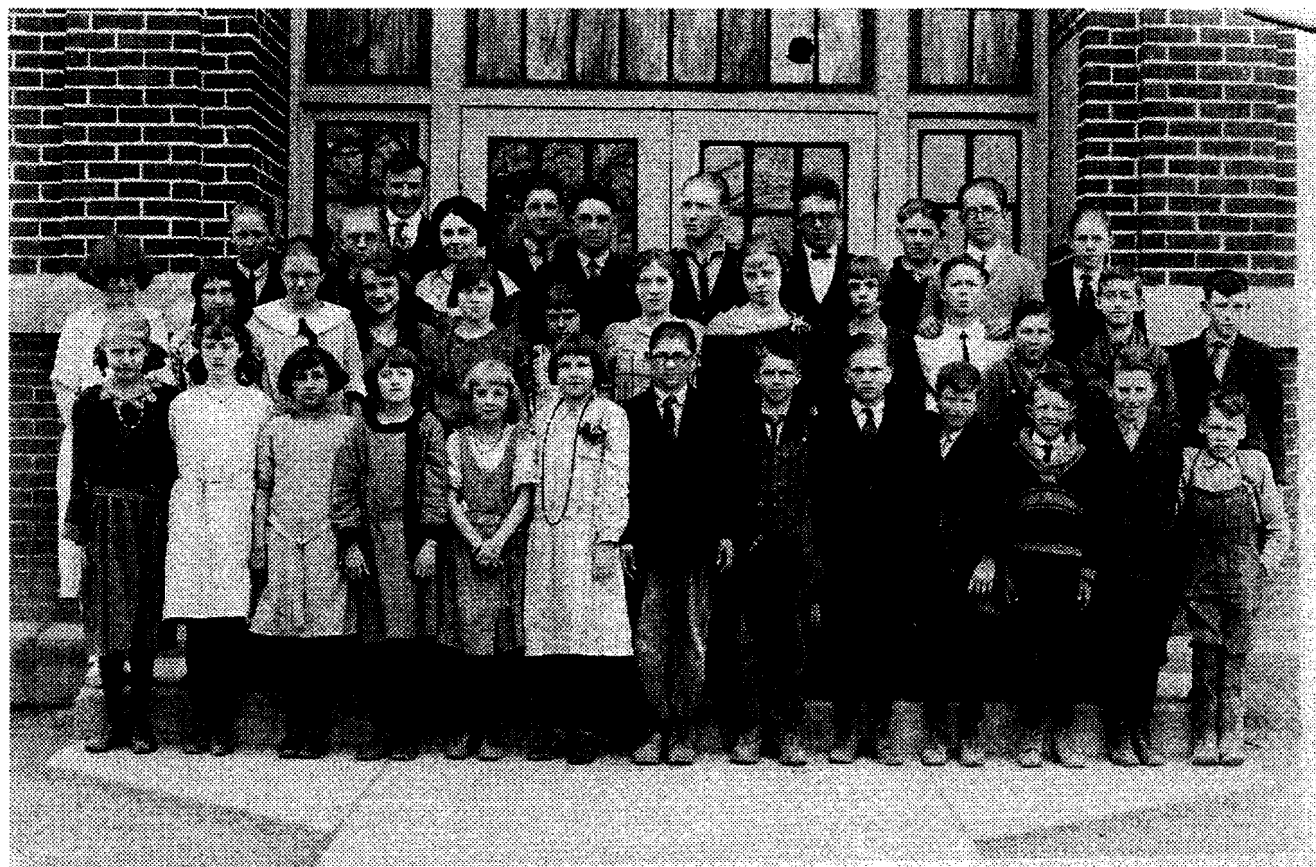
*Monmouth Students—1918.*



*Monmouth Students—1919*



## SCHOOL MEMORIES . . 1910-1920



*About 1920*

*1st Row—Olive Beihold, Josephine Hill, Betty Schieferstein, Mary Jane Kunkel, Helen Fritzinger, Louise Gage, Lee Fleming, Frank Fritzinger, Bob Rice, Voyle Hill, James Moses, (unknown), Ralph Wilder*  
*2nd Row—Edith Reed, Viola Hovarter, Mabel Hill, Catherine Weidler, ?? Irwin, ?? Cook, Loretta Aumann, Helen Bohnke, Myrtle Fuhrman, Victor Faulkenburg, Ed Fritzinger, John Schieferstein, Dick Lewton*  
*3rd Row—Orville Reed, Luther Brokaw, ?? Doty (Principal), Mary Kenny (Teacher), Bob Hill, Ray Gibson, Richard Johnson, Francis Stultz, Otto Boerger, Hilbert Holle, Hugh Myers*

