



Thayer Consolidated Building
Erected 1913 - Cost \$12,000



Ade Consolidated Building
Erected 1914 - Cost \$14,500



Lake Village Consolidated Building
Erected 1914 - Cost \$9,000



Roselawn Consolidated Building
Erected 1917 - Cost \$21,000



Colfax Center Consolidated Building
Erected 1919 - Cost \$17,633



Conrad Mission Building
Erected 1920-21 - Cost \$11,861



Foresman Consolidated Building
Erected 1921 - Cost \$47,588

Erected 1899: Morocco Grade Building - Cost \$20,000
 Erected 1902: Kentland Grade Building - Cost \$20,000
 Erected 1902-03: Brook Grade and High School - Cost \$22,000
 Erected 1908: Goodland Grade and High School - Cost \$21,000
 Erected 1917: Mt. Ayr Grade and High School - Cost \$27,905
 Erected 1921: A.J. Kent High School - Cost \$134,645
 Erected 1921: Beaver Twp. High School (Morocco) - Cost \$87,770
 Erected 1921: Enos Consolidated Building - Cost \$30,864
 Photos of these buildings can be seen at the Resource Center.

School Building Construction After One Room School Consolidations

The Newcomer

A publication of the Newton County Historical Society, Inc.
 Post Office Box 303, Kentland, Indiana 47951
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORT STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT
 NUMBER 27
 BROOK, IN 47922

Mission Statement: 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. (c) 2022 Newton County Historical Society. No portion of this newsletter may be reproduced without permission of the editors. All rights reserved.

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.

The Newcomer

Volume 29, Issue One
 Winter/Spring 2023 \$3.00

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

Inside this issue

- Brook Native Don Berlin
- Town of Mt. Ayr
- Dial Telephones for Morocco and Lake Village
- 1876 Map of Newton County
- Imogene Gott, Indiana's First Girl Cheerleader
- Kentland Basketball Court and Morocco Football Fields
- Senior Cords
- The Romig Family of Kentland
- Historical Impressions

Don Berlin

Hoosier Farm Boy Saw His Future in the Sky

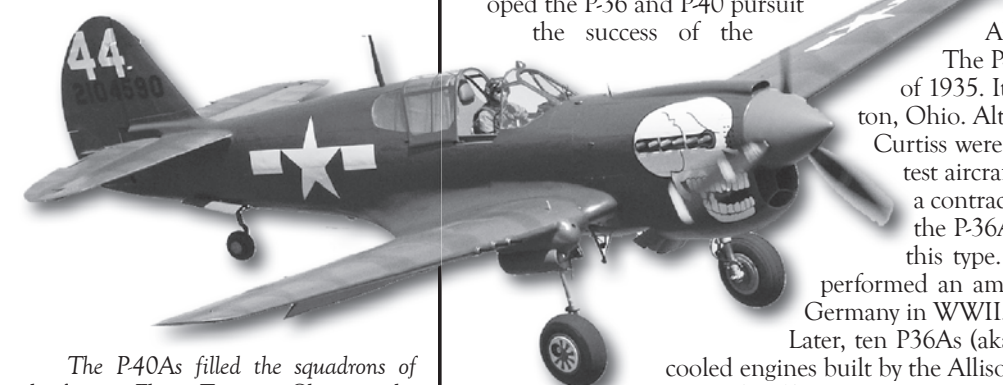
By Beth Bassett

Don Berlin was the oldest son of Charles and Maude Berlin. He graduated from Brook High School in 1916 and went on to Purdue where he achieved a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1921. Later in life he received an honorary degree as a Doctor of Engineering in 1953. In February 1926 he married Helen E. Hentz, and had a son, Donald Edward, (1929-1995).

From one of the many obituaries that were published nationwide it says, "Don was an engineer who learned the way of the corporate world. Mr. Berlin spent nearly 60 years in a career that offered a Baedeker-like (travel-guide) tour of the aircraft industry. Along the way, he helped build a new technology. He was a Hoosier farm boy who grew up in an era when man was beginning to look to his future in the skies."

P-36A and P-40A Pursuit Planes

During his career at Curtiss Wright Corp., he designed and developed the P-36 and P-40 pursuit (fighter) planes, which contributed to the success of the Allied victory of WWII.



The P40As filled the squadrons of the famous Flying Tigers in China, under the command of Major General Claire Lee Chennault, the legendary hero of the war against the Japanese. The above photo is a P-40 Warhawk, Tomahawk/Kittyhawk. Operated by Peter Teichman's Hangar 11 Collection, based at North Weald, Essex. She wears the markings of a P40N '44-2104590' named "Lulu Belle", flown by 2nd Lt. Philip R. Adair as part of the 89th Fighter Squadron, 80th Fighter Group, 10th Air Force, based in the China-Burma-India Theater. Source: Wikipedia

The P-36 prototype was built and flown in April of 1935. It entered a design flight evaluation at Dayton, Ohio. Although it did not win the competition, the Curtiss were awarded a contract to build three service test aircrafts called the Y1P-36. In 1937, Curtiss won a contract for 210 single pursuit airplanes known as the P-36A. It was the largest order in peace time of this type. France followed by ordering 200, which performed an amazing record of kills before France fell to Germany in WWII.

Later, ten P36As (aka P-36 Hawk) were fitted with V-12 liquid cooled engines built by the Allison Division of GM, called the P40As, (aka P40 Warhawk).

"More of Everything Power, Speed, Gun, and Armor"

At the onset of WWII, the Curtiss P-36As and P-40As were the only pursuit aircraft the US Army Air Corps had that were ready for combat. There were approximately 8,000 P-36As and 18,000 P-40As built during WWII.

American pilots, who flew as mercenaries in the days before Pearl Harbor to give the Chinese some semblance of an air force, found the heavy P-40 no match in dogfights for the agile Zero flown by the Japanese. But its heavy armor and its .50-caliber guns gave the experienced American pilots a major edge in kill ratio.

Mr. Berlin was given a petition signed by a dozen of the American pilots in China asking for more of everything - power, speed, guns, and armor. Later modifications met their plea. The changes gave American pilots a fighting chance when they went into combat over North Africa against the German Military aircrafts: the Messerschmitt BF 109 and Focke-Wulf. Even with the changes, pilots continued to grouse about their heavy, liquid-cooled, Allison-powered aircraft. Complaints were made in several languages, as the P-40 was shipped in quantity to all Allied nations.

The P40As filled the squadrons of the famous American Flying Tigers in China, under the command of Major General Claire Lee Chennault, the legendary hero of the war against the Japanese. His comment about the plane: "Although damned by the world, it was flown to glory."

P-40As engaged Japanese aircraft

Ripley's Believe It Or Not!

Featured Berlin's P-40 in 1940. It reads: "Wonder if the Germans see an ill omen in the fact that the name of the American engineer who designed our deadly fighting plane the P-40 is Donald R. Berlin?"



President's Thoughts

By Kay Babcock

Are you who you really you think you are? Are you thinking of swabbing your cheek and sending it off?

I ask this because those "under the table" things of the "not so distant past" can now throw lives and families into joy or turmoil.

Finding new ancestors can be a blessing in disguise. Having half-siblings added to the family tree, decades after their birth enlighten researchers who are then faced with the reveal of the discovery. Some may decide share their finds, or not.

If any of you have followed "Finding Your Roots" on PBS, adding the DNA test to the research can become quite definitive. Biological ancestors can be determined by this test, if their DNA is in the system. Finding new branches of a family tree, as well as correcting relationships is clarified through testing. I have heard stories about DNA discoveries, that created courisity, confusion, and confirmations of lineage.

So, if you are thinking about finding facts about your ancestors through a DNA test, be ready for what you find, it may not be some rich old aunt, it may be a snake in the woodpile.

2023 has arrived, we can sweep 2022 out the back door.

The Resource Center has seen a few changes. The beautiful 50 states quilt given by the Riegle family has been hung (safely out of the sun). Collections of George Ade memorabilia and of the NuJoy have been assembled and on display.



Collection of George Ade pins donated by the Gerbracht family.

collections of George Ade memorabilia and of the NuJoy have been assembled and on display.

We were pleased to accept additional donations from the Gerbracht family that included many new George Ade items. Barbara Gerbracht's Red Riding Hood collection was featured in our display window after Christmas. How many of you still use a clothesline for drying our weekly laundry? How many of you helped your mother/grandmothers hang the clothes on the line. Remember the rules? Never let them touch the ground - hang all the washcloths together ... and others? Take a peek at our current window display at the Resource Center - it may bring back a few memories!

At our monthly meeting on March 28th, Trevor Edmonson, the Kankakee Sands Project Manager spoke on their on-going efforts of conservation in Newton County. In April, Brian Capouch spoke about Fred Friedline, a local architect and builder.

Several things are in the planning stages. On May 7th, Mary Kay Emmerich will be hosting a Lady's Tea at the Scott-Lucas House in Morocco. Be looking for your summer frock to wear!

In June the annual meeting and picnic will be at the Mt. Ayr Community Building.

July will be Punkin' Vine Fair month, stop in and visit with us at our corner in the Commercial Building.

A future meeting is planned with James Whitcomb Riley (Danny Russel) who will be visiting us.

As usual, we are always in need for volunteers at the Center. Check in on things Monday, Thursday, and Friday 11-3, CST. We hope to see or hear from you soon!



"Wash Day" is the current Resource Center window display.

> Continued from page 1



Don Berlin

at Pearl Harbor and in the Philippines in December 1941. The P40As were used extensively for strafing the troops and dive bombing the German and Italian shipping docks in the Mediterranean.

Development of the Fisher P-75 Eagle began in September 1942 by the Fisher Body Division of General Motors, where Berlin served as the Director of Aircraft Development. The US Army Air Force required a fighter possessing an extremely high rate of climb, using the most powerful liquid-cooled engine available, the Allison V-3420. The program was cancelled only after a small number of prototypes were produced, as it was no longer required in its original role, and possessed no significant advantages over aircraft already in production.

Don Berlin was happy in the knowledge that the concept for the design of the P-36 and P-40 was his alone. His name is synonymous with the development of military aviation. He designed aircraft that were safe, rugged, and "a pilot's joy".

The Berlin Family of Brook

In the spring of 1903, the Charles Berlin family moved to Brook from Ramona, in Owen County, Indiana. Census records show they settled as farmers in Iroquois township, and by 1920 the family was living in the town of Brook on East Howard Street, neighbors of the James Montgomery family, with Charles occupation listed as a candy merchant. By 1924, his children were away from home, attending college or beginning their own careers. At that time, Charles and his wife Maude moved to Monon for one year, and in February of 1925, they are living in West Lafayette. A *Brook Reporter* news article dated March 1924, stated that Charles had taken a trip to Atlanta, Georgia, on a company tour by his employer Coca-Cola. In Au-

Historian's Corner

Newton County Rural Youth

by Newton County Historian Diana Elijah

Founded in 1938, Indiana Rural Youth was designed for farmers 18 to 30 years of age. The organization encouraged education and participation in local government, study of current issues, planned recreation and community Rural Youth meetings were "good, clean fun."

