

Robert & Dorothy Schroeder
July 26, 1976

THE STORY OF FISHER AND THE FOUR TOWNSHIPS

**compiled by
Mary K. Lammle**

This book is dedicated to all those who have contributed information and pictures to make this book possible.

The Fisher Centennial-Bicentennial Committee dedicate this book to Mary K. Lammle who has spent the past two years gathering these historical accounts.



Mary Kristine Anderson was born in Denmark and came to Champaign, Illinois with her family in 1924. On August 2, 1947 she married Walter Lammle and became a Fisher resident. They have a daughter Karen Darges, a son John, and a grandson Jonathan Darges.

Mary has a Masters Degree in Education from the University of Illinois. She taught in the elementary grades two years in Mahomet and five years in Champaign. The past nineteen years she has been a first grade teacher in the Fisher Unit I school system.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

To The People of Fisher

I would like to thank all of the wonderful people in the Fisher area for their willing assistance in coming forth and sharing their photos, clippings, histories, general information, many good ideas and . . . TIME.

All of these helped make this commemorative book and the Centennial itself.

Chairman, Commemorative Book
E.J. Janeski

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 Milton Batson
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INTRODUCTION

Champaign County was originally a part of Vermilion County. Because of the great distance to Danville, the county seat, the settlers of the present Champaign County felt the creation of a new county was urgent. One of the most active promoters of the plan was John A. Vance of Salt Fork, who owned land in the present Champaign County. In 1832, Vance who had been elected senator to the 8th general assembly, introduced a bill for the creation of the county. So untiringly did Senator Vance work for the formation of the county, that it was referred to as "Vance's county" among his colleagues. Champaign County was created on February 20, 1833. The county was named after the Ohio home county of Vance, and the county seat, Urbana, was named after the county seat of the same Ohio county.

The homes of the first settlers in Champaign County were set up in groves and timber belts, on account of the protection yielded in winter and accessibility to water, fuel and building materials. There were three settlement areas: Big Grove, Salt Fork, and Sangamon Timbers. Big Grove was a large grove of natural timber just north of the city of Urbana. Salt Fork was lands covered by timber along that stream (Homer and Sidney were villages along this stream). Sangamon Timbers was on both sides of the river from the head waters to the Piatt County line.

Early pioneers coming to Champaign County followed the route of the Old Fort Clark Road which ran from near Danville on the Vermilion River, in the eastern part of the state, to the Illinois River. The Old Fort Clark Road crossed the Sangamon River at Newcom's Ford and then followed the west bank of the river through Cheney's Grove (Saybrook) to Blooming Grove (Bloomington) and on to Peoria (then called Fort Clark). Fort Clark Road was surveyed and laid out as a legal road about 1834, by authority of an act of the legislature, but it did not owe its origin to this legal action for it was traveled many years before that date. What its real origin was will never be known but it is fair to believe, from its location and the points connected, that it was first a buffalo path, leading from the river and grove in the east to like objects in the west. Afterwards it was probably an Indian trail, where the buffalo was hunted and trapped. Finally the road or path was adopted by the great tide of immigration which set in early in the last century from the eastern states.

At the time Champaign county was organized in 1833, there were one hundred and eleven taxpayers in the county. Champaign County was a luxurious prairie, rolling gently in some areas, flat as a table top in others, with six to eight foot tall, tough prairie grass waving gently in the breeze. Along the sparkling streams Indians had their campgrounds and a few hunters, trappers or traders would find isolated settlers.

Each settler brought with him a keen axe, which was indispensable, and an equally necessary rifle. His first labor was to cut trees and erect his unpretentious cabin, which was rudely made of logs. Neighbors would come together and cheerfully aid in the raising of the cabin. It was usually fourteen feet wide and sixteen feet long. The cabin was frequently built entirely without glass, nails and hinges.

A huge fireplace was built in one end of the house. Fire was kindled for cooking purposes, for the settlers generally were without stoves. The fireplace also furnished the needed warmth in winter. The cabin was lighted by means of greased paper windows. A strong paper well-greased with coon grease or bear oil was used, because the early settler had no glass.

Wild meat was plentiful. Small patches of Indian corn were raised. The meal from the corn was made into a coarse but wholesome bread. In the fireplace hung a crane, and a Dutch oven was used for baking. The streams abounded in fish. Many kinds of greens, such as dock and polk, were eaten. The pioneers also had roasting ears, pumpkins, beans, squashes and potatoes. Coffee and tea were used sparingly as they were very dear. They also had honey, butter, hogs, chickens, turkeys, and ducks. Wild grapes and plums were to be found in season along the streams.

Women made nearly all the clothing worn by the family. Every house contained a card-loom and a spinning wheel. Men and boys wore pantaloons made of the dressed skin of the deer, which then swarmed the prairies in large herds. Both sexes wore moccasins, which in dry weather were an excellent substitute for shoes. There were no shoemakers and each family made its own shoes.

In the winter of 1830 and 1831 came a deep snow. The weather during the fall had been dry and continued mild until late in the winter. The snow came in the latter part of December and a great snow it was. The settlers were blockaded in their cabins and could do very little but pound their corn, cut their wood, and keep their fires blazing. A great deal of the stock was frozen to death. The deer and wild turkeys, which had been very numerous, suffered greatly and were nearly exterminated. The wolves became very bad and impudent. The depth of the snow was certainly over three feet, and many estimates place it at four feet. Fences were hidden. The summer following was a season of fever and ague, one of the severest scourges that afflicted the settlers. It was a disease that induced a feeling of despondency and took away that strong will and spirit of enterprise which enabled the settlers to endure the hardship of their lot.

It is impossible now to conceive of the great annoyance of the flies. In certain seasons of the year traveling had to be done at night; and, if the moon shone brightly, the flies would still annoy. Instances were numerous of stock being so depleted of blood and torn by their exertions in fighting the flies that death resulted.

The early settler fought disease and the tough rooted prairie grass to make a living from the soil. Another enemy that the settler battled against was the prairie fires which in the fall of the year, were at once terrible and sublime. The method of control was to plough furrows far apart and burn out the grass between them.

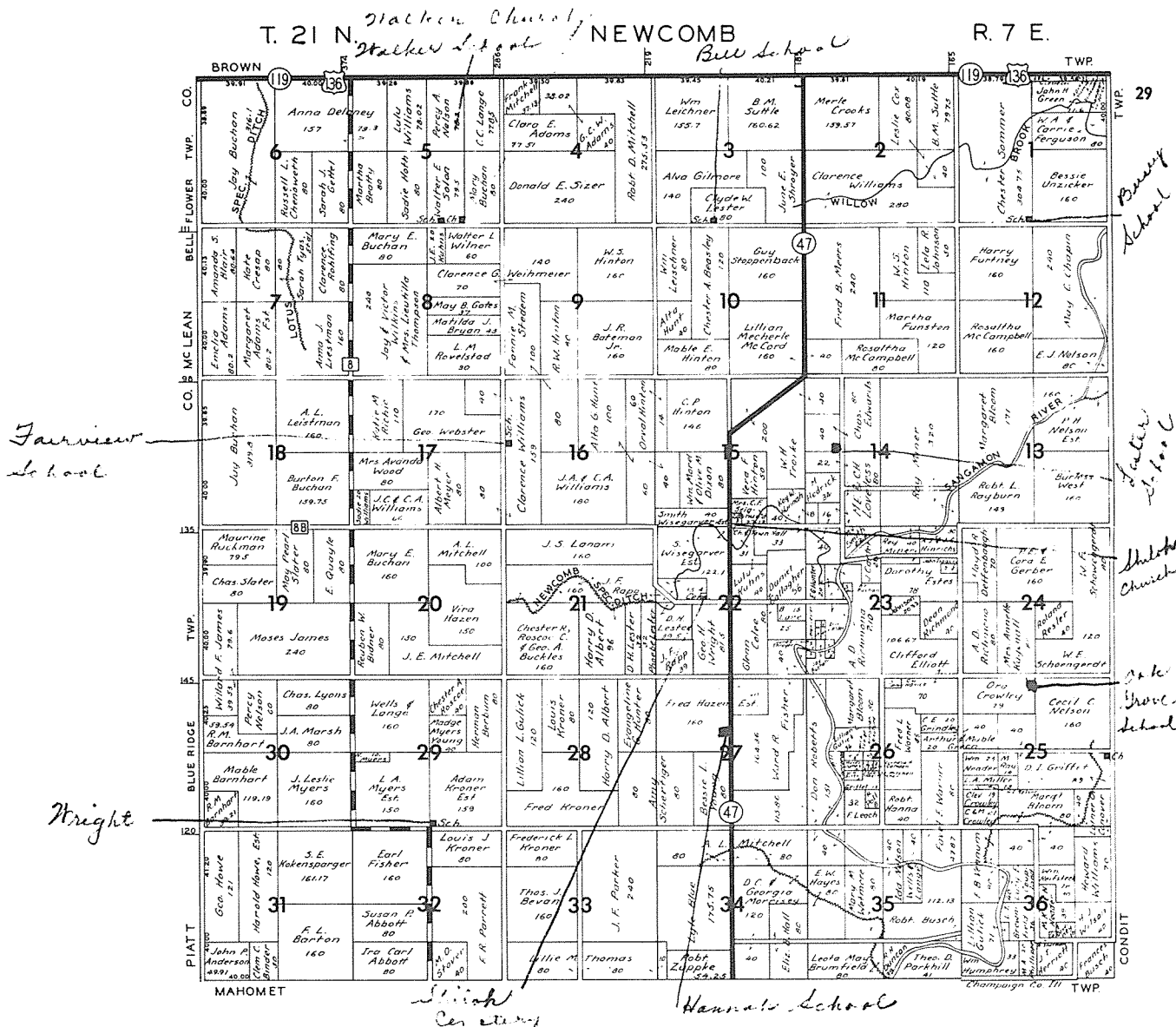
Many squatters cleared some land, built cabins, and when a weary westward bound traveler came along and wanted to rest awhile, the squatter would sell his cabin and move on westward himself. Thus many pioneers were not here long enough to realize the potential value of the rich black soil of Champaign county.

Champaign county is 36 miles from north to south, 27 and three fourth miles from east to west, and contains an area of 1,008 square miles or 645,120 acres. At least 4/5 of the county consisted originally of prairie. The surface is moderately rolling and forms a part of the great corn belt of the continent. The soil of Champaign county is unsurpassed in fertility, the topsoil being black, porous and from 1 to 5 feet deep; the result of the decay for ages, of rank and coarse grasses. Champaign county in 1850 was divided into 15 townships: East Bend, Pera, Middlefork, Newcomb, Rantoul, Middletown, West Urbana, Pleasant Hill, Urbana, St. Joseph, South Homer, Tolono, Sadorus, Hale, and Sidney. Various changes have been made, and

today's tax books show a total of 30 townships. The townships are divided into sections, usually 36 sections to a township. These sections are important in the descriptions of parcels of land and as a means of locating landmarks.

In 1976 the town of Fisher will celebrate its centennial. The village of Fisher was laid out in December, 1875, by Robert Fisher in the southeast corner of Brown township. Since 1876 Fisher has grown and spread out until it now reaches into four townships: East Bend, Condit, Newcomb, and Brown townships. Therefore, in order to tell the history of Fisher, one must also include the histories of the four townships.

taken from Champaign County Plat Book 1952



HISTORY OF NEWCOMB TOWNSHIP

Newcomb, Brown, East Bend and Condit Townships were surveyed in 1823 by David Anderson and Patrick Oscar Lee. Newcomb Township included the township of Condit until 1867. When Newcomb Township was divided, the east half became Condit Township.

Newcomb Township is bounded on the north by Brown Township, on the east by Condit Township, on the south by Mahomet Township, and on the west by the counties of McLean and Piatt. It derived its name from Ethan Newcomb, a pioneer who came to the county about 1828.

He settled in the northwest part of what is now Condit Township and opened an inn. It was at the crossing of the Sangamon River by the Danville and Fort Clark Road; and, besides being a ford of the river, was a place where travelers camped in great numbers. Ethan was an enterprising pioneer and all who traveled westward passed through his ford.

In 1832, nine hundred Indians, believed to be Miamis, moved from Indiana to Western Territory, passing through Champaign County and came through this area at Newcomb's Ford. These Indians were friendly and traded with the settlers. Many times, different war-like looking Indians would pass through. The settlers would become alarmed but the Indians were friendly as a rule. At times, a committee would be elected to go to the chief and tell him at his camp to "puckachee," which means to "get up and git." At one time, a chief died and the Indians demanded the settlers make a "white man's casket;" this they did, and were given two buckskins. As a rule the Indians bound their dead and wrapped them in blankets, bark, and thongs and tied them high in trees.

The southwest part of the township was heavy timbered along the Sangamon River. The Sangamon River enters the township in the northeast part, section 12, and traverses the eastern portion of the township in a southerly direction, crossing the line into Mahomet Township at the southeast corner of section 35. Its banks through Newcomb Township are in most places high and free from marsh. The township is further watered by a tributary, Pancake Creek, from the southwest, running in a northeasterly direction and finally flowing into the Sangamon in the northwest quarter of section 23. Pure cold well water was procured by digging not usually to exceed thirty feet and water was generally found at a depth of about twenty feet.

The first settler was James S. Mitchell, who came from Lexington, Kentucky in 1835 and settled on section 22 at the region which was later known as Pancake Point. He

only lived there two years and then moved to Missouri in 1837. The next settler was one Aruspiker; he came in 1835 or 1836, but did not remain long. He moved in 1837. The next settler was William Pancake; he settled near Pancake Point in February of 1837. He lived in a log cabin across the road from the Shiloh Church on what was later known as the Down's farm. Mr. Pancake was from Madison County, Ohio and lived on the place he improved until he died in December of 1855. Jesse W. Pancake also came to this township in 1837. He was from Ohio and at that time was seventeen years old. In 1845 he was married to Miss Hormal, daughter of Joel Hormal, an early settler in Mahomet Township. Mr. Pancake lived in the township until 1868 when he moved to Mahomet. Joseph T. Everet settled in the township in the fall of 1841. He improved a farm on section 34. In 1859, he moved to Champaign, where he died in July of 1878.

Samuel Houston, from Rush County, Indiana, was next to come in 1849. He settled on section 21. The next settler was J.S. Hannah. He came in 1851 from Logan County, Ohio, with his family and settled on section 34. Joseph J. Hannah settled in the township in the spring of 1851. He had lived one year in Mahomet, then moved to Newcomb. He was also from Ohio.

The early settlers that followed up to about 1851 were William Lane, Pheamon Hinton, Augustus Blacker, George Kimble, Samuel Rhodes, Samuel Allen Hubbard, Jacob Tinbrook, Henry Wilson, Benjamin Lester, I.N. Phillips, G.H. Banes, Josiah Banes, W.B. Brodrick, James Rector, and Richard Merrel.

The first school was taught in Jesse Pancake's old log house. He had built a better house to live in. This was the year 1851 and Miss Martha Newel (afterwards Mrs. Lyons) was the teacher. Only one term was taught in this place. The first school house in the township was built in the fall of 1852 on section 27 where the Hannah School was later located. It was a log structure, sixteen by eighteen feet. R. Bane was the first teacher. He taught for two terms.



John B. Lester was born on February 2, 1836. He came to Newcomb township in 1853 from Switzerland County, Indiana. He was a farmer and stock raiser in Newcomb township. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union Army and achieved the rank of captain. Capt. J.B. Lester marched with General Sherman from Atlanta, Ga. to the sea in 1865. He gave land for the Lester School with the understanding that when the school was no longer used, the land would be returned to the family. The land was returned to Marion Loveless, a grandson of J.B. Lester. Mr. Lester married Elizabeth A. Trotter on October 12, 1875. He died on December 10, 1908.

Elizabeth A. Trotter came to Newcomb township in 1856 from Frederick county, Va. She was born on June 26, 1842 the daughter of Hiram and Lydia M. Trotter. Mrs. J.B. Lester died on January 28, 1923.



The first resident that was married was William Pancake. He married Miss Catharine Phillippe, daughter of John Phillippe, Sr. They were married at the Phillippe residence in what is now Condit Township in 1840. Joseph Pancake was supposed to be the first birth in Newcomb Township. Joseph Pancake, son of William and Catharine Pancake, was born in January, 1841.

The first burial ground was located on section 22, on J.W. Pancake's land. This burial ground is now the Shiloh Cemetery. The first person buried in this cemetery was Mrs. Phoebe Brodrick, wife of W.B. Brodrick, in 1853, but this was not the first death in the township. The probable first death was a child of Aruspiker in the year 1836.

The first preaching in the township was at the residence of J.S. Hannah in the year 1852. Rev. Parker was the preacher. He was of the Methodist denomination. Rev. Parker held services once a month at the residence of Mr. Hannah for one year. Sometimes he would preach in the forenoon, and the same evening he would preach at an "early candle-light" service. Those possessing candles were deemed fortunate at that time; and the light in common use was made by placing a piece of wicking in melted deer's tallow, and igniting the exposed extremity. The deer were plentiful and wolves were troublesome in the township until about 1855.

For a time services were held in the Lester School, which then stood one half mile east of Pancake Point. It was an old log structure with home-made seats and rude walls. Later a frame school building was erected and served as a place of worship.

The Methodist Church at Pancake's Point was built in 1865. The Methodists had tried to secure a building site near the Shiloh cemetery but failed. The site where the present Shiloh Church now stands was deeded by Gabriel Bryan so long as it was used as a church site. John Hubbard Funston was a carpenter who came from Ohio in 1851. He did much of the carpenter work and managed and planned the entire work of the first church. It was a simple one room building with an aisle on each side. The men and boys sat on the south side, the women and girls on the north side while some of the Church fathers occupied the Amen Corner. The church was completed and dedicated on July 16, 1866, by Col. Granville Moody of Ohio who was a Civil War veteran. The choosing of a name for the church was a great event, and many names were submitted but the one chosen was "Shiloh" suggested by Elliott Holloway.

In 1874 a post office was established in the home of E. Compton on the hill just south of the Shiloh Church. Mrs. Compton was the post mistress and the mail was brought out from Mahomet twice a week on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The Comptons also kept a grocery store in connection with the post office. These served a real need in days when travel was very slow. Some years afterward the store and post office were abandoned.

Thomas Reneson opened a blacksmith shop at Pancake Point just across the road south of the church in 1875. He did all kinds of wood and iron work. Mr. Reneson was a native of England and later sold out to John Trotter and went back to his native land.

After worshiping in the first Shiloh Church for thirty-six years, it was decided to build a new and much larger and better building; so the old church was moved a short distance east of where it stood and was used for a Town Hall.

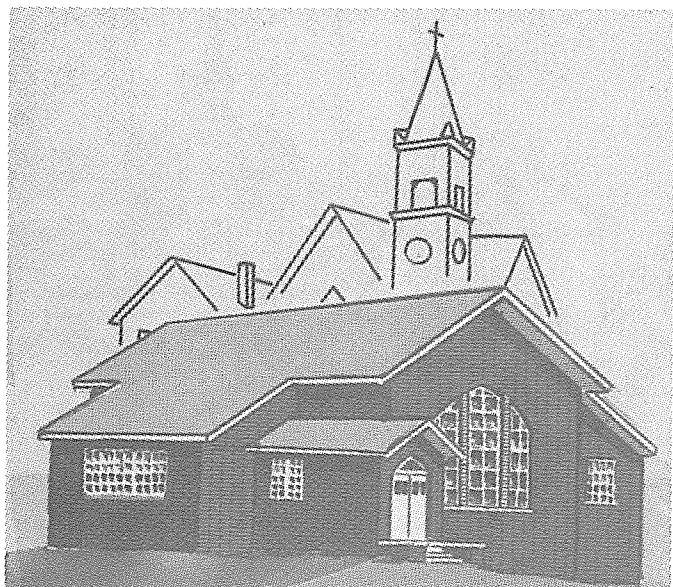


The second Shiloh Methodist Church with a Ladies Aid group in front. From left to right: Mrs. J.W. Lyons, Mrs. Caroline Campbell, Mrs. Stuart Lanum, Mrs. John Trotter, Mrs. Wiley Funston, Mrs. Robert Thompson, Mrs. Eliza Hannah, Mrs. Crews, Rev. E.H. Crews (minister at Shiloh from 1901-1904) and Mrs. Martha Caldwell.

Later it was moved a little farther east on the south side of the road and served as a Town Hall until 1937, when a new township building was erected. Then the church was used as a storage place for township road machinery. The second church was completed and dedicated on May 4, 1902. After using this church for a number of years, the women, perhaps more than the men, began to feel the need of a basement where meals could be served and other activities carried on. In 1915 the remodeling was finished. The next summer on July 19, 1916, the church was struck by lightning and burned to the ground.

Plans were immediately begun for a new and modern church, and it was completed in ten months. The new brick structure was designed by A.L. Pillsbury of Bloomington, Illinois. The building was erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars and was dedicated May 13, 1917, free of debt. The present brick parsonage that stands just east of the church was erected in 1920. This building cost eight thousand dollars. The 100th anniversary of the Shiloh Methodist Church was celebrated on October 10, 1965. The present minister of Shiloh Methodist is Mrs. Robert Russell of Mahomet.

The United Brethren Church was organized at the residence of Rev. David Naylor, two miles west of Fisher, in 1867, by Rev. William Ferguson, of the Central Illinois Conference. In the year following, a school house was built in the neighborhood and regular services were held in it



In the foreground is the Shiloh Methodist Church as it looks now. In the background to the left is a sketch of the roof of the first Shiloh Church. This building was used as a town hall and later as a storage place for Newcomb township road equipment. It was recently torn down. In the background to the right is the second Shiloh Church which was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. This sketch was drawn by Fred Hazen of rural route Mahomet.

until 1875, when the first house of worship was erected and dedicated by Lyman Chittendon, of Westfield, Illinois. On the site of Naylor cemetery, services were held in the United Brethren Church until the organization of a special society at Fisher. About 1890, both societies merged, the town church was sold, and the country church was moved into the village of Fisher and repaired. It was dedicated by Bishop Castle, and occupied by the society until 1914, when a modern structure was erected on the site of the old church in Fisher. It was dedicated by Bishop H.H. Fout under the pastorate of T.H. Decker. Meetings were discontinued in 1934 and the church building was sold in approximately 1936.

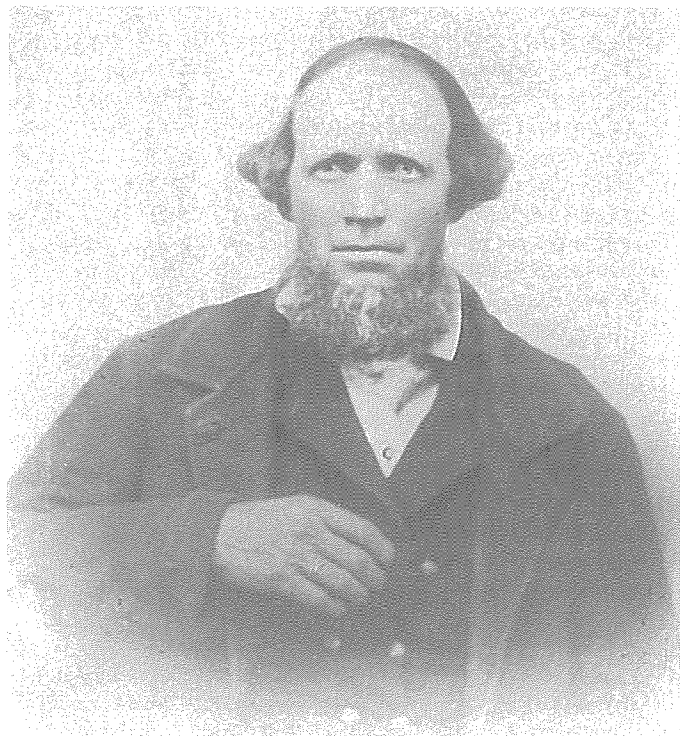
Naylor Cemetery is located near the junction of Route 136 and Route 47. David Naylor deeded a part of his farm land for cemetery use in 1875 to the United Brethren Church. Some of the early burials were Ellen Sheppard in 1857, Susan Elder in 1863 and Henry McKinney in 1872. An unknown soldier's grave located in this cemetery is believed to have been one Henry Hessler.