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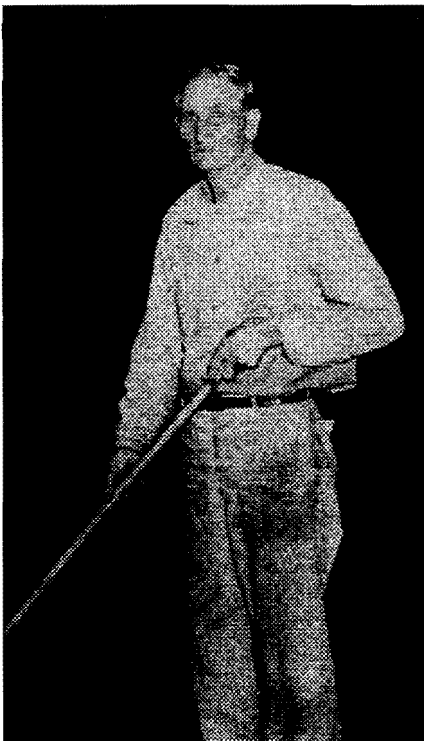
## SCHOOL MEMORIES . . .



*Remember the "Farmers' Institutes" of the late 1940' - early 1950's that were held at the Monmouth School? Here we see (clockwise around the table, starting on the left front) Winifred Gerke, John Magley, George Schieferstein, & Charlie Johnson, enjoying a game of Caroms!*



*Dr. John C. Grandstaff with granddaughter, Donna Grandstaff on her first day of school -1933. Donna's father, Gerald Grandstaff, ran the filling station at Monmouth for a few years in the early 1930's, after the death of the first proprietor, Fred Watts Mahan. in 1932.*



*Everyone who attended school at Monmouth in the 1940's to early 1950's remembers Charlie Johnson, our custodian.*



*The first cooks at the first Monmouth School cafeteria were Phyllis Grandstaff (on the left) and Florence Susdorf (on the right)*

## *Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .*



*Back row: Chester Lewton and Betty Schieferstein  
Front row: Esther Lewton, Luther Brokaw, Fred Brokaw, Marlow Schieferstein.  
This is the house where Mike & Linda Drake now live.*

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*Esther Lewton, Bobbie Meyer, Chester Lewton, and his dog, Trixie.*

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## Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .

