

The Newcomer

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Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

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by David Truby and Beth Bassett

End of an Era

What became known as the Progressive Era lasted from about 1890 to the outbreak of World War I in America. In response to the excesses of 19th-century capitalism and political corruption, a reform movement arose called "progressivism." The goals of the Progressives were greater democracy and social justice, honest government, more effective regulation of business and a revived commitment to public service. In general, they believed that expanding the scope of government would ensure the progress of U.S. society and the welfare of its citizens. The years 1902 to 1908 marked the era of greatest reform activity. Many states enacted laws to improve the conditions under which people lived and worked. Child labor laws were strengthened, and new ones adopted, raising age limits, shortening work hours, restricting night work and requiring school attendance.

After the armistice ending World War I was declared on November 11, 1918, American soldiers returned home and turned their attention to their families and communities, happy to withdraw from European affairs.

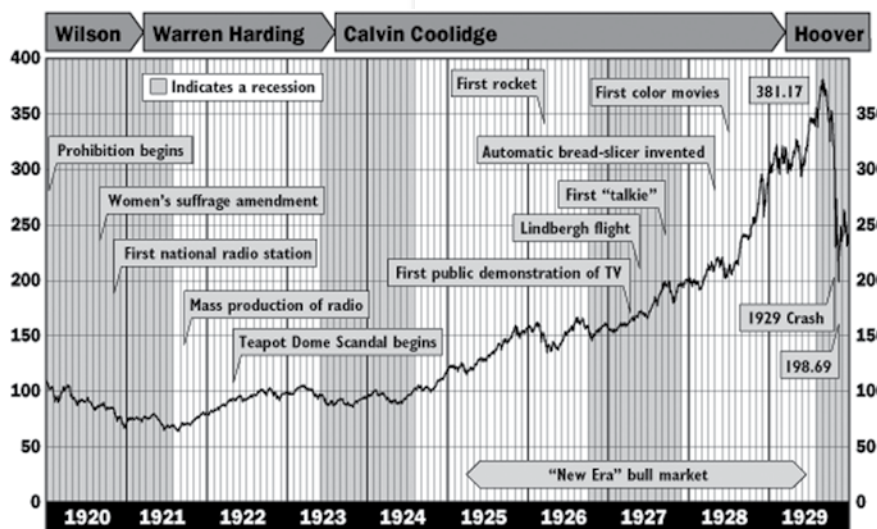
For big business, the 1920s were golden years; but the superficial prosperity masked deep problems - as it was also a period of prohibition and intolerance, gangsters and crime. The changes wrought in the 1920s were far-reaching. The work week dropped from 60 to 48 hours. For the first time, play was considered to be as important as work. It was a wonderful decade for the arts and literature in America. Technology grew and automobiles, radios and movies became hugely popular.

With profits soaring and interest rates low, plenty of money was available for investment. Much of it, however, went into reckless speculation in the stock market. In the fall of 1929, the New York Stock Exchange was more active than ever before. On October 24, 1929, Black Thursday, the stock market crashed, changing the lives of many Americans.

America and the New York Stock Exchange

The economic depression of 1929 shaped the behavior of our parents and grandpar-

ents and continue even today to influence our thinking. Every economic downturn since that time is compared to this great event of 90 years ago. This economic downturn was a global event and not limited to the United States. Causes were multiple but largely blamed upon the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange. Middle class people, during the post war "roaring 20s" found that the prices of company stock would reliably increase year after year, and they could buy shares of companies on margin with only 10% down. An investment of \$1000 would give you a \$10,000 equity in a company. When the value of the stock went down you would be subject to a margin call. A margin call occurs when the account value falls below the required minimum value and the broker demands that an investor deposit additional monies or securities to bring the margin account back up to the minimum maintenance margin. The rush upon the banks, to withdraw money to cover margins, contributed to the closing of half of the banks in the United States in this time period.



This chart gives some perspective of how stock values increased in the years leading up to the collapse along with newsworthy events of the day. Note that Herbert Hoover was President from March 1929 to March 1933 and was generally blamed for the economic collapse that happened to occur during his administration.

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President Hoover did not sit idly by while the economic world collapsed around him, but initiated programs to stimulate the economy. The majority of these programs fed government dollars to financial institutions and state governments. One that had the greatest impact on Newton County would be the creation of the Public Works Administration. It was established to better coordinate Federal public works and expand them on a local basis.

Local Public Works Projects

In November of 1933, Newton County was allotted jobs for 187 men in the county. Agnes Molter, civil works administrator for Newton County presented the details to the County Commissioners who decided to employ the men to work on roads in the county. Jim Redden, county road supervisor agreed to provide the county trucks for use of the workmen. These jobs were only available to persons who had been out of employment and those who were receiving poor fund aid. "Nothing to Fear but Fear Itself" - The New Deal

In March of 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was sworn in as the 32nd President of the United States. His inaugural speech addressed the economic status of America and urged Americans to work with the government to reestablish stability in the nation. By the end of the month 75% of the failed banks had reopened. A series of programs and projects known as "The New Deal" instituted during the Great Depression by Roosevelt, aimed to restore prosperity to America. He acted swiftly to stabilize the economy and to provide relief and jobs to those who were suffering.

The infrastructure of Newton County would see improvements and benefits from this influx of the New Deal. Newton County officials utilized the PWA (Public Works Administration), CCC (Civilian Conservation Corp), the CWA (Civilian Works Administration), the WPA (Works Progress Administration), the REA (Rural Electrification Administration) to employ local men and women and update and improve outdated public works in 1933-1939.

The PWA

Follow the money It all begins with funding. The Public Works Administration (PWA) was the fund provider to be spent on the construction of public works as a means of providing employment, stabilizing purchasing power, improving public welfare, and contributing to a revival of American industry. Simply put, it was designed to spend "big bucks on big projects."

The CWA

The Civil Works Administration (CWA)

was a short-lived job creation program established by the New Deal during the Great Depression in the United States to rapidly create manual-labor jobs for millions of unemployed workers. The jobs were merely temporary, for the duration of the hard winter of 1933-34 a period of approximately five months.

Across the nation, in this short period of time CWA workers laid 12 million feet of sewer pipe and built or improved 255,000 miles of roads, 40,000 schools, 3,700 playgrounds, and nearly 1,000 airports. Listed below are the works accomplishments within Newton County.

February 28, 1934 Brook Reporter

Summary of CWA Projects in Newton County Schools

Foresman	The interior of the building has been renovated and repainted.
Brook	Fire escape has been removed to a more advantageous position; boys' toilet room has been installed on the second floor of the building; interior of building has been cleaned and redecorated.
Lake Village	Schoolground has been filled, rolled and put in first class condition; a quarter-mile cinder track and a baseball diamond have been provided for outdoor sports; the interior of the school building has been repaired, cleaned and repainted; the basement has been remodeled completely so as to provide hot lunch facilities for pupils.
Enos	A double garage and storage building project have been submitted for the approval of the authorities in charge. An old building is to be torn down and used in the new structure.
Kentland	The interior of the high school building which had never been painted, has been cleaned and painted throughout; all radiators in the building have been sprayed with an aluminum composition; the stage has been remodeled and new scenery provided; a door has been cut through the wall at the rear of the stage to provide more room for pupils taking parts in class plays; the grade building has been renovated and repaired; new dressing rooms and shower facilities have been provided at the coliseum; the balcony of same has been remodeled providing not only greater seating capacity for groups but better vision for spectators; the interior has also been cleaned and painted.
Morocco	The school ground has been leveled, improved and will later be beautified; a cinder track is to circle the grounds, the football field to occupy the center; the playground equipment used by the grade children has been removed to the grounds west of the buildings; the basement of the grade building is being completely remodeled. It is being fitted up with a kitchen and cafeteria, with separate rooms for the high school and grade students. Located here also will be the manual arts room the equipment for which will be moved from its present location in the high school building. The central heating plant between the grade and high school buildings has made the old furnace room in the grade building useless, so the old hot air furnaces are being removed to make the space practical for the foregoing ages. Alterations have been made in the old assembly room which will be converted into a study room for the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades. The latter two grades will be moved over from the high school building to relieve the congestion in the high school assembly and class rooms. In the high school building a door will be cut through the wall at the rear of the stage of the auditorium to make the present music room available as a dressing room for school entertainments. The science laboratory will be enlarged by removing a partition and including in it a part of another recreation room. The removal of the arts department to the grade school building will provide ample space for the music and art classes which have been greatly hampered by assignment to a room much too small for such activities.

Although the CWA provided much employment, there were critics who said there was nothing of permanent value. Roosevelt told his cabinet that this criticism moved him to end the program and replace it with the WPA which would have long-term value for the society, in addition to short-term benefits for the unemployed.

The CCC

The Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) was created on March 31, 1933 by the Emergency Conservation Work Act put into action by President Roosevelt with Executive Order No. 6101 on April 5, 1933.

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President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Hopefully winter is history, and spring is just around the corner.

The Society slows down and takes a break after the Christmas Open House. Members are taking long awaited vacations and the weather isn't always good for traveling to meetings. But now it is time to get in to the swing of things again.

Watch for a new window display soon, plans are ramping up for the 100th Pun'kin Vine Fair, as well as the annual picnic meeting in June. Are any of these things you might be interesting in helping with?

Are you preserving your family history? Do you take lots of photographs on your phone but never print them? How many of those precious photos would be gone if you lost your phone? If you get the pictures printed, do you date them, record who is in them? Here is why I ask ... we have people come into the Resource Center and ask if we can help them put names on family pictures! Are you telling your children and grandchildren stories from your past ... remember when you didn't want to listen to Grandma all those years ago, and now wish you had?

History is a precious thing, your family history is as important as the town, the state you live in. Those histories will be saved in newspapers, books, films.... You are the keeper of your family history - pass it along!

We have lost members over the years from our group, but we recently lost a "pioneer," Sue Humphrey. I would like to share my thoughts in this space.

A True Friend of the Historical Society

Over the years, I have come and gone and come back to the Society. But Sue Humphrey didn't step away, she was there at the beginning-locating a home for our Society, which gave us access for storage at the well house at Hazelden, then the LeBeau Building, finally public access to our collections, and finally our permanent home at the corner of 4th Street and US 24 in Kentland. With her help, the society took huge strides to become what it is today.

Would we be where we are now without her? Maybe, maybe not. Would someone else have stepped up and pushed us forward? We will never know, but we will always be thankful for her devotion to preserving Newton County history ... as a charter member, an officer, a working member - sometimes behind the scene just getting things done.

We were blessed to have Sue as a mem-



L-R, Sue, Ron and David Humphrey were honored by the society in 2012 when they relocated their home to Lafayette.

ber and as a friend of the society.

Historical society member Sue Humphrey was a leader, instigator, organizer and friend of the society and its members. We lost Sue to cancer in January this year and she will be forever missed by all of us.

In 1991, Sue, along with Kyle Conrad and Janet Miller thought our county needed a historical society. In June of that year a group of ten persons got together and formed the current Newton County Historical Society. We began with 18 charter members. We met monthly at the home of George Ade, Hazelden near Brook. Soon after the organization began, we were offered a set of old copies of the *Newton County Enterprise*. We found there to be 120 bound books of newspapers which posed the question, "What are we going to do with these books to be able to preserve them for generations to come?"