The Walker Methodist Protestant Church and Sunday School were organized in 1886 by the Rev. R.E. Fox, assisted by Albert Christlieb. Plans were made in the spring of 1894, by the trustees and members, for the building of a church. Prior to this time the group met in the Walker School building. In July the cornerstone was laid and before Christmas the new building was dedicated. In the spring of 1919 the members voted to remodel the church by adding a basement and redecorating. In 1939 when the three branches of Methodism united to form one church, the name of the church was changed to Walker Methodist Church. On June 16, 1974 the last service was held in this

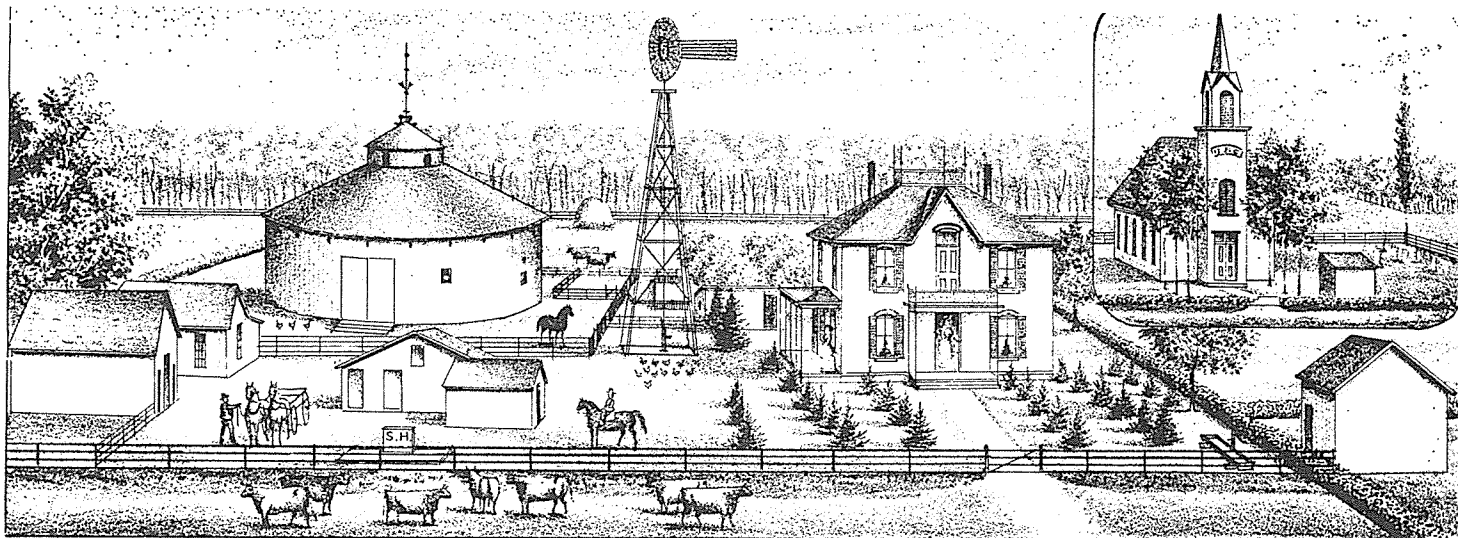
church. The church members are now attending the Osman Methodist Church. The church building was sold in 1975 to Henry Lammle. The church building has been torn down and much of the lumber was used in the Steven Lammle family home on Route 136. The church bell still remains at the original church site.

In the early 1860's Oak Grove School was located on the Tompy Hayes farm about five miles south of Fisher. In 1867 the schoolhouse was moved to land owned by the Crowley family. The first teacher at this site was a man by the name of Luther Wade. The second teacher was Jane Pusey.

The Oak Grove community at that time was made up of families owning small farms. These people came from the eastern states; Indiana, Ohio and as far east as the New England states. Most of these people worked in the summer for farmers who had settled on the prairie and in winter worked in the timber, making railroad ties, cutting hoop poles, barrel staves, fenceraills, posts and firewood. Among the earliest settlers in this region were Pallace McKay, Tompy Hayes, and Philip Shaffer, a Methodist minister. Frank Jordan raised broom corn and made brooms for the community. The cutting of broom corn was all hand work and done just before corn husking. Harper, another small landholder, owned and operated for hire a sorgham molasses mill. Another industry of the 1860's was a sawmill established on the Myers land along the Sangamon River by the Shower brothers, who came from Ohio. Another old settler was Joshua Hildreth, who in later years owned and operated a country store. The first post office was established at this store. This was the Newcomb post office. The mail was carried to and from the town of



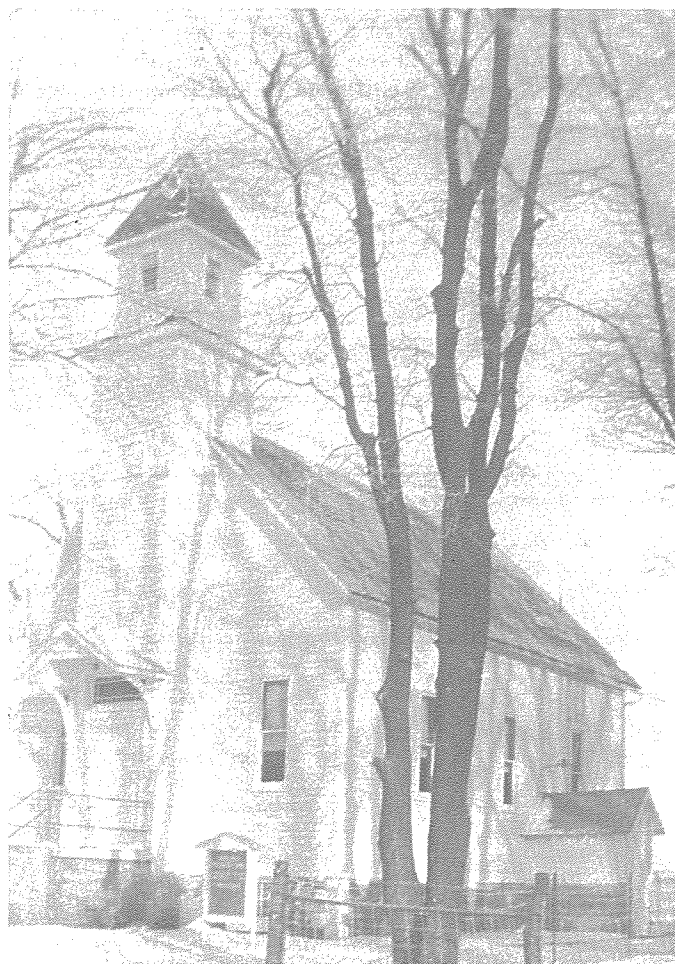
David Naylor bought the farm on the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 47 and Route 136 for \$10 an acre. He was one of the founders of the Brethren Church and gave land for the church and cemetery.



RESIDENCE OF DAVID NAYLOR, SEC. 3, NEWCOMB TOWNSHIP.

This is the present home of Cecil and Mary Nelson. In the inset is the Otterbein (Naylor) Church.

Mahomet. This post office was discontinued when the Rural Route delivery was established. Richard Moorhead moved into the community in 1875. In 1885 James Crowley bought the farm on which the Oak Grove schoolhouse stood. Only a pump and part of the foundation remain at the location of the Oak Grove school.



The Walker Methodist Protestant Church.

The first religious services of Oak Grove were organized by the Dunkards and held in the homes. Later a Sunday school was organized and held in the schoolhouse. About 1877 Philip Shaffer and David Naylor, the United Brethren minister held a series of meetings at the schoolhouse. At the close of these meetings a United Brethren class was organized. In 1879 a tract of land was donated by Billy Quass upon which the present Oak Grove Church was built. Services were held in the church for many years before it closed. Then in about 1953 or 1954, a group of interested neighbors in the Oak Grove community bought the church building from the United Brethren Society and started a non-denominational church. The Oak Grove Community Church functioned for about 5 or 6 years. The church is still standing but no church services have been held therein since the early 1960's.

In the early spring of 1913, there were eight rural schools in Newcomb township. Busey School in section 1 was closed in the spring of 1913. Mrs. Ellie Fairfield was the last teacher. The Busey school building was moved to the Fisher school grounds and used until the new Fisher school was completed in 1915.

The Bell (Naylor) School in section 3 was closed in the spring of 1948. Miss Aileen Yeagle was the last teacher at this school. The school building was moved to the corner of Division and West streets. It is now part of the Harvey Thomas family home.

The first Walker School was a small 20 by 20 foot structure. This school was built with wood carried over the open prairies of Champaign county to the rural Fisher site. All eight grades were held in the one room schoolhouse but the entire enrollment usually did not exceed twenty students. Basket lunch socials were important events held at the school in the early 1900's. Boys bid on lunches prepared by anonymous girls. One basket social netted thirty-three dollars and seventy-five cents with three dollars paid as the auctioneer's fee.

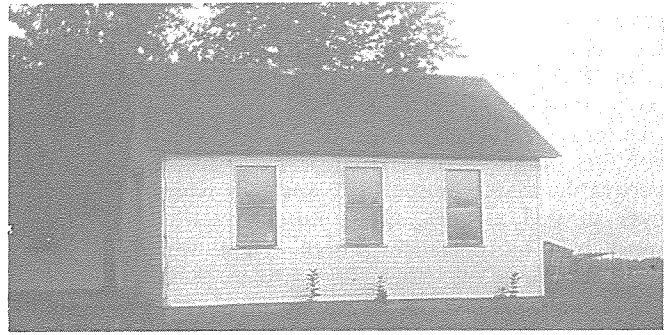
The original Walker School is more than one hundred years old. It will soon be moved from the property of Mrs. Walter Sloan, rural Fisher. Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Crooks plan to move the school. They hope to make it part of their Remember When Museum. Mr. and Mrs. Crooks plan to

restore the schoolhouse with desks, blackboards and pot belly stove — just as it was a century ago.

The second Walker School built in 1917 stood in section 5 to the west of the Walker Methodist Church. This school was closed in 1948. Miss Corrine Resler was the last teacher. The Walker School building was moved into Fisher on West Street. It was the home of the Robert Hedrick family for many years. The home was sold in the latter part of 1975 to William Maynard.

Lester School in section 14 was closed in the spring of 1948. Miss Maude Merrifield was the last teacher. The school building is now located across the road and south of the Charles Edward's residence. It is used as a hog house. Voters in the township in early days voted at the Lester School when it was located near the residence of J.B. Lester.

The story of Hannah School is told in a theme written by Dr. Joseph Scott about 1930 and by an interview Isabelle S. Purnell had with Mrs. Robert Wright about 15 years ago.



The original Walker School is more than one hundred years old. It is located behind the home of Mrs. Walter Sloan.

The Hannah School, An Early School In Champaign Co. by Joseph Scott

"It was in the year 1852 that the settlers of Newcomb township, Champaign county, realized the need of a public school and started the construction of the first schoolhouse in that township. Previous to this time school was taught by Miss Martha Newell in Jesse Pancake's old house.

This new structure was located in Section 27 about three and a half miles north of Mahomet, or as it was called in those days, Middletown. It was about eighteen feet long and sixteen feet wide. It was made of rough logs plastered together with a homemade clay composition. On one side there were two windows, and at the front there was a heavy door made of wide slabs of split logs. An old thumb latch was used in place of a knob.

Upon entering the building one did not find the walls decorated and plastered, but instead only the split side of the logs and the dried plaster. The large rafters and home manufactured shingles furnished the cover overhead. The floor was made of unfinished oak boards.

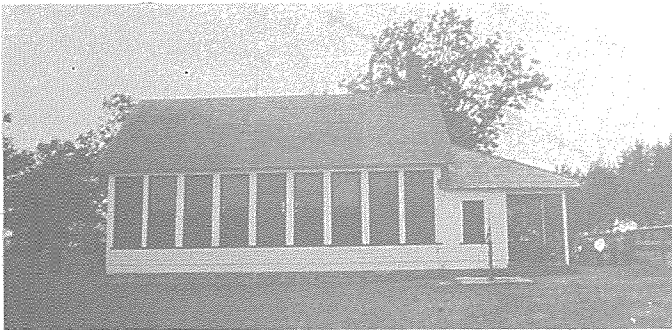
At the back of the room was a fireplace which, for the few years, furnished all the heat. A stove was later installed. Many times at recess and other intervals the boys often sat around it with their girls.

The seating arrangement was very simple as there were only two rows of benches stretching across the room. In front of these were frame work structures with slanting eighteen-inch boards on top, which were used as desks. The older children sat in the back row and the younger ones sat in the front row.

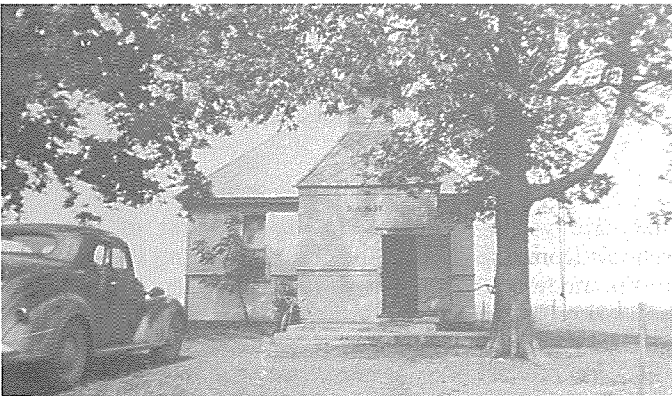
At times the school accommodated as many as forty students. They came from a radius of approximately three miles.

Reuben Banes, son of Dr. Evan Banes of Ohio, was the first teacher. He was a young man about twenty-five years old who had come to Illinois to seek his fortune."

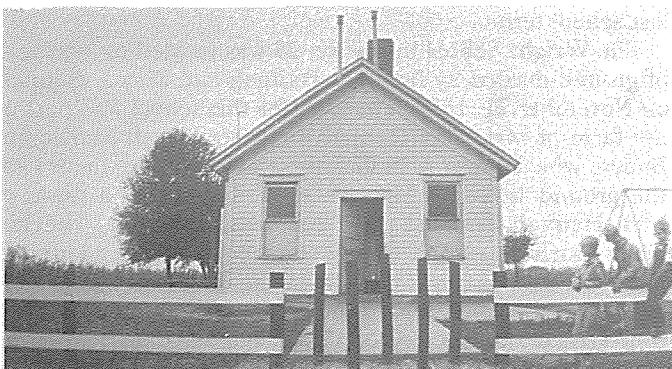
One of the early students at Hannah was Mrs. Robert Wright who was born in 1846. She emigrated with her parents, Sarah and Gabriel Banes, from Bellfountain, Ohio, into Champaign county in 1851. When the Banes passed through Champaign on their way to Middletown where they spent their first year, there were only six houses in town. The next year, while Mr. Banes was entering his land at Danville, the family rented a farm two miles north of Middletown. That year, Mrs. Wright attended a small



Oak Grove



Bell



Lester

school in the timber, taught by a Mr. Cheney. During the hot weather he held classes outside.

In 1853 they moved on their new 400 acre farm in Newcomb township. It was then that Mrs. Wright started to the Hannah school. Mrs. Wright recalled that the chief subjects taught were reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography and grammar. "It was very seldom that anyone ever studied algebra. Quite unique methods of teaching were used in this early school. There were several very large outline maps which were, just as they say outlines of the states with no printed names on them. These showed the rivers, lakes and other natural lines. The scholars were given pointers, and while they pointed out places on the map they would sing its location to a familiar or sometimes original tune. The tune sung might give the length of the river or a description of the capital of a state. The writing lessons were taught by means of copy books in which were samples of good letters, numbers, etc. and blank spaces for the scholar to copy in. So much time each day was devoted to the work in these copy books. The spelling lessons were taught very similarly to the modern methods. The children were divided into classes and each class would recite separately. When a person missed he had to sit down."

"There was no well on the school grounds, so the boys had to go to a neighboring house about a quarter of a mile away. They many times returned with a supply of apples which they had stolen from the neighbor's apple hole, a place in the ground for storing apples."

"During the spring plowing season, Mrs. Wright often rode part way on the back of the plow. As it was driven by a team of oxen, it moved very slowly; thus making it necessary for her to 'run like sixty' the rest of the way to get to school on time."

"One of her teachers owned a set of Charles Dickens' works which she enjoyed reading a great deal, but as her parents were very strict they thought them unfit. It happened, however, that there was an old two-story empty log house between the school and her home. Many times she started to school early so she could stop at the old house and read a few chapters in those supposedly terrible novels which are taught in most schools today.

"During one term of school her mother brought her to Champaign to stay with her older brother. While there she attended Mrs. Janes' subscription school which was held in a rented house. The tuition was three to four dollars a month. Mrs. Janes had about thirty scholars. Mrs. Wright went here only one term."

"In the winter time the snow would get so deep that it almost covered the stake and rider fences, and she could walk along on the stakes."

"In order to keep the prairie fires back from the school and homes the men would either plow or burn a strip of ground around the yards. These were most terrifying. A smoke would rise in the west and soon the huge roaring flames would come in sight."

"Among the teachers who taught Mrs. Wright were a Mr. Ingles, Miss Carson, and Miss Hathaway, all of whom were wonderful in the estimation of this early scholar. In 1862, when she was sixteen, she went to school to Robert Wright, a young teacher who with his brother had driven a flock of sheep from Ohio to Illinois. This resulted in an interesting courtship followed by their marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Wright lived together in Champaign county for over



Walker



Lester School, 1906-07

Standing—Loren Jervis, Elda Hinton, John Downs, Woodie Downs, Winnie Jervis, Glen Downs, Bernice Downs, Pearl Downs, Henry Baker, and O.F. Gulick, teacher. Sitting—Don Downs, Scovel Hinton, Clyde Jervis, Zaye Gulick, Flossie Campbell, Ethel Baker, Nannie Downs, Alice Baker, and Ethel Zook.

sixty-five years, and saw the development of the local schools from one-roomed log cabins teaching the three R's to the modern structures with their complicated systems of education."

When the county schools were being closed and sold, this Hannah School was purchased by Stanley Chapman and was moved to the Chapman farm and remodeled into a cow barn. The last year for this school to be in session was 1946-47. Ruth Woodruff was the teacher during the last school term.

The Wright School in section 29 was located on one acre of ground deeded by James S. Hannah and Sina J. Hannah on November 21, 1874. The land for this school was part of the farm of Mrs. Sina Hannah's mother, Sarah McKinnon Banes, who bought a half section of land and moved on the ground in 1850. Mrs. Effie Wright Scott, a niece of Mrs. Hannah, recalled that "the school had long benches upon which we all sat. Our books were shoved underneath these benches in a sort of box. In the middle of the school-room was a stove." Mrs. Scott in later life was the Probation Officer in the city of Champaign for years. George Wright who later became Assistant Superintendent of

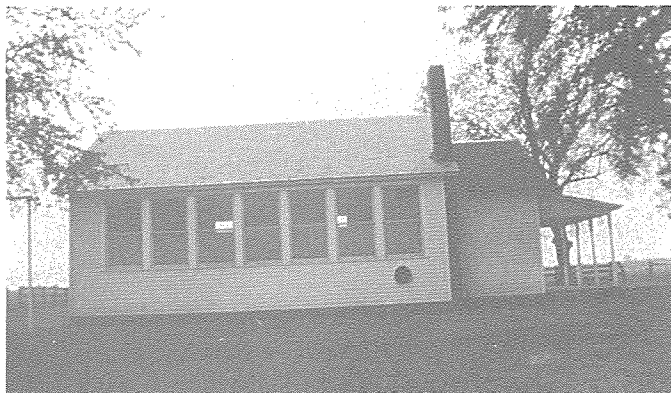
Schools of Champaign County taught at this school. The *Sucker State*, a Mahomet newspaper, some 75 years ago contained an article written by E.W. Morrison, about the boys of Wright country school who had "stunned a very large bull snake and coiled it neatly on the front step of the school house with the head in the doorway. The teacher, Miss Abbie Nebeker, a daughter of Washington Nebeker, whom the boys delighted to tease, was greatly shocked." Wright School was closed in the spring of 1947. Mrs. Faye Resler was the last teacher at this school. The building later burned to the ground.

Fairview School in section 16 was closed in the spring of 1946. Miss Corrine Resler was the last teacher in this building. The school building was remodeled and made into a home but it is unoccupied at the present time. In early days religious services were held in the Fairview School by the Hard Shell Baptist.

Oak Grove School was located in section 25 about four miles south of Fisher. The enrollment of this school was always large enough that the game of the day was baseball. There were always plenty of boys and girls for a good team and the pupils at this school would enter into baseball competition with other schools nearby. Oak Grove School was closed in 1948. Miss Lena Graham of Mahomet was the last teacher at this school. This school building has been torn down. Only the pump and part of the foundation remains at the site of this school.

In 1913 there were eight rural schools in Newcomb township. Now there is only one school in the township. It is the neat, modern Fisher High School built to meet the needs of Community Unit District No. 1 near Route 136 at the southeast edge of Fisher on 15 acres of ground purchased from Roland Resler. The architects were Clarence and James Wilson of Mt. Vernon, Ill. The general contractor was Malcolm Housewright of LaHarpe, Illinois. The attractive one story structure is designed for 300 students. It contains 51,708 square feet. The school was built at a cost of 750,000 dollars, which included equipment, walks, drives, and landscaping. The outside walls are concrete block with brick exterior. Glazed tile wainscoting is used in hallways, rest rooms and where needed in the gymnasium. Facilities include 16 classrooms, industrial arts and agriculture shops, a gymnasium seating 1,200 plus a stage with seating capacity of 850 for stage productions, a library-study hall, music room with accommodations for 100 piece band or 120 member vocal group, cafeteria-kitchen and administration offices. Fold-away bleachers in the gymnasium make room for two full size basketball courts for physical education classes. The school was ready for use in the fall of 1964. Fisher High School was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, October 24, 1964. Vernon S. Roche, superintendent of Fisher schools introduced Honorable William L. Springer, representative from the twenty-second congressional district who gave the dedicatory address. The high school principal in 1964 was Joe Foster and the members of the school board were Irvin Liestman, John Murray, John Hlavna, Kenneth Mitchell, Kenneth Nelson, Helen Hoffman and Robert Hinton.

During the next ten years a greenhouse and tennis courts were added to the school grounds. Mr. Robert Alexander is superintendent of Fisher schools and Clinton Forsyth is high school principal. The expected enrollment for the 1974-75 school year is between 270 and 275 students.



