



This unique look at the incoming Monon Train on the tracks at Thayer was found on facebook. Does anyone know if the structures seen here are still standing? Let us know . . . newtonhs@ffni.com.

# The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.  
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Thank you!

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The Newcomer is a publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc. A 501(3)c approved organization. Editors: Janet Miller and Beth Bassett. Send membership dues/inquiries to: PO Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951; 219-474-6944 - newtonhs@ffni.com; Officers of the Newton County Historical Society: President, Kay Babcock, Goodland; Vice President, Russ Collins, Kentland; Secretary, Susie Johnson, Brook; Treasurer, Judy Wirtz, Kentland; County Historian, Diana Elijah, Morocco; Ex-Officio, Janet Miller, Kentland. Resource Center located at 310 East Seymour Street, Kentland, Indiana. Printing by Rensselaer PRINTCO. Historical Newton In/Newton County Historical Society - Official Group

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# The Newcomer

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Summer/Fall 2023 \$3.00

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.  
Newton County: Indiana's Youngest County

## Inside this issue ....

- 1955 Morocco High School Football: Two Conference Championships
- Barbed Wire and Telephones
- The Friendship of Ade and McCutcheon
- Yarrow "Bluebeard" Kriz and Kriz Grocery
- Remember Gerald Rainford, Teacher and Mentor
- Aerial photos of Old U.S. 41 through Kentland
- Kankakee River History
- Leon Davis of Lake Township

Only Squad to Accomplish This in Indiana/Nation!

## 1955 Morocco High School Football Teams Win Both 6-Man and 11-Man Conferences

By Beth Bassett

The six-man football team was developed in 1934 in Nebraska by Stephen Epler, who saw the need for an alternative way for small high schools to field a football team during the Depression. The six-man team was in place during the 1950s in Newton County high schools.

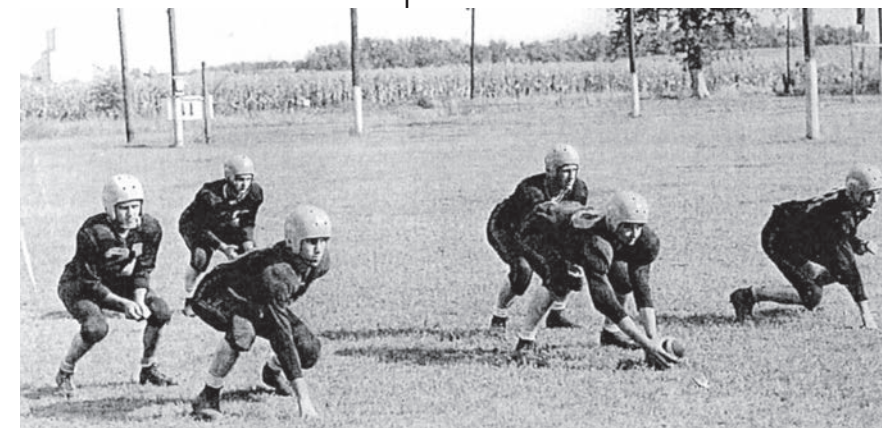
6-Man Team	11-Man Team
6 players per team	11 players per team
15 yards for the first down	10 yards for the first down
Points After Touchdown (PAT), Kicking 2 pts; Running/passing PAT - 1 pt.	PAT Kicking 1 pt; running/passing 1 pt.
Field Goal, 4 pts.	Field Goal, 3 pts

All six players (6-Man) are eligible to be receivers. On offense, three linemen are required on the line of scrimmage at the start of play. The player to whom the ball is snapped cannot advance the ball past the line of scrimmage. However, if the ball is tossed to another player, that player can throw the ball and the player to whom the ball was snapped is still an eligible receiver. All forward passes to the player who snapped the ball (center) must travel at least 1 yd. in flight.

The PAT rules were made because of the difficulty of successfully getting a place kick off with so few blockers on the line compared to the number of defenders. Consequently, a drop kick was used. Scoring tends to be much higher in the 6-Man game, most likely due to the number of defenders on the field in the 11-Man game.

### Welcome to 11-Man Football Boys

As the popularity of high school sports spread throughout the communities, rivalries were developed, and more students answered the "call-out" to play football. Changing to eleven-man teams opened the competition to high schools outside of the county - and Morocco High School, was the first to do so in Newton County. In the fall of '53, Coach Lods led the boys against two 11-Man teams.



This 1953-54 photo shows the 6-man offensive line-up on the football field across the street of the school. Front, l-r, Linemen: Bob Gibson, Dan Lazaraton, Donn Kaupke; Back, Backfield: Ron Rush, Wayne Harper and Les Klein. Reprinted from Ron Rush's historical compilation, "Morocco Athletes and Cheerleaders, 1904-1967."

The boys who were freshman in the fall of '52 would remain together as a team after Coach Goodnight left Morocco. They became a team - a group of young men who loved the game and became mentors to the underclassmen who followed in their footsteps.

In 1953, under the leadership of a new football coach - James Lods, the team bonds would become stronger and remain in place throughout their lifetimes.

Nineteen boys answered the call and gathered in the gym to meet their new coach and get their equipment for the season in the fall of 1953. Coach Jim Lods spoke about what he expected from them. "Work hard and play hard but have fun while doing it. Your attitude in regard to the game is that you play for your school, for the team, and above all remember it is a privilege to play for Morocco High School."

In the fall of 1954, thirty-six boys, a record number in school history, *Continued on page 3 >*



## President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

As the old saying goes – time sure flies! Here we are in the last quarter of 2023. Have you gotten a 2024 calendar – do you have dates for appointments in January?

We have had several very well attended programs. James Whitcomb Riley (aka Denny Russel, pictured top, right) came to tell us of his life and achievements. Did you know Riley Children's Hospital was built on ground that Riley donated? It is the only hospital named for a poet. Little Orphan Annie was supposed to be Little Orphan Allie, but the publisher misread Riley's writing.

Brian Capouch presented the program "Bunkum: The Most Important Town That Never Existed". Mr. Capouch searched out so many interesting facts about Bunkum. He has generously loaned his research books and maps to our Resource Center for those who would like more information, pictured center, right. He is also willing to come by the center and discuss them as well! Though Bunkum is in Illinois, it was of interest to many and the program was very well attended.

Did you attend the Premier showing of a Documentary Newton County's Hidden Gem: the Domestic Arts Building? It happened on September 30, 2023. Leigh DeNoon Littiken has done a marvelous job of presenting the history of the building, along with snips from people who have been involved with the building over the years or shared a special memory about the building. If you could not attend the showing you can find it at – <http://absoluteleigh.wordpress.com/2023/newton/county-hidden-gem-the-domestic-arts-building>.

I know that is a long address, but it is well worth your time. The building is in need of repairs and updating, and if you care to make a tax-deductible donation you may do so addressing it to the Jasper Newton Foundation, 301 N Van Rensselaer St, Rensselaer, Indiana 47978.

In early October, the society co-sponsored "The Canoemobile" event, held at White Oak Bayou in the LaSalle Fish and Game Area. The name refers to the group of professionals based in Minnesota who travel the Midwest teaching water and canoe safety. They then utilize their 12-man canoes and give free rides. In our case, the Kankakee. In the photo bottom right, you will see a new launch of visitors, while in the upper center is a previous crew returning to the bank. It was a beautiful day and other educational booths that looked at the wildlife, fowl and fauna of the area were well attended.

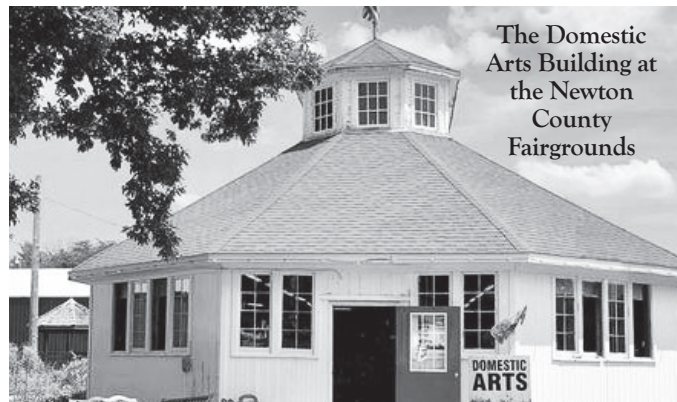
Do you remember what you were doing on the cold, rainy Halloween night of October 31, 1994? That was the night that American Eagle Flight 4184 crashed to the ground near Roselawn. That terrible crash and the aftermath was the focus of the October meeting, given by Ray Chambers, a member of the Lake Village Fire Dept at the time. The memories are still fresh in the minds of Newton County residents.

The project of digitizing the Newton County yearbooks has been successful so far! Steve Murphy (son of Kentland's Mrs. America Rosemary Murphy) volunteered to scan the Kentland and South Newton High School yearbooks; Bob Dewing and Beth Bassett worked on the Morocco, Mt. Ayr and Goodland editions. These can be viewed at our facebook group page: Newton County Historical Society – Official Group. A few interesting snapshots have been lifted from the books and are in this edition. We didn't have room for everyone this edition, but will feature others in the next! Thanks to these volunteers for their hard work on this project.

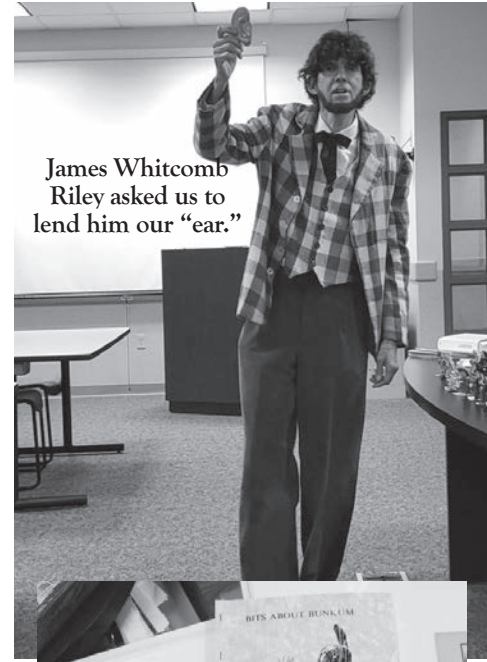
We would like to welcome everyone to join us in our annual Holiday Open House on Friday, December 8th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Resource Center in Kentland. This is a great opportunity to meet with fellow members, purchase memberships or local history publications as gifts, and of course, have some of the best goodies – 99% are homemade – in the county!