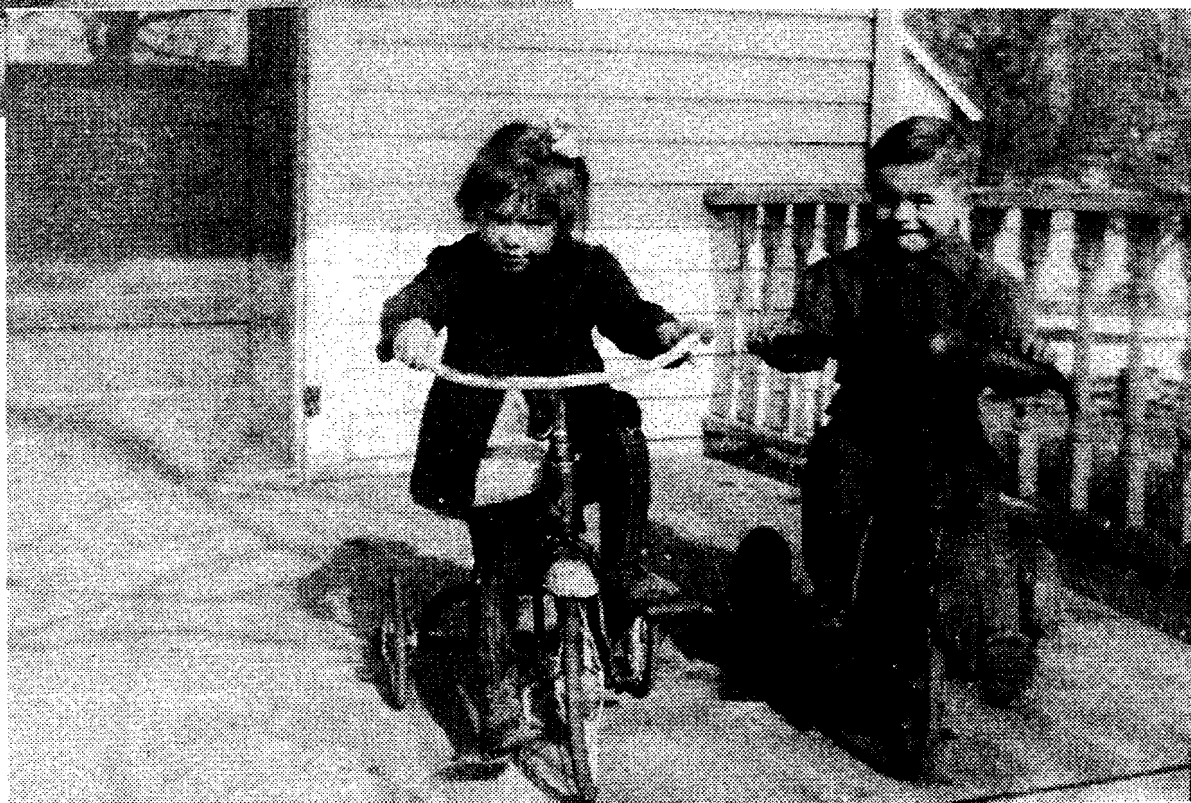


*On the left is Mary Lou Lewton, and below is Mary Lou & her brother, Dickie, riding their tricycles on the porch at their home in Monmouth.*

*Mary Lou (now the wife of Larry Brunner), Dickie, and their siblings, Carolyn (Lehman), Barbara (Haynes), Kathleen (Strickler) & Geraldine (Sudduth) are the children of Richard & Frieda (Amstutz) Lewton.*

*At the time this picture was taken, the Lewton family lived in the house on the hill just south of the bridge on the east side of the Piqua Road in Monmouth.*

*In the early 1930's during the Great Depression, Richard Lewton owned and operated a barber shop in Monmouth in a house owned at that time by Maud (Magley) Mahan. That house is now the home of Rodney & Nola Rains & their family.*



## ***Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .***



*1926—The Kunkel kids heading for a swim in the St. Mary's River.  
L to R: - Sanna, Harriet, Fred, David & Mary Jane*

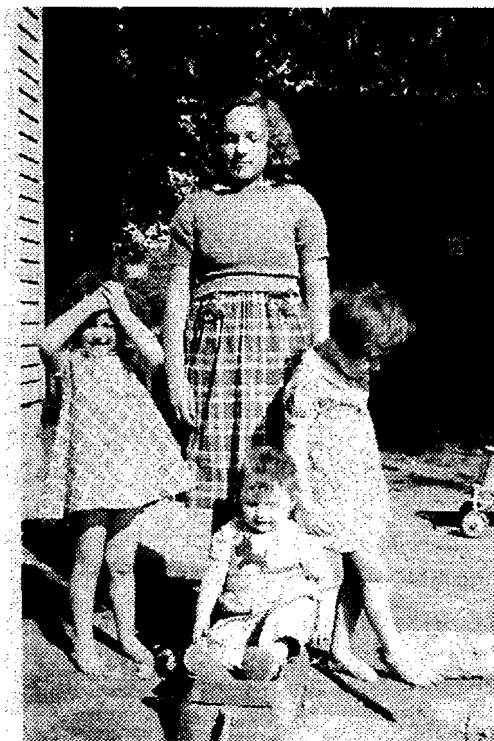


*The Ol' Swimmin' Hole*

*Can you imagine swimming in the muddy St. Mary's River today? Back in the 1880's the river was clear & clean, and in the summer-time, George Schieferstein & his brothers took their Saturday night baths in the river—and it's obvious from these pictures that the Kunkel kids enjoyed swimming in the St. Mary's in the late 1920's!*



