



# **Bryant Area Centennial**

Jay County, Indiana 47326 U.S.A.

**September 5, 6, 7 — 1975**

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### 1975 Bryant Area Centennial Committees

#### Historical Committee:

Leo and Gladys Ketchum  
Burdette and Florence Houser  
Herbert and Carolyn Masters  
Helen Jackson

#### Restoration Committee:

Orville E. Bergman  
Eldon Brown  
Roy Bergman  
Ernest Crowell

#### Traffic Committee:

David J. Pyle  
Clayton Hummel  
Randy Loy

#### Concessions, etc. Committee:

Flea Market - Donald Longnecker  
Antique Engines - Ernest Murphy  
Concessions - Anna Pyle

#### Planning of Locations, Exhibits, etc. Committee:

Donald Longnecker	Kenneth Huey
George Lewis Judy	James Moser
James S. Pyle	Viril Daily

#### Program Committee:

##### For September 5th and 6th (Friday and Saturday)

David A. Lyons  
Jerry L. Bollenbacher  
James Hedges

##### For September 7th (Sunday)

Rev. Paul Wohlford  
Rev. Harry Moeller

Rev. Lewis Strong  
Rev. John Roth

#### Finance Committee:

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David and Kayellen Pyle  
Nancy Saxman

Town Board  
James S. Pyle  
Orville E. Bergman  
Robert L. Elzey  
Dempsey and Iris Cutcher—Clerk-Treasurer

#### Advertising Committee:

Rev. Paul Wohlford  
James T. Spade

Jerry Arnold  
Carl M. "Tom" Hoehamer

#### On The Cover

The cover photo was furnished by Harry De Hoff. It shows a 1914 view of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Depot in Bryant, looking north. The man, second left is Harry's father. John Glancy is large man on roof. George Hoehamer at end of platform. The men are repairing the depot roof. Old stockyards are on the left, and 2 properties on the right are now owned by James and Margaret Minch and occupied by the Minch family and Karen (Hoskins) Brown family. The railroad now is the Pennsylvania.

### To the Citizens of the Bryant Area:

The historical booklet committee thanks all those of the Bryant area for sharing their newspaper clippings, pictures, maps, and recollections of the past. So also those who helped with their advertisements, the sponsors of pages, the printers and all others who helped in any way to make this booklet containing the historical background of Bryant possible.

No written history is ever complete, and it becomes a monumental task to be accomplished in a short period of time. We have attempted to supply material as fully as possible and stay within our limits of space. It was necessary to add to, rearrange, and sometimes omit information.

We hope that this booklet will give a clue of the past and encourage you to further research to find out more about our wonderful community of Bryant.

Sincerely,  
Herbert Masters  
Carolyn Masters  
Gladys Ketchum

Leo Ketchum  
Helen Jackson  
Florence Houser  
Burdette Houser

## History of Bryant, Indiana

Naming the Town  
By Mrs. Dale (Delee) Lyons

Bearcreek Township was organized in November or December of 1836, gave birth to a boom town, Bryant, which was first referred to as "Billtown" because the land was owned by four men named Bill. It bustled as the only station on the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad north of Portland. In fact its beginning was with the establishment of the railroad there at that time. A settlement, Bloomfield, really held the edge for the location of the station there until an enterprising group of citizens determined to locate the station at a point further north. Pressure was exerted on the railroad construction head and a promise to name the station for him was made if his influence was used to situate the station north of Bloomfield. The alert Irish "boss-man" carried the day when the company came to locate the station in the very center of Section 17, Bearcreek Township.

The town was platted on December 8, 1871 by four landowners cornering at this site: William McClellan, William R. Gillum, William K. Sanders, and William Carson. As they promised the construction foreman, his name of Bryant, B-R-Y-A-N, was given the townsite. The name of Bryant was filed for record, January 5, 1872.


Page sponsored by David A. Lyons

The original Bryan plat was approximately 20 blocks and was split somewhat diagonally by the railway.

Unhelping, however, for the perpetuation of the memory of Mr. Bryan, the railway company named the station B-R-I-A-N-T. Then came the U.S. government and established a postoffice and the authorities handling that job favored neither BRYAN nor BRIANT and called it a composite of the two B-R-Y-A-N-T.

North Briant was laid out October 6, 1873 by Ezekiel Rowlett, but was referred to as "Rowley Town". Briant and North Briant constituted one village in 1887 with a population of about 300. In December 1897 the town of B-R-Y-A-N-T was incorporated.

During the oil boom Bryant enjoyed a growth which reached in 1910 a population of 465 and 32 businesses. The best Bryant days were the decade before the turn of the century and the early 1900's, when trains for shipping as well as for passengers were scheduled each day. The businesses included a bank, postoffice, hotel, bakery, general merchandise store, drug store, doctors and a veterinarian, and many more. But when the oil boom was gone, money went with the workers who trekked to greener pastures and the people became again — products of the soil.

<p><b>Compliments</b> to the <b>Bryant</b> <b>Area</b></p>	<p><b>Compliments</b> of <b>Dr. George A. Donnally</b></p>
<p> OCCIDENTAL CHEMICALS <b>Fertilizer - Fertilizer Materials - A G Chemicals</b> <b>Bryant, Indiana</b> The energy company serving America agriculture</p>	

*(Part of the Record of Deeds of Jay County Indiana)*  
 The William M. Sullivan, Plaintiff against William R. Hyman, William R. Sanders, Defendants  
 of the nature of Deeds of which the amount is a sum of ten dollars, that do hereby certify that all of  
 the said judgments in the plea are fully paid, and that all of the said judgments are  
 entirely satisfied, and that the said lands is located on the Township Sandy (part), north of Range (part)  
 East of Jay County State of Indiana.  
 And whereof the said judgments are now hands and paid this 8th day of December 1871.  
 William M. Sullivan  
 William Hyman  
 W. R. Hyman  
 W. R. Sanders

Seal  
 Seal  
 Seal

State of Indiana Jay County S. I.

Before me at the County of Jay, Indiana, this 8th day of December  
 1871 William M. Sullivan, William R. Hyman, William R. Sanders who are the  
 the execution of the same, that I have my books and files put at least of Jay County Indiana  
 have said that the Original from that of (Sandy) is a portion of the said county to the last of 30 East  
 among the said and others at night in the morning. The said county of Jay, Indiana, is a portion of the  
 actual of the (Sandy) all full to be by eight parts, in sections of sections of the said county of Jay  
 (part) north of Range etc.

I, John A. Oring, Clerk of Jay County Indiana, do hereby certify that  
 the said judgments are now hands and paid this 8th day of December 1871.  
 John A. Oring, Clerk of Jay County Indiana

Recorded January 8th 1872 at 2 O'clock P.M.

J. M. McLaughlin

Recorder Jay Co. Ind.  
 Record from First Plat Book of Jay County, Indiana  
 Jay County Recorders Office

Page sponsored by David A. Lyons

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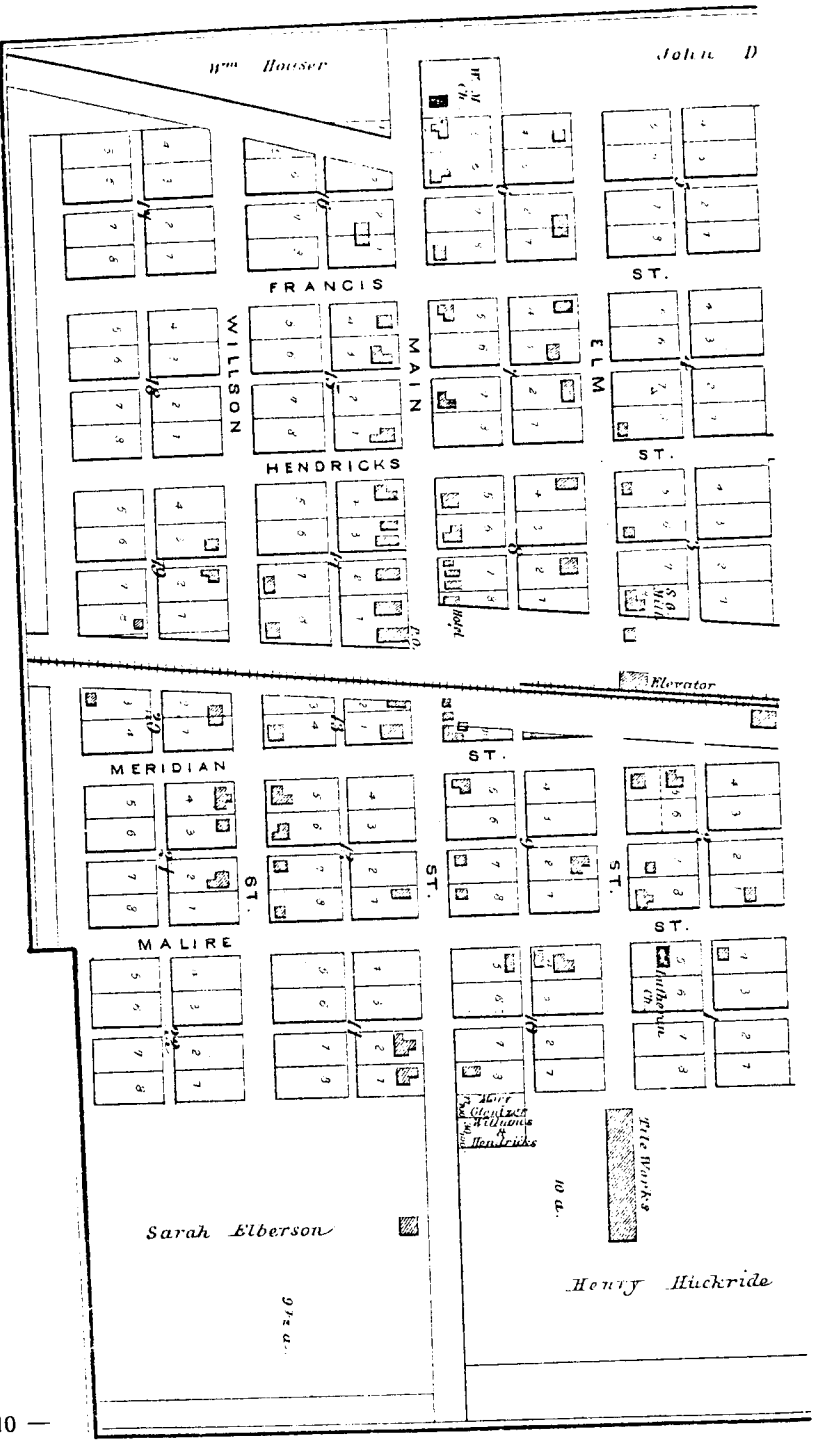
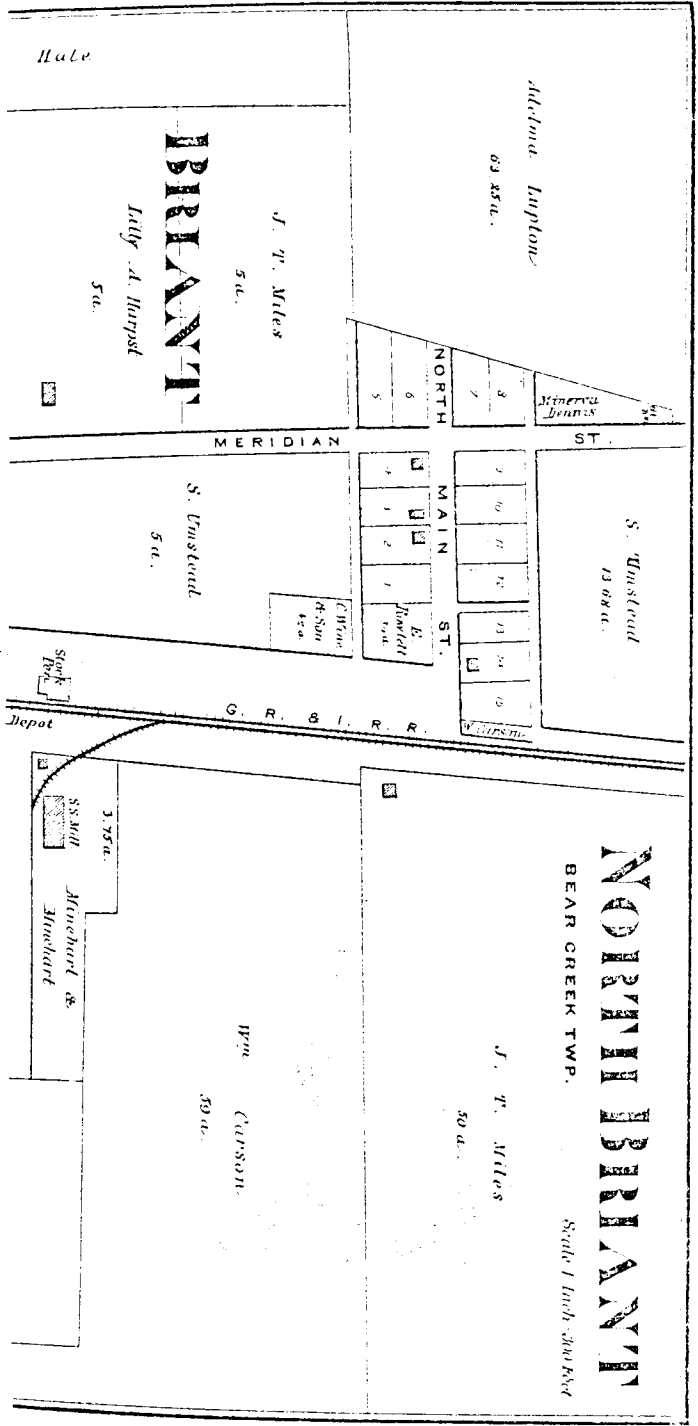
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<p><b>COMPLIMENTS</b></p> <p><b>OF</b></p> <p><b>P. B. Stewart</b></p> <p><b>DAILY HOG MARKET</b></p> <p><i>Livestock Auction every Tuesday evening</i></p> <p><b>Serving Indiana and Ohio Farmers</b></p> <p><b>For Over 30 Years</b></p> <p>WAYNE BOLLENBACHER, Manager</p>	

## Gas and Oil Boom

Probably one thing more than any other to which Jay County owes her rapid growth, aside from her fertile soil, is her production of natural gas and oil. Prior to 1886 no one ever thought that Indiana contained any oil or gas. When a group of citizens, from this area, was visiting in Findlay, Ohio they observed the drilling of oil and gas wells. Determined to learn the possibilities of the products being hidden in the local area, they at once made plans for a search. The first company was organized in March 1886, the purpose of which was to drill for gas and oil. The Briant Gas and Oil Co. office opened for business July 21, 1887 in Block No. 3 Lots 7 & 8.

One of the earlier leases was the south 40 acres of the farm at the northeast edge of Bryant, and now owned by Leo Ketchum. This land owned by William Carson was leased to H.O. Patch and Co. on May 29, 1888. Mr. Carson also owned the land, now owned by David Lyons, at the southeast edge of Bryant. This was leased to B. F. Fulton on January 1, 1904. Land now owned by Gerald Knoelke was leased in 1903 and drilled in 1904. About this time 2 wells were drilled in on the Lyons farm, 7 on the land now owned by Arnold Hayden, 2 on the Thurber "Shorty" Barker farm, 9 on Knoelke land, and 4 to the east where Carol and (Ruby Knoelke) Morehous reside. This description of a small area east of Bryant illustrates the drillings of the Bryant oil field. These Trenton rock wells were drilled from 1000 to about 1050 feet deep. Many wells were drilled but some were dry holes. Some produced more gas than oil. A few of the gas wells are still a source of fuel for some homes.

Gerald Knoelke still operates some of the original leases east of Bryant, although the amount of oil is small. Elmer Knoelke, father of Gerald, worked as a pumper from 1935-1965. Irvin Campbell worked in the oil field as a puller, employing Ralph Flauding, Wren Rogers and others as helpers. Clayton Schiede was the gauger for many years. A land owner usually received one-eighth royalty.

A report states that the pipe lines in the Bryant area, were owned by the Standard Oil Company. The oil was pumped to a pumping station in the Lob southwest of Geneva and then east to the refinery located in Lima, Ohio. Most of the pipe lines were placed along the road side near the fences but a few were buried when it was necessary.

The gas and oil boom in the Bryant area began about 1888 and lasted until about 1912 but scattered drillings were made for several years following the boom. The gas and oil industry found Bearcreek, Jackson, Penn, and Green township to the most abundant in both minerals.

## "The Drill"

**From The Bryant Independent Newspaper**  
**January 20, 1906**

Manager Pierepoint of the Bearcreek Oil Co. was quite ill.  
The Wilson Outfit will begin drilling No. 6 on the Sutton farm Tuesday.



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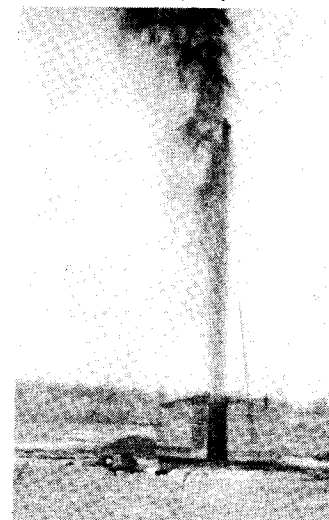
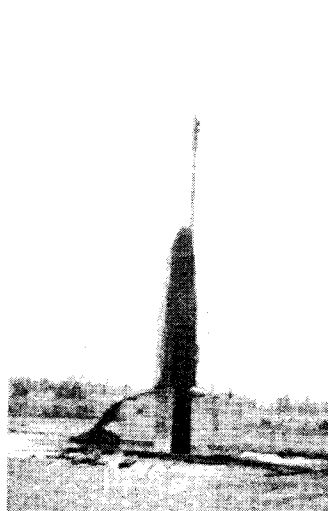
The Bearcreek Oil Co., is having a well drilled in on the farm of Mrs. Seward Rogers.

A well is being started on the Armantrout farm east of town for the Eclipse Oil Company.

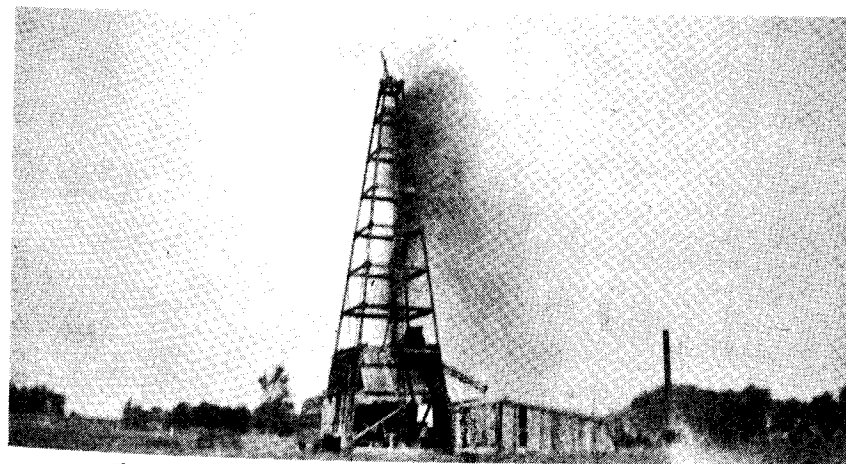
The well recently drilled in on the farm belonging to Alex Rayn is said to be a light producer.

A well is being drilled on the farm of Clyde Haviland east of Antville for the Fulton Drilling Co.

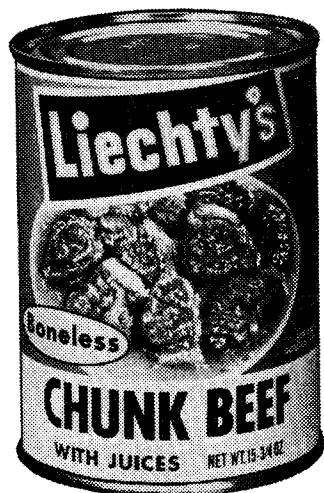
The Fulton Drilling Co. is engaged in drilling a well on the Hardy farm west of town for the Binghampton and Trenton Rock Oil Company.



Shooting Oil Well No. 1 on the Clarence Brinkerhoff farm.



Close-up View of an Oil Well Derrick Used during the Bryant Oil Boom.



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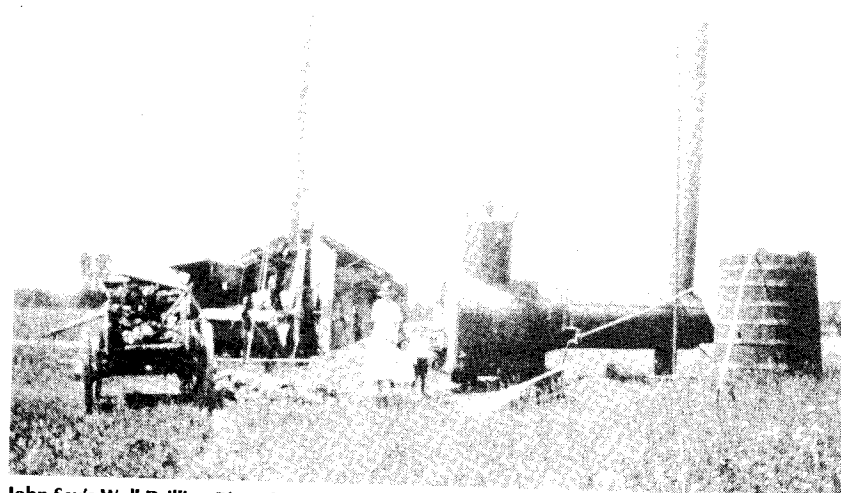


101 E. Main St., Berne, Ind.

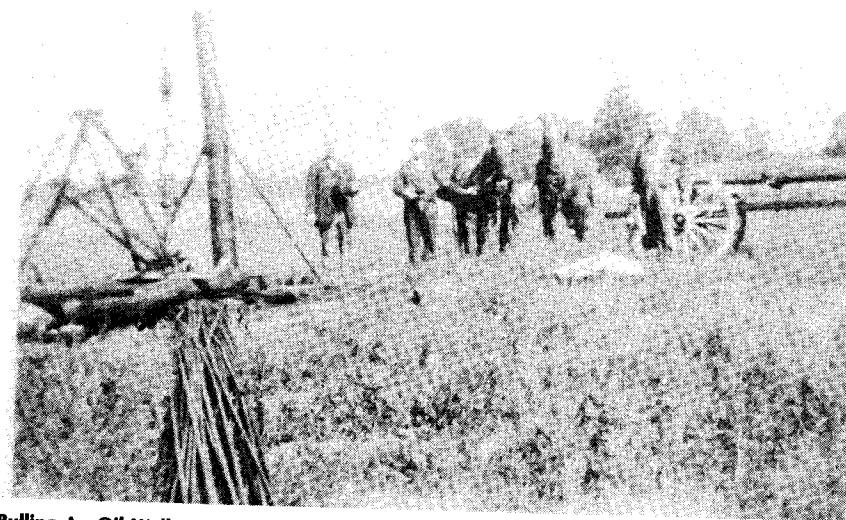
PHONES: Office 589-2194

Res. Berne 589-3573, Monroe 692-6692  
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See MEL to BUY or SELL



John Say's Well Drilling Rig - about 1920. Well, in orchard on farm now owned by Richard Houser, west of Bryant. Steam driven rig. Note wood for fuel on wagon. People in picture are: Mrs. Chester (Ala) Callahan, and children Virginia and Virgil.



Pulling An Oil Well. L-R—Willis Rice—lease owner, Bob Fairchild—holding horses,—?—.

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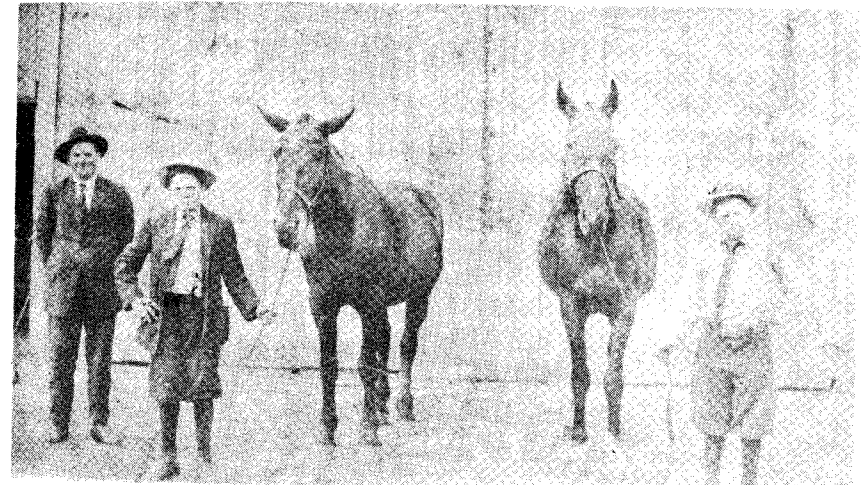
Phone 317: 368-7281

## Recollection of Bryan, Briant-BRYANT

By Mrs. Ernest (Bessie Knoelke) Crowell

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Crowell are among the older residents of Bryant. Ernie, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Crowell grew up in West Liberty, retired after 41 years in Portland Forge, and always liked to hunt and fish. As a member of the Conservation Club, he cares for the pop machine. Bessie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Knoelke who operated a garage in Bryant for 40 years, is "just a house wife". She enjoys reading, TV, canning, gardening, and her flowers. One son, Norman, passed away (at age 19).

We, the Crowells, recall the yester-year of Bryant when the Huckriede and Montgomery groceries had cracker and vinegar barrels, kerosene barrels, sugar barrels, and the big buckets of salt-fish. We recall the big penny sticks of candy and licorice and the "all day suckers"-delight of all the kids who had a penny to spend. The groceries also carried a good line of yard goods and accessories, boots, shoes, cosmetics, meats (none packaged), and staple groceries. There were many chairs around the pot bellied stove where people might rest a bit and visit before returning home.



Crowell Brothers in 1914. R-L—Ernie Crowell-Bryant, Clarence-Ft. Wayne, and Walter-Robison, Illinois.

In Bryant's earlier year there was a livery stable owned by Mont and Rex Manley, saw mills, a bakery, and a hotel. Lew Shannon and Wm. Henry Whiteman engaged in shoe repair. There were cream stations where farmers sold their cans of cream after it was weighed and tested for butter-fat. The daily passenger trains carried the mail. Chester Crowell and Charles Wright were telegraph operators at the Bryant depot.

We remember Anna (Pingry) Park's restaurant and the barbers - Webster Anderson, Jesse Bailey, and Earl Bowen. The Farmers and Merchants Bank was located in Bryant, and George Mills published The Bryant Independent



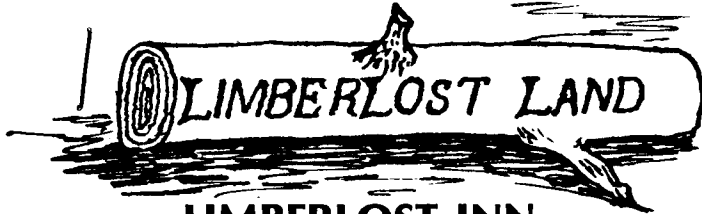
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newspaper. Beck Hall, destroyed by fire, was a big two-story building on Main Street where the school played basketball and had class plays on the second floor. Located on the first floor was a drug store operated by Mr. and Mrs. Guy Shull and a grocery and meat market operated by Horace Farrar. James Adams owned the elevator, brought hay and grain, and sold coal. Ed and Peter Bonifas had a hardware on E. Main. When they passed away, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Bonifas took over the store until they retired. Then there were the doctors—Miles, Glentzer, Bockoven, Smith, and Graham. I. G. Metzner had a furniture and undertaking business.

We remember the old hitching racks, one west of Huckriedes, another east along the Bonifas Hdw., and another west of the elevator. Here the farmers tied their horses—saddled or hitched to a buggy, carriage, surrey, or wagon. South of the elevator there was a large water tank and a town water well and pump.

Three churches, with regular services, speaks well for Bryant.

People used to enjoy corn huskings, apple peelings for apple butter, quilting bees, and threshing rings. These were the days when people depended more on each other and helped one another more.

These "good old days" we so well remember, but now we must close our "Book On The Past" and with Faith in God, let us work to make our town of Bryant a still better place in which to live.

## 1910 Bryant Director City Officials.

### BRYANT CITY OFFICERS.

H.E. Farrar, G.B. Neeley, Elmer Lantz, City Clerk, W.J. Sisk; City Treasurer, W. J. Sisk; Justice of the Peace, W. H. Whiteman.

## Business Directory.

**BRYANT CHURCH DIRECTORY** — Lutheran—N. Malin; Wesleyan Methodist—West Wilson, Rev. Eddy, Pastor.

**ATTORNEYS**—G. S. Mills.

**BARBERS**—C. W. Anderson, W. Main; J. A. Bone, W. Main.

**BANK**—Farmers and Merchants Bank, E. Main.

**BLACKSMITHS**—Burkey Lantz, W. Main; Dan Brown, E. Main; C. C. Detro, R. R. Street.

**BAKERY**—James C. Treece, N. Meridian.

**DRUG STORES**—G. E. Shull, W. Main; Leonard Sisk, W. Main.

**ELEVATORS**—Holmes Grain & Hay Co., W. Main; Bryant Grain Co., W. Elm.

**FURNITURE STORE**—Metzner & Metzner, E. Main.

**GENERAL STORES**—George C. Montgomery & Son, W. Main; Henry Huckriede, E. Main; O.H. Nichols, W. Main.

**HARDWARE STORES**—W. H. Elberson & Son, W. Main; Black & Flauding, W. Main.

**HARNESS STORE**—W. H. Elberson & Son, W. Main.

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**LIVERY BARNs**—R. J. Manley, S. Hendricks.  
**MEAT MARKETS**—Green Street, W. Main; R. W. Miles, W. Main.  
**NEWSPAPER**—The Bryant Independent, G. S. Mills, Editor.  
**PHYSICIANS**—C. H. Bockoven, E. Wilson, Susan Bockoven, E. Wilson, M. A. Glentzer, E. Main.  
**RESTAURANT**—Ed. Bonifas, E. Main.  
**RACKET STORE**—Elwood Logan, W. Main.  
**TONIC SHOP**—Frank Landess, W. Main.

## 1910 Bryant Directory.

### A

Addington, Arthur, meat cutter, W. Main; Anderson, Mary (widow), E. Wilson; Anderson, John, oil pumper, W. Main; Anderson, C. W. (Rebecca), barber, W. Main, (Meredith.); Antonidas, J. H. (Adda), laborer, W. Wilson, (Ethel.); Armantrout, O. J. (Catherine), farmer, E. Main, (Ella, Dorothy.); Arnold, Ben (Ada), junk dealer, W. Elm, (Keith.); Arnold, Orville (Letta), oil supply store, N. Malin; Ayres, Elizabeth (window), W. Elm.

### B

Bailey, J. L. (Estella), laborer, S. Railroad, (James, Jesse, Sarah, Clave, Ivan, Iva.); Bailey, M. A. (Elizabeth), laborer, W. Elm; Barlow, Henry (Sarah), laborer, W. Elm; Bamgartner, Peter, stonemason, W. Elm, (Pearl, Delphia, Elmer.); Beard, L. P. (Cecilia), retired, S. Meridian, (William, Virginia.); Bennett, Dell (Nora), farmer, W. Wilson, (Jessie, Alice, Carrie.); Bengel, B.F. (Mary), carpenter, S. Hendricks; Betz, Flossie, E. Main; Betz, H. W. (Rachel), huckster, (Gladys, Rosa, Sadie, Mildred, Carl, Wilber, Reba, Dollie.); Bergman, Sarah (widow), E. Main; Black, A. M. (Matilda), laborer, E. Wilson, (Ida.); Black, W. P. (Martha), oil operator, W. Main; Black, S. E. (Minnie), hardware, W. Main, (Iris, Fredah, Imogene); Bockoven, C. H. (Susan), physician, E. Wilson, (Mary, Harold.); Bogardus, J. B. (Ida), contractor, W. Elm, (Clyde.); Bogardus, Frank (Anna), well driller, N. Hendricks, (Gladys, Claude, Helen.); Bogardus, Elmer (Maggie), well driller, S. Railroad, (Myron.); Bone, Arthur, barber, W. Main; Bonifas, Edward (Anna), restaurant, E. Wilson, (Eugene.); Bonifas, Joseph (Mary), laborer, E. Wilson, (Lewis, Idella, Agnes.); Bonham, Ann (widow), E. Main; Bonham, Emma, postmistress, E. Main; Bonham, Chas. (Elva), agent G. R. & I., N. Meridian; Bousman, Isaac (Nancy), laborer, E. Meridian, (Mary, Robert.); Main, (Eva, Merle.); Brown, E. T. (Jennie), blacksmith, S.; Butcher, Charles (Flora), poultry dealer, E. Main. (Vaughy.).

  
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## C

Campbell, A. B. (Arta), teamster, N. Meridian, (Mavor, Lavona.); Corn, W. D. (Fay), W. Wilson, (Edgar, Guy.); Cox, Clyde (Lydia), laborer, W. Elm, (Edith, Garnet, Burdine.); Crawford, Samuel, N. Hendricks; Crowell, Lydia (widow), E. Wilson; Crowell, Adelbert (Margaret), hardware, W. Wilson, (Nellie, Bonnie, Paul.).

## D

Decon, Panama (widow), E. Wilson; Detro, D. H., retired, E. Main; Detro, C. C. (Amanda), blacksmith, E. Main, (Opal, Glee, Curtis.); Dehoff, Albert (Myrtle), laborer, W. Wilson, (Henry, Thella, Reuben.); Depew, J.W. (Louise), hotel, W. Main, (Clarence, Paul, Mildred.); Dixon, Margaret (widow), W. Elm; Durkes, W.E. (Blanch), druggist, W. Wilson; Dynes, Oscar (Lucy), laborer, N. Meridian, (Eva, Elmer, Burleigh, Ed.).

## E

Eddy, F. R. (Edith), Wesleyan minister, E. Main, (Gerold, Lucile.); Elberson, James (Kate), hardware merchant, N. Hendricks; Elberson, M. L., machinist, E. Main; Elberson, W. H. (Ruth), general store, E. Main; Elick, Zulia (widow), W. Elm, (Arthur, Lawrence, Bertha, Lena.); Engle, Anna (widow), W. Main, (Clara, Ada, Gladys.).

## F

Farris, David (Bessie), retired; Fifer, J. A. (Edna), rural mail carrier, N. Hendricks; Flauding, Chas. (Hazel), laborer, N. Hendricks, (Theo., Leo, Donoven.); Flauding, Jessie (widow), N. Malin, (Donald.); Farrar, H.E. (Lottie), elevator, N. Malin, (Harley, Morris, Mary.); Franklin, Eugene (Loma), student, E. Main, (Kenneth, Reva, Bernell).

## G

Goss, Henry, laborer, E. Wilson; Glentzer, M. A. (Martha), physician, E. Main, (Sarah, Daisy, Reva.); Goss, Noah (Lucinda), retired, E. Wilson, (Mollie.); Guy, C. V. (Mary), laborer, W. Main, (Earl, Ray, Gail, Maurice, Audrey.); Guy, S. D., cancer doctor, W. Main; Guy, Chas., (Lena), laborer, N. Hendricks.).

## H

Haffner, Ellen (widow), W. Elm; Hart, J. R. (Ellen), retired, W. Main; Heaston, Frank (Hannah), rural rte. carrier, N. Hendricks; Holmes, F. B., cashier Bryant Bank, E. Main, (Ida); Huckriede, H. W. (Alvena), merchant, E. Main, (Bertha, Leila, Irma.); Hunt, J.H. (Myrtle), retired, W. Wilson, (Burt, Elmer).

# Frank Green & Son Insurance

Weiler Bldg. Portland, In.



Dial Portland  
726-4560

## K

Kern, Emil, W. Elm; Kirby, Jackson (Emma), retired, E. Wilson; Krider, T.J., teacher, (Myrtle), E. Wilson, (Mona, Algernon.); Kuntz, Lewis (Mary), laborer, N. Hendricks, (William, Bertha.).