With Sue's help we were able to secure the "well house" behind Hazelden. This building had not been used for many years, so after a thorough cleaning the newspapers were stored there.

Again, to further our ideas for an active society, it was decided we needed a "home" for our newspapers and other memorabilia so they might be available to the public. Once more, Sue came through for us, and we rented a store front in downtown Kentland. It was conveniently located on the courthouse square known as the former home of LeBeau's Jewelry.

This became our "home" and with it many county acquisitions were made. People were very generous to us in their giving of county memorabilia. We soon had a building full of county artifacts.

Family history and county history were our goals. Our front window was decorated each season in a historical theme. As membership and artifacts were gained, we needed a new "home" where we could meet and display our contributions. Taking the lead was Sue, working with the County Commis-

sioners to find us a new home at the corner of Seymour and 4th Streets. This is a beautiful, larger modern facility that answered our needs. We moved into this building in November 2006.

Sue's insight to what was needed was instrumental in the preparations of the building, including tinted windows so our display items would not fade; storage racks for memorabilia; and bookshelves to house our newspaper collection. These attributes created easy access for displaying our treasures and opening our archives for research. These were just a part of her contributions to our society.

Sue was a two-term president of our society, a decorator, in charge of many social events, and instrumental in the redecoration of our arts and crafts style home, the Scott-Lucas House in Morocco. Her many talents will be visible and treasured by the society for generations to come.

Our society has 183 members, meets monthly, and cherishes our "permanent home", the Newton County Historical Resource Center, 310 E. Seymour Street, Kentland, Indiana. Her husband and member Ron Humphrey coined a phrase in 2006 which we still use today, "We have come a long way from the well house!"

Oops!



A correction is in order from the Fall 2018 *Newcomer*. We stated that Bob Stone was in a photograph for donating a leather satchel owned by J. C. Murphy to our society. In fact, the satchel belonged to Bill Ackors of Morocco, who was holding the satchel in the photograph. Our apologies to Bill, and we much appreciate the donation!

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The CCC was a public work relief program designed to put jobless unmarried young men, ages 18–28, to work on public land projects, including the prevention of forest fires; plant pest and disease control; construction, maintenance and repair of paths, trails and fire-lanes in the national parks and national forests. In what is described by Dr. Robert Leighninger, Jr., as the “largest peacetime mobilization in U.S. history,” 275,000 young men between the ages of 18 and 25 enrolled in the CCC during the first three months of the program. Many of these men had been roaming the country in a desperate search for jobs. The enrollees were supervised by Army Reserve Officers, often themselves unemployed.

The CCC ‘boys’, as they were called, received training, education, shelter, health-care, food, and a monthly pay of \$30–\$25 of which was required to be sent home to support their families. More than 3,000,000 men were enrolled between 1933–1942. This enrollment included jobless World War I veterans and the employment of Indians on reservation land.

The National Park Service describes, in part, the achievements of the CCC: “Nationwide, the CCC operated 4,500 camps in national parks and forests, as well as state and community parks, planting three billion trees, protecting 20 million acres from soil erosion, and aiding in the establishment of 800 state parks. The CCC advanced natural resource conservation in this country by decades.”

The number of camps in Indiana ranged from 41 in 1937 to only 28 in 1939 as the depression wound down. Newton County never hosted a CCC camp even though work was done here by the corp. The nearest camp to Newton County was located one-mile North of Monon in White County. It was located at 900 N and U.S. 421 and was designated as camp 1582. The first boys arrived on site on July 29, 1933 from the Medaryville camp and lived in tents until they could construct the buildings for a permanent camp.

Information was not available to the number of Newton County men employed by the CCC or a list of their projects, but an article that appeared in the local papers did reveal work that was done by the CCC in Washington Township.

Enterprise Feb. 9, 1939

“On Monday commissioners of Newton County awarded the contract or lease of dragline for the construction, reconstruction and rehabilitation of the Thompson ditch and its laterals in Washington Township to D. B. Bayles of Paxton, Illinois.

“The reconstruction of this ditch is being carried out with the aid and in coopera-



Washington Twp., 2010, arrows indicate location of Thompson Ditch.

tion with the Civilian Conservation Corps drainage camp, under the supervision of the U.S. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering, (USBAE) who will furnish the operator, oiler, grease, fuel, oil and dynamite necessary for the operation of the dragline for one shift of 44 hours per week. The CCC boys from the camp will also level all banks, remove and replace all fences, repair, rebuild or build new bridges or fords for the landowners in the event that the landowners will furnish the materials. They will also repair all tile outlets along the ditch. In the event that there is a public tile within the drainage area the CCC boys will also repair, rebuild and replace the public tile if the landowners affected will furnish the materials.

“The cooperation of the CCC camp provides for a considerable savings to the landowners affected by the drain, it is said, and also makes it possible for the drainage area to have fine drainage and a neat workmanlike ditch at a low cost.

“Bayles, the man from who the dragline was leased, was not the low bidder by the sum of fourteen thousands of one cent per cubic yard. However, the USBAE would not accept the lower bidder due to the fact that his machine was operated by a gasoline engine and was twelve years old. The gasoline engine will use about eight gallons of gasoline per hour at a cost of about fourteen cents per gallon, it is estimated. The machine to be furnished by Bayles is a 2.25-yard Northwest dragline, powered by a diesel motor. This motor will use on an average of three and one-half gallons of diesel fuel per hour at an estimated cost of about seven and one-half cents per gallon. Therefore, the bureau ruled that the bid of Bales, while slightly higher per cubic yard than the lowest bidder, was in reality the

lowest and best bid.

“It is proposed that the drainage area shall supply a second shift for the operation of this dragline, therefore making it possible to complete the project in five months, barring unforeseen difficulties. Work is to begin not later than May 1.”

The WPA

By 1939 the WPA was known as the Work Projects Administration. This organization was utilized to employ unskilled men to carry our public works projects, which included the construction of public buildings and roads. Another division utilized the talents of individuals in large arts, drama, media and literacy projects. I was told that the WPA put together the books in the courthouse of the birth and deaths of the county. In the Spring 2015 edition of the *Newcomer* an article is written about the WPA working throughout the county to rebuild privies. Newton County officials used the program in conjunction with the Public Works Administration to assist in the remodeling of schools and construction of gymnasiums at Brook (1935), Morocco and Mt. Ayr (1936), and Lake Village (1937–38).

Kentland WPA Projects

One hundred men were allotted to the town of Kentland in February of 1939 for public improvements. Projects included working on Iroquois Drive, with a new copper feeder line placed down the center of the street, followed by curbing and resurfacing. Better drainage of the tile on Second Street running from Graham into a new drain on Carroll drive that will be removed and cleaned. In addition, sidewalks in Kentland demanded rebuilding and the town encouraged citizens to take advantage of the work force and improve their residential sidewalks at this time. The projects were completed by the end of summer that year, and the islands of grass down the center of Iroquois Drive remain in place today.

Street Project Is Progressing

Enterprise, April 1939

“Kentland’s new WPA projects are progressing nicely at the present time, and when completed the improvement will be one of the finest in Kentland’s history – permanent streets.

“The new sewer extending from the alley between Dunlap and Graham streets, emptying into the newly-completed sewer on



The center berm of Iroquois Drive in Kentland was created by the WPA in 1939.



Morocco's water tower was erected with the help of PWA and WPA programs in 1938. This photo taken in 1951 shows a different tower than the one that stands today.

Carroll Street was completed recently, giving drainage relief to the residents in that section who have been bothered with water in their basements. The project was completed by WPA labor and done in record time.

"Iroquois Drive is now completely torn up, and in process of rejuvenation. When completed this street will be the beauty spot of Kentland. A large force of WPA labor has been busy on this street for the past several weeks. Each of the three blocks on this street will have an island of grass the full length of the block, and a drive on either side. Curbing for the island and street proper has been completed on the west block between Second and Third streets, and drives are ready for rock and blacktop, which will be added in the near future."

Morocco WPA Projects

In April of 1938, Morocco took advantage of a grant from the Public Works Administration of \$21,272 for the construction of additional facilities to the waterworks at Morocco that was estimated to cost \$46,906. From a July 1938 *Morocco Courier* article, we read:

"The project provided for the construction of a new waterworks building fully equipped with the most modern type pumps and apparatus for softening and chlorinating water and removing iron. Provision also is made for a new reservoir, and elevated storage tank and alterations to the present waterworks building.

"The new building will be 52' long x 27' wide. It will be constructed over the new reinforced concrete reservoir. In addition to new high lift pumps in the waterworks building, new turbine pumps, enclosed in concrete wellhouses, will be installed in existing wells. The elevated storage tank will have a capacity of 75,000 gallons and will be connected to the city's distributing system. Comparatively minor alterations will be made to the present waterworks building so that it can be used for

salt storage when the new building is put into service."

By April 1939 the project was complete. Water flowed through the new 125' water tank into the main lines. Everything but the painting and a few minor details were complete. The water tower remains in place today.

The REA

Obviously the most successful and best received of all the programs of FDR's New Deal was the REA. It provided federal loans for the installation of electrical distribution systems to serve isolated rural areas of the United States. The funding was channeled through cooperative electric power companies, locally known as Newton County R.E.M.C.

Organization of the Newton County REMC originated with a meeting of local farmers in the County Agricultural Agents office August 17, 1938. This meeting was called to order by County Agent J. D. Thompson, and he opened the discussion on the possibility of a REMC unit and for the election of a permanent chairman for the organization work.

Mr. Chris Barten who at that time was chairman of the Newton County Farm Bureau, was selected as chairman of the Newton County REMC organization. Mr. Barten served as chairman of this organization until his death. The directors consisting of Delmar Brunton, Jackson Township; Lawson Brunton and Vivian Kessler, Beaver Township; Floyd Weishaar, Iroquois Township; Curtis Kindig and William Unger, Jefferson Township; and Lawrence Shepherd, Grant Township. A schedule was set up for township meetings between August 22 and August 30, 1938. The first countryside meeting for popular interest in membership was held in Brook, August 19, 1938.

When construction of the lines in Newton County began in 1940, the methods of construction had greatly improved since the inception of the REA. It was possible in 1940 to construct almost twice as many miles per day as formerly; thus, affecting a big savings in construction costs. The average cost of the first 40 miles of line staked on the project figured at \$515.00 per mile. The cost was almost half that of the first Indiana project. Also, at that time, a new machine had been invented to string line directly from a truck to the poles. With the use of this new technique, it was hoped that the entire Newton County project would be complete in 60 working days. This was reported in the February 15, 1940 *Enterprise*. Albert Bower's farm was electrified on July 17, 1940, so the prediction was very close.

You can be read more history of Newton County R.E.M.C. in the Fall 2012 edition of the *Newcomer*.

Do You Know?

By Janet Miller,

Answers on page 9

1. On Sept. 14, 1916, 10,000 people were in Kentland for a day-long celebration of an event. What was the occasion they were celebrating?
2. In 1953, at a state-wide competitive meeting at Indiana University the Morocco High School History Club won the trophy for having the most active chapter of the year. Who was the teacher sponsor of this club? Who was the club president?
3. When and where were the first editions of the Newton County Fair held?
4. What town in Newton County is known as "Home of Hoosier Hospitality"?
5. The *Enterprise* which traces its roots back to 1865 rightfully claims the title of "Newton County's Oldest Newspaper". What was the name of the first paper to be published in the county?