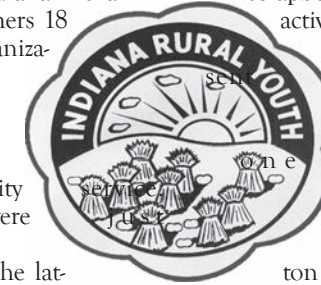
I went to meetings in the latter part of my Senior year at Brook High School. That is where I first saw, but did not meet, my future husband because he had just returned from serving in the Army in Korea. He was seated on a chair in the middle of the Community Center at Ade, looking extremely pleased as a bevy of young women surrounded him. But the next weekend there was a district meeting at Montmorenci, with dinner and dancing.

I met Paul Elijah, a great conversationalist, and was he ever a good dancer; he called me later. That was 1955 and two years later I was in Nursing school in Indianapolis; we were married on Christmas Day. He square-danced with our Rural Youth group and one of our first trips with them was to the television show, "Barn Dance," in Chicago. Paul played baseball, basketball and we had lots of good times in Rural Youth.

The Newton County Rural Youth group provided community services by helping the 4-H Junior Leaders. Helping families at holiday time, fundraising for the Cancer Society, blood donations at George Ade Hospital were only a few of the many tasks performed by the members.

They also wrote and prepared skits for entertainment for other organizations. Decorating floats for the Indiana State Fair and the local Centennial celebrations were high on the list of their fun activities.

A monthly newsletter, "Newton Noise,"



scrapbooking and raising funds for their activities required paperwork - filling out evaluation sheets were to the district managers. Purdue Extension offices were the primary sponsors, and some from their staff chaperoned meetings and often gave informative programs. Local service organizations such as the Newton County REMC were also speakers at their meetings.

In the Secretary's notes from the 1950s-60s, I see Rich and Janet Miller were active in the organization. In the 1960s there were 32 members. Penny Williams was Newton County's exchange student to Ireland. I thought this was a big deal - and it was! She wrote frequently of her experiences in the "Newton Noise."

An example of a different type of community service was helping entertain at a Lake Village 8th Grade Graduation. After the ceremony, they helped with the dinner and had games for entertainment. Although the secretary's notes stated they did not make the meal, it was a big job - and much appreciated by the school.

Some words about leadership. The Purdue Extension employees who were so helpful were Elizabeth Smart, Phil Stansfield, and County Agent Russell Zell. Roy and Avalynne Cooper were very helpful with the Rural Youth.

The first Indiana State President was 27-year-old George Doup, raised on a Centennial Farm in Bartholomew County. In 1952, he was elected District Director; a forward thinker and excellent leader. Eventually he would become the president of Indiana Farm Bureau.

There are several scrapbooks and photo albums at the Resource Center in Kentland for those interested in seeing more information.



Do You Know?

Photos/Questions on page 5

1. The "50 States Quilt" was the wonderful work of Joan Riegle of Kentland. The Indiana square shows we were admitted into the Union in 1816 and we were the 19th state. Our state bird is the Cardinal and our state flower is the Peony.

2. This telephone belonged to Dr. Tinder of Brook. It was used in his veterinarian office. We do not know what his ring might have been.

3. This old National Cash Register was used at the *Morocco Courier* office through the 1980s. All the keys were functional at the time. Many fingers have pressed keys since its removal and donation to the Resource Center in Kentland. It is a favorite curiosity for the students who visit the center.

4. The Minit Shop was located in Morocco. It was a grocery store that you could walk through in a few minutes, pick up fresh meats and cheese, cold pop and snacks. It was located just southwest of the current DeMotte State Bank, or south of the old Texaco Station. There were two prior businesses in the location, Purdy's Meat Market, circa 1900s, who may have built the structure. Cecil Bingham purchased the store in 1955, from the Orville Purdy estate, and ran it as a general grocery store. The Bouse family owned and operated the store in the 70s and named it Minit Shop.

5. This Kentland Blue Devil sign was painted by Dean Ford a 1965 KHS alumni. The sign was painted in 1963. About the sign, Dean stated: "As I recall it was a departure from the usual adult more threatening Blue Devil from the past. Mine looks more playful. Someone thought he was in a diaper. I liked that."

Stop by the Resource Center located on 310 E. Seymour Street, Kentland. Corner of 4th Street and U.S. 24 You can spend hours looking at these and other items in our our collection of Newton County artifacts!

Morocco Elementary Teachers

Date unknown, but may have been in the 1960s: l-r, seated: Mrs. Baird, Mrs. Iliff, Mrs. Stucker, Mrs. Howell, Mrs. McDonald; l-r, standing: Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Kessler, Mr. James, Miss Johnson, Mrs. Yoder. Facebook photo.

History of the Lake Village Grange

Morocco Courier, 1955

News From Lake Village, by Ms. Bradburn

"The building purchased for a Grange Hall in November 1954, has quite a bit of history behind it and hoping that future generations will wonder about the history of Lake Village Grange No 2386 and its hall, I have gathered the following information:

"The building originally was two school buildings; one known as the State Line school house, the other, the old Lake Village school. Both buildings were built in approximately 1880. The Lake Village school was condemned in 1912. Many years later, a supper was held in a hall (which is now the Royal Blue Store) and with the proceeds from this supper and donations from interested persons, these buildings were bought by Mrs. Adolph Yott and moved to the present location for use as a Catholic Church. After failing to attain enough parishioners to meet the payments on the property, they were forced to sell the property at public auction. The I.O.O. F. Lodge was the highest bidder and purchased the building from Father Rider of Lowell.

"During the years that it was owned by the lodge, the building was used as a meeting place for all community activities. The young people spent many hours dancing in the hall. The I.O.O.F. Lodge had died out by 1936 and they decided to dispose of the property. In June 1936 the property was bought by Clark Shuler for use as a hatchery and living quarters. A contest was sponsored to name the hatchery with a prize of \$10 offered. The price was won by Ruth Graefnitz (now Mrs. Roy Merchant) who came up with the name of Ideal Hatchery.

"In September 1951 Mr. and Mrs. Clark Shuler were forced to go out of business and moved to southern Indiana due to ill health. Mrs. Shuler passed away May 31, 1953; Mr. Shuler followed her on June 27, 1954. The



2023 photograph of the Grange building in Lake Village from Google Maps.

property was then bought from the heirs of the estate.

"The Lake Village Grange was organized in 1945 by Ralph K. Tilton, deputy of Lowell and held its first meeting September 25 with 31 charter members, 12 of those charter members are still members in good standing. They are: Halsey and Belva Davis, Lancy and Hilda Sorenson, John and Ann Klein, Lloyd and Dorothy Arbuckle, Ruth Hendryx, and Lena Tucker.

"Charter members who are no longer members are: Karl and Rhoda Kuster, William and Grace Parks, Porter and Edith Madison, Jack and Pauline Sirois, Donald and Esther Airy, Claude and Bessie Rainford, Joseph Hendryx, John Smutko and Albert DeVelde. Clark and Celia Shuleer are the only charter members who have passed away.

"The first master elected was John Klein. Pauline Sirois was the first secretary.

"In December 1945 the first class of candidates were initiated. They were Norman and Eva Turner, no longer members, Francis and Dorothy Stone and Gladys Flatt. During the following years the Lake Village Grange worked hard to prove themselves an asset to the community. Some of the activities included: annual Christmas parties for the youngsters, annual party for the eighth-grade graduates, help was given to the Sam Bigger and Donald Stone families; helped with the youth program; several miles of road have been black-topped and miles of roadside weeds have been sprayed. A German exchange student, Ingaborg Steickel, was placed in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Stone by the National Grange. The Grange members won a battle with the Kankakee River in the spring of 1951 when the rampaging waters forced the residents of Sumava Resorts to vacate. After failing to get outside help, Lake Village residents opened their homes to the evacuees and with 4000 sandbags, breached the two holes in the dike. This won \$100

in savings bonds for the community service committee.

"In 1954 the community services committee won \$50 in savings bonds. A hospital bed and oxygen supplies have been bought by the Grange and are available to anyone in the community who has need of them.

"The membership has almost tripled as today, there are 89 members.

"Ten years of progress have passed since our Grange was organized. There is still much work to be done to make our community a better place in which to live and we hope that the next ten years will show an equal or larger amount of improvement, not just so the Grange will get credit for the improvements but in order that the future generations will benefit from it."

Newton County data available on our website: 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

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

Don Berlin Timeline

Age 23 June 1921 to Feb. 1926	Employed by the Engineering Division U. S. Army Air Corp, McCook Field, Dayton, Ohio. Assistant to Mr. F. N. Fales, Chief of Wind Tunnel and Aeronautical Laboratory. Conducted wind-tunnel tests, putting him in the forefront of how power and speed affected planes held together by wooden frames, wooden struts and piano wire.
Age 28 Feb. 1926-29	Draftsman and Production Engineer, Douglas Aircraft Co., Santa Monica, CA. Chief Engineer in design of a twin-engine Navy torpedo plane.
Age 31 Feb.-Oct 1929	Chief Engineer Valley Manufacturing Aircraft Co., Glendale, CA. He designed and built, three-engine airplane used on air mail runs, which took eighth-place entry in a contest.
Age 32 Nov. 1929 to Oct. 1931	Chief Engineer Northrop Aircraft Division, United Aircraft and Transport Co., Burbank, CA. Directed the design, building and testing of the Alpha, the first successful all-metal, stress-skin aircraft, a plane that altered the course of aviation development.
Age 33 Nov. 1931 to March 1932	Stearman Aircraft Division of United Aircraft and Transport Company as consultant on transfer of Northrop data to Stearman in Wichita, KA
Age 34 April 1932-Oct. 1934	Chief Engineer Northrop Division of Douglas Company, El Segundo, CA
Age 36 Nov. 1934-Dec. 1941	Project Engineer, Chief Engineer, Director of Engineering, Military Aircraft, Airplane Division, Curtiss Wright Corp., Buffalo, NY. He designed and developed the Curtiss XP-36, the first series of all-metal, low-wing fighter planes, culminating in the P-40, known as the Kittyhawk, the Tomahawk and the Warhawk.
Age 43 Jan. 1942-Feb. 1947	General Motor Corp. as Asst. Vice President to Mr. O. E. Hunt; Later Director Aircraft Development Section, Fisher Body, Detroit, MI; Last two years at Allison Division in Indianapolis as Director of Installation Engineering Section. This position was at the request of the Federal Government. In 1945, he was named director of GMs Installation Engineering Section in Indianapolis. Supervised the development of the P-75 long-range fighter, one of the last propeller-driven pursuit planes.
Age 48 1947-1952	Vice President of Engineering at McDonnell Aircraft in St. Louis, MO. Served as Executive Vice President, directing the design of several McDonnell jet fighters known as the Banshee, the Demon, the Voodoo and the Phantom and the ram-jet engines for helicopter rotors.
Age 53 1953-1963	President and Director of Vertol Helicopter Co., in Morton DL, becoming VP and GM when it became a division of Boeing Co. in 1960. Played a role in the development of a wide assortment of helicopters, vertical takeoff and short landing, and takeoff aircraft.
Age 63 1963-1965	Consultant with Curtiss Wright Corp, VP of corporate staff in Woodridge NJ, prior to joining E. F. Felt, a northern California aerospace defense contractor.
Age 65 1965-1968	Involved with revitalizing helicopters
Age 68 1969	Helped setup the Roscoe Turner Aeronautical Foundation, Indianapolis, IN
Age 78 1979	Retired as Vice President of the E. F. Felt, Inc. in San Leandro, CA.
Age 84 1982	May 17, died at Glen Mills, PA; buried at Edgewood Memorial Park, Glen Mills, PA. His wife Helen (1988), and son Donald E. (1995) are buried alongside him.

gust 1925, Charles suddenly passed away at home. His obituary stated that he had always felt that Brook was his home, so the family brought him back and buried him at Riverside Cemetery. His wife Maude was laid to rest beside him in 1965.