## L

Landers, Mary (widow), N. Hendricks; Landers, James (Pearl), laborer, N. Hendricks, (Gladys.); Lantz, Elmer (Girtie), carpenter, N. Wilson, (Leon); Lantz, Burky (Mary), blacksmith, W. Main, (Lavon, Zerral.); Layman, Mary (widow), W. Elm; Layman, Jacob (Rosa), merry-go-round, E. Main, (Perry, Florence.); Layman, Perry (Margaret), merry-go-round, W. Wilson, (Paul C.); Layman, Perry (Margaret), merry-go-round, W. Main, (Glenn, Chas., Effa, Gladys.); Liggett, J. L. (Alpha), drayman, W. Main, (Ottis.); Liggett, John (Susan), drayman, W. Main; Liggett, G. D. (Jessie), laborer, W. Meridian, (John E.); Lindsey, Vernon (Mary), cement worker, E. Wilson, (Nolene.); Logan, James, retired, W. Wilson; Logan, W. E. (Rosa V.), carpenter, W. Wilson, (Flora, James.); Logan, U. E. (Elizabeth), paper hanger and decorator, E. Elm, (Violet, Daisy, Zora, Mildred, Paul, Kenneth.); Lough, Frank (Cora), telephone lineman, E. Elm, (Kenneth, Dorothy, William.).

## Mc

McDonald, Murrel, printer, E. Main.

## M

Manley, Rex J. (Ethel), rural mail carrier, W. Wilson, (Vanrhea, Irene.); Manley, R. J. (Lydia), livery, W. Wilson; Markle, Nora (widow), E. Wilson, (Wren, Orla, Ralph.); Metzner, I. G. (Julia), furniture and undertaking, E. Main, (Herbert, Ernestine.); Mills, G.S. (Elpha), editor Bryant Independent, E. Main, (Madge.); Montgomery, G.G. (Sarah), general store, N. Malin. (Edna, Fred.); Montgomery, I. A. (Mayme), general store, N. Malin, (Ivan, Myra.); Montgomery, Julia (widow), N. Meridian, (Charles, Lena, Harry.); Moser, Aaron, W. Main.

## N

Neely, George (Catherine), oil operator, N. Hendricks, (David.); Nichols, O. H. (Della), merchant, N. Meridian, Esther, Henry, Edwin, Vienna, Frances, Paul.).

## P

Pfeiffer, J.A. (Margaret), oil producer, E. Main; Pence, A.D. (Sarah),

## Windmiller's

Minnesota Paints  
Greeting Cards  
General Merchandise

400 E. Line St.  
Geneva, Indiana

## Rupert's Electric

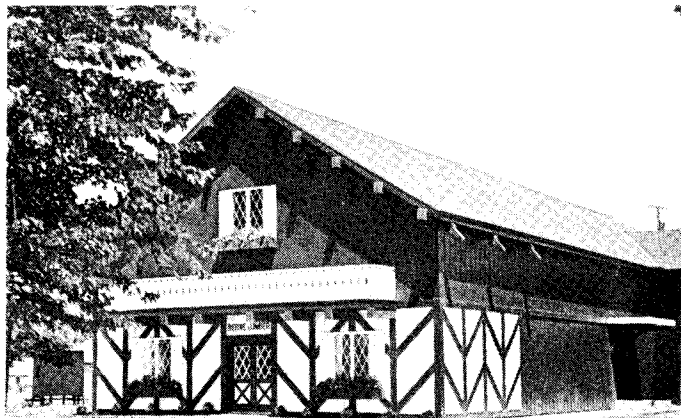
Gibson Appliances  
Motorola & Zenith T V

416 E. Line St.  
Geneva, Indiana

## Reed's Wallpaper & Paint Store

New Corydon

R.R. 1, Bryant, Indiana 47326



**Berne  
Lumber, Inc.**

589-2268

BERNE, IND.

laborer, W. Wilson; Perry, H.G. (Josephene), laborer, S. Meridian, (Lant.); Peterson, Anna, W. Main; Pingry, C.G. (Anna), plasterer, S. Railroad, (Zenith, Gladys, Morris, Edna.); Poling, S.A. (Nora), rural mail carrier, W. Elm, (Laura, Estelle, Dalphon, Vada, Glenna, Forest.); Plank W.W. (Drucilla), laborer, W. Wilson, (Milo, Charles, Troy.); Pingry, William, retired, S. Hendricks.

## R

Rupel, James (Aurie), banker, N. Meridian, (Della, Naomi, Ward, Helen.).

## S

Sanders, Allen (Leanora), oil pumper, S. Hendricks, (Ora, Harriet, Irvan, William.); Schiede, C. W. (Anna), oil guager, N. Meridian, (Clayton.); Sibery, F. A. (Ida), laborer, W. Main; Sisk, J. L. (Clara), contractor, N. Malin, (Dawn, Reba, Roe, Greta, Lysle.); Sisk, Jesse (Ethel), W. Wilson, (Mabel, Lonzo.); Sisk, Wm. (Ida), laborer, W. Main; Shull, G. E. (Caroline), druggist, W. Main; Smith, W. F. (Barbara), school janitor, W. Wilson; Stanley, N. K. (Mabel), music teacher, N. Meridian, (Mark, Glenn, Claire, Mere, Rebecca.); Steen, Frank (Delia), laborer, W. Wilson, (Dollie, Albert, Floyd.); Steen, Robert (Elizabeth), teamster, (Frank, Harry, George, Gladys, Gary, Merrel, Hollas.); Street, Green (Francis), retired, E. Elm; Street, Lacy (Jesse), farmer, (Flossie.); Stultzer, Elizabeth (widow), N. Malin; Stults, Ora (Icy), pipe puller, N. Hendricks, (Verl, George, Alpha, Dorwin.).

## T

Treece, J. C. (Lavina), baker, W. Wilson; Teeters, Pearl, bookkeeper, E. Elm.

## W

Watson, A.W. (Malissa), pool room, W. Main, (Louis, Ilene, Dale.); Weaver, John (Gladys), laborer, (Harry, Rachel.); Weston, H. L. (Nana), oil operator, W. Main, (Jay.); Wickiser, Mary (widow), E. Elm; Wilson, J. S. (May), oil pumper, N. Malin; Williams, Frank (Kate), retired, E. Rancon, (Adda, Emma.) Whitaker, Harrison (Cecil), oil pumper, W. Main, (Juanita.); Whiteman, W. H. (Sarah), justice of the peace, E. Main; White, Charles (Emma), carpenter, W. Elm. (Walter, Mable, Marrill.); Wright, I. N. (Catherine), section foreman, W. Elm, (Charles.).

## Y

Yous, Louis (Ethel), N. Malin, (Herbert.).



**FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT,  
VISIT BRYANT ON  
Sept. 5, 6, 7**

**FOR YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS,  
SEE**

**BIXLER INSURANCE, Inc.**

at  
435 E. Line St. Geneva, Indiana  
or  
179 W. Main St. Berne, Ind.



*"Service Beyond the Contract"*



West Main Street Bryant - looking east about 1915  
Samuel Renner home (now occupied by Burdell and Iva Brotherton). L-R Edith (Renner) Gibson,  
Samuel Renner, Lizzie Renner, a neighbor-Phebe Liggett (mother of Jesse Liggett), Ruth (Renner)  
Twig.

**Frank A. Straley**

*Funeral Director and Licensed Embalmer*

Funeral Parlors at my residence  
two and three-fourths miles  
south of Bryant.

High-grade Funeral goods at  
moderate prices.

Calls answered Promptly, Day  
or night.

Portland phone 61. Reverse all charges to me.

This ad found in 1916 Bryant Independent Newspaper owned by Flossie McMullen.

**TENT CAMPERS  
TRAVEL TRAILERS  
MOTOR HOMES  
AT  
Swiss Haus**

**BERNE, IND.  
589-2167 46711**

**Everything For The Camper**

**Complete Line of**

**Building Materials  
and  
Builders Service**

**Habegger Builders Supply**

Div. of Swiss MFG Corp.

**US 27 North  
BERNE, INDIANA**

589-2165

46711



About 1914  
L-R Marie (Pingry) Hughes, Alpha Liggitt, Mrs. Samuel Renner, Edith (Renner) Gibson, Lelia (Pingry) Hunt, Marian (Pingry) Lawrence, Everett "Luke" Renner.



**Bryant Lassies Take A Stroll**  
Six Bryant girls went for a walk one Sunday afternoon and ended up at the Cottrill farm one mile east of town.  
They climbed to the roof of this shed to have their picture taken.  
Left to right are Ruby Steed, Effie Franklin, Lelia Huckriede, Elizabeth Stone, Irma Huckriede, Bertha Huckriede and Charles Cottrill. This picture was taken in 1912.

**Price Implement  
Co., Inc.**

John Deere  
Sales & Service

PORTLAND, INDIANA

## **Berne Ben Franklin Store**

Berne, Ind., 46711

*Always Plenty of*

*Free Parking*

in Downtown Berne

*The Paint and Wallpaper Spot*

# **Bryant**

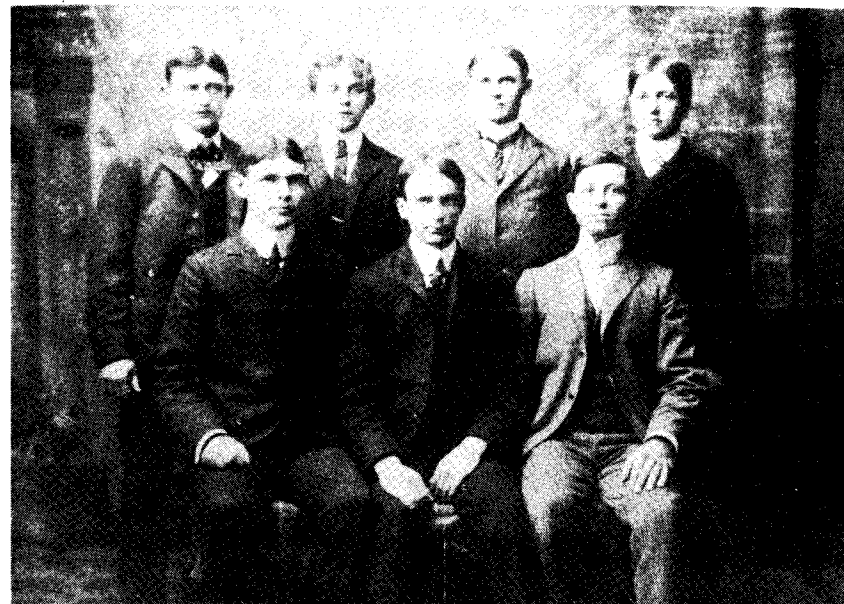
## **Truck Stop**

and

## **Restaurant**



**Open 24 Hours**  
Phone 997-8326 — Bryant, Indiana



BRYANT — "These are the boys that made Bryant famous" around the turn of the century. This Old Album picture, submitted by Chester Crowell, Greenfield, came with this caption, and the following identification. Seated in front row, left to right, Al Montgomery, Chester Crowell and Charles Bishop. Standing left to right are Edward Pingry, Jim Elbersen, Charles Bonham and Jim Butcher. Maybe some of our Old Album followers can tell us more about this group of men and something about what brought them together for this picture.



Bryant Girls About 1915  
1. Inez (Black) Weber, 2. Sarah (Glentzer) Flauding, 3. Ethel Autonadias, 4. Lelia (Renner) Poling, 5. Daisy (Glentzer) Laisure, 6. Mabel Sisk, 7. Unidentified, 8. Ellen Armantrout, 9. Kathy Boosier, 10. Burl (Montgomery) Whitacre, 11. Unidentified, 12. Unidentified.



# MIZ LEHMAN

**Realtor - Auctioneer**

Phone 219-589-2903  
Box 43 Berne, Indiana 46711

## First Girl Scout Troop in Jay County

By Helen (Pence) Jackson

Juliette Low started Girl Scouting in America on March 12, 1912, patterned after the Girl Guides of England. Miss Irma Huckriede had heard of this organization and when she came home from college the summer of 1920 she talked to a group of Bryant girls who were interested in the out-of-doors about Scouting.

Portland girls belonged to Camp Fire Girls and the Bryant girls decided to choose between the two organizations. Materials were sent for and after looking through the pamphlets, they decided in favor of Girl Scouting. They ordered books and when they arrived the girls worked hard on their Tenderfoot test, passed it, and chose the name Fleur-de-lis as a troop name, and Sunshine and Blue Bird for the two patrols. The troop registered 27 girls on March 1, 1921. This was the first Girl Scout Troop in Jay Co.

The Scouts were interested in the out-of-doors and learning all about nature, hiked many miles, worked on first aid, camp fire cooking, etc. They earned money for camp by selling home made cookies and root beer at a stand on the lawn of the Bank at the weekly Band Concerts.

For two years the troop rented Rock-a-way cottage for a week on Grand Lake, Celina, Ohio. The girls had been learning to swim, and at camp they could practice their new skill, and also how to handle a boat. They enjoyed living together, and did not complain about camp duties. The troop was asked to participate in the corner stone laying at the new Court House in Celina, and the troop was there in sharp formation in their new Kahki uniforms.

The troop helped with the Memorial Day programs, had teas and parties, and worked toward second and first class badge. This troop was disbanded in 1924 when most of the girls went to college, married or moved away, and Miss Huckriede went to Kentucky to teach.



Early Scout Group

**Steven's  
Barber Shop**

Line Street Geneva, Indiana

Phone 368-7897

**In Memory of**

Anderson & Sarah Hazen Pence  
GAR- Co. G, 142 Reg., Ind. Inf.

and

Oliver & Daisy Daugherty Pence

**PALMER  
HOUSE**

Dining Room

Private Parties

Smorgasbord  
every Fri. nite

Berne, Indiana

**Parr's  
Tire & Imp. Service**

White  
Farm  
Equipment  
Sales and  
Service

Wheel-  
Horse  
Sales  
and  
Service

Montgomery Ward Batteries

*Expert Repair Service*

**Berne, Indiana — Ph. 589-2149**

The second troop was organized in 1932 by Helen Jackson. It was called the Limberlost Troop, and had 8 girls. They soon passed their Tenderfoot test and were registered as a Lone Troop. They enjoyed hikes and learning about the out-of-doors, and even went on a 4:30 breakfast hike. This troop registered 2 years and were active until Ms. Jackson moved to Fort Wayne.

The third troop was organized by Mrs. Lois Myers and Mrs. Wm. Miller in 1960, and they were both Brownies and Girl Scouts. Mrs. Helen Jackson was Co-leader of the Brownies, and took charge when Mrs. Myers moved away. Scouting has been active in Bryant since that time.

In 1961 all Girl Scouts in Jay County have been under the jurisdiction of the Wapehani Council at Daleville. Girl Scouts are now divided into four age groups-Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors.

In the 15 years of Scouting in Bryant the girls have had many field trips, Day Camping at the Conservation Club with other Jay County Scouts, attended programs at Fort Wayne during Scout Week, went to Council Friendship Festivals, visited points of interest such as Gene Stratton Porter's Limberlost Cabin, a Lapidary shop in Portland and a visit to Karch Stone Quarry, had troop birthday parties at the Scout Cabin at the Fairgrounds, had parties for mothers, stuffed TB seal envelopes, visited the Pop Eye Show on WPTA TV at Fort Wayne, went to the National Indian Festival and the Zoo at Fort Wayne, and just have fun "discovering".

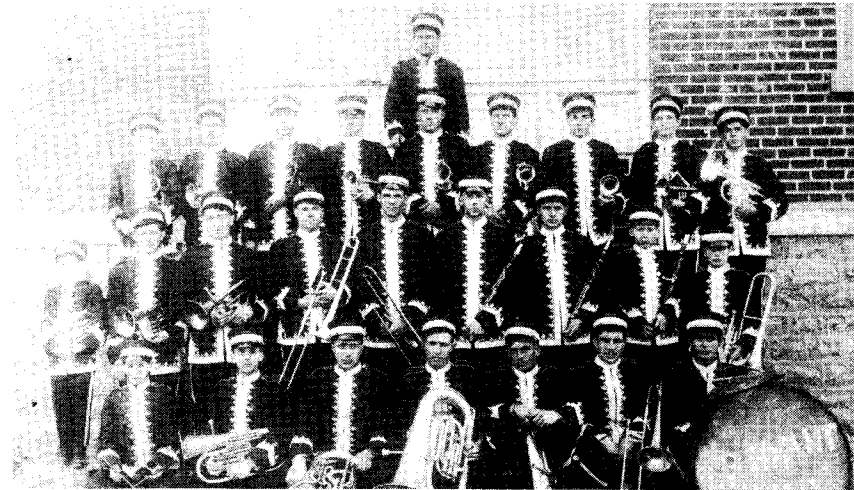


Dorsey Fennig drove the tank truck for Eastern Indiana during the 1930's.

# Bank of Geneva

**Berne - Geneva - Monroe**

**Member F.D.I.C.**



**Bryant Band 1910**

This band was very popular and played for many functions in other towns as well as at Bryant where they had a concert on the street every Thursday night during the summer season. Their director was A. J. Bliss standing at top center. This picture was taken in 1910.

First row (bottom) Dalphon Poling, James Elberson, William Dirkes, Burkey Lantz, Sonny Whitacre, Arthur Bone and Elmer Lantz.

Middle row, Roe Sisk, Chester Callahan, Fenton Whiteman, Charles Bonham, William Treece, Charles Dilts, Henry Tullis, Ora Sanders, Robert Brown.

Top row, Harry Dehoff, Luther Bone, Jerome Dilts, Maurice Elberson, Cecil Grames, Ora Beard, Paul Edington, Arch Fifer and Earl Bowen.

The Bryant Band continued under the direction of A. J. Bliss, until around 1925. Some of the later members were: Dorsey Fennig, Dale Stout, Forrest Poling, Lyle Sisk, Mary Haviland, George Krouse, Wendell Metzner, Morris Beck, Ward "Doc" Montgomery, Chessel Glentzer, Nora Green, Mardy L. Logan, Ed Young, Carl and George Garlinger, John Snyder, Dwight and Doradene Haines, Alen Bone, Jimmy Beals, Keith Arnold, Helen Jackson, and Raymond Oliver.

卐 This Is R. F. Bone, The-Junk-Man! 卐  
 卐 He buys all kinds of Junk, Second-Hand Oil Pipe, Gas Pipe, Beef 卐  
 卐 Hides, Sheep Pelts, Beeswax, Tallow and Wool in Season, for 卐  
 卐 which the highest market price will be paid. Will call at 卐  
 卐 residence and get any article mentioned Call by telephone 卐  
 卐 or address . . . . . 卐  
 卐 R. F. BONE, PORTLAND, IND. R. R. 11 卐  
 卐

Ad from 1910 Jay County Directory

# PIZZA

## THE OFFICE

Eat in or Carry Out  
Short Orders—Ice Cream

Geneva, Indiana  
Phone 368-7455

# Tates Market

Geneva, Indiana

East Line Street  
Phone 368-7480

# Baileys Furniture

Complete Furniture  
and  
Floor Covering Service

# AFFOLDER

## Implement Sales



Allis Chalmers - New Idea - Dunham

— Sales & Service —

Berne, Indiana

Phone 589-2964

## Early Bryant Business Interests



Mud Street Scene — 1912

West Main Street, Bryant, looking west from railroad: 1st building, S. J. Renner Restaurant and Hotel; 2nd Barber Shop; 3rd used as U.S. Postoffice in 1872; 4th Beck Hall also known as the "Opera House"; 5th Dan Montgomery's Livery Stable.



Hotel and S. J. Renner Restaurant - 1915

# HANNI

Plumbing and Heating

Geneva, Indiana

East Line Street  
Phone 368-7626

# EMBURS

Family Restaurant  
Featuring  
Broasted Chicken  
Salad Bar  
Banquet & Party Room  
Call  
Portland 726-7433  
On U.S. 27 North

*"Fine Furniture at Moderate Prices"*

## Thomas Hapner

furniture / carpet

307 N. Meridian Portland Phone 726-7606

## Swiss Auto Sales

For The Best In Used Cars & Trucks

PHONE:  
219-589-3838

U.S. 27 NORTH  
BERNE, IND. 46711

EARL H. SPRUNGER,  
OWNER



The Hotel and S. J. Renner Restaurant on W. Main Street in 1915 was later operated as Pingry's Restaurant. This building, still standing, is the home of Mrs. Maggie Norton and son Paul.



1910 Universal Day

W. H. Elberson started with a small capital in 1880, but business grew with fair treatment of his customers until he had one of the largest stores in the county. He sold ranges, base burners, "Keen Kutter Kutlery", home furnishings, farm equipment, and much more. All articles were marked for his customers benefit. Universal Day brought on a town celebration. This was a day when the Universal Stove Co. put on a special display as a street event.



## Schindler Electric

Magnavox-Frigidaire Sales & Service

113 E. Main - Ph. 589-2813  
Berne, Indiana 46711

## Forrest Balsiger

Your Oldsmobile Dealer  
Sales & Service

### Balsiger Motor Service

Berne, Ind. Phone 589-3103

Riding Mowers  
Roto Tillers  
Farm Fence  
Awnings & Car Ports  
Plumbing & Heating  
Supplies & Fixtures  
Whirlpool Bath  
Paint & Supplies  
Insulation  
Pumps &  
Well Supplies

### Cheeseman's

Back of Post Office  
Portland, Indiana

# Olson's Flower Nook



VISIT OUR  
GIFT SHOP



**726-7166**

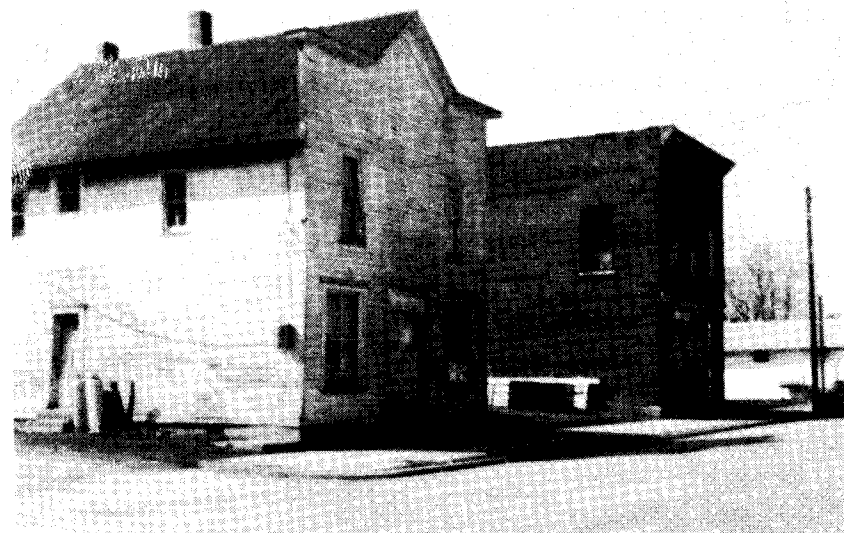
OR 726-7167

YOUR EXTRA TOUCH FLORIST

- BLOOMING PLANTS
  - GREEN PLANTS
  - CUT FLOWERS - For All Occasions
- SERVING PORTLAND and  
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES  
WE TELEPHONE FLOWERS  
MOST ANYWHERE  
HOME OWNED and OPERATED  
111 E MAIN PORTLAND IND

## Farmers and Merchants Bank

Farmers and Merchants Bank at Bryant organized in 1904 and located where the old postoffice building now stands, on E. Main Street. The bank vault is still in the building. The bank started with a capital of \$25,000 and the following board of directors: B. F. Holmes, George R. Houser, George Montgomery, W. H. Elberson, James Rupel, Albert Brunson, and B. F. Miller. By 1910 the resources had risen to \$154,270, and by 1922 they reached \$243,160. Now that was prosperity for the community. The officials in 1922 were: H. W. Hückriede, president; J. F. Arnold, vice-president; John Bonifas, main cashier; Emma Bonham, cashier. Problems arose about 1929 with the economy decline and a cause of action was filed by the State of Indiana on June 21, 1930 declaring the bank insolvent and calling for a receiver to be appointed. On June 26, 1930 a hearing was held to appoint a receiver to dispose of the assets.



### Old and New Bank

Metzner and Metzner, E. Main St., sold furniture and served as the only funeral directors in a large area. It was a father-son business. William Metzner, the father, drove the hearse team. The son, Irvin Metzner, continued with the business until age and poor health forced his retirement. The contents of the building were then sold and the structure was destroyed. The Metzner home, located east of the business, is now occupied by Rev. and Mrs. Lewis Strong.

Barbers in 1910 were C. W. Anderson and J. A. Bone. Later, Jesse Bailey (father of Mrs. Herbert (Carolyn) Masters and Mrs. James (Margaret) Minch-nov living in Bryant), Earl Bowen, and about 1935 Murray W. Berry barbered for Lewis Bonifas.

One of the earlier plumbers was Murray W. Berry. Murray born 1902 died 1970, also served as a school bus driver 1949-1961.

# The Food Bank

Open Six Days  
A Week - 8:00 A.M.  
To 9:00 P.M.

Rainbow Plaza  
Highway 27 N.  
Geneva, Indiana  
Phone 368-7854



THE FAMILY PLACE TO SAVE



ALSO  
BANKAMERICARD  
or MASTER CHARGE

Your Friendly  
G.C.  
Murphy Co.

Satisfaction  
Guaranteed

COMPLIMENTS

OF

## Joe Brown

REALTOR & AUCTIONEER

Phone 368-7658

Geneva, Ind.

# “Miss Somebody Else”

A COMEDY IN FOUR ACTS

TO BE GIVEN AT

Bryant, Ind. - Beck's Hall

## December 22nd, '23

BY THE

### SENIOR CLASS, BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL

#### CAST OF CHARACTERS:

CONSTANCE DARCY, Daughter of Harvey Darcy a Multi-millionaire, .. HELLEN PENCE  
CELESTE, a Vivacious French Maid, ..... DOROTHY MACY  
ANN DELAVAN, Manager of Quxedobrook Club House, ..... BESSIE KNOELKE  
MILDRED DELAVAN, An 18 Year Old Daughter of Ann and Jasper Delavan, .....  
FAY BLAINWOOD, Daughter of a Society Leader of Quxedobrook, ..... INEZ MACKLIN  
..... LUCILE GARLINGER  
ALICE STANLEY, a Graceful Society Girl, ..... IRIS MACKLIN  
SUSAN RUGGS, Mrs. Delavan's Maid Servant, ..... MARIAN RUNYON  
CRUGER BLAINWOOD, a Fine Type of American Manhood, ..... LEROY GIERHART  
RALPH HASTING, a Young Crook, ..... CARL WHITEMAN  
JOHN, a Celebrated Chauffeur, ..... KENNETH LOGAN  
JASPER DELAVAN, an Elderly Scientist, ..... EMIL BUCKINGHAM  
SYLVESTER CRANE, a Diffident Chap of Good Family, ..... DALLAS BETZ  
BERT SHAFFER, an Awkward Member of Society at Quxedobrook, .. WAYNE MAST

#### SYNOPSIS:

Constance Darcy, daughter of a multi-millionaire mine owner, disguises as a maid to bring prosperity to Quxedobrook Club House and to recover stolen money. Ralph Hastings, a crook, comes to Quxedobrook and starts a flirtation with Mildred Delavan. Constance recovers her stolen bonds and also her future husband. Susan Ruggs makes the play a complete farce.

15c. - 25c.

Reserved Seats on Sale at Drug Store.

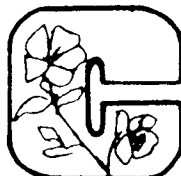
A livery barn, operated by Dan Montgomery, stood west of Beck Hall.

**Lykins  
Dry Cleaners**

117 S. Commerce St.  
Portland, Indiana  
GUARANTEED  
ODORLESS CLEANING

**PETE'S  
Standard Service**

Corner of Arch & Meridian St.  
Portland, Ind. Tel. 726-8948



**CLAUSER  
FURNITURE**

Berne, Indiana

**CONGRATULATIONS  
BRYANT**

**Eastern Indiana  
Oil & Supply Co.**



**Distributor of Arco Products**

Geneva, Indiana 46740  
Phone 317 368-7611

Aron Beck built Beck Hall on the north side of W. Main Street where the U.S. Postoffice now stands. It was a two-story structure with the lower story divided for several businesses. At one time a drug store and a doctors office occupied part of this area. A stairway, built in the center of the building, permitted one to enter a large auditorium with the roof supported by four high posts. This auditorium was used for school plays and served as a town gymnasium. Can you imagine, playing basketball around 4 huge pillars?

**The Wishing Well**

**A MUSICAL COMEDY IN THREE ACTS, GIVEN BY THE  
BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL.**

**APRIL 4, 1924, AT BECK'S HALL**

Cast of Characters in order as they first appear.

TERENCE FITZPATRICK O'GRADY of Hitchcock Court, scion of a wealthy and Noble family, incognito as Terence O'More ..... Emil Buckingham  
NOREEN, Lady Mary's niece, who has lived with her aunt since her mother's demise ..... Nell Haviland  
LADY MARY DONNELL, last of her line, the present owner of Falls Park Manor ..... Agnes Bonifas  
SQUIRE MATTHEW BAXBY, of Shereton Castle, the estate joining Falls Park Manor ..... Carl Whiteman  
DARBY DUFFY, an old servant at Falls Park Manor ..... Marion Runion  
KATHLEEN O'MARA, maid at Falls Park Manor ..... Ernestine Metzner  
DAN TYRON, groom at Falls Park Manor ..... Kenneth Logan  
NORA, Darby's wife, servant at Falls Park Manor ..... Bessie Knoelke  
MAUREEN MCGIBNEY, a designing coquette from Dublin ..... Iris Macklin  
MOLLY O'TOOL, a friend and accomplice of Moureen's ..... Dortha Macy  
FELIX MURPHY, a tight fistied money lending lawyer of Dublin .. Leroy Geirhart  
QUEEN OF FAIRIES ..... Mary Haviland

**CHORUS OF GENTRY**

Helen Pence, Iris Macklin, Mary Farrar, Lucille Garlinger, Dortha Macy, Inez Macklin, Keith Whiteman, LaVaughn Lantz, Raymond Oliver, Orville Bechdolt, Donald Flauding, Earl Macklin.

**MAIDS AND GROOMS**

Marjorie Campbell, Bernice Macy, Sylvia Dynes, Thelma Logan, Loetia Shoemaker, Mary Helen Green, Ward Montgomery, Maurice Beck, Melvin Runion, Carol Hardy, Noah Ulman, Lee Turner.

**IRISH COLLEENS**

Francis Michael, Hilda Turner, Mildred Adams, Nora Whetstone, Velma Sanders, Sarah Green, Violet Logan, Bonnie Knoelke.

**FAIRIES**

Lyndel Burkett, Leila Pingry, Marguerite Farrar, Mildred Campbell, Luella Runion, Nora Green, Dorothy Glendenning, Vera Pyle.

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**SPECIAL ORCHESTRA**

Lyle Sisk, Forest Poling, Wendel Metzner, LaVaughn Lantz, William Milligan.  
The High School Orchestra will furnish music between acts.

**“THE WISHING WELL”**  
**MUSICAL NUMBERS**

**ACT I**

1. Overture ..... Instrumental
2. Fairy Scene and Dance, Fairy Queen and Fairies.
3. The Wishing Well ..... Terence
4. My Rose Scented Garden ..... Mary and Terence
5. Mary Macushla, My Irish Queen ..... Terence
6. You've Kissed the Blarney Stone ..... Kathleen and Dan
7. There's Joy In My Garden ..... Mary
8. Oh, Persuadin' Are Your Ways ..... Nora and Darby
9. Why the Fairies Came To Ireland ..... Terence
10. The Top 'O the Mornin' To Ye (finale) ..... Chorus

**ACT II**

1. Let Us Dance the Light Fantastic ..... Chorus of Girls
2. You Alone, Asthore ..... Mary and Terence
3. The Smile In Your Eyes ..... Kathleen and Dan
4. The Leprechaun ..... Terence
5. Love Is a Painter ..... Mary
6. Fairy Scene and Dance (What Noreen imagines is happenings while her eyes are closed) ..... Fairy Queen and Fairies
7. Finale ..... Principals and Chorus

**ACT III**

1. Finale ..... Principals and Chorus

**15 Cents** — — — — **Admission** — — — — **25 Cents**

RESERVED SEATS ON SALE AT STABLER'S DRUG STORE.

The home now occupied by Edward and Helen Longnecker, was built for a hotel.

The Holmes Elevator was built near the west side of the railroad on Main Street in 1897.

The Brick and Tile factory, built by Henry Huckriede in 1872, was located in the far northeast part of Bryant. It employed 3, and manufactured around 9000 rods of tile a year. The material used, in making brick and tile, left a 3 acre pond at this site.

The Hub and Spoke factory was built in 1880 by Winch and Sons. It employed 10 and turned out \$50,000 worth of products a year.

G.E. Shull and Leonard Sisk operated two of the early drug stores. Shull advertised Wright's Liquid Smoke, the right thing to smoke the meat with. Only 75 cents for a big smoke.

O. H. Nichols had a general store in the Opera House block on Main Street.

**Davis**  
**Radiator Repair**

New Radiator & Heater Cores  
Body, Fender & Mechanical  
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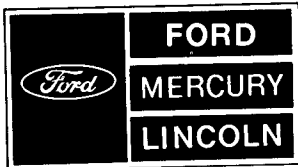
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MAKES & MODELS

**Daily Hog Markets**



**RON ODELL - Manager**

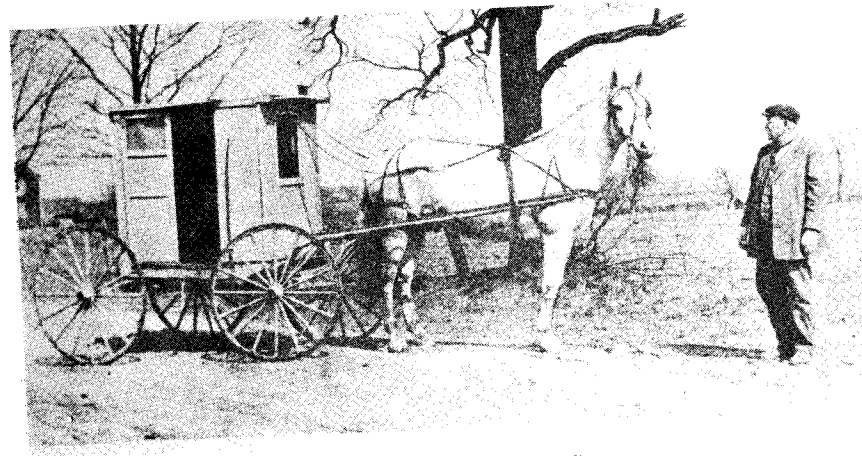
Ph. 726-8131

Portland

**Bryant Post Office**

The first U.S. Post Office was established in Bryant on August 23, 1882 in a very small building on the north side of W. Main Street and across the east alley from the present site of the office. James C. Jay was appointed on that date as the first postmaster. The town map of 1887 shows this first site, and the location at that time of the second site it being on the south side of W. Main Street and next to the railroad. On July 24, 1897 Emma Bonham was appointed postmaster. She moved it to its third site, her home, located on E. Main Street and one-half block east of the railroad. Next came the use of the building almost directly across the street. This structure, now partly used as an apartment house, was the one first used by the bank and still contains the bank vault. On April 15, 1949 Joseph C. Huey was appointed postmaster and during his service the fine stone structure on W. Main Street was built and dedicated on July 10, 1966. At his death June 11, 1967 Helen Jackson became acting postmaster until the appointment January 17, 1969 of the present postmaster George Lewis Judy. Serving with Mr. Judy are; Helen Jackson-R.R. 1 carrier; Paul Rittenhouse-R.R. 2 carrier, Alfred Wellman-clerk and sub-carrier for R.R. 1, Don Haines-sub-carrier for R.R. 2, and Phyllis Hoehamer-clerk.