Fairview



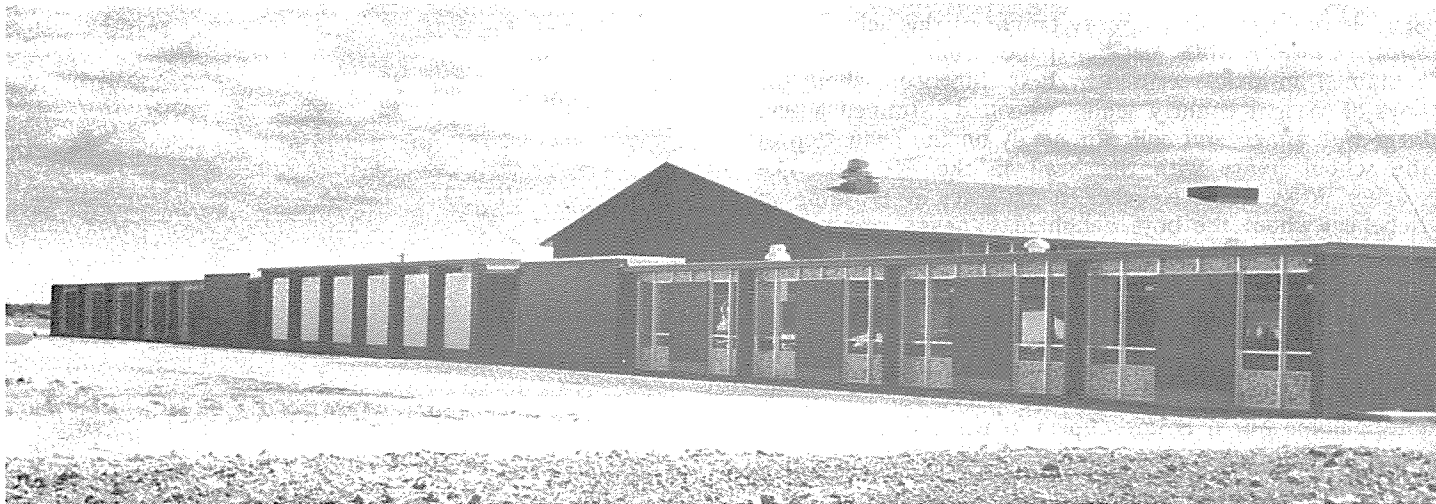
Walker School 1934-35

Back row (left to right): Lorraine Franklin, Lois Sloan, Madeline Sowers, Dorothy Robinett, Miss Leta Shields (teacher), Marjorie Sowers and Noel Hinton. Front row (l to r): John Heckler, Imogene Franklin, Howard Hinton, Winnifred Sizer, Marie Hinton and Eleanor Sizer.

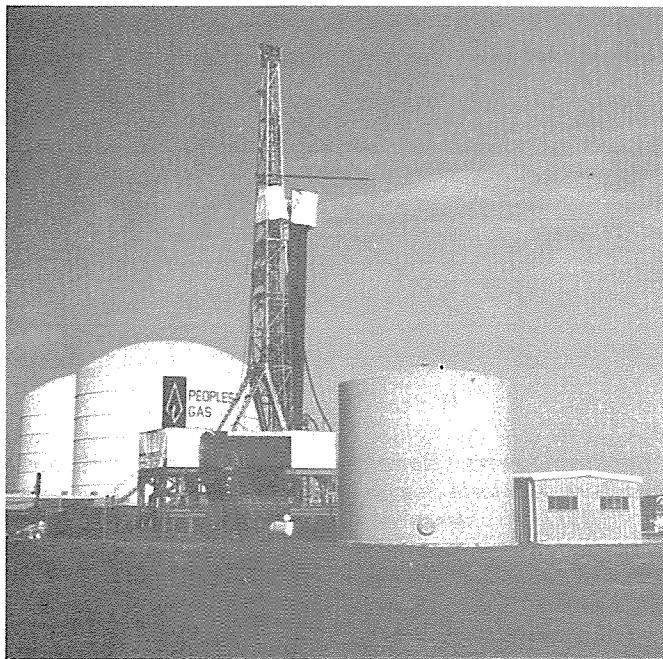
Later Lois Sloan, shown above, married Robert Hedrick. They moved Walker School into Fisher and this school was their home for many years.

The present school board members are Lowell Heap, Richard B. Opsahl, Ronald Kuhns, Dr. Walter Rohde, Maribeth Cox, Jack C. Spitz and Richard Rayburn.

The leading occupation of the people of Newcomb township is still farming, but a new industry came to the township in 1960. Rising from the flat prairie land of Newcomb township are two large white L N G (liquefied natural gas) storage tanks which can be seen for several miles. Here is Manlove Field, which is owned and operated by the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company. Manlove Field Storage Complex is a combination of underground-above-ground gas storage facility located in section 9 on 80 acres of land bought from Wirt Hinton in 1960. The storage complex has been named in honor of the gas company officer, Emory A. Manlove, executive vice-president, who directed the development of the field since the first test well was drilled in 1959. Manlove Field is staffed by approximately 40 employees, most of whom live within a



Fisher High School taken during the summer of 1964.



Manlove Field is owned and operated by the Peoples Gas, Light and Coke Company. In the background is the two large white L N G storage tanks.

radius of 15 miles. The underground reservoir at Manlove Field has been in operation since 1966. The aboveground L N G facility was completed early in 1973.

At Manlove Field underground storage is in a dome-shaped structure three-quarters of a mile below ground and underlying some 30,000 acres of farmland. The reservoir called the Mt. Simon Formation, is a layer of quartz sandstone. The sandstone is topped by about 100 feet of dense gray shale caprock that effectively prevents the gas from escaping.

The initial cost of Manlove Field is 30 million dollars (16 million dollars for underground, 13 million dollars for the L N G facility). Up to 10 million cubic feet of gas can be liquified daily. The storage capacity is 94 billion cubic feet in gaseous form as of the 1973-74 heating season.

Maximum daily withdrawal capacity from the underground storage is 880 million cubic feet, plus an L N G vaporization capability of about 300 million cubic feet per day as of the 1973-74 heating season. Natural gas is transported from Manlove Field to Chicago through a 126 mile large diameter pipeland.

In 1975 the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company of Chicago began a five-year 40 million dollars expansion program at Manlove Field. Expansion of the underground storage reservoir will increase the total gas inventory in the facility by almost 50 per cent, to a total of about 150 billion cubic feet.

There will be 14 new wells, including 12 injection and withdrawal wells planned as part of this year's program. Injection-withdrawal wells are used for moving gas in and out of the field while observation wells are used to help determine the location of gas in the underground storage reservoir. To tie in the new wells to the storage field's existing gathering system, some 20 miles of pipe will be laid. With this work completed, there will be 157 wells in use at Manlove Field by the start of the 1975-76 heating



Machine used to dig ditches for the gas pipeline to Chicago.

season. The LGN facility — first and only facility of its kind in Illinois — coupled with the operation of the underground reservoir, makes Manlove Field one of the state's largest natural gas storage complexes.

As people approach Fisher from the intersection of Route 136 and Route 47, they pass the homes of Delmar and Craig Crooks. Behind the homes is the Remember When Museum. Delmar and Phyllis Crooks officially opened Remember When on May 4, 1974, and it is opened daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday through Sunday. At first a barn held the collection of memorabilia that Delmar collected over a period of 30 years. In 1974 an addition was made to the barn. The new addition contains the old-fashioned marble soda fountain from the old Heimlicker Drug Store in Champaign, the back bar from the old Davis Drug Store in Paxton, and the barred teller's cage from the post office at Osman, where visitors purchase a ticket to visit the display at Remember When. The ground level of the barn contains a gift shop which features a wide selection of hand-crafted articles. An office-workshop is also located on this level. The main displays are located on the second floor and loft of the three story barn. Everyone visiting Remember When gets a personal guided tour and then is left to look around, examine the articles and recall the past in which many of these items played a part. Visitors from 34 states and several foreign countries have toured the collection. The time the Crooks spent over the years collecting items have not been wasted, for they have saved "a bit of the past for the generations of tomorrow."

Leaving Remember When, one drives east into Fisher on Route 136, formerly State route 119. This road for years was a 9 foot slab. In 1933 the road was widened to 18 feet. The men working on the road had a small building which was used as a cook's kitchen and a small dining room. When the work on Route 136 was finished, the building was sold to Les Cox, who changed the building into a gas station. The gas station was located just east of the Darrell Cox home. Later Les Cox rented the station to Henry and Zemina Powell, and then to John Brown, an uncle of David Cox. Frank Foster operated this gas station from January 1941 to 1950. The station has since been torn down.

Driving east into Fisher, one passes the Fisher High School, on the south side of Division Street (Route 136). In the Resler addition east of the high school, one sees several apartment buildings and lovely homes on both sides of Green Street and along the south side of Division Street. Fisher has grown into Newcomb Township. Several businesses are located along the south side of Division Street. These businesses are Seamond's Garage, Gene's Car Wash, H.A. Stuehm's Parts and Garage and Mobile gas station, the insurance office of Bob Cender and the law office of James Ayers, the Dixie Diner, and the Thomas Farm Service gas station and garage.

Seamond's Garage, owned and operated by Robert W. Seamonds, is located at 119 West Division Street. This garage opened for business in June of 1973. It provides service for all cars, trucks and tractors.

Gene's Car Wash, which is owned and operated by Dorothy and Gene Welborn, opened for business on October 5, 1965. All cars, trucks, trailers, and farm implements can be washed at this place of business. The building was up-dated in November of 1975 with the installation of new pumps and motors.

An ice cream stand was built by Wesley Calhoun on a lot owned by David Cox in 1957. The Dairy Bar was operated by Don and Lois Christie from 1957 until 1970. The Dairy Bar was opened late in spring, through the summer and usually until the football season was over. Robin Rice and Debbie Motzer operated the stand the last summer it was opened. In 1973 the building was sold to Bob Cender who remodeled the building and changed it into an insurance office. James Ayers of Rantoul maintains a law office in this building one evening each week.

Stuehm's Parts and Garage is located at 105 East Division Street. Howard Stuehm drew the plans for this building and open house was held on Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29 in 1947. However, this business first began in 1932 at the present location of Flo-Con on Third Street. A.D. "Huck" Stuehm and his family moved to Fisher in 1932 from Forrest, Illinois. Mr. Stuehm rented the building from L.O. Church, who partitioned off part of the building into living quarters for the Stuehm family. The gas pumps were in front of the building and the garage was in the back of the building. In 1945 Mr. and Mrs. "Huck" Stuehm bought the home of Dr. Troyer and moved to 505 South Fifth Street. In 1964 A.D. Stuehm retired, and the business is now owned and operated by his son, Howard Stuehm. H.A. Stuehm and Co. provides Mobil gas, services cars and trucks, and carries parts for automobiles.

The first Dixie Diner was on the north side of Division Street to the east of the Texaco Station, managed by Pal Fairfield and later by Oliver Peyton, on the corner of Third and Division Streets where the Factory Fabrics is today. This first Dixie Diner was a long thin building with a row of windows to the south. It resembled a trolley car. Fred Tatman was the first proprietor. In the early 1940's Merle and Beulah Sheppard operated this business. The next owner was Myron Tillison, who sold the business to a Mr. Neal and his daughter of Rantoul. Mr. Neal sold the building to Mrs. Delbert (Avonell) Drinkwater. Mrs. Drinkwater decided to build a new and better building across the street. This restaurant was opened late in the 1940's. The old Dixie Diner was moved across the street back of the new Dixie Diner and changed into a home. Later the house was made into sleeping rooms which were rented to truckers who stopped in Fisher. The new Dixie Diner was sold to Lucille Hilderbrand, she made the kitchen larger and added a large room to the rear of the building. In 1965 Mrs. Bea Gillispie bought the building and she leased it to Mrs. Homer Warren for a while. At the present time Mrs. Gillispie manages the Dixie Diner.

The first Fisher Methodist Church, very small in size, was constructed in 1870, near the Robert Fisher residence. This was near the present Farm Service station on the first acre in Newcomb Township. The official name was the Newcomb Society and was part of the Mahomet circuit. M.D. Hawes was the minister in charge with T.I. Coultas as junior minister. In 1873 Charles E. McClintock was sent as pastor. A small farm house which once stood on the north side of the "narrow slab road" one half mile east of Fisher served as the parsonage for the pastor. Rev. F.B. Sale, father of Mrs. J.O. Sayers and grandfather of Dr. L.O. Sale, was appointed assistant pastor at a salary of \$330 per year. The second Fisher Methodist Church was built in 1874. The new and larger building resembled the Mt. Vernon Church which still stands seven miles south-



Farm Service Station operated by Everett and Bob Hedrick in 1948



From left to right—James Charles Jervis, Guy W. Conrad, Mrs. J. Charles Jervis and Mrs. Guy Conrad in a bob-sled ready to go to Fisher.

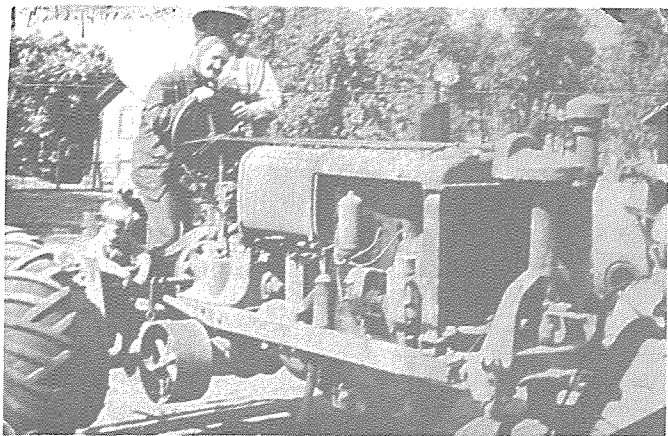


Don Sizer with an old road grader from Newcomb township working on a lane.

east of Fisher. A common church feature of the time was two front doors; one for women and one for men. The pews were also divided to seat men and women separately. The old church building was utilized as a parsonage. After the coming of the railroad to Fisher and after several homes had been constructed in Fisher, it was decided to move the church building one-half mile north to the present location.

A small frame building, the Farm Service Station, was built in 1938 by the Champaign County Service Company. At this time the oil rack was outside and cars were

overhauled under a binder canvas during the winter months. In 1941 the driveway was poured. In October of 1950 the office was expanded. The first lubrication bay was built in 1946 and a second lubrication bay was added in 1967. The first operator of this station was Everett Hedrick. He operated the station from 1938 until 1941 when he went into military service. Floyd Farmer operated the station from 1942 until Everett returned from service in 1945. Everett and Bob Hedrick operated the station together from 1946 until 1950 when Everett left the business and opened a tire shop in a building next to Unzickers Plumb-



Don Sizer and daughter Eleanor, on an old tractor. Floyd Sizer is to the left of Eleanor in the lower part of the picture (1940).



Farm Service bulk plant and warehouse in July of 1953. Massanari's truck is on the drive.

ing and Heating. Then Bob Hedrick operated the station from 1951 until the end of January in 1955. Ervil Gosser was the next operator from February in 1955 until the end of February in 1957. Dale "Marty" Eichelberger had charge of the station from March 1957 until September of 1959. Dale's brother, Gale, operated the station from October of 1959 until the end of December in 1965. Harvey Thomas started working for Gale "Shady" Eichelberger in 1962 and Harvey became manager in January of 1966. He holds the job to the present time. The Farm Service Station operators sell gas and tires. They do tractor and wagon tire repairs on the farm or at the station. They also overhaul cars, trucks and tractors at the station.

The Farm Service Bulk Plant began operation about 1929. A.A. Smith was the first bulk truck operator for the Farm Service Co. Elmer Rohlfing was a bulk truck driver from October of 1934 until January of 1955. He served the company for over 20 years. Other bulk truck drivers have been Orville Shrock, Eldon "Bun" Foster and Earl Hewerdine. For a while there were two drivers. Elmer Rohlfing had Newcomb and Condit townships, and Orville Shrock, Eldon Foster or Earl Hewerdine had Brown and East Bend townships. Now there is only one bulk truck

operating out of Fisher for the Farm Service Co. Wayne Shields began working for the company in June of 1950. For three years he had the Mahomet territory before taking over the Fisher territory for the company.

Early supervisors in Newcomb Township were John Trasher in 1861, W.R. Renner in 1862, A.B. Condit in 1863, 1864, 1865 and 1866, Abel Harwood in 1867 and 1868, George W. Harwood in 1869, 1870 and 1871, J.B. Lester in 1872, 1873 and 1874, and J.S. Hannah in 1875, 1876, 1877 and 1878. More recent supervisors of Newcomb Township are J.W. Pinkston in 1916 and 1917, Frank Delaney in 1917 to 1920, R.W. Hinton in 1920 to 1929, C.C. Leistman in 1929 to 1943, Leonard Delaney in 1943 to 1948, Chester Beasley in 1948 to 1951 and John Kroner from 1951 to the present date.

Other elected township officers who are serving at the present time are Clifford Crowley, road commissioner; Gale Eichelberger, Darrell Cox, and Marvin Poll, auditors; Charles Edwards, clerk; and Cecil Nelson, Ralph Blair and Francis Hazen, cemetery trustees of Shiloh and Naylor cemeteries. The present caretakers of the cemeteries are the sons of John Isaacs.

LIST OF TEACHERS IN RURAL SCHOOLS OF NEWCOMB TOWNSHIP — 1899-1949

WRIGHT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 32 Newcomb Township

1899-01 Louis Hull
1901-02 F.L. Stonehouse
1902-03 Mrs. H.A. Davis
1903-04 Anna Mullvain
1904-05 Della Dolph
1905-06 Ella Herriott
1906-07 Mary E. Cresep
1907-08 Lura Abbott
1908-09 Rose Hazen
1909-10 Nettie G. McNeal

1910-11 Zella Van Schoyck
1911-13 Edna B. Hazen
1913-14 Ferne Holt
1914-15 M.W. Ocheltree
1915-16 Beatrice Foster
1916-17 Lois Layton
1917-18 E.E. Garver
1918-19 Lenora Bensley
1919-20 Doris McNeil
1920-22 Mrs. Effie Gossard
1922-23 Esther Kemp
(Mrs. Bernice Beck began Jan. 29, 1934)
1923-26 Faye Miller

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RON KUHN'S INSURANCE, Dewey
CLARK HAGGENJOS FUNERAL HOME, Rantoul

1926-28 O.F. Gulick
 1928-29 Mabel L. Leischner
 1929-30 Anna McNeeley
 1930-31 Mary Anderson
 1931-33 O.F. Gulick
 1933-35 V.C. Kokensparger
 1935-36 Chester A. Skeels
 1936-43 Mrs. Mary D. Patton
 1943-44 Mrs. Lois Parrett
 1944-47 Mrs. Faye Resler
 1947-48 Closed

HANNAH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 33

Newcomb Township

1899-00 Lillie Zerbe
 1900-01 Maggie Shaffer
 1901-03 Gertrude Rowe
 1903-04 Bert Lester
 1904-06 Bessie Wyant
 1906-07 Lura Abbott
 1907-08 Willis Davis
 1908-09 Mary Gulick
 1909-10 Ethel Wright
 1910-11 Ruth Purnell
 1911-12 Daisy Trotter
 1912-13 Rose Gilmore
 1913-14 Goldie Hannah
 1914-16 Ruth Beeby
 1916-17 Mrs. Elva G. Lake
 1917-18 Oren Lester
 1918-19 Gertrude Phelps
 1919-23 Fanny Shell
 1923-27 Mrs. Fanny Jervis
 1927-29 Marie Sitts
 1929-34 Effie Gossard
 1934-39 Elizabeth Rohlfing
 1939-41 Ralph W. Roth
 1941-45 Lottie M. Hammel
 1945-46 Winnifred Sizer
 1946-47 Ruth Woodruff
 1947-48 Closed

OAK GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 34

Newcomb Township

1899-01 S.G. Pursell
 1901-02 George C. Ketchum
 1902-03 S.G. Pursell (6 mos.)
 Cynthia Moorhead (2 mos.)
 1903-06 Cynthia Moorhead
 1906-07 N.E. Wiles
 1907-08 Daisy Smith
 1908-10 Edna B. Hazen
 1910-11 Nellie Brash
 1911-12 S.G. Pursell
 1912-13 Stanley Spencer
 1913-14 Edna Hazen
 1914-15 Oliver Plummer
 1915-16 Henrietta M. Zwifel
 1916-17 Mrs. Leone L. Renfrew
 1917-18 L.B. White
 1918-19 Zella Camden
 1919-20 Lottie Hammel
 1920-21 Jennie Porter
 1921-22 Roberta Record

1922-23 Julian Taylor
 1923-24 Ruby Stanner
 1924-27 Minnie Gresham
 1927-28 Violet Sheppard
 1928-29 Harry Green
 1929-30 Mervin Hinton
 1930-31 Juna Hodgson
 1931-32 Lois R. Davis
 1932-33 Lyndon C. Banner
 1933-38 Edna Hazen
 1938-41 Mrs. Edith Abernathie
 1941-42 Mrs. Louise B. Cook
 1942-43 Clelia F. Boise
 1943-44 Mrs. Faye Resler
 1944-45 Mrs. Mary Nelson
 1945-46 Lottie Hammel
 1946-47 Mrs. Lois Alexander
 1947-48 Miss Lena Graham
 1948-49 Closed

LESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 35

Newcomb Township

1899-00 Grace Chenoweth
 1900-01 Anna Mayes
 1901-02 Lillian Zerbe
 1902-03 Elva Elwarner
 1903-04 Gertrude Rowe
 1904-05 Sophia Lahmiller
 1905-06 Beulah Houston
 1906-08 O.F. Gulick
 1908-10 Kate E. Hazen
 1910-11 Henrietta Zwifel
 1911-13 Sue Carson
 1913-14 Helen Purnell
 1914-15 Jane Phillips
 1915-16 W.D. Madden
 1916-17 M. Nadine Shawhan
 1917-19 Elsie Minks
 1919-20 Gladys Hinton
 1920-23 Chloa M. Wyatt
 1923-24 Dorothy Asher
 1924-25 Harry Green
 1925-27 Leslie Mitchell
 1927-29 Mervin Hinton
 1929-30 Marie Mitchell
 1930-31 Chester Beasley
 1931-34 Lottie Hammel
 1934-36 Lucile B. Moore
 1936-38 Dorthanell Linthicum
 1938-39 Nora Phillips
 1939-43 Elizabeth Rohlfing Edwards
 1943-44 Mrs. Velma Williams
 1944-45 Mrs. Floyd Fairfield
 1945-46 Aileen Yeagel
 1946-47 Mrs. Daisy R. Krueger
 1947-48 Miss Maude Merrifield
 1948-49 Closed

FAIRVIEW SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 36

Newcomb Township

1899-00 F.L. Stonehouse
 1900-01 S.S. Stansell
 1901-02 William Jordan
 1902-03 W.R. Jordan

1903-04 Audie Foster
 1904-05 Mettie Downs
 1905-06 Amelia Window
 1906-07 Nellie Van Note
 1907-08 Edna Hazen
 1908-11 O.F. Gulick
 1911-12 Elizabeth Muhleman
 1912-13 Ferne Dale
 1913-15 Fred Kroner
 1915-16 Martha Bateman
 1916-18 Marvin Griffith
 1918-19 Maude Lowry
 1919-21 Harry Wright
 1921-23 Bernice Hinton
 1923-24 Mrs. Bernice Davis
 1924-26 Mabel Leischner
 1926-27 Alva L. Boyd
 1927-30 Chester Beasley
 1930-33 Ivan R. Anderson
 1933-34 Mervin Hinton
 1934-39 Mrs. Mary Taylor
 1939-40 Mary E. Phillippe
 1940-44 Edna B. Hazen
 1944-46 Corrine F. Resler
 1946-47 Closed

WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 37
Newcomb Township

1899-00 W.S. Nash
 1900-01 Harvey M. Mulvain
 1901-02 Isabel Gammon
 1902-03 Clara Coons
 1903-04 Ida C. Higgins
 1905-06 Ralph J. Hales
 1906-07 Mary A. Anderson
 1907-08 Sarah Hazen
 1908-09 Ethel Wright
 1909-10 Sarah Hazen
 1910-11 Winifred Stearns
 1911-12 O.F. Gulick
 1912-13 Alice Young
 1913-14 Elsie Mann
 1914-15 W.S. Fox
 1915-16 Hazel Halliday
 1916-20 Stella Richards
 1920-21 Myrtle Lusk
 1921-22 Marian Schureman
 1922-23 Clyde W. Lester
 1923-24 Dorothy Sizer
 1924-25 Mildred Brenneman
 1925-26 Lillian Mitchell
 1926-31 Mabel Zehr
 1931-32 Mrs. Margaret Robinett
 1932-34 Mary Suttle
 1934-35 Leda Shields
 1935-37 Mary Agnes Rayburn
 1937-39 Mrs. Gladys Ballet
 1939-40 Decomma Martinie
 1940-45 Mrs. Doyne McKinney
 1945-46 Cordelia Kurtz
 1946-48 Miss Corrine Resler
 1948-49 Closed

BELL OR NAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38
Newcomb Township

1899-00 Daisy Morris
 1900-01 Eva Shaffer
 1901-02 Katie Matthews
 1902-04 Mary B. McMillan
 1904-05 Bert Lester
 1905-07 Clarice Hickman
 1907-08 Katie Hazen
 1908-09 Sarah Hazen
 1909-11 Elsie Fletcher
 1911-12 Effie J. Johnson
 1912-13 Florence E. Darst
 1913-14 Jessie York
 1914-17 Charles O. Throckmorton
 1917-18 Zella Camden
 1918-20 Joyce Burns
 1920-21 Agnes M. Hines
 1921-23 Minnie Webster
 1923-26 Randall Nelson
 1926-27 Chester Beasley
 1927-28 Mabel Leischner
 1928-31 Elmer Schrock
 1931-32 Manilda Frost Price
 1932-34 Clara C. Gerber
 1934-36 Helen Van Sickle
 1936-37 Mrs. Martha Banner
 1937-40 Mrs. Louise Krider
 1940-41 Mrs. Mildred Berger
 1941-42 Dorothea Hazen
 1942-43 Mrs. Cordelia Kurtz
 1943-46 Edith Moore
 1946-48 Miss Aileen Yeagle
 1948-49 Closed

BUSEY OR SANGAMON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 39
Newcomb Township

1899-00 Lulu Moore
 1900-01 Clara Sale
 1901-02 Agnes Waddington
 1902-03 F.J. Stickrod (6 mos.)
 Phroina Pick (2 mos.)
 1903-05 Evelyn Shaffer
 1905-06 Josie M. Gossard
 1906-08 Beulah Houston
 1908-11 Jessie M. Ray
 1911-12 Mrs. Ellie Fairfield
 1912-13 S.G. Pursell
 1913-14 Closed

FISHER HIGH SCHOOL
FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATION
1964-75

1964: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Joe Foster, Principal; Lucia Anne Bliss, Sharon Lewis, Susan Kuehn, James Brooks, Charlotte Jackson, Jack Webber, Peggy Schlapper, Edwin Sauer, Carol Rowan, Roy Hatfield, Martha Harris, Richard Prentice, Madeline Radzinski, Paul Quinlan, Marjorie Orr, Tom Calhoun, and Maurine Wallace.