## *Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .*



*Mary Mahan with the Owens girls, Mary Ann,  
Donna & Carolyn*



*Linda Owens (now Drake) in her Brownie Scout  
uniform—about 1955*



*Judy Mahan, standing & Nola  
Schieferstein in stroller —1946*



## *Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .*



*Nola & David Schieferstein enjoying  
Christmas -*

*1947*

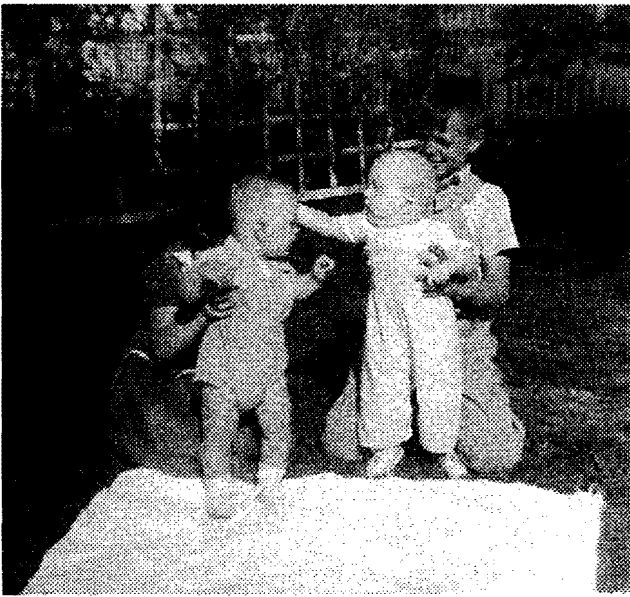


*L to R: Barbara, Mary Lou & Carolyn Lewton*



*The Elzey Boys: Max, Charlie & Dick—  
late 1940's*

## *Growing Up in Monmouth . . . .*



*Linda Owens holding Freddie Hammond & Donnie Brown holding his brother Mike..*

*Mike Brown with big brother Don. Don is showing off his new Monmouth band uniform.*



*Linda Owens & Donnie Brown—  
about 1947*

## *Growing Up in Monmouth . . . .*



*Sondra Brown with little brother Donnie.*



*Sondra & Donnie Brown in their back yard—about 1949*



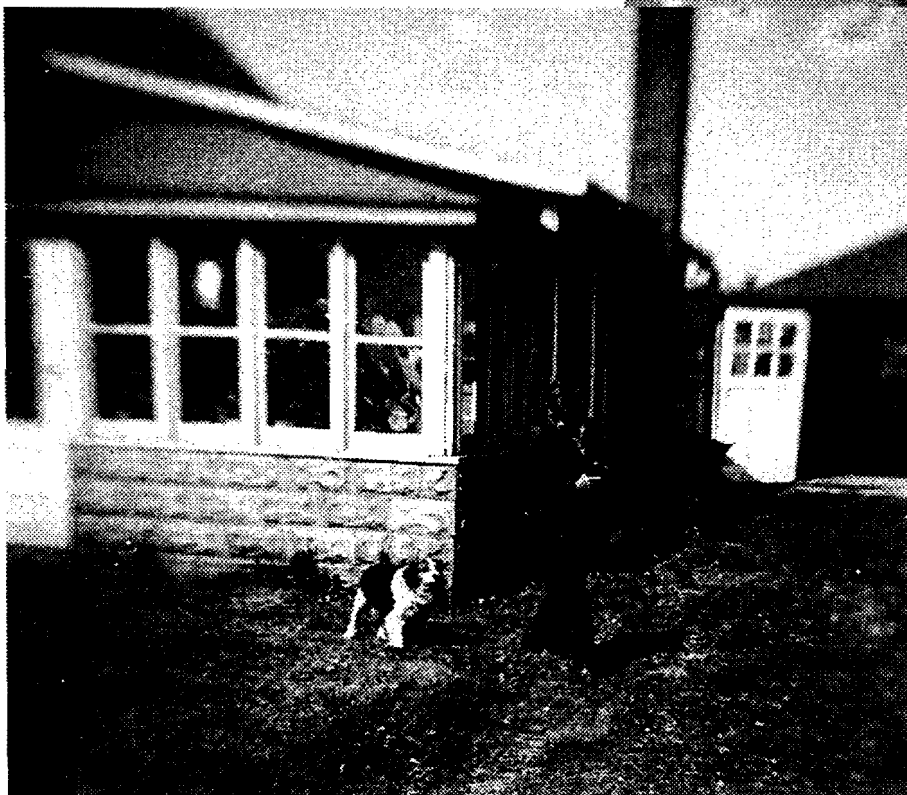
*Donnie Brown playing on a snow pile in front of their old garage—about 1950*