Filling the position of postmaster and dates of their appointment include James C. Jay, August 23, 1872 (salary \$1.00 per month); Ermina Lewis, June 10, 1878; Granville S. Lewis, December 3, 1879; Charles W. West, July 13, 1885; Olnerly Whipple, January 14, 1887; James S. Miles, April 27, 1889; William H. Elberson, April 12, 1893; Elbert J. Willard, December 21, 1894; Peter L. Bishop, September 25, 1896; Emma Bonham, July 24, 1897; Charles E. Montgomery, June 6, 1906; Silas C. Chaney, August 20, 1914; John P. Switzer, October 24, 1921; Roy D. Haines, January 19, 1934; Joseph Cline Huey, April 15, 1949; and George Lewis Judy, January 17, 1969.



Bryant Mail Carrier 1915 - Sam Poling

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Feeds - Fertilizer

Geneva, Indiana  
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Old Post Office - Used from about 1904-1966.



New Post Office - Dedicated July 10, 1966. Joseph Cline Huey, Postmaster.



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Beefburgers

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Phone 726-7650

Portland, Indiana

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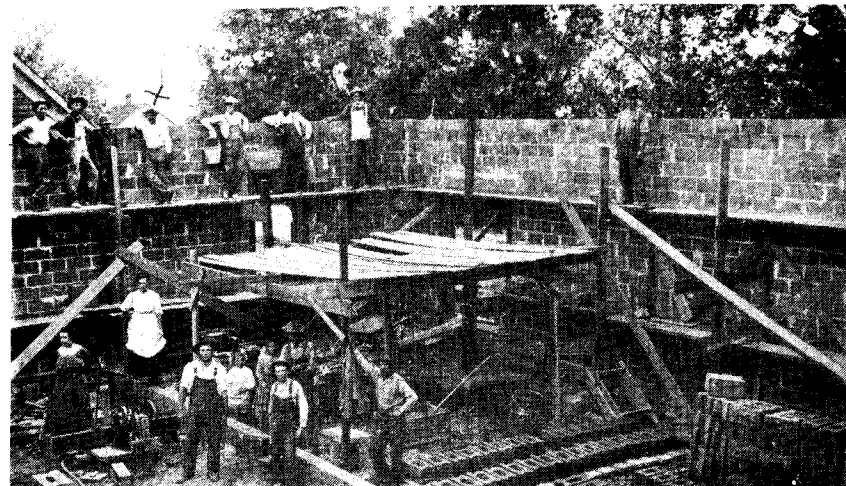
Les Schwartz



*Your Complete Friendly  
Service Station*

Tuneups - Brake Service - Inspection

Highway 27 South  
Berne, Ind. 46711



Erecting the Sanders building. Men that worked on it were: Charles Logan - boss (marked x); William Logan, Albert Dehoff, Harry Dehoff and others.

Black and Flauding Hardware and Implement business occupied the Sanders building in 1910, located on the south east corner of the West Main and Hendricks Streets intersection.



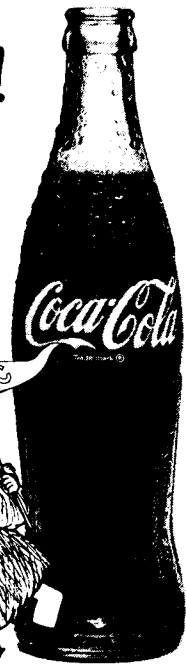
Black & Flauding Hardware

# JAY Complete

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Cheers!



It's the real thing. Coke.



**Coca-Cola**  
TRADE-MARK

**Bottling Co.  
Portland, Ind.**

Two or three cream stations served the area. Blanche Bellis, widowed in 1920, managed the Cloverleaf Cream Station 1931-1938. This station was located where the Bryant Fire Department and Town Hall are now located. Alonzo and Etta Pettis operated the Farm Bureau Cream Station, located on E. Main Street, during the 1930's. Cream was brought in by farmers, tested and placed in 10 gallon containers. Chester Fast drove a cream wagon, collecting from farms and stations.



Chester Fast

## Physicians of Bryant

Although Bryant has been without a local doctor for over 45 years, there were several whose names could be recalled as having served at earlier dates, namely; Dr. J. T. Mills, Dr. O. S. Abel, Dr. James G. Wicks, Dr. James C. Jay who practiced 1844-1881, Dr. J. L. Munsell, Dr. T. G. McDonald, Dr. Samuel Poling, Dr. Joseph Adams, Dr. C.H. Bockoven and Dr. Susan Bockoven, Dr. Cova Graham, Dr. Grover Smith, and Dr. M.A. Glentzer whose daughter Sarah Etta (Glentzer) Flauding is a long-time resident of Bryant.

Dr. M. A. Glentzer, physician and minister was born April 7, 1836 in the home of John and Nancy Ann (Martin) Glentzer. Dr. Glentzer was 6 years old when his parents came to Bearcreek Township. He entered the practice of medicine in 1865. His first office in Bryant was located on E. Main, near the railroad. It was later moved 2 blocks east and adjoining his residence. The original office is the back part of the home now owned and occupied by Sarah (Glentzer) Flauding. Dr. Glentzer also served as a minister and was one of the organizers of the Church of Christ in Bearcreek Township.



PORTLAND, IND.

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The Home of Goodwill Used Cars

Complete Automotive Service for over 25 years  
Complete Front End Aligning & Balancing  
"We Service All Makes"



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W. Votaw St. (Hwy 67 West)

PORTLAND, INDIANA



## The Bryant Independent Newspaper

The Bryant Independent Newspaper was published at Bryant, Indiana every Saturday by George F. Mills — Subscription per year — 50 cents. The newspaper office was for a time in the building now used as a garage by Charles and Chloa Hoskins, but stood at a site near the west side of their home on E. Main Street.

Sarah Flauding has a copy dated January 20, 1906, Vol. I - No. 14. Jim Pyle has a copy dated June 23, 1906, Vol. I - No. 36.

The G. R. and I. railroad schedule was found in the June 23rd issue as follows:

Going South Daily except Sunday	Sunday
Leaving Bryant 7:59 a.m. 1:59 p.m.	8:30 p.m.
Going North Daily except Sunday	Sunday
Leaving Bryant 7:18 a.m.	2:31 p.m.

The following news items are from the January 20th issue:

John Karney is slowly recovering now.

Lauren King was at the county seat Thursday.

Miss Mollie Tom was at Portland Thursday.

Mrs. F. A. Siberry went to Portland Friday.

James Logan went to Muncie Thursday to visit his daughter.

The little daughter of Chester Pingry was taken with a spasm Thursday. Her life was despaired of for a while but she is recovering slowly.

Misses Dessie Kinsey, Pinkie Bryan, Pearl Nichols and Mend Le Masters of Portland were here Sunday the guests of Misses Emma and Adda Williams.

Lawrence Glendenning reports the arrival of a twelve pound boy at his house. Lawrence says that he is trying to find a name big enough to fit the youngster. It will require one having at least 12 syllables.

Wm. Logan and family were at Portland Friday.

Miss Lillie Hiestand of New Corydon was here Saturday visiting her sister Mrs. Chas. Callahan.

The attendance at the Lutheran Sunday School on Sunday January 14, 1906 was 62. The collection \$1.72.

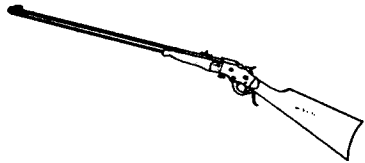
Zeff Glentzer and lady friend attended church at Poling Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. John Weisel spent Saturday night and Sunday with the latter's father Mr. A. J. Glentzer and family.

## Light and Power

Electricity was furnished to Bryant, first by a light plant owned by Earl Bowen. It was located in the rear room of what is now the Conservation Hall on W. Main Street.

Electricity is now furnished to Bryant by the Indiana and Michigan Electric Company, and in rural areas by the R.E.M.C.



**PARRS GUN SHOP**  
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**Das  
Blumenhaus**

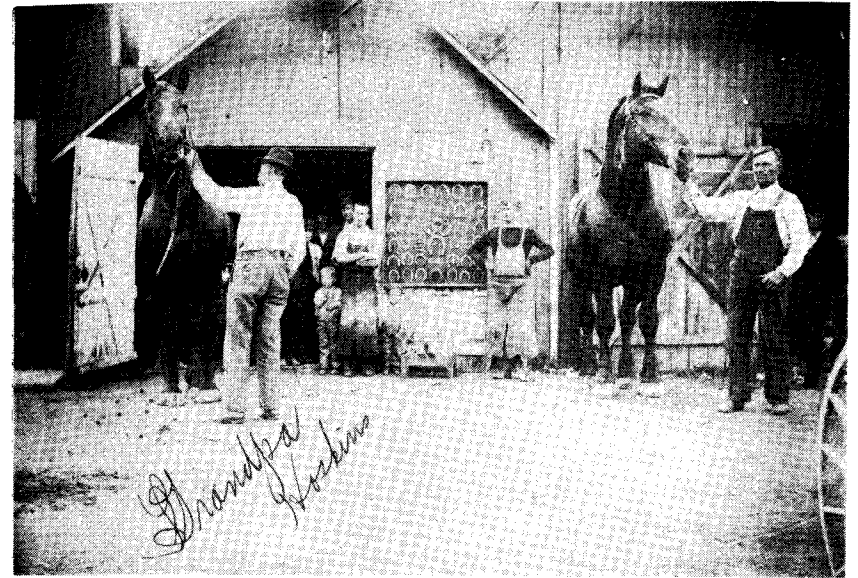


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BERNE, INDIANA 46711  
PHONE (219) 589-2472

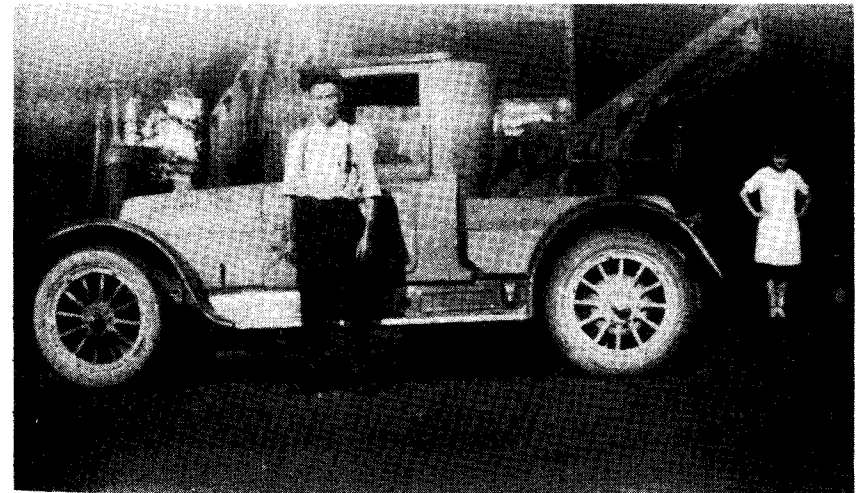
**We Use  
Hartford City  
Overhead  
Doors**



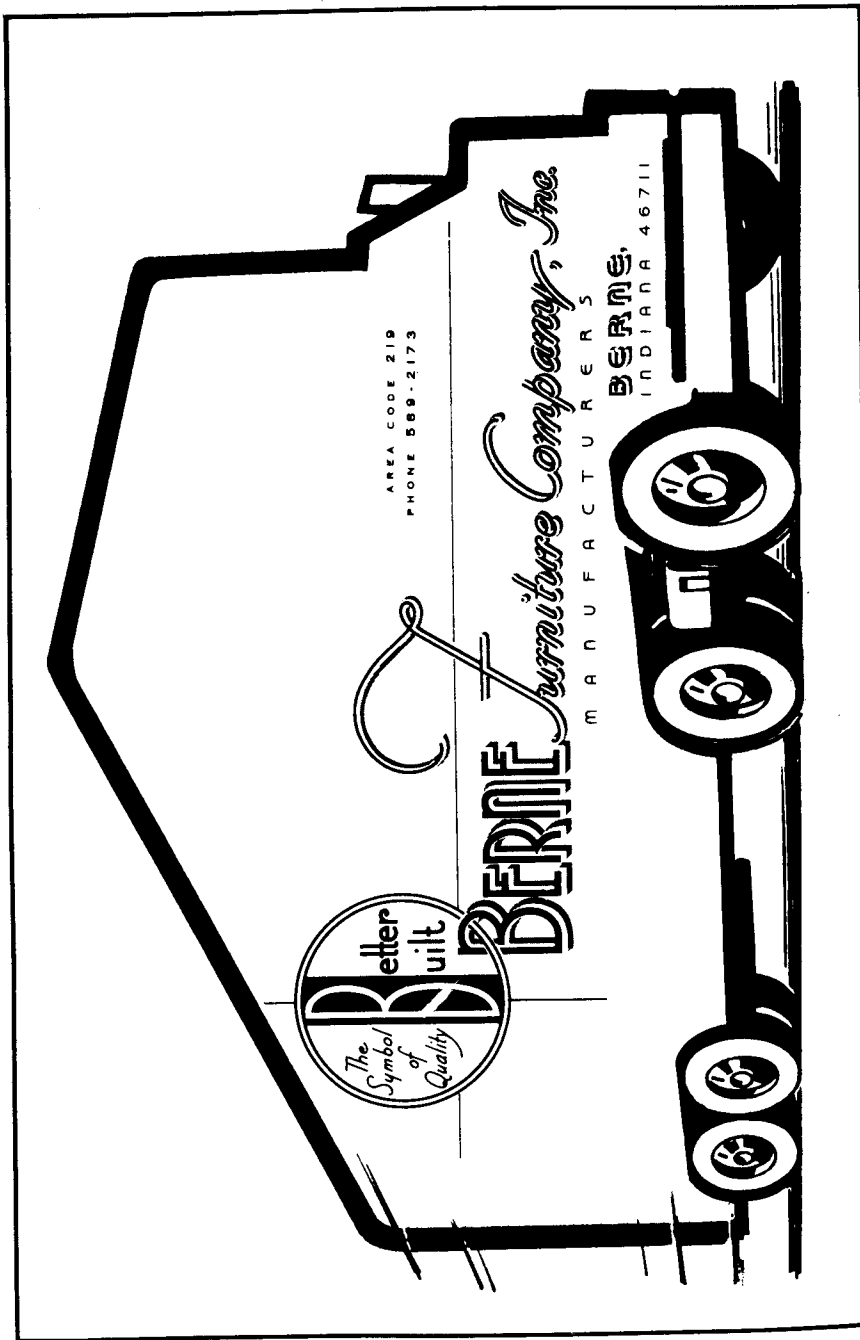
The National Bank In Jay County  
126 North Meridian St.  
Portland, Ind.



**Burkey Lantz Blacksmith Shop - W. Main St.**  
Burkey and his son, standing in open door Doc Hoskins (father of Charles and John Hoskins) with horse to the left. Doc raised many fine horses. Jim Rupel holding horse to the right. The horse-shoes displayed on the shop were hand-made by Burkey.



Henry Knoelke at his garage in 1920-with his Hudson wrecker, the first one he owned.

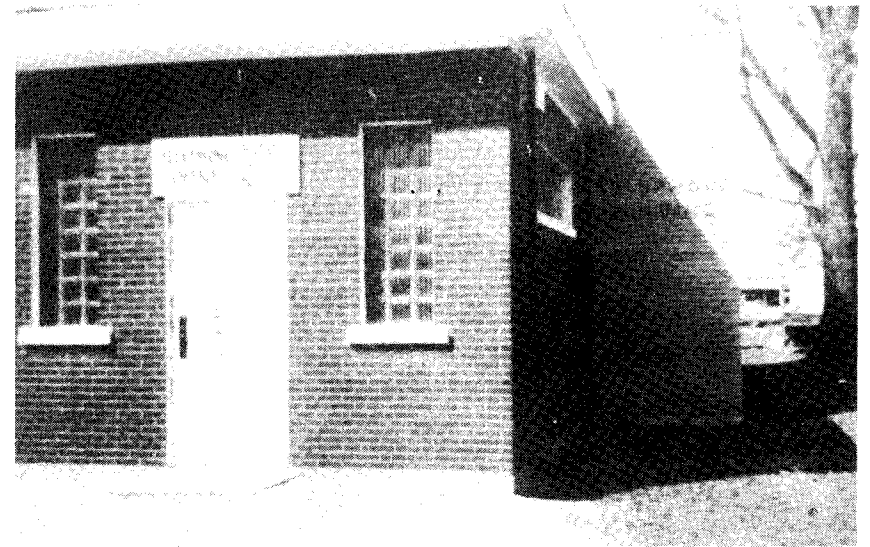


## Telephone System

The Adams Telephone System was owned in early years by James J. Adams followed by George Adams, a son.

Inez (Bellis) Berry was a switchboard operator 1930-1933 and again in the 1940's. Frances (Dynes) Shephard also operated the early switchboard system. Inez reports that calls were made by a hand crank that make longs and shorts according to the parties call. She also related the following experience. "One Sunday P.M., when calls are usually slow that one could take a nap, sudden lights came on all over the switchboard. I was frightened and curious, and decided to eavesdrop. I then learned of the traigc event that Pearl Harbor had been bombed". This was Sunday, December 7, 1941.

The Citizens Telephone Company installed a dial system and sold later to the present owners, United Telephone Company.



1975 - Bryant Telephone Office, The United Telephone Company.

The present Conservation Club building, W. Main Street, was occupied and used as a theater house in early times, and operated by Earl Bowen.

**W. H. ELBERSON & SON** The place where you can buy  
the best in the Hardware  
Line at the Lowest possible prices. **BRYANT, IND.**

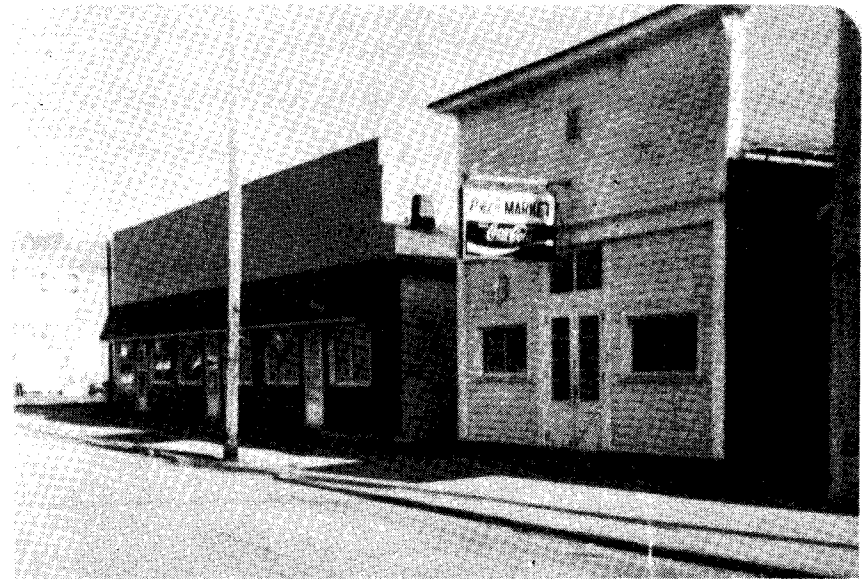
1910



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Continuous  
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in  
North America**

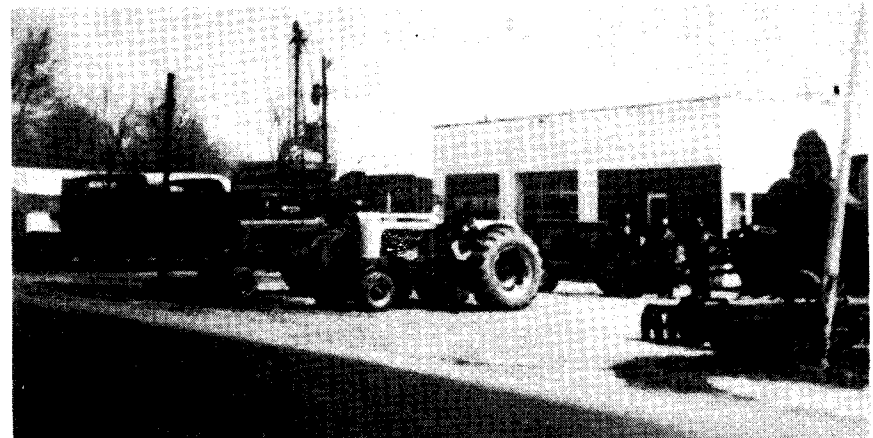
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250 Customers  
with  
Carbon  
and  
Alloy  
Steel  
Forgings**

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Portland, Indiana 47371**



**The George Montgomery General Store**

The George Montgomery General Merchandise Store opened about 1900 on W. Main Street at the site of the present Pyle's Market. The site was purchased on March 19, 1898 for \$500. Later a son I. A. Montgomery became the owner, followed by Clair and Mildred Shoemaker June 14, 1945 and then purchased by James and Anna Pyle in December 1970 when the Shoemakers retired and moved to Geneva.



**H & H Farm Equipment, Owner Joe Huey  
New business in 1975**

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**Berne Animal Clinic**  
Dr. Max Lehman

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Hwy. 27 NORTH

PORTLAND

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255 W. Main, Berne, Indiana

## Masonic Lodge

Bryant Lodge, No. 682 F. & A. M.  
1911 - 1936

Free Masonry has played an important part in the development of our country — and so it was with the Community of Bryant.

On March 10, 1911, eight "Master Masons in good standing and residents of the State of Indiana, having the prosperity of Free Masonry at heart" petitioned the Grand Lodge for the organizing of a new Lodge in Bryant. The signers of the petition were as follows:

James E. Lewis of Jay Lodge No. 87.  
Tobias J. Krider of Churubusco Lodge No. 515.  
John M. Anderson of Middletown Lodge No. 271.  
James C. Treece of Mt. Blanchard, Ohio, Lodge No. 519.  
John W. Chamness of Blountsville Lodge No. 331.  
George F. Mills of Halfway Lodge No. 298.  
Chas. D. Dilts of Geneva Lodge No. 621.  
C. Wm. Bonham of Fountain City Lodge No. 667.

"On March 28, 1911, ..... a dispensation was issued to Bryant Lodge, U. D. with the following named as its first officers:

James E. Lewis, Worshipful Master;  
Tobias J. Krider, Senior Warden; John M. Anderson, Junior Warden."

In 1912 the Committee on Dispensations examined the books and records and found them in conformity with the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge. The Committee then recommended that a charter be granted to constitute a Lodge at Bryant, Jay County, Indiana, to be known as Bryant Lodge No. 682 and that George F. Mills be appointed as first Worshipful Master; Clayton W. Scheide, first Senior Warden; and Elmer Lantz, first Junior Warden.

The first meeting place of the lodge was in the Sanders Block building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and what is now Highway 27.

After the Sanders building was destroyed by fire, the Lodge met in the rooms above the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, which is still standing on the south side of Main Street east of the G.R. & I. Railroad track.

When the bank closed and the building changed ownership, the Lodge was asked to vacate. Since there was no other suitable place to rent in Bryant, this was a major factor in the decision of the members of Lodge No. 682 to vote to relinquish their charter and discontinue the Lodge.

At the closing of the Lodge, members demitted to various neighboring lodges, primarily Geneva No. 621 and Jay Lodge No. 87. The closing membership was as follows: Burton Brunson, R. Burdett Burk, Willis M. Dorsett, Worley W. Gierhart, Joseph T. Glendenning, Reid W. Green, Roy D. Haines, Carroll F. Hardy, Otto M. Heath, Estes Hendricks, Ralph Hicks, Herbert D. Hicks, Lewis A. Judy, Ralph M. Knoelke, Mardy L. Logan, James E. Logan, Paul R. Macklin, Beryl S. Miller, Irvin G. Metzner, Ivan M. Montgomery, Orville H. Priest, Van Royer, Edgar Shoemaker, Charles W. Sisk, Leroy A. Stults, Ora U. Stults, Fred R. Stults, Grover Smith, George H. Treece, Herschel I. Watson, James H. Willialms, Joseph H. Whiteman, James C. L. Whiteman, William D. Wells, Keith E. Whiteman, Doyt R. Whiteman.

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# LUDWIGS

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Portland

The Worshipful Masters, Secretaries and Membership throughout the years are listed below.

### BRYANT LODGE No. 682 F. & A.M.

YEAR	WORSHIPFUL MASTER	SECRETARY	MEMBERSHIP
1912	George F. Mills	Fred B. Holmes	25
1913	Elmer Lantz	Fred B. holmes	28
1914	Frank Tuttle	Elmer Lantz	30
1915	Clayton W. Scheide	Oliver H. Nichols	28
1916	Joseph H. Whiteman	James Elberson	27
1917	Grover A. Smith	James Elberson	25
1918	Irvin G. Metzner	Chester A. Crowell	28
1919	Irvin G. Metzner	Chester A. Crowell	29
1920	Joseph H. Whiteman	Chester A. Crowell	29
1921	Herschel Watson	Paul Edgington	30
1922	Burton Brunson	Irvin G. Metzner	30
1923	Lewis A. Judy	Irvin G. Metzner	31
1924	Lewis A. Judy	Irvin G. Metzner	34
1925	Chester A. Crowell	Irvin G. Metzner	32
1926	James H. Williams	Irvin G. Metzner	37
1927	James C. L. Whiteman	Irvin G. Metzner	37
1928	Ora U. Stults	Irvin G. Metzner	37
1929	Mardy L. Logan	Irvin G. Metzner	39
1930	Walter F. Hardy	Irvin G. Metzner	39
1931	George H. Treece	Irvin G. Metzner	38
1932	Beryl S. Miller	Irvin G. Metzner	38
1933	Ralph M. Knoelke	Irvin G. Metzner	34
1934	Leroy A. Stults	Irvin G. Metzner	33
1935	Fred R. Stults	Irvin G. Metzner	35
1936	Mardy L. Logan	Irvin G. Metzner	36

During the quarter of a century that the Bryant Lodge No. 682 was Chartered, many of the leaders of the community were active in its membership.

We feel that the following quotations from the minutes of Grand Lodge are of interest and make a fitting conclusion to this history.

"At a stated meeting on October 26, 1936, Bryant Lodge No. 682 of Bryant, Indiana, voted to surrender its Charter. Brother Irvin G. Metzner, Secretary of the Lodge, sent in the effects and records. I take this occasion to thank him for his interest and kindness." "Sept. 17, 1936 — Bryant Lodge No. 682, Bryant, Ind. to consolidate with Geneva Lodge No. 621. Geneva Lodge Officers to serve until the next election. The furniture and equipment removed to Masonic Home at Franklin, Indiana, that same might be ready for use at expected annual meeting of Lodge to be held there under Special Dispensations for pleasure of old and infirm Masons, members of the Masonic Home, in proper place such as Holloway Hall."

Submitted by Mardy L. Logan, Worshipful Master

1936

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ZENITH Radios & T V

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Berne, Ind.

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STATE PILOT FEEDS  
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PORTLAND, INDIANA 47371

## Grand Army of the Republic

By Helen (Pence) Jackson

As a result of the attack of the rebels upon Fort Sumter and Pres. Lincoln's proclamation of April 14, 1861, calling for 75,000 volunteers to put down the rebellion, 1,131 Jay County men answered the call to arms for their country.

After the terrible war was over the men returned to their families and work with the feeling of accomplishment and honor, reflecting credit upon themselves and the country they represented, and their heroic deeds inscribing an imperishable record upon the annuals of their country.

The Grand Army of the Republic was an organization of the men who had served the Union Army in the Civil War. There were five Posts of the GAR in Jay County. They were: Stephen J. Bailey Post No. 154, organized in Portland in Feb. 1883; Alexander Trimble Post No. 213 in Redkey; Benjamin Shields Post No. 289 in Dunkirk; James B. Cartwright Post No. 358 in Pennville; and the James C. Jay Post No. 488 in Bryant.

The post in Bryant was named after Dr. James Jay, who lived here. It was mustered in on Feb. 26, 1887, by J.J. LaFollett as mustering officer, with 16 members, and J. T. Miles as first Post Commander.

The names of the members in Bryant Post can not be verified, but a few are known. Some of the members lived in Bryant, and others in the surrounding community. The group went to National Encampment at least one time. Following is a list of the known families represented in the list of Volunteers from Jay County:

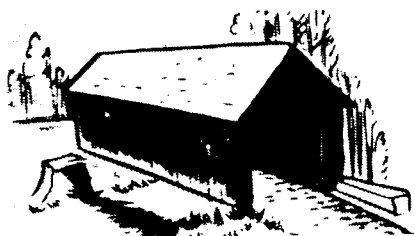
Benjamin Fifer, Lewis Houser, Elias Buckingham, Co. E, 89 Reg. Ind. Vol. Wm. Fifer (wounded), Jake McCroskey, Joshua Poling, Co. H, 100 Reg. Sgt. John Hardy, Eli DeHoff, Wm. F. Smith, Geo. W. Hammit, Isaac McLellan, Co. B Alfred Shepherd, G.W. Metzner, Geo. G. Montgomery (Co. Clerk), Jo McLellan, Co. E James T. Jay (Hospital Steward), Wm. R. Pingry, Ed. L. Pingry Co. E, 7 Cavalry J. T. Miles (injured in right knee and lost eye) Co. K, 86 Ohio Vol. Inf. J. Frank Hiestand, Monroe Glentzer, Wm. Bishop, John Armantrout, Anderson Pence, who volunteered in Allen County in Co. G, 142 Reg. Ind. Inf. but who moved to Bryant and was a member of Post No. 488.

The Grand Army posts in the country began to dwindle in membership with the passing of the years until only a few answered the roll call. The last known survivor of Post 488 is not known, but A.D. Pence died in 1930, and was one of the last members.

As General McArthur so ably stated—"Old Soldiers do not die, they just fade away."



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## Long Time Residents of Bryant Area Shirk

Mrs. Palmer (Grace Crowell) Shirk, age 83, E. Elm Street, was born in Bryant in 1891. She is the oldest living resident who was born, reared, and raised her family in the village. She lived part of her youth in the home of her grandparents Ed and Lydia Crowell. Her husband, Palmer, worked as an oil well pumper, caring for 24 wells some of which were pumped night and day. He passed away in 1939. Grace and Palmer had 5 children: Clarrel; Mary (Shirk) Wall; Robert, died as a result of an automobile accident at age 17; Ruth (Shirk) Duer; and Palmer, Jr. who married Betty Roll also of Bryant and lives in Alaska. Their son, Jim Shirk, is employed as a computer operator working on the Trans-Alaskan pipe-line.



Grace started to school about 1898, in the building known more recently as the Bonifas Hardware, the small children being taught by Cora Morgan. In 1900 when the new Bryant School opened, she attended as a student of Kate Williams. Sadie and Rosie Betts were her classmates. Her grandfather Crowell served as the first janitor of the new school. At that time it consisted of 4 rooms and a basement area, with J. C. L. Whiteman as principal and teacher.

Grace is a sister of Ernest Crowell, also living in Bryant. Their uncles, Chester and Charley Crowell, had a small barber shop west of the old hotel.

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## Hoskins

Charles "Diddle" and Chloa (Logan) Hoskins, senior citizens now, were reared near Bryant and have resided on E. Main Street since December 6, 1941.

Charles, born in Pennville, son of Daily and Harriet Hoskins, dealt in fine horses. Chloa, daughter of Charles and Jane (White) Logan, was born 2 miles southeast of Bryant on the Henry Myers farm. She served as a primary teacher in Bryant for 8 years. Charles was employed as a car inspector at Central Soya for a number of years.

They vividly remember the oil boom and Bryant at that time, with 3 grocery stores - Huckriede, Montgomery and Nichols; 2 Hardware Stores; 1 Bank; 2 shoe cobblers; a postoffice; saw mill run by Aaron Moser; tile mill operated by Huckriedes; 2 blacksmiths; a saloon; doctors, livery barns, and a mortuary and furniture store. If their mother ran short of her own home made bread, she would send her twin boys Mardy and Marvin to the bakery operated by Chet and Anna Pingry - 5 cents a loaf or 6 for 25 cents. The family enjoyed the weekly band concerts conducted by A. J. Bliss.



**1975 Charles and Chloa Hoskins**

**Charles has served as town custodian for several years.**

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## Logan

In 1861 Charles Logan was born in Milton, Indiana. Soon afterward his father was called to the Civil War. He sold everything but a horse and a few belongings. He put his wife and baby Charles and the few belongings on the horse, and he walked and brought his family to near Bryant, Indiana. She and baby Charles stayed with her folks, the Pitts, and he went off to the Civil War.

Charles Logan grew to manhood and married Jane White, daughter of Jonathan White. Their 6 children are: Mrs. Charles (Chloa) Hoskins, Bryant; Mrs. Ernest (Orda) Glentzer; Mrs. Darrell (Leavy). Franklin and Marvin of Ft. Wayne; Mardy L. of Portland; and Glen of Ft. Wayne.

Mr. Logan and his family lived on a farm southeast of Bryant. He farmed and worked as a carpenter and contractor. Many fine barns were constructed by Mr. Logan and his crew.



Charles and Jane (White) Logan Family. L.-R.: Orda, Marvin, Charles, Leavy, Jane holding Glen, Chloa, Mardy L.

Page sponsored by Charles and Chloa Hoskins

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Jonathan White Family, 1907. The Jane (White) Logan family are together at the right side of the picture. Chloa Logan is standing behind her twin brothers, Marvin and Mardy L. Logan, sisters Orda and Leavy seated on ground, and the parents Charles and Jane standing behind Chloa.

### Wall

V. Roscoe "Ross" Wall, son of Hiram Clayton and Mary Wall, was born in December 1887 and came to Bryant with his parents and brother Bert in 1893. His father operated a grocery and meat market one half block east of the railroad. They lived in the rear of the building.

"Ross" now 87 and living in Arizona, sent a letter of his recollections of Bryant. He stated that he attended the Lutheran Sunday School and his teacher was Molly Wickison. His boy friends were Clarence Ford and Earl Davenport. He recalled seeing Butcher's Egg and Poultry House located at the southwest corner of Main and Hendricks Streets where periodically they would hire people to come in and dress chickens for the markets. He stated that he attended a celebration on a vacant lot west of the railroad (present elevator site) honoring the election of President Wm. McKinley. He named and located many of the businesses mentioned elsewhere in this booklet.

In May 1974 "Ross" sent a letter to his niece Joanne "Jodi" Wall, daughter of Royce and Roberta Wall, in which he wrote; "I started my school days at about age 6 in the old school house just west of Bryant. It was torn down a few years later. It is quite a co-incidence — I started 1893 and you finished 81 years later in the same old town." He described the old school as a two story brick building for grade students. Ross's teacher was John Kesler.

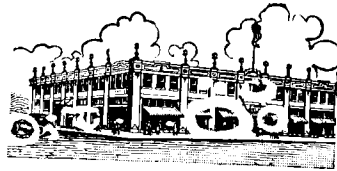
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### Macklin

Music, athletics, nature, and teaching are the key words to the Paul Macklin family who lived at the east end of Bryant from 1924-1958. Born to Juanita and Paul were three children: Marjorie, June, and Jerry. Being an outgoing family as well as talented, besides teaching in which each one engaged, their activities were many and varied, such as raising Jersey cows and delivering milk, in summer via pony cart, and in winter via sled; teaching a young adult Sunday School class in the Lutheran Church of which each one was a member, being Boy Scout leader, coaching pro football, bird banding, and turning 3½ acres of land into a fine wild life sanctuary (Paul); doing 4-H and Jay County Welfare work, and accompanying her children on the piano as they played for people's entertainment (Juanita); furnishing special music for many occasions and organizations, especially while playing xylophone in Jack's Xylophone Band (Marjorie and June); fixing radio and tv parts (Jerry).