Charles Norris (1871-1925), was the son of Elizabeth (Tripp) and David Berlin, born in Owen County, Indiana. Charles' wife, Maude Easter Mull (1875-1965). Charles' siblings were Hortensia, Anna, James, Daniel, and Joseph.

All five Berlin children attended Brook schools. Donovan "Don" Reese, (1898-1982); Janice M. (1900-1987); Hubert Mull (1903-19); Leona E. (1906-1999) and Edward David (1908-1999). Research shows that Don, Janice, and Edward graduated from Purdue University.

Janice M. Berlin, oldest daughter of Charles and Maude, made her career at Purdue University in the Home Economics Department. She attended Brook schools, possibly early learnings in the Julian School; graduated from Brook High School in 1918; spent one year at DePauw University, then joined her brothers at Purdue.

After graduating from Purdue, she went to Farmington, IL, to teach home economics. Then for five years at Eaton, (location unknown), where she started the vocational home economics department and inaugurated a school cafeteria. In 1929 she became the Marion Co., Indiana Home Demonstration Agent, where she remained until 1965. Janice passed away on November 19, 1987, at the age of 87. She is buried at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. More information can be found in the "Brook-Iroquois-Washington Township Sesquicentennial Collection."

Hubert, aka Herbert, was a first a chauffeur in Chicago, but relocated to Los Angeles, California and was an Automotive Instructor at a trade school there. He married first, Leah Crabb in 1924, and had one daughter, Margaret Ann; and second Clea, m, 1945, whom he resided with upon his death in 1970.

Leona Elizabeth married Lawrence L. Solmer, (1903-1975) in 1940, and lived in Dallas County, Texas. She lived to the age of 93.

David Edward, who went by Edward, graduated from Purdue, and from occupations listed in census records, it appears he may have followed his brother Don's career path. In 1940 census he lives in Buffalo, NY, a draftsman in the aircraft industry. This is the time when Don was at Curtiss-Wright Corp., in New York. The 1950 census has him living in Marion, Indiana with his wife Elizabeth and daughter Margaret E. as a design engineer. David Edward lived to be 91 years of age, passing away in 1999.

Town of Mt. Ayr Land Donated by Lewis Marion in 1882

Mount Ayr was originally part of a 250-acre farm owned by Lewis Marion. Mr. Marion set aside 40 acres of his farm and laid out the town. The town is located in the NE corner of Section 23, Jackson Township.

He named the town after his birthplace in North Carolina, Mount Airy. Plots were donated for a school, park, and church, as long as they were used for those purposes. There was a stipulation for the park - it had to be fenced. A hitch rack around three sides of the park, and posts in the ground with secured heavy chains for tying horses. The park would eventually have a bandstand for the Mt. Ayr Band performances.

Lots were laid out around the school and park; each lot that faces the school having a 32' frontage, all other lots have a 40' frontage. The first house was built on the west school frontage where Dolly White, the first child born in Mt. Ayr lived.

Going south to north the east and west streets are Rensselaer, Chicago, Marion, and Wood Streets. Going from east to west, the North and South Streets are First, Second, Third and Fourth Streets.

A tile mill was built on the northwest end with a tile pond formed on the northeast side where clay was dug to make the tile and brick.

The railroad lines were completed through Attica to Fair Oaks in 1883, with Mt. Ayr included in these lines. Marion's idea to plat a town along the railroad was a great success.

A grist mill, retail stores, cobblers, blacksmiths, grocery, feed and a drug store, a livery barn, grain elevator, a newspaper, hotel, and pickle factory were established. The Mt. Ayr State Bank, a doctor's

Mt. Ayr - Celebrates 20 Years as the Smallest Tree City in Indiana



Pictured above, right, lr: Howard Marshall, Terri Pasierb, Tim Myers, Jacob Roos, and Teresa Zenor. Photo by Zach Walters.

The town of Mount Ayr, recongnized as the smallest tree city in Indiana in 2003, and is the only one in Newton County, commemorated their 20th year with a town-wide celebration in April.

Indiana Community Urban Forestry Director Jacob Roos spoke with the Mt. Ayr town board saying, "There's a lot of larger communities that have staff dedicated to urban forestry that struggle with getting certified and maintaining it. So, maintaining certification for 20 years in a row is impressive regardless of the size of the community."

A tree city is a city or town that has made a commitment to the planting, maintenance, and care of their trees. The purpose of a tree city is to increase the number of trees in urban areas. In order to become a tree city, the community sends in an application to Tree City USA, a program offered through the Arbor Day Foundation.

office, telephone office, and a post office provided needed services for the community.

Dance halls were an early attraction, as was the Green Gables Tavern, later known as the Coach Lite Inn.

A library, millinery, opera house, a dance hall, and the Herre's auto garage that also served as a skating rink and gymnasium were added.

An early Baptist Church still stands with hopes of restoration located on Wood and Second Street.

A Methodist Congregation began in Mt. Ayr in 1849. The first school, a two-story 24'x36' building was erected in 1890.

A brick structure was built in 1918 which housed grades 1-12 until consolidation in 1967 at North Newton.

It was then utilized as a North Newton Middle School from 1976-1986. Fire swept through the building destroying it in March 2012.

Today, the town has a Community Center that houses its own library and the Town Hall. The Post Office is next door on the west end.

A Naval Museum owned by retired Navy Veteran Howard Marshall and a Mt. Ayr Museum owned by Dan Thomas are sites to visit today.

The railroad disbanded in 1920, but the prosperity of the town continued into the 1970s.

Mt. Ayr has always been a family oriented community, working together for the future.

Lewis Marion 1822-1892

Lewis Marion was born on June 28, 1822, in Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina. His parents were Moses (1791-1869) and Elizabeth Forrester (1800-1828) Marion. His father was a veteran of the War of 1812, serving as a private in Col. Samuel Bunch's unit in the East Tennessee Militia. After the war, he and his wife settled in Jasper County. Lewis' siblings were David L. John, Mary Ann, Eliza Jane, George Washington, and Sara Lavina. Moses and his wife Elizabeth are buried at Weston Cemetery, Rensselaer.

Lewis' wife Mary Ann Brunton, (1830-1921), was the daughter of John (1781-1864) and Mary Cookson (1786-1850) Brunton. Their son Daniel married Margaret Kessler in 1840 in Tippecanoe Co. They were among the first to settle in Beaver Township, Newton County. Mary Ann's siblings were Daniel, Ann, Cyrus, Margaret, Mary, Sarah, David and Emily. Marriage records show that Lewis Marion married Mary Ann Brunton in Tippecanoe County, Indiana on August 16, 1849. The 1850 US Census of Tippecanoe County, Randolph Township, Indiana, lists Marion, age 25, and his wife Mary, age 20. By 1860, he is residing in Newton County, living in Jackson Township. Listed with him is wife Mary Ann, age 30; Mary E., age 7; Malinda J. age 5; John H., age 3; Louis H., 6 mos. His occupation was a farmer, with real estate value of \$3360.00, a value today of \$121,785.00. IRS tax assessment lists show he was taxed at a rate of .6 for 7 hogs for slaughter in 1863, for a total tax of .42 cents. In 1865, his income of \$100 was taxed at a rate of .6%, owing \$6.00 in tax.

By 1870 his real estate and personal property had doubled, and his household had another daughter, Myrtle age 4 months. In 1880, a daughter Jessie, age 5 and son Frederick age 9 mos., were listed with the family. In the 1900 Census, we show only Mary Ann and son Frederick residing in Jackson Township. Lewis having passed on November 11, 1892.

Both Mary Ann and Lewis are buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery at Peru, Miami County, Indiana. John Henry Marion is buried at Northstar Cemetery, with an epitaph that reads: "Wife weep not for me, disturb not my rest; Jesus has taken me, he loved me best."

Roer River crossing in February and crossed the Rhine River on 1 April. They advanced across Germany and reached the Elbe River, near Wittenberg, on 24 April. They were attached to: 84th Infantry Division.

Please reference map upper right:

Northern France, Jul. 25-Sept. 14, 1944
Rhineland, Sept. 15, 1944-Mar. 21, 1945
Ardennes-Alsace, Dec. 16, 1944-Jan 25, 1945
Central Europe, Mar. 22-May 11, 1945

Chet Boyd

Uncle Chet entered the army in 1942 and was joined with the 148th Infantry. The 148th received vigorous jungle training and was sent to their baptism of fire on New Georgia. July 1943 found the 148th fighting the best the Japanese had to offer in the battle for the Munda airstrip.



Chet Boyd

Chet's discharge papers and articles about the 148th stated they were coupled with the 3rd Battalion on a special mission with a Marine raider force and hit the Japs at Bairoko Harbor and fought their way through some of the toughest terrain in the Solomon Islands to tie up with the remainder of the 148th in the final push for the airstrip. Along with Chet's service in New Georgia, he also fought in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and the Philippines.

Chet was assigned as a truck driver but said he saw more action as an infantryman. He talked about an incident when he and other soldiers were moving through the jungle when a shot rang out from a Japanese sniper. Finding the sniper in a tree, several in his group fired killing the sniper. When Chet went over to investigate, he found the dead Jap and picked up his rifle. He said he spent the next few weeks shipping the rifle back to Lake Village piece by piece. When

he returned home he put the rifle back together and had it for many years on the farm. I had the opportunity to fire it "one" time as a young boy and never again as it kicked me on my hind side.

Chet mentioned that during his time in the Philippines the Japanese threw several "Banzi" attacks at them rushing in a mass, drunk up on Saki and screaming as they charged. He said that none were ever successful and the GIs mowed them down like wheat. After the battle the GIs would walk among the dead and pick up their weapons and destroy them so they couldn't be reused. During one such engagement Chet found a Japanese battle flag with Japanese calligraphy on it which he picked up and brought home. I remember him showing it to me several times with various bayonets and unfired rounds of ammunition. Later on, after Chet passed away, I found the flag and put it in a box in my dresser.