## ***Growing Up in Monmouth . . . . .***

*Is this a scene from Monmouth, or from the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville, Tenn.?*

*The lady in the middle is Velma (Kelly) Stevens, and the one on the far right is Mary Mahan. The other lady is unidentified.*

*This is the porch (now enclosed) of the home that Mary Mahan's grandfather, Samuel Magley, build about 1907, now the home of Rodney & Nola Rains and their son, John.*



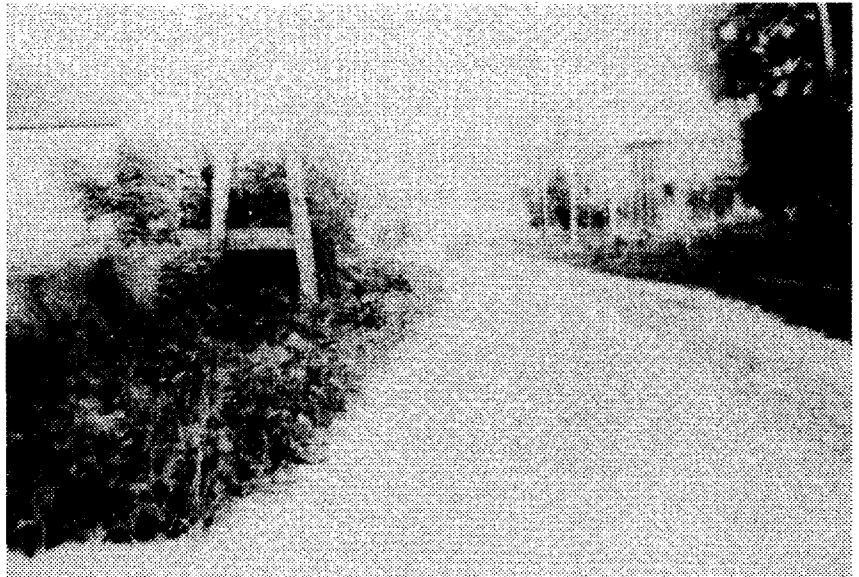
*One of the Huston boys—probably Albert—and his dog—mid-1940's.*

## Growing Up in Monmouth . . . .



*One of the favorite activities among the kids growing up in Monmouth during the 1950's was gathering in someone's yard on a crisp Fall evening to tell "ghost" stories.*

*There were a number of stories such as the old lady who walks at night near the cemetery, followed by a number of cats. And there's the man on the high-wheeled bicycle near "Johnson's Bridge"- you see him as you approach the bridge, but when you look back he's gone! But by far the most popular story, and one that is at least partially true, was the story of "Hanni's Chains".*



*Enjoying a snowy winter day in Monmouth, Sharon Harkless pulls Linda Owens on their sled. Sharon is the daughter of Richard & Jessie Doris (Wilder) Harkless, now married to Rick Seymour & living in Sausalito, California. Linda still lives in Monmouth. She is the daughter of Harold & Erma (Gage) Owens and is married to Mike Drake. The Harkless family lived in the house on the hill south of the bridge at Monmouth (now the home of Chad Hackman & his family).*

*The story tells of a Jewish peddler named Hanni who had visited the homes in Monmouth, offering his wares for sale. Supposedly he carried a large sum of money. Toward evening he stopped at the brick house shown in the picture above. He was never seen again.*