In education Paul's special field was athletics, agriculture and other sciences, teaching in Bryant and Portland; Juanita-first grade in Madison Township and Pennville; Marjorie-music in the elementary grades and high school in Madison Township, and later in the elementary grades in Alexandria; June-history and English in Bryant, and now serving in the capacity of Associate Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at New London, Connecticut at the Connecticut College for Women; Jerry-agriculture in Bryant, then 4-H and extension work at Purdue, University of Kentucky, and National 4-H Foundation at Washington D.C. and is now serving in capacity as Associate Director of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Services.

After Juanita's death, the house was sold to Jerry, who in turn sold it to Arthur Armantrout. In 1959, Paul married Helen Atz and moved to Berne. The trailer in the Wildlife Refuge is now owned by Paul's grandniece, Sue Kuchcinski, and her husband Dan. Marjorie and her husband, Dr. Stuart Sweeney, optometrist, reside in Alexandria. They have two sons, Michael and Steven. Dr. June Macklin lives in New London, Connecticut. Dr. Jerry Macklin, his wife Barbara (Anderson) and their three sons, Larry, Tim, and Paul live in Durham, New Hampshire.

### Huey

Gerald Edward (Ed) Huey, and Esther Blanche (Ford) Huey, lived in the township most all his life. He and Blanche raised 7-children-Arthur, Pauline, Virgil, Edward Jr., Kenneth, Judy, Nancy.

During their early married years they farmed, and he was foreman on the W.P.A. While his children were little he worked with the Hiser Sales Co. as an electronic trouble-shooter, traveling through Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, and Michigan. During these years his wife, Blanche, ran the "White Rose" station and restaurant. Business was so rushing that Ed had to leave his job with Hiser Sales Co. and come home to help her.

Through the years the oil company changed names various times. For a period of 35 years he worked for the Hiday Family in some capacity either on the wagon, or in one of their stations.

Ed and Blanche have lived in the town of Bryant some 43 years.

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### Houser

In 1887 when Bryant was starting to grow, William Houser was the owner of land in the southwest area of the town, with Dist. No. 4 Bryant School located on his land. This Houser area can be seen on the early map of Bryant.

William Houser is the grandfather of Alice (Krouse) Shoemaker, Alta (Krouse) Current, Albert Krouse, Jeanette (Houser) Snyder, Wendell Houser, Burdette Houser, Mary (Houser) Manor, and Mahlon Houser (son of George Houser) who presently resides on the Houser homestead.

### Callahan

Chester Callahan, living west of Bryant, recalled hearing his grandfather, Christian Callahan, tell about Indians stopping at a site near the new bridge on St. Rd. 18 about 2 miles west of Bryant. The Indians stopped to prepare for hunting on the river low-lands. Mr. Callahan stated that a grist mill was located on the Herb Cain farm. Mr. Callahan worked as a pumper in the Bryant oil field in early 20's riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle to work. It was belt driven, with no transmission.



Family of Christian Callahan

Mrs. Christian L. (Lucinda) Callahan and her sons: L-R-Perry, Mark, and Andrew of Bryant, Ind. (father of Chester Callahan). Christian 1829-1901 and Lucinda 1831-1912 were pioneers on the farm now owned by Richard Houser west of Bryant. Note the windlass over the dug wells which served as a water supply until 1964.



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**Bergman**

George (Roy) Bergman — Dorothy M. (Abbott) Bergman lived in Bearcreek Twp. all their life. Roy, like his father, David W., and his grandfather George, is a farmer. While their children Robert and Alma were at home they lived on the farm. In 1954 they purchased, and moved to the Bergman home in Bryant.

The Abbott's came from the Pennville area to Bearcreek Twp. where they raised 12 of their 17 children, 5 dying shortly after birth. Roy tells of how Dorothy's grandfather, Mark Jones, came from Pennville to build the Bloomfield road east 1½ mile and 1 mile north (known as the Bryant Pike). Mark Jones stayed in the Bloomfield School till the construction was finished.

Roy made mention of the fact that few farms today have passed down through three generations.



**Roy Bergman and his horses 1938.**

**Campbell**

Irvin Campbell, son of Andrew and Martha Campbell, was born on March 16, 1889 on a farm about one-half mile S.E. of Bryant, Indiana. Irvin, like his father, worked in the Bryant oil field and farmed.

He married Lillie Hiestand on December 5, 1907 and they started housekeeping on his parental farm. Later they purchased a home about two mile N.E. of Bryant where he still lives. His wife, Lillie, passed away on January 12, 1975. Eleven children were born to the Campbells: Mrs. Roger (Marjorie) Crowell, Tipton, Ind.; Mrs. Robert (Mildred) Brubaker, Muncie; Harold, Winchester; Orla, R.R. 1 Bryant; Mrs. Alex (Beatrice) Weinberger, Muncie; Harley, Bryant; Robert, deceased at age 10; Mrs. Henry (Jean) Parrish, Ft. Wayne; Norman, Buena Vista, Colorado; Mrs. Keith (Joan) Stein, R.R. Portland; and Mrs. William (Kay) Gardner, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

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### Glentzer

Winfield Glentzer, now 93, was born and raised east of Bryant and is now living with his daughter Mary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. His children are: Darrel Glentzer, Portland; Mrs. Royce (Mary) Bechdolt, Ft. Wayne; Mrs. Clyde (Treva) Teel, Portland; Mrs. Clyde (Marie) Spahr, Hartford City; Roy Glentzer, Rochester, Ind.; Mrs. Alfred (June) Grogg, Bryant; Mrs. Ward (Donna) Hunt, Bryant. Darrel and Mary are graduates of Bryant School.

Mr. Glentzer went to Kansas about 1900 and then Oklahoma to homestead. He acquired 160 acres partly by paying out for it and then returned to the Bryant area in 1905. J.C.L. Whiteman, then principal at Bryant as reported by Mr. Glentzer, asked him to come to high school but he stated that he did not enroll. In the 1920's Mr. Glentzer served as janitor for the Bryant School.



In the picture Mr. Glentzer is celebrating his 90th birthday.



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## Pence

Bryant's history would not be complete without mentioning race horses. One of the earliest owners and trainers was Oliver Pence. If you talked to Ollie, you know he loved horses. He grew up in the early 1900's when a horse and buggy was the mode of travel. He had a fine horse and rubber-tired buggy when he courted his girl friend, Daisy Daugherty, who became his wife on Jan. 19, 1902. She was the youngest daughter of George and Isabell (Fifer) Daugherty, of Bearcreek Township.

Oliver and Daisy Pence had three daughters: Thelma (Mrs. Rev. Claude) Eaton, a graduate of BSU and a retired school teacher, R.R. 1, Rensselaer, In., and has three sons, John, Donald and Glen, and three grandchildren; Helen (Mrs. Leo) Jackson resides in Bryant, a graduate of BSU and the Rural mail carrier on R.R. 1, has one son, James, who married Marilyn Zerkel, and five grandchildren—Jane Ann, Barbara, Robert, Douglas and Sandra. Jane graduated from BHS (the third generation to do so) this year in Bryant's last year of school.

Oliver was the youngest son of Anderson and Sarah (Hazen) Pence, was born in Whitley Co., In., and moved with his parents to Pennville and then to Bryant when a young man. Anderson owned and operated a saw mill and cleared land for farming, and Oliver hauled logs to the mill with a team of horses. They moved to Pennville while the oil boom was still on, and Oliver worked in the oil fields from Pennville to Redkey and Bryant. He owned and



Betty Girl with Mr. Pence in the sulky winning race at Jay Co. Fair about 1952.

operated drilling rigs during the second try for oil, using square rig for deeper drilling at Redkey, a Star rig with gin pole around Bryant and worked the fields in Michigan with a rotary drilling rig. He pumped wells in Michigan before he and Daisy retired to their home in Bryant in 1950.

The delight of Ollie's heart was the Standard bred horses, commonly called "harness horses." He trained horses at the Jay County Fairgrounds, and after the season was over he brought his horses to the barn at home. During the winter he jogged them on back roads to keep them in condition, and frequently took the local boys for a ride on the jog cart. At least two of the boys, Ted and Jason Montgomery, became enthusiastic enough to later own Standard bred horses. He also encouraged Jay County's top driver of the State for many years, Jerry Landess, who is very well known through out the racing world. Also, his grandson, James, who owns and drives both pacers and trotters at the fairs and racing meets.

Some of the good horses Mr. Pence owned but did not train were Logan Lib, 2:05, and Baren Forbes, 2:06, who raced on the Grand Circuit in Ohio. In later years he owned many different horses, both pacers and trotters, and when he retired from Michigan he brought Betty Girl, 2:06, with him to Jay Co. He raced at County Fairs and racing meets in Michigan and Ohio, and derived much pleasure from his hobby, even if not always in the money. He and Ted owned and had many thrills with Superman Pete and Betty Girl. His National driving colors were silver, blue and gold.

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## Huckriede

Henry W. Huckriede was a young student in Ridgeville College in 1881. He never graduated. His uncle, who owned a hardware store in Bryant, persuaded his father that it would be a good business venture to set up his son in the tile manufacturing business in Bryant.



Henry Huckriede Family

This was the beginning of draining the Lob and Limberlost marshes. A kiln, drying and machine shed were built. Then Mr. Huckriede returned to New Bremen, Ohio, married Miss Alvena Roettger and returned to Bryant.

The factory was one of the leading industries in this area according to Jay County Histories. It was a lucrative business and "the tile were second to none in the State."

The tile yard and ponds became Bryant's only play Park. Fishing and swimming in summer and skating and coasting in winter were enjoyed long after the factory had closed.

About 1900 the factory was traded to Mr. Edward Grogg for the Grogg and Colbert General Store. The beginning of cement manufacturing must have discouraged Mr. Grogg because he dismantled the factory and moved to Calif.

Page sponsored by Irma Huckriede

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Mr. Huckriede was intrigued with the new process (cement). An Architect of Decatur, Mr. Chrissman, designed an experimental house, and the first cement block house in Bryant was built in 1905. It is occupied by the James Hedges family.

Mr. Huckriede had various town offices, and began the consolidation of Bearcreek Township schools when he was Township Trustee.

Bryant was a thriving town during the oil boom. The depletion of the oil and the State Prohibition Laws were the beginning of it's decline. Three major fires contributing were the Sanders Block, housing the Flauding and Black Hardware Co., the Bailey Barber Shop, and the Masonic Lodge; the Beck building containing the H.H. Ordway Grocery and Meat Market, the Stabler Pharmacy, Mrs. Anna Pingry's Restaurant, and the "Opera House"; and the James Adams grain Elevator.

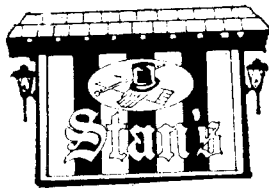
The business men organized a stock company to promote new industries. One of its products was the Bryant Creamery, which failed after a few years.

Perhaps the biggest blow was the closing of the Farmers and Merchants Bank in the early thirties. Mr. Huckriede was President, and his death was hastened by the fact that the Bank did not quite pay out to it's depositors. A wandering vagrant, seeing the crepe on the door, offered this simple but poignant eulogy—"he was a good man. He always fed me".

**The Montgomery's**

The family of George G. Montgomery has long been identified with Bryant. George, a young Civil War veteran, had the dual interests of farming and retail merchandising—he operated farms near Westchester in Bearcreek Township, operated the Westchester Store for a time and moved his family from the home farm at Westchester to the home at the northeast corner of Malin and Main Streets in Bryant and for many years operated a general store in Bryant assisted by his son I.A. who later succeeded to ownership of the store. George's youngest son Fred worked in the store for many years. George retained ownership of his farm land in Bearcreek Township for many years until it was eventually acquired by another son William H. Montgomery. William's sons George, John and Ward and his daughter Mabel Axe retained farms acquired from their father for many years together with other land they acquired. Mabel is deceased but her land is retained by her son Robert. George still farms actively with his son Clarel but John and Ward have sold their land and retired in recent years.

The home in Bryant to which George G. Montgomery moved around the year 1898 burned after the death of George but was replaced with a home built by his widow Sarah (Griffith) Montgomery who died in 1935—this home is now owned and still occupied by Edna (Montgomery) Bowen, youngest child of George and Sarah. Edna worked in the family store for years and her husband Earl Bowen operated a barber shop in Bryant for many years until his death in 1959.



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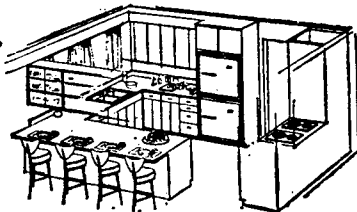
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George's son I.A. Montgomery was assisted in the store by his son Ivan (who now lives near Geneva). Myra Arthur, the other child of I.A., taught school for several years and now lives in Muncie. I.A. Montgomery about the year 1943, sold the Montgomery Store to Clair Shoemaker who operated it with his wife Mildred for many years until they sold it in recent years to Jim Pyle.

George's youngest son Fred left the Montgomery Store and operated gasoline stations in Bryant for many years until his death in 1966. Fred's youngest son Jason still lives in Bryant in a home he built in the site of Fred's first station at the corner of Main Street and old U.S. 27. Fred's widow Clara (Engle), also having come to Bryant at an early age (now being 85 years of age) still resides in their home at the southwest corner of Main and Malin Streets in Bryant—their five children, Frederick (who was elected and served as mayor of Portland from 1964 through 1967), William, Jason, Ruth and Esther were all born in Bryant and graduated from Bryant High School and are all proud of their Bryant heritage. Fred's widow Clara in her youth worked in the Bryant Hotel, later worked as a telephone operator in Bryant, and operated a lunch room in conjunction with Fred's filling stations for years.

Laura, the oldest daughter of George C. and Sarah Montgomery, spent her life after her marriage to Edward B. Freemyer on a farm in the Westchester community. Wilma (Mrs. Vernon) Haley, only daughter of Laura, is now deceased but left a son Vernon Jr. who lives in Pennsylvania and her daughters Sarah (Mrs. Orla) Campbell and Mary (Mrs. Fred) Ninde both of whom reside on farms in Bearcreek Township and have children who attended and graduated from Bryant High School.

Nancy E. (Montgomery) Flauding Haggott, wife of Jesse Flauding who died early in their marriage, another daughter of George G. and Sarah Montgomery, died as a result of injuries in the March, 1920, cyclone west of Bryant, left an only son Donald Flauding, who lived in the home of his grandmother Sarah Montgomery and aunt and uncle Earl and Edna Bowen for many years, is a graduate of Bryant High School, and has two daughters (Delean and Nancy) who are graduates also of Bryant High School, having moved to Portland with his family where his other three children (Patricia, Douglas and Cathy) finished their schooling.

George G. Montgomery, born in 1845 in Jay County, was a son of William H. Montgomery, who came to Jay County with his father Reuben and two older brothers and several sisters in the year 1838 from Steuben County, New York. Reuben and William H. and other members of the family are buried in the Westchester Cemetery in Bearcreek Township near the place where all the children of George G. Montgomery were born.

#### Flauding

Mrs. Ralph (Sarah Glentzner) Flauding was born and reared in Bryant and now lives on E. Main St. She is the daughter of Dr. Madison A. and Martha E. (Bergman) Glentzner. She has two younger sisters, Daisy Ruth and Reba Joy. Sarah has one child, Mrs. Dempsey (Iris) Cutcher, who lives in a mobile home

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on a lot adjoining that of her mother on the north. A part of Sarah's present home served as the office for her father who was a physician in Bryant from 1862 until he retired at age 85. In the picture Sarah resides in the home to the left. The home to the right, now owned and occupied by Bradley and Lisa Gage, was the residence of Dr. Glentzer and his family.



Sarah and her husband Ralph left Bryant after their marriage and lived in Michigan 1922-1943, then they returned to Bryant. Ralph passed away in 1972. Sarah served at the post office as a substitute clerk for 22 years, retiring from the job in 1971. She maintains a lovely flower and vegetable garden back of her home.

## Bear Creek Farms

Bryant, Indiana  
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## Hunt

Mrs. Lee (Opal Anderson) Hunt was born west of Bryant, became a resident in 1934 and has worked in a bakery at Portland since that time. She lives at the corner of Wilson and Meridian Street in the original home of her grandparents. She is the mother of Guinevere (Hunt) Pingry who also resides in Bryant. Opal told a story of how her uncle, Vernon Lindsey - Bryant Town Marshall 1910-1911, showed her the Bryant jail when it was located on the far south side of Bryant on the east side of the railroad.



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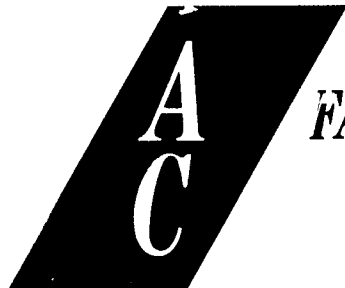
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**BRYANT, INDIANA**

### **First Churches In Bryant**

The two first churches, to be located in Bryant, were the Lutheran church and a Wesleyan Methodist church.

The Lutheran church was, and still is, located in the northeast part of Bryant. The Wesleyan Methodist church was located at the farthest most point on West Main Street and on the north side. These two sites can be found on the 1887 map of Bryant.

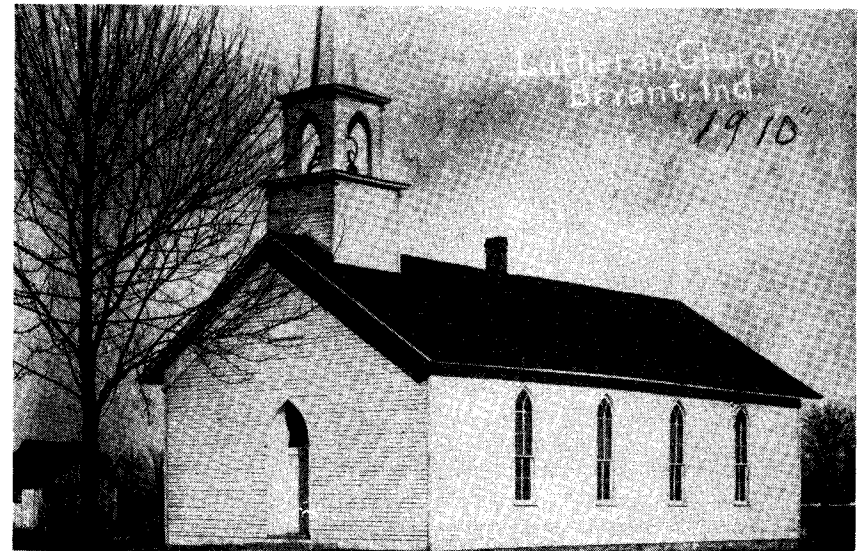
The Wesleyan group later built a new church, at the present site of the church, on South Hendricks Street. The old church building was moved to the southwest intersection of Hendricks and Main Streets and used as a blacksmith shop by George Bricker. It was later moved to the south when an oil company wanted the corner for a gas station. The old church structure was destroyed in 1974, and the oil company building is being used by L and L Realty.

### **Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**By Mrs. Charles (Chloa Logan) Hoskins**

The Redeemer Lutheran Church dates its beginning back to the fall of 1874.

At that time a number of Lutheran families in the community met and decided to form a church of their faith. The first services were held in a saw-mill and a school house. Rev. J. W. Miller, pastor of the Linn Grove Parish ministered to them. In the spring of 1875 a congregation was formed with nine charter members. A new church was built and dedicated May 10, 1878 with Rev. C. S. Finley as pastor. In 1881 the Portland Pastorate was formed and composed



**1910 Lutheran Church**

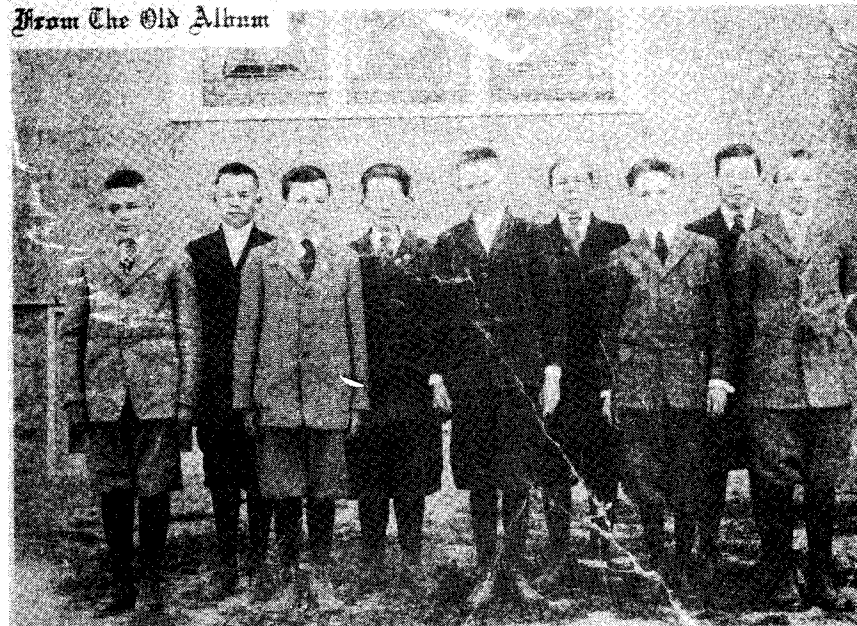
of the churches of Bryant, Boundary City, and Emmanuel. On September 13, 1885 Rev. B. D. Harrold became pastor, in 1887 Rev. Thomas Drake and in 1888 Mr. Edward Bollman a student supplied. At this time a bell was purchased. Also the Bryant Parish was formed which consisted of Bryant, Emmanuel, New Corydon, and State Line and in 1889 Rev. J. A. West became pastor of the parish.

Several appointments followed: Rev. M. L. Smith, 1896; and in 1898 a parsonage was purchased in Bryant for \$800; 1903, Rev. C. H. Day; 1904, Rev. D. F. Rahl; 1906, Rev. Richardson.

In 1907 State Line, New Corydon, and Emmanuel became a separate parish and Bryant was supplied by Rev. M. L. Smith and 1908 by Rev. William L. Burger, 1909 and 1910 by Rev. J. B. Gardner, 1911 Rev. H. C. Summers, 1913 Rev. J. C. Waltz, and 1913 Rev. H. C. Kleckner became pastor.

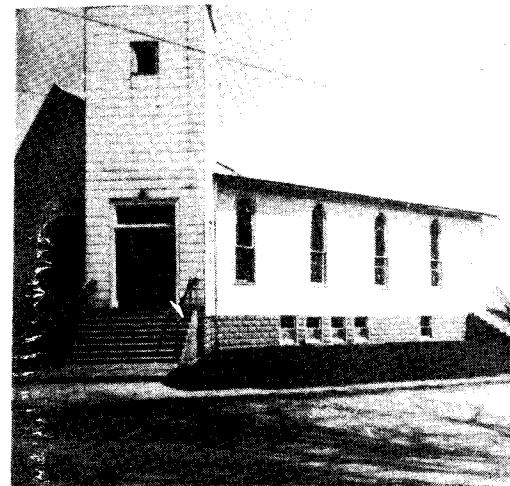
THE GRAPHIC, Thursday, August 4, 1955

From The Old Album



Here are several boys from the Bryant area you'll undoubtedly recognize. It's a picture of the Bryant Lutheran church Sunday school class, taken in 1918 or 19. Left to right: Clayton Shively, Marvin Logan, Carol Hardy, Cedric Hardy, Mardy Logan, Paul Haviland, Lendall Crowell (deceased), Walter Hardy (deceased) and Leslie Schmidt.

In 1916 the church was remodeled at a cost of \$5,500 which was paid off in 3 years. This consisted of a new entrance, chancel, vestibule, balcony, and new furniture.



1975 Redeemer Lutheran Church

In 1920 Rev. E. H. Dietsch became pastor, 1921 Rev. Westenbarger, 1925 Rev. William Habey, 1927 Rev. H. O. Yoder, 1932 Rev. H. T. Neve. In 1941 Rev. Neve left to serve as an Army Chaplain and Rev. O. S. Goerner came to serve. In 1942 Rev. Walter C. Davis was installed. After he resigned in 1948, the Portland church withdrew from the three church parish leaving Bryant Faith and New Corydon Zion as a parish. From 1949-1952 the parish was served by supply pastors one of which was Richard E. Bog.

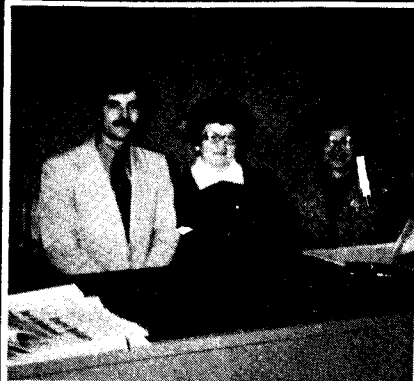
On March 15, 1952 Dr. Ralph D. Wheadon was installed and served until his retirement in 1957. Rev. Lamidots Grendze followed and served until 1963. Supply pastors from Whittenberg served until July 1, 1965.

Rev. George Mercer served from 1965 to 1968. After his resignation, Rev. James Hundley accepted a call to the parish on June 15, 1969 and was pastor at the time Zion of New Corydon burned.

After the fire in January 1971 the members of Zion joined with Faith at Bryant in Sunday School and worship services. A few months later the congregations decided to merge and the name Redeemer Lutheran Church was chosen by the membership.

Rev. John Roth came to serve as pastor in December 1973.





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## **History Of the Bryant Wesleyan Church** By Herbert Masters Family

The Bryant Wesleyan Methodist Church was organized under the labor of the Rev. R. M. S. Hutchens in October, 1884, following a tent meeting held by Rev. Hutchens and his sister, Clara Tear. The church was connected at the time of organization with what was then known as the Camden Mission, later known as The Pleasant Grove Church, which was located in the Kitt community, at the corner of county roads 60 and 105, about seven miles southeast of Bryant. These two churches comprised the Bryant Circuit. The Portland Wesleyan Methodist Church was added in the year 1900 while Rev. J. J. Coleman was pastor of the Bryant Circuit.

The following persons comprised the charger members in the organization of the church: Sarah E. Worth, Susan Miles, Lovina Cain, Anna (Cain) Crowell, Mary (Cain) McMichael, and John C. Bailey.

Soon after the organization and during the pastorate of Rev. Hutchens a frame schoolhouse was purchased at the west edge of Bryant on the north side of Main Street and converted into a church, which was used until the year 1895. The church having outgrown this structure, a new church was built.

John C. Bailey owned a woods just west of the town limits. The men of the church and community cut timber from this woods and hauled the logs to the mill to have them sawed into lumber for the frame of the church, parsonage, and barn, which were built during Rev. L. H. Carter's first pastorate at Bryant. This church building is the older part of the present structure. The parsonage and barn were located in the east part of town on the southeast corner of Main and Malin Streets. The Pleasant Grove Church also was built during this period.

The present parsonage was secured during Rev. Glen Payne's pastorate at Bryant (1928-1931). During Rev. Charles Porter's ministry (1939-1944) Bryant was removed from the circuit, Portland having been removed several years previous.

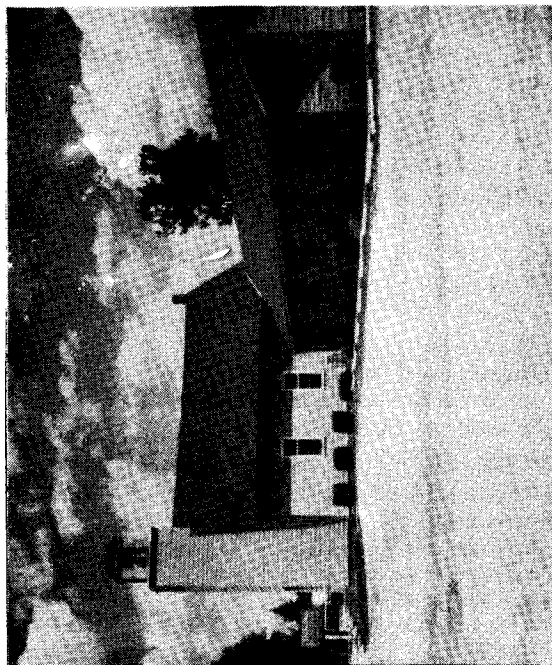
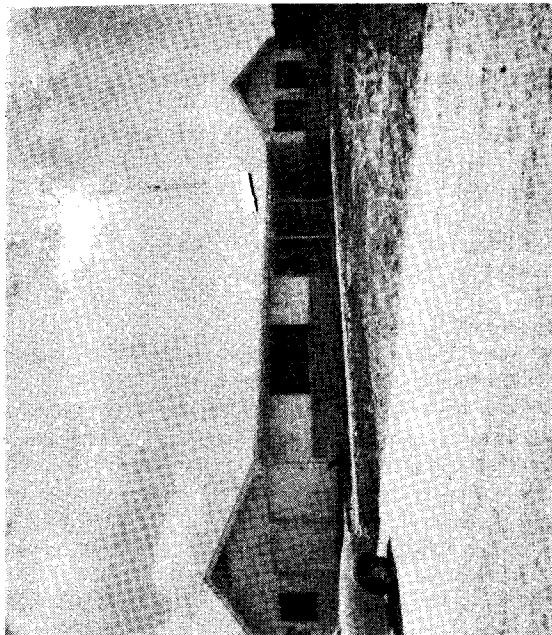
A growing need developed over the years for classrooms and more nearly adequate facilities. During the pastorate of Rev. Carl Brookshire a new sanctuary was constructed, joining the old building at a right angle to the south. The new and remodeled structures also provided a nursery, restrooms, and classrooms. This building was dedicated Nov. 8 of 1964. On Homecoming Sunday in October, 1967, the church celebrated the lifting of the debt on the building.

Another milestone was observed during Homecoming in 1968 when a new Gulbransen organ was dedicated, with a note-burning ceremony, making the removal of the debt on the organ.

On July 4, 1974 Rev. and Mrs. Harry Moeller and their daughter Lois moved to Bryant. After several months of discussions and planning it was decided to build a new parsonage. In November, 1974 the new house was started. In April of 1975 Rev. Moeller and his family moved into the new home.

**Page sponsored by Herbert and Carolyn (Bailey) Masters in memory of Jesse and Gertrude Bailey.**

## Bryant Wesleyan Church and Parsonage



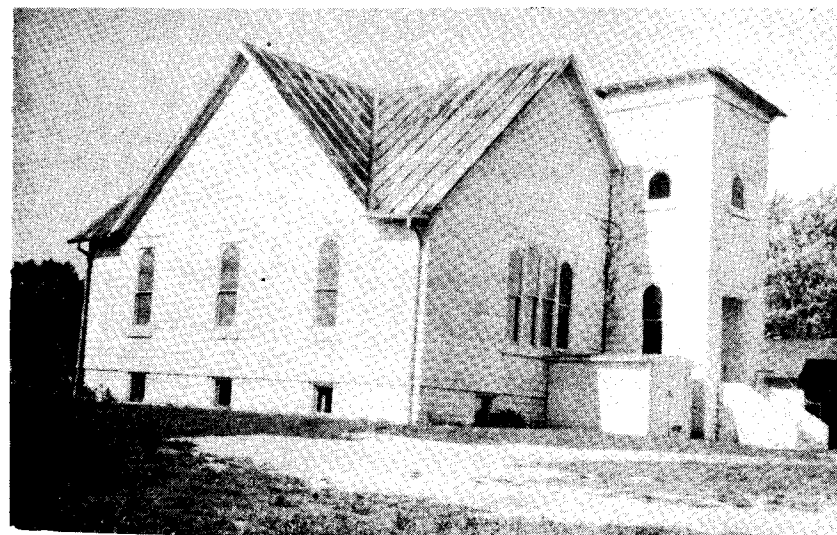
Page sponsored by Bryant Wesleyan Church.

The pastors that have served the church and the length of their terms of services are as follows: R. M. Hutchens - 1 year; J. C. Barnam - 1 year; Rev. Godwin - 2 years; C. S. Smith - 3 years; L. H. Carter - 5 years; J. J. Coleman - 3 years; J. Hester - 1 year; C.S. Smith - 1 year; D. Gordon - 1 year, 9 months; L.H. Carter & Mattie Moore - 3 months; L. H. Carter - 4 years; H. H. Akright - 2 years; Francis R. Eddy - 2 years; Wesley W. McMichael - 3 years; Thomas Bodenhorn - 3 years; A. P. Foshee - 2 years; Harry W. Kerchival - 3 years; Eugene E. Hunter - 4 years; J. W. Drake - 2 years; Glen Payne - 3 years; Alvin C. Beyler 3 years; Glen Appleman - 2 years; Dempsey Howard - 1 year and 4 months; N. R. Briles - 1 year, 8 months; Charles N. Porter 5 years; Orval Bardsley - 4 years; Edward E. Smithee - 4 years; Donald Heer - 6 years; Charles Cecil - 2 years; Carl Brookshire - 4 years, 10 months; John Hall - 2 years; Floyd Metz - 7 years; Harry Moeller - 1974 to ??

## Bryant United Methodist Church

By Helen Jackson

Bryant United Methodist Church was dedicated on Sunday, August 16, 1914. For the first twenty-five years it was known as the Bryant Methodist Protestant Church, but then came the merger with the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1939 and it was then named the Bryant Methodist. The next merger was with the Evangelical United Brethern Church, and it is now called the United Methodist.



The early church history has been lost, but it is known that the dedication services were held for three days, with Rev. Fred Iliff and Rev. J.G. Smith preaching at the Friday and Saturday services. The dedication service on Sunday was in charge of Dr. B.W. Anthony, president of Adrian College, Adrian, Mich.

Credit for organizing the Bryant Church has been given to a pastor who lived in the community but preached to another congregation. Among the founders of the church were many who had been born and raised in the Macklin Methodist Church community east of Bryant, and had affiliation with that church.

The first Sunday School classes were held over the old blacksmith shop at the corner that is now Main Street and US 27, with Rev. A.R. Corn preaching. The congregation moved over the new bank building east of the railroad, and plans were formed to build a church. The committee negotiated for land, and Rev. S.T. Sturgeon was assigned by the Conference in 1913 to help with the planning and building of the church. With much volunteer labor, the basement was dug in the Fall of 1913. The following summer the building was completed and dedicated.

The list of charter members of the church has been destroyed, but some of those who attended were: Mr. and Mrs. Ora Houser, his mother Mrs. Frank Houser; Bert and Edith Houser; William and Barbara Smith; their daughter, Mrs. Allie Macklin and her husband Israel; the families of Gus Engle, Wm. Plank, Oliver Nichols, Theodore Sibery, Mel Montgomery, George Mills, Charles Judy, Harry Armantrout, Clarence Ford, Lew Judy, and Oliver Pence; Mrs. Rebecca Anderson; Mrs. Crowell; and Sarah, Daisy and Joy Glentzer.

The church was originally part of the Fort Wayne District and on a circuit with Pleasant Grove (Macklin) and Bellmore. It is now on a circuit with Pleasant Grove and New Corydon churches, and is in the Muncie district.

Former pastors include: S.T. Sturgeon, M. Fred Iliff, David W. Hetrick, Daniel F. Myers, Wm. H. Carnes, David Clark, J.R. Ellson, Wm. Coomer, Homer Gaunt, Earl George, Nicholas Smith, John Dreig, Amos Barnes, Lewis Wilson, Charles Anderson, Roscoe Phenegar, Wm. Carty, Dale Milner, A.E. Burk, C.J. Kerlin, Richard Bennett, Bob Carlin Schreffler, and the present pastor, Rev. Paul J. Wohlford.

Ora Houser was the first Sunday School Superintendant and lay leader of the church. The present Superintendent is Wm. Gettinger, the Lay Leader is Kenneth Keller, and the trustees are John Orr, Wm. Gettinger and John Keller.

## **Macklin United Methodist Church**

**By Rev. Paul Wohlford**

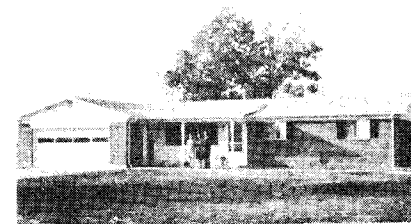
It was on July 27, 1850 — 125 years ago — that Jacob and Elizabeth Macklin deeded a tract of ground to the Methodist Protestant Church for the construction of a house of worship.