While working at Caterpillar I asked a Japanese engineer at Cat if he could tell me what the writing said. He mentioned it was the signatures of several men in the owner's regiment who'd signed it. He said several of their soldiers would attach the flag to their rifles carrying them aloft for the attacking lines and during a business meeting in Japan with a Japanese company, showed it to an interpreter ... he asked if he could keep it and I said sure.

Later, he mentioned that he was part of a historical group dedicated to finding out what happened to the various Japanese soldiers that were shipped out with their families never knowing where they'd gone or hearing from them again. He said he'd lied on his service paper telling the army he was 18 when in fact he was only 14. One of the officers who'd never seen service was going to court martial him when his commanding officer stepped in and told him to "go to hell and back off or he'd personally kick his ass". Chet said he was in disbelief that here was this kid who looked 30 years old and was almost 20 years younger than Chet. After they got on the boat, they all got a good laugh and headed home.

These were two great uncles, and I shall never forget my talks with them. They were part of the "greatest generation" and I thank them so much for their service. Rest in peace uncles ...

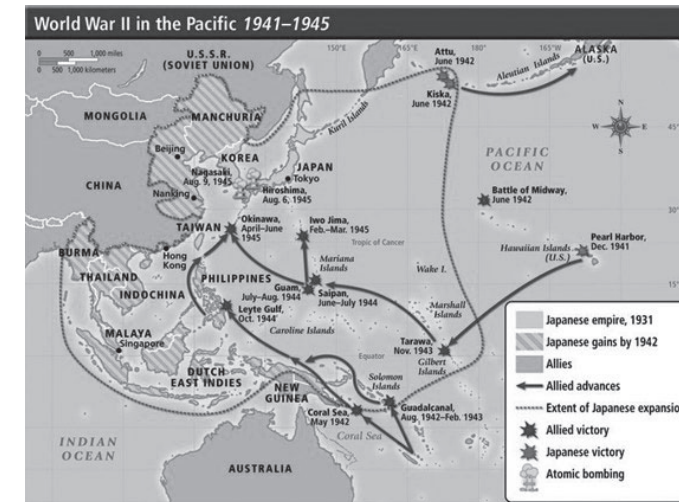


a Pagoda in the center of the town with the flag displayed in glass. With information I gave them about Chet's service, a plaque was erected by the flag with Uncle Chet's name and his story about the Banzi attack. They were extremely grateful that they found out where their sons and fathers had ended up.

When Chet was in boot camp, he became friends with a young soldier and spent the rest of the war with him. He mentioned he was from the South and was a big guy that wasn't afraid of anything. During their many times in the jungle and at night while they were in their foxholes he said the young guy could drink like a drunken sailor and Chet never tried to match him. One night the fellow had a little too much to drink, slid out of the foxhole with only a knife and told Chet he was going to find him a "Jap." Chet told him he was crazy and off the young guy went ... Chet said he knew he'd never see him again. Later on the young guy came back, slipped in the hole and fell asleep. The next morning Chet asked him if he'd seen any Japanese and he said he thought he'd killed one or two but couldn't remember because he was so drunk.

After the Japanese surrendered, Chet and the 148th were on an island waiting to get transferred back to the states. Two MPs came to their area and arrested the young guy. Several hours later he came back and Chet asked him what he'd done. He said he'd lied on his service paper telling the army he was 18 when in fact he was only 14. One of the officers who'd never seen service was going to court martial him when his commanding officer stepped in and told him to "go to hell and back off or he'd personally kick his ass". Chet said he was in disbelief that here was this kid who looked 30 years old and was almost 20 years younger than Chet. After they got on the boat, they all got a good laugh and headed home.

These were two great uncles, and I shall never forget my talks with them. They were part of the "greatest generation" and I thank them so much for their service. Rest in peace uncles ...



Historical Impressions

Articles, Photographs, and Information Submitted by Our Members
My Uncles Lawrence and Chet Boyd - WWII by Dennis Boyd

Lawrence Boyd

When I was a young lad, I remember trying to engage my two uncles, Chet and Lawrence, about their experiences during the 2nd World War. Chet had gone off to fight in the Philippines as an infantryman and truck driver and Lawrence had gone to fight in Europe as a tank commander.



Lawrence Boyd

Oddly neither of them ever really wanted to talk about the horror of the war but only what they may have considered comical or less harsh, maybe because in their minds they were trying to forget the horror they may have seen.

Lawrence went into Normandy some weeks after D-day and immediately was thrown into several engagements. He told me that they were generally in support of the infantry and were glad because of the support they got when fighting the Germans with the deadly "Panzerfaust" a single shot, recoilless German anti-tank weapon like the American bazooka. It was a high-explosive anti-tank warhead and was operated by a single soldier. These things would take out a tank quickly killing everyone inside. In addition, if he ever met up with the German Tiger tank, he and his fellow tank company would scatter because the American Sherman tanks were completely ineffective with the front armor of the Tiger. Not till later in the war did he get to command the M36 tank destroyer that could take out the Tiger.

During the American push toward Germany, Lawrence and his crewmates were stopped for a breather and outside the tank when heavy artillery started to rain down on them. He said the worst place to be was under the tank so he and the crew ran toward what they thought was a foxhole, jumped in and found themselves standing in a German Field Latrine. He said they hugged the side of the hole for over 1/2 hour standing in "crap" up to their waist. When the bombardment stopped and they crawled out of the hole, all around them said don't come near. They stripped down to their birthday suits and climbed back into the tank operating it the rest of the day until they could get clean clothes.

During the Battle of the Bulge Lawrence

said he, along with three other tanks, were sent to a town with a company of infantry and told to hold it at all costs. After arriving and setting up their perimeter he said an entire battalion of German Infantry along with several Tiger tanks showed up and started shelling the town taking a heavy toll on both the infantry and other tanks. He shouted down to the only officer he could find and asked for orders and was told, "Let's get the hell out of here".

When he mentioned they were told to hold at all costs, the officer shouted back, "We've offered enough, let's go."

Later on during a battle near Gartow, by the Elbe River, Lawrence became a hero ... an article which appeared in one of the local newspapers carried this story; "*Laying down an intense rate of fire that prevented a company of Krauts from using their own weapons, Sgt. Lawrence Boyd, 638th Tank Destroyer battalion, fired 28 shells from his 76 mm gun and expended over 4,000 rounds of 50-caliber machine gun ammunition in less than a half hour. When the smoke cleared Sgt. Boyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Boyd of Lake Village, had killed seventeen Nazis and collected 45 prisoners. He is credited with being directly responsible for recapturing a large amount of GI equipment taken by the Germans in a previous campaign.*"

The one-man attack occurred when the first platoon of Company C was ordered to support "Rail-splitter" Doughs attacking Gartow on the Elbe River. The "Jerries", well concealed in dense woods had temporarily halted the attacking Yank infantrymen with a fanatical resistance.

Sergeant Boyd then arrived in his destroyer and laid down such a heavy fire that the Germans were unable to use their own guns. In less than an hour's time the advancing Doughs had cleaned up the last remnants of the Nazi line." For this action, Lawrence received a Bronze Star which he never talked about thinking he was no hero.

One last funny story told by Lawrence was when he and his crew received their new, M18 "Hellcat" tank destroyer. Eager to test it out but with no enemy in sight they stopped on the side of the road for a rest. Up on a hillside was a half-destroyed house with a stone fence around it. One of the crew bet the gunner that he could not hit the roof with a first round. Eager to show his abilities, he rotated the turret, aimed the gun and fired ... off went the roof and immediately went up a white flag. When someone shouted in German to show themselves, many German sol-

diers surrendered with most being old men and young boys. They were marched back to the rear in front of the tank and a visiting upper rank officer asked Lawrence who'd captured these German soldiers; Lawrence said he and his crew had. For this, the officer said that he was going to recommend Lawrence for a medal. When Lawrence said that the officer could "shove the medal up his a _ _" he was demoted from a Sergeant to a Private. Later on he did get his stripes back and was told by his commanding officer to be more politically correct when talking to the "brass." That was our Uncle Lawrence.

Lawrence was assigned to the 638th Tank Destroyer Battalion and deployed with the 84th Division at the beginning of December 1944; the 638th took part in the subsequent Ardennes fighting. It remained with the division until the end of the war.

The M18 Hellcat (below) was an American tank destroyer of World War II. Armed with a 76 mm cannon, the vehicle was the fastest tracked, armored fighting vehicle during

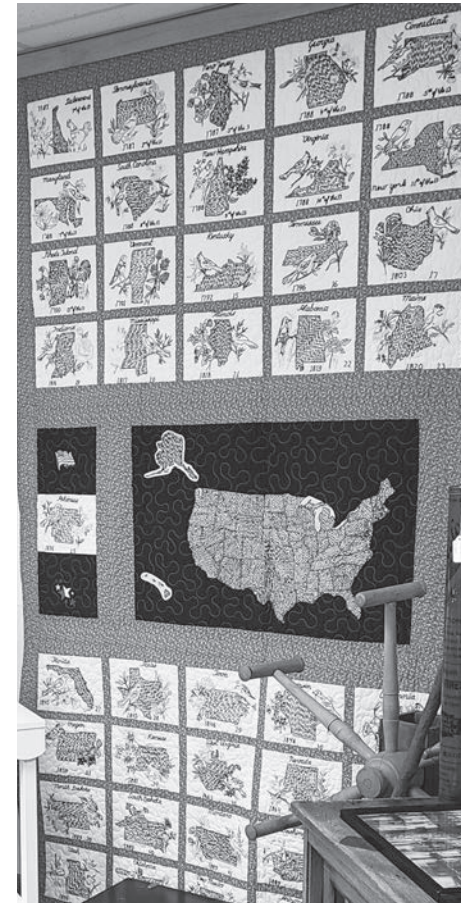


World War II with a top speed up to 60 mph (92kph), and the manufactures, the Buick Division of GM nicknamed it the Hellcat. The speed was attained by keeping armor to a minimum, no more than 1" thick. Hellcat crews took advantage of the vehicle's speed to minimize the enemy's ability to pierce its thin armor. Hellcats were used to penetrate the sides and back of the heavily armored Tiger and Panther tanks used by the Germans. Utilized in the western front and in D-Day, the Hellcat, along with the Sherman Firefly and M10 Wolverine, was the main firepower in the invasion of Europe.

Unit History shows the 638th was established 15 December 1941, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The unit arrived at Cherbourg, France, 7 September 1944, equipped with M18's and entered the line near Prummern on 20 November and supported operations against the Siegfried Line. They shifted to the Ardennes sector around Rochefort, Belgium, on 22 December, they fought to reduce the Bulge during January 1945. They supported

Do You Know? by Janet Miller

All of these items are on display at our Resource Center in Kentland
Find the Answers on Page 19



1. Do you know who made this beautiful "50 States Quilt?" On each square lists the name and design of the state, what year it came into the Union, and what number the state was in the Union sequence, the state flower and the state bird. Delaware was the first state in the Union and Hawaii was the 50th state to join the Union. Can you name all the questions about the State of Indiana? State flower. State bird. What year we joined the Union. What number were we when we joined the Union. Clue: We were not first or last.