The Open house will be the last program for the year. There will not be programs in January or February, 2024.

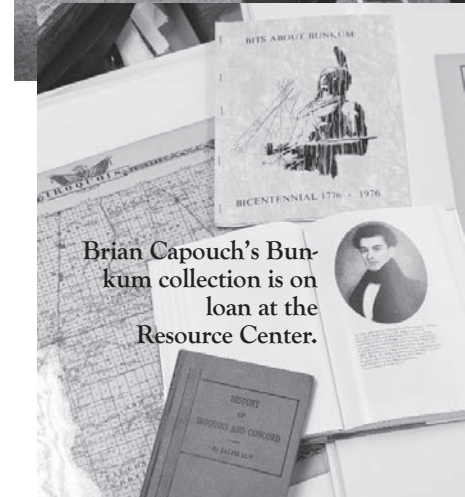
Join us again in March, 2024.



The Domestic Arts Building at the Newton County Fairgrounds



James Whitcomb Riley asked us to lend him our "ear."



Brian Capouch's Bunkum collection is on loan at the Resource Center.



Another canoe launches onto the Kankakee River during the "Canoemobile" in October.

"Area Man Sets Airplane Record Amid Problems. Leeon Davis fought a stuck fuel gauge and fuel leak for 22 hours and one minute but stayed in the air long enough to claim a new world endurance record for homebuilt airplanes. Davis landed at 4:27 a.m. Saturday at Whittman Airport in Oshkosh after 15 laps of a course between Fond Du Lac, WI and Burlington, WI. Davis estimated that he had 20 gallons of gasoline left from the 84 he had when he took off in his all-metal DA-5 at 6:46 Friday morning. Davis said his fuel gauge became stuck on take-off, leaving him solely dependent on computation to figure his gasoline consumption. To complicate things, he had gas leaking periodically on his right leg in the cockpit the whole flight."

*"Leeon Davis very quietly built some of the most unique and great performing homebuilt airplanes. He was all about simple, lightweight, and easy to build. His designs never really caught on like they should have, but somehow I don't think he even cared. He was too busy just being a really nice guy to worry about it."*

- Journalist Budd Davison, 1973

Writer Budd Davison of "Air Progress" in 1975 wrote, "Leeon Davis and his unique airplanes have been with the homebuilding movement almost as long as it's been a movement. He's respected by all who know him. Leeon Davis works with what he has: enormous tenacity, limited finances and a fantastic eye for simplicity and performance in airplanes. And Leeon Davis succeeds."

"Davis decided that if you build it light you don't need big engines. If you don't need big engines, you don't need big tanks. If you don't need big tanks, the airframe can be lighter. Carried to the extreme, the Davis fetish for lightness would give him a lighter-than-air machine with wings."

Davis passed on April 7, 2007, at the age of 77. He is buried alongside his wife at the Western Roses Memorial Park in Midland, Texas.

Those who remember the Davis family considered them good and kind neighbors and shared many good memories about them. Morocco resident Harold Krueger stopped by the historical fair booth and brought Leeon's accomplishments to my attention. Leeon was a local guy whose love for flying and planes took him to new heights in his lifetime, accented with high accolades and world records along the way.

Google Leeon Davis and you will find a variety of articles and videos on his successful, yet quiet career.

## Brook's Community Swimming Pool

In 1923, the plan to deepen the ice pond (Kenoyer Lake) and put a dam across the west end then drill fresh water wells to provide water for a community swimming area never became a reality.

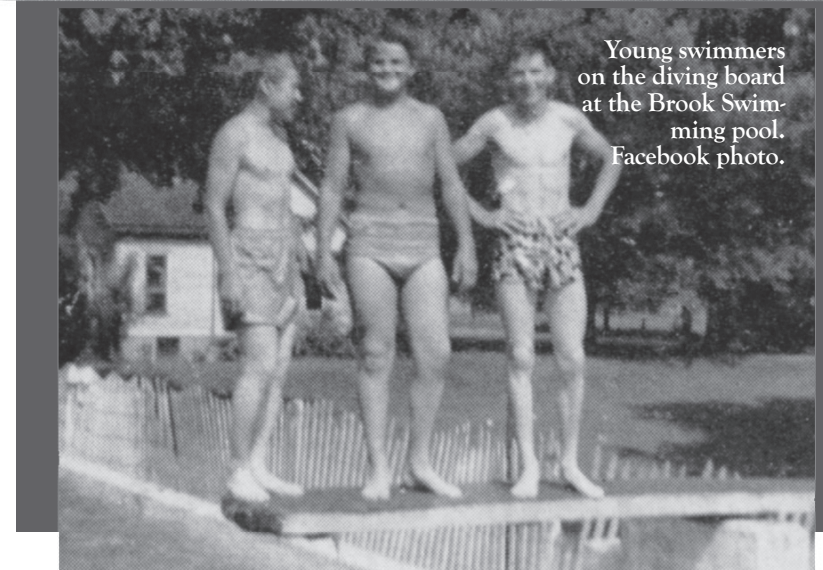
So Garfield Vest built a cement pool on the corner of Main Street and Canal, which opened June 12, 1925. Dr. Pippenger purchased it and Burt Schmitz was the manager. Later Lawrence Bannon ran it for several years and then he purchased it for \$250. He and his family ran it until it closed in 1962. It held 163,000 gallons of water, changed every two weeks, as there were no chemicals or filters at the time. It was used in the winter months as a hockey rink.



Standing, Burt Schmitz at the Brook swimming pool. Facebook photo.



Center is Burt Schmitz who appears to be setting up a water-ball net in the pool. Facebook photo.



Young swimmers on the diving board at the Brook swimming pool. Facebook photo.



# Leon Dale Davis Of Lake Twp. and His Life-long Love of Flying

by Beth Basseett

The Halsey Enlen Davis family of Lake Village were farmers. Halsey (1895-1978), born in Greenville, Indiana, the son of Benjamin and Luella (Lemming) married Belia Rhuba Cobb (1898-1988) in Newton County on February 21, 1917. They had children on their farm, Gorrell (1918-1983), Imogene (1920-1920), Rhuben (1921-1921), Stanley E. (1922-2014), Luella Jane (1925-2005) and Leon Dale (1930-2007). Their children attended Lake Village schools and graduated from Morocco High School. Gorrell and Stanley both served in WWII, with brother Leon serving in Korea. The story behind Stanley and Leon's first attraction to planes is a family story I have not heard. It is probably a good one, as they both served in the Air Force, which began a life-long love of flying for both of them.



Leon Davis, 1948.

Gorrell came back to the farm and started his own carpentry business. Stanley owned and operated Davis Flying Service in Lake Village, while Leon became an acclaimed Homebuilt Aircraft Designer.

Leon graduated in 1948 from Morocco High School and a correspondence course in drafting and engineering from the Ryan Aeronautical Institute. He started building aircraft models at the age of six. He specialized as an aircraft mechanic while in the Air Force, then worked as a sheet-metal worker at Aeronautical Commander before undertaking his own designs.

All of Leon's aircraft featured a characteristic V-tail, and the most successful was the DA-2. His plans to develop this basic design into an aircraft capable of certification went unrealized.

In 1964, Davis and George P. Migo won the U.S. Weather Bureau's public service award for taking off in two planes alongside a tornado that formed near Chicago and flew ahead of its path warning people on the ground via radio.

Leon and his wife Evelyn June (Sorensen), made their home in the Stanton/Midland, Texas area. Their children were Harold, Brian, Todd and Clarise.

In the July 8, 1976, article from the Ft. Worth Star-Telegraph told the story of Leon, 46, attempting to set homebuilt air record by staying aloft 30 hours. He hoped to break this record with his DA-5A,



which was designed with the help of his son Harold in 1972. His son Brian served as his chief mechanic. He was attempting to shatter the record for closed circuit distance flying in a light plane, a 59.07-mile course between Big Spring and Sweetwater, Texas.

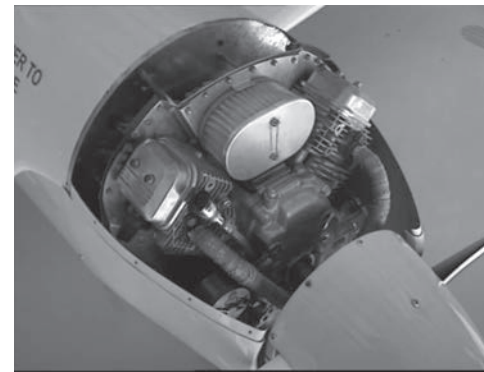
Here's a description of the plane:

"The plane boasts a cockpit a little larger than a bathtub. While aloft, Davis will have only two quarts of water and some candy bars for sustenance. Without fuel, the plane weighs only about 600 pounds. At the beginning of the flight, the fuel will outweigh the plane. Davis himself weighs 120 pounds. His seat is a 25-gallon fuel tank, covered with a thin padding of foam rubber. Other fuel compartments are in the tips of the wings, and Davis will pump the fuel from the tanks with a hand pump. He states that the tiny plane will not be unlike an incendiary bomb. During the flight, a recording barograph will chart Davis's altitude to make certain he doesn't land during the 30-hour vigil. If he were to do so, he'd be automatically disqualified in his try for the record."

A follow-up article could not be found, but Leon must not have succeeded, as this article was found in the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* in August 1976.



1958	First aircraft, the District Attorney (DA-1A); five-place plane, powered by 180-ph Lycoming. Only five-place (seat) built.
Mid 1960s	DA-2A, powered by either Continental A-95, C-80/90 or Lycoming O-200; composed entirely of flat aluminum panels, only curves were found in the upper surface of the wing; 3 wheels comprised the tricycle landing gear. 2.5-place, capable of carrying 2 adults and a child at speeds over 100 mph, burning 5 gal/hour. DA-3, upsized version of the 2A to a four-place
1974	DA-5A Single-place; DA-6 four-place; DA-7 Single place and lighter DA-8
By 1990s	Developed single-place planes powered by smaller engines. DA-9 Super Pocket Rocket, powered by a 40-hp two-cylinder motor. Flown on a series of record flights, such as speeds up to 260 mph. The DA-10 variant of the same basic design was powered by a Lycoming O-235.
Final Design Photo on right.	DA-11, the best-known model. Similar in size to the DA-9, the tricycle-gear equipped DA-11 had an 18-hp Briggs & Stratton Vanguard lawnmower motor. It flew with the slogan "Mower Power to the People" on its fuselage.