1965: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Joe Foster, Principal; Judith Boyer, Gloria Senkus, Sheri Levin, Alex Takacs, Charlotte Jackson, Jack Webber, Peggy Schlapper, Edwin Sauer, Kaye Becker, Roy Hatfield, Freelyn Jeffers, James Brooks, Marjorie Orr, Margaret Brooks, Tom Calhoun, Richard Prentice, Martha Harris, and Maurine Wallace.

1966: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Joe Foster, Principal; Judith Boyer, Carol Wolf, Lucille Senner, Alex Takacs, Jack Webber, Charlotte Jackson, Peggy Schlapper, Edwin Sauer, Roy Hatfield, Marijo Carney, Freelyn Jeffers, Raymond Parkhurst, Judith Marshall, Marjorie Orr, Mary Bailey, Richard Prentice, Maurine Wallace, and Homer Foster.

1967: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Bob Farris, Principal; Mary Marshall, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Lucille Senner, Janelle Calsyn, Linda Cowan, Homer Foster, Maurine Wallace, Fred Hendrickson, Edwin Sauer, Ellen Croy, Alex Takacs, Jack Webber, Bob Nabors, Neal Harris, Freelyn Jeffers, Peggy Schlapper, Marilyn Mead.

1968: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Bob Farris, Principal; Mary Marshall, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Homer Foster, Alex Takacs, Maurine Wallace, Janelle Calsyn, Linda Cowan, Laura Racine, Neal Harris, Chris Yoder, Susan Welker, Linda Merlo, Jack Webber, Wayne Bekiares, Fred Hendrickson, Marjorie Orr, Peggy Schlapper.

1969: Vernon Rocke, Supt.; Robert Alexander, Principal; Neal Harris, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Joseph Moulden, Joan McCarigle, Wayne Bekiares, Linda Ritland, Laura Racine, Jack Webber, Maurine Wallace, Alex Takacs, Edwin Sauer, Paula Willison, Judith Nolen, Diane Prochazka, Jan Schwarzentraub, Vicki Giehl.

1970: Robert Alexander, Supt.; William Mitze, Principal; Joseph Moulden, Judy Nolen, Norman DeGraff, Alex Takacs, Linda Ritland, Paula Calhoun, Edwin Sauer, Maurine Wallace, Wayne Bekiares, Jack Webber, Walter Butler, Marjorie Orr, Joan McGarigle, Richard Prentice, Sarajane Annin, Susan McDonald, Bernadette Rouse, Vicki Giehl.

1971: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Sarajane Annin, Wayne Bekiares, Sandra Barnard, Judith Shelton, Walter Butler, Paula Calhoun, Susan

Cook, Norman DeGraff, Joan McGarigle, Max Norman, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Richard Schrieber, Elizabeth Swenson, Patricia Schurter, Alex Takacs, Maurine Wallace.

1972: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Sarajane Annin, Wayne Bekiares, Harry Babcock, Frank Caldwell, Paula Calhoun, Susan Cook, Steven Denny, Mindy Fuentes, Joan McGarigle, Max Norman, Marjorie Orr, Susan Palij, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Richard Schreiber, Patricia Schurter, Judith Shelton, Elizabeth Swenson, Alex Takacs, Maurine Wallace.

1973: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Elizabeth Swenson, Patricia Wagenknecht, Minda Fuentes, Sarajane Annin, Alex Takacs, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Richard Schreiber, Marjorie Orr, Frank Caldwell, Max Norman, Susan Palij, Harry Babcock, Susanne Wickum, Steven Denny, Paula Calhoun, Wayne Bekiares, Joan McGarigle, Maurine Wallace.

1974: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Sarajane Annin, Harry Babcock, Wayne Bekiares, Frank Caldwell, Paula Calhoun, Steve Denny, Minda Fuentes, Douglas Hunter, Joan McGarigle, Max Norman, Marjorie Orr, Susan Palij, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Richard Schreiber, Alex Takacs, Patricia Wagenknecht, Maurine Wallace.

1975: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Max Norman, Rex Wolfe, Denise Drysdale, Harry Babcock, Steve Denny, Sarajane Annin, Wayne Bekiares, Jeanne Hanna, Joan McGarigle, Frank Caldwell, Richard Schreiber, Maurine Wallace, Marjorie Orr, Barbara Volden, Ann Sweeney, Dan Watrous, Sonja Phillis, Richard Prentice, Alex Takacs, Edwin Sauer, Christine Oakes, Paula Martin.

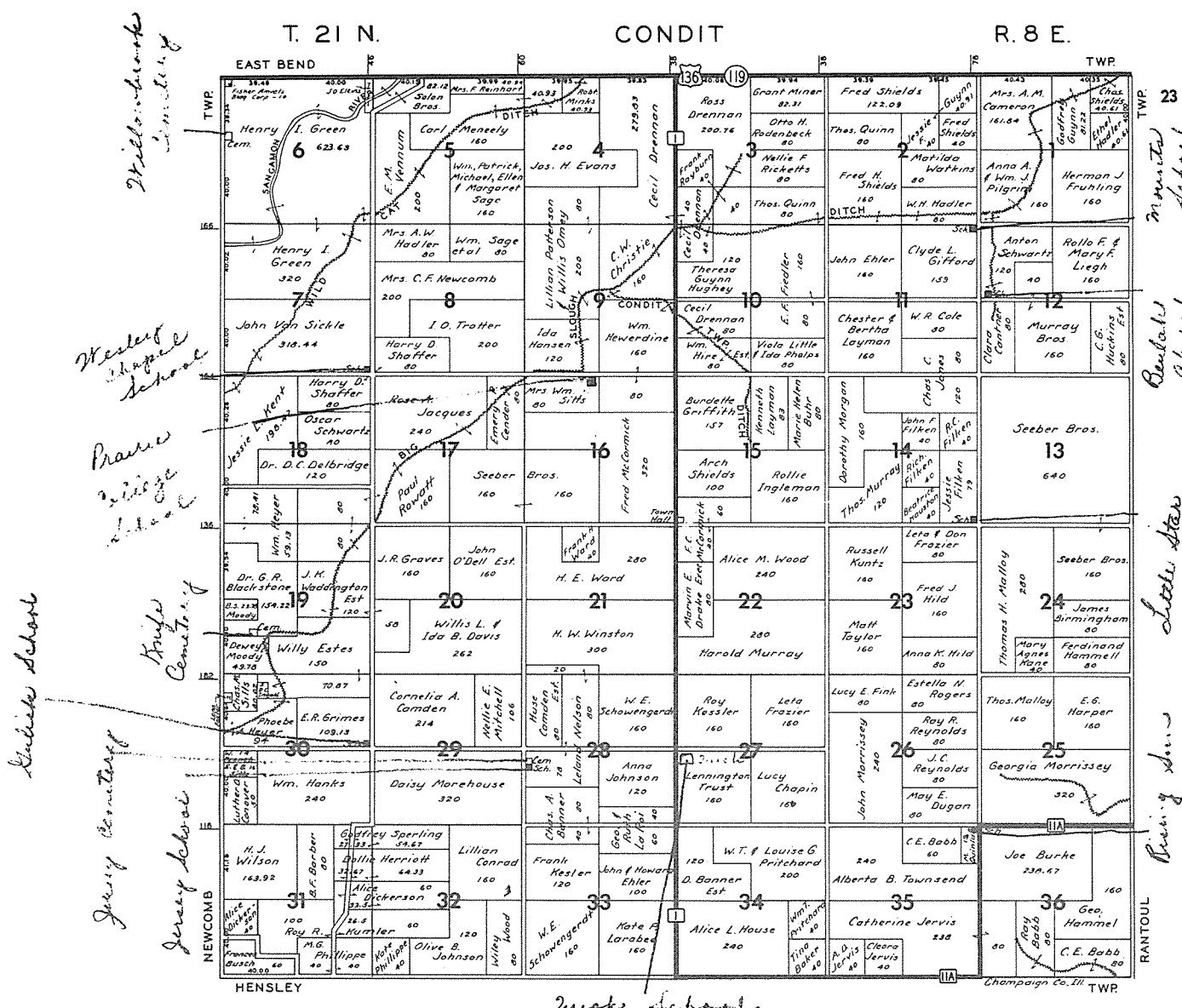
1976: Robert Alexander, Supt.; Clinton Forsyth, Principal; Sarajane Annin, Harry Babcock, Dennis Beiermann, Wayne Bekiares, Frank Caldwell, Minda Fuentes, Jeanne Hanna, Joan McGarigle, Duane Meier, Max Norman, Christine Oakes, Marjorie Orr, Beatrice Pavia, Sonja Phillis, Richard Prentice, Edwin Sauer, Richard Schreiber, Ann Sweeney, Alex Takacs, Barbara Lorig, Maurine Wallace, Rex Wolfe.

EARLY SETTLERS IN NEWCOMB TOWNSHIP 21 RANGE 7

| Name | Post Office Residence | Occupation | Nativity | Came to County |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Blue, J.W. | Mahomet Section 34 | Farmer, Stock Raiser and Surveyor | Hampshire County, Va. | 1855 |
| Blue, Mrs. Sarah J. | Mahomet Section 34 | Wife of J.W. Blue | Logan County, Ohio | 1845 |
| Brodrick, William B. | Mahomet Section 21 | Farmer, Stock Raiser | Hamilton County, Ohio | 1853 |
| Brodrick, Mrs. Chebe | Died Jan. 15, 1855 | Late wife of W.B. Brodrick | Ohio | 1853 |
| Beatty, Calvin | McLean Co., Ill. Sec. 5 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | New Jersey | 1869 |
| Beatty, Mrs. Ella | McLean Co., Ill. Sec. 5 | Wife of Calvin Beatty | New Jersey | 1869 |
| Buchan, J.H. | Fisher Section 14 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Scotland | 1867 |
| Buchan, Mrs. Margaret | McLean Co., Ill. Sec. 18 | Wife of R. Buchan | Ashland Co., Ohio | 1868 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Funston, J.H. | Fisher Section 14 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Ross County, Ohio | 1857 |
| Funston, Mrs. E.E. | Fisher Section 14 | Wife of J.H. Funston | Fayette County, Ohio | 1857 |
| Fisher, Robert | Fisher Section 1 | Farmer, Stock & Grain Dealer | Madison County, Ohio | 1848 |
| Fisher, Mrs. Sarah A. | Fisher Section 1 | Wife of Robert Fisher | Augusta County, Va. | 1850 |
| Hannah, J.S. | Mahomet Section 34 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Clark Co., Ohio | 1851 |
| Hannah, Mrs. Lina J. | Mahomet Section 34 | Wife of J.S. Hannah | Clark Co., Ohio | 1851 |
| Lester, J.B. | Fisher Section 14 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Switzerland Co., Inc. | 1853 |
| Lester, Mrs. E.A. | Fisher Section 14 | Wife of J.B. Lester | Frederick Co., Va. | 1856 |
| Lady, John | Mahomet Section 18 | Farmer | Adams Co., Pa. | 1862 |
| Lady, Mrs. Catherine | Mahomet Section 18 | Wife of John Lady | Adams Co., Pa. | 1862 |
| Myers, W.H. | Mahomet Section 29 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Lewis County, Ky. | 1876 |
| McCay, Pallas | Fisher Section 24 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Champaign Co., Ohio | 1868 |
| McCay, Mrs. Elizabeth | Fisher Section 24 | Wife of Pallas McCay | Kentucky | 1868 |
| Naylor, David | Fisher Section 3 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Adams Co., Ohio | 1865 |
| Naylor, Mrs. Mahalah | Fisher Section 3 | Wife of David Naylor | Adams Co., Ohio | 1865 |
| Trotter, Hiram | Fisher Section 14 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Frederick Co., Va. | 1856 |
| Trotter, Lydia M. | Fisher Section 14 | Wife of Hiram Trotter | Frederick Co., Va. | 1856 |

p. 182 History of Champaign County, Ill., published by Brink, McDonough and Co. in 1878.



HISTORY OF CONDIT TOWNSHIP

Condit Township was created from the east half of Newcomb Township in 1867 and was named for A.B. Condit, who was the first to represent his township on the Board of Supervisors. Condit Township is bounded on the north by East Bend, on the east by Rantoul Township, on the south by Hensley Township, and on the west by Newcomb Township.

The township is mostly prairie and is mainly drained by two streams, the Wild Cat Slough and the Big Slough. The two streams flow through the township in the general direction of northeast to southwest, running almost parallel. The largest and most easterly is the Big Slough, which enters in section one and leaves in section 30. Wild Cat enters in section 4 and leaves in section 18. The Sangamon River flows through the extreme north-western position, and its banks were heavily timbered as were the lower portions of the other streams mentioned above. Wild Cat Slough derived its name from the great number of wild cats found along its banks in earlier days.

The first settler in this township, and one of the first settlers in this part of the state was Ethan Newcom. He settled with his family in the north-west corner of section 5 in 1828. Some say it was on the south line of East Bend where he settled, but a thorough investigation showed it was about 5 rods south of the East Bend line, where he built his house. His father, whose name was Ethan Newcom, was a Jersey Yankee, and his grandfather whose name was also Ethan Newcom, was a Jersey Yankee and a Revolutionary soldier.

In the fall of 1828, the Newcom family came to Sangamon Timber, to what was afterwards called Newcom's Ford. They arrived one evening tired and hungry. The next morning Ethan Newcom found a bee-tree before breakfast. The family went on to Blooming Grove (later called Bloomington), but they stayed there only two weeks and came back to Newcom's Ford, which took its name from them. The letter "b" was later added to the name of Newcom in Newcomb Ford and Newcomb Township.



The Omey Farm in Condit township (picture taken June 1905). From left to right: Mr. and Mrs. G. Cephas Williams and their daughters, Mildred and Violet, Mr. Omey and son, Willis. (Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Williams live in this farm home now.)

During their first winter at the ford, they hauled corn from Blooming Grove, forty miles distant. Newcom's Ford was a stopping place for travelers, and the Newcoms kept a "house of entertainment." Sometimes in the fall of the year, 25 or 30 teams would stop there at one time. The price of entertainment was eighteen and three-fourths cents per meal and fifty cents for keeping a man and a horse overnight. The Newcoms went to Eugene, on the Big Vermilion River, near the Wabash River, for their flour and other groceries.

Ethan Newcom had a family of eleven children, and of these five lived to have families. The Newcoms made maple sugar, as that was the only sugar used. During one spring, Ethan Newcom with the assistance of his oldest son, Joseph, who was 14 years of age when his father settled in this county, made 2,000 pounds of sugar and a barrel of syrup. In October of 1835, the Newcom family moved to Cheney's Grove (later called Saybrook) in McLean County.

The next settlers in the township were A. Crozier and Fielding Loyd, who came in 1834 from Ohio. They build a double log house on section 31. In one end of this building, they opened a pioneer store with a very limited stock of groceries. They also started to improve a farm by breaking a little prairie. The store was a failure because although their stock was a limited one, the other settlers were still more limited in their ability to buy. They sold their improvements in 1837 to John Phillippe, Sr., who came from Ohio. Crozier and Loyd left the county. It is not known where they went, but after some years Loyd returned to this county and built a saw and grist mill at Mahomet. Mr. Phillippe was a native of Virginia. He had a family of six children. He died where he made his first settlement in the county on December 20, 1845. In 1878 his son John Phillippe, Jr. was living on the old homestead.

The first entry of land in the township was made by J.W.S. Mitchel on April 19, 1835 and was on the north half of the northwest quarter of section 5 near the Newcom's Ford. Stephen Pucey was the next settler. He first

stopped at Pancake's Point. After living there for one year he moved to Condit township and settled between the Wild Cat and the Big Slough in the year 1839. Mr. Pucey was from Ohio. He and his wife died on the place they improved in the year 1847 or 1848, within two months of each other.

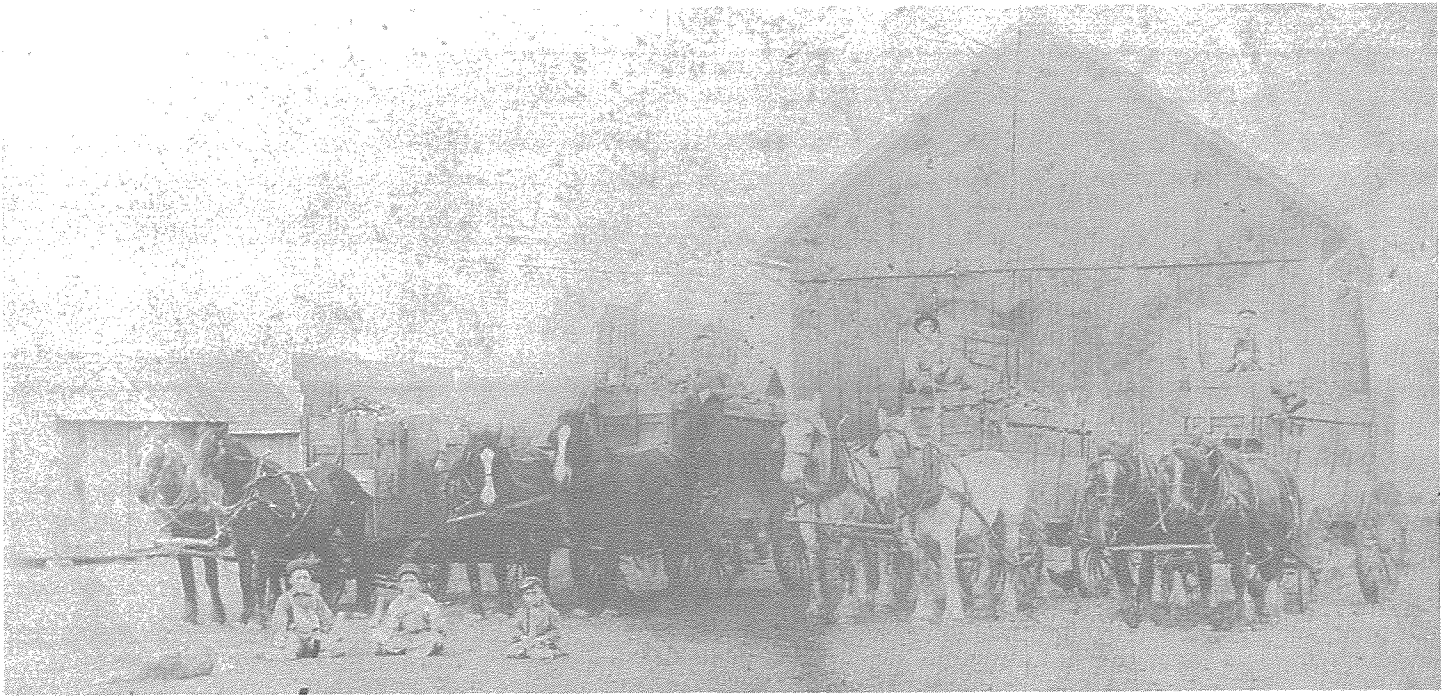
C.F. Columbia was the next settler. He settled on section 29 in 1844, where he improved a farm and lived until 1853. He then moved to Champaign. Columbia School on North Neil in Champaign is named for this man.

The early settlers that followed were Abraham and John Fisher, David and William Hawk, William Levington, Henry and Luther Putnam. In about 1856, R.B. and A.B. Condit settled here. The Condits came from Ohio. In 1856 Newark Lax settled in the east part of the township on section 25. He was the first to venture far out into the prairie to cultivate land. In the same year Hale A. Johnston settled near the center of the township on section 21.

Up to 1850 not 1/4 of the prairie lands had been entered, while the timber land had all, or nearly all been taken. The early settlers chose land in groves and timber belts, on account of the protection yielded in winter and accessibility to water, fuel and building materials.

Other early settlers in 1840's and 1850's were William Morian, Josiah Cramer, William Bennington, John Odell, D.A. King, M.E. Nelson, F.B. Sale, Victor Arnold, and the Guilick brothers — Alfred, Zack, Richard, Dock, John, Harrison W. and Deskin and their widowed mother.

Daniel Evans and his wife, Isabel Engle Evans, came to Condit township in 1866. They came from Franklin County, Ohio to Illinois with their eight children, the youngest about one year old. They traveled by railroad to Champaign and by wagon and horses, that they had brought with them to their farm of 120 acres which Daniel Evans had purchased from Cornelius Sharp for \$3,000 or \$25 per acre. On September 30, 1870, he added 40 more acres to his farm which he purchased from the Illinois Central Railroad for \$360. In March of 1872 he purchased



Getting ready to pick corn at the G.C. Williams farm in 1916. The men in the wagons are Crum Delozier, Sam Delozier and Homer Kellar. The children in front are Fred Williams, Arthur Delozier and Taylor Williams.



Newcomb Ford in the Summer of 1922. In the Sangamon River are Glendola Potts, Thomas Charles Hewerdine and June Potts. In the background is the old bridge on Route 119 (later Route 136).



The bridge over the Sangamon River goes down to clear the way for a new and larger bridge on Route 136.

another 40 acres from the railroad for \$480, making the size of the Evans farm 200 acres.