SAVE THE DATE

May 25th- 11 am

Scott Lucas Home

514 S. Main St. Morocco
Newton County will be unveiling
and dedicating it's first approved

Indiana State Historical Marker Edgar Charles "Sam" Rice

The program will feature a series of guest speakers including Jeff Carroll, Sam Rice Biographer and Casey Pfeiffer, Director of the Indiana Historical Marker Program along with official statements issued from the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown. There will be a display of pictures and artifacts depicting Rice's Hall of Fame career in baseball

Other Marker Dedications

June 8th - Time TBA

W.T. McCray, Kentland

September 7 (Tentative)

Taft Visit, Hazelden, Brook

These are the first Indiana State Historical Markers to be placed in Newton County. They were funded by the Town of Kentland, the Town of Morocco, Newton County Economic Development, the Iroquois-Washington Preservation Committee and the Newton County Historical Society.

Neighbors in Profile: Maude Manchester

By Donna LaCosse

Originally published, August 16, 1979, Morocco Courier

Did you ever wonder how a station attendant pumped gas into a car during the days before electricity? Or wonder how they could see what they were doing when it was dark outside?

There's a little ole lady in our town who can tell you about the good old days. Maude Manchester can remember using a hand pump to fill a car with gas and being paid twenty-five cents a gallon for the gas she sold. Included in the cost of the gas, was a free wind-shield wash and an oil check. The tires were always checked to see if they needed air, and if they did, a hand pump was used for that task.

"Changing oil in the winter time was a lot of fun," said Maude, "the station wasn't heated, and it took forever to put a cold can of oil in a car. I have never seen anything run so slow in my life.

When it got dark outside, an Aladdin lamp, fueled with kerosene was hung in the window with a wooden box placed behind the lamp so the light would travel toward the thirsty vehicle by the gas pump.

Sound like fun? Well, you ain't heard nothing yet. There was no indoor plumbing so the people who needed to use the station restrooms were shown to the little house out back. City people didn't take kindly to that idea.

"I remember one man," said Maude, "who stopped in a great big chauffeur driven car and asked me where he might find the rest room. I pointed in the direction of the little house and he threw a complete fit. Stomped his feet like a little kid and said he would stop at the next station. I almost laughed in his face because I knew he would have to ride all the way to Kentland before he found an indoor bathroom and I thought he deserved to wet his pants, if he was too good to use my outhouse."

And there was the time, on August 12, 1954, when a young man came in and asked for shells for his gun. Maude had to stoop down to get the shells from under the counter and as she stooped, something hit on the head. She thought an object had fallen off the counter, so she continued her search for the right shells. After she felt the second blow, she stood up and discovered she had been hit over the head by a would-be thief. When she called to her husband, the young man jumped in his car and headed north. Even though she had been injured, she still managed to get the license plate number and her husband called the sheriff. The car, which had been stolen, was found abandoned a short time later and the 18-year-old

was apprehended while hitchhiking on the highway. And, thanks to Kenny E. Wesley of Hammond, it took eight stitches to close the hole in the top of Maude's head.

Maude Graves, daughter of Cora and Ben Graves was born on January 1, 1897 in Morocco. She graduated from Morocco High School in 1915 and from South Bend Business College in 1919.

She was working as a secretary for the Oliver Chilled Plow Works in South Bend when she met her future husband, Jack Manchester.

Jack's brother worked with Maude and one day he told Maude he had a brother just home from the Army and he would like for her to meet him. She thought that sounded like a good idea and was thrilled at the idea of having a blind date. Jack called her that evening, asked for a date and she accepted. Naturally the brother had to come along and properly introduce them. Then he decided to go along on the date. "And," said Maude, "he was with us when we got married and he even went with us on our honeymoon." Now, that's what you call togetherness!

Jack was working for the American Express Company at the time they were married on November 8, 1919. The following year, they decided to move to the farm north of Morocco when Maude's parents moved to town. Her parents didn't like town life so in 1923, they moved back to the farm and the Manchester's moved back to South Bend.

They bought a house and Jack went to work as a rural paper deliverer for the *South Bend Tribune* after which he worked at the Little Dutch Cleaners.

In 1933, they bought an acre of ground north of Morocco where the old Cox school house was once located and moved back to Morocco. At that time US 41 was a gravel road. They added onto the shell of a house already located on their newly purchased property and made plans to open a service station.

Following the installation of a gas pump by Cities Service, the Manchester's were in business. Jack also drove a school bus and was a substitute mail carrier while Maude operated the gas station.

Later, they changed to Standard Oil because it was a more popular brand of gasoline at that time and they thought they might get more business.

When Murphey Lake was converted to Willow Slough and became a haven for fishermen and a hunter home away from home, the Manchester's added a Sporting Goods section to their service station and sold fish



Jack and Maude (Graves) Manchester in the kitchen of their gas station located north of Morocco on Hwy 41.

worms, fishing gear, Johnson boat motors and hunting equipment. They also raised pheasants and quail in their back yard for the Conservation Department. During the growing season, Jack and a neighbor, Jess Downs, grew melons and opened a fresh fruit stand.

"We had a one-stop shopping center," said Maude, "and we were sure kept busy."

Electricity was installed along the highway in 1935 and the Manchester's home became very modern. One light bulb in the center of the ceiling of each room was an added convenience for the family, however they only used the electric lights when they had guests. The one thing they really did use and enjoy, was an electric water pump.

Jack became the Newton County Sheriff in 1944 and the Manchester family moved to Kentland. Jack and his deputy, Gilbert Stucker, policed the entire county because all the young men were in the service. Maude cooked for the prisoners, and did not get a salary, but was paid thirty-five cents for each meal she served.

During the two terms Jack served as sheriff, the Manchester's shared a lot of experiences. There were prisoners who tried to hang themselves, those who set fire to their beds and those who tried to talk themselves out of being placed in jail.

"I think the one thing I will never forget," said Maude, "is the little ten-year-old black boy who really did escape from his cell. This little guy was seen riding his bicycle all over town and since everyone else in town was white, we knew he didn't belong to anyone in Kentland." For his own protection, Jack brought the boy to the jail. He told them he lived in Indianapolis and had run away from home. He was placed in the juvenile room so he would be safe until his parents

could come for him. During the night, he crawled through an opening in the door that was just large enough for a tray with a tin cup on it to slide through.

"When we asked him why he crawled through that hole," said Maude, "he said he wanted out because he was afraid someone would steal his bicycle. What made it so funny, is that he had stolen the bicycle before he left Indianapolis."

In 1948, Jack moved his family back to Morocco and they continued with their service station, sporting goods and fruit stand business.

At this time, Jack thought the children in the community should be introduced to the sport of fishing and he began to hold daily and weekly contests. The children brought their fish to Jack who kept a record of the weight and length of the fish caught. At the end of the week, the child who had caught the biggest fish, received a prize.

One very cold day when the roads were covered with ice, Maude looked out the station window just in time to see a Conrad Bakery truck flip over on its side. She started down the road to see if the driver was hurt only to discover he was walking toward her. She wanted to phone for help, but he wanted to do it himself, so she held him up to the phone while he called his boss in Kankakee. After the call had been completed, she laid him on the couch and gave him artificial respiration. "I don't know how that man ever managed to walk to the station," said Maude, "after he was taken to the hospital, I found out he had suffered a concussion and had a broken leg."

With a scar on her head as a constant reminder of what could happen, Maude developed the habit of checking on Jack's safety whenever he was waiting on a customer. She would stand just inside the bedroom and peek around the door to see what was going on in the other room.

One very early morning, a hunter came in for some high-powered shells and decided to load his gun inside the store. Just as Jack suggested he do that outside, the gun went off, causing a lot of damage to the walls of the store. "The worse damage was done in the very spot I would have been standing if I hadn't been too lazy to get out of bed that morning," said Maude, "the whole place was in shambles and I had to clean the mess up."

When construction began on the divided highway in 1961, the Manchester's were forced to sell their business and the building was torn down. They moved into Morocco and Jack retired. He passed away on June 8, 1976.

Maude and Jack were the parents of two children. Dean was born on October 2, 1920 and Dolores joined the family on December 30, 1921.

Maude is a member of the Morocco American Legion Auxiliary; the World War I

Barracks Auxiliary; the Mizph Sunday School Class; the Happy Bunco Club and the Fleur-de-lis Club.

She was the county assessor for several years and has served on the election board since 1933.

Maude died January 20, 2001 at the age of 104. She had been a resident of the Rensselaer Care Center in Rensselaer, Indiana for several years before her death. At the time Maude died, she had four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Newton County and their Gangster Encounters

By Beth Bassett

Newton County has had encounters with outlaws, horse thieves and gangsters over the years. Horse thieves and counterfeiters conducted business from Bogus Island (1830s); Dillinger's gang abandoned their get-away car in Goodland (1930s); Dillinger escaped from the Crown Point jail while under the supervision of Newton County native Lillian Holley (1934); the Brady Gang robbed the Goodland State Bank (1937); and Chicago mobsters buried their dead in the fields of McClellan Township, (1980s). We have republished all of the histories of these encounters in the *Newcomer* except the burials in McClellan Township, which may be covered in future editions - but much to my surprise I came across another encounter, this time regarding the Capone family.

Front and center of page one of the June 18, 1931 edition of the *Morocco Courier* I read: "Ralph W. Capone Married Last Night; Visits Here With Bride." What? And it continues - Gangsters Foiled In Attempt To "Get" Capone Tuesday Night In Prelude to Quiet Honeymoon Planned. Courier Editor Gets Interview.

"Ralph W. Capone, with his bride of last evening, was registered at Deardurff's tourist camp today. Mr. and Mrs. Capone are on their honeymoon trip, which they planned to spend quietly. They were married last evening at the M. E. parsonage at West Point by the Rev. R. W. Fish.

"The editor chatted with Mr. Capone today, who does not deny that he is the Ralph Capone, brother of Al Capone, neither does he affirm it. He is a straight talker and treated the writer in a courteous, gentlemanly way. His bride is a pretty young lady of 28. She is a daughter of Mrs. Jessie Eddy, of Hannibal, Mo., widow of the late William Theodore Eddy, well known newspaper man, who was formerly editor of the *Quincy Herald* and also the *Hancock County Journal* at Carthage.

"Capone and his bride to be were put "on the spot" at Sycamore after leaving Chicago night before last. Two armed cars attempted to get a line on him, but Capone, unarmed, eluded them after two hours fast driving.

"This is the first interview Mr. Capone and his wife have given since leaving Chicago. They had planned to spend their honeymoon quietly and have for this brief period at least succeeded. The license to wed was issued in Lafayette.

"Capone is 37 years old, and a native of Brooklyn, NY. His parents were born in Milan, Italy. His father is dead and his mother, Mrs. Marie Cecelia Capone, lives in Chicago."

The article gave enough clues for me to search on ancestry for the Eddy family and from those records we know that Ralph's bride's name was Mildred Jeanette Eddy the daughter of William and Jesse Eddy. The marriage dates match the article and it also validated the marriage license was from Tippecanoe County.