Photos: top of page, Leon in 2017. center, in flight, the Angelfire DA-9; above, the engine for his last project, the DA-11 with a 20hp Briggs and Stratton engine. "Mower Power to the People" was written on the side of the plane.

> Continued from page 1

answered the call-out for Coach Lods.

### Summary of 1953-1954 Seasons

1953. (2) 11-Man, Lowell and Monticello; (6) 6-Man. 7-1 season.

The Beavers opened the season against Williamsport 54-27; Fair Oaks got the short end the next week, 40-0. The third week went from six-man football to eleven-man football as they cleaned Lowell 13-9. Back to six-man the next week, they clobbered Wheatfield 38-6. Then the heartbreaker against Demotte, losing 18-14 for the only loss of the year. The season continued with a win against Mt. Ayr, 48-0, then another eleven-man game against Monticello, taking a 15-9 win from Coach Lods' hometown and Alma Mater.

1954 (3) 11-Man, Lowell, North Judson, and Rensselaer; (7) 6-Man games 9-1 season

Williamsport took it on the chin 60-20 in the opener. Although no push-over, the Beavers defeated Fair Oaks 18-6. Then they whipped Lowell in an 11-Man game, 21-0. Three days later they met with North Judson for another 11-Man game and barely held on to win by a score off 20-19. Back to 6-Man with a Wheatfield win, 20-18 the next week. The Beavers met with Klondike and won 32-21; remembering their only loss in '53, they demolished the Demotte team 25-6. The Mt. Ayr team lost to the Beavers 42-6. Kentland took a real tough shellacking, 54-26. The final game was hard to take - Rensselaer defeated the "Bruising Beavers," 27-6. This Bomber squad became their all-time best team.

### 1955-56 Football Championship Season

Local fans may have been a bit disappointed when they saw the football schedule. All of the 11-Man games and two of their 6-Man games were "away" games. The MHS football field was setup for 6-Man football, 80 yds. L x 40 yds. W, with 15 yards for a first down. The 11-Man field setup was 100 yds. L x 53 1/3 yds. W, with 10 yards for a first down. **This fact did not deter the fans who witnessed the only high school football team in Indiana, or the nation, to claim championships in both 6- and 11-Man conferences - ever.**

The Kankakee Valley Conference consisted of 6-Man football teams from Morocco, Fair Oaks, Mt. Ayr, DeMotte, Wheatfield, and Kentland.

The Northern State Conference, was created in 1954 and focused on 11-Man football, basketball and track. Officials and coaches from Knox, Morocco, North Judson, Rensselaer, and Delphi schools put into place the rules and regulations for the conference. They would award a champion in each sport and then award an All-Sports Trophy to the school who tallied the most points at the end of the year. Points awarded were based upon

final standings of each school from each sport: First place: 25; Second place, 20; Third place 15; Fourth Place 10; and Fifth place 5.

### Morocco's Northern

#### State Conference Games (4-0), 1955

The fall and spring sports schedule were already in place for Morocco High School when the conference began, so Morocco was not eligible in 1954, playing only two 11-Man football games.

**Morocco 13, Knox 12.** The Beavers had to come back twice to get this one. Klein turned a bad pass from center into a thrilling 60-yard touchdown run to tie the score 6-all, and Dale Purkey kicked the point that was the final difference. Knox took the lead again as the fourth period started but the Beavers took the kickoff and put on a sustained drive for the winning TD with Klein again going in from the four.

**Morocco 13, Delphi 6** The Oracles got the yardage in this game, but the Beavers got the points and that's the way the game is decided. When the chips were down the Beaver defense really got tough as some of the line play was terrific. Gene Hendryx came up with one of the fanciest catches of the season as Klein tossed a 13 yd. pass into the end zone for the initial score. Purkey added the point. Klein got the other TD on a five-yard

romp.

**Morocco 20, Rensselaer 0** The Beavers avenged last year's licking as they took the Bombers into camp in the game that gave them the title in the conference. The line was doing a great job and the defense had the Bombers bottled up all night with Kessler and Wiseman coming up with a couple of key plays when the Bombers seemingly were on the move for a score. Klein picked up a TD in the second period and Purkey kicked the point. In the third period Klein found Bridgeman all alone and tossed a 34-yard scoring pass to him. Purkey again split the uprights to give the Beavers a 14-0 lead. John Kessler picked up the third TD as he went up the middle for five yards in the final period. Purkey's kick was wide and the Beavers had their sweetest win in years.

**Morocco 33, North Judson 0** The Beavers came up to the final game of the season knowing that they had the conference wrapped up but there was not the slightest sign of letdown as they really worked Judson over. Every boy came up with what was probably the best game of his career, and the final score is proof of it. Klein's pass to Purkey for 32-yards and a TD after about two minutes of play gave notice of

Continued on page 4 <

### 1955 Stats 11-Man Games: Morocco (M)

#### Knox (K); Delphi (D); Rensselaer (R); North Judson (NJ)

	M/K	M/D	M/R	M/NJ
First Downs	7/18	10/13	10/7	8/7
Yards Rushing	174/213	183/235	184/126	177/116
Pass Attempt	4/19	3/5	3/10	15/11
Pass Complete	1/5	2/1	2/1	6/1
Yards Passing	20/59	36/15	54/0	146/16
Intercept by	0/1	2/0	2/0	3/0
Fumbles	3/1	2/0	4/2	2/1
Ball lost	3/1	1/0	1/1	2/0
Penalties	1/4	5/5	4/1	
Yds. Penalized	5/20	35/35	30/5	
Punts	2/2	0/3	3/4	2/3
Yards Punted	80/62	0/36	39/32	30/33

Opponent	Touchdowns	PAT
Vs. Knox	Klein(2)	Purkey
Vs. Delphi	Hendryx, Klein	Klein
Vs. Rensselaer	Klein, Bridgeman, Kessler	Purkey (2)
Vs. North Judson	Purkey (2) Klein (2)	Purkey (2) Bridgeman





Continued from page 3 > what was to become. Near the end of the period Klein went in from the 22 for another. After a couple of passes by Klein in the second period, one to Gene Hendryx for 43-yards and one to John Kessler for 23-yards, the Beavers scored again with Klein going in from the one. The third quarter was a dry run as far as scoring but in the opening minutes of the fourth period Klein scored again from the 35. The final TD was racked up by Dale Purkey as he took a 29-yard pass from Kessler in the end zone. Purkey kicked two PATs and Klein passed to Bridgeman for another.

**NSC Non-Conference Game, 1955**

**Morocco 0, Lowell 13** Too big and too many would tell the story of the Lowell game.

The Beavers had control for the first half and had outgained Lowell almost 2 to 1 in the later stages of the game. A couple of things went wrong in the first quarter. An off-side penalty, another for too much time in the huddle, a mistake by the official that cost the Beavers a down and a nice drive that took them inside the 20 went for nothing. Lowell punt-

ed mid-field, but the Beavers held them in downs. Klein hit Storey with a 25-yard pass and then Kessler's pass was intercepted to spoil another drive. It wasn't for the lack of trying by Kessler, Klein, Storey and Purkey, but a 73-yard run by a Red Devil, although stalled by Klein, made it through to the end zone. In the fourth, Lowell's superior manpower took over. Kessler got a bad leg and Klein quarterbacked the rest of the game but couldn't get any room from the line or protection. Lowell ran the clock out for their first win over the Beavers in the past three years.

**Kankakee Valley Conference (5-0), 1955**

The Beavers came out on top in the Kankakee Valley Conference for the fourth time in the last six years as they were unde-

feated in conference play. '51 and '53 were the years they missed. A 5-0 record in the KV is what it usually takes to win the title and that is just what the Beavers came up with. Here is the way the race went.

**Morocco 43, Fair Oaks 14** The Beavers rushed to a 19-10 lead in the middle of the final period and Coach Lods started the substitutes but there seemed to be no way to stop any of the Beavers and the score continued to mount. Purkey opened the scoring with the first of his two TDs when he ran a blocked punt over. Klein ran 38-yards on the first play from scrimmage for the second. Purkey passed to Klein for the PAT. Kessler got the next score on a 12-yard jaunt. A flip to Schultz and a lateral to Klein was good for the next

**1955 Stats 6-Man Games: Fair Oaks (FO); Mt. Ayr (MA); DeMotte (D); Wheatfield (W); Kentland (K)**

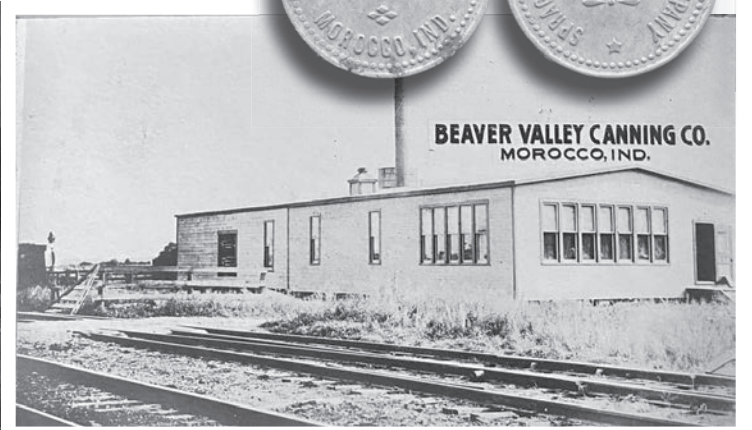
Opponent	Quarter Scores, Final	Touchdowns	PAT
Vs. Fair Oaks	25-6; 37-12; 43-14	Andis, Kessler, Goddard, Purkey (2), Klein (2)	
Vs. Mt. Ayr	7-0; 25-0; 31-6; 37-12	Klein, Storey, Goddard, Bridgeman, Hunter, Brandt	
Vs. DeMotte	20-6; 26-6; 45-20; 64-33	Klein (5), Purkey, Bridgeman, Kessler, Brunton, Clark	Purkey, Kessler, Shuey
Vs. Wheatfield	0-0; 0-8; 13-8; 20-8	Purkey, Klein (2)	Cavinder, Kessler, Bridgeman
Vs. Kentland	13-0; 25-14; 25-14; 31-14	Purkey (4), Klein	Kessler, Clark



**Meet the 1955-56 Morocco High School Football Champs**

**Front row:** Gene Deardruff, Mgr., #34 Jerry Martin, Gary Bingham, Tom Hancock, #7 DeLos Spurgeon, Bill Bouse, Mgr. **Row 2:** #17 Dave Geller, #14 Ken Clark, #31 Joe Ramsey, #30 Dave Boyd, #18 Dave Rybarski, #28 Dale Wiseman, #29 Harry Fitzgerald, #25 Gene Hendryx, #16 Jim Hoffman, #26 Dale "Dode" Purkey, #27 Don Hunter. **Row 3:** #11 Ernie Collins, #15 Charlie Bridgeman, #19 Don Andis, #24 Calvin Schultz, #13 Pete Merriman, #10 Bill Arbuckle, Jim Lods, Coach, #22 John Kessler, #12 Tom Shuey, #23 Les Klein, #21 Jack Storey, #20 Dick Goddard. **Row 4:** #25 Lee Shirer, #27 Dick Brunton, #26 Bob Warne, #10 Denny Vanderwall, Ron Berry, Norman Littlejohn, Ken Merchant, Wayne Wiltfang, Lane Sypult, Keith Wiltfang, Joe Best.