2. Did you ever see a telephone like this one? Did you have one or see one at your grandparent's home? Do you recall any of the rings that were used at this time, i.e., one short, two longs; or one long and three shorts?



3. What Morocco business was this National cash register originally located? When was it used at the business?



4. Where was the Minit Shop located? What type of shop was it? What other businesses occupied the location and who owned them?



5. Do you know who painted this Kentland Blue Devil sign?

Dial Phones for Morocco – Direct Dialing Between Morocco and Lake Village

Submitted by Beth Bassett

In January of 1958, an article appeared on the front page of the *Morocco Courier* alerting everyone that Morocco would be changed over to a dial telephone system within a few months. Representatives from the telephone's main office were seen about town – sparking rumors of a possible new phone system.

In February 1958, a dial telephone survey was underway in preparation for the new system by Indiana Bell. Fewer parties on a line, as well as ordering extension or colored phones, which had an additional one-time charge. The installation charges would be waived if they would be installed when local phones are converted for dial operation.

Construction of a new dial equipment building behind the present telephone office on Clay Street was almost complete with installation of the equipment to begin soon.

The week of February 20th brought technicians from Western Electric Company to town to install the new equipment. The total installation cost to Indiana Bell was \$240,000, (\$2,250,000+ today).

This new service provided direct dialing between Lake Village and Morocco without long distance charges.

New Phone Numbers

The new dial system would require two letters with five figures. The telephone name "Butler" was assigned to Morocco. In dialing calls, the first two letters, BU and five figures would be dialed. A typical number would be BU5-1234.

Indiana Bell representative Hirschman stated "This introduction will move Morocco a step closer to the day when subscribers will be able to dial many long distance calls in addition to local calls. Indiana Bell assigned the numbers initially to the business, followed by residents. These methods also applied to Lake Village.

During the last week of March, telephone crews started installing dial instruments in the Morocco area. The system was projected to be ready for use by the end of April.

Subscribers were reminded that they should not use the dial on the new instruments until the dial system was introduced,

because movement of the dial might interrupt a conversation. Some Lake Village residents already had dial phones but those would be replaced to insure proper ringing with the new system.

By the first of May, the new telephone directories would be mailed to Morocco subscribers, with the introduction of the new system at noon on May 17. The directory carried Morocco and Lake Village numbers. The second week of May, subscribers would receive a post card with their phone number. They were instructed to peel the number off and place it in the center of the dial on their phones.

To call a Lake Village phone, Morocco users would dial "4" and then the Lake Village number listed in the directory. Lake Village calls to Morocco would use the Morocco number of 2 letters and five figures.

Rates would be based on the state rates of Indiana Bell, according to the size of the calling area.



Getting Ready for Dial Phones in Morocco

"You simply must realize what a phone means to a young lady." That seems to be what Judy Ann White, 3, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon (Betty) White, Morocco, Ind., is explaining as she has her toy dial phone checked during a visit Friday at the new dial telephone building being completed in Morocco. From left with Miss White are C. O. Fletcher, building contractor; Don Pufahl of Camblin Electric Co., Morocco, and Arthur Howell telephone serviceman. The present Wabash Prairie Telephone Corp., Morocco, will be part of the Indiana Bell Telephone Co. when Morocco and Lake Village telephones are converted to the dial system in May. The new building is located behind the present telephone office on Clay Street.

This clipping was part of donations to NCHS from the Arthur Howell family. 1951 Photo.

CORRECT DAILING



your
Key to
fast, accurate
telephone
service.

New Telephone Numbers for the MOROCCO AREA

All telephones in the Morocco exchange will have new "Butler" numbers when dial service begins at noon Saturday, May 17. At that time too, you'll be able to DIAL DIRECT to all Lake Village telephones without long distance charge.

You are sure to like this new modern calling arrangement because it makes your telephone community bigger -- makes your phone even more useful and valuable. Try the new service beginning May 17. It's designed for you.

SOME DIALING TIPS

When you start dialing your calls there are only a few simple rules to remember:

1. The first thing to do, of course, is to consult your new Telephone Directory to be sure you have the right number.
2. Lift the receiver and listen for the steady hum of the dial tone. That is the dial system's way of saying "Number, Please" -- and means that the equipment is ready to handle your call.
3. With the receiver at your ear, dial the number you are calling. Let the dial return by itself each time. If you force or retard the return motion you may get a wrong number or no number at all.

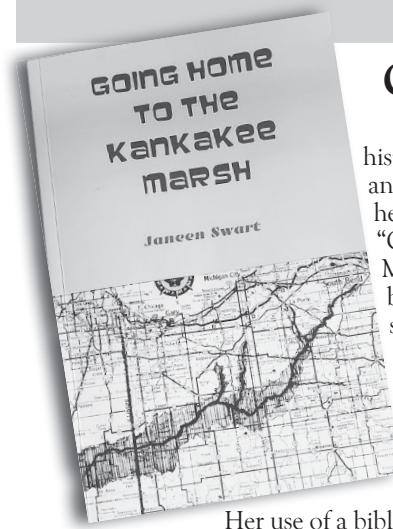
When dial service begins, be sure to start using the new directory. You will save time by consulting it on every call.

THE WABASH PRAIRIE TELEPHONE CO.
Affiliate of
INDIANA BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

Correct Dialing Technique

Readers of the *Morocco Courier* were well informed about the new dialing system to be installed in 1958. Above is one of the examples of the phone company's media campaign.

Compilation of Kankakee Marsh Memories Published



For those who appreciate the history of the Kankakee River and the marshes that embrace her banks, may I suggest reading "Going Home to The Kankakee Marsh", written and published by Janeen Swart, assisted by her son Dan Swart. The book is an organized approach to fact and fiction related to the people and places in the Kankakee marshlands. It was published by Kindle Direct Publishing, dated February 3, 2023.

Her use of a bibliography is much appreciated by this researcher, as is the acknowledgement of our *Newcomer* article in her book.

The timeline is titled "Dan Swart's Research by Years," and

stands alone as an exceptional historical compilation. It covers 80 years, 1857-1937, with each year tagged with month-date and source referenced, whether it be community or personal facts, newspaper notes or articles.

Swart attributes the many sources catalogued were accessible at local libraries which allowed the creation of the historical timeline. Her intention is to tell the history and stories from Northern Jasper and Newton Counties in a way that interests readers without using an abundance of facts. Yet, she includes the source information for those who wish to research more information.

In the acknowledgments, Swart states, "To the best of my knowledge, the information included in the book is true, but memories fade and stories are embellished, so perhaps some facts may be incorrect. Please read with an open mind and enjoy the history the way it's been presented. If you find inconsistencies, I encourage you to go to the library and do some research. Perhaps together we can make the past come alive in truth."

Copies available locally or at Amazon.com.

Newton County Highlights

Here are excerpts that referenced people, places, and events related to Newton County.

Chapter 3, pg. 21	Early Native People	"More proof of Native Americans living along the Kankakee was unearthed in 1923, when the skeleton of a young woman was found during excavation work in preparation for the building of a cellar on the Northern Indiana Land Co. property."
Chapter 6, pg. 37	Fur Trappers/Early Settlers	Known points on the Kankakee River, "Indian Gardens, Blue Grass or Thayer's Landing. Known abodes of hunters, fishermen and trappers for many years."
Chapter 6, pg. 41	Fur Trappers/Early Settlers	"The May 7, 1887, <i>Rensselaer Republican</i> noted that a young man named Piggy killed a large, angry wolf. The story insists it was caught in Newton County, not Jasper because Jasper officials didn't pay enough bounty for the scalps."
Chapter 7, pg. 45	Island Stories	"One of the most prominent features south of the river was the once 36,000-acre Beaver Lake, near Lake Village. Many islands dotted the clear, open water. The south shore of Beaver Lake had many arms and inlets, with sandy beaches sloping to the water's edge."
Chapter 7, pg. 46	Island Stories	Bogus Island: "From the island, the counterfeiters would travel to Chicago with gunny sacks of bogus money and buy the supplies they needed. Once they bought all they could carry and spent their last bill, they would slip back to the Kankakee. The discovery of their hidden counterfeit plates by Karl Seymour finally led to their capture."
Chapter 7, pg. 8	Island Stories	On William Shaffer aka Mike Shaffer, "Old Shafe" after burial in Lake Village Cemetery: "The grave seemed disturbed, some say the work of wolves and others the prank of a group of boys. Regardless, of the way the body disappeared, later it was said that a local physician possessed a well-cleaned skeleton." Note: Could this be the skeleton known as Mr. Bones at our Resource Center?
Pg. 49	Rare 1864 Map	Newton and Jasper County encompasses one county.
Chapter 8, pg. 54	Hunter and Fisherman's Paradise	Reference to Indian Gardens and the Cameron family. Information about Hank Granger of Thayer, one of the most legendary lodge owners on the Kankakee.
Chapter 9, pg.60	Settlement of DeMotte	"On April 25, 1890, the Otis brothers, bankers from Chicago bought 1,000 acres south of DeMotte." Lands were owned by the Otis family in the Roselawn area.
Chapter 9, pg. 63	Businesses	Information about oil and gas wells in the area.
Chapter 10, pg. 79-80	Early Occupations/Farming	"The marsh hay pastures invited a cattle company which was first developed by Nels Morris, a Chicago packer. Practically all of the Kankakee Marsh and swamplands of Northeast Newton and Jasper County that totaled 23,000 acres was owned by Morris."
Chapter 12, pg. 97	Dredging of Ditches and River	"In 1892, Nelson Morris moved his dredge below Grape Island to begin a ditch through the river marsh to Thayer."

> Continued from page 7

the only true baptism, and that all other so-called modes of baptism are not baptism but departures from the primitive faith and practice.

"At Brook I was politely and munificently entertained by Mr. Dryer and his lady - a lady, who, by-the-way, though having "chosen that better part which shall not be taken away" yet finds time to entertain the stranger and act the part of a very amiable hostess. Mr. Dryer is a gentleman of unassuming ways, but in good earnest in his religion and his business. Owning 600 acres of excellent farming and grazing land adjoining the town, he keeps a store at which he exchanges goods for farm products which he converts into fat cattle for a cash market. To feed his cattle through the past winter it required 15,000 bushels of corn.

"The prairies between Brook, Morocco and Pilot Grove have been settled up by an

intelligent and enterprising class of citizens.

Among the pleasant acquaintances formed were those already mentioned, and that of Mr. Sanders and lady, the first a hale and hearty Englishman who married an American girl who he threatened to take to Africa - to which taking the lady demurs. Miss Pendergrass, a very prepossessing young lady, met at the house of Mr. Dryer. Mr. Pickler, a live Yankee from the old Bay State, who after thirty-two years as a follower of the sea, has located in the great valley of the Mississippi to provide for his children.