**Page sponsored by Gladys Houser, Bryant, Ind. In memory of my husband Russell Houser.**

The first Macklin Church was located at the intersection of the County Line and County road 189. A white frame church was built at that location and used for about 25 years. The present site, county roads 20 and 185, was donated to the Church in 1874 by George Macklin, son of the original donors, and his wife, Olivia Primrose Macklin. A white frame Church was built on that location and was used for the first time in 1875. The trustees of the church at that time were Adams Houser, Phillip Macklin, William F. Smith, and Israel Macklin.

When the Macklin Centennial program was held in 1950, an extensive remodeling project had seen the additional two wings, to the east and west of the pulpit, and a complete basement put under the church. Later an addition was added which included restrooms, a nursery, and a pastor's study. The Easter Service in 1966 saw the remodeling and beautification of the sanctuary, with new red-cushioned light-colored pews and pulpit furnishings replacing the dark old pulpit and pews. An electric organ was purchased.

In the beginning the church was officially known as the Pleasant Grove Protestant Methodist Church. With the merger of the three bodies of Methodist into the Methodist Church in 1939, the name Protestant was dropped from the name. Then, in 1968, with the merger of the Methodist Church with the Evangelical United Brethern Church, the congregation voted to change the church's name to the Macklin United Methodist Church.



The present pastor of the Church is the Rev. Paul J. Wohlford. Pastor Wohlford resides at the church in the parsonage built in 1967.

## **Burr Oak Church**

**By Mrs. Ray Freemyer**

Ninety-five years ago in 1880 Burr Oak Church was organized by E. T. Hochstettler and known first as "Bearcreek Chapel." For sometime services were held in an unfinished church. It was finally finished and dedicated Oct. 30, 1881 by C.C. Baumgartner, presiding Elder.

Charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Metzner, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Pape, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Flauding, Henry Flauding and Mr. and Mrs. George Logan.

The seats were rough benches, the walls had only one coat of plaster and the exterior was boarded up with rough unpainted boards. The people here were first members of another denomination but in 1880 united (including property) with the Evangelical association. Jones, Metzner, Grassley and others with the pastor, D.J. Pontius (1881) secured means to redo the church. Kerosene lamps were used for lights and 2 wood-burning box stoves heated the building, one placed on each side at the back of the church. Later a coal stove was purchased and also electric lights were put in.



Burr Oak E.U.B. Church 1962

The Church got its name from a large Burr Oak tree that was cut down on the Church property.

Since the roads were not paved, many of the people formed in groups. Young and old walked the mud trails to the Church.

Page sponsored by Rolland Fennig Family.

There were many evening services especially on Saturday evening and the groups were very congenial, laughing, talking and singing as they walked along. Walking was replaced by riding in a buggy or carriage drawn by horses. Sixty years ago, one of the highlights of the year was the Children's Day Program. As early as 4:00 o'clock people began to arrive in order to obtain a good seat. Three hours later, the church would be overflowing and many unable to get in.

Our church has had many capable leaders among the ministers who have served us. The minister who gave us the longest service was Rev. C.W. Walmer who served from 1932-46. This church has given one young man to the ministry, J.W. Metzner and three young women as minister's wives. They are (Pearl Metzner) Mrs. E. H. Baumgartner; (Wandy Pyle) Mrs. Gordon Wendland; (Donna Wilson) Mrs. Kenneth Overmyer. Wanda Pyle and Rev. Gordon Wendland were the only couple ever married in this church.

Due to the lack of young people the church decided to move in with Westchester on August 12, 1962. The trustees, True Miller, Herbert Fennig and Lawrence Pyle were given permission to sell the church, which they did later, to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Schubert.

### Limberlost Church of Christ

By Ward G. Weisel

The Limberlost Church of Christ was located about two miles northeast of Bryant, along what is now Hwy. 67.

It was first organized in 1856 by Brother James Scott, and Evangelist, and located in a field south of the Limberlost Cemetery. It was first named the Christian Oral Church of Disciples.



THE LIMBERLOST CHURCH.

1856

In March 1874 John and Barbara Glentzer gave enough land from their large farm for a cemetery and church site. They were owners of most of the NE¼ of Section 15 of Bearcreek Township, and in giving this land they wanted a place where many of the Glentzer family could be buried. They are the grandparents of Sarah (Glentzer) Flauding, a resident of Bryant. In 1918 the name of the church was changed to the Limberlost Church of Christ. The cemetery is known as the Limberlost Cemetery.

Some of the early leaders and members were William Chapman, Elder; Christian Schmuck, Elder; James Wheeler, Deacon; Jacob Fifer, Deacon; Alexander Johnson, Deacon; James W. Whiteman, William Whiteman, Abraham W. Glentzer, elder and preacher; Madison A. Glentzer (son of John and Barbara Glentzer) was a Deacon, Doctor, and preacher.

Some of the later leaders were John W. Fifer, Elder; J. C. L. Whiteman, Elder; John Weisel, Elder; Ward G. Weisel, Elder.

In the year 1963, by vote of the membership, it was decided to close the Limberlost Church of Christ and go in with the new Southside Church of Christ in Portland, Indiana.



Left to right - Ellen Fifer, James Glentzer, and Carrie Mortimore.

## Westchester United Methodist Church

By Rolland and Juanita Fennig

The Westchester United Methodist Church, located at the intersection of county roads 60 and 185 in Bearcreek Township, Jay County, was organized in 1901 as the Westchester United Brethren Church. This church was located across the road on the east side from where it now stands.

Rev. Allie Sipe was pastor when the congregation was formed with the following charter members: Sylvanus A. Bechdolt, Amanda Bechdolt, Eva Bechdolt Young, Dora Bechdolt Martzloff, Philip B. Stolz, Sarah Stolz, Warren Shepherd, Emma Shepherd, Noah Swartz, Mary Swartz, Dollie Swartz Hestin, Cora Swartz, Wilma Montgomery, Ruby Gibson and Zella McLaughlin.

The first officers were Warren Shepherd, class leader, and Sylvanus Bechdolt, steward. In 1902, the church was erected at the cost of \$1,700. The trustees were Sylvanus Bechdolt, Philip Stolz, Noah Swartz, Warren Shepherd, and William Axe.



In 1947, a building fund was started for classrooms and in 1952 the church embarked on an improvement project. Trustees in charge were Orville Bechdolt, Vern Haley, Harold Starr, Paul Bailey, Stephen Straley, Henry Young and John Bechdolt. The church purchased the school house across the road on the west side. It was called the Westchester School, during its active years, but had closed because of such a small number of students who attended. Most of the students in the community went to the Bryant School at Bryant, Indiana. There were only 13 children attending this school the year it closed.

The school building was remodeled and redecored and became the educational unit for the church. A contract was let to A. D. Gettinger in 1953 to move the church across the road to join the schoolhouse. Additional rooms were built, including a kitchen, nursery, restrooms and furnace room.

Page Sponsored By Westchester Church

On August 12, 1962 the Burr Oak congregation joined with the Westchester church. Together they saw a need for additional room and October 19, 1969 the dedication service was held for the addition of three new classrooms and nursery, which were added to the west side of the sanctuary.

The board of trustees for 1975 is: Howard Patch, Paul Bailey, Steve Fennig, Alan Campbell and True Miller. Rev. Larry Werbil is the pastor; Art Huey, Superintendent; and Rolland Fennig, Chairman of the Board.

At one time, the Westchester Store was a very important part of the community, along with a blacksmith shop near the store. The store is now closed but the last building site still stands in the community and is owned by Ora James.

## Holy Trinity Church

By Mr. & Mrs. Alfred Wellman

Hundreds living within the sight of the high-rising steeple of Holy Trinity church and countless thousands who travel east or west on highway 67 must have left mundane thoughts for spiritual ones to be "lifted up."

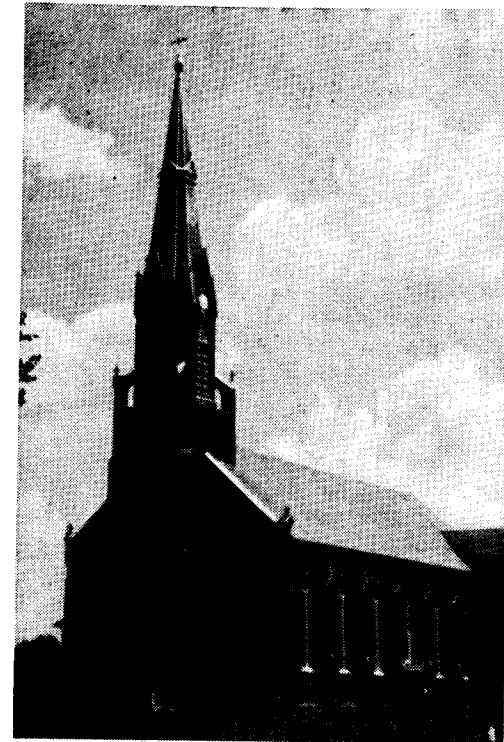
However, the story of Holy Trinity begins years before the church was built. There had been an influx of Catholic settlers in the Ohio and Wabash valleys and this became a great concern to Archbishop Purcell, and it was through and as a result of his effort that the Precious Blood seminary was established and Holy Trinity parish started on December 25, 1861.

August 24, 1854 the Reverend Willibald Willi, C.P.P.S. was sent into this territory by the Reverend Salesius Brunner with two lay brothers and four sisters. They bought 240 acres of land, mostly woods, seven miles east of Bryant, and began to build a few log cabins one of which served as a community chapel, the others as the priest's house and convent. It was in these humble surroundings the foundations were laid in Indiana and with only three German Catholic families. By 1816 they had increased to eleven families. In that year the pioneers built a log church, 27 x 40 feet, in honor of the Holy Trinity under the direction of Reverend Rochus Schuele. It seated 100 and cost \$100. It was dedicated in late summer of 1861.

When Father Joseph Uphaus, C.P.P.S. (1879 to 1888) came to Holy Trinity he realized that the log church had outgrown its usefulness and it was during his twenty years that the congregation had increased to 60 families. A larger edifice was needed and the plans were accepted by all.

It was decided to build a brick and stone structure in Gothic style, 60 x 150 feet, with a seating capacity of 400, at a cost of \$18,000.00. Work was started in the fall of 1884 and the new church was dedicated on October 24, 1885. As it has for almost a century, Holy Trinity Church with its 140 foot steeple, surrounded by a gilted cross, dominates the entire community and reminds all, including all who pass by, that only that is important which is Eternal.

The rectory at Holy Trinity was built in 1909.



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

During the tenure of Reverend Uphaus at Catholic school was built and it was the first bilingual school in Jay county. Two sisters taught more than 60 pupils in English and German starting in 1880.

The names and dates of pastors who served the parish from the beginning is too long to include, but a few firsts is fitting in a book such as this. Elizabeth Nittling, daughter of John Nittling and A. M. Laux was baptized on the day of birth, March 21, 1862. The first marriage in Trinity took place on November 28, 1865 when Joseph Didion and Thecla Fisher were united in matrimony. The first death and burial recorded on the parish books occurred on August 5, 1864. All that is given is the name Bridgit Kenney, age 40.

The Reverend Victor Wagner served as pastor from 1929-1952.

The Reverend Francis Rehberger is the present pastor of Holy Trinity church.

## Sardinia Congregational Christian Church

### "West Liberty Church"

By Mrs. Marshall (Fay Hammitt) Snyder

On December 16, 1838 a band of pioneer men and women met at the home of John Pingry, on what we know as The Hardy Farm and organized The Sardinia New Light Christian Church, under the leadership of Elder Hallet Barber of The Ohio Central Conference.

For many years this little band of worshipers had no building which they could call their church home, but met in the homes of members and the Old Log School-house which stood on the south-east corner of the J. W. Edgington farm.

About the year 1853 or '54 a frame building was erected on the spot where the present building stands. This building was built by popular subscription and was built with the understanding it was to be used by any religious organization, whose belief was founded upon the Bible, when the Christians themselves were not using it. It was also used as a Community Hall. During The Civil War it was a patriotic rallying place, and many Sardinia boys enlisted to fight for the Union because of the patriotic orations they heard at the Church.

At one time the Reverend Samuel Minnich had left an appointment for a service to be held in the afternoon, but Dr. Arthur arrived from Portland with the news of Morgan's Raid and the religious service was turned instead into a patriotic one, Rev. Minnich himself making the address. As a result many boys enlisted that day.

A revival service was being held about 1875 (we have no definite dates) and one night after service this building burned with nothing being saved but a few benches. Again the members met in homes and in Alexander Ligget's barn—on the farm now owned by Mrs. George Lee.

A new building was built as soon as possible. It was remodelled several times. It was destroyed by the tornado of March 28, 1920. Again the members were without a building, but this time services were held in the nearby School House. We read of the freaks of tornadoes, and in this one the piano was not destroyed and is still being used in the present building.

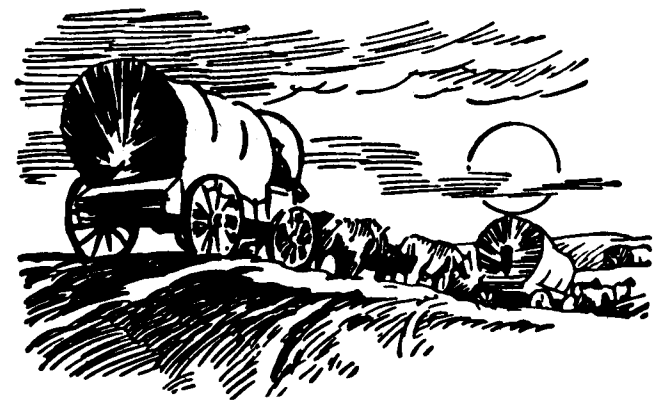
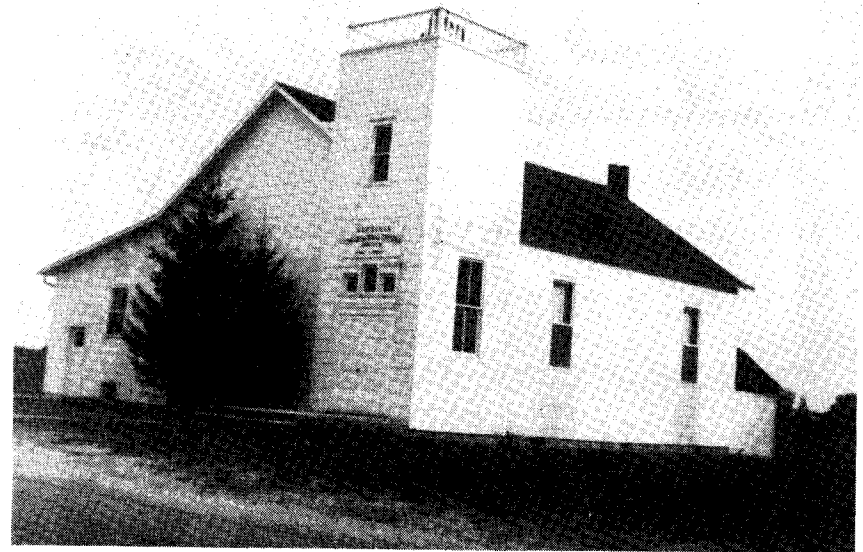
A new building was dedicated March 29, 1921. An addition was built to this a few years ago.

For many years Sardinia was the only church in Jackson Township. There was no church closer on the east than New Corydon; on the west, than Gilead, east of Balbec; on the north, than Hartford in Adams county; on the south, than Portland. Later there were eight churches in Jackson Township. Now, there are three.

In 1931 The Christian Church was merged with the Congregational. Later another merger was made—but some congregations did not accept this merger. With these mergers the original New Light Christian Church ceased to exist.

So far as I know there is no lineal descendant of a member of the church of the years 1830's-40's-50's-60's-70's-80's, now attending the present church.

I have been told the present active members are about fifty in number. The present pastor is Timothy Bond.



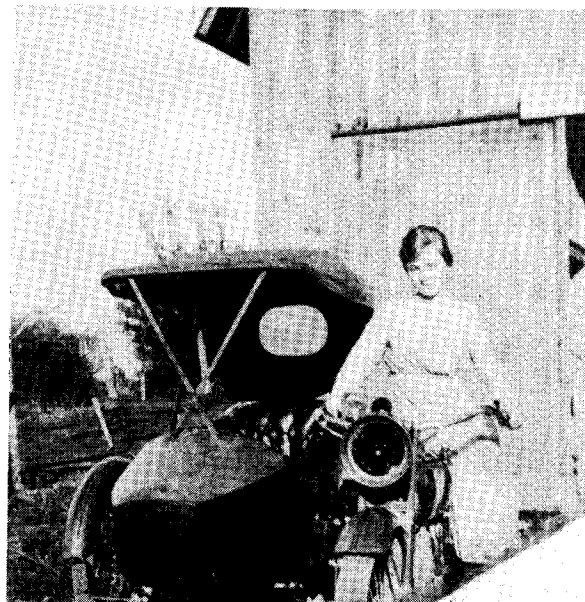
# HAAG

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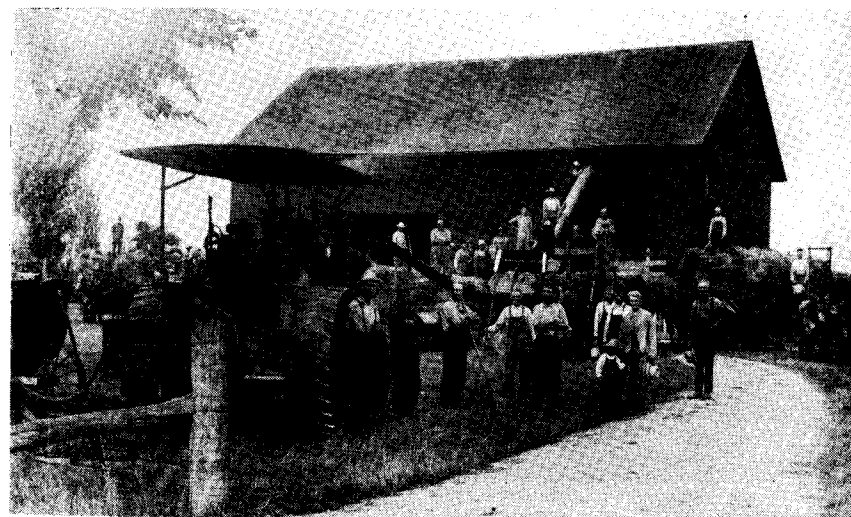
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- Special prescription discount for Senior Citizens.
- Professional excellence for NEARLY 100 YEARS.

Call **PORTLAND**  
**726-8166**  
 North Meridian Street



Miss Haffner



Threshing Ring Around Pleasant Ridge Church

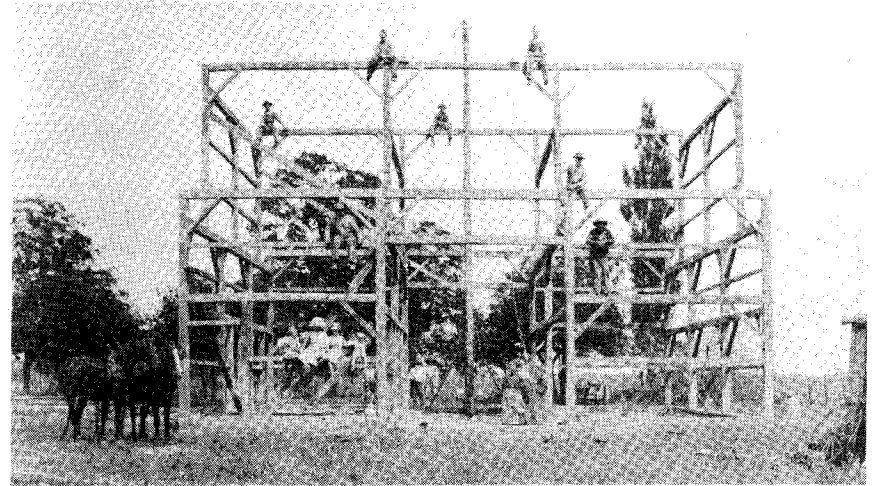
L-R, Sell Milligan, —, —, —, Riley Pyle, —, —, Bill Gilpin, Pinkie Gilpin, George Milligan.  
 Members of threshing ring: Elmer Hensier, John Grimes, Charley Hogg, Jack Bone, Sell Milligan, Malvia Miller, Tom Alexander, Geo. Petters, Geo. Myers, Geo. Milligan, Henry Myers, J.A. House, Will McGahey, Ray Gilpin, and Elza Shepherd.





**Butchering Day**  
Doris and Robert Fairchild

Page sponsored by Bob Pyle.



1912 Raising the Barn at Bob Scott farm. Total Cost \$400.00

Barn Crew: Bill Logan, Boss Carpenter; Charley Davidson; Wm. T. Davidson; Smith Stevens; Bill Ireland; Ora Davidson; Bob Fairchild (straw hat).  
Ladies: Ella Fairchild holding Doris; Mrs. Ireland.  
Children: Adah (Fairchild) Pyle; Mabel (Davidson) Reef; Marie (Fairchild) Brunner; Emory Fairchild.



1914 Mortimore School Dist. No. 6

Top row L-R- Fern (Haffner) Whetstone, Adah (Fairchild) Pyle, Walter Jones, Garno Hough, and Zelma Switzer (Teacher).  
Front row L-R- Walter Haffner, Ivan Butcher, Morris Jones, Hazel (Haffner) Bash, Blanche (Hough) Morehouse, Ruth Hough, Beulah (Mortimore) Shawver, Amy (Glentzer) Orr, Esta (Glentzer) Snyder.

Page sponsored by Adah (Fairchild) Pyle.



# United Telephone Company of Indiana, Inc.

Portland, Indiana

1975

## Bryant City Officials

### Bryant Town Board

James S. Pyle, President; Dempsey Cutcher, Clerk Treasurer; Orville E. Bergman, Councilman; Robert L. Elzey, Councilman.

### Bryant Volunteer Fireman Department

David A. Lyons, President; Clayton L. Hummel, Vice President; Brayton W. Snow, Secretary-Treasurer; David J. Pyle, Fire Chief; Viril Dailey, Ass't Fire Chief.

### Bryant Volunteer Firemen Ladies Auxiliary

Anna Pyle, President; Carol Hedges, Vice President; Kay Ellen Pyle, Secretary-Treasurer.

### Police Force

David J. Pyle, Town Marshal; Deputies: Randy Loy, Dempsey Cutcher, Clayton L. Hummel, Jerry L. Bollenbacher, James S. Pyle, Orville E. Bergman, David E. Lyons.

## 1975 Bryant Town Board

By James Pyle

The Bryant Town Board is composed of 3 members, and a clerk-treasurer, elected by town vote. Meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings of each month. The town Marshall is appointed by the Board members. The present Town Hall and Fire Station was erected in 1968, and the first Board meeting was held in the new Town Hall on Aug. 5, 1968. Board members at the present time are James Pyle, chairman, Orvill Bergman, Robert Elzey; Dempsey Cutcher as clerk-treasurer, and David Pyle as marshal.

The first recorded Council meeting is dated March 29, 1898, and reads:

"Council meeting called to order by clerk, and by vote of councilmen and officers, W.E. George was chosen permanent chairman. The council then organized and chose Mr. I. N. Wright president or foreman of the Board."

Early minutes of the meetings are not too clear or complete as to names of board members, but the following men are among those who have served since 1898:

Ed Crowell, Mr. Miller, Mr. Wright, Mr. Glentzer, Mr. Renner, E.A. Grogg, Albert Muther, George Neely, P.G. Stolz, I. Siberry, John Stults, M.L. Smith, Henry Huckreide, George Montgomery, Benjamin J. Miller, J.C.L. Whiteman, O. H. Nichols, Peter Hamilton, Paul Edginton, Seymor Ford, Edgar Young, Ivan Bailey, Herbert Masters, Tom Hoehamer, Junior Nelson, Sherman Armantrout, Bert Garlinger, Ralph Flauding, Irwin Metzner, Lawrence Glendening, Carl Glassford, Dalphon Poling, Kenneth Arnold, E. Bonifas, Vincent Hartnagle, Ernie Crowell, Earl Bowen, Russell Liggett, Robert Elzey, Orville Bergman, and James Pyle.

Page sponsored by Jim Pyle.

## 1975 Bryant Volunteer Fire Department

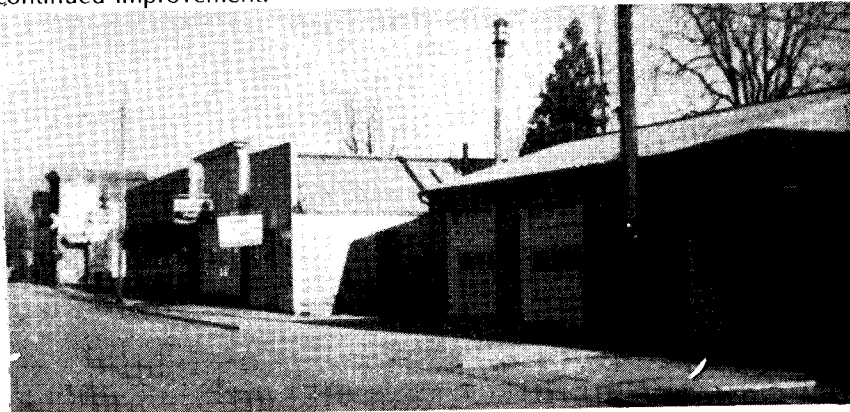
By David Lyons

Recent fund raising projects within the BVFD now afford us more complete, modern, and efficient fire protection. The department income in the past has been minimal, coming from revenue available from the Town of Bryant, and either donations or insurance claims as payment for fighting specific fires.

Housed in the new city building the department has added a dependable fire truck, two power generators, a good tanker truck, a pickup truck with a John Bean unit with which to fight grass fires, increased its volunteer fire fighting force, added five phones, and attended various first aid and training schools.

Pancake and Sausage suppers, raffles (including the sale of our antique 1937 Ford Fire Truck during the centennial), a donation campaign, Revenue Sharing Funds from Bearcreek Township, and other items sold for profit have been necessary to pay for the above improvements.

The department hopes to procure some fire fighting contracts in the near future which would be a big step toward becoming self sufficient and insure continued improvement.



Town Hall and Fire Department

## 1975 Volunteer Firemen — Ladies Auxiliary

By Anna Pyle

The Ladies Auxiliary is a new organization for Bryant, and all wives of Volunteer Firemen are automatically members.

Although the Auxiliary had been in the planning stage for several years, it did not actually come into being until April 4, 1974, when a meeting was held at the Town Hall and Virginia Snow was elected the first president; Shirley Bollenbacher vice president, and Wanda Arnold secretary-treasurer.

Meetings are held the first Thursday night of each month, and the purpose of the Auxiliary is to back up the firemen in any way possible.

Officers elected for 1975 are Anna Pyle, president; Carol Hedgès, vice president; and Kayellen Pyle, secretary-treasurer.

Page sponsored by David A. Lyons

## 1975 Police Force

By David J. Pyle, Town Marshal

There have been thirty-six different men to date that have held the position of Town Marshal. The first on record was Sam Renner who served one year from 1898 to 1899. Murray W. Berry served the longest with twelve years in two separate terms. Murray W. Berry and James Minch both served nine consecutive years, while Perry Omer and David J. Pyle both held office for six years in succession.

The duties included such things as closing the saloon at 11:00 p.m., ringing the curfew bell at 8:00 p.m., sweeping the street once every sixty days, cleaning the gutters, working on ditches, and mowing weeds.

The force now numbers eight men with Randy Loy, the paid deputy, and six reserve deputies.

## History Of Town Marshalls

Sam Renner, 1898-1899; Ed Tullis, 1899-1899; Wm. Tracy, 1899-1900; Fred Showalter, 1900-1900; Seymore Ford, 1900-1901; James Logan 1901-1901; S.U. Bailey, 1901-1902; Sam Renner, 1902-1903; Sam Jones, 1903-1904; Perry Omer, 1904-1910; J. M. Depew, 1910-1910; Vernon Lindsey, 1910-1911; J. W. Layman, 1911-1913; J. H. Bailey, 1913-1914; R. W. Burkey, 1914-1914; Chas. Kessler, 1914-1914; W. H. Uptegraft, 1914-1916; J. Phillips, 1916-1916; Edward McCrosky, 1916-1917; N. K. Stanley, 1917-1918; Edward McCrosky, 1918-1919; Wm. Fifer, 1919-1921; Issac Ford, 1921-1922; Harley Farrar, 1922-1923; Issac Ford, 1923-1925; Elihu Williams, 1925-1926; George Hoehamer, 1926-1930; Issac Ford, 1930-1933; Ernest Twigg, 1933-1934; Kenneth Graves, 1934-1938; Henry Shrider, 1938-1940; Russel Brock, 1940-1941; Murray W. Berry, 1941-1944; Alonzo Pettis, 1944-1947; Murray W. Berry, 1947-1956; James Minch, 1956-1965; Brayton W. Snow, 1965-1967; Don Marshal, 1967-1968; Michael Cain, 1968-1969; David J. Pyle, 1969-.

## Congratulations

Bryant

**LELIA B's**

Dress Shop

Geneva, Indiana

## Rainbow Garage

Complete Automotive  
and Truck Service

John Hofstetter, Manager

Geneva, Indiana  
Phone 368-7650

## 1975 Bryant Business Directory

### 18 Business Places

American Oil Co., Standard Oil Div. Bulk Plant - Distributors of Motor Fuel and Home Heating Oils, W. Elm St. Agent - Carl D. Glassford.  
Beauty Bar, W. Wilson St. Owner - Betty Dailey.  
Bryant Elevator, W. Main St. Partners - Kenneth E. Huey, Sharon S. Huey, Donald E. Shoemaker, and Alice Mae Shoemaker.  
Bryant Truck Stop and Cafe, N. Hendricks St. (N. Hwy. 27 & 67). Mgr. David A. Lyons.  
Dailey's Body Shop, S. Hendricks St. (S. Hwy. 27 & 67). Owner - Viril Dailey.  
Davis Radiator Repair, W. Elm St. Owner - Deon N. Davis.  
Empiregas Inc. of Bryant, East off N. Hwy. 27 & 67.  
H and H Farm Equipment, N. Hendricks St. (N. Hwy. 27 & 67). Owner - Joe Huey.  
Hen House Antique Shop, W. Main St. Owners - Donald W. and Ada "Pat" Longnecker.  
Jim S. Miller Electric, N. Hendricks St. (N. Hwy. 27 & 67). Owner - Jimmy S. Miller.  
L and L Realty, S. Hendricks St. (S. Hwy. 27 & 67). Proprietor - David A. Lyons.  
Loy's Small Engine, W. Elm St. Owner - Cledith E. Loy.  
Marie's Upholstery, W. Elm St. Owner - Roselyn Marie Davis.  
Pro's TV Sales and Service, N. Hendricks St. (N. Hwy. 27 & 67). Owner William "Bill" Pro.  
Pyles Garage, S. Francis St. Owner - David J. Pyle.  
Pyles Market, W. Main St. Owners - James S. and Anna Pyle.  
Smith's Diner, S. Hendricks St. (S. Hwy. 27 & 67) Owner - Helen Smith.  
Smith's Service Station, S. Hendricks St. (S. Hwy. 27 & 67). Owner - Homer Smith.

## Betty Gene Beauty Salon

Hwy. 67 - 2 mi. east of Bryant, Ind.

Telephone - 997-6616

### Election Certificate and Oath

To all Members of my Council:

This is to certify that at a Regular Election held in the town of Bryant, County of Jay and State of Indiana on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1898.

Samuel Renner was duly elected to the office of Marshal in said town of Bryant to serve as such for the term of two years or until his successor is elected and qualified.

In witness whereof we have mounted set our hands and seals this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of May 1898

John B. Miller  
Spician  
James W. Logan

Oath of Office of the  
first Bryant Town Marshal on  
May 2, 1898

1975  
**BRYANT CITY DIRECTORY**

Population 260 - April 10, 1975

Addington, Ernie D.—Marsh Supermarkets-Marion, IN (Sharon: Julia, Nicole), W. Wilson St., Box 25.  
Alberson, William A.—Miller's Feed Elevator, Pennville, IN (Susan—Micro-Precision-Berne, IN: Linda) E. Main St.  
Armantrout, Arthur L.—Sheller-Globe-Portland, IN (Mildred: Beth) E. Main St., Box 46.  
Arnold, Jerry E.—Dunbar Furniture, Berne, IN (Wanda C.: Malinda, David), N. Meridian St., Box 48.  
Arnold, Kenneth E.—Dunbar Furniture, Berne, IN (Mary R.) W. Wilson St., Box 16.  
Arnold, Norval D. (Dempsey)—Westinghouse-Muncie, IN (Billie—Sheller-Globe-Portland, IN: Mike), W. Wilson St.  
Bergman, G. Roy—Farm (Dorothy W.), E. Wilson St.  
Bergman, Orville E.—Mèshberger Bros.-Linn Grove, IN (Doris M.—Portland Industrial Products-Portland, IN: DeWayne), E. Wilson St., Box 84.  
Berry, Inez M.—Secy. Jim Miller Electric; W. Wilson St., Box 51.  
Billington, Terry L.—Corning Glass—Bluffton, IN; E. Main St.  
Bollenbacher, Jerry L.—(Shirley D.: Ronald, David, Susan) W. Elm St., Box 49.  
Bollinger, Sharon J.—Sheller-Globe Corp.-Portland, IN (Brenda, David W. Elm St., Box 28.  
Bone, Gladys M.—Retired; W. Main St., Box 75.  
Bone, Grace—Retired; W. Main St., Box 75.  
Bonifas, Eugene (Gene)—Retired; E. Wilson St., Box 95.  
Bowen, Edna G.—widow, N. Malin St.  
Brotherton, Burdell E.—Portland Forge, Inc. (Iva L.), W. Main St., Box 18.  
Brown, Eldon—Retired; E. Wilson St.  
Brown, Karen—Swiss Village, Berne, IN (David, Darrel, Christy) N. Meridian St.  
Brubaker, L. Dick—Retired; (Faye) W. Wilson St., Box 10.  
Buckingham, John—Retired; N. Meridian St.  
Butcher, Daisey—Widow (Waldo, Leon); W. Wilson St.  
Butcher, Myrtle E.—Widow; E. Wilson St. (Joseph, Jack).  
Craig, Martha E.—Widow; (Steve) S. Meridian St., Box 92.  
Crowell, Ernest V.—Retired (Bessie B.) N. Hendricks St.  
Cutcher, Dempsey V.—Jay Products; (Iris G.); E. Elm St., Box 36.  
Dailey, Dwight (Whitie)—(Carol J.—United Telephone Co.) (William, Lynn); W. Elm St., Box 44.  
Dailey, Verl D.—Owner-Dailey's Body Shop: (Betty L.—Owner Beauty Bar: Jeffrey); S. Hendricks St., Box 17.  
Dale, Clara—Widow; W. Wilson St.  
Davis, Deon N.—CTS Berne & Self-Emp. (Roselyn M. Owner Marie's Upholstery: Deon, Randal, Cherry); W. Elm St., Box 134.  
Denney, Beryl A. Sr.—Retired (Phyllis L.) E. Wilson St.