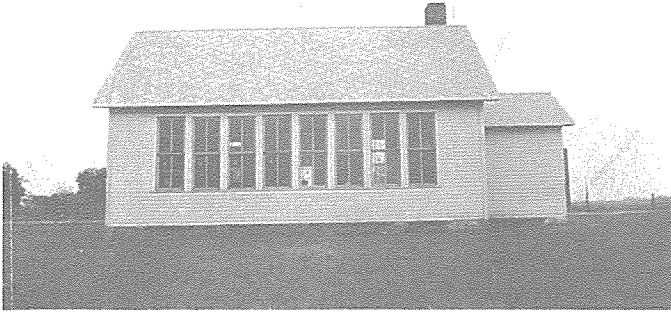
Daniel Evans sold the farm in 1891 to his son Joseph F. Evans for \$12,500 or \$62.50 an acre. The main part of the Evans house was built by Daniel Evans in 1882. The house was remodeled in 1905 by Joseph Evans. Effie Evans, the only survivor of the Joseph H. Evans family still lives in the Evans home where she was born 81 years ago.

Miss Evans remembers crossing the Sangamon at Newcomb Ford with her father. She says that since the river bank is rather steep, the early pioneers would set the brake on the wagon or buggy and go down at an angle. She remembers that once her father went down the slope too fast. The wheel of the wagon hit the ankle of the horse, breaking the ankle. On the west side of the Sangamon at Newcomb Ford was a large rock. If the water of the river

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ROGERS CHEVROLET CO., Rantoul
KRAFT FOODS, Champaign



Wesley Chapel

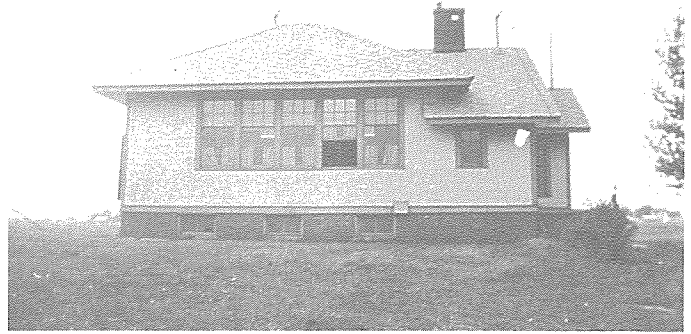
covered the rock, it was not safe to cross. Once a Mr. Arnold, who lived where the Hethke family lives today, wanted to cross the river at Newcomb Ford on horseback. The water covered the rock but he thought he could make it across. Mr. Arnold drowned in the attempt to cross the river.

The first school was taught by Columbus Taylor in a log house near the residence of John Phillippe in 1848 or 1849. Miss Betsy Baner taught the second and the last term in this structure. The first school house was built on section 30 in about 1850. It was a log building. In 1854 a frame school house was built on land donated by a man named Gulick. This was the site of the Gulick School. The first teacher was F.B. Sale.

The first preaching in the township was at the residence of John Phillippe in about 1841 by Rev. Brittingham, of the Methodist denomination. Church services were held regularly at the residence of John Phillippe until the first school house was built.

There were three churches in the township: Wesley Chapel on section 17, Methodist denomination; Beulah Methodist Church on section 12; and the Jersey Presbyterian Church on section 28. The Beulah Methodist Church was moved into Dewey about 1922. It is now the community room, the north end of the Dewey Mennonite Church. The Wesley Chapel Church burned in 1892 and was not rebuilt. Last service at the Jersey Church was held in 1918 or 1919. The church was sold about 1920 to Frank Kesler who tore the building down and used the lumber for farm buildings. The Jersey Ladies Aid continued to meet in individual homes for several years after the church closed. In 1932 an annual all-day meeting of the Jersey Ladies' Society was held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis Anderson with an attendance of about 100 persons. Mrs. Howard Ward of Champaign was the only charter member present. She had belonged to the organization since 1895. Mrs. Frank Nelson of Potomac had also been a member since 1895 but was not a charter member. Mrs. W.H. Jackson of Fisher dated her membership back to 1897. Others who had been members for 20 to 25 years were: Mrs. Willis Davis, Mrs. G. Cephas Williams and Mrs. Carrie Putnam.

The first marriage in Condit Township was Lewis Adkins to Mary A. Phillippe, daughter of John Phillippe, Sr. in the year of 1838. Lewis Adkins was the son of a pioneer of the Big Grove settlement near Urbana. Lewis Adkins took land in Condit in 1843 but early in the 1850's, he moved west to Iowa with his family.



Prairie College

The first post office was established in 1857 and F.B. Sale was postmaster. The post office was called Newcomb and retained that name until the completion of the narrow gauge railroad in 1876 when the name was changed to Fisher and the office was moved to that place.

According to Mathews and McLean in *Early History and Pioneers of Champaign County*, Condit Township has neither railroad, village, saloon, blacksmith shop nor manufactory of any kind, does not owe a cent, and has no dead beats. It is strictly an agricultural township."

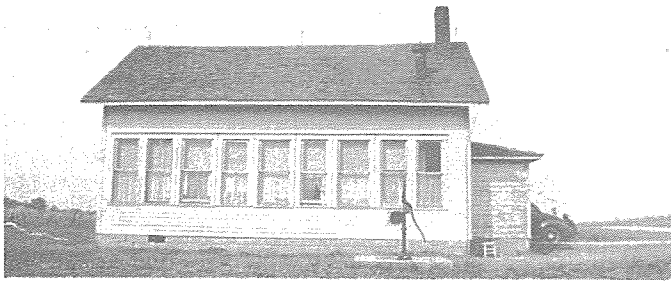
In the early 1900's there were eight rural schools in the township. These schools were not graded as we know grades today, but progress was measured by the number of readers completed. McGuffey's readers and Ray's arithmetic books were widely used. It was a source of pride for a person to go through the sixth reader, for this meant that he or she could attend a normal school for a twelve week term and become a teacher.

Some one room schools were called colleges which meant that higher education to the eighth grade was available. Condit township had Prairie College. Many pupils would be in school off and on throughout their young adult lives. Sometimes a man would be recovering from an illness and would go to school for a few weeks during his recuperation.

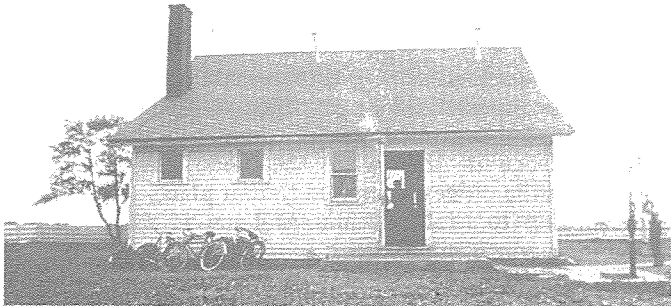
The eight schools in Condit township were Gulick in section 30, Jersey in section 28, Wesley Chapel in section 7, Prairie College in section 16, Quick in section 27, Mounts in section 11, Little Star in section 14, and Rising Sun in section 35. Jersey School was built in 1856. The first directors were Marcus Nelson, William Odell and William Laney. Jersey School was closed in the spring of 1917. Catherine Starr was the last teacher at Jersey School. The school building was sold to Wick Putnam and remodeled into a house. Ted Nigg and his family lived in it for a while. Then the building was sold to someone from Leverett and the building was moved from the Putnam farm. The building was moved as far as the railroad tracks near Leverett, but railroad officials would not grant permission to cross the railroad tracks. Roy Trotter heard about this difficulty and he bought the building and moved it to his farm. The building is still on the Roy Trotter farm and it is now used as a machine shop.

Gulick School was closed in the spring of 1949. Faye Resler was the last teacher. This school is now part of the home of the Frank M. Stout family.

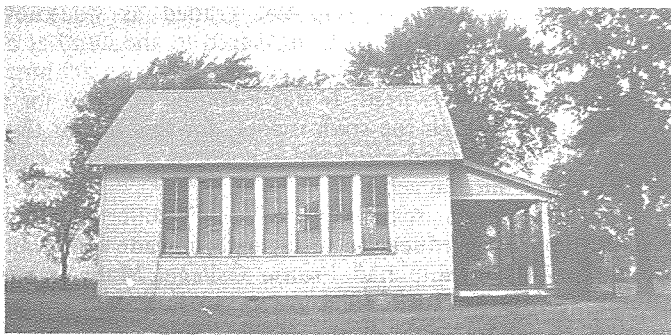
Quick School was closed in the spring of 1952. Lottie M. Hammel was the last teacher at this school. Quick School



Little Star



Quick



Gulick

was remodeled and changed into a home. William J. Collins and his family live there now.

Mounts School located between Dewey and Rantoul about 1 mile south of Route 136 was the last Champaign County one room rural school to close. For at least 80 years Mounts School had served three generations of several families. Martha Jane Penny (Mrs. Isaac Layman) was the teacher at the first school built in 1873. Mrs. W.R. (Zelma) Guy was the last teacher at Mounts School. Mrs. Guy had finished 10 years of teaching at Mounts School and retired with more than 30 years of teaching.

The school originally met in the home of Joseph Mounts. Benches were used and pupils' laps served as desks. The house is still standing in the area north of Thomasboro and is more than 100 years old. It was the home of Hartley Shields. In 1873 a new school house was built 40 rods east of the Mounts home. It was moved to its present location in 1881, two miles west and three miles north of Thomasboro. Hyde School, Little Star, and Mounts School were consolidated in 1948. Mrs. Guy, who was then teaching at the Hyde School came to Mounts School where she taught the next 10 years.



Wesley Chapel School about 1908. Front row l to r: Fred Hays, Floyd Jackson, Glen Molen, Emmet Martin, Glen Molen, Margie Camden, Lillian Martin. Second row: Vinnie Boyd, Ethel Hays, Bessie Evans, Effie Evans, Libbie Martin, Grace Camden. Back row: Alva Martin and Lester Bebee.



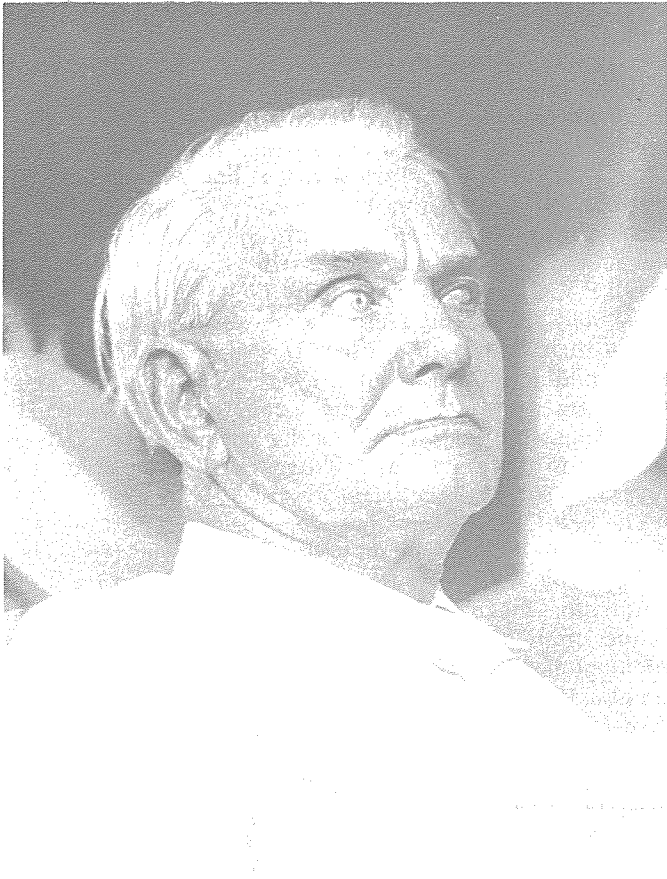
PRAIRIE COLLEGE SCHOOL 1917

Back row left to right: Lottie Hammel, teacher, Marie Sitts, Willie Moore, Reathe Barner, Bertha Resler, Violet Resler, Violet Williams, Imo Hewerdine, Fern Walker, Dorothy Barnes. Front row, l to r: Taylor Williams, Ray Hewerdine, Lawrence Wallen, Alta Foster, Rex Condit, Carrie Hewerdine, James Williams.

On the Sunday following the last day of school, a picnic was held on the school grounds. About 125 people attended the testimonial dinner for Mrs. Reuben Guy, who retired from teaching at the close of the school year. Just before the picnic began a twin-jet bomber crashed in a ball of flames just a mile and a half away. The plane had flown over the picnic area moments before. The 23 pupils attending the last term at Mounts School were transferred to the Rantoul elementary schools the following fall.

Ralph Short bought the Mounts School and changed it into a home. After living there for several years, Mr. and Mrs. Short built a new home just north of the Mounts School. Mr. and Mrs. Philip Shields now live in the Mount School home.

Wesley Chapel School was closed in the spring of 1945. Mrs. Verna Foster was the last teacher at this building. The school was sold to Isom Birks, who sold it to another person shortly after he bought the school. Mr. Birks does



Joseph H. Evans



Dick Evans

not remember to whom he sold the building. (I have been told that Wesley Chapel was changed into a home and is now located north of Rantoul but I do not have proof of this.) A small brick pump house still remains at the original site of the school.

Prairie College was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Winnifred Roy was the last teacher. Prairie College School was sold to someone from Champaign. The building was changed into a home. It is now located at 818 West Harvard Street in Champaign.

Little Star was closed in the spring of 1948. Clarence Cain was the last teacher in this building. The school stood empty for several years. In the late 1960's Owen Bidner and his son, Jack, tore down the building. The lumber was stored in farm buildings on the Richard Filkin farm.

Early religious services were held in the Rising Sun School. Rising Sun was closed in the spring of 1930. It was reopened in 1935 but closed permanently in the spring of 1945. This school was made into a home. The R. Hauersperger family live there now.

There are three cemeteries in Condit Township; Willowbrook cemetery in section 6, Knife cemetery in section 19, and Jersey cemetery in section 28. Willowbrook is located about 1/4 mile southeast of Fisher. The cemetery lies on southeasterly rolling slopes on the north and west bank of the Willow Brook. The old portion was established by L.W. (Doc) Judy on July 25, 1879. The new addition was extended to the north in 1935 doubling the size of the

cemetery which had been completely used. The old portion has some good trees and together with the new portion has been landscaped and planted on a comprehensive and permanent beautifying plan. Drive improvement and drainage were cared for by the trustees of the cemetery, Charles Fairfield was president and Mrs. Margaret Sale was secretary.

There are 4 veterans of World War I including Albert Ring, son of Augustine Ring, Confederate of the Civil War, one veteran of the Spanish-American War and 32 veterans of the Civil War buried in this cemetery. One of the Civil War veterans is buried on the J.N. Cornell lot but a record of the name is not given. Some early burials in Willowbrook are Velma Matthews in 1879, Helen Putnam in 1880, Olie Bland in 1881, Grover C. Bland in 1884, Arthur Richmond in 1881 and Mary McDowell in 1882. The present trustees are Marley Camden, president; Dorothy Springer, treasurer; Roy Hicks, secretary; Mrs. Orlena Leischner; Vern Hannah and Warren Zook. The caretaker of this cemetery is William Ferguson.

Pusey or Knife cemetery is located about 4 miles south of Fisher and lies in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 19 at the east end of a long ridge sloping toward the Big Slough bottom land some 200 yards easterly. It is fenced-in blue grass, containing some oaks, hickories and a clump of sassafras trees.

The earliest burial noted is that of Stephen and Mary Pusey in 1845. There are about 50 burials here, and there

are a number of burials which have no markings. Some were originally marked by trees. This is undoubtedly one of the earliest burial grounds of this vicinity. Several members of the Knife family are buried here. Henry Knife was buried in 1870, Charles Knife in 1868, Martha Stout in 1871 and William Sweet in 1885. There are 3 veterans of the Civil War buried here: Jasper Stout, James Stout and Henry Knife.

The cemetery is taken care of by Condit Township. The trustees are Mrs. Edna Camden, Frank M. Stout and Mrs. Roy Trotter. The caretaker is Frank M. Stout.

The Jersey cemetery is located about 6 miles southeast of Fisher and lies in the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 28 on a slight rise on an otherwise comparatively level prairie surrounded by a row of old maple trees planted, no doubt, about the time of its establishment during the Civil War.

The land was deeded the 20th day of April, 1864, by R.B. and Edith Condit to H.W. Ramin, Harry Putnam,, and James A. Bogle, trustees of the Jersey Presbyterian Church of Newcomb Township, Champaign, Illinois. The land originally contained about 2 acres, the west part of which was occupied by a church and is now covered by a grove of maple trees. The church is gone but for a while the members of the Jersey Church continued to take care of this cemetery. Condit Township now takes care of Jersey cemetery. Early burials in Jersey cemetery are Julia Lennington in 1857, Ira Lennington in 1864, Eli Shaffer in 1867, Charles Carpenter in 1872, William Shaffer in 1880 and Ella Potts in 1881.

In the early 1960's Condit Township had no schools, no churches, no railroads, but the town of Fisher had grown into Condit township. The Amvet Building is on the southeast corner of First and Division Streets where in the late 1800's a brick factory was located. The sewerage plant for Fisher was built on the south side of Route 136. The village of Fisher was offered a grant by the Federal government in the amount of about \$50,000 but the village must have the sanitary sewerage system under construction by September 1, 1967. In 1966 the residents of Fisher approved a \$170,000 bond issue for a sewerage system. Contracts were let for the sewerage work in August of 1967. Elton Wagner of Danville was awarded Contract A (sewer system) and Gaskill and Walton of Crete received Contract B (treatment facilities).

In 1974 Flo-Con Systems, Inc. had out-grown its building on Third Street in Fisher. In March 1974 a new assembly plant and temporary offices were completed on the south side of Route 136 east of Owl Creek. Flo-Con manufactures steel teeming valves. The valves, patented and designed by Earl and Jim Shapland, are used by steel manufacturers to control the flow of hot molten metal poured from the bottom of a ladle. Therefore Condit Township now has a manufactory.

There are some other businesses in Condit township. Shields Soil Service was started in 1963 by Duane Shields on the farm of the late Fred Shields in Condit Township near Dewey. In 1967 an office-scale house and a bulk shed was built. Then in 1973 a new office and a soil testing laboratory was built. The lab had proven to be an asset to the community. Shields Soil Service sells and applies fertilizers and chemicals. They also sell small equipment such as Case mowers, Yazoo mowers, wagons,

spraying equipment and tires. There is also a shop for truck and auto repair and a complete tire repair service.

In 1971 C and S Trucking was started at the same location by Duane Shields. Having a fleet of 20 trucks, freight is hauled over the southern and eastern parts of the United States and several of the trucks do local hauling.

William J. Collins, who lives on the Fisher-Dewey Road where the Quick School was located, has a farm drainage business. He started this business in 1972 and serves an area within a 50-mile radius of his home. Mr. Collins lays plastic and concrete tile. He was the first in the state to install P.V.C. (polyvinylchloride) tubing.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Ward operate the Ward's Egg Factory at their farm on the Fisher-Dewey Road. They built a large building on their farm in 1963 which can hold 17,600 layers. Eggs are sold at this location. Mrs. Ward did deliver eggs for some time. At the present time, all eggs not sold to customers at the Egg Factory are sold to a buyer who comes to the farm.

The first Condit township supervisor was A.B. Condit in 1867. Then William Lennington served from 1868 until 1873. D.F. Carpenter was supervisor in 1874 and William Lennington in 1875. Other supervisors have been: W.H. Banner in 1876 and 1879, F.B. Sale 1878-1880, William Lennington 1881-1882, F.B. Sale in 1883, William Lennington 1884-1885, W.B. Banner 1886 to 1897, J.R. Little 1898-1891, Myron Nelson 1892-1899, J.W. Church in 1900, Myron Nelson 1901-1903, Frank E. Boyd 1904 to 1911, W.H. Jackson 1912-1914, G.C. Williams 1914-1929, Jay C. Reynolds 1930-1952, Lou Crowley 1953, Alton Schwartz 1954-1956, Delano Fiscus 1957-1960, and Lyle Shields 1961 to present.

Other elected officers of Condit township at the present time are Fred Hood, road commissioner; Neal Kesler, Jack Alexander, Don Wood and Harlan Trotter, auditors; and Charles Hansen, clerk.



In the 1890's Condit township had three churches, but for many years there has been no church in Condit township. Soon there will be a new church in the Condit area — The River Valley Church of Christ.

THE RIVER VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

In July of 1975 a group of people left the Fisher Church of Christ and formed the River Valley Church of Christ. This group has been meeting at the Fisher High School every Sunday for their worship service. This congregation has purchased five acres of land east of the Amvets Building on highway 136 and with the assistance of Goodman Church Builders of Joplin, Missouri, plans to erect a house of worship in the spring of 1976. This building will seat 214 in the sanctuary and can be expanded to accom-

moderate 360 as future growth merits. It will have eight classrooms for Sunday School and a fellowship hall to accommodate 200 seated at tables. It will be equipped with a kitchen and nursery. There will also be a general office and a minister's study. It will have a spacious foyer that is entered from the southeast corner of the building. The main entrance to the building will be approached by a circle drive that will be covered by a canopy. There will be parking at the rear of the building for 72 cars. The building will cover 9,731 sq. ft. and the approximate cost of the building is \$244,000. The congregation and friends have presently made commitments for bonds to about cover the total cost of construction.

Don Wilkin is the minister of this congregation. Rev. and Mrs. Wilkin live in a new home in the River Valley Subdivision. Rev. and Mrs. Wilkin have 3 children — Donna, Kathy and Jeff — all living at home.

At one time Condit township had three churches. These churches have been gone for many years. Soon Condit township will have a new church, the River Valley Church of Christ.



The Fisher Amvet Building was completed in the spring of 1948.

AMVET POST #52

Amvets was literally born in war — for the cause of peace.

In August 1943, with victory still two years and many bloody battles away, two groups of disabled Veterans in Washington, D.C. merged to form American Veterans of World War II.

In December 1944, nine veterans organizations across the nation, made aware of each other by a Collier's magazine article, met in Kansas City, Missouri, to form a national organization. They adopted the name American Veterans of World War II.

A newspaperman, trying to fit the name of the veterans organization into a headline, created the abbreviation Amvet and this later was adopted officially. Amvets first national convention was held at Chicago in October of 1945.

In March of 1946 the Fisher Amvets was organized. Gale Elkins, now of Rialto, California, was the first Commander. Those first meetings being held in several different places, such as Barker's Barber Shop, Ralph's Garage, Fisher High School, and the City Hall.

Realizing the need for a building or a place to hold their meetings, the Amvets decided to build their own building. The acre of land was donated by the late H.I. Green of Champaign.

In 1946 the Amvets raffled off a new Plymouth to be given away at the Fisher Fair in August of that year to start their building fund. Not enough money was raised, so in 1947 another car was raffled off, this time raising enough money to complete their dream. Several people in the community donated money to assist with this project. In the spring of 1948 the present Amvet Building was completed and an open house was held.

The following were charter members: Lyle Hummel, Marvin Birkey, James Zook, George Adams, Harold Smith, Henley Powell, Kenneth Kellar, Warren Keller, Lyle Elkins, Everett Hedrick, Werner Scofield, Paul Barker, Gordon Renfer, Milton Lammle, Leo Elkins, Lyle Sheppard, Kenneth Moore, Edgar Cook, Ernest Rosenberry, Ralph Lammle, Virgil Stewart, Alden Hughey, Clyde Dean, Ora King, Homer Fitch, Vernon Heichelbech, Marion Hannah, Willard Marcellus, Raymond Gardner, Lyle Baylor, Ralph Blair, and Russell Rice.

The Amvets have been active with community projects over the last 30 years. Some of these were: Boy Scouts sponsorship for three years, presentation of a flag pole for the high school, assisting with an athletic banquet and awards nights for the high school, presentation of Color Guard for homecoming activities, sponsorship of blood bank, providing Christmas baskets for needy families, holding teen dances, helping families of community in time of bereavement, donation to Gibson City Community Hospital, giving ward parties at Danville Veterans Hospital, help finance Rustic Chapel at Danville Veterans Hospital, and canvass drives in Fisher for polio.