"Mr. Fry, a good-looking young man owning two farms in Illinois, and clerking in a store in Brook. He is a great attraction for the children and may often be seen as the escort of some little girl, but as to the "big ones" holds his lonely way. Girls, he may be caught, but don't try to chaff.

"Mr. Wolf, a young man of fine appearance and culture, just returned from college,

and while awaiting a field of labor in the ministry, is engaged in teaching at Iroquois, Ill.

"Messrs. Jeffries and Padgett and Mr. Frazie and lady and Mr. McCarthy, the first Rensselaer editor. Mr. and Mrs. Heilman and the biggest baby of its age the rich prairies can produce, and others too numerous to mention in this already lengthy article. The trip was altogether pleasant and will be long remembered. - Observer"

TEEN-AGERS RECORDS RAUNCHY

- * JAIL HOUSE ROCK
- * SILHOUETTES
- * YOU SEND ME
- * CHANCES ARE
- * WAKE UP LITTLE SUSIE
- * BE BOP BABY
- * TILL
- * MELODIE D'AMOUR
- * LOTTA LOVIN'
- * LITTLE BITTY PRETTY ONE
- * FASCINATION
- * WUN'ERFUL, WUN'ERFUL
- * JUST BORN
- * MY SPECIAL ANGEL
- * HONEYCOMB
- * BEAUTIFUL MARGARET
- * KEEP A KNOCKIN'
- * HAPPY HAPPY BIRTHDAY
- * I'M AVAILABLE
- * ALONE
- * REET PETITE
- * APRIL LOVE
- * I'LL REMEMBER TODAY
- * ALL THE WAY
- * LIECHTENSTEINER POLKA
- * MISTER FIRE EYES
- * NERVOUS BOOGIE
- * PLAYTHING
- * BACK TO SCHOOL
- * WAIT AND SEE
- * TAMMY
- * LANGUAGE OF LOVE
- * THAT'LL BE THE DAY
- * AND THAT REMINDS ME
- * ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC
- * SAYONARA
- * MOONLIGHT

HI-FI and Record Shop

227 W Washington
Rensselaer Indiana

1955 Morocco Courier ads

Your old truck will bring more today than it ever will again!

Drive in your old truck NOW and save yourself money. Drive out a new Ford Money Maker, like this F-100 Pickup - and keep right on saving with Ford's modern Short Stroke power, V-8 or Six. Come in or call today!

LOOK UNDER THE HOOD!

ONLY FORD has a money-saving Short Stroke engine in every truck. Don't settle for less!



Get OUR deal on **Ford Triple Economy Trucks**

THE MONEY MAKERS FOR '55

DeKoker Ford Sales Morocco Indiana

Rensselaer Union, June 15, 1876

About Brook, Newton County

Submitted by Beth Bassett

Exactly what the writer of this article, "Observer", was attempting to convey to the Union's readers, isn't clear. One thing for certain, he would not have acquired new followers from the farmers in Jasper County after publication of the article.

It does, however, shine a good light on Newton County, particularly Iroquois Township. This piece is a typesetter's nightmare. Quite a windy fellow, this "Observer." But I can relate - sometimes you just cannot put a good story in two paragraphs ...

"Not "What I know about farming," but what I saw, heard, and thought in Newton County:

"By invitation the writer made a recent visit to Brook and its surrounding country. On crossing the line between Jasper and Newton Counties, I could but notice the large cribs of corn, such as one would look for in vain in Jasper County.

"True, much of the proceeds of their labor had been lost, but they had succeeded in raising vast crops in spite of the rainy season, and much of the waste occurred from expecting future dry weather which did not come, rather than as an unavoidable evil.

"I presume a much smaller percent of loss would occur in another just such year, as the farmers would be more careful to protect the gathered crop. It appeared as an indisputable fact that the farmers as a class are more successful - thrift is more general - than in Jasper.

"Upon investigation I concluded they engage in that business on a larger scale and with more comprehensive views of all connected with it. The Jasper County farmer has his grounds flooded and stops his work. Much wet weather gives him a failure in crops. Then he reasons that he cannot afford to pay out money for hire and lose the crops on which the hired labor was expended.

"Next year he will only invest his own labor and that of the boys (if he had them) so that if he loses, it will be a smaller amount.

"The Newton County farmer plants extensively, hires the necessary help, puts in and tends his crops even though the water follows after the plow in the furrow, pays his hands, and should he lose the labor and expense that year, he will try to make it up by launching out even larger the next year.

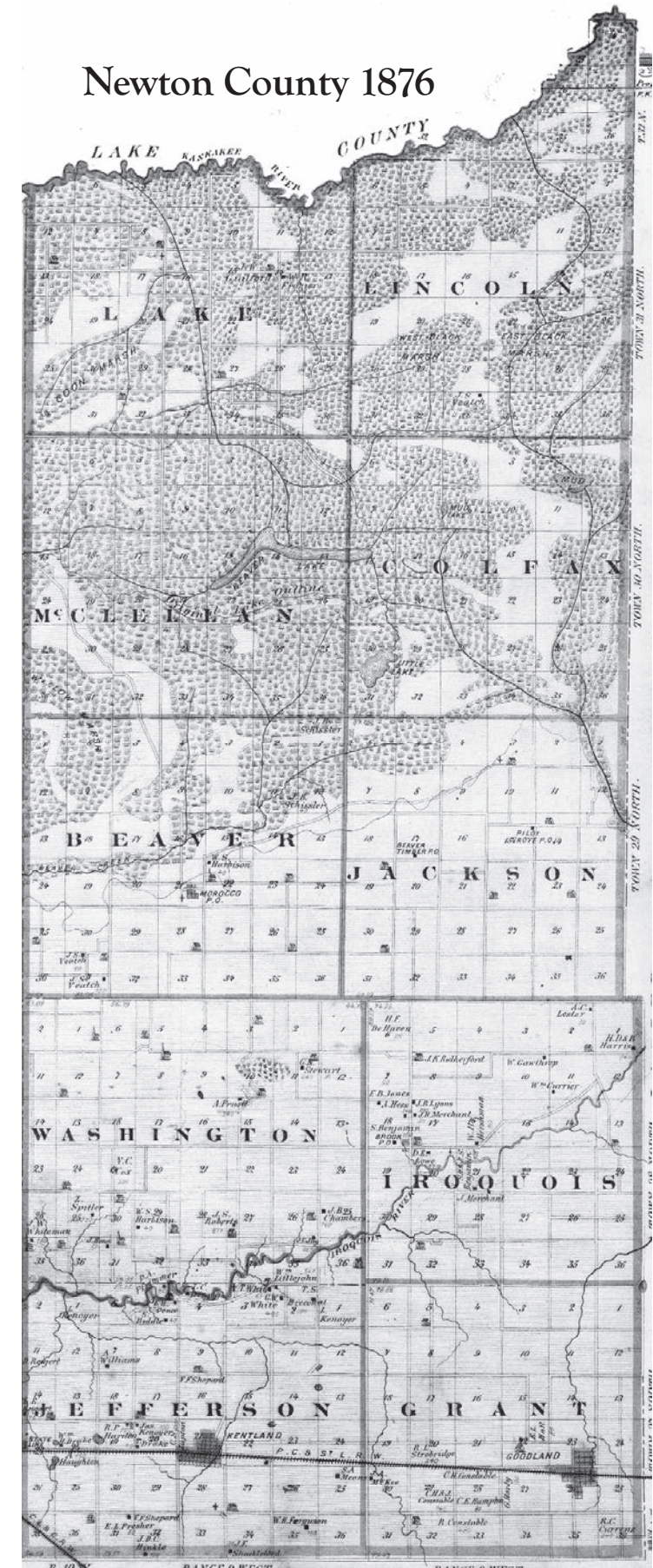
"And the years, taken one with another, show this is to be a wise course - if success be the criterion by which we are to judge. The best crops are certainly raised on the lands that are not rolling but declining sufficiently to be drained by ditching.

"It was my good fortune to partake of the generous hospitality of Mr. Esson and his estimable lady, and I shall not soon forget their unostentatious, but genuine courtesy and friendship. Mr. Esson, or "Jack," as he is familiarly called, conducts his farming and livestock raising on the principle that \$5 pasture that will put on \$15 worth of beef is better investment than \$2 pasture that only puts on \$6 worth of beef in the same time. And his place shows corresponding thrift.

"Sunday, the 21st, was an unusual day for the little town of Brook. The Rev. H. B. Miller was called upon to carry forward the work of a former series of meetings there, by administering the ordinance of baptism to the converts of that occasion. A large concourse of people was in attendance from all directions and some from considerable distances. Goodland, Kentland, Morocco, Rensselaer and vicinity, and Illinois being represented.

"After the discourse the congregation repaired to the river where seventeen persons were immersed. In the afternoon Rev. Mr. Minor, of Goodland, delivered a discourse of Christian Baptism, using forcible and striking illustrations to show that immersion is

> Continued on page 14



Class of 1920, Kentland High School

Indiana's First Girl Cheerleader, Imogene Gott

In the 1860s, students from Great Britain began to cheer and chant in unison for their favorite athletes at sporting events. Soon, that gesture of support crossed overseas to America.

On November 6, 1896, the US witnessed its first intercollegiate football game. It took place between Princeton and Rutgers Universities. It marked the day the original "Sis Boom Rah!" cheer was shouted out by student fans.

Organized cheerleading began as an all-male activity. As early as 1877, Princeton had a documented cheer that was yelled at the stands, "Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Tiger! S-s-s-t! Boom! A-h-h-h!" - Still in use today with slight modifications, now referred to as the "Locomotive."

The term cheerleader had been used as early as 1897, with Princeton's football officials having named three students as cheerleaders. They would cheer for the team at football practices and had a special cheering section designated in the stands during games.

In 1898, University of Minnesota student Johnny Campbell directed a crowd in cheering, "Rah, Rah, Rah! Ski-u-mah, Hoo-Rah! Hoo-Rah! Varsity! Varsity! Minn-e-So-Tah!"

Making Campbell the very first cheerleader.

Though only men were allowed to cheer at first, women started to join squads in the 1920s and 1930s. It appears that Kentland High School would be the first in Indiana to have a female cheerleader, Imogene Gott.

In the 1920 KHS yearbook, Imogene is pictured in a cheer stance (right), and noted the "Only girl yell-leader in Indiana. She but the 'L' in 'yell'!"

Under the photo this cheer was written:

Oh, its Kentland High School a-comin down the line,

Well, don't that team look-a-hot, look-a-hot?

As down the field they trot, trot, trot!

If you listen you will hear the roo-ters say:

"Well, I guess old Kentland is going to win today!"

Imogene Gott

Imogene was the daughter of Stephen (1854-1924) and Katie (Lough) Gott (1870-1955). The family originated in Montgomery County, Indiana. Her father was the son of Thomas (1804-1880) and Elizabeth VanCleave (1815-1856). Ancestry records show that Stephen had four siblings, William, Samuel, Henry and Ruth; four half-siblings, Nancy, Sarah, James and Martha. The Gott fam-

ily arrived in Kentland in 1912. Stephen was to be in charge of the Kentland Band. His life occupation was that of a music instructor. All of his children were musically inclined, either in voice or instrument, and possibly both. Local notes in the Newton County Enterprise mentioned the family performing at the local opera house and at commencement exercise.