Denney, Beryl Jr. (Bud)—Sheller-Globe Corp. Portland, In. (Clara L.—Eaton Factory), N. Malin St.  
Dowan, Paul E.—Truck Dr. (Donna: Nancy, Lisa).  
Elzey, Robert L. (Bob)—Intern. Harvester-Ft. Wayne, IN (Nancy C.—CTS Berne) (Sherry, Terry, Randy, Pamela), N. Hendricks St., Box 9.  
Fifer, Ernest C.—Dunbar Furniture Berne, In. (Maria—Jay Garment Portland, In. Larry, Tim) W. Wilson St., Box 78.  
Fifer, Jonny L. (Jon)—CTS of Berne; E. Wilson St.  
Flauding, Sarah E.—Retired; E. Main St., Box 36.  
Frakes, Jack L.—Sheller-Globe Corp.; Portland, In. (Virginia M.: Larry) W. Elm St., Box 144.  
Gage, Bradley L.—Yost Construction, Decatur, IN (Lisa K.—Commercial Review-Portland, IN) E. Main St., Box 156.  
Garlinger, Max—Carpenter; N. Hendricks St.  
Garringer, Everett S.—Retired (Lelia G.) S. Meridian St.  
Gettinger, William R. (Bill)—Fisher Body-Marion, IN (Pauline K.—Jay Garment-Portland, IN) E. Elm St., Box 1.  
Glassford, Carl D.—Standard Oil Agt. (Marie R.: John, Carla) N. Malin St.  
Grogg, Nora W.—Widow (Virgil) W. Main St.  
Harrison, Everett H.—Retired (Maudie) E. Main St., Box 72.  
Hartley, Elsie O.—W. Main St.  
Hedges, James B.—Plant Mgr. Occidental Chemical Co.-Bryant, IN: (Carol: Brian, Mark, Steve, Karen); E. Main St.  
Hillard, Kenneth (Ken)—CTS Berne & Bryant Truck Stop (Sherry: Jon) Elm St.  
Hartnagle, Vincent (Casey)—Retired (Salome "Sally"—Cook Bryant School) W. Elm St., Box 3.  
Hoehamer, Carl M. (Tom)—Portland Forge, Inc. (Phyllis J.—Bryant School & Post Office: Susan, Thomas, Lynn) W. Main St.  
Hoskins, Charles A. (Diddly)—Retired (Chloa I.); E. Main St.  
Hoskins, John H.—Naas Foods-Geneva, IN. (Lois E.) N. Malin St., Box 71.  
Houser, M. Burdett—Portland Forge, Inc. (Florence J.—Berne Furniture), W. Wilson St., Box 72.  
Huey, Edward G.—Retired (Blanche); N. Malin St., Box 34.  
Huey, Ted—E.P.C. Geneva; W. Main St.  
Hummel, Clayton L.—Automotive Sprinkler-Monroe; (Betty-CTS Berne: Jeffrey, Randy), W. Main St., Box 87.  
Hunt, Hazel E.—Sheffer & Weinland-Portland, IN: S. Meridian St., Box 42.  
Hunt, Opal C.—H & F Bakery-Portland, IN; S. Meridian St., Box 52.  
Jackson, Helen P.—Rural Mail Carrier; N. Malin St., Box 91.  
Johnson, Mary—Mersman Bros., Celina, Ohio; W. Main St.  
Keen, Larry—General Electric (Cindy); S. Hendricks St.  
Kelly, Jerald L.—Berne Furniture, Berne, IN; W. Main St.  
Ketchum, Leo S.—Retired Casket Trimmer, Farmer (Gladys—Retired Teacher); E. Main St.  
Kongar, Terry L.—CTS Berne (Thelma M.—Berco-Berne, IN; Terry, Todd); E. Elm St., Box 47.

Kuchcinski, Daniel P.—Professional Performer (Sue—Professional Performer) E. Main St., Box 35.  
 Longnecker, Ed—Farm (Helen—Jay Garment-Portland, IN); W. Main St.  
 Loy, Cledith E.—Fisher Body, Marion, In. (Patsy—CTS Berne: Tom); W. Elm St., Box 104.  
 Loy, Lelia R.—Widow, E. Main St., Box 14.  
 Loy, Randy—Fisher Body, Marion, IN (Julia: Mick, Mike) E. Main St.  
 Lyons, David A.—Mgr. Bryant Truck Stop: (Diana G.: Michelle, Susan); E. Main St.  
 Masters, Herbert L.—Appliance Technician, Kelopfenstein's Hdw.-Portland, IN (Carolyn J.: Brenda, Melinda, Michael); N. Malin St., Box 6.  
 McCoy, Clarence H.—Intra Amer. Homes (Bertie L.: Gary) N. Hendricks St., Box 114.  
 McCoy, Larry—Self Emp.; (Rebecca: Cindy); E. Elm St.  
 McMullen, Flossie F.—Widow, E. Elm St., Box 94.  
 Miller, Kenneth W.—Self Emp. Carpenter (Shirley June: Susan, Johnny Dale, Scott) W. Main St.  
 Miller, Paul D.—Self Emp. Carpenter (Joan L.: Jessica, Jeanetta) N. Hendricks St.  
 Miller, Ruth A.—Cook Bryant Truck Stop; W. Main St., Box 55.  
 Minch, James E. (Jim)—Sheller-Globe-Portland, IN (Margaret A.—CTS Berne: Sandra, Lorie); Meridian St., Box 7.  
 Minch, Rick—Office E.P.C.-Geneva, IN (Lisa: Registered Nurse-Jay Co. Hospital).  
 Minnich, Mrs. Florian—Widow; (John) R.R. 1.  
 Moeller, Rev. Harry—Minister Welseyean Church (Edna: Lois).  
 Montgomery, Clara E.—Widow; E. Main St., Box 54.  
 Montgomery, Jason G.—Self-emp. Interior Decorator (Helen—CTS Berne) W. Main St., Box 38.  
 Murphy, Ernest B.—Indiana State Highway (Opal I.—CTS Berne) W. Elm St.  
 Myers, Wayne—Jay Co. Surveyor; E. Elm St.  
 Nelson, Mary M.—Widow; E. Wilson St.  
 Norton, Maggie—Widow; (Paul) W. Main St.  
 Pingry, Guinevere L.—Downtown Meat Market; E. Elm St., Box 167.  
 Pyle, David J.—Marsh Supermarkets (Kayellen—Bank of Geneva: (Cindy, Sandy); S. Francis St., Box 89.  
 Pyle, James.—Owner Pyle's Market (Anna R.—Mgr. Montgomery Ward-Portland, IN); S. Hendricks St., Box 32.  
 Schaffer, Greg—(Lisa) W. Elm St.  
 Shirk, Grace M.—Widow; E. Elm St.  
 Smith, Clifford R.—Yost Construction-Decatur, IN (Sandra L.—CTS Berne: Shelia, Sonja, Sheryl, Sharon, Clifford); N. Hendricks St., Box 26.  
 Smith, Homer—Owner Smith's Service Station (Helen—Owner Smith's Diner) S. Hendricks St.  
 Smith, Vera—Retired; E. Main St., Box 19.  
 Smith, Walter A.—Carpenter (Wanda R.—Parkway Restaurant-Berne, IN) W. Main St., Box 143.  
 Snow, Brayton A.—Micromatic-Berne, IN (Virginia: Philip, Douglas) W. Elm St.

Spade, James T.—Carpenter (Fredia M.—CTS Berne: Steven, Jeffrey) E. Wilson St., Box 29.  
 Stoner, Floyd—Farmer; R.R. 1.  
 Strong, Lewis W.—Minister (Gladys M.—Commissary for Richard's Restaurant); E. Main St., Box 98.  
 Sutton, Douglas K.—Jay Products-Portland, IN (Alicia K.—Teacher) E. Main St.  
 Tschannen, Ronald—Electrician (Jennie—Berco-Berne, IN: Rhonda) Meridian St.  
 Uptygraft, Mabel A.—Window: W. Elm St., Box 39.  
 Wendel, Paul L. (Peck)—Retired; (Virginia M.—Jay Co. Hospital) W. Wilson St.  
 Whetstone, Olen—Franklin Electric-Bluffton, IN (Grace-Berne Furniture: Mike, Jeff, Joe) S. Hendricks St.  
 Whitacre, Mildred F.—CTS Berne (Ernie) E. Elm St., Box 39.  
 Compiled By Brenda J. Masters, March 1975

## 1975 Bryant Area Organizations

### BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CLUB

By Rev. Paul Wohlford

The Bryant Area Community Club is a non-profit organization organized to promote community goodwill, to provide recreational facilities and recreation within the community, to provide a community voice for policy, to offer assistance to worthwhile endeavors.

Current projects include the formation of a little league baseball program, the upcoming Bryant Centennial, brush removal from the Perry Ditch into which Bryant sewage runs, clean up and maintenance of the school grounds and a free open-air summer movie program.

One of the most important reasons for the formation of our club has been one of dealing with the eventual fate of the Bryant Community building (gymnasium). The gymnasium was built through a community effort and funded almost entirely by donations. We feel that both building and grounds are of great value to the community.

Membership into the Bryant Area Community Club shall be open to all residents in Bearcreek, Jackson and Wabash townships and any community within these townships and to any interested supporter outside the Bearcreek, Jackson and Wabash townships. The dues of the Bryant Area Community Club shall be in the form of purchasing membership into the club which shall be \$5.00 per family unit and \$3.00 per single unit. Upon paying dues and becoming a member, a membership card is received which is good until January of the next fiscal year.

There are regular meetings held in the Bryant Town Hall (Fire Department) on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.

Present Officers: Rev. Paul Wohlford, Pres.; Terry Billington, Vice-Pres.; Nancy Saxman, Treas.; Diana Lyons, Secretary; Board of Directors: Ora Davidson, Clayton Hummel, Ron Tschannen, Frances Bickel, and Dave Lyons.

Page sponsored by David A. Lyons.



1975-Keith Huey, left and Dave Lyons, both members of the Bryant Area Community Club, pare small trees cleared from the Perry Ditch into fireplace logs. The wood will be sold to gain additional income for the organization.

### **Bryant Conservation Club**

**By Herbert Derrickson**

The Bryant Conservation Club was organized to help preserve wild life and to learn the game laws of Indiana.

Some of the older members were: Riley Bryan, Charley Tullis, Ernest Crowell, Rog Bergman, Dewitt Fifer, Ralph Flauding, Jud Brock, Lawrence Flauding, Roy Craig, William "Bill" Axe, Alonzo "Lon" Pettis, John McMullen, Fred Iliff, Dick Brubaker, and George Garlinger.

# **WOLF!**

**HELP CATCH THE WOLVES!**

## **THURSDAY**

### **March 6, 1924**

**BIG WOLF HUNT**

**In Vicinity of Bryant and Geneva**

Drive will start at 10 o'clock A. M. and four lines will drive toward a common center. Captains will have charge of the lines. Persons attending drive inquire of captain for location and concerning rules.

**Capt. Fred Bone, Bryant, Phone.  
Sec'y. D. D. Fennig, Bryant Phone.**

The club was re-organized in 1937 or 1938 and purchased the present site of the Conservation Hall. Bill Axe loaned the money for the purchase, and it was soon paid for by serving pancake and sausage, oyster and chili soup suppers, and fish fries.

Club dues of \$1.00 per member are charged. Anyone wishing to join may do so regardless of where he lives. There are some members from the Indianapolis and Ft. Wayne areas. There are about 60 members in the present club.

The club sponsors fox drives during the winter. In 1973 a total of 14 fox were destroyed. The wives of the club-men prepare a hearty meal for the men when they return from the hunt.

During the past winter the club remodeled their building. They lowered the ceiling, paneled the wall, and repainted the wood-work.

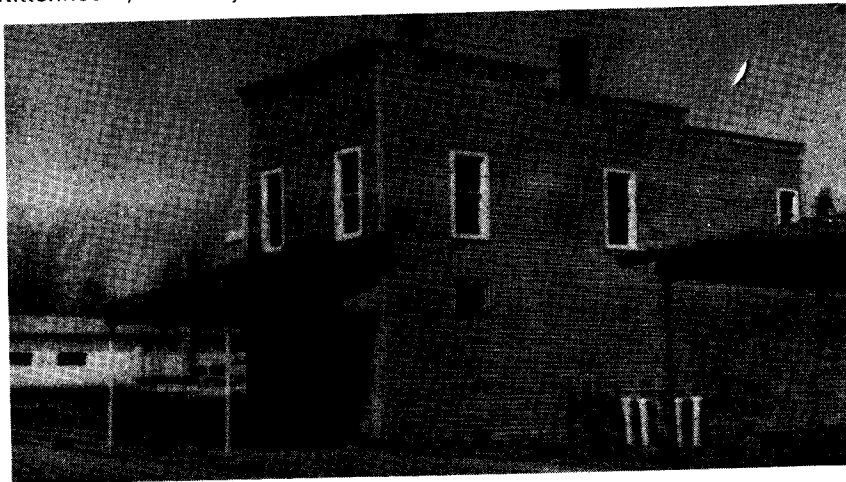
Officers: Warren "Shorty" Burk, President; Donald Longnecker, Vice President; Herbert Derrickson, Secretary-Treasurer; Thurber "Shorty" Barker, Trustee; Harold Olen Whetstone, Trustee; Ernest Crowell, Trustee.

### **Bryant Youth Group**

**By Burdette Houser**

The Bryant Youth Group was organized on June 27, 1961 with Burdette Houser as Chairman. Other leaders were: Paul Rittenhouse, Helen Jackson, Crystal Masters, and Gladys Ketchum. Through the efforts of this group the present Scout Hall, on E. Main Street, was purchased. The youth groups include the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brownies and the Bryant School Tri-Hi-Y. The Bryant Youth Group is given assistance by the Juffy Organization of Jay County.

Officers: Burdette Houser, President; Helen Jackson, Vice President; Paul Rittenhouse, Secretary-Treasurer.



Scout Hall E. Main St.

### **Agricultural 4-H In Bearcreek Township**

**By Wayne Haffner**

The start of 4-H activities was in 1925 under the supervision of H. S. Heckard, County Agent and was continued in 1926 under C.V. Kimmell, County Agent. The early 4-H activities were mostly in the form of county clubs representing various crop and livestock projects.

Many livestock breeders were important in furnishing animals to be cared for and exhibited by 4-H members. The animals were exhibited near the area of greatest concentration of the 4-H members. Later the county had more interest and with the assistance of volunteer leaders the finished products were exhibited at the County Fair.

The first 4-H leader from Bearcreek Township was Paul Macklin in 1929. It seemed that many school teachers and livestock breeders from the county were among the first 4-H leaders. The next leader was Wayne Haffner, 1933-1970, True Miller was leader in 1946, LeRoy Gierhart was a leader from 1948-1960, Robert Moore in 1965, Richard Houser from 1970-1975. The above leaders worked together as two leaders for the 4-H agricultural club during the years indicated.

The 4-H judging activities were greatly responsible for the continued interest in the boys 4-H club. Bryant 4-H judging teams have competed in many county, area, State and National Contests. The national 4-H judging teams were the following: 1. Seven dairy; 2. three poultry; 3. four livestock; and 4. four soil, for a total of eighteen national teams.

The total projects offered in 1975 numbers approximately 42 (most including all the years in each project). State wide the number of projects is much greater.

### **Girl's 4-H Club**

**By Mona Keen**

I Pledge \_\_\_\_\_  
My Head to clearer thinking,  
My Heart to greater loyalty,  
My Hands to larger service,  
My Health to better living, for my club, my community, my country and my world.

This is the pledge of the 4-H organization which the Bearcreek Hoosierettes have been observing for 50 years. The first girls 4-H club in Bearcreek Township was formed in 1925 with Irma Huckride as leader.

4-H has made many changes over the years. When it was first started there were no organized meetings. The girls joined and then exhibited their projects at the end of the year. Now each club is required to have 10 meetings and members are to attend at least 6. Each girl is also required to give a demonstration before the club. There are about 30 projects offered, all the way from Foods, Clothing, and Child Development to Home Grounds Improvement, Aquatic Science and Bicycling.



Besides teaching the girls home making abilities the 4-H club helps to develop their poise and leadership abilities, as many are active in Junior Leaders.

Many clinics are held to help the girls to learn, such as the one pictured below which was held in March of 1970.



Kathy Keen, left, Trudy Shultz and Susan Hoehamer take a look at one of the displays of fabric at the Fashion Clinic. The Clinic was held in preparation for the Jay County 4-H Dress Review scheduled for July. Parents of the girls are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Keen, Bryant; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shultz, R. 2, Bryant and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hoehamer, Bryant.

Also a dress review is held each year, when the girls model the garments they have made.

Trips and awards are given each year to the outstanding girls participating in club work, but most of all, each girl is a "winner" by what she learns and the enjoyment she receives from being a 4-H member.

Leaders and assistants, and years of service: Irma Huckreide-1925-28; Mildred Adams-1929-30; Waneta Lawrence-1931-33; Mrs. John Bailey-1932-36, 38-41; Dawna Fosnight, 1937-40, 42-44; Mrs. Paul Spade-1946; Mrs. Earnest Keller, 1947-48; Mrs. Donald Shoemaker, 1949-52; Lucile Minnich, 1952-53; Mrs. Royce Wall, 1953-55; Mrs. Hesper Pingry, 1957-66; Mrs. Jimmy Miller, 1957-58; Mrs. Carl King, 1961-65; Mrs. Paul Shultz, 1967-70; Mrs. Albert Keen, 1970-74; Mrs. Kenny Huey-1975.

## Merry Minutes Home Economics Club

By Mrs. Carl O. King

The Merry Minutes Home Economics Club was organized in October 1955. The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Dale Milner and officers as follows; President-Mrs. Carl O. King, Vice President-Mrs. Dale Milner, Secretary-Mrs. Ralph Ruthledge, Treasurer-Mrs. Charles Abbott.

The purpose of the club is well expressed in the Homemakers Creed: We believe in the present and its opportunities, in the future and its promises, in everything that makes life large and lovely, in the Divine joy of living and helping others. And so we endeavor to pass on to others that which has benefited us, striving to go onward and upward, reaching the pinnacle of economic perfection in improving, enlarging and endearing the greatest institution in the world - the Home.

Lessons are given by leaders from Purdue University, which in turn are given to our local club by one of our members.

The officers for 1974-1975 are: President, Mrs. Carl O. King; Vice President, Mrs. Marion Runyon; Secretary, Mrs. Dwain Michael; Treasurer, Mrs. Paul Wohlford.

## Happy Hours Extension Homemakers

By Loetia Weisel

Fifteen Bearcreek women met at the Farm Bureau cream station in Bryant on March 5, 1930 and organized this Homemakers Club. The first meeting was held on April 4, 1930 at the home of Mrs. Frank (Ada) Huey, the president, who is still a member. There were twenty charter members.

The women have made an effort to put into practice the Purdue lessons on home economics and worked to better the community.

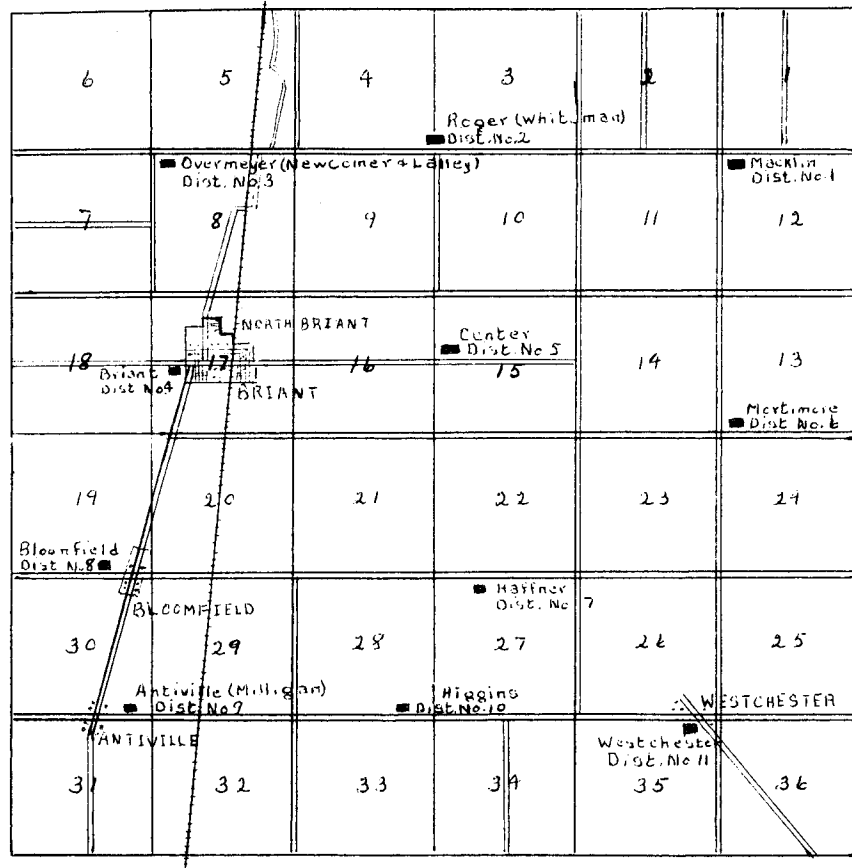
They have had some very outstanding members. Mrs. Gladys Houser was one of **three** in the county to receive an award of merit for outstanding service and recognition in 1952. Several of the members have been county presidents - namely: Mrs. Dorsey (Berniece) Fennig, Mrs. Beryl (Inez) Miller, Mrs. John (Loetia) Weisel, Mrs. Russel (Gladys) Houser, Mrs. True (Dorothy) Miller, Mrs. John (Lois) Hoskins, and Mrs. LeRoy (Helen) Gierhart.

The club donates time and money to all worthwhile projects in the township — the largest donation was \$100.00 towards the Bryant Community Center. They hold meetings each month with a carry in dinner - dues are \$1.00 yearly. Club auctions are held to raise funds. At present we have 22 members with Mrs. Joe Hiday the President, Roberta Wall, Vice President; Gladys Houser, Secretary; and Mary Helen Gierhart, Treasurer.

## Schools

By Helen (Pence) Jackson

When early pioneers settled in a community one of their concerns was the education of their children. This was true of the early settlers of Bear Creek Township. A map in an Atlas of 1881 shows 8 school houses in the township, one East of Bryant about 1/8 mile. A map in an Atlas of 1887 shows 11 schools, with the Bryant school east of town gone, and a new school No. 4 located about 1/8 mile West on Main Street extended.



BEAR CREEK COMMON SCHOOLS  
in  
1887

— Road  
— Railroad

G. Ketchum  
May 1, 1975

This new school was a large two-story brick structure erected in 1883-1884, at a cost of about \$2000. Each story was a single room, and two teachers were

**Page sponsored by Mardy L. Logan**

employed. There was an enrollment of 68 with average attendance of 45. Students from other grade schools in the township came here to take their eighth grade exam.

Professor James C.L. Whiteman, one of the able educators in the state, did much for the building up of the educational system in the township. I quote from his writings in the 1938 "The Hoosier Owl":

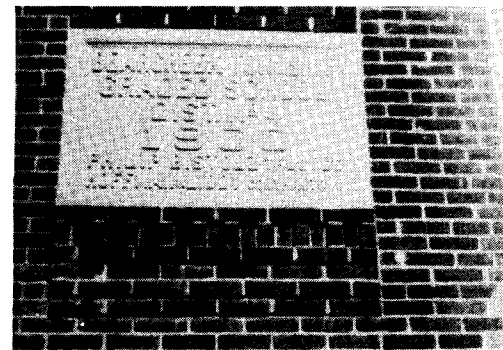
"In about the year 1898, Philip Stoltz became trustee of Bearcreek Township. He first suggested the idea of having a high school in this township and chose J.C.L. Whiteman, who had been attending school at Ada, Ohio, for the position of teacher and principal.

"After conferring with the county superintendent, ...Mr. Whiteman made out a course of study, and began talking to the eighth grade graduates and others who were still interested in school work. At the opening of school in the fall of 1899 eleven students presented themselves to enter upon the pursuit of higher education. Needless to say, all were freshmen, but the students were older and more advanced than freshmen today. Almost all were preparing to teach, some had already taught a term or two of school.

"In addition to the high school students, the 7th and 8th grades (combined in most subjects) were taught in the same room and the work of the advanced students seemed to set the pace for the grade students and make them work harder than the average class.

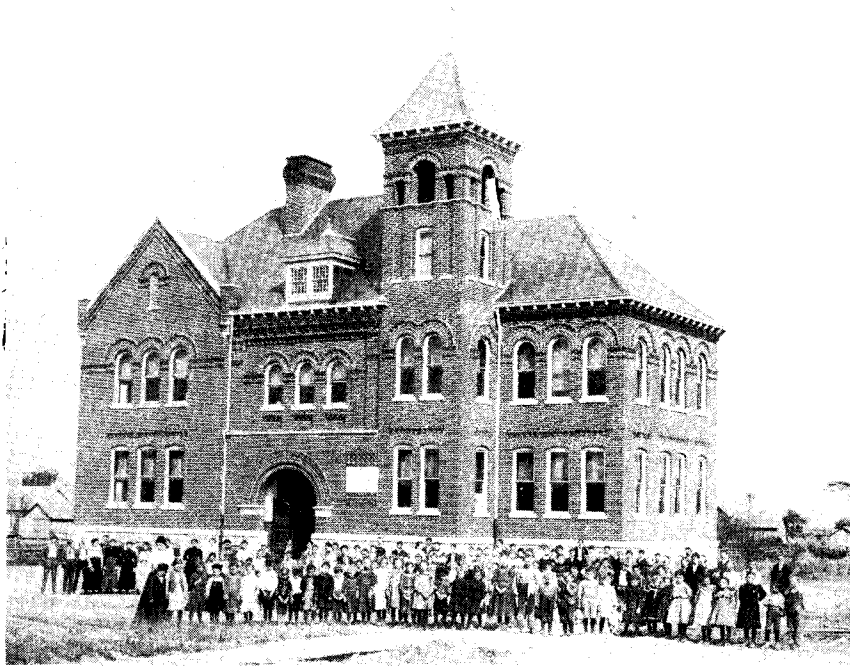
"The room where the first classes met was a building west of town, a two room two story building in bad repair, only the upper room being used. Fortunately, it was a mild winter, and the school and teacher escaped freezing but endured considerable discomfort....The lower grades met in the Bonifas building. Miss Ivy Boehm taught the primary room for the first half year, then she entered the high school and another student of the freshman year took the room for the rest of the year. So the enrollment remained 11 until the end of the year. Mr. Ephriam O'Hara taught the upper grades, 4,5, and 6 in the upper room of the same building.

"The new building was ready for the second year, and the same program was followed except that now two years of High School work were given and the enrollment increased to about 16, the 7th and 8th grades still being under the same teacher.



Stone plaque on the front of the Bryant School showing when the first part was constructed.

"One student came down from Portland and one strong student, who had taken extra work, were graduated this year, but an outbreak of measles, almost closed the school and spoiled all plans for a commencement, the principal being among the number who suffered an attack.



Bryant School In 1902

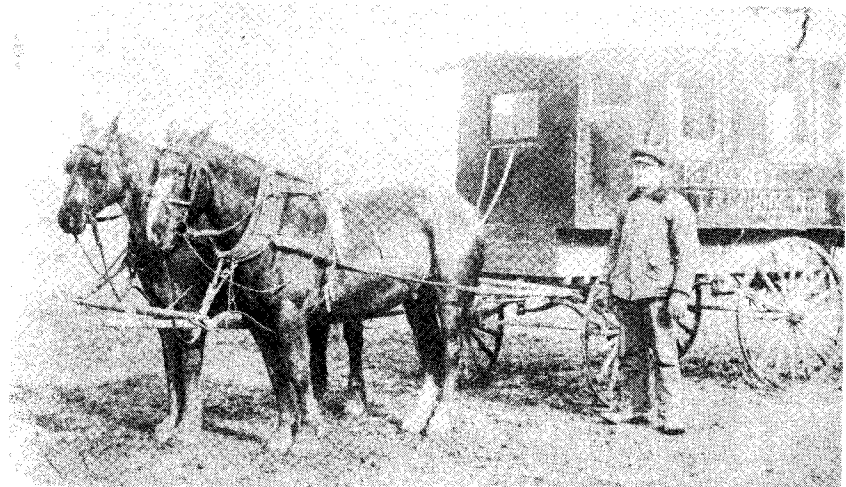
"The first game of Basketball was played on Christmas Day on the school ground. Students and teachers had raised a fund and bought a ball. As no one knew how to play, although all had poured over the rule book for many anxious hours and did learn enough to put up the baskets, the principal invited John Milligan, a Portland High School student to come down and bring a pick-up team to show our boys how to play the game. I think the score was about 30 or 40 to nothing (in Portland's favor, of course).

"Many extra curricular activities were indulged in from the beginning of the school, especially of the literary nature. The students did much debating, had mock trials, recitations, and they put on a very good play the second year. The second floor of the Williams Wagon Shop was fixed up for a hall, and the play was a splendid success, winding up with a tableau of colored lights being made by lighting special colored powders, which almost strangled the spectators.

"After this year the high school had a room of its own, room 7 of our present building, and a fourth teacher was added to the staff. The school continued to grow as the country schools were being abandoned and in 1913, when Freeman Jones was trustee, the building was enlarged, the east half being built and the teaching staff further enlarged. The school was changed from a three to a four year course, also the school was commissioned during Jones' term of office..."

On October 29, 1900 the New High School building was opened for use on south Malire (Malin) Street. The building was of brick structure, with four rooms, a large library, and a private office for the principal. It was a handsome brick edifice, heated by hot air and supplied with other modern conveniences of the new century. Two rooms on the first floor were used for grades 1 through 6, and the two up stairs rooms were for the 7th and 8th and the high school. The new addition was built on the east side of the building and was dedicated in 1913. It consisted of two class rooms on the first floor, a large assembly room with a stage on the second floor, and two more entrances to the building, one on the south and one on the north. In the basement the Home Economics room was added and two of the original rooms were arranged for Shop and Agriculture.

The grade school students in Bearcreek Township were transported to the school by the mode of travel of the times—horses and hack. Barns were provided on the south edge of the school lot to house the horses for the High School students who had to furnish their own transportation. Today all students are transported by means of modern school buses.

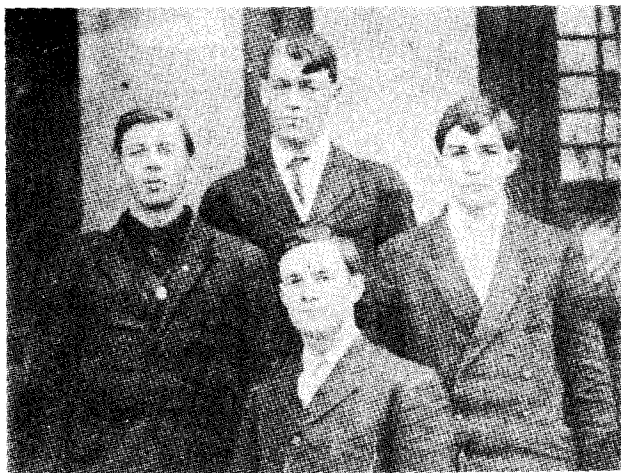


Bearcreek Township School Hack



1907-1908 Egbert "Bert" C. Macklin (Principal and teacher of Bryant High School,) and his students L-R.

Front row: Gladys Black, Chloa Logan, Reba Sisk, Bernice Macklin, Lewis Logan, Ray Haffner.  
 2nd row: Hattie Hammon, Grace Pape, Mabel Black, Lelia Huckriede, Blanche Lefever, Oren Kirby, Bert Macklin (Principal and teacher).  
 3rd row: Harry Haggott, Carl Spencer, Walter Smith, Wm. Huey, Lorenzo Rogers.  
 Back row: John Switzer, Wm. Jeffries.



1910 Graduating Class of Bryant High School and a former principal Egbert "Bert" C. Macklin. Back, left to right: Jerome J. Dilts, Fenton Whiteman, and Paul Edgington. In front is Egbert Macklin, principal during 1907-1908 and 1908-1909.

The 1910 class was the first class to graduate after the school received a commissioned class rating (four years of eight months). Prior to 1910 the students received three years training, therefore there were no graduates for 1909.



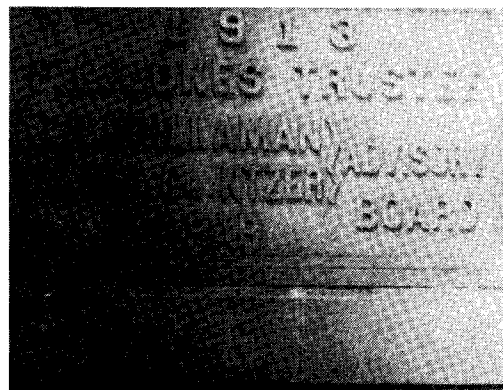
Bryant High School 1910-1911  
 Grades 9, 10, 11 12

Front row L-R: Tobias J. Krider (Principal and teacher), Lewis Judy, Beatrice (Macklin) Lee, Gladys (Black) Rogers, James Fraze, Beryl Miller, Bernice (Macklin) Crampton, Chloa (Logan) Hoskins, Grace (Macklin) Stanley, Walter Glentzer, Ray Guy.

2nd row: -, Lorenzo Rogers, Blanche Lefever, Hattie (Hannon) McLaughlin, Grace (Macklin) Stanley, Elizabeth Stone, Mabel (Black) Rogers, Virgil Ford.

3rd row: Enid (Whiteman) Edgington, Irma Huckriede, Gracie (Pape) Stuckey, Zelma (Switzer) Green, Hazel (Lefever) Gilmore, Elmer Teeters, Lewis Logan, Della (Peters) Peters, Alma (Milligan) Logan.

Back row: Oren Kirby, Will Jefferies, Ray Haffner, Lamont Jones, Lewis Youse (H.S. teacher), John Switzer, Billy Smith (Janitor).



Stone plaque on Bryant School showing records when the addition to the school were made.



1915 - Grades 1 & 2, Bryant School

L-R: Front row: Dorothy Armantrout, Lelia Pingry, Iva Bailey, Nolene Anderson, Van Rhea Manley, Alice Krouse.

2nd row: Herbert Youse, Roger Crowell, Esmond "Babe" Houser, Hollis Steen, Natalie Jones, Edith Renner, Nellie Butcher, Marie Spade, Bernadine Cox, Lyndel Burkett, Margaret Engle, Madaline Fifer.

3rd row: Leslie Schmidt, Ivan Bailey, Paul Nichols, Lyle Sisk, Glen Logan, Mildred Campbell, Marguerite Farrar, Daisy Stults, Beatrice Logan, Edith Schmidt, Agnes Bonifas, Marjorie Campbell.

4th row: Don Whiteman, Donald Shoemaker, Charley Plank, Dorothy Lough, Bessie Knoelke, Mildred Adams, Stella Glendenning, Letha Flauding, Ralph Bailey, Albert Krouse, Dale Watkins, George DeHoff, Russell Brock, Orval Knoelke, Vesta King - Supt., Chloa Logan - teacher of grades 1 and 2, Irma Huckriede music teacher.



Bryant's 1921 basketball team almost won a four-county sectional tourney but lost out in the final day's play to Liberty Center by a 25-24 score.

In the front row are Gene Bonifas, Claude Clark, Royce (Bud) Ford, Maurice Farrar and Mark Arnold.

Rear row: Kelro Whiteman, Ira (Hap) Antles and Paul Logan, Gene Bonifas still resides at Bryant.



Bryant's 1923 Girl's Basketball Squad.

Front row: L-R, Iris (Macklin) Myres, and Inez (Macklin) Long.

Second row: Marjorie (Campbell) Crowell, Dorothy (Macy) Miller, Myra (Montgomery) Arthur, Loeita (Shoemaker) Weisel, and Berniece (Macy) Turner.

Third row: Ernestine (Metzner) Morrow, Lucille, (Garlinger) Crowell. Coach-Jean McWethy.



1931-32 Bryant School Faculty

Top Row L-R: Gladys (Teeter) Ketchum, Thelma (Pence) Eaton, J.C.L. Whiteman - principal.

Front Row L-R: Ruth Taylor, Myra Montgomery, Orville Bechdolt, Mardy L. Logan, and Paul Macklin.

The Parent-Teacher Association was organized Jan. 7, 1947. Principal John LeMaster was chosen as president for the remainder of the school year. There were 101 charter members. The Charter from National PTA was dated Mar. 7, 1947.

In the fall of 1947 the PTA voted to help arrange the front hall on the first floor of the school building for a cafeteria. Proceeds from a Chili supper were donated for equipment, and members helped with the work of changing the hall and installing equipment for the hot lunch program for students.