It also revealed that a daughter was born to Ralph W. and Mildred in February of 1932 in California. The 1940 census of California lists Mildred as a widow, linotype operator and her daughter Elizabeth 8 years old.

Upon discovery I began searching the web for this same information and much to my surprise, I could not find any reference a Ralph W. Capone but did find that a Ralph J. Capone was named public enemy #3 in 1931, his infamous brother being Al "Scarface" Capone.

Further research on a Ralph W. Capone failed, but I did get a reply from the person attached to his ancestry file. She wrote: "I found a couple of small articles through newspapers.com where there was a case of mistaken identity. Apparently, someone, maybe the county clerk, notified reporters about the marriage. An article was written stating my great aunt married into the Al Capone family, when in fact it was a completely different Ralph Capone, no direct family connection. A small correction was printed but the damage was done. Their marriage ended with one child, Betty. Both Betty and her mother changed their surnames back to Eddy. I haven't been able to find anything further about Ralph, where he lived, worked, or died."

Perhaps more information will surface one day, but for now, we will write about the Newton County encounter that was made at Deardurff's Tourist Camp with a Ralph Capone. When I inquired about the location of the tourist camp. It was located at the Jct. of U.S. 41 and 50S, north of Morocco. This location evolved into the Manchester's Sport Shop - see related article on this page.

Salt: Barb Dodge

by Jeff Manes - Originally published January 2011

"If you come down to the river, bet you gonna find some people who live. You don't have to worry if you got no money, people on the river are happy to give." John Fogerty

Barb Dodge, 76, is one of the best birders I know. And you can bet your sweet-singin' dickcissel (*Spiza Americana*), I know more than a few bird watchers.

On my way to Dodge's home, I turned left at the only stop sign in Sumava Resorts and soon drove by the spot where I learned to swim, Sumava Beach. Barb lives three houses upstream from the beach about 25 feet from the Kankakee River.

Looking out her back window is like looking into an aviary. While we chatted, slate-colored juncos, white-breasted nuthatches, tufted titmice, pin siskins, hairy woodpeckers, chickadees, goldfinches, blue jays and cardinals dined on suet, thistle and sunflower seeds a few feet from us.

Dodge's family moved from Chicago to Cedar Lake when she was 14. She has lived in Sumava since 2004. Her son, Devin, lives upstairs and she lives downstairs in a house that a lawyer from Chicago had built in 1934 when Sumava was but 7 years old. The living room walls and ceiling are beautifully designed and made of knotty pine. The place is heated by several wood burners.

Barb I've always thought Sumava as a microcosm of Cedar Lake.

"Oh yes; they're so much alike," she began. "I love Sumava's history; it's very similar to Cedar Lake history."

Did a realtor help you find this house?

"I had been looking for a place on the river for several years and was driving through here and stopped to talk to somebody. I was told that this house was for sale but wasn't advertised. So, I pulled in the driveway and immediately saw a pileated woodpecker in a tree on the property.

"The owner came out and affirmed they were selling, then took me inside the house. Between the rustic living room created by a master builder and the pileated woodpecker pounding at that big river birch in the backyard, I was sold."

Love at first sight. Barb, I can't believe the amount of birds you have at the feeders.

"Most of the time, I can easily count 200 birds out there at a time. The only time there isn't birds at the feeders is when the Cooper's hawk pays me a visit."

Do you still see pileated woodpeckers in your backyard?

"Oh yeah. He shows up at the feeder two or three times a day. There's a pair of them. They nest in the woods on the north side of the river."

When did you become interested in birdwatching?

"My mother, aunt and grandmother were casual birders. When we'd go on vacations, mom would make me keep a list of the birds we saw. She told me, "Someday, you're going to appreciate this list, Barb."

"As a teenager, I wasn't that interested. But I kept her Peterson's bird book from 1934 and her bird list in it and just kind of picked it up. After I got married, we lived in a wooded area in Cedar Lake that was full of birds."

Is feeding the birds to this extent expensive?

"I spend more on bird food than I do on my own grocery budget."

Do you own the vacant lot next to you?

"Yes, it's a native wildflower and grass meadow - not an alien out there."

Get any help from the Nature Conservancy?

"Oh yeah, my son used to work for them. The Nature Conservancy was a tremendous help starting us out on that."

Rare birds you've spotted in Northwest Indiana that appear on your lifetime list.

"Varied thrush, saw whet owl, ibis ... The rarest birds I've ever seen on my own were a pair of whooping cranes about seven or eight years ago. Biologists have raised a flock in captivity and trained the whooping cranes to migrate back and forth from Wisconsin to Florida.

"The whooping cranes had to make several stops, of course. Well, lo and behold, one of the stops for whooping cranes No 1 and 2 (the birds were banded) was Howkinson Marsh in Cedar Lake. I just happened to be there. I have a video tape of them flying right over my head.

On January 3 you conducted the annual Christmas Bird Count.

"Yes, I've been overseeing that since '89. We start out at the Grand Kankakee Marsh County Park and cover an area that has a

15-mile radius. We end up at Howkinson Marsh."

The spring and Christmas bird counts are a lot of fun. I can usually spot the birds, but often need someone like you or Christ Salberg to identify them. Those "LBBs" (little brown birds) can be tough.

"I seem to absorb bird identification more by hearing them by seeing; I go a lot by sounds."

Barb, you mentioned your mother's bird book by Peterson. Roger Tory Peterson once said: "I can recognize the calls of practically every bird in North America. There are some in Africa I don't know, though." Let's drift back to Sumava Resorts.

"I like Sumava because it's a town. I'm not totally isolated and yet I don't have neighbors who are sitting right on top of me, either. In Cedar Lake, they put those condos in next to me on the lake front. They just towered over me; it was like we were living in a fish bowl.

"Here, I have my neighbors for security, but I have more privacy, too. Sumava is charming. No one has a mailbox; we all walk to our own little post office."

Barb, the first three years of my life were spent above the post office when it simultaneously served as a Bohemian bakery. My father had to fork out \$30 a month of rent but said the NIPSCO bills were pretty good in the winter living above a bakery. I can still smell the apricot kolaches and fresh-baked bread.

"We also have our Duck Festival every summer at Sumava Beach. Tobes has the best pizza I've ever eaten, and I've eaten a lot pizzas around Chicago. We eat dinner at Lukes Restaurant quite a bit."

I remember that place being packed in the 1960s; frog legs, walleye fillets, fried mushrooms, cole slaw, homemade bread, long-necked bottles of Stroh's Bohemian-style beer Venus Lukes told me the worst flood in Sumava history was when the dike broke on Easter Sunday, 1950.

"I was going to Lowell High School at that time because there was no Hanover Central yet. I remember thinking, "Who in their right mind would ever live in Sumava Resorts and be flooded out all the time? And here I am."

Barb it was that pileated woodpecker that got you to move to Sumava.

Dodge has given me many pointers on birdwatching. She might not be a lifelong Sumavan, but she's fitting in just fine.

Welcome to the 'hood, Barb.



Barb Dodge

Zoro Nature Park Makes Headlines During the Depression

Historical society members are always interested in news about the nudist camp that was located in Lincoln Township. Here are a few articles that appeared in the 1930s regarding this sunny spot in Newton County. Please note the 'tongue in cheek' headlines. You can read a detailed history of the Zoro Nature Camp written by the owner, Alois Knapp, in the "History of Roselawn, Thayer and Shelby."

September 21, 1933 – Morocco Courier
**Nature Nudists Frolic in
Woods in North Newton**

"A nudist colony operating in Northern Newton County was placed in the spotlight by Chicago papers Monday. The camp is called the Zoro Nature Club and has been operating since June 15. Since the members hail from Chicago little attention has been paid to the enterprise by local people.

"According to the stories of daily reporters who visited the camp the members, who pay a fee of \$10 to join, partially disrobe in the loft of a large barn, then skipping into the woods in trunks or pajamas completely disrobe. Swimming, volleyball and walks through the thick woodland are practiced in the nude.

"Attorney and Mrs. Alois S. Knapp of Chicago are owners of the camp. Mrs. Knapp, whose parents, now dead, once occupied the farm, declared that the camp is for healthy minded, healthy bodied people."

January 31, 1934 – Brook Reporter
**Court Fans Deprived
of Mid-Winter Amusement**

"There will be no mid-winter trial of the celebrated case of the State vs. Alois Knapp

in Jasper Circuit Court.

"It's all off," as a Nudist might say, for the time being.

"All because John Dillinger, notorious desperado, was captured in Tucson, Arizona, last week.

"Not that Dillinger was involved in the case concerning whether a nudist shall or shall not be nude in the camp conducted by Alois Knapp, the Chicago attorney, in the prairie country of northern Newton County. Rather an unusual subject to be discussing this sub-zero day, is it not? It is. But because Attorney General Lutz of Indiana will appear with the counsel for the State when the trial does get underway in Jasper circuit court, Attorney General Lutz at present is in Tucson., having accompanied other Indiana peace officers to that state to claim Dillinger as a fugitive from justice in this state. In the absence of Mr. Lutz, it was ordered that the trial be continued. The case was to have come up last Tuesday. It is the outgrowth of an action filed by the state to restrain Mr. Knapp from operating his nudist camp which is termed a nuisance.

"At present last summer's occupants of the camp are practicing the art of nudism in Florida and in some steam-heated Chicago gymnasiums. More comfortable inside where its warm you know." *Reprinted from the Rensselaer Republican.*

July 4, 1934 – Brook Reporter
**Can't Get Anything
on These Nudists, It Seems.**

"Unclad members of the Zoro League, who are children of nature at heart, may gambol o'er the green acres of their Roselawn

camp beneath skies unclouded by threats of criminal prosecution.

"That was the glad cry which Monday escaped the lips of Alois Knapp, Chicago attorney and head of the Zoroists when he received word from Rensselaer that an injunction suit to halt all nudism in and around Roselawn had been dismissed.

"The suit was brought last October at Kentland but was sent to Rensselaer on a change of venue. Scandalized citizens of the Roselawn community instituted the action, but evidently experienced a change of heart during the winter. No effort was made to press the suit when it was called." *Reprinted from the Rensselaer Republican.*

June 13, 1935 – Brook Reporter
Roselawn News

"Zoro nudists received their first real bath of sunshine Sunday. There were probably 25 or 30 out basking in the healthful rays of the sun. Some were playing leap frog and volleyball while others were enjoying a swim in their newly constructed pool."

September 12, 1935 – Brook Reporter
Pilots Must Soar

High Over Roselawn Nudist Camp

"American Airlines pilots have received instructions to stop flying low over a nudist camp just west of Roselawn, Ind., the airline officers disclosed Saturday. The practice of flying low over the area, the office said, was begun on the request of the passengers who frequently flew the Cincinnati-Chicago route, some of whom had begun to carry field glasses. Called to explain, Pilot Joe Westover told the airline president that the passengers "liked to see the nudist scurry behind trees."

Answers to Do You Know?