The Gott's children were Audra Annie (1895-1972), married (1) Fredrick Heck, (2) Thomas Cleveland; Thomas "Tom" Arlan (1895-1956), married (1) Gladys Jane Roe, (2) Anna Violet Hinkle. Anna's son, Harry Blair (1912-1978) may have been adopted by Tom; Merle "Bunnie" (1896-1955) unmarried; and James "Freddie" (1898-1967) married/divorced, spouse unknown; Imogene (1902-1968), married Emmett M. Larue, no children.

Both Tom and Merle served during WWI; Merle with the 399th Engineers of the 84th Division. Tom served as a Corporal in Headquarters Company 52nd Infantry 6th Division. Tom was one of many soldiers who had musical ability which

were asked to entertain the troops until all of the paperwork was finished and finalized for the armistice.

Both Tom and Merle, aka "Bunnie", worked for the New York Central Railroad.

Tom in Montgomery County, left to locate in Kentland in 1916 to work for the Corn Belt Seed Company. (The newspaper note also stated the he will be an excellent addition to the Kentland band); Merle for 42 years as a railroad clerk at the Sheff Terminal.

James "Freddie" attended Indiana University and travelled as a musician nationwide, eventually returning to Kentland to work at Kenney's Pharmacy.

Newspaper archives show that Imogene became involved with the local community, performing with her father's orchestra and working with local clubs and organizations after her graduation from Kentland High School in 1920. In October of 1931, she married Emmet LaRue of Rensselaer, a prominent attorney and citizen of Rensselaer. They did not have any children.

She lived an active and happy life in Rensselaer until her passing at home on June 4, 1968. Both she and her husband are buried at Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer.

View a copy of the 1920 KHS yearbook and others at the Resource Center in Kentland.



This photo from the 1920 KHS yearbook shows the girls of the time working together on team spirit! They were "A-comin-down-the-line!"

what brought John and William to our community, there isn't a source to find this information.

William's obituary stated he had lived in Kentland 65 years. This dates him here in 1895. But the photo album gives us another clue. Because the Indiana (and other states), 1890 census were destroyed by fire in 1921, the next census we can view is 1900. There, William is listed with the widow Catherine and son Calvin Breese, in Jefferson Township, working as a laborer. Whether William stayed here between 1887 and 1895 is unknown.

Census records show that the Romig family of Newton County, Indiana, begins in 1900 when William moved to Kentland, lived with and worked as a laborer for the Breese family. In January, 1903, a rural mail route was established out of the Kentland Post Office, and William was the first rural mail carrier. He stayed at this post for 31 years, retiring in 1933. Details about his position as a carrier can be found in the Winter 2003 and Summer/Fall 2008 editions of the Newcomer.

In 1909, William married Dora Brinkman. The 1910 Census, Newton County, Jefferson, Town of Kentland shows William and Dora living on Iroquois Drive, where they both lived out their lives. They had two children, William H., (1920-1956) and Mari-



Left, identified as John R., the next photo has the same fellow, sitting, and standing may be William Henry. Far right is identified as "Dad's sister" which would be Susanna Easterday, and the gentleman may be her husband, Sam.

etta (1916-1997).

Son William married first married Marcelle Messman, who died in 1946; second to Dorothy J. Kelley in 1948. He died in Phoenix, AZ, in 1956 and is buried at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Jasper County, Indiana.

Daughter Marietta married Lowell Henderson, of Goodland, who was a grain handler at the Kentland Grain Elevator. They resided with her parents in Kentland with their son, John E. born in 1947, who at the time of his mother's death in 1997 was living in

Lafayette, Indiana.

It is interesting to note that Lowell Henderson passed on August 17, 1997 and ten days later, his wife Marietta died. Although Lowell and Marietta were in their 80s, it would have been difficult to lose two members of your family within weeks of each other. The Hendersons are interred at Fairlawn Cemetery, Kentland, Indiana.

It seems that tragedy relating to death followed through the lines of the Romig family for over 120 years.

Perry and Sons, Kentland

These photos were posted on Facebook of the Perry Store. Remodeled through the years, today it is the Kentland Post Office.



Home Is Where Your Story Begins

The Romig Family in Newton County

by Beth Bassett

A small, brown photo album is amongst the displays at the Resource Center, and is a collection of small cabinet photos and tinfo images. Sparse identifications indicate the images are of the Romig family.

The inside cover was inscribed "July 24, 1887, Mr. William H. Romig (Starke Co.), bought at Goodland, Indiana, Newton County." There were only a few remarks written near photos, hinting to the family identities, but only one photo in the eighteen page book was identified by name, John Romig.

The information found was enough for me to do further research on the family revealed three generations of the Romig family. My first search was our own website, www.ingenweb.org/innewton, discovering we had a couple of articles about William H. Romig of Kentland. By utilizing Ancestry, Newspapers.com, and Find-A-Grave internet sites, I was able to put together a sketch of the family; many of whom may be the photographs nestled within the pages of the small, brown photo album.

Romigs in Indiana

A February 6, 1935 article published in the *The Culver Citizen* revealed that the Romig family settled in the southwestern section of Union Township, Marshall County, Indiana. Several other families resided nearby at that time that was referred to as a miniature world within itself. The families located in the area very close to the time of the first white settlement in Union township. The article states: "It was some time before 1840, so the early census reports say, that Daniel Romig came to this township and settled on the land. He

seems to have been the first to locate in that southwestern corner of the township"

A descendent of the family, Iden Romig of South Bend at the time of the article, stated, "Our ancestors came to this country in 1732 from Rotterdam, Palatinate, in Germany, settling in Pennsylvania." His great-grandfather Jesse Romig went to Seneca County, Ohio and from there, his grandfather, John Romig, came to the old farm southwest of Maxinkuckee Lake, receiving the title from his father Jesse who had settled earlier, 80 acres in April, 1848. About a year prior to this, he purchased land in the same area from his brother Daniel Romig, who is believed to have settled at the same time as his father, Jesse. Daniel is thought to have moved back to Ohio at that time.

John Romig (d. 1884), was first married to Sarah Kern, who died in childbirth of their son Aaron (1835-1895). He then married Anna Schoch (1821-1882). They had two children, Julia (1838-1918) m. Krauss; and Abraham (1841-1892). Abraham died on a farm west of Argos, and Julia Krauss died in Belleview, Ohio.

Aaron married Barbara Rearick (1839-1902), in 1859. They had five children, Susanna E. (1860-1933) m. Easterday; Jessie F. (1862-1871), William Henry, (1868-1955); Mary Etta (b. 1870); John I. (1874-1912); Infant son, (d. 1878). The 1860-1880 census of Indiana enumerates Aaron's family in Starke County, Indiana, North Bend Township, as farmers. Aaron's Uncle Daniel (mentioned above) is listed as a farmer next to Aaron and family in the 1860 census.

William's sister Susanna married William Samuel "Sam" Easterday. His sister Mary Etta married George B. Tucker. His brother John I. married Julia Wagner. The 1935 article mentioned above stated that his brother Jessie by choking to death from a bean lodged in his throat, (1871), and his infant brother fell backwards into a tub of hot water used for scrubbing the floor and drowned (1878). Tragic death followed these siblings throughout their lifetimes.

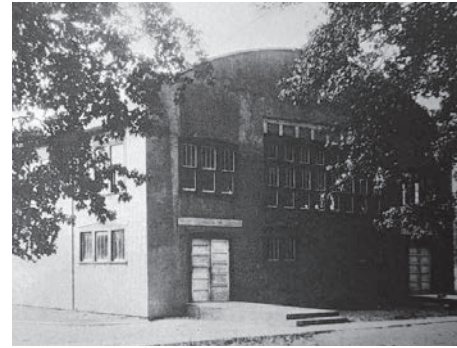
John I., married Julia Wagner in 1895. Shortly thereafter, they moved to Logansport and by 1899, John was employed by the Panhandle Railroad yard in Logansport as an air brake inspector. They had five children. In August, 1912, John was killed instantly by cars in the railroad yard.

William Henry Romig (1868-1955)

The inscription inside the photo album, leads me to believe that it was to commemorate William's arrival in Newton County. The two cabinet photos, taken by J. E. Knouff, Goodland, and identified are John Romig and William. The collection of tinfo images indicates that it was not unusual for this family to be photographed. And perhaps William brought the tinfo images with him from home. His father Aaron passed in 1895, so he may have inherited them. How about this scenario: the brothers departed a train at the Goodland depot, found photography studio of Knouff and went in to purchase an album and were convinced to have their photos taken, or vice versa - pure speculation on my part - yet very possible. We will never know



Written in pencil beside these images was "Dad". Not knowing for sure, but assuming the "Dad" is William Henry. Perhaps one day a descendent of the family will be able to identify him.