Many worth while projects were sponsored by PTA with money earned by their annual chili supper, by serving Alumni banquets and Farmers Institute, ice cream socials, a community auction, and sponsoring other programs.

During PTA meetings the discussion of a community building and gym was the main topic. Committees were appointed to investigate types and cost of construction. The final decision was cinder-block construction. The following Committee was appointed to proceed with plans: Ted Montgomery, Pres., Don Michael, 1st Vice Pres., Roy Gierhart, 2nd Vice Pres., Helen Smith, Treas., and Principal Lee Glentzer, Sec. Construction was started in the summer of 1950. The cost of the building was reduced through volunteer help, the students, and citizens of the community and PTA.



1950 - Construction of the Bryant Gymnasium was started.

PTA assumed the payment of the bleachers in the new gym for \$2400, and final payment was made in Nov. 1953. It also donated \$269 for band uniforms, \$240 for payment on a public address system, \$250 toward the expense of paving the school play area, sponsored Summer round-up for preschool children, eye tests and other projects.

Worley Gierhart writes of the basketball team in 1907. "The players that made up the team were: Center, Paul Edgington; forwards, Ernest Spencer and Charles Cottrell; guards, Fred Spencer and myself. In some of the later games, Maurice Elbersen played as guard. Jim Arnold was supposed to be our manager. Most of our games were played locally. I well remember a game we played with Pennville. We hired a bus from the Dan Montgomery Livery Stable. A lot of girls went along...who did the cheering for us...I believe that we lost the game, but we had a great time going and coming in the horse drawn bus."

Since that time our trophy case in the gym shows the results of student achievement in the various sports, judging, etc. The basketball teams practiced and played games in Beck Hall until it was destroyed by fire in August 1924. The Portland Armory was then rented for practice and for games. In 1950 the new gym was under construction south of the school building on the end of Wilson Street. The first game was played in the new gym on Feb. 8, 1951. Even through Ridgeville won the game, the community had reason to rejoice because it had been over 25 years since Bryant played on their own floor.

The new Bloomfield Grade School was erected one mile south of Bryant on U.S. 27 and county road 50, for students in kindergarten through 6th grade. Students from Jackson, Bearcreek and Wabash townships were transferred there in 1969.

In the 75 years of the High School there have been 1,221 graduates. The first graduating class was in 1901 with 2 graduates and the 1975 class has 36. Many of the graduates have gone on to higher education and achieved success in nearly every profession and business. Perhaps the largest number became teachers and supervisors in Elementary, Secondary and College levels, others became Trustees who had jurisdiction over Township schools. Other professions include Doctors, Nurses, Chemists, Morticians, Banking, Insurance, Music, Government employees as well as city employees including Mayors and Chief of Police, Dentists, Civil, Electronic and Mining Engineers, Secretaries and office workers, technicians in various fields, and many many other businesses.

Tribute is paid to the many graduates and under-graduates who answered the call for service to their country during the wars, police actions, and peace-time service during the 75 years. All served their country well, and a few paid the supreme sacrifice. Bryant High and the community are very proud of every one of them.

The graduating class of 1975 will be the last one from Bryant School. Progress marches on, and our students will join other students from Jay County in the new Consolidated High School being built on U.S. Highway 67 southwest of Portland in the fall of 1975.

The Bryant Alumni Association was organized in the early 1920's, and have had a Banquet honoring the graduating class each year since. Obtaining food during the rations years of the Second World War was quite a problem, but we pooled "stamps" and sack lunches were provided for two years.

The President of the Alumni Association this year is Herbert Masters, a 1950 class graduate, who says, "I am proud and honored to be the President of the Alumni Association for the last graduating class of Bryant High School."



Mr. Whiteman was an able educator and largely through his efforts a high school was built in Bryant and opened for use on October 29, 1900. Here two years of high school work were offered, and taught by him. He remained as a principal and teacher in the school year 1901-1902 and then spent a year attending college at Angola, Indiana, returning to Bryant for two more years.

In 1914 he took a position as assistant cashier at the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Bryant and in 1916 he was promoted to the cashier position.

In the fall of 1921 he became principal and teacher in the newly organized high school in Jefferson Township Adams County, Indiana. Here, he outlines the courses of study for a four year program. He remained here for a second term.

Mr. Whiteman served 20 years in the Bryant School as a principal and teacher but not all in succession. He firmly believed that all education fills a niche in the world that can be replaced by no power under the sun, and accordingly as we use or abuse it wills our future as promising or depressed.

Miss Grace Murdick, daughter of Wellington Murdick and also a resident of Bearcreek Township became the wife of Mr. J.C.L. Whiteman. They had five children, namely: Walter Raymond, Enid Lenore, Blanche Gertrude, James Carl, and Donavon Murdick Whiteman.

Mr. Whiteman was a Democrat in his political affiliations. He continually devoted his life to the Limberlost Church of Christ in Bearcreek Township.

### **Egbert Chalmer Macklin**

Egbert Chalmer Macklin, known in the Bryant area as Bert Macklin, was born August 19, 1886 five miles E.N.E. of Bryant in a two-room log house one-fourth mile north of Macklin Corner. He is a son of Israel Milton Macklin and Allie Jane (Smith) Macklin. Israel, was a pioneer farmer's son, who began rural school teaching at age 18. He became an excellent apple grower and kept on as a farmer and teacher. Brothers and sisters of Bert are: Alva Clive Macklin (b. 1884), Bryant rural mail carrier; Are' Leland Macklin (b. 1891), Detroit; Bernice Chatal (Macklin) Crampton (b. 1893); Beatrice Leonainie (Macklin) Lee (b. 1896) living R.R. 2 Bryant; Paul Revere Macklin (b. 1899), a former resident and teacher at Bryant.

Mr. Bert Macklin graduated from Bryant High School in 1903 (3 years of 6 months each). He then attended Angola Normal - summer term 1903, studying Common school subjects. His teacher career began with 1903-04 (6 months) in Bearcreek Township Dist. No. 3 Overmeyer School, 2½ miles N.W. of Bryant, studying German in Tuesday nights class led by J.C.L. Whiteman at the B.H.S. building. In 1904-05 he taught Dist. No. 2 Roger School, 3 mile N.E. of Bryant.

Mr. Macklin was a student in Marion Normal College 1905-1907, attending three summers and two winters - 120 weeks in all. He finished the rest of a regular high school course and enough regular college studies so Indiana University at Bloomington gave him credit for two years.



**Egbert Chalmer Macklin**

He became principal of Bryant High School and served two terms 1907-08 and 1908-09. Bryant High School had grown from three years of six months to four years of seven months. The school trustee agreed to pay for an extra month (8th) so the school was rated as a Commissioned High School (four years of eight months) and its graduates could then attend college without paying tuition-at Indiana University, Purdue University, or Terre Haute State Normal. The spring and summer of 1908 and 1909 Mr. Macklin was enrolled as a student at Indiana University.

In September 1909 he started what was expected to be his graduate year at Indiana University. Instead, he accepted an offer of a Scholarship in New York City and to be a counselor for the youth group of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church of Borrklyn. He had been elected President of Marion Normal College Y.M.C.A. and this offer came through the Indiana State College Y.M.C.A. through a gift of John Underwood of "Typewriter" fame. He went back to Indiana University 1910-11 for his final year and earned his B.A. degree.

In the fall of 1911 Mr. Macklin became a student at Union Tehological Seminary, New York City. He and three others passed a scholarship examination, winning \$500 each, enough to pay a Seminary year's expenses. He



graduated with the degree, Bachelor of Divinity, in 1914. (Years later the N.Y. State Board of Regents voted to change the B. Div. degree to Master of Divinity). In 1915 he earned a Master of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, at Columbia University. This degree was in Modern European History. In 1914 the Union Theological Seminary voted him free room and tuition for three more years of study toward an advanced degree. In 1917 Columbia University History Faculty voted Mr. Macklin qualified to write a Ph. D. thesis. The thesis is almost finished, but special circumstances prevented its completion: (1) Helping a 15 month old Sunday School, especially the parents, organize the Victoria Congregational Church, Jamaica, Long Island, New York and being its pastor for 37½ years; (2) His wife's 15 years of near helplessness due to Parkinsonism, broken hip, etc. (died at age 75 on December 15, 1963).

Egbert 'Bert' C. Macklin retired August 31, 1954 at age 68 and lives in Jamaica, Long Island, New York. He is now past 88 years of age, enjoys good health, operates his own car, and spends some time each year visiting friends and relatives in the Bryant area. On April 26th of this year, 1975, he attended the Bryant High School Alumni Association meeting - 72 years since he graduated from the school. He stated, "I now jokingly tell myself and friends that if I live eleven and a half (11½) years more I'll be past my 100th birthday."

### **Mardy Lester Logan**

Twin boys, Marvin Chester and Mardy Lester were born to Lydia Jane (White) and Charles Ervin Logan on April 11, 1903. The attending doctor was Dr. Matt Glentzer and the neighboring mid-wife was Mrs. Murdick, mother of Mrs. J.C.L. Whiteman. They were born in a log house at the center of Bearcreek Township, near the Old Angling Road which passed from Fort Recovery, Ohio to Fort Wayne, Indiana. The home was rented from Henry Myers. Many oil wells were in operation and the sound of pumping of gas-engines was common night and day. Loads of timber were cut and hauled to Bryant for processing and shipping.

The Logan family moved from the Myer property, when Mardy was four, to the family farm one mile east of Bryant. He attended the Dist. No. 5 Center rural school for four years, and then entered the Bryant school when the new addition was completed in 1913.

His parents insisted that all of the children must have a high school education. During his senior year he took the teacher's examination which he passed. Then in the summer of 1921 he enrolled in a twelve week course at Muncie Normal and received an "A" Certificate which qualified for a license to teach in a rural school.

Mr. Clarence Ford, trustee, employed him to teach District No. 1 (Macklin) grades 1-8. Mr. W.R. Armstrong was the county superintendent and visited the school once driving a team of dapple-gray horses hitched to a buggy.

The following two years he taught District No. 2 (Roger). This school had a fine literary society where the parents brought lanterns and joined the pupils and teachers in giving plays, recitations and debates.



**Mardy Lester Logan**

Trustee Charles Bishop and county superintendent, Harry L. Nixon asked Mardy to take the seventh and eighth grades and one class in algebra, in the fall of 1924. This was his first experience under J. C. L. Whiteman; who had a

profound influence on Mardy's educational career. He quickly advanced into high school courses, teaching mathematics, physics and shop.

On August 28, 1926, he was married to his high school friend, Florence Geraldine Green, also a teacher. Their two children are Louise Evelyn, wife of Dr. Joseph R. Hartley and John Carl Logan (J.C.L.) Florence passed away February 8, 1975, after many years as a beloved and helpful wife and an excellent mother.

Trustee, Fred S. Hardy and county superintendent, Henry Bortner asked Mardy to become principal at the Bryant School in 1936. He had earned the M.A. degree from Ball State. He continued in this position until 1940 when he accepted a call to teach at Elmhurst High School, Allen County. He spent the following five years in Allen County with one semester as principal of the Hogaland School.

He was contacted to return to Jay County as county superintendent where he served from 1945 to 1953. In 1953 he accepted the principalship of the new Judge Haynes Elementary School in Portland-Wayne Township school corporation. In the fall of 1959 he was selected to be superintendent of the Portland-Wayne Township schools. He served in this capacity until the reorganization of the thirteen school corporations into the Jay School Corporation.

Mardy was selected to head this corporation as its first superintendent. In 1968 he resigned this position to retire after forty seven years as an educator.

Mardy believed that teachers should be firm and kind; that students should be well behaved and industrious; that teachers, parents and pupils should be responsible and respectful. He had a firm conviction that the children of Jay County deserved equitable and adequate educational opportunities. To this goal he devoted his energies and his life. Many times he has commented that Jay County not be sold short. It is a garden spot of the world with a balanced industry; good soil and climate and good people; and that their children are capable and deserving.

### **Wayne Haffner**

Wayne Haffner was born in Wabash township, Jay County Indiana, moving to Bearcreek Township at the age of two years.

The first seven grades of school was at Mortimore School, while grades 8 - 12 were at Bryant High School, graduating in 1929.

The next four years were spent at Wabash college, Crawfordsville, Ind. graduating with an A.B. degree and prepared to teach mathematics, biology, and physiology. Six hours credit was earned in marine biology in the summer of 1932 at Woods Hole, Massachusetts.

After graduation from Wabash in 1933 he was employed at Wabash College as zoology laboratory assistant the first semester. The second semester he enrolled at Purdue University taking agriculture, biology, and chemistry courses. The summers of 1934, '35, '36, '37 and '40 were spent at Purdue taking various courses.



**Wayne Haffner**

In the fall of 1934 he began teaching at Bryant School, where he has been continuously with the exception of 1945 - 46 where he was employed as 4-H club agent - youth. This year is his 39th year of teaching. He became principal of Bryant Jr., Sr. High School in 1970.

The following degrees were obtained from Ball State University:

1. M.A. in education and science.
2. Principal License.
3. Superintendent License.
4. Guidance.
5. Psychometry.

## Principals and Superintendents of the Bryant School

Bryant High School opened in the fall of 1899. Principals and/or Superintendents serving the school are as follows: (Each date indicates the beginning of the school term).

1899 thru 1901 J.C.L. Whiteman; 1902 Walton Hardy; 1903 thru 1905 J.C.L. Whiteman; 1906 Ray Hough; 1907 thru 1908 Egbert "Bert" C. Macklin; 1909 thru 1910 Tobias J. Krider; 1911 John Moreland; 1912 J.C.L. Whiteman, Supt., L.O. Youse, Prin.; 1913 Raleigh Stone, Supt.; 1914 thru 1916 Vesta King, Supt.; 1917 G. Remy Bierly, Prin. also G.H. Tullis, Prin.; 1918 thru 1922 G. Remy Bierly Prin.; 1923 thru 1935 J.C.L. Whiteman; 1936 thru 1939 Mardy L. Logan; 1940 thru 1941 J. D. Sarig; 1942 Crate Beck; 1943 thru 1944 Clarence E. Beck; 1945 Mack Tucker; 1946 John LeMaster; 1947 thru 1954 Lee Glentzer; 1955 thru 1969 Robert Ludy; 1970 thru 1974 Wayne Haffner.

### Bearcreek Township

Bear Creek Township, name later changed to Bearcreek, was organized as a separate township November 9, 1836. An election in December 1836 at the home of John Pingry placed the following men in office: James Marquis, Inspector; William Vail, Supervisor of Township; William Baldwin and Edward Burford, Overseers of Poor; Frederick Wible and William Gray, Fence Viewers.

Prior to 1836, the first permanent settlers in the township were Uriah Chapman and his brother William. They came in 1835, settled near the middle of the township and resided there the remainder of their days. The population grew to 737 by the time of the 1850 census, to 1085 by 1860, reached 1843 by 1890, and declined to 1090 in 1970.

In 1836, when Bear Creek was organized there were 35 entries of land, by 1837 there were 80 entries. The Civil Defense records presently show 212 farms and 153 farm operators. The largest land owners in 1910 Directory was L. G. Bone who owned 500 acres.

The tallest man in the township in 1910 was Ernest McMichael who was 6'4½" tall. His neighbor Frank Smith was 6'4" tall. In 1975 some of the tallest men in Bryant are: Carl "Tom" Hoehamer, 6'3"; Jerry Bollenbacher, 6'3"; Charles Hoskins 6'; and William "Bill" Gettinger 6'.

### Bearcreek Firsts

The first marriage was Addison D. May and Miss Lucinda Pingry, November 6, 1834.

The first death was Tandy Dempsey on August 8, 1836. He was visiting in the home of John Pingry when he died.

The first church meeting held in Bear Creek Township was held in Ruben Montgomery's barn. Ruben is the great grandfather of Edna (Montgomery) Bowen. Edna lives on Malin St. in Bryant and moved to Bryant at age four with her parents, in November or December of 1899.

The first church, Methodist, organized in 1836 at the residence of James Marquis.

The first wagon maker in Jay County was George Axe, located in Bear Creek Township in Section 36 in 1838.

## Westchester

Westchester, situated in the southeastern corner of Bearcreek Township, was a hamlet of about 50 inhabitants in 1887.

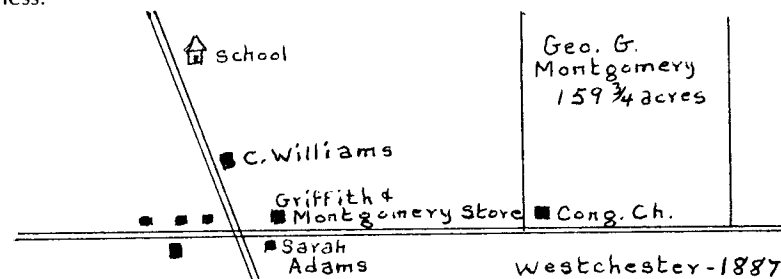
The principal business then was Griffith and Montgomery's store, where Isaac A. Griffith of the firm was postmaster. Houston and McDonald were the blacksmiths.

The first school was located north of the cross-roads about ¼ mile. Later the school house was a frame built about 1868, located on southwest corner of the cross-roads, where 35-40 children were schooled.

The first church, erected in 1862 east of the cross-roads, would seat 200 persons.

John C. Montgomery's large house, located north of Westchester, was most of the time full of westward travelers. Seventy persons were in one caravan. George G. Montgomery, near Westchester, opened his home to preachers, teachers, and any person needing a place to stay.

The Westchester United Methodist Church now located on the school site, at the southwest corner of the cross-road, is all that remains in use in 1975. An old store, started by George W. Porter in 1854, is still standing but out of business.



A severe windstorm struck the Westchester community on March 28, 1840. Trees 3-4 feet in diameter were snapped and splintered. A dress belonging to Harriet Walker was carried 4½ mile and left in a tree-top. Mrs. Ebenezer Drake, who feared the storm, removed a puncheon from the floor of her cabin and pushed her small children under the house. As she was crawling through the opening, the storm demolished the log walls and she was struck by a piece of flying timber which inflicted severe injury. Only a few rounds of logs were left of the home. The storm moved half the roof from the home of Adam Stolz, near Westchester, and tore down many trees in his fields. It was at the height of its fury when it reached the old farm of William H. Montgomery. One side of the floor rose up several inches, the roof was taken off and carried several rods. A straw bonnet belonging to Jane A. Montgomery was found wrapped around a fallen tree.

### Antiville

Antiville is the name of a community about 2½ miles south of Bryant.

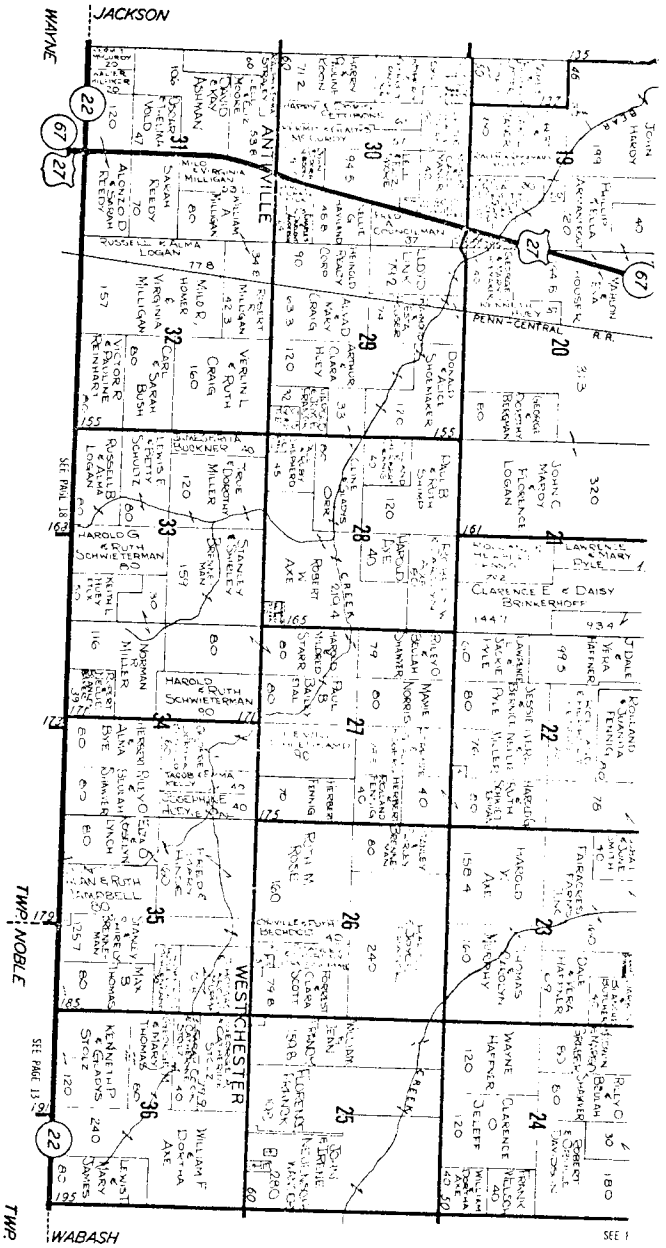
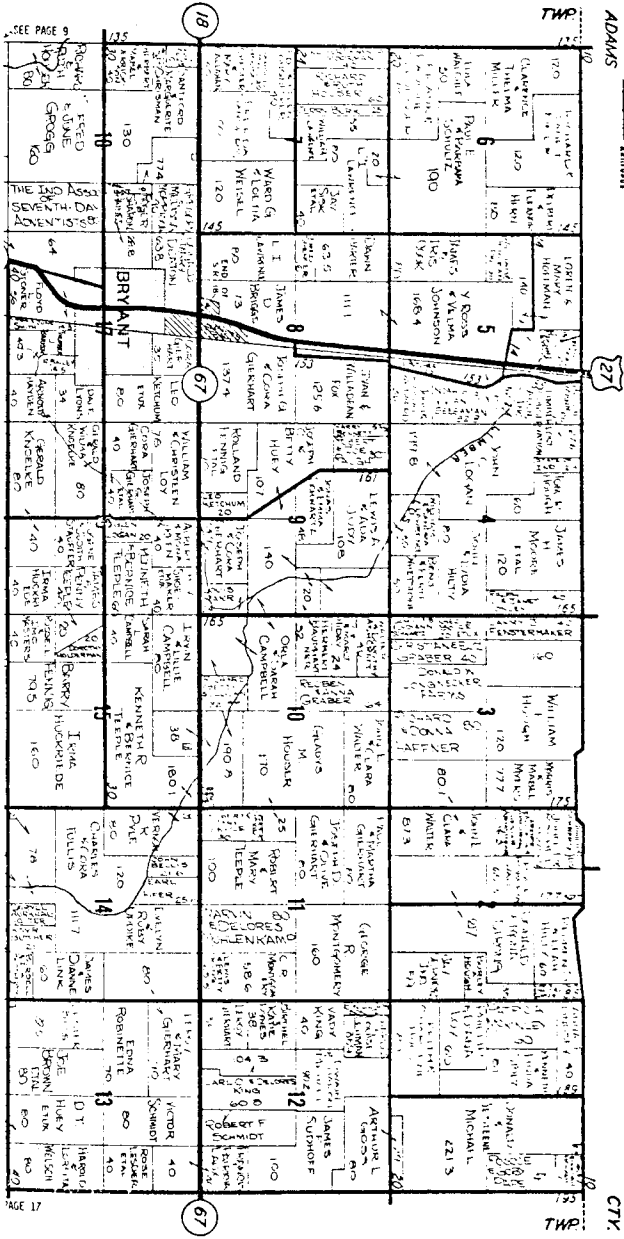
The last business, Houser's Case Farm Equipment, was operated by Raymond and Esta (Teeple) Houser and closed about 1972. Their son R.D. Houser and family reside in the Houser home.



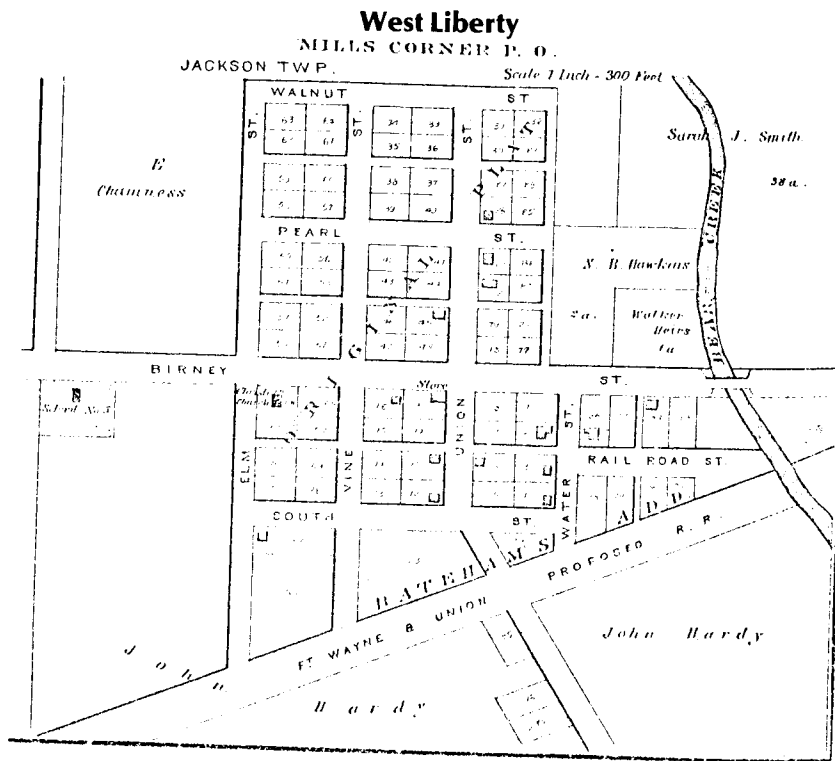
TOWNSHIP 24-N RANGE 14-E

County of State Highways  
County of Township Roads  
Railroads

# BEAR CREEK



Copied From 1974 Edition of Plat Book of Jay-Blackford  
Counties of Indiana



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1887

Recollections of Leta (Smith) Cook of Mesa, Arizona. "Liberty stands out in my mind vividly. That was where all the Smith Family went to church. Located some 2½ mile north and west of Bloomfield, the Smith's loaded a wagon bed with straw, bedding, and kids, placed wagon bed on runners, bunched all of us together to keep warm, then we were horse-drawn to Liberty to attend revivals which lasted some two weeks. Attendance at night drew big crowds. Liberty had a little frame store run by clerk, Tillie Tucker. It was no variety store, but served the purpose in those days for a small community."

Recollections of Mrs. Marshall (Fay Hammitt) Snyder, Bryant, Indiana.

"West Liberty was a thriving village in Pioneer days. With at least one store, a blacksmith shop, several houses, and a post office named Mills Corners. When the G.R. and I. railroad was built, Bryant was **born** and it grew and Liberty declined.

A storekeeper at Liberty, named John G. Martin, built the second business house in Bryant, and for a time kept both stores. He moved to Bryant in December 1872, and until his death in May 1874, was a part of the Business Life of Bryant.

Liberty lost its post office when Rural Delivery came, and the last Old Time Country Store was closed in the early 1900's."

# BRYANT ELEVATOR

Serving the Nicest People on  
**EARTH...OUR CUSTOMERS**

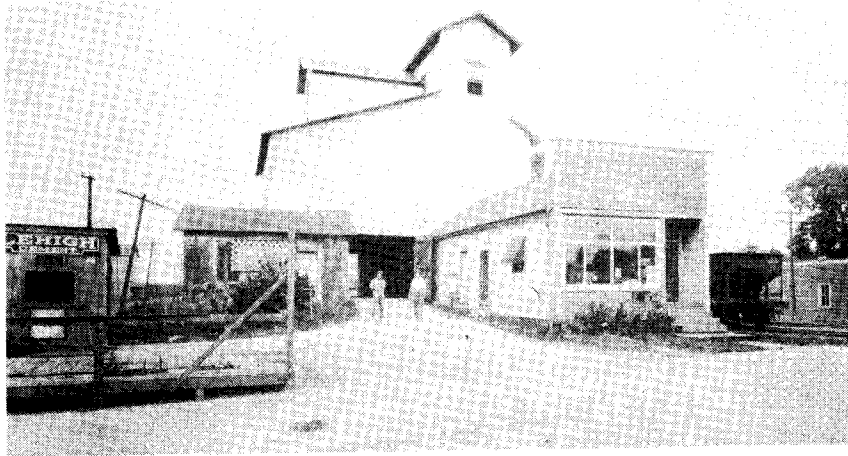
The  
**HUEY'S — SHOEMAKER'S**

## Bryant Elevator

By Sharon S. Huey

In the year 1838, Andrew Barton bought a 160 acre track of land from the United States of America. During the next 47 years the 160 acres of Barton's, many times divided, part of which finally became Lot No. 1, 2, 7 and 8 in Block No. 3 of Bryant, located on Elm Street. Bought by Chas. J. Shade in the year 1885, to be used for mill purposes, later known as the Bryant Grain Co., Elm St., built in 1908.

Holmes Grain and Hay Co., W. Main St., changing hands several times, was purchased by the Geneva Milling and Grain Co. in 1919. Owned by them for over 50 years they in turn sold to Kenneth E. and Sharon S. Huey in 1970, they later taking Donald and Alice Shoemaker in as partners.



Holmes Elevator W. Main St. and R.R., built in 1897, later known as Bryant Elevator Company. Standing on the approach drive: Harley Roll, Chester Haviland, and-. The Bryant Grain Co. Elevator, built in 1908, W. Elm St., can be seen in the rear of the picture.

The elevator was taken by fire in 1952, and rebuilding started that same year. During the past 20 years the Huey's have seen many changes in the elevator business.

Many seeking greener pastures in the factory, the older farmer looking to social security years, and the government paying farmers not to farm — has put the farmer today in a state of dilemma.

With the soaring grain prices during the early 70's, feed costs became impossible for the pocket-book. This finally led to fewer livestock producers. This dilemma is shared by the elevator as well as the farmer, because the farmer is the elevator's business.

Also, the age of computers put the confusion of the board-of-trade not in New York or Chicago, but setting on top of the desk in the mill. During a harvest 20 years ago the grain price might change three or four times during a week — now it changes that many times a minute.

Page sponsored by Bryant Elevator.



Bryant Elevator Co. was taken by fire during night in 1952. Living near the elevator, George Garlinger, standing by curb; Leo Ketchum, on sidewalk with hands in hip pockets; and John Hoskins, Mgr. were the first to arrive and hastily remove the important business papers from the office.



Bryant Elevator employees in 1953 with John Hoskins, Mgr. L-R: , , Harley Roll, Roscoe Twigg, Mary Pusey, Marvin Towell, John Hoskins, Mgr.



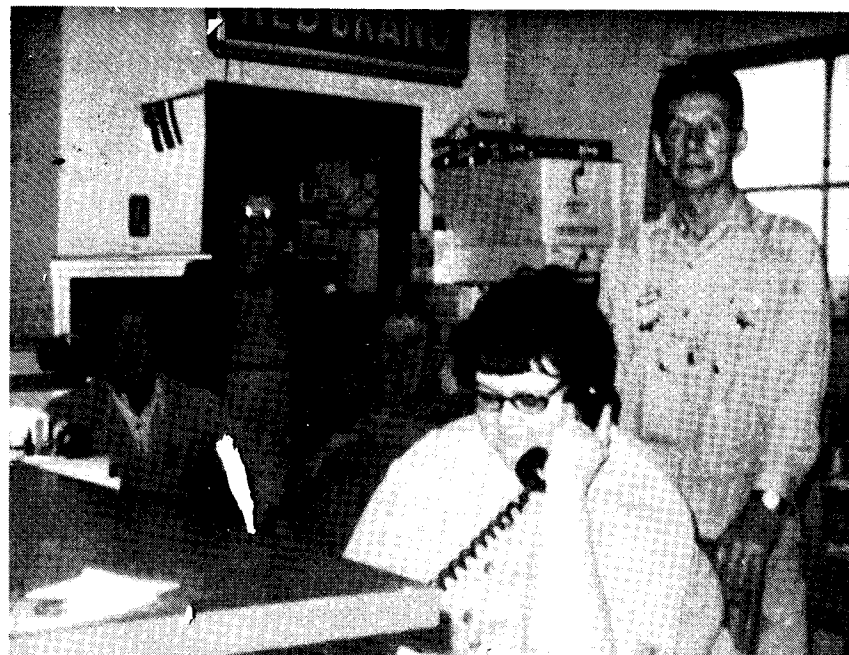
**Kenneth and Sharon Huey**

The old saying of the farmers used to be, "What you loose on the peanuts, you'll make back on the bananas." Only to learn today that the peanuts aren't worth anything and there isn't even a market for bananas.

Small elevators are holding on by threads, hoping the good times of the 50's and 60's will return, and that people will come back to the farm for their livelyhood, and wheels that haul grain past their doors for a few more cents down the road, will realize that business exists on one of two things — volume or margin, and that they would much rather have volume than to take the margin.

Like years past the mill is the place for farmers and loafers to congregate. Here the trials of the times are cussed and discussed at great lengths.

To compare a few prices in the 1940's: Oats retail was \$1.60 cwt., today \$5.95 cwt.; Sh. Corn retail was \$1.40 cwt., today \$6.40 cwt.; a block salt was 40 cents, today \$2.00; bale twine \$4.75, today \$37.00 to \$40.00; the grain prices were: ear corn 95 cents cwt., today \$3.85 cwt.; wheat 95 cents a bushel, today \$3.32; oats 45 cents a bushel, today \$1.50; and there was no bean price quoted, but beans peaked their price on June 4, 1973 at \$11.84, with the Chicago board over \$12.00 that day, today \$5.64.