By Janet Miller - Questions on Page 5

**Newton County
Census Records,
Cemetery Transcriptions,
Marriage and
Death Indexes
The Newcomer copies
and so much more
can all be found
on our website:
www.ingenweb.org/innewton**

1. On Sept. 14, 1916, 10,000 people were in Kentland for a day-long celebration marking the centennial of Indiana's admission to the union. Bands, food tents, fireworks, and the noted orator Chase Osborne were among the featured attractions.
2. In a state-wide competitive meeting at Indiana University in 1953, the Morocco High School History Club won the trophy for having the most active chapter of the year. The teacher-sponsor of the club was Ruth Corbin, long-time teacher at Morocco and a local historian. The president of the club was Laura Lucas, whose home in Morocco, the Scott-Lucas House, belongs to the Newton County Historical Society. What a fun club that must have been!
3. The first editions of the Newton County Fair were held in Brook in 1920 and 1921, after which it was moved to the present site in Washington Township near the former county home. This year the Fair is celebrating its 100th anniversary, so be sure to watch for special announcements of this celebration.
4. The town in Newton County known as "Home of Hoosier Hospitality" is Morocco. The slogan was submitted in a contest held during the Morocco centennial celebration in 1951. The winners submitting the theme were the Pythian Sisters organization and Mrs. Beverly LaCosse Paulik.
5. The *Enterprise* which traces its roots back to 1865 rightfully claims the title of "Newton County's Oldest Newspaper." The first paper published in the county, however, was *Newton Chronotype* which was published at Kentland Sept. 26, 1861, and its name later changed to the *Newton County Union* in keeping with the spirit of the Civil War.

Home is Where Your Story Begins

The Christenson Family of Lake Township By Beth Bassett, photos provided by Dennis Boyd

Patronymics

I discovered the genealogy term Patronymics while researching this family and their Danish surnames. Until about 1850 to 1870 most ordinary people used patronymics instead of surnames. Patronymics are constructed from the Christian name of a person's father, followed by "sen" (= son) or "datter" (= daughter). For example, the first person's father in the Christenson line had a Christian name of Christen, therefore children were either Christensons or Christendatters. Patronymics were legally abolished in 1826 since authorities wanted people to use family surnames instead. Nonetheless, it took several decades before patronymics stopped being used.

For a genealogist this actually identifies sons and daughters in the line, as the Danish Christian (first) name sometimes does not relate to male or female. Throughout time families have passed along the Christian name to their sons and daughters creating quite a challenge for the researcher. Consider a Danish neighborhood where more than one family's father had the same Christian name. Sorting them out could be mind boggling.

The family surname spellings have also evolved into the American translations over time, such as Christensen is now spelled Christenson; Madsen is now Madison; and Larsen is now Larson. Just a little bit more to add to any confusion you may be experiencing.

This family history is compiled from information sent to the society by Dennis Boyd, a member of the fifth generation of Christensons of Lake Township. He credits his cousin Eric Christenson, for much of the information, as he is a descendant of the first Christenson to immigrate to America. The web site Find-A-Grave was helpful in clarifying dates and its access to images. For additional family information please refer to the "History of Newton County, 1985."

Christenson Family Tree

The first branch of this family tree begins with Niels Larsen (1777-1845) and Nettie Nielsdatter (1796-?) who both died in Denmark. Their children who remained in Denmark were Niels Nielsen Christensen (1796-?) and Metta Marie (1821-?) Christensen. It is their son Christen "Chris" Hans Nielsen (1817-1885) and his wife Ane Marie Pedersdatter (Peterson) (1818-1903) Christenson who eventually settled in America. Chris and Marie as they were known in

the Lake Village community, had nine children, three sons and six daughters - all born in Denmark. It was their oldest son, Niels Peter "Nelson" Christenson, who ventured to America first.

"Nelson" left his family behind and in Copenhagen Denmark boarded the ship "Indireckte," and landed in Detroit, Michigan on June 10, 1872. His parents, brothers and sisters followed in 1875, and his sister Christena and her husband Soren Sorensen would join the family in 1876.

Adley Boyd, great-grandson of Chris and Marie, wrote in the "History of Newton County, 1985": "It was just one hundred years and three days after the Declaration of Independence that my grandparents emigrated to the United States.

"Like all emigrants their venture would require a great willingness to face all odds. At that time this country was yet undeveloped. There were not improved roads. Existing roads were dirt and often mud due to poor drainage. Many roads were mere trails and rural transportation was by horse or by foot. Also, their only affordable passage was by a merchant vessel. Their three children would of necessity be left with relatives until some future date. Still they came."

It is from Adley's writings we know that his Sorenson grandmother Martine Christine Christensdatter, her parents, three brothers and four sisters settled in what he called the Danish community southwest of



Niels Peter Christenson in Danish uniform.

Lake Village. His grandfather Soren first worked on a farm owned by Lemuel Milk.

The gravestone for Chris and Marie Christenson in the Lake Village cemetery is inscribed with the names of their children and their spouses. All of them are buried at Lake Village Cemetery, except for their oldest son Peter is in Lake County, Indiana. I have included information that was available for each child.

Christen (Chris) and Ane Marie (Marie) Christenson Children

Marie Christensdatter (Mary), (1842-1921) married Samuel Hanson (1837-1910) in Denmark. Their first five children

were born in Denmark: HP (1864-1924); Tina (1865-1925); Marines (1869-1929); Matilda (1872-?); Jim C. (1875-1937). Five more after they arrived in America: Kaveline (1877-1925) m. Jansen; Christine (1879-1964) m. Kyle; Anna (1883-1979) m. Deschand; Ina (1884-1978) m. Renford; Charles, (1886-1979).

Samuel Hanson was 38 when he purchased 30 acres of land in Lake Township, southwest of Lake Village. He planted fruit trees, berries and vegetables, rye and wheat on the sandy wooded area. The rye and wheat were ground up for flour. The grain harvested using a scythe, then gathered up and trampled to thresh out the seed. He also made a little extra money by working for Lemuel Milk.

Ancena Christensdatter "Ann", (1844-



Left, the tombstone for Niels and Eliza Christenson and right, Chris and Mari Christenson who have their children listed on the back, are in the Lake Village Cemetery.



Niels Peter and Eliza (Butts) Christenson

1934), married Niels Frandsen (1842-1940).

Niels Peter Christensen "Nelson", (1845-1902), married Eliza Ann Butts (1865-1941), and lived in Griffith, Indiana. They are buried at the Ross Cemetery in Lake County, Indiana. Their children: Victoria Irene (1877-1973); Frank C. (1878-1879); Julia Isabelle (1880-1866) m. McGary; Frank Peter (1882-1978); Christina Eliza (1884-1976); Mary A. (1886-?); Martha Ellen (1891-?); Warner Paul (1893-1970); Mabelle Grace (1897-?); Edna Lillian (1902-?).

Bentsena Tina Christensdatter. She was baptized as Petrina Marie Christensdatter, (1846-1930), married Marten Madsen (1844-



Martina Christina Sorenson, left young, right later days.

1925). They had three children: George (1876-1961) m. Adah Stair 1882-1962); Fred (1879-1963) m. Jennie Brunton (1885-1974); Everett (1888-1968).

Martine Christina Christensdatter "Christina" (1850-1934), married Soren Sorenson (1846-1916). Their children: Josephine (1885-1969) m. Boyd; Walter (1870-1953); Oscar (1873-1958); Carline (1876-1963) m. Dixon; Infant; Tenus (1879-1869); Emory (1881-1951); m. Alma; Joseph (1882-1887); Lyence (1883-1888); Effie (1887-1966) m. Gallagher; Lancy (1889-1899) m. Hulda

Hildebrand; Nora (1892-1972).

Hans Christian Christensen

(HC) (1855-1933) m. Dora Anderson.

Julius Christensen, (1857-1940) m. Mary Ebert (1858-1924). Their children George (1880-1952) m. Emma Madison (1882-1944); and Ervy (1889-1978) m. Minnie Thompson (1891-1961).

Sierra Christensdatter, (1858-?).

In Ane Marie (Annie Marie) Christenson's obituary it stated that she married Chris in 1840. To the union nine children, three sons and six daughters were born. At the time of her death in 1903, there were seven children, two sons and five daughters, fifty-four grandchildren, and forty-seven great grandchildren.

The Next Generation

The first generation of the family settled in Lake Township in the late 1870s. At that time, Newton County government had existed for ten years; the horse thieves and counterfeiters of Bogus Island were long gone; Beaver Lake was a mud puddle compared to 50 years previous; Lemuel Milk owned most of the land in the township, and it would be more than 30 years before his daughter Jennie would establish Conrad.

The next generations were eye-witnesses to the development and growth of the area and the world. These family members, like others throughout the county, put down roots and established homes and their own families; they worked and owned farms, opened and operated businesses for many decades in the county. Most all of these descendants are also buried at Lake Village Cemetery.

The Children of George and Ada Stair Madsen (Madison)

The surname has now evolved into Madison. They had four sons and one daughter. Ernest (1898-1971) m. Merna (1898-1985); Dallis (1900-1960) m. Vinnie Brown (1907-1987); Meddie (1908-1979) m. Madeline Parks (1910-?); Porter (1913-2007) m. Edith Cummings (1914-1984); Bertha (1901-1996) m. Carrol James (1905-1979).

The Children of Martine Christina and Soren Sorenson

Christina and Soren Sorenson left their three children behind in Denmark in July 1876. It took them 28 days to reach the other members of their family who located in Lake Township. Soren worked for local farmers until he saved enough money to return to Denmark for his children. Their first home was on a Lemuel Milk farm until 1892 when they moved to the Gaskel farm, 3 miles west and ½ mile north of Lake Village. Soren and Christina were a most genial couple and were known throughout the

community for their kindness and hospitality. Their home which was open to all or any was located on the main road leading to the trading post in Momence, Illinois. Their home became known as the "half way house," where weary traders returning from an all-day trip by horse and buggy would stop for a bit of rest. The family remembers that Gramma (Christina) would say, "tank you for your come!"

Josephine and William Boyd

The Boyd's had five sons and two daughters.

Adley Ray, (1905-1997) m. Esther Dear-durff (1915-2001). They had three children: Douglas, Bonnie and Ronald.

Chester Harry (1908-1987).

Roy C. (1910-1997) m. Edith Berg (1915-1978). They had four children, Dennis, Carol, David and Richard.

Orville Leo (1915-2002); m. (1) Shirley Rainford. They had one son, Gary. In 1974 he married Pat Baker.

Lawrence Woodrow (1917-2005) m. Virginia Race. They had two children, Jeffrey and Daniel.

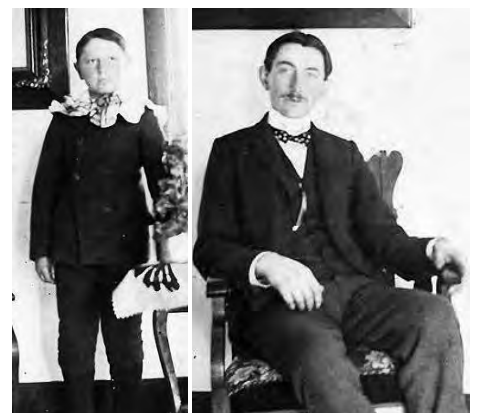
Pauline Evelyn (1927-?) m. Pete Peterson. They had four children, Cheryl, Diane, Vickie and Larry.

Shirley June (1929-) m. Leonard Storey (1927-1983). They had three children, Stephen, Paula and Kurt.