Past Commanders include: 1946 Gale Elkins, 1947 Lyle Sheppard, 1948 Sidney Smith, 1949 George Shroyer, 1950 Ralph Lammle, 1951 Derrell Fairfield, 1952 Carl Wetterling and Joe Diorio, 1953 Lyle Hummel, 1954 Al Swihart, 1955 Robert Kaiser, 1956 Joe Diorio, 1957 Kenneth Nelson, 1958 Derrell Fairfield, 1959 Ray Nelson, 1960 Jim Fink, 1961 Ralph Blair, 1962 Bill Brown, 1963 Lyle Hummel, 1964 Eubie Blackman, 1965 LeLand Chandler, 1966 Ron West, 1967 Warren Zook, 1968 George Shroyer, 1969 Ronald Hill, 1970 Joe Diorio, 1971-72 Jim Adamson, 1973 Harry Allen, 1974 Al Vallimont and Jim Adamson, 1975-76 LeLand Chandler.

This page sponsored by:

**FISHER AMVET POST #52, Fisher
THOR-O-BRED SEED CO. OF ILLINOIS, INC., Mahomet**

**ASSOCIATED ABSTRACT CO., Champaign
EISNER FOOD STORES, Champaign**

HISTORY — AMVET AUXILIARY

The history of our Amvet Auxiliary, Post 52, of Fisher, Illinois, dates back to October 1, 1946. We held our first meeting at the home of June Shroyer with ten girls present. We obtained our charter September 2, 1947; which was signed by twenty-three members. Our past presidents have been June Shroyer, Alta Kellar, Darlene Lammle, Cleo Deremiah, Lucille Sheppard, Mary Fairfield, Lola Webster, Gladys Larson, Betty Rice, Maribeth Cox, Hazel Blair, Helen Hummel, Ruth Chandler, Louise Baylor, Dorothy Birkey, Joyce Diorio, Donna Devall, Darlene Zehr, Aliene Jayne, and Helen Cook. Charter members are: June Shroyer, Cleo Deremiah, Lucille Sheppard, Alice Howell, Gladys Larson, Ann Neumann, Janet Stuehm, Darlene Lammle, Ida Smith, Virginia Beeler, Reba Fitch, Dorothy Birkey, Stella Smith, Alta Kellar, Pearl Hinton, Carolyn Hedrick, Jean Birkey, Dorothy Sheppard, Betty Cagle, Ernestine Lammle, Thelma Barker, Lois Redding, and Madeline Welch.

The Auxiliary community projects over the years have been: sponsorship of community Halloween parties, donation of money for band uniforms for the High School, purchase of a hospital bed for community use, helping the American Legion Auxiliary with the placing of wreaths on Memorial Day, sponsorship of Easter hunt and annual Christmas parties for Fisher children, helping canvass for cancer fund drive, distribution of food, clothing and toys to needy families at Christmas, held essay contests on Americanism for students, and donation of books to the school library.

The present president of the Amvet Auxiliary is Helen Cook. This group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at the Amvet building.

GULICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79

Condit Township

1899-00 Barrett Murray
1900-01 A.M. Stonehouse
1901-02 George Samson
1902-03 Arthur Dolph
1903-04 Winona Naylor
1904-07 W.L. Davis
1907-08 Lulu Conard
1908-09 W.L. Davis
1909-10 Agnes Koepke
1910-11 Sarah Hazen
1911-12 Lulu Giep
1912-14 Marie Lindsey
1914-15 Mrs. L.G. Williams
1915-16 Helen Purnell
1916-17 Louise Oaks
1917-18 Nelle Mounts
1918-19 Mildred Ball
1919-20 Edna Hazen
1920-21 Lottie Hammel
1921-22 Clara Gerber
1922-28 Lottie Hammel
1928-29 S.M. Aldridge
1920-32 Harry B. Green
1932-34 Nellie Suttle
1934-35 Frank H. Walker

1935-37 Mrs. Elva M. Roth
1937-39 Ralph W. Roth
1939-44 Mrs. Elizabeth Scott
1944-45 Juanita M. Gates
1945-46 Mrs. Mary Pfeffer
1946-48 Mrs. Mary Wirth
1948-49 Faye Resler
1949-50 Closed

JERSEY SCHOOL SYSTEM NO. 80

Condit Township

1899-00 Zona Elwarner
1900-02 Edith Banner
1902-03 Myrtle Rayburn
1903-04 Neva E. Swayze
1904-06 Grace B. McCool
1906-08 Mattie Waddington
1908-09 Lula F. Conrad
1909-10 Bertha Womacks
1910-12 Agnes Nelson
1912-13 Lottie Hammel
1913-14 Rose Gilmore
1914-15 Lorena Wylie
1915-16 Golda Hannah
1916-17 Catherine Staff
1917-18 Closed

QUICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 81

Condit Township

1899-00 Susie Burch
1900-01 J. Barrett Murray
1901-02 Maude Hamm
1902-03 Agnes Waddington
1903-04 Margaret Applegate
1904-05 James S. Conard
1905-06 Gertrude A. Hickman
1906-07 Arthur Cook
1907-08 Nettie McNeal
1908-09 Ethlyn Haney
1909-10 Fannie Evans
1910-11 Marie Lindsey
1911-12 Nettie G. McNeal
1912-13 Vera Bryan
1913-14 Minnie Davis
1914-15 Goldie Hannah
1915-16 Helen Stillwell
1916-17 Lois Condit
1917-18 H.C. Deffenbaugh
1918-19 Hazel Miller
1919-20 Ethel Vern Phillips
1920-21 Freda Hartman
1921-22 O.F. Gulick
1922-23 Guy Whicker
1923-25 Emma Timm
1925-26 Lydia Scholfield
1926-27 Hattie Dean
1927-28 Emma Timm
1928-31 O.F. Gulick
1931-34 Mrs. Marie Mitchell
1934-35 Lorene Kruse
1935-36 Mrs. Pearl B. Sisk
1936-37 Helen Van Sickle
1937-38 Mary Grant

1938-39 Mrs. Mary G. Meyers
 1939-40 Mary Suttle
 1940-41 Maurine Donovan
 1941-43 Mrs. Mary Nelson
 1943-44 Ruth A. Short
 1944-45 Mrs. Isabella Hawthorne
 1945-46 Mrs. Theresa Guynn Hughey
 1946-52 Lottie Hammel
 1952-53 Closed

RISEING SUN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 82
Condit Township

1899-01 Lena Snider
 1901-03 Margaret Applegate
 1903-04 Ada L. Maxwell
 1904-05 C.B. Matheny
 1905-07 Nettie McNeal
 1907-09 Arthur F. Cook
 1909-10 John Dailey
 1910-12 Nellie Jane Kane
 1912-13 Ethel Allen
 1913-16 Lottie Hammel
 1916-17 Bernice Downs
 1917-18 Beulah Roberts
 1918-19 Mae Kellar
 1919-21 Olive Wisthuff
 1921-22 Lottie Hammel
 1922-24 Marie H. Fiedler
 1924-25 Echo B. Lawrence
 1925-26 Ruth Thompson
 1926-27 Marian Lawhead
 1927-28 Hattie Dean
 1928-29 Ruth Thompson
 1929-30 Neva Collins
 1930-33 No school
 1933-35 Frances Willard
 1935-37 Mrs. Ruth Grove
 1937-38 Mrs. Hattie Lemon
 1938-42 Hattie McBrian
 1942-43 Mrs. Ella Kinzer
 1943-44 Mrs. Nelle C. H——
 1944-45 No school

LITTLE STAR SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 83
Condit Township

1899-00 Maude Homin
 1900-01 Lena Snider and Lulu Beattie
 1901-02 Emma Stickrod
 1902-04 Maude Hamm
 1904-05 Sue Susdorf
 1905-06 Fay Messenger
 1906-08 Estelle McNeal
 1908-09 Elizabeth Hanrahan
 1909-10 Josie Gordon
 1910-12 Margaret Feriter
 1912-13 Emily McCarty
 1913-14 John F. Dailey
 1914-16 Lois Condit
 1916-17 Lottie Hammel
 1917-18 Evelyn Messenger
 1918-19 Minnie Pike

1919-21 Matilda Shields
 1921-22 Jessie Welch
 1922-23 Ethel V. Phillips
 1923-24 Sadie Burke
 1924-25 Myrtle McKinney
 1925-26 Fannie Jester
 1926-27 La Vaughn Hill
 1927-28 Minnie Gresham
 1928-29 Fannie Jester
 1929-32 Myrtle McKinney
 1932-33 Alice Baker
 1933-34 Dorman J. Sutton
 1934-35 Mrs. Genevieve B. Kaler
 1935-38 Mrs. Mildred Filson
 1938-40 Mildred Hedges
 1940-43 Mrs. Alice Mumma
 1943-44 Mrs. Evelyn Anderson
 1944-45 Mrs. Alice Mumma
 1945-48 Clarence Cain
 1948-49 Closed

PRAIRIE COLLEGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 84
Condit Township

1899-00 Mamie A. Taylor
 1900-01 Hattie Beattie
 1901-02 Lena Snider
 1902-03 Audie Foster
 1903-04 Arthur Cook
 1904-05 Jesse Loveless
 1905-06 C.B. Matheney
 1906-07 C.B. Matheney and Ralston Brock
 1907-09 Bertha Womacks
 1909-10 Olive Evans
 1910-11 Bertha Womacks
 1911-12 Ruby Britt
 1912-13 Ruby Britt and S.F. Putman
 1913-14 Nelle McConnell
 1914-15 Ruby Britt
 1915-16 Jessie Rice
 1916-17 Edna M. Howe
 1917-18 Ava Heyer
 1918-19 Lottie M. Hammel
 1919-20 Charles Shields
 1920-21 Mae Kellar
 1921-22 Edith Resler Schwartz
 1922-23 Dorothy Sizer
 1923-24 Margaret Huff
 1924-25 Dorothy M. Sizer
 1925-26 Mildred Cristy
 1926-29 Randall Nelson
 1929-30 Anna Lewis
 1930-32 Jessie Lewis
 1932-35 Margery Condit
 1935-37 Marguerite Serwise
 1937-39 Mrs. Martha Banner
 1939-41 Betty Lee Hazard
 1941-44 Mrs. Betty Troxell
 1944-45 Mrs. Martha Jackson
 1945-46 Helen Slack
 1946-47 Winnifred Sizer
 1947-48 Winnifred Sizer Roy
 1948-49 Closed

WESLEY CHAPEL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 85**Condit Township**

1899-01 W.L. Davis
 1901-02 S.W. Pursell
 1902-03 Arthur Morehouse
 1903-06 Jesse Loveless
 1906-07 G.W. Woodard
 1907-08 Charlotte Hume
 1908-11 Mattie Waddington
 1911-12 Ethel Allen
 1912-13 Nellie Brash
 1913-15 George E. Ekblaw
 1915-16 Valentina Hawkins
 1916-17 Marie Eppinger
 1917-18 Lois Condit
 1918-19 Dot Ballew
 1919-20 Gladys Hyde
 1920-22 Iva B. Anderson
 1922-23 Margaret Huff
 1923-24 Clyde W. Lester
 1924-25 Mrs. Faye Resler
 1925-26 Thelma Foster
 1926-27 Mrs. Anna Shell
 1927-28 Stella Rohlfing
 1928-31 Lottie Hammel
 1931-32 Mary Suttle
 1932-34 Randall Nelson
 1934-37 Mabel L. Hazen
 1937-42 Grace Neal
 1942-43 Mrs. Ellen Morton
 1943-45 Verna Foster
 1945-46 No school

MOUNTS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 86**Condit Township**

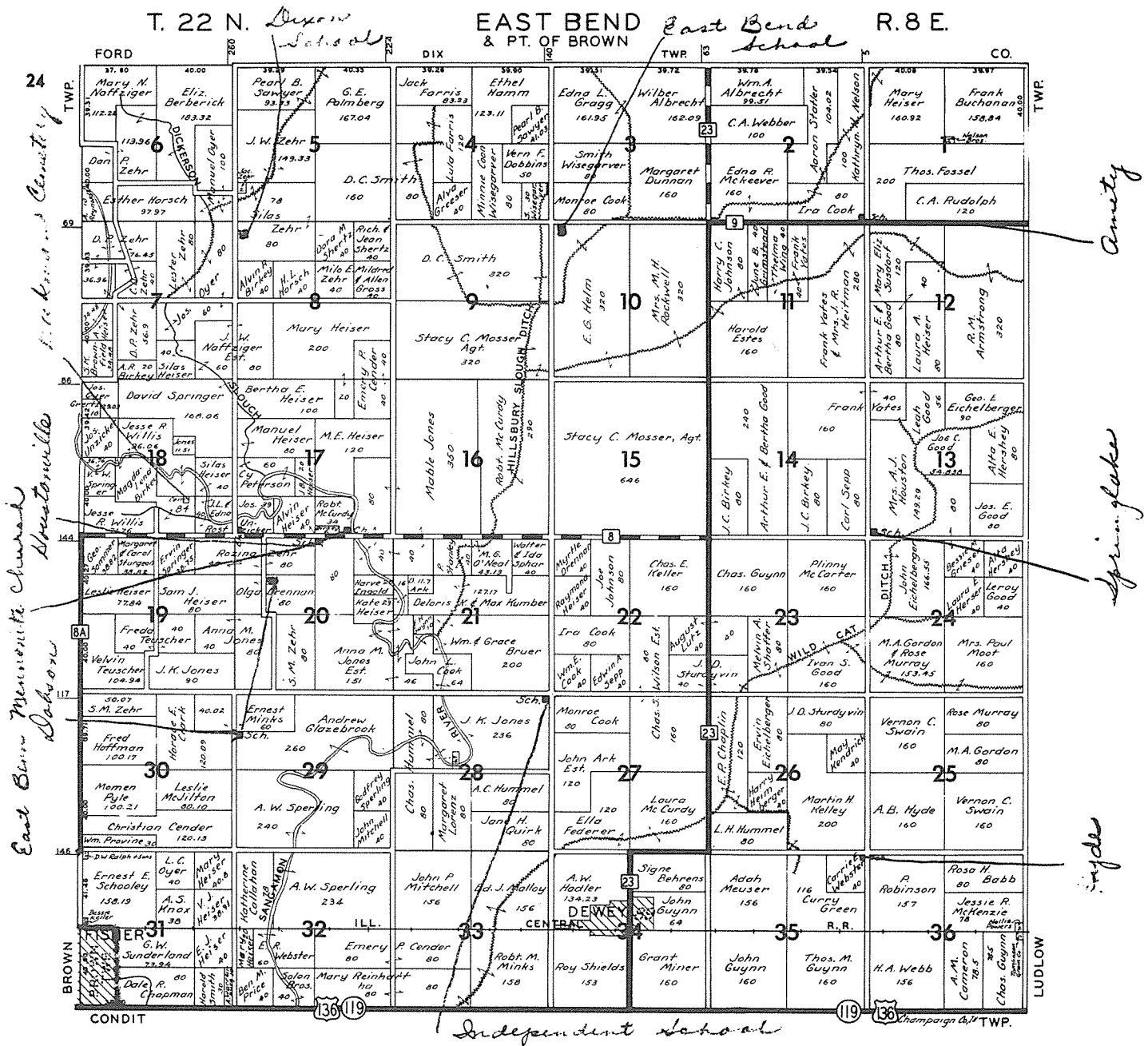
1899-00 Roscoe Roth
 1900-02 T.J. Stickrod
 1902-03 George C. Ketchum
 1903-05 Vesta Rayburn
 1905-06 Mabel Womacks
 1906-08 Zina McConnell
 1908-09 Nellie Marshall
 1909-10 Hope Howard
 1910-11 Olive Evans
 1911-13 Nellie McConnell
 1913-14 Ella Hummel
 1914-15 Mary Deany
 1915-17 Hygiene Carson
 1917-18 Charles W. Shields
 1918-19 Nelle Mounts
 1919-20 Mabel Hull
 1920-21 Bernice Rash
 1921-22 Ida Pollett
 1922-28 Mayre F. Pilgrim
 1928-30 Leone Hinton
 1930-31 June Evans
 1931-32 Mrs. Charlotte Critzer
 1932-35 Alice Fletcher
 1935-37 Vera Mae Miller
 1937-38 Ruth Webster
 1938-41 Ruth Simon
 1941-43 Beth Gifford
 1943-48 Mrs. Mary K. Hyde
 1948-58 Mrs. Zelma Guy
 1958-59 Closed

EARLY SETTLERS OF CONDIT TOWNSHIP 21 RANGE 8

| Name | Post Office Residence | Occupation | Nativity | Came To County |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Abbott, James H. | Behrens Section 22 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Mason Co., Ill. | 1876 |
| Abbott, Mrs. Callie | Behrens Section 22 | Wife of J.H. Abbott | Champaign Co., Ill. | 1859 |
| Banner, W.H. | Fisher Section 17 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Franklin Co., Ohio | 1861 |
| Banner, Mrs. Jerusha | Fisher Section 17 | Wife of W.H. Banner | Licking Co., Ohio | 1867 |
| Cochran, John C. | Champaign Section 17 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Muskingham Co., Ohio | 1869 |
| Cochran, Mrs. Louisa | Champaign Section 17 | Wife of J.C. Cochran | Clinton Co., Mo. | 1869 |
| Fisher, J.F. | Fisher Section 29 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Champaign Co., Ill. | 1855 |
| Fisher, Mrs. Nannie | Fisher Section 29 | Wife of J.F. Fisher | Champaign CO., Ill. | 1855 |
| Fletcher, J.W. | Rantoul Section 11 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Yorkshire, England | 1872 |
| Fletcher, Mrs. Alice | Rantoul Section 11 | Wife of J.W. Fletcher | England | 1872 |
| Hewerdine, William | Behrens Section 16 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Linenshire, England | 1856 |
| Hewerdine, Mrs. N.J. | Behrens Section 16 | Wife of W. Hewerdine | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1853 |
| Hockaday, Eugene | Champaign Section 35 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Greenup Co., Kentucky | 1870 |
| Hockaway, Mrs. F.L. | Champaign Section 35 | Wife of E.W. Hockaday | Sangamon Co., Ill. | 1870 |
| Johnston, Hale A. | Behrens Section 21 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Haverhill, N.H. | 1856 |
| Johnston, Lucy J. | Behrens Section 21 | Wife of H.A. Johnston | Licking Co., Ohio | 1857 |
| Layman, Lewis | Rantoul Section 15 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Mason Co., Ill. | 1870 |
| Layman, Mrs. Sarah C. | Rantoul Section 15 | Wife of Lewis Layman | Sangamon Co., Ill. | 1870 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Lax, Newark | Thomasboro Section 25 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Durham Co., England | 1855 |
| Lax, Mrs. Mary L. | Thomasboro Section 25 | Wife of Newark Lax | Morgan Co., Ill. | 1875 |
| Leonard, John | Champaign Section 23 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Carlow Co., Ireland | 1869 |
| Leonard, Mrs. E.F. | Champaign Section 23 | Wife of John Leonard | Ross Co., Ohio | 1870 |
| McCay, Orus | Fisher Section 19 | Farmer & Stock Trader | Montgomery Co., Ind. | 1870 |
| McCay, Mrs. M.A. | Fisher Section 19 | Wife of Orus McCay | Crawford Co., Pa. | 1870 |
| Murray, Peter | Champaign Section 22 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Roscommon, Ireland | 1868 |
| Murray, Peter Sr. | Champaign Section 22 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Roscommon, Ireland | 1868 |
| Murray, Mrs. Margaret | Champaign Section 22 | Wife of P. Murray Sr. | Roscommon, Ireland | 1868 |
| Nelson, Marcus | Champaign Section 32 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Franklin Co., Mass. | 1856 |
| Nelson, Mrs. S.E. | Champaign Section 32 | Wife of Marcus Nelson | Franklin Co., Mass. | 1857 |
| Omey, J.H. | Behrens Section 9 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Jackson Co., Ohio | 1870 |
| Omey, Mrs. Isabella | Behrens Section 9 | Wife of J.H. Omey | Juniata Co., Pa. | 1870 |
| Putnam, L.E. | Behrens Section 15 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Licking Co., Ohio | 1857 |
| Putnam, Mrs. S.J.M. | Behrens Section 15 | Wife of L.E. Putnam | Clark Co., Inc. | 1858 |
| Sale, F.B. | Fisher Section 18 | Farmer | Green Co., Ohio | 1853 |
| Sale, Mrs. Maria C. | Fisher Section 18 | Wife of F.B. Sale | Green Co., Ohio | 1853 |
| Susdorf, George | Thomasboro Section 24 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Germany | 1876 |
| Susdorf, Mrs. | Thomas Section 24 | Wife of George Susdorf | Peoria Co., Ill. | 1876 |
| Tennant, J.H. | Rantoul Section 13 | Farmer, Stock Dealer and Shipper | New York | 1872 |
| Ward, Jessie | Behrens Section 8 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | W'stmreld Co., Pa. | 1874 |
| Ward, Mrs. Savillah | Behrens Section 8 | Wife of Jessie Ward | Lancaster Co., Pa. | 1874 |

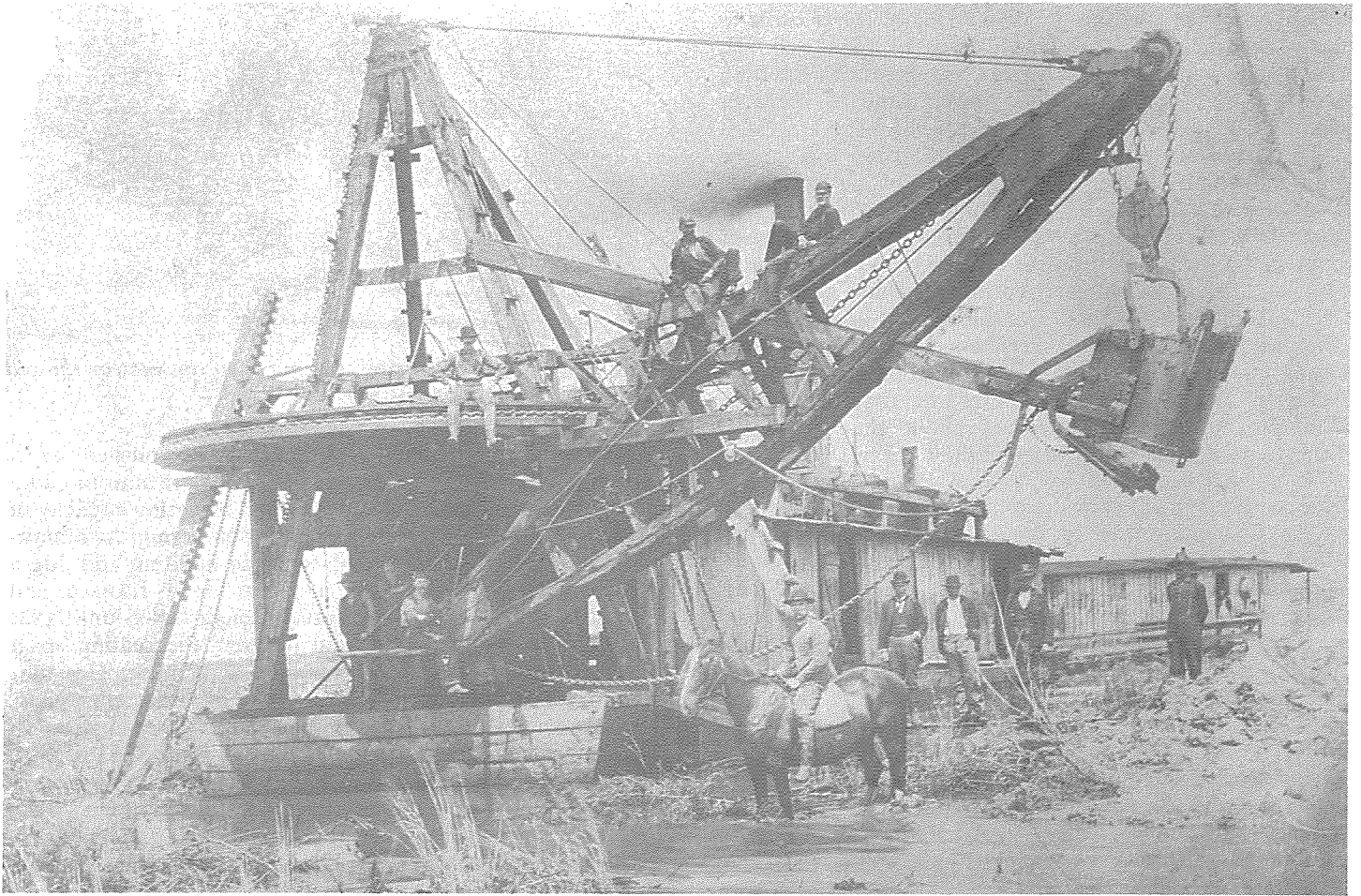
p. 182 History of Champaign County, Ill. published by Brink, McDonough and Co. in 1878.