**Has Anyone Information on the Beaver Valley Canning Company of Morocco?**



Dennis Hickman posted these images on our new facebook group site, seeking information about the facility. These postcards were in his grandmother's collection, Iva (Burnside) Hickman.

Online I found an image of a token (shown above) from the business with a clue on the back. Research online for a company in 1904 known as the Grimes Canning and Preserving Co., in 1937 changed their name to the Beaver Valley Canning Company. An article from the 1917 *Jasper-Democrat* gave us this info: "New Corporation, Beaver Valley Canning Company, Morocco, Indiana, \$10,000, C. A. Smith, Wm. Breuscher, P. R. Schultz."

Because of the corporation date (1912) and the name change for Grimes (1937), these may not be the same company.

Could it have been where Blankenbaker's Railroad Salvage used to be? The search continues - if you have any clues - email us at newtonhs@ffni.com

**Images From the Brook High School Yearbook: *The Talisman***



Above: 1950s Home Ec Class. Right: 1966. Mr. Weland shows Cindy Amsler the new freshman class sweater.



1950. A glimpse of the size of the gym at Brook in these Phys. Ed. pictures.



## Kankakee River History: River Pushers/Sandy Sollars

Stories and tales of the Grand Kankakee Marsh and the Kankakee River

Written and compiled by John Hodson, President, Kankakee Valley Historical Society

Much of the research for my Kankakee River postings comes from historic newspapers. I am surprised by the number of mentions of finding the remains of unfortunate hunters or hunters simply not returning home from the marsh. *The Journal's* article made clear the need for a guide for those new to hunting the marsh. *The Journal's* reporter was blessed to be directed to long time Kankakee Marsh "pusher" Sandy Sollars.

Emanuel "Sandy" Sollars was born in about 1840 in Eugene, Indiana to Truman and Nancy Gebhart Sollars. In 1862 Sandy married Lydia Amanda McLung. Sandy and Lydia had six children, but only two survived to adulthood. The Sollars moved to Water Valley in south Lake County, Indiana in the 1880s. Sandy and Lydia owned a large home which they made into a hunting lodge. Sandy also owned a tavern and stagecoach stop across the road from their lodge. It was from here that he guided the sportsmen to hunt the marsh.

Kankakee Marsh guides had many occupations. Most framed, trapped, timbered and as market hunters supplied the needs of Chicago shops and restaurants. Sandy was no different as the *Journal* printed "Sandy has a little farm where he raises vegetables and during the summer months he fishes extensively. Pickerel is the favorite fish around this place and is found in great abundance. In the winter Sollars hunts and traps mink, muskrat and coon. Another sport which Sandy likes exceedingly well is hunting bee trees. He is quite an expert at this and always has a large quantity of honey about the house. Whenever he sees a honey bee he can follow it through woods, and there is no getting away for the bee."

Hunters on the Kankakee were fortunate to have Sandy as their guide or "pusher" as demand kept him very busy. *The Journal* reporter wrote: "These 'pushers,' as they are called, are peculiar fellows and are generally old professional hunters. They are not overly fond of the sportsmen from the city, for they have reached the conclusion that there are few men from town who can shoot ducks. When one of these boatmen really finds a man who knows how to shoot, he takes a liking to him and the hunter will find that his sport will be greatly improved."

Another reason for many of the waterfowl hunting fatalities was simply the physical demands of the sport. The successful hunter needs to be on the water before sunrise to be positioned when the birds lite from their overnight harbor. Many fall mornings are chilly and placing decoys can be a cold and arduous chore. All of the work has its rewards when you can call in a gaggle of mallards into your decoy spread. *The Journal* wrote: "Sandy is a character in every sense of the word and knows the habits of ducks and cannot be fooled when it comes to finding them."

*The Journal* also told of methods of waterfowl hunting. Most of the "pushers" supplied the use of their boats for the hunts. The Kankakee River boat was a uniquely designed craft, of a special pattern suited to the marshes, puckerbush, and other conditions encountered while duck and goose hunting along the river—most were locally built.

Another method was the use of tubs "The tubs are made of galvanized iron. The hunter takes his tub into the marsh or flyway and sinks it level. After this it is staked down and the water bailed out. Crouching down with his head hardly above the level, and in this position he often waits for hours for the game."

Sandy passed away on February 15, 1915 in Shelby, Indiana.

Read more history at [kankakeevalleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://kankakeevalleyhistoricalsociety.org). Many thanks to John Hodson for sharing his historical files.



Standing (l-r): George Dewey Struble (1898-1972), Emanuel "Sandy" Sollars (1840-1914), Susan Nancy (Sollars) Struble (1863-1943), and George Struble (1850-1915) on the Kankakee River. Water Valley Eagle Twp., Lake County, Indiana 1940.



A nice catch, the larger gar alone would feed a big family. Sandy Sollars on the banks of the Kankakee River, Water Valley, Lake County, Indiana. 1895.



Dick Gilbert and Morocco HS Sports  
The decades of sporting events covered by Dick Gilbert in the *Morocco Courier* were honored when the northern Newton County schools consolidated into North Newton High School. The media center atop the home stands on the football field is named for his dedication to sports reporting.

TD. Goddard sparked the next drive and went in from the five. He had a big hand in the next score as he tossed to Purkey for 40-yards and the TD. Andis took Storey's pass for the final score.

**Morocco 64, DeMotte 33** The Beavers came out on top in a wide-open game that had the teams trading TDs almost from the opening whistle. Klein got 50-yards and the first TD, Marshall opened the ball for DeMotte with a 65-yard jaunt to put them right back in the game. Klein romped 45-yards on the first play and the Beavers were in front again. Purkey added the PAT. Klein scored from the 15. Klein hit Purkey for the only score of the second period. Marshall opened the second half with a 30-yard scoring trip, but Klein got it right back on a 40-yard run. It became a scorekeeper's nightmare as Marshall returned the kick-off for 70-yards and the TD. Two plays later and Klein was in the end zone again for the Beavers. Purkey intercepted a pass and Bridgeman got the TD from the 10. Gene Hendryx came up with some real vicious blocking on the next drive and Goddard passed to Kessler for the tally. A 68-yard blast by Kingma gave DeMotte another score. Goddard and Bridgeman came up with some fine running that was climaxed by a pass from Andis to Clark for the score. The Beaver underclassmen came up with a fine drive late in the game that saw Brunton taking a pass from

Pete Merriman that was good for 37-yards and the score.

**Morocco 20, Wheatfield 8** The Beavers didn't have it for the first half but more than made up for it in the final two periods as Klein dressed at half-time to give the team the spark that it needed. Behind to start the second half, the Beavers failed to move and then "Ace" went in. He passed to Hunter for 20, to Kessler for 55 and to Purkey for 25 and the TD. Purkey passed Kessler for the PAT. Klein got the Beavers back in front on a 15-yard scoring jaunt. Early in the fourth period Klein came up with a driving run for 40-yards and a score. Storey got the PAT.

**Morocco 37, Mt. Ayr 12** The Beavers romped to an easy win over the Ayrdales with freshmen playing most of the second half. Klein got the first TD on a 38-yard trip and added the TD. The second period was the big one as the Beavers scored three times. Storey intercepted a pass and went 24-yards for a score. Goddard went for 9 for the next one and Bridgeman added the last one of the period on a trip that covered about ten yards. Morocco underclassmen scored once in the third period as Brandt passed to Hunter. Brandt scored in the final frame for Morocco on a 26-yard run after taking a short pass from Merriman.

**Morocco 31, Kentland 14** The Beavers spoiled Kentland's Homecoming to wrap up the crown with one of the best displays of 6-Man football we have had in the last couple of years. Klein passed to Purkey for a tally with about two minutes gone. Purkey was on the other end of a pass that Kessler caught in the end zone for the PAT. A little later Purkey took an end around for 45-yards and a score. In the second period Klein hit Purkey for another score on a play that was good for about 25-yards. Just as the half ended, Klein passed to Purkey for 42-yards and then hit him with a quickie that had all the Kentland boys fooled even when they knew what was coming. Dode's faking had him alone all night. The second half was a bit rough but not much scoring. The lone TD came on a real determined drive by Klein that took him through the middle for about 30-yards and the score.

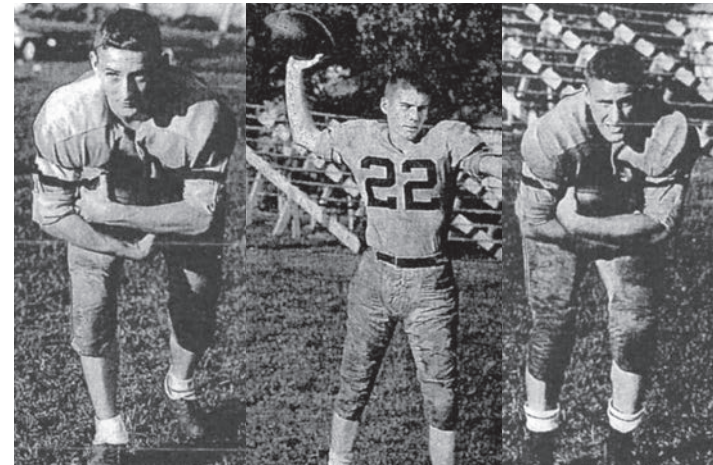
### In the History Books

The player's dedication and teamwork brought the best football action fans had experienced since the 1920s, according to Morocco Courier sportswriter Dick Gilbert. His articles, as well as those from "The Old Gold and Black", the MHS newspaper, were saved in a scrapbook by Coach Jim Lods' wife, Dixie. It is an excellent compilation of the achievements of his teams, in particular football and basketball, during the 1953-1956 sport seasons. It is now housed at the Morocco Library in their history room. Those articles are reprinted here to give an accurate account of the Championship Season of the Morocco football team.