**1975 Bryant Elevator Owners and Employees  
L-R.: Kenneth Huey, Alice Shoemaker, Donald Shoemaker, Sharon Huey, and Roscoe Twigg.**



**1975 "Town Gents Convention" Bryant Elevator  
Eldon "Brownie" Brown, Virgil Grogg, Ernie Crowell, Dale "Zeek" Ninde, Horace "Chip" VanMatre, Chas. "Diddle" Hoskins, Roy Bergman, and Donald Shoemaker.**

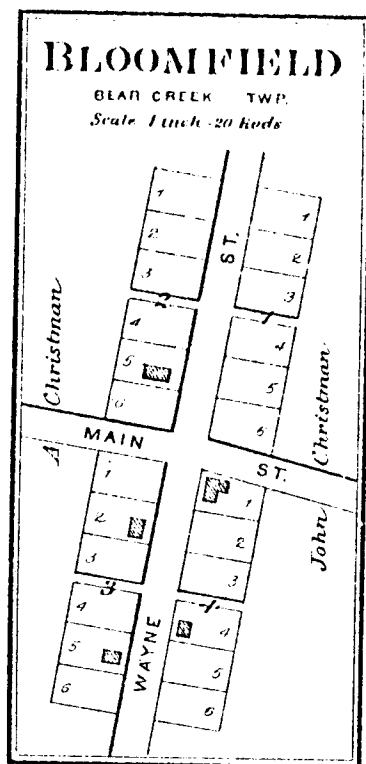


## Bloomfield

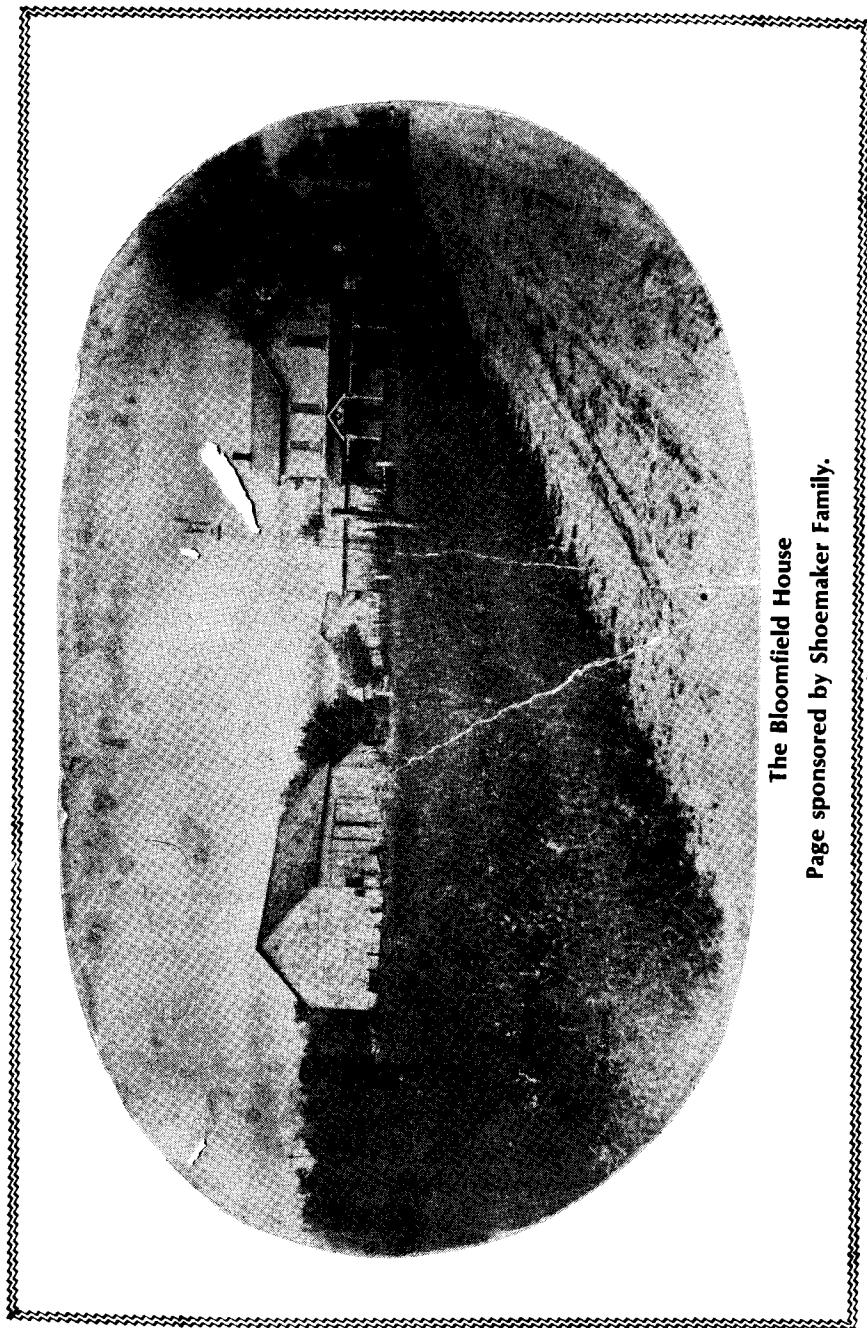
By Sharon S. Huey

The small town of Bloomfield was located about 1½ miles south of Bryant and along what is now Hwy. 27. It was laid out by Enoch Bowden in the year 1838, who was one of the first permanent settlers of Bear Creek Township. He and his wife left their native state of Tennessee on account of slavery there, came to Jay County and settled in the forests of this area in 1836. Enoch died in 1886 in this township.

The first store was operated by Lewis N. Byram. The first Post Office for the township was established at Bloomfield February 7, 1840 with Lewis N. Byram as postmaster. In the year 1851 it was moved to West Liberty, with W.R. Coldren as postmaster. One year later, 1852, it was returned to Bloomfield, with John H. Smith as postmaster. At that time he was the only merchant, and his store was located in Block 3 - Lot 2 of the town. During the early years of the railroad, there was a whistle-stop (Jay Station) south of Bloomfield, also there was a hay barn where they loaded hay on rail-cars for shipment. People would walk from



Page sponsored by Shoemaker Family



The Bloomfield House  
Page sponsored by Shoemaker Family.

the station to a house-like-building (located around the present area of the Bloomfield House). It served as an over-night resting place or boarding house for travelers on the railroad.

At the time of the map of Bloomfield was printed, in 1887, the land was owned by John and Adam Christman. The Bloomfield House that now stands was partially built by Christman himself. As it was told, his wife became ill and died. Loosing interest to finish it, he then sold it to the Smith family who finished the construction, and then its first occupant was Edgar E. Smith and Calista (Gibson) Smith and then by their daughter Mary M. (Smith) Shoemaker.

Mary M. (Smith) Shoemaker's father and grandfather were residents of the Bloomfield area. Her grandfather Gibson (mothers-side), living in Wabash Twp. was an early settler of Jay Co. They came from Ireland. Her grandfather Bishop (fathers-side) came from Darmstadt and Wurtenburg-Germany. They lived just north of Bloomfield 1/4 mile.

The grandfather John H. Smith owned the dry goods store at Bloomfield; the actual years not known. There was a ledger found in the Bloomfield House from the store years 1860-1861 listing names of accounts; Thomas and Peter Bishop, John Christman, Oliver Pingry, Jacob Kessler, Enoch Bowden, Henry Bone, John V. Floding (Flauding), Henry Whitemen, Martin Hammitt, and many others. A few interesting items mentioned; 8 yds. of Calico \$1.00, 2 plugs tobacco 10 cents, 1 pound sugar 11 cents, 1 pound coffee 17 cents, 1 powder keg 25 cents, and there was 6 dozen eggs traded on account for 36 cents. In this ledger was a bill for the purchase of a windmill by the Smith Bros. for the sum of \$76.39, year 1895.

Recollections of Sharon S. (Shoemaker-Myers) Huey as was told to her by her grandmother Mary (Smith) Shoemaker. "On Jan. 1, 1886 Ed Smith and Calista (Gibson) Smith were married. Grandma Mary always told of her grandfather having raised four sons anxiously awaited the arrival of his first grandchild. Hoping it would be a girl, every day when he ruled his ledger, he would write at the bottom of the page "Mary, had a little lamb". Grandma Mary was born that Sept. 30, 1886. Much to grandpa John Smith's disapproval, Ed and Calista named the baby Edith. After long discussions, her grandpa Smith went to court and had her name changed to Mary. The fore-told events took its toll on John Smith's life, because he only had two short months to enjoy that grand-daughter, for he died Nov. 27, 1886.

Being a family in the retail business, they had many things imported from England. The porch that is now on the Bloomfield House, each of John Smith's childrens dishes and crystal, the glass tubes that her grandparents were buried in, as well as their monument which now tops the Bloomfield Cemetery, were all imports of England.

During her younger years grandma Mary worked in the Smith Bros. Grocery Store in Portland, where she kept books and told often of her experiences in collecting accounts, (even in those days people didn't pay their bills).

When George Edgar (G.E. or Ed) Shoemaker and Mary M. (Smith) Shoemaker were married, they lived in Wells Co. on the Shoemaker Farm

**Page sponsored by Shoemaker Family**

where their first son, Donald E., was born in 1912. Then they moved to the Bloomfield House. There other two sons were born—John W. 1918, and V. Max 1922.

Ed and Mary raised three fine boys in that house. Donald stayed at home and farmed with his father, John went to Toledo Univ. and Purdue to become a pharmacist, and Max also went to Purdue and became an electrical-engineer.

Ed Shoemaker was a family man — he loved children regardless of whose they were. Every Sunday, was his day, with all the family home for dinner. Their home was open to anyone — accident or just tired travelers, and they were all welcome. Grandma Mary told of a time an ABC bus broke down in front of the house and it was supper time. Grandpa went out and invited them all in for supper. It was a modest meal, but everyone enjoyed the entire evening of chit-chat, and it was much appreciated by the driver of the bus.

I remember grandpa telling of all the good times he had with the Doc Hoskins children. Chas "Diddle" came running down one day saying, "The doctor told them Nell is going to die if they didn't get her to take an enormous amount of castor oil...!" Well Ed went up, and Nell reluctantly decided the only way she would take it was in capsules. So Ed went to town, bought them, and the family ran an assembly line — Nell taking them one at a time. Diddle thought it would have been just as well to drench her! They always told of how Diddle used to walk to Portland for guard duty because he didn't want to wrinkle his uniform.

Ed was a farmer all his life. During his younger years, while his children were little, he was a coal salesman. He also mowed the highway for the state, with his team of horses. He was a big tease, but enjoyed by those he met.

During the years that Ed was on the road selling coal, Grandma Mary did the usual farm wife's work and raised her boys. In the year of 1928 Highway 27 was being worked on. During this time she took in boarders to help with expenses. This was the cause of the misbelief that it was an inn or tavern — this misconception gave her much grief in her latter years, and it lead to her home being broken into by curiosity seekers and antique dealers. As many of you know, the Bloomfield House has only 3-rooms upstairs and 4-rooms and a bath down. The only remodeling done to the original house was a kitchen and bath, and the second stairway was taken out, and French doors were put in between the two rooms. This was all done in my time.

Grandma Mary was a Christian woman. Unlike most family Bibles, hers was in shreds from usage. She always ended her day with a prayer. I can remember lying beside her as a little girl trying to hear what she was saying. This was also shared by my children. She never feared death, never collected antiques, and never did much handy work. She was a strong believer in temperance (against drinking, smoking, and card playing), always voted the Prohibition Ticket, polled as a Democrat, but voted for the man. She was very much loved by her family and many friends."

### **Shoemaker**

Donald E. Shoemaker — Alice Mae (Krouse) Shoemaker. Both were raised in the Bloomfield area, where they have made their home for the past 40 years.

They are the parents of one daughter Sharon Sue (Shoemaker-Myers) Huey.

Donald like his father Ed is a farmer. During the 50's he was field man for Naas Canning Co. and drove a milk route. His love of BIG trucks lead him to purchase a semi-rig in the late 50's. Hauling steel only a year or two he then decided to just haul grain during harvest time, for he didn't like to spend nights away from home. For over 10 years he has hauled grain for the Bryant Elevator, where he and Alice are now partners in the business with their daughter and son-in-law.

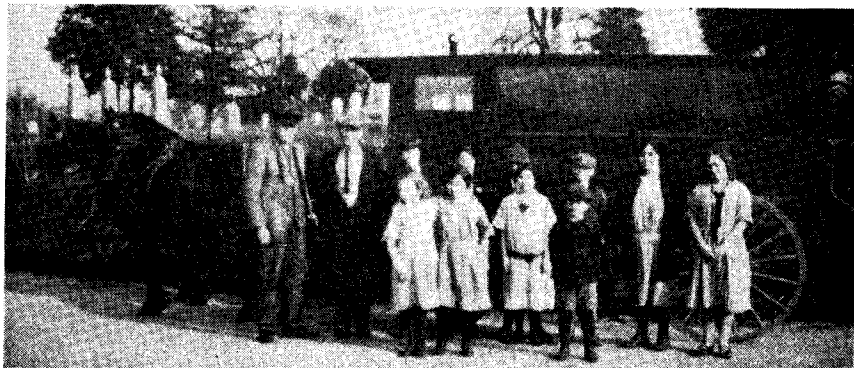
Both are members of the Bryant Lutheran Church, National Small Business Association, National Federation of Independent Business, and Indiana Grain and Feed Association.

## Huey

Kenneth E. Huey and Sharon Sue (Shoemaker-Myers) Huey now live just east of Bloomfield. They are the parents of two children Kristi Jill (Myers) Huey, and Kelli Jo Huey. Both have worked for the Bryant Elevator, Kenneth since 1955 and Sharon since 1958. In 1970 they bought this business. At a later date Donald and Alice Shoemaker became partners with them.

Kenneth who enjoys horses and fishing, is a member of the Moose Lodge. His wife, Sharon, attended Ball State, active in church work ( a member of the Bryant Lutheran Church for 25 years) helping serve as church pianist and organist, also performs occasionally with her own organ. Active in 4-H work is presently girls 4-H leader, also served as officer of Bloomfield P.T.O. Her greatest enjoyment is her handy-work and her love of music.

Kenneth and Sharon are both members of the National Small Business Association, National Federation of Independent Business, and Indiana Grain and Feed Association, Inc.



Portland — About 35 years ago, school children of Jay County rode to school in horse-drawn school hacks similar to the one shown above. The pictured hack regularly conveyed youngsters from the area east of Bloomfield to the Bryant school about 1924 or 1925. John Lawler, extreme left, was the driver and students reading left to right on the front row were Robert Gillespie, Ruth Butcher, Virginia Flauding, and Mabel Whiteman.

Second row, left to right, Nora Green, Mildred Houser, Harry Gillespie (behind Vera Flauding) and James Gillespie. The bus was heated by a small coal stove and near the front of the hack, one can see the small chimney for this stove. The Bloomfield cemetery can be seen in the background.

## Bloomfield School

By Sharon S. Huey

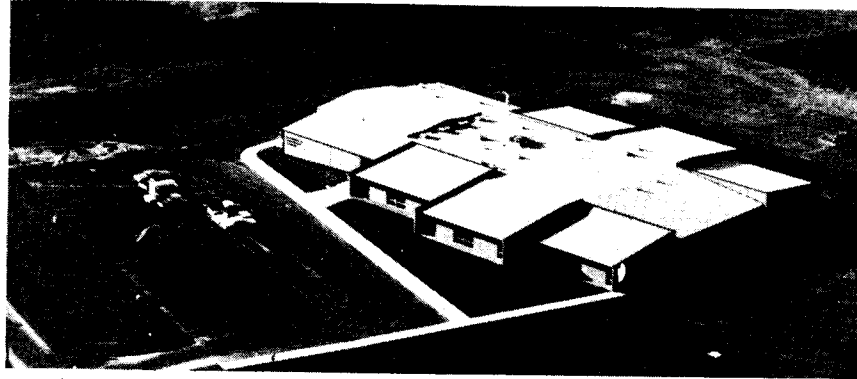


Bloomfield School 1897

Here's a picture taken in the fall of 1897, of students of the Bloomfield School, Irvin Metzner teacher. First row left to right, Jess Flauding, Mary (Smith) Shoemaker, Lida and Mary Yaney, Julie Petry, James Arnold, Chas. Kessler, and Irvin Metzner, teacher. Second row — Leta (Smith) Cook, Opal Smith, Frank Flauding, Jesse Bennett, Cover Smith, Jesse Petry, Percy Bishop, Chas. Flauding, Archie Arnold, Lawrence Flauding, and Casper Kessler. Third row — Ben Arnold, Oscar Flauding, Arthur Kessler, and Jason Yaney. Fourth row—Ola Petry, Fern Smith, James Kessler, Clarence Flauding, and O.D. Arnold.

Recollections of the old school is given by Leta (Smith) Cook, 83 years of age, a retired school teacher of Mesa, Arizona. "The school was either set aside or leased for a period of years, as a location for the one room school, by the Smith Family. Here the children (first born) of the four Smith brothers attended school. I recall the deep snow drifts along the fence, next to the school, how the children loved to wade in them at recess and noon. There was no such things as a school bus in those days, so some of the pupils walked great distances carrying dinner pails and books."

A few hundred feet east from the old school, the new Bloomfield Elementary School was built. The land purchased from Mary (Smith) Shoemaker (the first born Smith child) who attended the old school. It was occupied first in October 1969, and is now attended by 374 students and supervised by B.L. Koch, principal, and the following teachers:



**Bloomfield school was planned in order that students housed in outdated facilities in Jackson, Bearcreek and Wabash Townships could be provided a modern elementary program.**

Kindergarten-Christeen Loy, Grade 1-Thelma Miller and Sharen Michael, Grade 2-Maxine Rittenhouse and Mary Juillerat, Grade 3-Lanna Schwartz and Joan McGeath, Grade 4-Ellen Bash and Sarah Bush, Grade 5-Barbara Loy and Sharon Wheeler, Grade 6-Glenn McHatton and Michael Eads. Three part-time teachers: Music-Carl Doherty, Physical Education-Edward Kohne, Art-Kathleen McClung. Library Aide-Mary Ninde, Librarian-Becky Scharbrough, Speech and Hearing-Mary Jane Wilkinson, Becky Dalby, and Judy Thornburg, Nurse-Carole Brigham, Office Secretary-Onnalee Hammitt, Custodian-Bob Norton, Cooks-Faye Sommers, Nilah Flesher, Phyllis Runyon, Pat Knoth, and Sharon Lindsey.

The Cafeteria supplies the noon meal at a cost of 45 cents.

Mary Shoemaker was proud to think that she, like her grandfather Smith, was able to restore the Bloomfield Heritage. Two of her great-grandchildren (Jill and Kelli Jo Huey) attended the new school.

Unfortunately, she never was able to go through the building, but she told many times of the old Indian relics found by her sons Donald, John, and Max while playing in the 3-cornered patch back of the school. This was believed by her fore-fathers to have been a small Indian village, selected because of its height and nearness to the creek.

Due to low enrollment the Bloomfield school was closed and the children were hauled to the Antiville school, one mile south. The driver Oscar Sisk lived east of Bloomfield. Some of the pupils riding in the hack were Herman, Alta, George and Albert Krouse, Gladys and Ruth Wells, Hazel and Lutie Kimble and Claude Bishop.

As Gladys (Wells) Houser remembers, the teachers at Antiville at this period, 1909-1912, were Belva Stone, Jerome Dilts and Charles Bishop, all very good teachers.



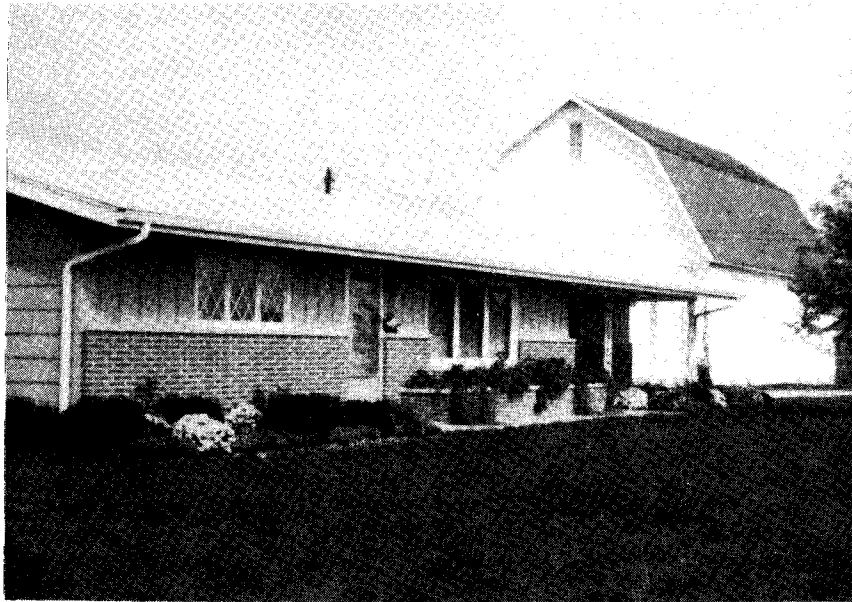
309 South 13th Street  
P.O. Box 451  
Decatur, Indiana 46733

Telephone:  
(219) 724-9171

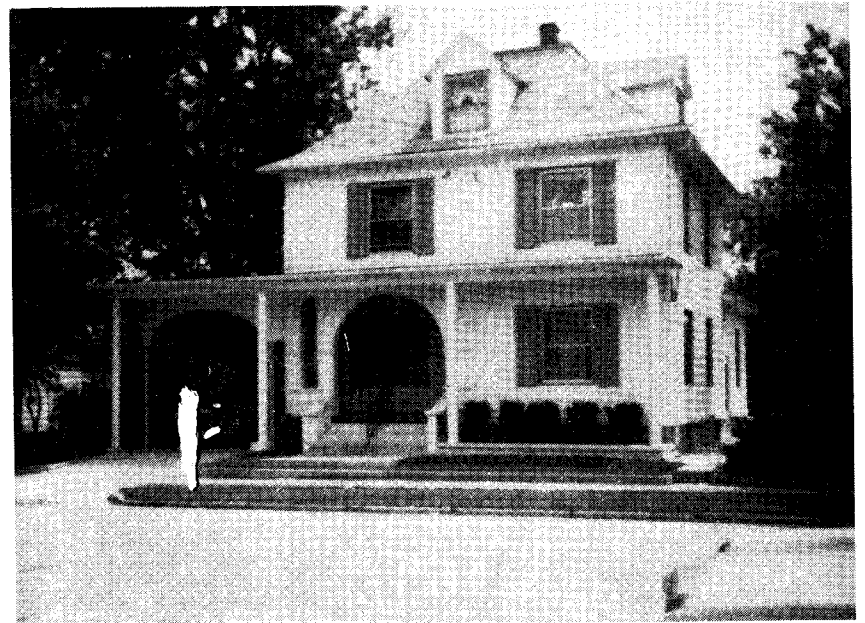
Homes of Bryant Residents in 1975



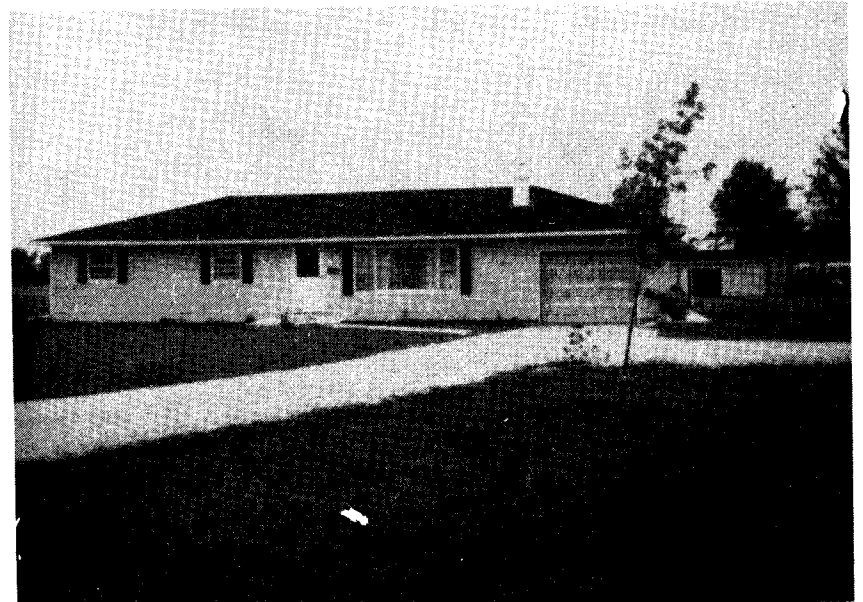
1975 Home of David and Diana Lyons and daughters Michele and Susan, E. Main St.



Home of Leo and Gladys Ketchum, E. Main Street.



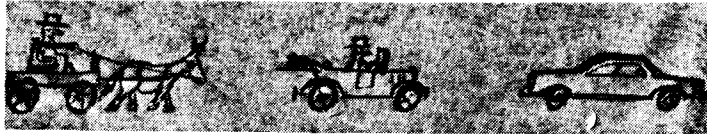
1975 Home of James and Carol Hedges and children: Brian, Mark, Steve, Karen. E. Main Street.



1975 Home of Jerry and Shirley Bollenbacher and children: Ronald, David, Susan. W. Elm Street.

We have a History too—when Bryant's early citizens turned to Horseless Carriages at the turn of the century, Moser Motor Sales (A.J. Moser & Co. then) was already selling and servicing cars. Many of the first Fords used in the Bryant Community were sold and serviced by the same dealership that still serves this community today.

We still welcome our Bryant neighbors to our Ford Dealership.



FROM THIS → TO THIS → TO THIS

AND WE ARE STILL HERE.

# Moser Motor Sales

Berne, Ind.

Banquet Rooms For  
Sales Meetings or Parties

*Parkway Restaurant*

Just Good Food  
Geo. and Mildred Krill  
BERNE, IND.  
Phone 589-2316



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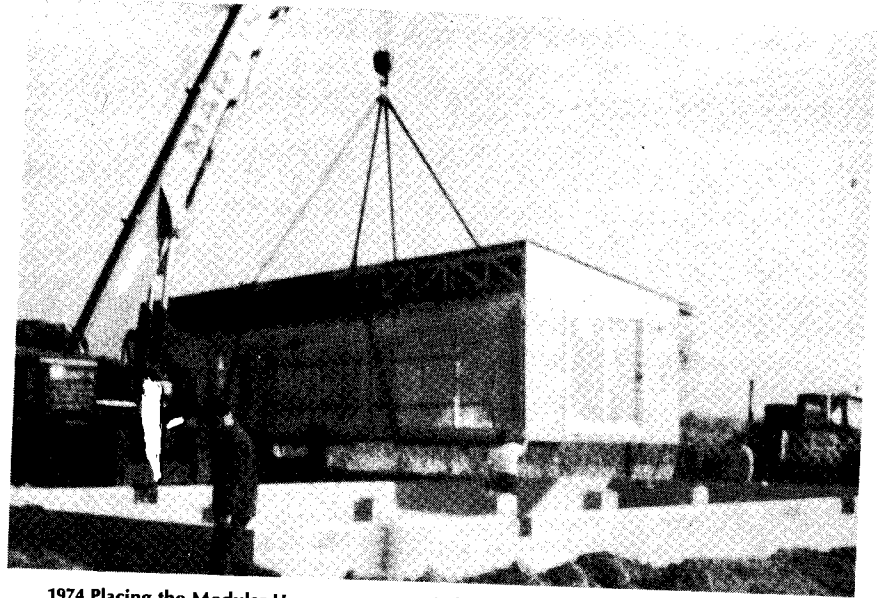


CHEVROLET



SALES & SERVICE  
PHONE (219) 589-3171

Berne, Indiana 46711  
U.S. Highway 27



1974 Placing the Modular Home, now occupied by Frona Garlinger and sons, Joe and John, E. Main St. extended.



1975 Home of Mary Johnson. W. Main Street.

## Brief History of Jay County

The first white settler known to have a home in what later became Jay County, was Peter Studabaker and his wife. Peter married Mary Simison on February 15, 1821 at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, and started to move west on that same day. They came to the "Quaker Trace", a route traveled by Quakers from Wayne County to Ft. Wayne, and when they reached the Wabash river they made camp with four poles covered with brush. There was little sleep for the Studabakers the first night, as the wolves were continually barking around their camp. Their dog threatened to give battle, but soon returned and jumped upon the bed. Shortly after, the savage snap of teeth was heard and glaring eyes shown within 2 yards of the bed. A rifle was fired and the wolves left in haste.

The young Studabakers soon erected a log cabin, lived therein about 2 years and made friends of the Indians. This was the only white man's home in Jay County, and no other house within 15 miles, and no mill or store within 35 miles, so Mr. Studabaker frequently left his wife alone for several days to make a trip for provisions. The Studabaker home was located about 5 miles northeast of what later became the town of Bryant, and near New Corydon.

On September 29, 1822, a son Adam was born. He was the first white child born in Jay County. In 1823 the family moved back to Ft. Recovery because the Wabash overflowed the land about the cabin. Their son died on March 11, 1824, and another son afterward was given the same name.

They later settled in Adams County near the center of what later became Wabash Township. Mr. Studabaker died June 15, 1840.

The first permanent white settlers in Jay County were John and Mary Brooks and daughter Nancy. They came in November 1823 and camped along a creek, later named Brooks Creek. The next day they moved to a high place along the bank of the Salamonia, and opposite the Indian village where Godfrey was chief in Penn Township. Here they settled. They started the first orchard in Jay County. The seeds of 7 fine apples, brought home by Mr. Brooks, were planted and cared for and grew to become a very productive orchard.

Log cabin homes were the first needs of the settlers but this was followed by a movement for churches, schools, then better roads, telegraph, and telephones.

On February 7, 1835 the Legislature passed an Act by which Jay County and 13 other counties were laid out. Jay County received its name in honor of John Jay, the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

The land of Jay County was nearly level, most of it was very wet, and all was covered with an unbroken forest of valuable hard-wood timber, saplings, brush wood, briars, vines, weeds, and grass that literally covered the ground.

When the timber was removed it furnished to the farmer a soil understood by the early settlers of the area. Wheat and corn became their specialities. In 1887 wheat averaged 15 bushel per acre and corn about 45. In a good year with less rainfall, the average was better. Some seasons the wet undrained soil was a problem. This area produced a more varied supply of food than in many parts of the world. The land abounded in such luxuries as wild turkey, venison, berries, and honey from the "bee" trees. Stories were related of how the women found patches of wild berries with snakes sunning themselves on the

branches. The snakes were scared away by shaking the bushes and the women went about their business of picking the lush fruit which was then used for jams and jellies. Some fruits such as plums, apples, and pears were sun-dried for winter use. Meat from the wild animals was often preserved by salting. Their corn and wheat was first ground by rubbing between stones. One of the chief difficulties the new settler had to contend with, was the need of a grist mill. The nearest grist mill was at Greenville, Ohio. The first mill nearer than that, was made by Peter Studabaker. He constructed a horse mill and this one served the neighborhood for several years as a corn grinder. The mill was turned by "a tug" instead of cogs. The tug was made of raw cowhide. In dry frozen weather the tug would contract and become short, and in the wet weather it would stretch and get too long.

The farm wagon and saddle horse were the only modes of early travel. Gladys Teeter Ketchum, recalled that a postcard was found among her parents things a d ed 1908. It reads, "Dear Ethel, I will not be over on Saturday night. Our horse is sick. Love, Jesse Teeter". Later there were countless buggies followed by bicycles and automobiles. Jay County, now in 1975, has a good modern airport. About 20 planes, housed in the hangers, are owned by private citizens and industries of the area.

The first census of Jay County was made in 1830 by Judge Jr. Smith of Winchester. The earliest record of Jay County to be found was of 1840 when there were 3863 people. Robinson's 1970 Rural Directory of Jay County gives the population of Jay County as 23,164.

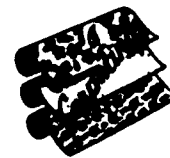
The schools in 1975 are all managed by a single school board consisting of: Marion DeBolt, R.R. 1 Bryant, Ind., as President; C. Hugh Miller, E. Main St., Portland, Ind., as Vice President; LeRoy DeRome, Middle St., Portland, Ind., as Secretary; Albert Diener, R.R. 2, Dunkirk, Ind.; John S. Butler, Dunkirk, Ind.; Ronald Culy, R.R. 1, Portland, Ind.; and Jack Houck, R.R. 1, Pennville, Indiana.

Jay County is crossed by the Pennsylvania, Nickel Plate, and New York Central Railroads. There are several industries in the county such as glass concerns, canning factories, steering wheel companies, forges and foundries, garment factories, stone companies, brush and broom concerns, plastics plants, custom cabinet firms, manufacturers of mobile homes, etc. There is one hospital located in Portland and several nursing homes in various county areas. Jay County is crossed by Federal Highway 27 and several state highways. About 99 plus percent of the farmsteads are served with electricity from a powerline.

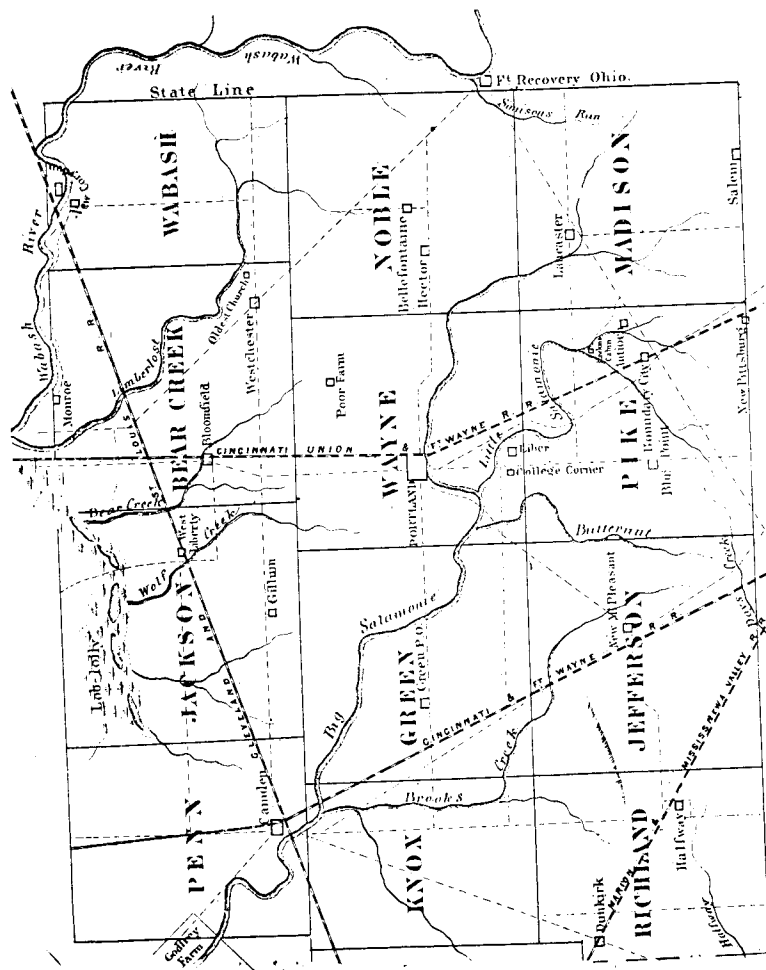
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MAP OF JAY COUNTY INDIANA.  
Pub. 1864 in History of Jay County - By M. W. Montgomery

## The Black Night

A history of the Bryant community would not be complete without a report on the black night of Palm Sunday, March 28, 1920.

The worst tornado in the history of Jay County plowed a path of death and destruction across the northern part of the county about 6 p.m., leaving in its wake splintered fragments and stacks of debris. The storm unleashed its fury on the small village of West Liberty, west of Bryant about 2 miles, and practically wiped it from existence. Seven houses and the West Liberty Church were completely destroyed and 11 people killed. Two others died within a few days. Insurance men estimated a property damage for the disaster between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

## References

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Maps of Indiana Counties in 1876. Together with the Plat of Indianapolis and a Sampling of Illustrations. Reprint from Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Indiana, Published by Baskin, Forster and Co. Chicago 1876 (good map of Jay Co. showing churches and schools and old M.E. church northeast of Macklin—first ground given by Macklin family).

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Complete Directory and a Brief History of Jay County, Ind. - 1910.

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Old issues of Portland Sun Newspaper - filed in Jay Co. Records Office.

Old issues of Bryant Independent newspapers - owned by a few Bryant residents.





1975 Home of Ed and Helen Longnecker (Used as a hotel during early history of Bryant). W. Main Street.

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Old Huckster Wagon (Photo By Oliver Reef).

### Our Appreciation

After teaching three years in my home school, Jefferson High School - Adams County, Indiana. I had a desire to explore a new assignment. I signed a contract to teach Home Economics, Art, Music, and Physical Education in the Bryant School for the 1931-1932 eight-month school term.

I found the people in the Bryant community a very fine group to work with, the students very cooperative, and willingly accepted a contract offered for a second year. As many of you know, I stayed for several years and in 1972 when my husband and I decided to each take our retirements, 41 years had been spent teaching in the Bryant School. This community has truly been good to both my husband and I, and we thank you.

Many happy memories - such as the group of H.S. boys who enjoyed singing and gave up their noon hour to practice in preparation for entertaining various groups with programs of sacred music or sometimes black face minstrel shows. Some of the boys were: Garth Shepherd, Ward Houser, Harold Star, Burdette Houser, Horace Ebersole, Howard Brinkerhoff, Burton Brinkerhoff, Stephen Straley, Jim Young, Ward Glentzer, and possibly others. Also great pleasure was derived in watching the girls improve in their sewing ability and the satisfaction of having several students become Home Economics teachers. One feels a rich reward for any time spent and the bit of help given when a student becomes a useful good citizen.

Now as a postscript, I submit the records of this centennial booklet as a collection of facts made as accurately as possible. Interviews, reminiscences, facts as received in writings, and records from references have been given careful attention. Errors of dates, names, facts, and omissions may be found but these, if any, are all unintentional.

May 1, 1975

Mrs. Leo (Gladys Teeter) Ketchum

Box 2, Bryant, Indiana, 47326

Page sponsored by Leo and Gladys Ketchum

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