HISTORY OF EAST BEND TOWNSHIP

East Bend township was one of the original fifteen townships in Champaign county. This township is bounded on the east by Ludlow township, on the north by Ford county, on the west by Brown township, and on the south by Condit township; and occupies the Congressional township of 22, range 8 east. East Bend township received its name from the bend which the Sangamon River makes in flowing through its territory. This stream enters the township from the west, running toward the center of the township and then bends away to the southwest, forming an extensive bend which caused the name of East Bend to be fixed upon this area. The soil is fertile and most of it is suited for farming purposes. The Sangamon River, with the heavy growth of timber lining its banks gave excellent advantages

to the farms adjacent to it in the way of stock raising. As first organized, East Bend township included what is now Brown township, which was taken from it in 1869. It is claimed that the first settler in this township was one Joseph Newcomb, who settled on section 32 on the bank of the Sangamon river, at a place afterwards known as Newcomb's Ford. Land was entered here in September of 1835, the west half of the southwest quarter of section 32, township 22, range 8 by Ethan Newcomb. Newcomb came from Kentucky. Franklin Dobson, who came from Kentucky, settled in section 29 about 1837. In 1841 he moved to another locality, but 5 or 6 years later he came back again, and from that time he resided on his place until he sold it to William



Dredge boat working on the Wild Cat Slough in the 1890's. J.W. Fink, father of Pete Fink of Dewey is on top of the turntable. Charlie Lewis, who was the boss of this operation is at the far right. A cook can be seen in the cabin to the rear.

Heyer. In 1841 Nicholas Devore, a native of Kentucky, settled in section 20. Mr. Devore had 3 sons, Isaac, John, and Andrew Jackson. Isaac died but the other two sons settled in the same section near their father. In 1848 or 1849 Gardner Sweet came from Indiana and settled close to the Devores. In 1852 Sweet sold his land to Jacob L. Cosner who also came from Indiana. On the farm where John McJilton later lived, in section 7, Thompson Dickson settled about 1852. Mr. Dickson was from Ohio, and died about 1858, on the same section. Harvey Taylor was also an early settler, coming about 1849 and moving away about 1855. The farm which Lewis Warner later owned was originally settled by Harmon Hillsbury about the year 1852. Hillsbury lived there until he died. Martin Stephenson settled on section 19 about 1852. In the year 1854 Richard Chism settled on section 20 and his son, Thomas J. Chism later lived there. Richard Chism was born in Kentucky, but came to this county from Logan County, Ohio. Joseph Wren came the same fall and settled in section 31 but later moved to Kansas.

Among other old residents was Julius Cranston, who came from Champaign County, Ohio. He bought land in section 6, in the year 1856 and began to improve the land the following year. Noble Byers and John F. Stansbury were early settlers in Section 5. Isaiah Farris settled in section 2. Previous settlers had all located near the Sangamon, along the timber, and Farris was the first man to

settle out on the prairie at any considerable distance from the timber, and until 1858 or 1859 his house and that of a man named Sniters were the only improvements on the northern line of the township between the Sangamon and the town of Ludlow.

In the year 1858 John Harnit became a resident of the township, and took a conspicuous part in its affairs until the time of his death in 1869. He purchased three hundred acres of prairie in section 2. He represented the township for a number of terms on the Board of Supervisors. Alfred Houston moved to the section 5 in the year 1860. He was born in Harrison County, Kentucky and came to the county in 1854. He settled in the timber in Brown township where he lived until he moved to East Bent.

There were few settlers in the township until after 1860, when the population began to steadily increase and improvements were made rapidly. Joshua Peckham began to improve the farm on which George W. Wagner later resided in section 6. Where John Swayze lived a man named Coon settled about 1860. In the same part of the township Israel Maginnis made a settlement about the same time. Besherer Swayze, the father of John Swayze and William H. Swayze, came to the township in 1863. He was born near Trenton, New Jersey, and died in 1867. Other early settlers were Philip Hummel, who settled on section 28, and James Jeffries, who came to the county in 1860. Thomas Hewerdine, who was a leading citizen in the southern part

of the township, came to the county in 1853. Ernest Lorenz, who was an active man about Dewey, first became a resident of the township in 1865. William Heyer came to the county in 1865; A.A. Ham came in 1864. John N. Heinemann came in 1863. August and Frederick Sperling came in 1865 and August C. Miller came in 1868. E. Dolph came in 1852 and Henry Hummel in 1861.

The first store established in this township was on the land of Jacob L. Cosner on the west side of the Sangamon river about a quarter of a mile above where it is now crossed by the bridge. The first proprietor of the store was Charles Knapp. The store was afterward moved to Houstonville, on section 19, where Joshus Peckham had charge of it. A blacksmith shop was also built at this point. Thomas Knight succeeded Peckham as proprietor of the store, and during his occupancy a post-office was established at Houstonville and he was the first postmaster. This post-office was established about the year 1871. Ernest Lorenz next took charge of the store in 1872, and in 1876 he was succeeded by William Houston. The post-office at Houstonville was discontinued in 1878.

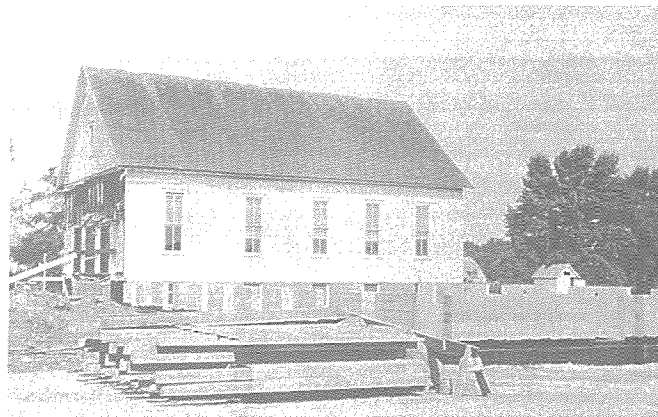
The first post-office in the township was established about 1853 at Thompson Dickson's house in section 7. Dickson was postmaster. It was called East Bend. This office was subsequently moved to Ford County, and there was no post-office in the township until the establishment of the office at Houstonville. The only church in the township in 1878 was a Methodist church on section 2, built in the fall of 1875. This church was called Harmony Church.

By 1905 East Bend had been greatly benefited by the artificial system of drainage which had been constructed in what is known as Hilberry Slough and the Wild Cat Slough, water sheds which empty into the Sangamon River. Those who, in early times, crossed the township, well remembered the immense tracts of land covered with water, all of which are now wholly reclaimed and in high state of cultivation.

EAST BEND MENNONITE CHURCH

The East Bend Mennonite Church was developed by people who had immigrated from Tazewell County into Champaign County. It was named East Bend because it was located on the east bend of the Sangamon River near Fisher.

The first Amish settler in Champaign County was Charles Stormer who came from Dillon Creek in 1882. The land was cheap, and Stormer bought a farm, paying 27 dollars and 50 cents per acre. He was followed in the next year by August Ingold and in 1887 by Jacob Heiser from Morton. In the years of 1888 and 1889 Andrew Birkey and Peter Zehr came to Fisher. Peter Zehr was the first minister and soon organized a church in the Dixon School house in East Bend Township. This school was used for church services from 1890 to 1892. An increase in membership made it necessary to find a larger and better building. In 1892 the Methodist Church at Houstonville was rented but this soon was too small so the church members voted to buy 1 and 1/2 acres of land for 50 dollars on which they erected a frame structure 36 feet by 40 feet which contained one large room and two smaller rooms and held approximately one hundred and eighty people. It was dedicated by John Smith in 1895.



In 1947 a large extension was made to the east of the old East Bend Mennonite Church.

In 1907 the church building was demolished by a tornado. It was then replaced by another frame building which was 40 feet by 60 feet and had a seating capacity of 300. In 1919 the need again arose for enlarging. A committee was chosen and they enlarged the building and dug a basement which provided a place for a furnace and Sunday school rooms. This arrangement lasted until 1935 when the congregation again outgrew the seating space and remodeling had to be planned once more. This time the trustees took on the task of planning the remodeling. They removed the cloak rooms to the basement and made room for sixty-five people. This lasted until 1947 when it was a necessity to do something about space. A committee was formed with Nelson Sommer as chairman. They secured an architect and began planning for expansion. They decided that they should use part of the old building with a large extension to the east. The new building is a brick structure with a vaulted auditorium and a balcony. This has a seating capacity of 750. The new building is equipped with a dozen classrooms, kitchen, and dining room facilities, a nursery, study, cloak rooms, and rest rooms. The building has a 60 by 120 foot basement and is equipped with two furnaces. Much of the labor and part of the materials were donated and building was completed at a cost of \$110,000.

The first singing in the church was in the German language. Songs were usually sung slowly in unison without benefit of notes or chorister. About 1896 notes and part singing were introduced, but the German language was still in use. About 1920 it became necessary to use the English language since the children no longer studied German. Since 1970 an organ is used in the church services. Ministers who have served the congregation at East Bend are Peter Zehr, Joseph Beacher, J.A. Heiser, Harold Zehr, Howard Zehr, Alton Horst and Irvin Nussbaum.

DEWEY MENNONITE CHURCH

Following a survey of the Dewey community, a Sunday school was started by the Extension Committee of the East Bend Mennonite Church of rural Fisher. The first Sunday school was held in April 1940, in an upstairs lodge hall which was not being used any more. The first few months the Sunday school was held on Sunday afternoon. Later the time was changed to Sunday morning, and they had

preaching service every other Sunday conducted by the ministers of East Bend. The Sunday school superintendent was in charge of the services the Sunday the ministers were not present. The Sunday school was held in the upstairs hall for four years with an average attendance of 25. On January 1, 1944 the Sunday school was moved to the building formerly used by the German Lutheran Church of Dewey. This was a more suitable building and the average attendance grew to 45. Much of the church work has been done with the children and shut-ins of Dewey. One of the problems has been the shifting population of Dewey. In December 1954, plans were completed to purchase the Methodist Church property at the corner of Willow and Third Streets. Remodeling and repairs to the building were started with many local people cooperating.

On December 11, 1955 a special service of ordination was held for Ivan L. Birkey (now of Rantoul). On February 13, 1955 a crowd of 325 braved the mid-winter cold to attend the Dedication Service for the Dewey Mennonite Church. In 1972 while Ivan L. Birkey took a year's leave of absence, Theodore Wentland of Fisher filled the pulpit of the Dewey Mennonite Church. At the present time, this is the only church in Dewey. The Dewey Mennonite Church offers a place of worship and Christian fellowship for all people. The average attendance is approximately 100. The membership of this church has grown from 32 in 1955 to 89 in 1975.



Confirmation Day, May 16, 1926, at the German Lutheran Church in Dewey. Standing on the steps in the front row are Meta Henretta Renken, Gertrude Helen Meuser, Rev. William Hartman, John Paul Meuser and Walter Emil Lammle.

GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church was located on lot 2 in block 3 of the original town of Dewey (on the southeast corner of Sangamon and Third Streets). The church was built in the 1880's. Henry Behrens donated the ground for the church. At first services were in both the German and English languages. Later only the English language was used. Among the ministers that served this church were Theodore Vogel, J.B. Graupner, Max W.E. Manteuffel, William Hartman and C.L. Bliss. One early minister roomed in Osman, came to Dewey on Saturday to instruct

the children in the confirmation class. He would spend the evening at a church member's home and conduct an early morning service before returning to Osman for a service there. Services were discontinued at this church late in 1943. Some of the members of this church joined the American Lutheran Church in Rantoul. Others became members of Immanuel Lutheran Church at Osman.

Mennonites rented the church on January 1, 1944 and continued to use the building for their services until 1954. In November of 1954 this building was sold to Jasper Roth. He tore down the building and built a home on the same site. Mrs. Francine Shaw and her three daughters live in the home at the present time.

BEEKMAN CEMETERY

The Beekman cemetery about 3 miles north of Fisher was established by Earnest and Barbara Beekman, who deeded the ground, April 21, 1880 to the township of East Bend for the purposes of a neighborhood graveyard. It had evidently been used for a number of years prior to that date as a cemetery. The earliest burials noted are those of the Devore family children, four of them in 1846.

The Beekman Cemetery lies in the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 18-22-8 on the easterly end of a ridge sloping easterly toward the bottom land formed by the forks of the Sangamon River, several hundred yards distant. It is fenced, well kept, and contains a number of fine oak trees. Another grove of oaks lies along the eastern brow of the slope east of the cemetery.

It is partly taken care of by the township. John Drennan is custodian and caretaker. There are 12 veterans of the Civil War and one veteran of World War I buried here.

PEABODY BURIALS

The Peabody burials are located about one mile north of Fisher on the Melvin Teuscher place east of the east edge of the highway in the southwest quarter of section 30-22-8. The following is inscribed on the stones: "Charles A., son of William and O.E. Peabody. Died September 30 1860. Aged 1 year 9 months and 23 days." and "Amia, son of William and O.E. Peabody. Died February 26, 1862. Aged 8 months 5 days." Burials were originally made in the southwest corner of the garden on the hill. When the road was improved, it was widened eastward to the burials. Dr. C.B. Cline, 114 E. Main Street, Danville, Illinois did care for the graves for some years.

EAST BEND CEMETERY

East Bend Cemetery is located about 3 miles north of Fisher in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 19-22-8 and contains 1 acre donated by Andrew Birkey Sr. It was organized in 1895 by the Mennonite Church. In 1923 Christian Gut and his wife, Mary, deeded a lane on the east side, now used for burial purposes. The first burial in this cemetery was Andrew Birkey on October 11, 1895.

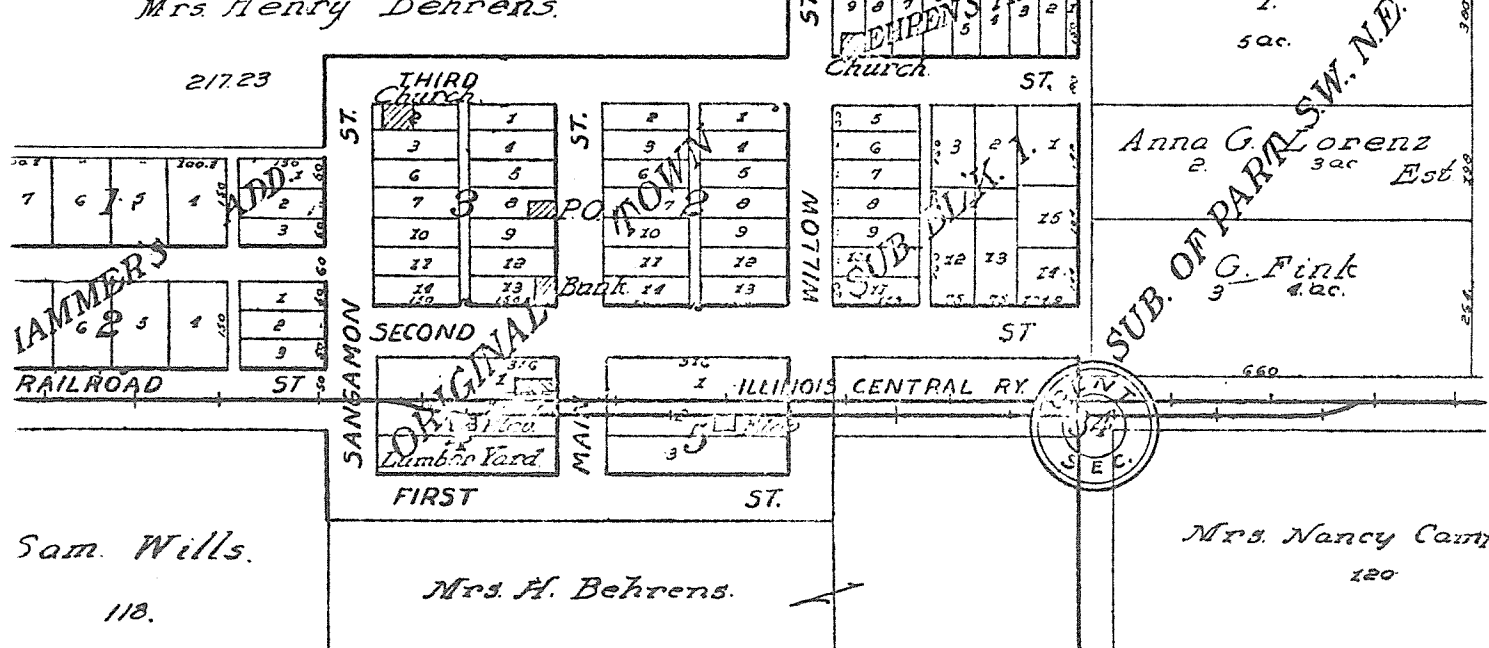
This cemetery is fenced and in good up-keep through funds provided by annual assessment of members of the church for church and cemetery purposes. Burials are free to members of the church. All other burials are a matter of special arrangement.

DEWEY

EAST BEND TWP.

Scale. 300 ft. to 1 inch

Mrs. Henry Behrens.



In the spring of 1968 the East Bend Mennonite Church bought 2 acres from David Yoder for cemetery purposes. This new section is called Memorial Gardens and it is located across the road and to the north of the original cemetery. Roy Good, who was buried on March 9, 1968, is the first burial in the Memorial Gardens.

For a long time there were no veterans buried in the East Bend Cemetery but in recent years, three veterans have been buried. Edward Eichelberger of rural route Rantoul is the sexton-secretary of this cemetery.

The earliest supervisor of East Bend township was John G. Campbell in 1861 and 1862. He was followed by John Harnit in 1863, 1864 and 1865. Other early supervisors were: E.L. Warner in 1866, John G. Campbell in 1867, Alfred Houston in 1868 and 1869, John G. Campbell in 1870, 1871 and 1872, J.C. Wilson in 1873, John G. Campbell in 1874 and 1875, and Edwin C. Sale in 1876, 1877 and 1878.

J. Karl Jones was supervisor for thirty years from 1923 to 1953. Emory Jackson was supervisor before Karl Jones but the dates of his term are not available. Charles Shields has been supervisor of East Bend township since 1953.

Other elected officials of East Bend township, who are serving at the present time, are Edward M. Eichelberger, road commissioner; Russell Reed, clerk; Elmer Lutz, Lowell Heap, Donald Keith and Raymond Sepp, auditors.

DEWEY

In the year 1878 the only town and post office in East Bend Township was Dewey located in section 34, on the line of the Havana, Rantoul and Eastern Railroad. It was

first given the name of Behrens, in honor of Henry Behrens Sr., a cook from Germany, on whose land the town was laid out. The first house was built in July of 1876 by Ernest Lorenz, who the same month opened a store. In the spring of 1878, Ernest Lorenz rented his store to S.P. Coon of Rantoul. A post office was established in July 1876 and was called Behrens. Ernest Lorenz was the first postmaster. Joseph Bartless was also an early postmaster. The second store was started in January of 1877 by John N. Heineman, a native of Germany. The railroad authorities named their railroad station Dewey and the name of the post office was changed to Dewey in July 1878. In that year there were two grain dealers in Dewey: the Sale Brothers and John N. Heineman. T.J. Moller started a small grocery store a short time later. Ernest Lorenz, Sr., a Civil War veteran, built a drug store at the corner where Drennan's barber shop is today. L.H. Lorenz built another general store where Ross Drennan later had his business. Ross Drennan was a cripple. He had had polio. He operated a grocery store and had the post office in one end of his store. Mr. Drennan also took cream from farmers and sent it to Chicago. In Lorenz's general store one could buy yard goods, sewing notions, hats, shoes and groceries.

Fred Mengel built the first blacksmith shop on the corner of Second and Sangamon Street and Oliver Nordenberg, a native of Sweden, conducted a wagonmaker shop near by. Later B.R. Hammer, a son-in-law of Mr. Mengel, took over the blacksmith shop. "Dick" Hammer was a short stocky man and he played the part of Santa Claus at the Christmas exercises at the United Brethren Church.

Later Carl Schroeder took over the wagon-maker shop. Oliver Nordenberg moved to a building north of the depot and conducted a hardware store. Mr. Nordenberg's store



August H. Sperling came from Germany to East Bend township in 1865. He was a farmer and stock raiser. He was the father of six children, Alwin, Godfrey, Anna Sperling Jones, Johanna Sperling Burkhardt, Emma and Frederick. He was the grandfather of August Sperling of Fisher and the late A.A. Jones of Dewey.

was very crowded with everything in the hardware line. Usually he had what one needed but it might take him a while to find it.

By 1886 Dewey had 100 inhabitants, according to Milton W. Mathews and Lewis A. McLean in *Early History of Pioneers of Champaign County*. In 1886 Dewey had 3 stores, besides one large implement warehouse (wagon-maker shop), one blacksmith shop, one church-German Lutheran, a school house, a mill and 3 grain dealers, E.C. Sale, John Heineman, and J.H. Linebarger.

In those early days there was no doctor in Dewey. People would ride to Rantoul to get the services of Dr. J.C. Harmon, who rode horseback following a cow trail.

Another church was built in Dewey by the United Brethren denomination. Rev. Griffin was the first minister and baptism was conducted at the old Newcomb Ford. This church was sold to the Methodist people about 1915 and today it is the Dewey Mennonite Church.

Dewey Bank was founded in 1902 by Frank Venum. Emory Jackson operated the bank for Mr. Venum. The bank was in the southeast corner of Emory Jackson's grocery store. In 1919 A.A. Jones became president of the Dewey State Bank.

At the turn of the century there was an elevator in Dewey owned by Mr. Tom Ogden. It was located approximately where the driveway of the new Fisher Farmer's elevator in Dewey is at the present time. Its office and scales were a few yards to the east — located south of the tracks.

Mr. Ogden and his family lived in the home now owned by Mrs. LaVerne Jones. Mr. Charles Knell worked at the elevator. In 1916 Mr. Ogden sold his elevator to Wiley Hazen and Fred Reuter. He moved to Champaign where he bought another elevator.

While Hazen and Reuter operated the elevator they also had a lumber yard in connection with it. The elevator part was sold by them to a Mr. Ritchie, who in turn sold it to J. Karl Jones. Mr. Jones operated it along with the J.M. Jones elevator at this time. However, in 1926 or 1927 the original Ogden elevator burned.

Dr. Chenoweth was one of the early doctors in Dewey, then came Dr. May. Later Dr. S.D. Donovan served the people of Dewey for many years.