The success of the three Morocco football teams, (1953, '54, and '55) led to the Beaver Township Trustee Darrel Brandt to purchase property on the west side of the town of Morocco to be used as an 11-Man football field and track.

After school consolidation this field was no longer needed, and the property became the home of Morocco's Little League field and the Westfield Swimming Pool. A basketball court was added and named in honor of Coach Jim Lods.

The majority of the '55-'56 MHS football team remained in Newton County, working, and raising their families. A scrapbook of Coach Lods' coaching career at Morocco High School created by Mrs. Lods was presented to John Kessler by the coach. A gathering of former players and fans was organized where they shared their stories and memories of those glory days. John has since donated it to the Morocco branch of the Newton County Public Library, so that it could be shared with other Morocco Beaver fans and researchers. Read more on the next page.



Members of the MHS '55-56 championship team: left, Jack Storey, center, John Kessler, right Les Klein. Reprinted from Ron Rush's historical compilation, "Morocco Athletes and Cheerleaders, 1904-1967."



Left-right: Jack Storey, John Kessler, Dick Goddard and Les Klein. Reunions may not be as frequent as they once were, but these four will remain lifetime friends. Kessler photo.





**About Coach Lods**

Coach James A. Lods began his coaching career after a successful athletic career in high school. He graduated from Monticello High School in 1947 and during his high school years won nine major letters - three in basketball, three in football and three in track. In his sophomore and junior years he played on the sectional basketball winning team.

Lods attended Purdue, majoring in Physical Education, Mathematics and Science, graduating in 1951. He was highly recommended by the coaching staff at Purdue, not only as a promising coach, but as a very fine teacher.

Immediately after graduation from Purdue he was commissioned into the Army, the result of his R.O.T.C. training there. He spent 23 months in the US Army, 14 of which were in Korea.

At the time of his arrival in Morocco he and his wife Dixie Rae had a 14-month-old son, Larry.

**Lester "Les" Klein**

Les grew up on a farm in Lake Village with his parents John and Ann, with 4 brothers and one sister. In an article published by the Northwest Indiana Times in 2015, Klein said, "We raised cane - sugar cane, pickles. I looked forward to practice because that gave me a break from working in the fields. Kids today say they have to rest up for practice, well, I worked 8-9 hours on the farm."

He was a 3-year football letterman; All-Conference running back 1954 and 1955; football team MVP 1955; captained football, basketball, and track teams.

Lester, (and his brother Clayton), went on to play football at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer. Les was the leading rusher in Indiana Collegiate Conference as a senior (1960) and was the Puma's most valuable player. He earned the Little All-American and All-Catholic All-America honors. He was the first to be inducted into St. Joe's Sports Hall of Fame. He mentioned that he did try out for the Chicago Bears.

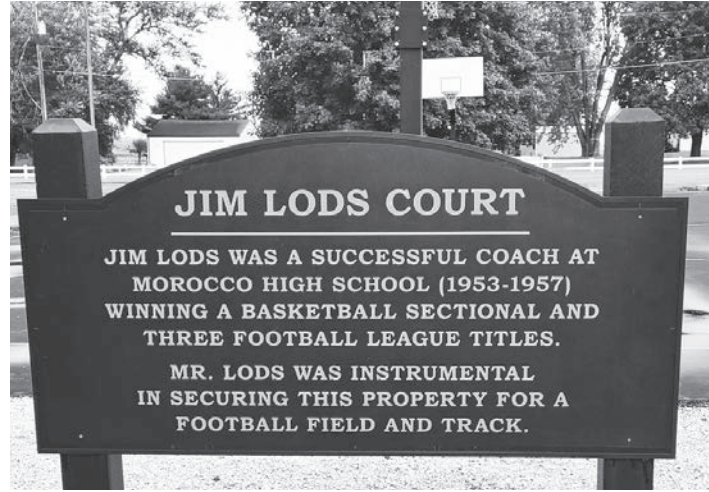
Les earned his B.S. in Physical Education and started his career at Elwood before moving to North Judson for 4 years; 4 years at Lowell. He began in Portage in 1970, remaining there for 19 years. His total head coaching record of 156-110-3. His coaching honors include 1977 Portage team won Class 3A State Championship; won 3 Conference Champions, 4 Sectionals, and one Regular Championship; staff coach for North-South All Star Game in 1975 and 1981; among the top all-time career coaching victories in Indiana. Two of his players went on to successful football careers, Mike Wishnevski and Eric Jones. Les retired as Portage's winningest football coach. In 1990 Lester was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame.

*My thanks to John Kessler for his guidance in compiling this article. Bringing gems of history like this is an amazing journey. John and Lester Klein are hoping to add the 1955 Morocco High School football team to the Indiana High School Football Hall of Fame. Let's hope this article motivates them!*

*Sources: The Morocco Courier, articles written by Dick Gilbert; articles appearing in the Morocco High School Newspaper, "The Old Gold and Black,"; Ron Rush's historical compilation, "Morocco Athletes and Cheerleaders, 1904-1967."*



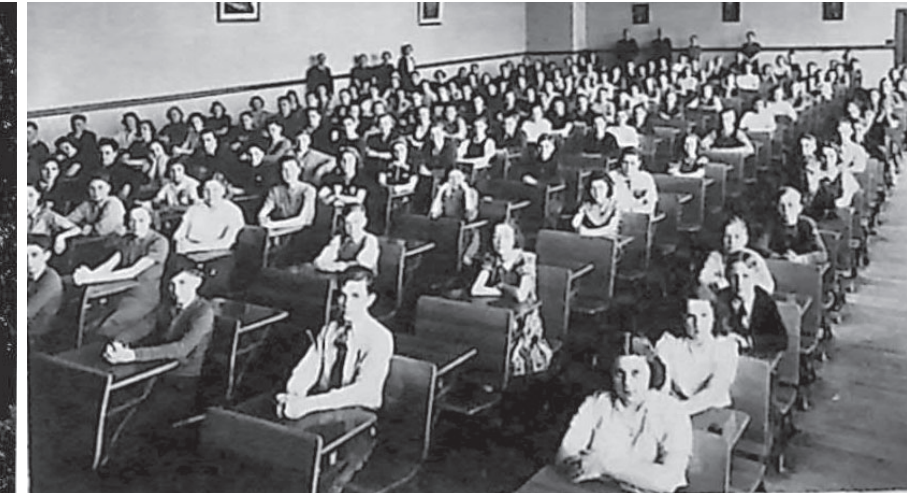
Coach Klein with his 1977 Class 3A State Championship Football team. NWI Times photo.



**Goodland Telephone Office around 1935**

This is the small house across the street from the Goodland Post Office. The funeral home (formerly the Sheldon home) is to the east of the building. Left to right: Marie Slattery 1904-1995 and Helen (Frohreich) Bilyeu 1905-1986. Facebook photo contributed by Mike Holder.

**Images From Kentland High School's Yearbook, the 1939 "K"**



The "K" tagged this photo as a "typical assembly." Could this be a group photo of all the students at KHS in 1939? There appear to be 20 seats in 7 rows, plus teachers standing in the back.



1939 the Commercial Club was open to students of B+ standing who had earned credits in commercial subjects. The purpose of the club was to promote interest in commercial subjects and to finance commercial awards and contests. Pictured, first row left typing, Doris Wilson, Harriette Simons, Margaret Kindig, Mabel Hagen; second row typing, Dorothy Hampton, Lucille Hampton, Florence Mundy, Margaret Master; third row typing, Richard Kohls, Marjorie Egan, Miriam Bower, John Webster; standing from left, Miss Hartman, Bill Rathbun, Norman Sharpe, Alan Sparks, Myron Reynolds and Oris Brandt.



Respect Your U.S. Flag



Looking for a place to respectfully dispose of old and tattered U.S. flags? This receptacle is located in the lobby of the Newton County Government Center - simply place your flag here and your duty has been fulfilled.

Newton County data available on our website:

[www.ingenweb.org/innewton](http://www.ingenweb.org/innewton)

- Biographies, 1883-1916
  - Cemetery records
  - Census records
  - The Newcomer editions, 1994-present
  - Obituary Indexes from local papers
  - Maps of the County
  - Newton County school information
  - Much more local history and links
- What you can find at our Resource Center located at 310 E. Seymour, Kentland.

County published histories:

- Morocco Sesquicentennial Collection
- Brook, Indiana - Iroquois and Washington Townships
- Roselawn, Thayer & Shelby/The First 100 Years
- History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships

Local works of fiction/history:

- Ralph, the Story of Bogus Island
- Beaver Lake, the Land of Enchantment
- Hoosier Hunting Ground
- Archeological Report of Newton County
- The Yost Collection

Some of these publications are available for purchase. Find a membership form and price listing on our website.

email: [newtonhs@ffni.com](mailto:newtonhs@ffni.com)

Our Resource Center is open Monday, Thursday and Friday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. CDT - 219-474-6944



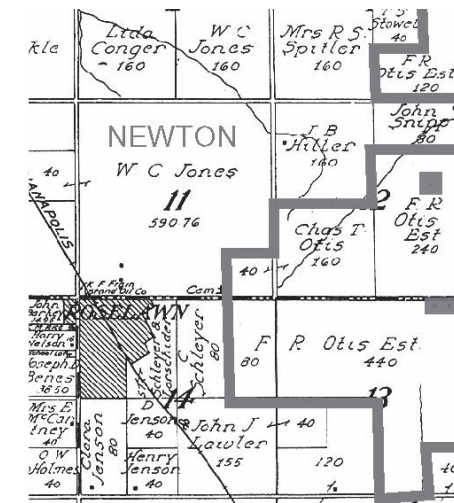
Looking southeast at the first curve of old U.S. 41 in front of St. Joseph's Church. 1940s-1950s in Kentland. Facebook photo.



Another view of old U.S. 41 looking northwest, but taken after the removal of the old Nu-Joy restaurant, (center top in front of water tower), which burned in September, 1945. Facebook photo.



This bandstand once stood on the southwest corner of the Newton County Courthouse lawn. The Kentland Band was known to hold concerts here during the summer months. Facebook photo.