*A couple nights after the peddler's disappearance, Catherine (Dutcher) Grandstaff, who lived across the road from the brick house, looked out of the south-facing upstairs window after being attracted by the sight of lanterns bobbing along in the field by the creek. She told that there were people carrying a body to its long-lost grave along Seventeen Mile Creek.*

*The people who had lived in the brick house at that time moved to Kansas after a few years. Many years later, some Monmouth area residents who were related to this family, were visiting as the old lady was on her deathbed. She confessed to the murder of the peddler just before she died.*



**MAY 8, 1945**

*The Decatur Daily Democrat front-page headline screamed the message:*

## **‘GERMANY QUITs**

*Hostilities Formally Cease At 5:01 P.M. In Desolated Europe”*

*An excerpt from the article reads: “Paris, May 8—(UP) - The bloodiest war in European history will come to its official end at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow, European time, (5:01 p.m. CWT) today, with the formal end of hostilities on a continent desolated by more than five years of conflict. The agreement formalizing the unconditional surrender will be ratified in Berlin today, with Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, chief of the German high command, officially acknowledging that Germany is beaten.”*

*Celebrations were held through the nation, and in Monmouth as well. Below is a picture showing the Owens family rejoicing over the end of the war in Europe. L to R: Carolyn, holding her cat; Erma; Harold; Frank Rawley; and Mary Ann, holding the newspaper.*

*In the newspaper you can see, to the left of the large picture, a smaller picture. It is a picture of Pfc. Fred Kunkel. That article brought welcome news to everyone who knew the Kunkel family. It reads, in full: “A cablegram from PFC. Fred Kunkel, 21 year old son of Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Kunkel of route one (Monmouth), missing in action in France since January 18, brought the glad tiding this morning: “Well and Safe. Fred.” V-E day turned out to be the happiest day in the lives of the Kunkels. Pfc. Kunkel, presumably a prisoner of war since last January, was in all probability liberated by the American armies that took over Germany this week. His cablegram did not give any details, date or locations. He was with the 12th armored division of the Seventh army. A brother, Lt. (jg) David M. Kunkel, is serving with the navy on the Hawaiian islands.”*



# MYSTERY FINALLY SOLVED!

Countless times through the years, people have asked why a particular grave in the Monmouth Cemetery has an ornate iron fence surrounding it. Stories have been told that the lady who is buried there was a wealthy widow woman. Others say that she was someone famous. Kids like to tell that she was a witch and the fence was put there to keep her in her grave.

The truth, while rather amusing, isn't nearly as exciting as the stories. Lawrence A. Baker, 86 years old and a great-great grandson of the lady buried inside the iron fence, told the true story as follows: "When great-great grandma Sabrina was dying, she told her family, 'I want you to put a fence around my grave so the cows can't stomp all over me!'" Now, you might ask, "Why would cows be in a cemetery, stomping on graves?" Well, in 1887, when Sabrina died, many residents of Monmouth owned a family milk cow. These animals would often be staked out in vacant lots, small fields, or the cemetery. The cemetery was free pasture and the cows helped keep the weeds and grass mowed down. The downside of this was that the animals often knocked over the tombstones!

We hope that Sabrina Benson Lord McChan has slept well in her grave these past 117 years, knowing that no cows ever stomped around on her grave!



We dedicate this little book to all future generations. It is our hope that they'll have as many good memories of their home towns & villages as we have of Monmouth! Below – top row L to R: Mary Ann Bleakney & Joseph Bleakney (children of Tom & Shannon (Drake) Bleakney – grandchildren of Mike & Linda (Owens) Drake & great niece & nephew of Donna Owens. Bottom row L to R: Lauren Bard & Caitlynn Bard – children of Seth & Esther (Rains) Bard – grandchildren of Rodney & Nola (Schieferstein) Rains. (Pictures were taken in 2004.)

.....Linda Drake, Donna Owens & Nola Rains



**Mary Ann  
baking  
cookies!**



**Joey helps  
Grandma  
husk sweet  
corn!**



**Lauren  
meets a new  
litter of  
kittens.**



**Caitie loves pretending to  
drive Great-Grandpa's old  
Farmall H tractor**