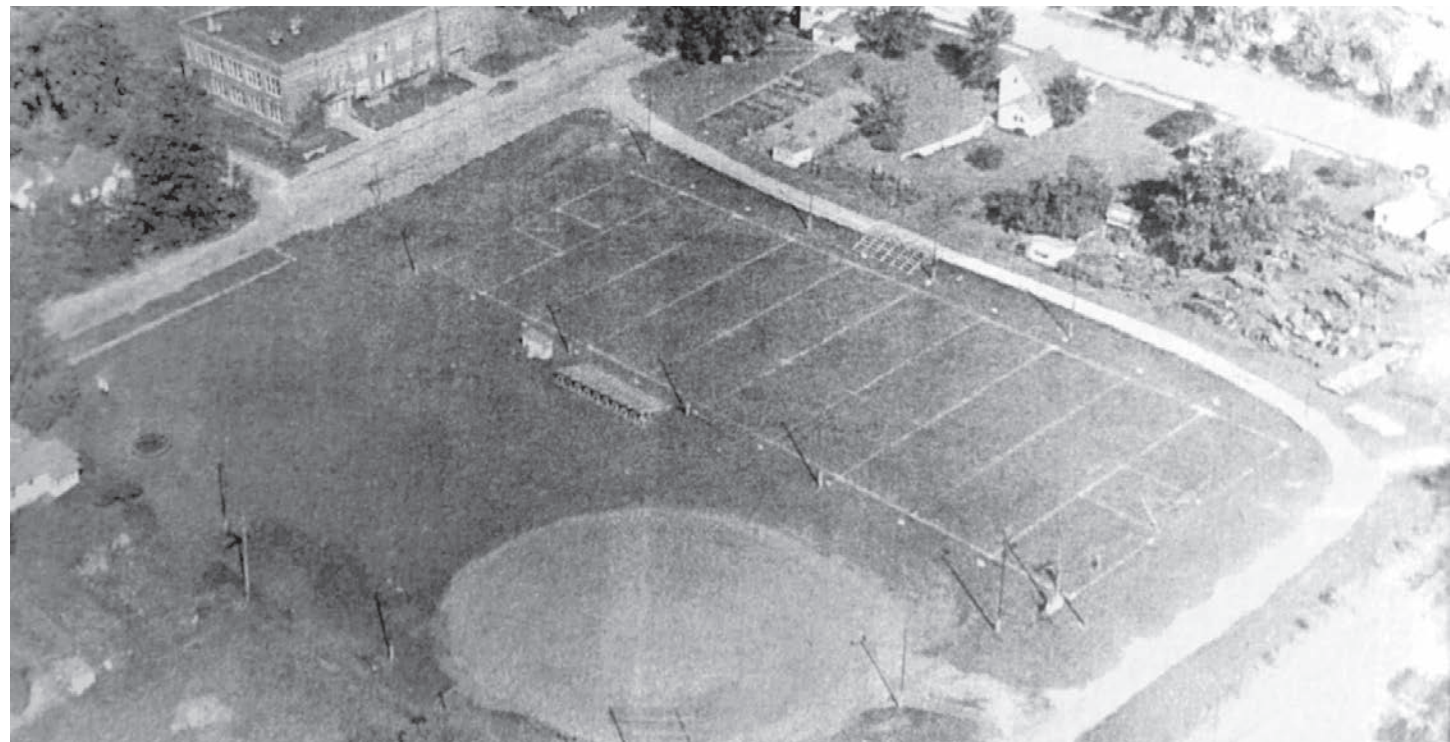


Kentland Basketball Courts and Morocco Football Fields

Kentland High School played basketball in the Coliseum from 1916-1951, then the new high school gym was built. Above are photos of the exterior of the Coliseum located next to the grade school that later became Dormeyer's; on the **right** a rare photo of the interior, found in the 1920 KHS yearbook.

Morocco High School played their football games at four different fields: the Ross Lucas pasture, Harry Blaney's pasture and the field on the east side of the buildings, shown in the photo below from 1936-1950. They then moved the field to the Dee Jones property on the west side of Morocco (current Little League field).

The athletic field at Morocco is shown below. The land was leveled with dirt from Beaver Creek. After consolidation in 1967, an excellent softball diamond was created where the football field was located. *Source: Morocco Athletes and Cheerleaders 1904-1967, Ron Rush.*



Senior Cords

Several generations of high school seniors throughout the county can remember the excitement of wearing their Senior Cords. So much so, that many still have them tucked away in a closet, several years after graduation.

According to an *Indianapolis Star* article in 2019, the trend of painted Senior Cords worn by high school students began at Purdue University in 1904 when a group of Purdue seniors noticed a bolt of yellow corduroy fabric in a store window in Lafayette and decided to have pants made from the fabric.

The trend took off and by the 1920s-30s seniors in Indiana colleges and high schools were using the yellow pants and skirts and vests as a canvas for artwork that included cartoon characters of the day, clubs, athletics, popular phrases, extracurricular activities, boy and girlfriend names and special events in their lives.

Typically worn on Friday or Senior Day, it was forbidden for underclassmen to don the yellow cords. The trend continued into the 1960s-70s when it began to die off.

Mothers, local seamstresses, friends and family members were put to work making the garments. Many students painted their own.

Kevin Bachman posted a link to the Indiana Museum blog on our facebook page (Historical Newton IN), which produced images of area cords. It was the skirt of Carol Long Hathaway, on display at the Museum.

Other comments under the posting included:

Beth Myers Kolz submitted a photo of her mother, Ann Dieter Myers from the Class of '52 KHS, stating "If you have a waist that is 18" around, it will fit! She painted hers and others from her class.:"

Kay Babcock posted that she had them at Goodland High School in the 1960s.

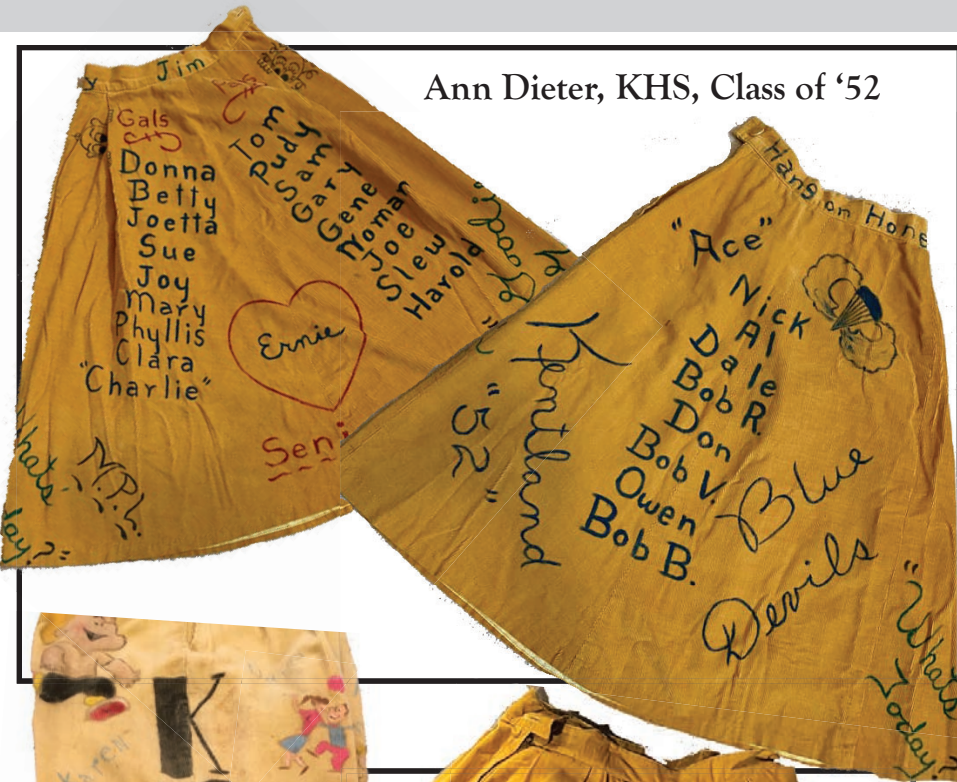
Darlene Swaim said she made money designing and painting senior cords in the 1950s.

Dean Ford agreed with Darlene and said "Me too! \$\$" He also explained the method used for painting was using fabric paint. His came in tubes with a large roller ball tip (similar to ball point pens.)

Susie Johnson said she made her skirt from material bought at a fabric store. 1. Wash fabric and dry before making; 2. Soak in cold salt water overnight to 'set' the color; 3. Those days, iron, wear and wash as usual.

David Morgan submitted a photo of his sister, Dorine Morgan Parr's senior skirt Class of '58 KHS.

Watch for a summer window display at the Resource Center featuring Senior Cords. Drop yours by so we can include them. We will return them if requested.



Ann Dieter, KHS, Class of '52



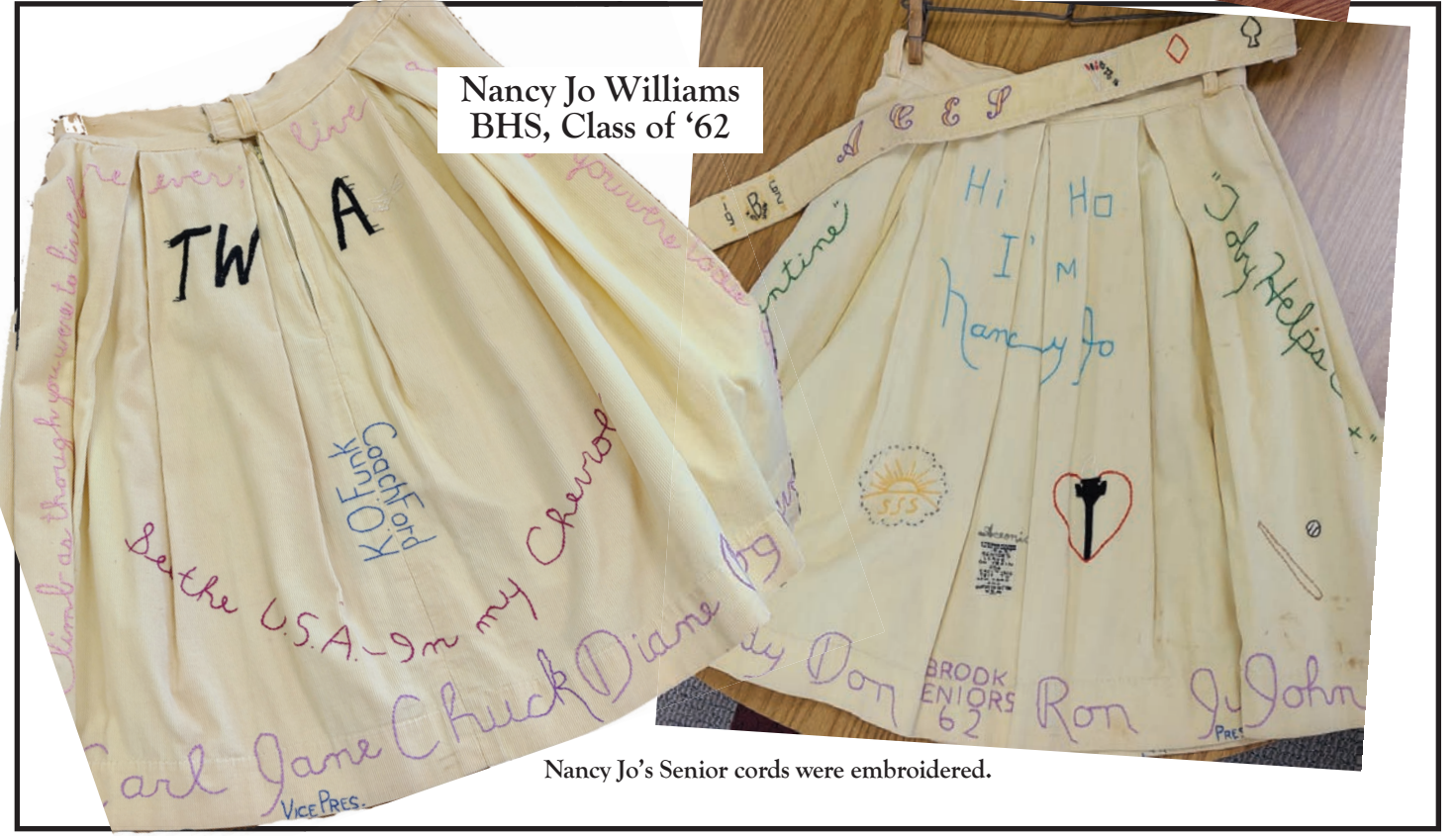
Dorine Morgan, KHS, Class of '58



Dave Miller, KHS, Class of '59



Judy Wirtz, Remington High School, Class of '63 Skirt and Shorts



Nancy Jo Williams BHS, Class of '62

Nancy Jo's Senior cords were embroidered.