Otis Ranch Telephone System

The outlined areas on these 1909-1916 maps of Newton (above) and Jasper (right), are the lands owned by the Otis family. The squares represent resident locations. An article published in the Weekly-News Review in September 1902 states:

"Lucius J. Otis was in town last Saturday. He has been engaged for a few days making an extension to the telephone department of the Otis Ranch. Mr. Otis was the first person to build a telephone line in Newton and Jasper Counties. His first line was from Roselawn to the ranch headquarters over a common barbed wire fence, using the barb wire for transmitting messages. Today (1902) the Otis Ranch owns twenty miles of a system which connects the house of every tenant between Fair Oaks and Roselawn. Any tenant has communication with all other tenants and the ranch system."

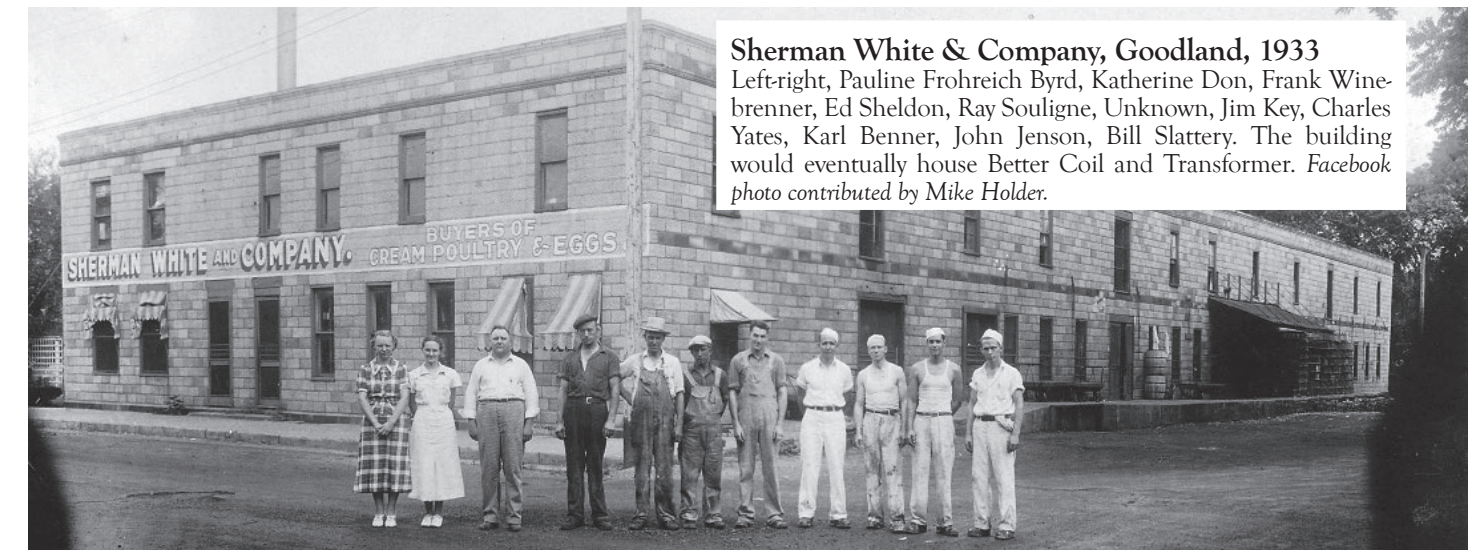
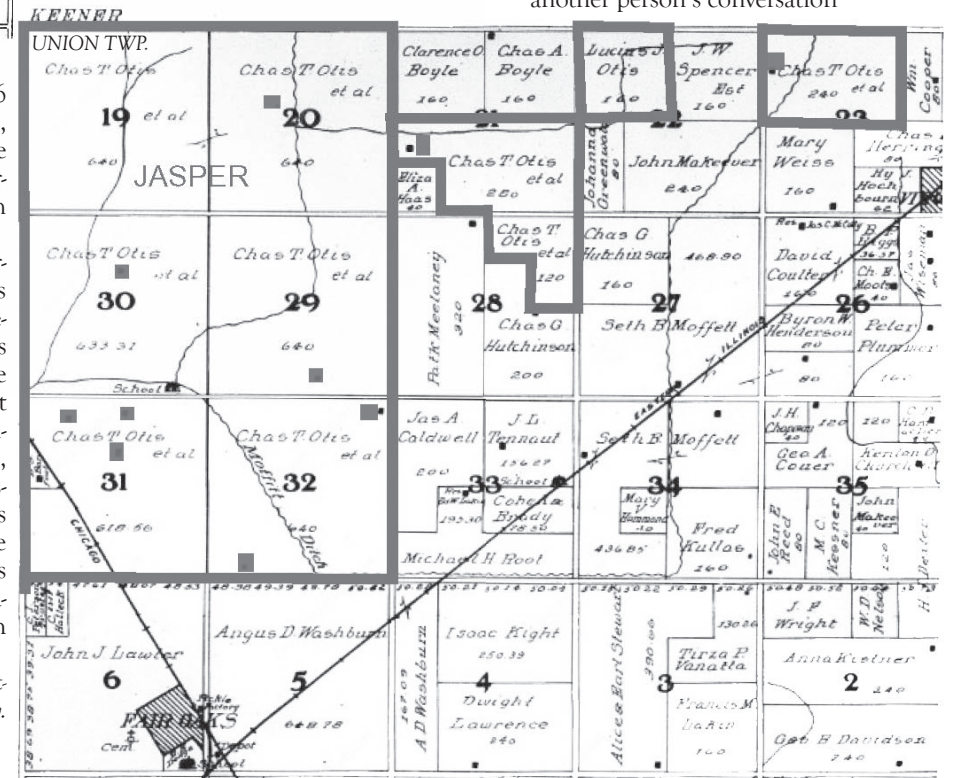
Photo above right is representative of the set-up of the barbed phone lines. Photo source: [www.mtmemory.org](http://www.mtmemory.org).

Barbed Wire Created the Party Line

Barbed wire, widely available after 1874, revolutionized farming and ranching, affording property owners an inexpensive way to delineate their land and keep animals within it. Years later, in the early 1900s, they helped



connect rural communities long before the 1940s and 1950s when telephone companies installed poles and lines. As indicated in the photo, left, a smooth wire was strung from a store-bought telephone in a house or barn to a barbed wire fence. From there, it hooked into the top strand of barbed wire (most fences had at least three strands) and the telephone signal would follow the length of the wire to a second telephone that was similarly connected down the line. Sometimes as many as 20 or more telephones at various rural homes were connected onto a single barbed-wire system. It wasn't perfect. Everyone's phone on the "party line" rang simultaneously, and anyone could listen in on another person's conversation



Sherman White & Company, Goodland, 1933  
Left-right, Pauline Frohreich Byrd, Katherine Don, Frank Winebrenner, Ed Sheldon, Ray Soulgine, Unknown, Jim Key, Charles Yates, Karl Benner, John Jensen, Bill Slattery. The building would eventually house Better Coil and Transformer. Facebook photo contributed by Mike Holder.



## The Lifetime Friendship of John T. McCutcheon and George Ade

By Terry Lyons

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, baseball commissioner, was one of four men who eulogized George Ade at his funeral. The judge said in his eulogy that he could not speak of Ade without also speaking about John T. McCutcheon. These two men were lifelong colleagues, collaborators, and the closest of friends. Today too little attention is now given to Ade's life and work and even less about McCutcheon. The amazing lives that these men lived gained them great notoriety during their lifetime. It is well worth the time to better understand not only what accomplishments and awards that they garnered but to understand that perhaps their most treasured accomplishment was the friendship that they shared and their common insight into how people should be portrayed.

John Tinney McCutcheon was born in southern Tippecanoe County near today's intersection of US 231 and 800 S, May 6th, 1870. His father, Captain John Barr McCutcheon, a Civil War veteran, was a farmer and served as the Sheriff of Tippecanoe County. John's older brother, George Barr McCutcheon, was the renowned author of the book "Graustark", and many other novels. His younger brother Ben Frederick McCutcheon wrote columns for the Chicago Tribune. He also had a sister, Jessie (McCutcheon) Nelson.

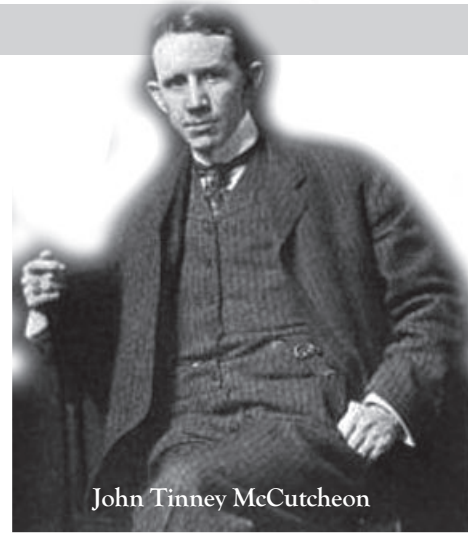
John T. McCutcheon enrolled at Purdue University in the fall of 1884 where he made the acquaintance of, in his words, "An unusual face down among the sophomores — a refined, clean cut, delicately aquiline face—stood out among the surrounding run of rugged, freckled, corn-fed features. Several months later I learned that the possessor of this cameo-like profile was a youth named George Ade. The name appealed to me as

much as his face. He was thin and tall and wore a sedate blue suit with tight spring bottomed trousers. And he had three outstanding characteristics that made him an inviting subject for caricature — an unusual expanse of head behind the ears, a sweep of strongly marked eyebrows, and a striking lack of abdominal fullness.

George Ade then successfully nominated McCutcheon for membership into the Sigma Chi Fraternity at Purdue. The two young men honed their skills at Purdue and created a lifelong bond that covered the years and the globe. Ade graduated two years before McCutcheon, working as a writer for the Lafayette paper named the *Call*. McCutcheon earned a degree in Industrial Arts. He also founded the annual "Debris" which is still published at Purdue.

With the advice given him that "art" paid better than writing, McCutcheon with a letter of introduction went to Chicago to become an illustrator first for the *Chicago Herald* and then the *Daily News*. He then after several months convinced that his friend George Ade would fare better in Chicago, got him an introduction to the "Morning News". When the steamship Tioga blew up on the Chicago River, Ade was the only reporter in the office, (he was originally hired as a reporter), and being first on the scene he wrote the best account of the tragedy. This got him out of weather reporting and into the greater events of the day. He covered the Homestead Strike and the Sullivan-Corbett fight among them.