The Children and Grandchildren of Julius and Mary Christenson

Julius came to America at the age of 18 in 1875. In 1878 he married Mary Ebert of Lowell. He settled on a farm near Lowell after his marriage and later moved with his family to the Lake Village community where he farmed until he retired and made his home with his two sons.

Ervy (1889-1978) m. Minnie Thompson (1891-1961). They had two daughters, Doris (1915-1983) m. John Peterson. They had two children, David and Carolyn. Margaret (1923-1995) m. Robert Ludwig (1919-2003).



Left Ervy, right, George Christenson.

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They had two children, Sandi and William.

George (1880-1952) m. Emma Madison (1882-1944). They had two children, Harry M., Sr. (1901-2001) m. Mabel Phillips (1904-1960). Harry and Mabel had six children: Evelyn m. Lloyd Goddard (1), Alan Sparks (2); Marjorie m. Joseph Gribben; Robert George m. Gloria Loehmer; Barbara m. Dean Dawson; Kathryn m. Dale Wiseman; Harry M. "JR" Jr. (1935-2002), m. Karen Luchene. JR was the owner of Lake Village Auto Parts for 25 years. Gilbert G., "Dutch" Sr. (1904-1990) m. Zella West (1912-1984). Dutch and Zella had one son, Gilbert G. Jr., m. Cecile Kwiatkowski. George was the "G" in G. & E. Christenson Chevrolet dealership in Lake Village.



Left, Gilbert G. "Dutch" Christenson; center, Ervy, Margaret and Minnie (Thompson) Christenson; right, Margaret (Christenson) and Robert Ludwig.

G. & E. Christenson Chevrolet of Lake Village, Gone But Not Forgotten



The home of Christenson Chevrolet could be found at the intersection of old U.S. 41 (today 300W) and North Street in downtown Lake Village. As the business grew, improvements such as the canopy for the gas pumps, and a body shop adjacent to the east of the building were made.

In early May of the year 1920, two brothers with not much money but plenty of determination and ambition ventured into the business world creating a building from hand-made cement blocks, hard work and hope.

This business became known as G. & E. Christenson. George represented the "G" in the firm name and Ervy represented the "E." George's two sons, Harry and Gilbert, (Gilbert better known to all as "Dutch,") helped in many ways including the construction of the building and later in the mechanic department.

In the beginning Model T Fords were sold, plus used cars and all types of mechanical work; in addition, a complete blacksmith shop. The Model Ts were brought in by train and then assembled. Along with the car business and service, parts of all kinds were sold, as well as gasoline, nails, bolts and even chicken feed.

In September 1926, the boys gave up the selling of Model Ts and signed a contract with Chevrolet cars and continued with

Chevroleets. For years after many residents could recall the old benches in front of the building and inside where a lot of visiting took place and more than likely a bit of car dealing.

Before U.S. 41 bypassed Lake Village, it went through downtown Lake Village. The dealership was located on the east side of the intersection of Lake and Main streets. In the early years of the Indianapolis 500, people travelling the road to and from the race stopped to gas up and for a short rest and enjoy a cold bottle of orange or chocolate and other varieties of soda from the red pop cooler located just inside the front door. Even then, the roads were crowded with traffic so the business would stay open until midnight as gas sales were heavy and with non-electric pumps several extra hands were needed. Several times race cars on trailers that had been in the race stopped, creating much excitement in Lake Village.

The brothers added the farm equipment line from McCormick Deering and later changed exclusively to become an Interna-

tional Harvester dealer, which included selling freezers, refrigerators and lawn mower products as well as farm equipment. They also sold Shell gasoline and oil products.

Expansion over the years included additional space to the original structure, the building across the street at that time known as the old Stoner & Hess Grocery and later as Hogan's IGA, plus a body shop building on the other side of Ervy's residence.

Upon brother George's passing in 1952, Ervy acquired full possession of the business and became sole proprietor. IN 1953, Ervy persuaded his son-in-law and daughter, Robert and Margaret Ludwig, to sell their home in Miami Springs, Florida and come to Indiana to work for him. At the time, Bob was a federally licensed A & E Mechanic with National Airlines in Miami, where he acquired extensive knowledge in all aspects of the car business.

In 1970 Margaret began working in the bookkeeping department. In that year the dealership celebrated fifty years being in business in the same location. In 1976, at an



This photo of the dealership on the left indicates that they also sold Shell gasoline and by the look of the autos, it may have been taken late 1950s-60s era. How many remember the “billboard sign” for the garage on the building south and across the street? It is gone today, but remained there for many years after the business closed its doors 1981.

elaborate ceremony in Indianapolis, Ervy received a 50-year plaque from Chevrolet Motor Division honoring him as the oldest active Chevrolet dealer in the United States.

In 1976 the business was incorporated with Bob and Margaret. Ervy never missed a day of opening the door early in the morning and closing it in the evening. In 1978 at the age of 89, Ervy passed away.

The business continued, but the name was changed to Ervy Christenson, Inc. Margaret was named by Chevrolet Motor Division as the first lady Chevrolet dealer in Indiana and was also named one of six

active lady Chevrolet dealers in the United States. At year end of 1981, after years of hard work and dedication to the community and their business they chose to retire.

Other families have owned the building and had other businesses over the years, but locals always refer to the building as the Chevy garage, which still stands tall and stately on the corner of 300W and North Street in Lake Village in 2019.

Dealership history sources: 1985 History of Newton County; Lake Village photo collection donated by Joanne Iwinski.



Above, Ervy received a 50-year plaque in 1976 from Chevrolet Motor Division honoring him as the oldest active Chevrolet dealer in the U.S. Right and below, early photos of inside the dealership and service area.



The Milk Strike In Brook, 1934

by Beth Bassett

The Great Depression 1928-1933, was a period of unrest and instability that impacted all of America. The dairy industry - who were among the first to create cooperatives to organize their producers and distributors - were way ahead of the game when the Depression hit. However, this did not mean that it ran along smoothly in complete harmony. In May of 1934, the headline of the May 23rd edition was "Pure Milk Association Attempts to Stop Milk Supply of Local Plant." A milk strike in Newton County? I had to find out more.

The Pure Milk Association (PMA), a cooperative organized in 1926 by a few Illinois dairy farmers and Farm Bureau, was a major player in the milk industry during the Depression. By the 1940s they produced 80% of the supply of fluid milk shipped to the Chicago markets. The purpose of the cooperative was to work with milk distributors to discuss market conditions and develop a standard for pricing paid to the producers for their milk. Our community had ties to the association - through the Lemont Dairy plant in Brook.

"The Lemont Dairy was a God-send for the community."-John Connell, from his book "And They Named Her Brook"

John Connell would know-he was a truck driver for one of the three routes that picked up raw milk from area dairy farmers and delivered it to the Lemont Dairy located where Wilson Painting is today. In 1934, he

ran ads in the Brook Reporter selling milk, cheese and butter. In his book he included an article about the plant - giving us a view of the business during its heyday in Brook.

"Lemont Dairy's main location was in Chicago. The owner, Joseph Skrzypczniski, also had a milk plant in Lemont, Illinois. By 1928, his business had grown to the point of needing another receiving plant to take care of the increased demand for their milk products. He decided Brook was an ideal location and in 1928 he built a new milk receiving plant where Wilson Painting is currently located.

"Owen Liskey was the plant manager, later followed by LaVerne "Turnip" Liskey, and Charles "Chalk" Curts. The milk from the farm was mostly hauled in 8-gallon cans and it was required to be 65 degrees or lower when it reached the milk plant.

"Initially there were three truck routes. Drivers over the years included Charles "Chalk" Curts, Clyde "Cider" Martin, Dain Gess, Mark Karr, Wesley Mattox, Jethro Mattox, Russ Long, George Snyder, Henry Carroll, "Eb" Crisler, Andy Courtney and John Connell.

"Some of the farmers who lived close to town hauled in their own milk, including Perry Whaley, John Meyers and Lon Staton.

"Lemont Dairy was the first dairy to sell pasteurized milk to patrons in Brook, Kentland, Goodland, Earl Park and Fowler.

"When the milk was brought into the local plant by the haulers it was weight tested for butter fat, dumped into a receiving tank and then run over an oil cooler which lowered the temperature to just above freezing.

It went directly from the cooler into the tank truck, which was hauled 365 days a year to Chicago by Bub Carroll as driver. During this time, he drove two Mack trucks a total of nearly one million miles.

"Sometimes hauling milk to Chicago became a risky business during the milk strikes. Several times the driver was asked to get out of the truck while the strikers opened up the tank valves so that the ditches along U. S. 41 were flowing milk."

Those Milk Checks

Come In Every Month

The milk strike of 1934 in Brook developed because the proprietor of the Lemont Dairy, refused to sign the equalization pool contract. The PMA was attempting to cut off the supply of milk at his plant. PMA sent a truck of their own each morning to haul the milk of the producers who were loyal to the PMA. Other dairy farmers took their milk to the Farm Bureau plant, where it was loaded on a truck.

The Reporter went on to explain, "It looks as if the Equalization Pool was a plan whereby the milk dealer who makes money must turn over part of his profit to the plant that does not.

The paper went on to say that about 50% of the producers agree with the contract, but they didn't represent 50% of the volume of milk as most of the large producers were still selling their milk to Lemont. The majority of the Brook producers were standing with the local plant. One of Lemont's driver's Wesley Mattox, did not lose a can of milk. However, Dain Hess, who picked up milk around



LaMont Dairy, Brook



Top, a row of the milk delivery trucks and drivers - unfortunately names were not available. Left, the original building for the Milk plant, today owned by Wilsons; above, "Chalk" Curts in his milk truck on delivery.

Pages of the Past

Submitted by Janet Miller

Excerpts taken from *The Newton County Enterprise*, Winter, 1917.

Goodland lost a large percent from his route.

Restraining orders were filed in the Jasper Circuit Court, but as PMA was soon to learn, the Jasper court did not have jurisdiction over the Newton County milk producers.

The *Reporter* commented, "We don't, never have, and probably never will sell milk and don't claim to know anything about the milk business but if we were selling milk we believe we would stick with the man who has been giving us the check and who made it possible for us to sell milk in the beginning.

"If it had not been for the Lemont dairy there probably would never have been a milk plant here. And those milk checks that come in to the producers every month have meant much not only to the farmer but to everyone in this community during the past two years when checks of any kind were so hard to get."

Strike Settled

The paper reported on June 27th that the strike had been settled, but the terms were not public knowledge, but knew that both sides had given in on some points. They continued stating, "We are glad to see the strike settled. It has created quite a bit of hard feelings which we hope will be smoothed over. No doubt both sides said many things that they shouldn't have but we have learned that many things that were told were just hear-say and when looked into were not as told.

"The sooner the entire affair is settled and forgotten, the better it will be for the milk producers, the dealer and the Pure Milk Association."

Momence Dairy Coop Association

According to the land ownership records published in the "Brook-Iroquois-Washington Township Sesquicentennial Collection, 2006," Joseph Shrzypczynski sold the building back to the Town of Brook and to the Momence Milk Corp. in 1943. At that time John Connell, "Cider" Martin and "Chalk" Curts drove milk trucks for the Momence Milk Corp. The record shows that in 1949, Brown Brothers Trucking purchased the building.