McCutcheon and Ade shared a flat on the corner of Michigan Avenue and Peck Court. In order to make ends meet Ade would pawn his watch and McCutcheon's opal ring and redeemed them each payday. The two learned the city from the street up which provided reams of stories and material for illustration. A column and a half plus a



John Tinney McCutcheon

quarter page was dedicated for an illustration for their series, "Stories of the Streets and of the Town." In 1940 George Ade recalled his and McCutcheon's shared vision for the articles an interview from Hazelden:

"My ambition, like McCutcheon's, was to report people as they really were, as I saw them in their everyday life, and as I knew them to be. Consequently, I avoided exaggeration, burlesque, and crude caricature; and I did not try to fictionize or to embroider fancy situations, as was common the fiction of that day. In the 'Stories' there was not much emphasis upon plot, but instead carefully sketched, detailed incidents in the delineation of real characters in real life, depicting various episodes in their lives related through the medium of their own talk. Talk, conversation, what people say when they come together on the street, their peculiar use of words, their 'slang', their rhythms of speech — that's what I mean by vernacular. These are the things that have always interested me most; there is nothing more native than speech."



Left, George Ade, right John McCutcheon



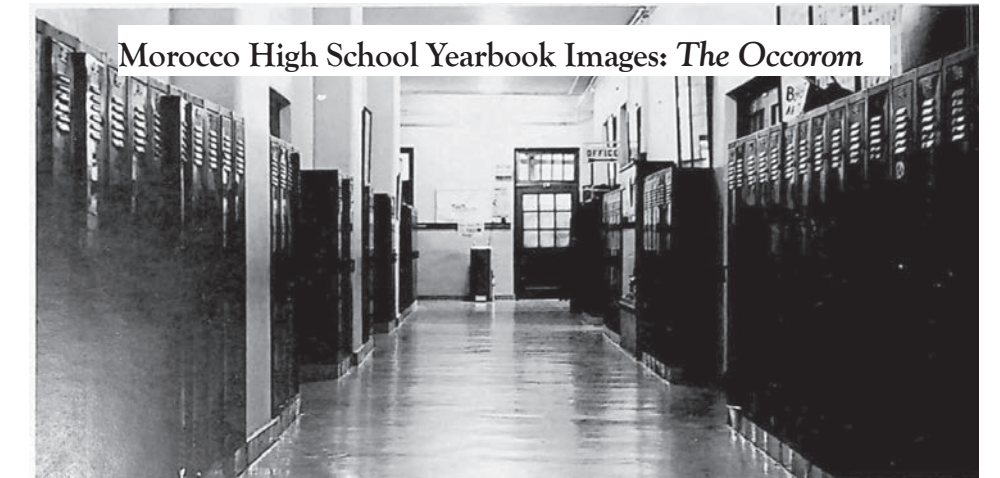
House near South Raub in which John T. McCutcheon was born.

John Tinney McCutcheon home in Tippecanoe County near today's intersection of US 231 and 800 S., South Raub, Indiana. Source all images: Wikipedia

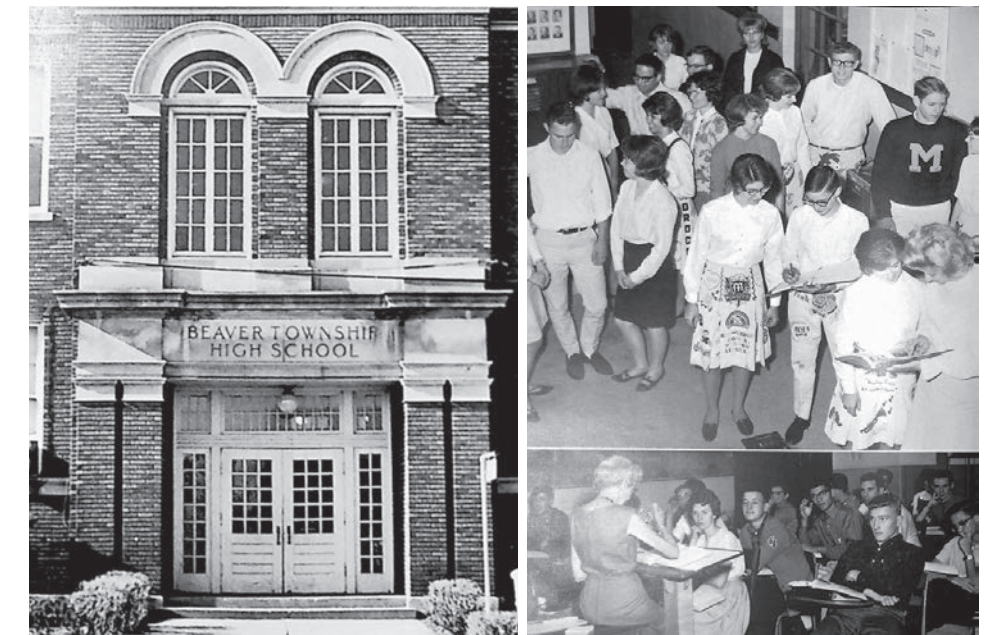
## Do You Know?

Photos/Questions on page 11

1. The year 2006 marked the 100th year for the current Newton County Courthouse. Part of the celebration that year was opening the cornerstone's contents placed there in 1906. A business card for the builder, Erick Lund and newspapers from that day were included and are on display at the center. The group in the photograph are the employees of the courthouse in 2006.
2. The Colonial Inn. This sign was donated by Mike and Mara Davis, present day owners of the establishment known initially as the Kentland Hotel. They do not offer showers or baths, sorry.
3. Mary V. (Cole) Owenby served in the Navy from 1944-1948, then joined the Army Reserves. She was the daughter of Greg and Sadie Cole who farmed north of Kentland.
4. This bee smoker and other tools were owned by Newton County's first organizing sheriff, Thomas Rogers Barker. They were vital tools during his time as a resident of Colfax Township.



Morocco High School Yearbook Images: *The Occorom*



Images from the 1967 (final) *Occorom*. Former students will always remember the shiny waxed floors, the army green lockers and all of the graduate composites hanging in the hallways. Note that the name of the school on the facade was Beaver Township High School. We were gifted one of the half-circle windows shown here from Scott Sisson here years ago which is on display at the Resource Center.



# Historical Impressions

Articles, Photographs, and Information Submitted by Our Members

Gerald Rainford - Teacher

by Dennis Boyd



I started attending Morocco High School in the fall of 1957. My sophomore year I was lucky to have among many teachers, Mr. Gerald Rainford, a great math teacher. My brother started Morocco in 1954 as a Junior and mentioned how easy his math instructor had made the classes he was taking so very understandable, unlike his first few years in a Chicago area high school.

While Mr. Rainford was a firm disciplinarian, he was also a fair teacher and went out of his way to answer questions from all the students he was teaching. I looked forward to my junior year when I'd be taking Plain and Solid Geometry from him but unfortunately for me, he moved on to teach at Merrillville H. S. in Northern Indiana.

I remember several people in the community I grew up in, Lake Village, saying Mr. Rainford had spent part of his younger years in the community and was related to others

in the Rainford family. Curious about that fact, I began to search his background and found out he had indeed not only taught at Morocco but had also been a student there.

Gerald was born on July 28, 1918, in Lake Village, Indiana to his parents, Lawrence and Louisa Rainford. The various census reports showed him still living in Lake Village in 1920. On November 19, 1921, his sister, Phyllis Jean, was born and on January 2, 1929, another sister, Barbara Rosaline was born in Beaver Twp. The 1930 census shows that Gerald's family moved to the Enos area in McClellan Twp. and in 1931 Gerald graduated from Enos Grade School.

Shortly after, on October 9, 1932, Gerald's sister, Phyllis Jean, passed away in Morocco. On July 26, 1934, Gerald's parents had his brother Dale Tipton who was born near Enos.

A newspaper article stated that Gerald was identified as the Distinguished Student of the week by the Press Club. It stated that as a member of the Class of 1936, after attending the grade schools of Chalmers, Lake Village and Enos, he'd been a sterling student at Morocco with an "A" average. In addition

to his fine grades, he was the President of his Senior Class and was involved with assisting Mr. Stoner with selling tickets to the various sports events. Gerald's hobbies included reading, collecting old coins and math which he intends to take at Indiana University as a math teacher.

Gerald's parents were Lawrence and Mary Lou (Hite). When Lawrence Edmund Rainford was born on February 7, 1892, in Newton, Indiana, his father was Albert and his mother's name was Effie. Lawrence mar-



Gerald with his sisters Phyllis and Barbara.



Class of 1936, Morocco High School. Top Row, Dorothy Redden, James Hope, Virginia Smart, Vance Stine, Lenore Bingham, Ivan Babbit, Mary Spradling, John Hagen, Harold Martin; 2nd row: John Sheppard, Maxine Bassett, Robert Kessler, Ruth Plott, Thelma Warrick, Roger Tebo, Hazel Smart, Robert Jackson; 3rd row: Mary Kathryn Johnson, Maurice Cox, Jean Harris, George Rainford, Opal Brewer, Lloyd Wiltfang, Carolyn Hammel, Keith Brunton; 4th row: Ann McPhail, sponsor, Livian Russell, Martha Coatney, Melvin Roadruck, Ben Tincher, Bethel Brunton, Jane Roadruck, Clara Hunter. Sources: Dennis Boyd and moroccohigshoolalumni.org



Gerald and Mary.

These early successes gained them a wider audience and better pay from the newspaper. Having both saved up \$500. Ade, McCutcheon and Carroll Kent, son of Kentland's founder A. J Kent, went on a tour of Europe. The paper agreed to keep them on the payroll as long as they sent home two illustrated stories a week, which they did. These illustrated stories became wildly popular and as their \$500 ran out in Paris, they cabled their employers for an advance which they were more than happy to pay. McCutcheon later recalled getting back dead broke but had never since got such value for their money spent. Some of these stories are framed and on display at Ade's home, Hazelden.

George Ade once proclaimed his friend John T. McCutcheon was the World's Champion player of hokey. McCutcheon's spirit of adventure kept him from classes, assignments, and deadlines. McCutcheon's greatest act of hokey playing was a planned trip of six months aboard a newly built revenue cutter the 'McCulloch'.

After getting permission from his publisher, he said goodbye to an almost fiancée, and set off for an around the world tour. The McCulloch nearly capsized in heavy seas a few days out of port. Fourteen days of storms ended any illusions of a pleasure trip on a new ship. When the ship reached Malta, they received news that the battleship Maine had been sunk in Havana. When the ship reached Singapore official orders came down that the McCulloch was being transferred to the US Navy. War was declared with the Spanish and McCutcheon found himself, with Admiral Dewey's permission, steaming toward the enemy in Manila Bay. This was the beginning of his work, quite by chance, as

a war correspondent. He became the reporter for the *New York World* and his own paper, and only one of three reporters on the scene.

The McCulloch was fitted with guns and took part in the battle of Manila Bay. McCutcheon's reporting was eagerly read back home. William Randolph Hearst asked the *Record*, McCutcheon's paper, for permission to reprint his dispatches which they granted only after they could be first to print. Hearst cabled a job offering to McCutcheon and have him name his own price. He declined the offer remaining loyal to his paper. He then was made to spend a total of three years abroad touring Asia. He learned while abroad that his somewhat fiancée had married in his absence.

Upon his arrival home McCutcheon lectured about his trip. George Ade noticed that something was gravely wrong with his friend. On December 19th, 1894, Jess, McCutcheon's sister, found a doctor who said he had double pneumonia from a malarial infection from his travels. On Christmas Eve George Barr McCutcheon, John's brother, was called in as it was not expected that he would last the night. Ade at the advice of the doctors arranged and accompanied his friend's transportation out of Chicago to Beaucatcher Mountain North Carolina. McCutcheon's health caused his weight to drop from 140lbs to 85lbs. During the long convalescence, the two men exchanged stories of adventures. Of particular interest to Ade was McCutcheon's encounter with a certain Sultan of Sulu.

The play "The Sultan of Sulu" was a smash hit on Broadway for George Ade and a recovered McCutcheon designed all the

costumes. John T McCutcheon went on playing hokey. After his illness he continued his career as an illustrator but found time for adventure.

He flew in a Wright Brothers plane, hunted in Africa with Teddy Roosevelt, won a Pulitzer Prize for his cartoon "A Wise Economist Asks a Question," and covered WW I as a correspondent becoming a German prisoner of war. In his autobiography, "Drawn from Memory", McCutcheon entitles a chapter, "The Main Adventure" which chronicles his marriage and honeymoon with Evelyn Shaw on January 20th, 1917.

The year previous McCutcheon had purchased an island in the Bahamas called Salt Cay. It was somewhat bigger than his friend George described, "it's about two miles long and as wide as my dining room". John and Evelyn renovated the buildings during the honeymoon. She was a match for his adventurous nature as she was the very first woman to fly across the Andes Mountains, the second American woman to have ever crossed the Gobi Desert.

Three sons were born to the McCutcheon family; John Jr., as a graduation present, was taken to Rio de Janeiro and then flown to Germany on the Graf Zeppelin. The last great act of friendship occurred on May 19th, 1944, when John T McCutcheon eulogized his lifelong friend George Ade at Hazelden. His eulogy, due to obvious emotion, was quite brief. It ends with these words, "I doubt anyone ever got more joy out of life. He made thousands of friends but never lost one. A world without George Ade in it is hard to realize."

Image From the Mt. Ayr HS Yearbook, *The Ayridian*



The marching band from Mt. Ayr High School. This is also a view of their football field, which was located on the northeast side of town. The area is pasture today. Originally published in 1960 *Ayridian*.



McCutcheon won the Pulitzer Prize for his 1931 editorial cartoon, "A Wise Economist Asks A Question."



## Historian's Corner

Yarrow "Bluebeard" Kriz by Newton County Historian Diana Elijah

Five pages in the 2013 "History of Mt. Ayr, Jackson and Colfax Townships, Newton County, Indiana" contain the recollections of people from the Mt. Ayr community who shared their memories of Kriz's Grocery store and in particular Yarrow "Bluebeard" Kriz.

Those pages are a tribute to a man who grew up, owned, and operated a business and touched the lives of many, many people - young and old. And in particular the young, as it was a hub of activity for the kids of Mt. Ayr year-round. But Norma Turner, summed up his legacy when she said, "When he (Yarrow) passed, the town lost a good man. He left the store to his nephew Mac who kept it open for a few years, but then he was not well, so he closed it down. It was sad when he had the building torn down. It was a historical marker for the town."

Janet Mauck, a Mt. Ayr resident and reporter for the *Rensselaer Republican* in 1976, wrote an article about the man everyone called "Bluebeard." She wrote that "although modernization had touched the store in small ways, items purchased were still rung up on Kriz's old adding machine, and the older residents of the town still gathered around the white-topped table to talk about the good old days. Kriz's Grocery remained one of the few small grocery stores left where a customer can get just about anything from overalls to toys to peanuts in the shell to the Sunday papers."

I remember goods ranged from the best quality hot dogs, farm work clothes, batteries, and toys. All types of groceries, milk, cheese and soda pop. He would prepare cold-cut sandwiches for 10 cents and would apply the condiments. A quick lunch for the person or farmer on the go!

You could pay your NIPSCO bill at his store and for a while collect your mail from



Girls on bikes in front of Kriz's Grocery, (l-r): Cheri Turner, Margie Johnson, Sheryl Berenda, Susan Berenda, Angie Hoon, Cara Turner, Sally Berenda. *Melanie (Turner) Rusk photo.*

the Post Office located inside the store. For years Yarrow hired people from the community and students to help them out after school and in the evenings. Norma Turner, Nell Miller and Ethel Murfitt were the first assistants. Carla, Pam and Amy Hoon; Larry Langley, Sandra Halstead, Dudley "Mack" Vaughn and Idamae, Cheri and Melanie Turner all put their time in at Kriz's. His reason: "because I needed help in the evenings to give me a break and to give them something to do and earn a little money." Store hours in the beginning were 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week. By the 1970s, he shortened them to 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

"Meeting the public" is what Kriz enjoyed most. "They are always interesting. Some you'd like to see and some you'd like to run out the back door" when they came in.

The store had been a part of Mt. Ayr since 1936, when Kriz's brother Jim operated it. Yarrow purchased the store from his brother's widow in 1946. He owned/operated the store for 35 years.

Yarrow John Kriz was the seventh of nine children born to his parents John (1870-1926) and Kathrine (1871-1952) (Proska) Kriz. Both were from Czechoslovakia. His siblings were James (1893-1943); John (1895-1928); Anna (1897-1927); Charles (1899-1923); Edward (1901-1928); George (1904-1925); Helena (1911-1927); Stanley "Pat" (1916-1980).

Noticing that his father John and siblings Anna, John Jr., Charles, Edward, George and Helena all died between 1923-1928, I found that the Jasper County Death records state they all died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Further research reveals this is the most contagious type, but it usually only spreads after prolonged exposure to someone with the illness. It often spreads within a family who live in the same house; such was the case with the Kriz family.

Yarrow was born in Chicago and lived in Jasper County prior to coming to Newton County in 1923. He was educated at Colfax Township School, Newton County. On June 11, 1946, he married Sarah Souder, daughter of Amos and Emma (Robinson) Souder of Mt. Ayr. They were later divorced.

Finding the family history fills in the gaps left by the recorded memories. It explains Yarrow's generous business style, that of carrying accounts for the locals and helping those who would not have asked.

However, ancestry.com did not reveal the source of his nickname, "Bluebeard," which is inscribed on his tombstone at Memory Gardens in Rensselaer. Local lore

suggests that in his younger days Yarrow sported a beard that gave his face a tint of blue.

Yarrow passed away on April 25, 1981, at Rensselaer Care Center where he had lived for six months before he passed away of pancreatic cancer.



Brothers Kriz tombstone at Memory Gardens in Rensselaer.

### Recollections

Rosemary (Mitchell) Gyarmati

"As a grade school student, I remember birthdays when someone's parents would give the teacher money; the teacher would take us to Kriz's Grocery to get us all a treat. Everyone either got some type of ice cream on a stick for 5 cents, a dipped ice cream cone for 5 cents a scoop, a candy bar for 5 cents or penny candy equal to that amount. Pretty awesome going to school in such a protected little area where everyone knew each other and trusted each other.

"The store had wood floors, a soda fountain, soda fountain tables, glass cases that had treasures in them, shelves of farmer clothes, every basic grocery or household product you



Inside Kriz Grocery, you can see the items behind on the shelves. We used to hang out there and were goofing around with some of the items that were in the store. (L-r): Melanie Turner, Roger Hartwell, Kris English. *Melanie (Turner) Rusk photo.*



## Do You Know? by Janet Miller

All of these items are on display at our Resource Center in Kentland  
Find the Answers on Page 13

would need, penny candy, ice cream freezer, and the best deli. The hot dogs were the kind that linked together on a string."

Judy Mathew-Horner-Spritznagle

"Every Saturday Mom would give us 25 cents to go to the store and buy five different candy bars. When we got home, we would cut them into five pieces. This was so we could each have a piece of the different kinds. We shared it with Mom as well. One other feature about this place was the dance hall upstairs."

Karla (Hoon) Baler

"Yarrow had a bit of an accent. He was always known as a kind-hearted, thrifty person. He was also an avid coin collector. His nickname was "Bluebeard," I guess because he had such a dark beard in his younger days."

Nancy (Mitchell) Hendrich

"The store was always a gathering place. When the farmers weren't in the fields, they would all congregate around two tables he had and have coffee and visit. When I got older, that is where I met all my friends. We would have a Coke, for a nickel, or one of his amazing ice cream cones. You got two big scoops for a nickel! They were the best.

"Yarrow was a quiet person that looked kind of mean, but he wasn't. He had a neat sense of humor and would crack these jokes that you weren't sure if they were jokes or not. When I look back now, he was an amazing businessman. He would let people run a tab until they could afford to pay it."

Norma (Brunton) Turner

Norma remembers when James Kriz owned the store. "James Kriz hired a gentleman in the summer and ran free shows for everyone. He would hang the screen in front of the school. People would bring chairs, blankets, and some parked their cars every Friday night. Everyone in and around town always looked forward to this.

Glen Cothran, Indiana State Police (Ret.)

"When I first moved to the area I stopped at Kriz's to get acquainted to buy a cake and candy bar. Several people were gathered around the stove. Yarrow was sociable but somewhat reserved. Yarrow asked if I was on police business, and I replied no, just getting acquainted, and to get a Coke and candy. Yarrow replied that he was glad to have him, and come back anytime, but not on police business."

The consensus agrees that he was a positive influence on the community and a store merchandising genius.

You can view Newton County Yearbooks at our facebook group: [Newton County Historical Society - Official Group](#) - You have to request to join! We now have over 500 members - so make sure you stop by for a visit!



1. Do you know when this collection of items from the cornerstone of the County Courthouse were removed?
2. The sign for this establishment has a new name today, what and where is it?
3. What Newton County lady served in the Navy first, then the Army Reserve?
4. Whose bee-keeping tools are these?