How long John and Cider continued their milk routes is unknown, but John wrote in his article, "Many a farmer or their son who shipped milk during the years of the Great Depression (was he talking about his own experience here?), will tell you today that the check they received from the Lemont Dairy kept them and their family during those times. Some will also tell you that it was their milk check that saved their farms from foreclosure.

"It can truly be said that those farmers and businessmen who said that the building and operation of Lemont Dairy was a "God-Send" were so right."

Newton County

Third Contingent Left this Morning.

Twelve more young men from this county leave for Camp Taylor. Eric J. Johnson, Brook; Earl L. Sell, Brook; Wilbur B. Schuh, Kentland; Alonso W. Roller, Kentland; Robert E. Carlson, Morocco; Alva M. B. Hoover, Brook; Frank A. Hansen, Lake Village; Geo. W. Albaugh, Kentland; Alonzo M. Skinner, Morocco; Cecil E. Moore, Morocco; Harry Buck, Fair Oaks; Everett Burton, Brook.

Liberty Bonds. The second drive for the sale of Liberty Bonds is now under way and the government expects to dispose of the three billion dollar issue within the month. Newton County will be asked to subscribe \$240,000. The last bond sale the county took \$154,000, which was slightly under the amount allotted to us. Warren T. McCray has again been named chairman of the committee, and he has named assistants representing various sections of the county, as follows: Kentland, C. C. Kent; Goodland, Mort Kilgore; Brook, J. D. Rich; Morocco, Delmar Law; Mt. Ayr, J. R. Sigler; Effner, Rolland Ade; Washington Township, James Whaley; and the north townships, Mrs. Jennie M. Conrad, George H. Hillis and Henry Stoner.

Home Guards. At an organizational meeting of the Home Guards Tuesday evening, James F. Mulligan was chosen Captain; John Lyons of Brook, First Lieutenant; and Harry Little of Goodland, Second Lieutenant. Fred Berger, county organizer, presided over the meeting, and the election of Captain was by open ballot. The choice of Mr. Mulligan as Captain may be commended. He had had four years military training at Purdue, has a firm grip on public confidence, and will command without favor or partiality. The selection of John Lyons and Harry Little for first and second lieutenants, was made by acclamation, and this will give the Brook and Goodland units a local head. The new company will have a membership of about 75 from Kentland, 40 from Goodland, and 30 from Brook. According to Mr. Berger, Morocco and Mt. Ayr had expressed a belief that they could jointly secure enough men to form a company, and if so, it would be more convenient for them to meet together than to become a part of the Kentland company. (A roster of current members is listed in NCE in October 25, 1917 edition.)

Guide posts are not needed to mark the boundary lines of Newton County. When you go sailing along on our smooth surfaced highways and suddenly drop off into a sys-

tem of chuck-holes you may know you have crossed the border.

Kentland

Burglars Ply Their Trade in Kentland.

The Kohls novelty store, the Markley restaurant and the McCray Grain Co. office were burglarized Tuesday night, and every indication points to local talent. They secured \$3.30 from Kohls store and left some change in the cash register, which they probably overlooked. The door of the McCray Grain Co. office is fitted with an ordinary lock and it is believed the burglars found a key to fit it. The burglars had no trouble getting into the safe and taking between four and five dollars. Nothing was taken at the Markley restaurant. That nothing was molested here is no doubt due to the fact that Nightwatchman Miller was on the trail. About 2 o'clock Mr. Miller made the rounds of the business street and stopped in the doorway of Healy and Ross drug store. Some time later he heard falling glass, and directed by the sound, came to the opening of the alley west of the Enterprise office, which leads back of the restaurant. He then walked down the alley and discovered the Markley door open. Mr. Miller through in his spotlight but could see no one. He heard the front doors rattle and caught a glimpse of a man leaving. In hopes of heading him off Mr. Miller ran down the alley and came up to Third Street by the Darroch law office, but no one could be seen or located.

The young ladies of Kentland are to meet with Miss Velda Shobe Sunday evening and make up a big batch of candy to send to the Newton County boys now in the service. To do this will require a large quantity of sugar, nuts, and other supplies, and these cost money. If the young ladies are willing to do the work, others should find it a pleasure to supply the funds. Those caring to make donations will see or call Miss Ruth Miller or Miss Shobe.

The Kentland First Presbyterian Church is celebrating their 50th anniversary with programs Saturday and Sunday.

Mysterious Find Stirrs Community.

There was great excitement in town Monday morning, and the majority of our people were ready to shoulder arms and go out hunting Germans, or German sympathizers. About a bushel of corn was found in the pasture of the Rolland Ade farm that bore the ear marks of being poisoned. Most of the ears had been ground or scraped down nearly to the cob, and on some was a brown

> Continued on page 16

16 The Newcomer

> Continued from page 15

substance that at least looked suspicious. By reason of rumors and daily press reports that German plots to destroy grain elevators, stock yards, and other sources of food supply, had been discovered, led first to the general belief that this corn had been poisoned, and it was forthwith taken to Purdue to be examined by the state chemists. They said it looked very much as though it might have been poisoned, though an analysis would be necessary, and up to this writing no report has been received from them. There were several hundred head of cattle, horses and sheep in the pasture, but they had not found the corn. There was no corn of that kind within a mile where the same was thrown into the pasture, and a search of adjoining fields did not reveal that the corn had been gathered there. Of course there is the possibility that a party of gypsies or tramps, may have ground the corn for meal, or it may be the practical joke of someone, but the only safe course was pursued in having a chemical analysis made. If the corn was not poisoned or doped, but was placed there in order to furnish a little excitement, and the guilty parties are found they will be taught that it is not safe to relieve their systems of such jokes during war times.

Kentland has a new industry to which all our people point to with justifiable pride--the new five-story, substantially built seed corn house of Ainsworth Bros. & Co. just completed. (Picture and more info NCE Nov. 1, 1917 edition.)

The Purdue chemists report that they were unable to find any trace of poison on the corn found in the Rolland Ade pasture last week. This only deepens the mystery of why the corn was placed in the pasture in the condition in which it was found.

Goodland

Gravel's Theater, Goodland, Indiana, Friday Night, October 5, Woods-Holland Player will present "Bringing Up Father", a rollicking Comedy in three acts. One Big Long Laugh. New Vaudeville Between Acts. Prices 15, 25, and 35 cents. Tickets on sale in advance at Gravel's Barber Shop. Get them early and be assured of a good seat. Phone No. 186.

John Moran of Goodland has been named as fuel administrator for Newton County, and if Mr. Moran succeeds in keeping the people of Newton County supplied with coal this winter he will have accomplished a great work.

Mt. Ayr

Mr. and Mrs. Eli J. Chupp of White Cloud, Michigan are visiting with Ira Chupp and helping make sorghum molasses. (Question: Was this on the well known Molasses Street?)

We are told that W. J. Little, the Mt. Ayr barber is a candidate for the postmastership in that city.

From Central and Northern Newton

A flock of sand hill cranes circled around overhead the other day and was a sight that carried the older residents back to the time when these birds were here by the thousands. They are seldom seen now and in a few years will doubtless become wholly extinct.

Mrs. Jennie Conrad was down from her north end home Saturday turning in her report on the sale of liberty bonds. Mrs. Conrad reported the sale of \$10,000 worth of bonds, which is a highly credible showing.

Brook

Chicken thieves broke into Harve Hinton's poultry house one evening last week and carried away two hundred chickens.

Joe Ade was over from Brook yesterday. He regards the corn question as serious, and does not believe that any great per cent of the crop will do to crib. A number of farmers are

hogging down large fields.

Morocco

Forty Acre Farm Sells for \$12,040. The top price for Newton County farm land was reached Saturday in the sale of 40 acres located one and one-half miles south of Morocco. The land belonged to the estate of James Shaffer, and was sold under order of court. It is located between land owned by Dr. Shaffer and by J. M. Chizum, and the desire to straighten up their holdings stimulated the bidding. There are no improvements on the land. Bidding was started at \$140.00 an acre, and continued by dollar and two dollar jumps throughout the afternoon. Only once was there a raise of \$5.00. The land was finally sold to Charles Hicks, who presumably was representing Mr. Chizum. This fixes the high price for Newton county farm land, and will possibly hold the record for some time to come.

Historian's Corner

By Diana Elijah, Newton County Historian
Newton County Social Clubs

In the 1940s-1960s, many people in the rural and town areas would get together just to play cards or board games - at the same time catching up on the neighborhood news and happenings. The Elijah family played euchre and pinochle - which reflected more of a 'war' atmosphere than casual playing. I think the rural families enjoyed each other's company for the most part.

Organized hobby and social clubs were in just about every township in the county. Camera clubs could be found in Brook and Morocco for those who wished to improve their photography skills. Bob Long of Brook did my wedding pictures in 1957 and they are still in pristine condition. Lowell Putt also of Brook took our family photos in the 1970s that remain as vivid as they were then. Let's take a look at what I found by talking to friends and neighbors and utilizing the published histories of Newton County.

Jackson Township

They had a typical social club called the Jolly Twelve. My mother-in-law was a member and some of the members may have been from Beaver Township. They met monthly, played games, socialized and fretted about cleaning house before club meetings. They had great refreshments, initially served on their best china. They also met at Merchant's Restaurant in Morocco and in an article from 1940, they held a family picnic. Gartha Clark, who recently passed, was the last living member of the Jolly Twelve.

Sixty years plus ago I was asked to join a Bunco Club. It was strictly a social club and the members met in their homes. Bunco is

a fun, rather mindless game, enabling play combined with visiting while keeping score. Seldom did anyone become angry as you didn't need to keep close track of the play and your cards. Great prizes were always awarded to the winner. It was a great escape for young moms ... there were twelve regulars from Beaver, Jackson and Lake Township - and of course sub players who would attend.

Brook and Iroquois Township

One of the most active was the Study Club. It was organized by mothers and teachers circles in 1912 and help to fund and encourage domestic arts and manual training that endured 72 years. Other clubs included a Music Club, Brook Welfare Club which has evolved into the present-day Community Club, Carnation Club, Drama Club of 1910, Bridge Club of the 1950s and the Outing Club.

Washington Township

A lady's club called the Ade Neighbors met monthly and played card games and visited while enjoying refreshments. Lincoln Township

There were numerous Bunco Clubs still meeting today. A Book Club with the library, Yoga Club, and a Horseshoe Club. On Sig Boezeman's farm, there is 20 miles of riding trails utilized annually by over 100 members of the Northern Indiana Carriage Club.

Morocco and Beaver Township

In 1905, the Owl Club was started and continued through 1984. They only met twice a year and the members were direct descendants of the original members. They also had a Literary Club and the Morocco Branch

of the Newton County Library hosts a Senior Bunco group.

Morocco Projects Unlimited was organized in 1958 with their first project to raise funds for a new swimming pool in Morocco, that was built in 1961. They are still active and contribute much to the community.

Kentland and Jefferson Township

The Over 50 Club started in 1973 by Lu Bruckman as a group to have fun and play Bingo and Euchre. Lu also started a Kitchen Band that did a lot of entertaining called the "Patio Pipers." The Over 50 Club was best known for the construction of unique floats for local parades.

Lake Township

Many years ago there were several hunting clubs - Coon Hunters was one of them. I have read about KNS Girls social club organized in 1946 for the sole purpose to entertain service wives during WWII - it was connected with the library.

McClellan and Colfax Townships

No official reports of clubs, but probably the old Colfax school became the Colfax Community Center where many box socials and educational programs were open to the community. The Enos school also provided a place for this type of gathering. More than likely the ladies of the neighborhoods also had their own card and social clubs.

Goodland and Grant Township

In 1902 the Women's Literary Club was organized, meeting in the member's home every other Thursday through 1940, and through the 1970s monthly.

The Goodland Women's Club existed in 1915. They were a social group, but also did community service - one such service included mending and repairing bachelors' clothing.

In September of 1959, Mrs. John Molter organized several ladies to form the Grandmother's Club. It was a social group that met once a month with twenty members.

The Goodland Art Club did not meet in members' homes, but is unique in that there were no officers, no restrictions on membership and no dues. It met in the Presbyterian Church basement to paint on canvas. The group first met in October 1959, and by December they had their first exhibit.

Conservation Clubs

In Jackson Township, the Curtis Creek Conservation Club closed its books in 2012. Bill Miller of Mt. Ayr still remembers 1950s farm equipment and tools were sold as a fund raiser for interested men in the township. The members raised pheasants using their own brooder houses with the funds. Dave Moshier, Game Warden of Newton County, was instrumental in helping them organize the club, as he did in other townships.

The club had speakers monthly about

conservation or other pertinent issues and played cards for entertainment. They mostly had a serious meal instead of just refreshments, with wild game donated to the club.

In the 1960s they held whole hog sausage and pancake dinners at the Mt. Ayr United Methodist Church. These were held in March and huge crowds attended - a perfect time as the neighborhood suffered through several bad winters and many were suffering from 'cabin fever'. Eventually the event moved to the school gym and changed to catered fish dinners by Nussbaums of Remington. The dinners stopped with the closing of the school in 1986. Funds were used to sponsor the local Boy Scouts and 4-H clubs. Those members bussed tables and brought pies for the fish dinners.

Washington Township's Conservation Club built a permanent home in Ade, as did the Beaver Township club, north of Moroc-

co. The Brook club built a log cabin next to Kenoyer Lake in town. The Ade club served for years as a meeting hall for their club, Rural Youth, 4-H and many other organizations. The Ade Fish Fry was well known throughout the county and the grade school used it for their gym.

The Brook Conservation Club was started as a Gun Club, in the early 1900s as part of the Isaak Walton League, but discontinued in the 1950s. Up until recently they served breakfast and the original cabin built from railroad ties was replaced with a new cabin. Today, the Town of Brook owns the building and it is utilized for public meetings and family gatherings.

I am sure there were several other clubs and organizations that are not mentioned here - but send us a note at newtonhs@ffni.com and we will include your information in our files at the Resource Center



The Beaver Lake Conservation Club was organized in 1933 by J. C. Murphey. Their club house was built in 1953 located one mile north of Morocco. Originally a cement block building, today it is a lovely remodeled residence.



Spoonspinners' dinner outing 2004. Left to right, Wanda Patton, Mary Jane Potts, JoAnne Grant, Judy Lanoue, Clara Berenda; standing, back, Diana Elijah and Linda Elijah. They were a Newton County Extension Homemaker Club organized in 1965.

In 1951 – Morocco Celebrates 100 Years With Quite a Party!

Preparations to celebrate the 100th birthday of the town of Morocco began in late 1950. Committees were formed who met and planned the many activities for the three-day event on August 24, 25 and 26th.

A contest was held in the fall of 1950 to determine a slogan for the centennial observance. Residents were invited to participate, and the “Home of Hoosier Hospitality”, written by Mrs. Beverly LaCrosse-Paulik and the Pythian Sisters was chosen. The slogan remains in use today by Morocco citizens.

Amongst a group of photographs donated to the society from Connie (Ackors) Sell were images of the many floats that were entered in the parades during the celebration. These were very impressive floats – very professionally designed and decorated. An article in the *Morocco Courier* revealed that the Centennial Committee hired the W. A. Fread Decorating Company of Terre Haute, Indiana, to decorate the town and build floats for the pageant.

With over thirty years of experience which included the St. Anne Pageant and the Momence Gladiolus Festival, Morocco residents were sure to be dazzled. Mr. Fread opened his shop in town in the latter part of July. His charges for floats were in a price range of \$30 to \$250, \$7.50 per store front. The town planned on having flags on 18 light poles and 6 large overhead banners.

Nancy Colbourne won the title of Centennial Queen. The winner was based upon how many tickets each contestant sold. Miss Colbourne sold 655 tickets; Dottie Barnett 565, named first lady of the court and Ruth Parrish, second lady of the court sold 539 tickets.

The Kangaroo ‘Kourt’, which stems from the activities of the “Brothers of the Brush” – the whiskers growing group of men in the community – and the “Sisters of the Swish” – the anti-cosmetic group of women was held the 2nd week of July. Beginning in July 1950, members of these two groups had a set of rules and regulations and enforced them upon the locals. The court is called for the arraignment of violators of the rules established by these groups.

Arresting officer Jim Best, who was proprietor of the Pullman Café, had filled the stockades set up in front of City Hall to its capacity and was kept busy placing the prisoners in the stocks as a preliminary to their hearing before the court.

Judge Newell Lamb graced the burlesque with his presence and officiated in a highly dignified manner, handing down decisions that ran the gamut from riding a stick horse to dunking in the horse tank.

The stockades were vandalized twice prior to the holding of court. The newspaper speculated that the “miscreants who wantonly destroyed the stockade were opposed to the idea of the Kangaroo Kourt.” They were probably accurate, as the tables were turned on the Kangaroo Kourt officials as court was called in session.

The *Courier* reported: “masked riders scattered the mob of onlookers in a clatter of hoofbeats on the pavement and the crackle of gun fire. Hurling themselves from their horse, the sixteen “bandits” released Don Smart from the stocks and seized Newton County Judge Newell Lamb, John Calaway (committee chairman) and arresting officer Jim Best and dunked them in a horse tank filled with cold water.

“The raid by the masked riders was in keeping with the history of the community during the Bogus Island period and came as a complete surprise to the centennial group in charge. Judge Lamb, who officiated at the first session was totally unprepared for the impromptu dunking. In honor of the occasion he had donned his very best full-dress suit and silk topper. John Calaway, Standard Oil dealer was likewise unprepared. Calaway had a billfold in his pocket containing a number of checks and currency collected during the day’s business and the writing on the checks was almost entirely obliterated by the action of the water on ink.”

Unfortunately for the other violators held in the stockade, none of which were found “not guilty,” kourt continued despite his honor’s soggianness. They felt the weight of his condemnations and included men and women from all walks of life ... clergymen to housewives. Some were sentenced to perform tasks, and some were both fixed and sentenced. Among those paying penalties were:

Nancy Colbourne, fined \$1 and 1 cent – dunked in tank; Luther Kessler, fined \$1.01, sentenced to walk backwards around the block; Helen Kem, placed in stocks and sentenced to bake a chocolate cake for the judge; Rip Russell, sentenced to dance for several minutes while court was in session; Dorothy Brunton, fined \$1 and costs and sentenced to the dunk tank. She wore an old-fashioned bathing suit; Elmer Whitlow sentenced to buy a quart of chocolate ice cream for the judge; Bobby Parsons, sentenced to wade in the dunk tank; Eddie Schmucker, a recent father, sentenced to diaper a toy panda to the satisfaction of the mothers present.

Mrs. Merle Graves asked for a jury trial and proved that she wore not cosmetics by kissing each of the jurors. Judge found her guilty anyway and sentenced her to sweeping

the city; June Wiltfang sentenced to dance with Rip Russell and also to blow up a balloon until it burst; Bob Ackors, sentenced to the stocks where the judge smashed a cream pie in his face. Ackors wore a ladies’ old-fashioned bathing suit; Bonnie Lanning fined \$1 and costs and sentenced to fish in the tank until she caught something – she did – a pair of red flannels which she was permitted to keep.

The main event for the three-day event would be the historical pageant depicting the history of the community from 1851 through the present day 1951. Other features included an antique show, hobby show, kiddy carnival, free corn boiling, fish fry, and mile-long parade of antique automobiles and other forms of transportation, including side-saddled horses and high wheeled bicycles.

Float winners: Friday, 1st, Morocco Lumber; 2nd Newton County REMC; 3rd Deardurff Motor Sales. Saturday, 1st Lincoln Twp. 4-H Club; 2nd Oak Ridge Farm; 3rd, Delos Warne Trucking. Sunday, 1st Baird and Storey; 2nd Daughters of Union Veterans; 3rd, Momence Legion Post.

Thank you to Connie (Ackors) Sell for donating these photographs of the Morocco Centennial parade. These were not published in the Courier, so it is wonderful to be able to publish them here, and retain in our archives at the Resource Center in Kentland.



The Queen’s float during Morocco’s Centennial celebration in 1951. Queen Nancy Colbourne, First Lady, Dottie Barnett and Second Lady Ruth Parrish.



Who is the lovely lady at the top of the Deardurff Motor Sales float, which won 3rd place in the Friday parade during Morocco's Centennial celebration in 1951?



The Morocco Garden Club float during Morocco's Centennial celebration in 1951.



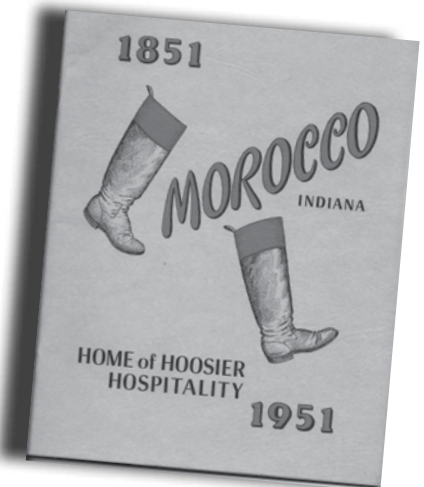
The Daughters of Union Veterans float won 2nd place in the Sunday parade during Morocco's Centennial celebration in 1951.



A church float perhaps, entitled "The Light of the World" during Morocco's Centennial celebration in 1951.



The Morocco Rainbow Girls were very active in the 1950s. This was thier float in the parade during Morocco's Centennial celebration in 1951.



The Centennial Committee published a history of the town in conjunction with the celebration.

1951 Morocco Centennial Mademoiselles



Front, left to right - Cay Williamson, Joan Plunkett, Anne McPhail, Madge Ralston, Annabelle Spencer, Elizabeth Kessler, Elizabeth Smart, Catherine Smart. Back, left to right - Catherine Robinson, Wiladene Camblin, Vera Donovan, Bessie Hagen, Betty Bond, Elizabeth Heyer, Martha Blaney, Ruby Lucas, Alma Garmong, Florence Hancock and Jessie Camblin. Originally published in the 1851-1951 Morocco Centennial history.

The Newcomer


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Our mission: It is the hope of the volunteers and members of the Newton County Historical Society will bring together those people interested in the history of Newton County, and will promote an understanding and appreciation for the people and community of Newton County through research, preservation, restoration, education and publications.

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