Louis Hummel had a jewelry store for several years. Chris Hummel had a restaurant on Main Street north of the jewelry store. Henry and Myrtle Decker had a 2 story hotel on the west side of Main Street and the Decker girls had a millinery shop near by. B.A. Asherman had a slaughter house on the east side of town and operated a meat market on the east side of Main Street. Dewey was a flourishing town at this time. The Oddfellows were an active organization and they built a two-story building on Second Street.

Ernest Lorenz, Sr. was a sheriff of Champaign County for several years. Lewis Behrens conducted a broom corn factory. Charles Knell conducted a garage just north of the Jones Store.

In the late 1800's August Sperling had a grain and implement business in Dewey. This business later became the J.M. Jones Grain Co. John Morris Jones was a son-in-law of Mr. Sperling. Mr. Jones expanded the business to include a prosperous grocery and general merchandise business. The first building, a frame structure was destroyed by fire in 1911. In 1912 a \$13,000 two-story brick building was erected on the same site, complete with steam heat, electric lights and running water. The upper story contained storage space and the office of Dr. Donovan.

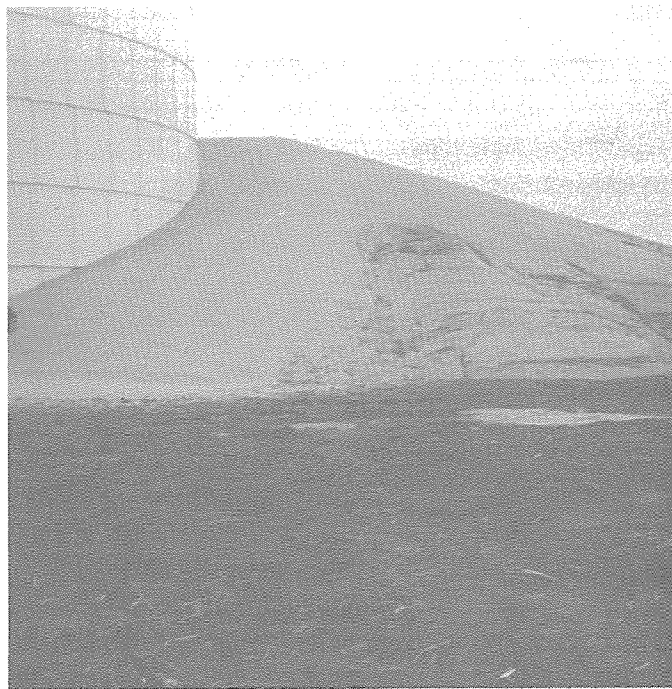
In the early 1920's there was the Dewey Shipping Association south of the railroad tracks. Mr. A.F. Birkey was president of the organization for several years. Farmers would ride horseback as they drove the herds of livestock to the stock pens near the tracks. A.F. Birkey would accompany the carloads of livestock to the Chicago stockyards. Phil Hitchens was the depot agent at this time. He continued to serve as depot agent until his retirement.

After John Morris Jones' death in 1914, the firm was operated until 1946 by his sons, J. Karl Jones and John M. Jones. John M. Jones left the firm in 1946 to go into the distributing business in Champaign. John M. Jones was postmaster of Dewey for a number of years and the post office was located in the general store. J. Karl Jones continued to operate the grain and implement business with the help of W.R. Guy, who worked for the firm for more than 35 years. Mrs. Earl Eichelberger was bookkeeper and Walter Coffin was elevator helper.

Fire destroyed the J.M. Jones Co. building for a second time on April 13, 1951. The merchandise part of the business was sold to Floyd Hughey on July 1, 1951. Mrs. Hughey operated the store on the first floor of the Oddfellows Building as an I.G.A. grocery and general merchandise store. Miss Nellie Painter, a clerk in the general store since 1932, was employed by the Hugheys for



Dewey Elevator after fire in 1973



Excess Corn beside Dewey Elevator in 1975.



This picture was taken in April 1898 at the start of the Spanish-American War. The citizens of Dewey have put up a flag pole next to Sperling Implement Store. J.W. Fink is to the right of the flag pole.



Shelling Corn near the Sperling Elevator in Dewey (looking north from Second Street). From left to right in the picture are Albert Asherman, Harv Asherman, Willie Asherman, Fred Zimmerman, John W. Fink, Chris Hummel, and B.A. Asherman the owner of the sheller.

a time. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Hughey bought the Odd-fellow's building in April 1956. Mrs. Hughey continued to operate the grocery store until September 1963.

Another brick structure was built on the site of the J.M. Jones Co. in 1951. This new building contained the grain office and the Dewey State Bank.

J. Karl Jones was stricken with a fatal heart attack on August 12, 1953. He had served as supervisor of East Bend township for 30 years and was chairman of the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District and was a member of the county selective service board. He was also vice-president of the Dewey State Bank.

After J. Karl Jones' death, the business was operated by Richard J. Jones and A.A. Jones.

In August of 1954 the Fisher Farmers Grain and Coal Co. purchased the grain, seed and farm supply business and John W. Cummings of Lawndale became the new elevator manager. His assistant manager was Levi Endsley of Fisher, who had farmed in the Fisher area for several years. The implement part of the business was sold to Birkey's at Fisher.

In 1960 V.V. Wolfe bought a lumber yard in Dewey. Bill Ingleman used the building as a corn sheller shed prior to and for a short while after Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe bought it. They are still in the lumber yard business in Dewey. War-

ren Dayman has an auto body shop next door (west) of the Dewey State Bank.

Floyd Hughey is the present postmaster in Dewey. He has been postmaster since 1953. The post office is east of the Oddfellows building.

A water system was established in Dewey in 1967. This water system was made possible by a Farmers Home Administration loan.

ALWIN AUGUST JONES

Alwin August Jones, son of Mr. John Morris Jones and Mrs. Anna Sperling Jones, was born November 8, 1893, the third son, and the fourth child. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were living at the old home and farming the Sperling farm near the Sangamon River in East Bend Township, just one mile north of Dewey and a mile and a half west. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Trotter live there now. Alwin August was soon nicknamed "Winnie," a loving name that stayed with him all his life. The preschool years of his life were spent here near the Sangamon. The four children, Jesse Karl, John Morris, Emma Vera and Alwin August, would ride horseback into the Dewey Grade School which was a one room school, eight grades, one quarter of a mile west of Dewey .

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REYNOLDS AUTO SUPPLY, Rantoul
FRAZIER'S PONTIAC-BUICK INC., Rantoul



Rantoul High School graduation—1913.

Many times the horse would be turned loose on arrival at school and it would go back home leaving the children to walk home at the end of the day.

A fourth son, Sperling D. was added to the family in 1906. Mrs. Jones was Anna Marie Sperling, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Sperling.

Alwin August attended the Dewey School for the eight grades and continued on for two years of High School graduating in 1911. Other members of his class were Freda Minks Guynn, Effie Evans. Teachers were Miss Alice Young and Mr. Garland Terry who taught 7th and 8th grades and two years of high school. Since Fisher had only a three year high school at that time, Alwin August went to Rantoul High School to complete his high school education. He and his classmates rode the Dewey passenger train to Rantoul on Monday morning and returned on Friday evening after school. "Winnie" stayed in Rantoul during the week, rooming and boarding with the Gunung family. The older Jones children, Karl, John and Emma had all gone to Champaign for their high school education. Alwin August graduated with the class of 1913 from Rantoul High School. This class of 1913 has been having class reunions at the Redwood Inn for lunch on the fourth Saturday in June since their 50th anniversary in 1963, with "Winnie" and Miss Effie Evans attending from Dewey. "Winnie" missed, first in June 1972. About ten or twelve members have been attending.

Alwin August entered the University of Illinois September 1913 in the College of Commerce with the class of 1917. He joined the social fraternity Sigma Chapter of Chi Phi, joining his brothers Karl and John in this fraternity.



August Jones, Air Force cadet, about 1917.

Later Sperling D. Jones joined Chi Phi making four brothers members there. Karl's son Richard Joseph Jones also became a Chi Phi. Alwin August continued his active interest in the University and became a 50 year Chi Phi member as well as a 50 year Alumnus of the University of Illinois. The class of 1917 donated the court leading to Krannert Center for their 50th memorial. Alwin August is listed as one of the class contributors. He served on the U of I Inter-Fraternity Council for many years. He was presented a 50 year pin and certificate by the University at their 50th class of 1917 reunion. Mr. Alwin August Jones and his wife La Verne Allison Jones and daughter Kay DeMaris Jones Horsch are life members of the Alumni Association of U of I.

A.A. Jones served in the First World War as a Flying Cadet in the Signal Corp, 62nd squadron, at Mather Field, Sacramento, California. He did his ground school at Berkeley, California and was sent to Marsh Field, Riverside, California. While waiting to be called up, he went to Regina, Canada to work in the wheat fields. He lived in the Pearce home and made life long friends of the Pearce sons and daughters.

On returning from Air Corp service in 1919, Alwin August returned to Dewey and became Cashier at the Dewey Bank, Dewey, Illinois. Over the years he became Vice President, Chairman of the Board and President. He received his 50 year Bankers' pin at the Illinois Bankers Convention in Chicago in 1969. He was actively engaged in banking till his death August 26, 1972. He served as President of the 7th District and President of Champaign County Bankers Federation and on various committees throughout the years.



Later picture of A.A. Jones.

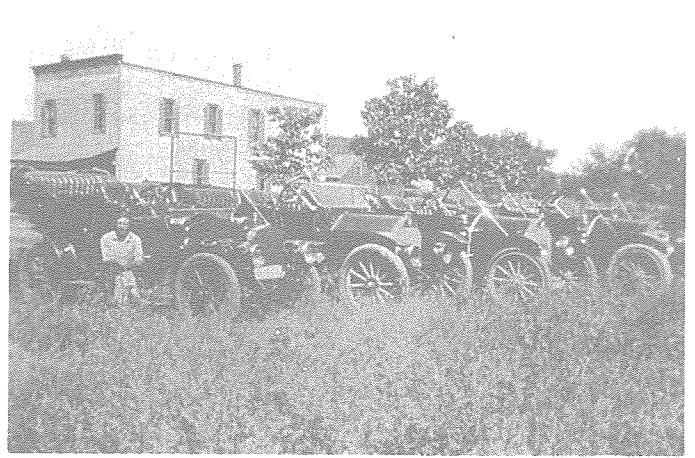
Mr. Jones was always interested in his community and especially with the youth having served as 4-H Club leader for 22 years. He was very proud of all the young boys and girls of his club as well as all youth of the community. He was always a booster and never too busy to serve when called upon. The Condit 4-H Club have set up a Public Speaking Memorial for Mr. Jones as a Champaign County 4-H Project. Mr. Jones assisted in organizing the Fisher Community Fair which has been held continually since 1942 and which has grown from a one-day event to a four-day fair.

Mr. Jones served as Treasurer of the Fisher School District for many years. A cash and plaque award is given annually to a Fisher High School student continuing on with his education. This is the "A.A. Jones Memorial," set up from gifts from many friends at the time of his passing. He had many varied interests, belonging to the Fisher Odd Fellows Lodge and was a 50 year member of the Fisher Masonic A.F.A.M. Lodge, the Bloomington Consistory, American Legion Rantoul Post #287, Champaign Elks Lodge and Moose, State and National Council of the Young Men's Christian Association, the National Council of the United Service Organization, and was a member of the Fisher Church of Christ.

Through Mr. Jones' efforts a Lions Club, service organization, was organized in his community a number of years ago. He served as secretary for many years and took an active part. He was a Charter Member.

He helped to organize the Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District and served as Trustee on the State Advisory Council until his death in 1972.

Traveling was one thing Mr. Jones enjoyed very much and he traveled in all the provinces of Canada, in all 48 states, Mexico, Alaska and Bermuda.



A.A. Jones and some cars he sold.

Mr. Jones was married in 1933 to Edna LaVerne Allison, a former Champaign, Illinois teacher. Mrs. Jones is a graduate of the University of Illinois in 1927 and a member of Zeta Tau Alpha, Alpha Kappa Chapter. Their daughter Kay DeMaris Jones Horsch is a graduate of Fisher High School, 1955 and a graduate of the University of Illinois 1959. She is a member of Delta Zeta social sorority. Mr. and Mrs. Galen H. Horsch have four sons, Craig Morris, Scott Galen, Eric Allison and Grant Nathan.



Dr. Samuel D. Donovan, the doctor in Dewey from 1906 to 1936.

DR. S.D. DONOVAN

Dr. Samuel Donovan was born on March 19, 1883 in Antioch, Kentucky, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Jeremiah D. Donovan. He was from a family of 11 children, of which 7 sons and the father were physicians.



The home of Dr. Donovan in Dewey. This is now the home of Wendell R. Coulter.

He moved with his parents to Lovington when a child and received his early education in Lovington schools. He attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons of St. Louis and received his degree in 1905. For a short time he practiced in Windsor, Illinois before coming to Dewey. Dr. S.D. Donovan maintained his office in Dewey from 1906 to 1936. At the start of his practice, his office was in his home until the Jones Store was built. In later years he maintained an office in Fisher as well as Dewey.

Dr. Donovan had several opportunities to move to Champaign, but he would always reply, "the people in this community stood by me and I intend to stay by them." He acquired a practice that required house calls as far north as Kankakee. Patients who moved to other communities continued to contact him for his care.

Dr. Donovan could play all band instruments. He was a member of the Fisher Band for many years. Dr. Donovan was a member of the Fisher Blue Lodge and was past master in 1916. He belonged to the Bloomington Consistory and the Peoria Shrine. He was a member of the Elks Lodge of Champaign and the American Medical Society. Dr. Donovan was on the staff of Mercy Hospital in Urbana.

Dr. Donovan was married to Pearl Hoffman. They had one daughter, Maurine, who now lives in Bradenton, Florida.

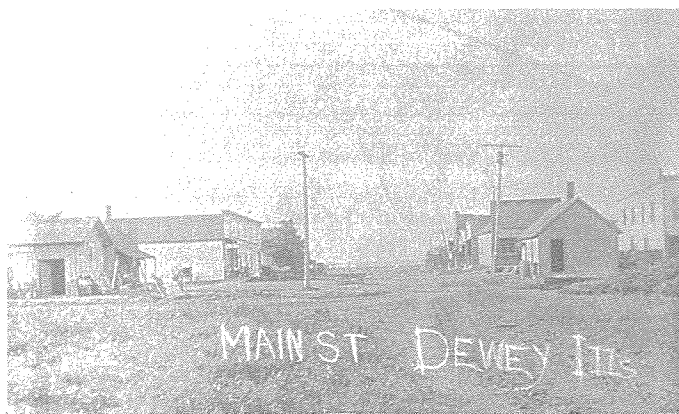
Dr. Donovan died at the age of 53 in December of 1936 at the Mercy Hospital in Urbana following an illness of three weeks. He served as doctor in Dewey for 30 years.

SCHOOLS OF EAST BEND TOWNSHIP

In the 1860's and 1870's schools began to dot the prairies. They were very simple, plain buildings and the furnishings were equally primitive. Miss Dicy A. Newell taught the first school in 1856 and was employed for several terms. H.B. Scribner and a Mr. Hawkins taught afterwards.

Amity School closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Eyvonne Unzicker Stroh was the last teacher at this school. Amity School was moved and remodeled into a house. It is now located north of the Melvin Teuscher farm home. Terry Deer and his family live there now.

East Bend School was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Faye Resler was the last teacher at this school. East Bend



Picture of Main Street in Dewey looking north. On the left is the depot, Oliver Nordenberg's Hardware Store and Emory Jackson's grocery and bank. On the right is Sperling's grain office, the drug store and to the far right is the Oddfellows Building.

School was moved and added to the Dewey Grade School making it a three room school.

Spring Lake School was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Elinor Zabriskie was the last teacher at this school. This school was used as a machine shed for a while and later torn down by Bob Keith and Ed Sepp. A light fixture from this school is used in the family room of the Ed Sepp home.

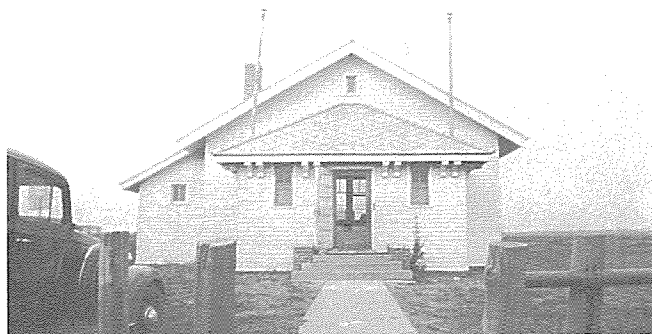
Houstonville School was closed in the spring of 1927. Houstonville School and Dobson School were consolidated. Dobson School was moved almost a mile north to a location near the John Drennan home. Houstonville School was sold to Alvin Heiser and he used it as a seed house. Later it was moved and changed into a home.

Dobson School was closed in the spring of 1948. Phyllis Yoder was the last teacher. The Dobson School was moved north of the Jake Birkey home. Paul De Paepe started to remodel the school into a home. The home was never finished and the school was torn down.

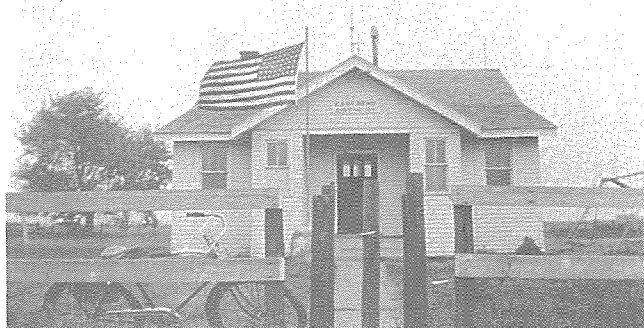
Dixon School was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Grace Gerber was the last teacher. Dixon School was sold and moved a short distance north of the East Bend Menonite church. It is now the home of Mrs. Clara Naffziger.

Hyde School was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Zelma Guy, who had taught at Hyde School for 15 years, was the last teacher at the school. In 1948 Hyde School, Little Star School and Mounts Schools were consolidated. All children from these three schools attended Mounts School and Mrs. Guy became the teacher at Mounts in the fall of 1948. Vernon Swaim bought the school, remodeled it into a home, and rented the home to Edgar Bruns. Several families have lived in this house, but at the present time the house is empty. No one has lived in the house for about three years.

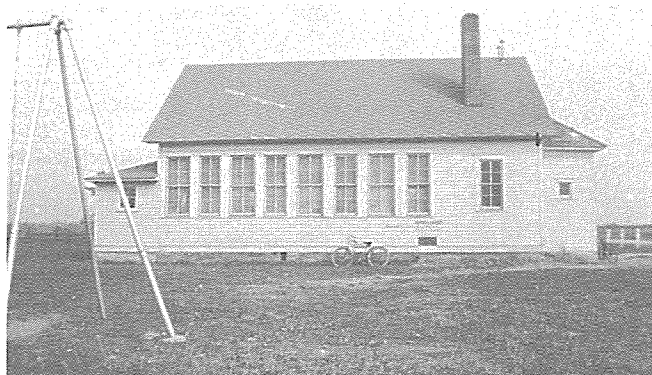
The first teacher at the old Independent School was Mary Hannigan, who later became Mrs. Henry Hummel. She was the teacher in 1876-77. Thomas Sloan Hewerdine was one of her students. Later her six children were students of Thomas Sloan Hewerdine when he taught at Independent School in 1895-97. The old building was sold to Henry Hummel and used as a summer kitchen. Henry



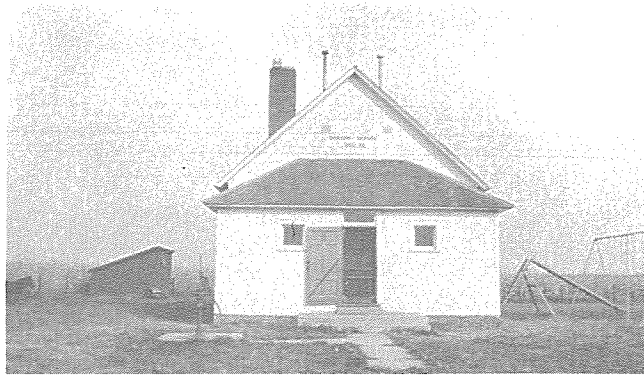
Amity



East Bend



Spring Lake



Dobson

Hummel was the father of the late Charley Hummel. In 1939 Thomas Sloan Hewerdine wrote this description of Independent School. "Independent School was a one room building about 24 by 32 feet. There were two windows in the back — the west end. There were three windows on the north and south sides and two doors to the front. There were no ante-rooms or closets of any kind. The teacher's desk, built by carpenters, was about 2 and 1/2 feet by 10 feet and was located in the east part of the room between the doors. There were four rows of double seats and a one foot board bench running along the north, south and west sides. There were shelves across the southeast corner for books. The water pail sat in the northeast corner. The big old stove was between the teacher's desk and the center of the room. There were black painted blackboards — one reaching from door to door back of the teacher's desk. Above this on nails rested the teacher's pointer and sometimes a switch or two. The pupil's coats hung on nails along the walls. The dinner pails were deposited under the long bench at the sides of the room. On extremely cold days, the building could not be well heated. There was a coal bin on one corner of the school ground by the road and later a well was put down.

"At first there was a fall and winter term of 6 months, followed later by what was called a summer term of 2 or 3 months. However, this was soon changed to an 8 months school and later 9 months.

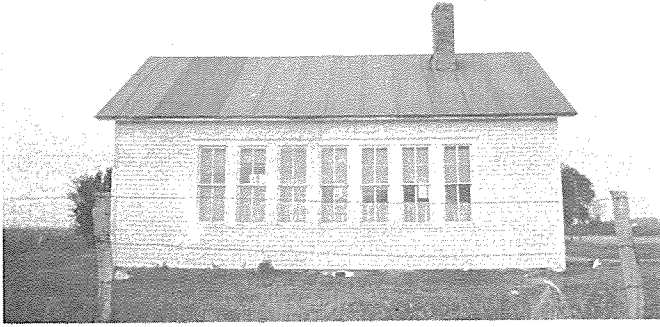
"During the winter there were often 50, 60, or 70 students in many country schools. In those early days the young people went to school in winter after the corn was husked. It was not uncommon to find young folks in the

early 20's in the school in the winter. Many of these young people wanted more advanced subjects, such as algebra, physics, bookkeeping, advanced arithmetic and history. Of course, regular classes could not be held in all these subjects, but the teacher could supervise their work, giving individual aid as opportunity offered, instructing at recesses or after four o'clock. Usually teachers were quite willing to help those who were interested. Joseph Covington was a veteran of the Civil War, a college man, a graduate physician and a farmer. After a few years of medical practice, his health being poor, he bought a farm near Dewey. Besides farming, he also taught at Independent School for some years and was an inspiration to many. H.B. Dailey was the last teacher in the old original Independent School building."

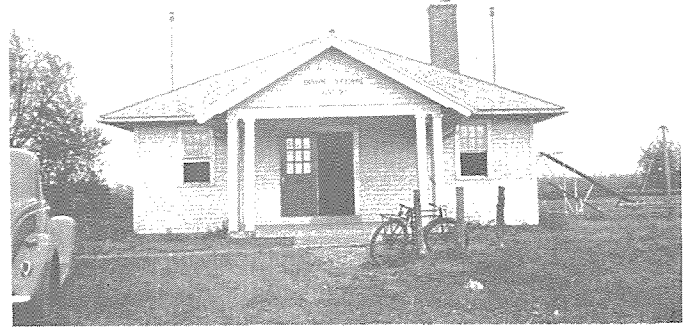
Independent School was closed in the spring of 1943. The last teacher in the second building was Mrs. Lois Banner Moore. Levi Endsley and Floyd Hughey tore down the building. The lumber from the building was used in a garage near Levi Endsley's home and in a garage at the back of Bill Bohlen's home.

DEWEY SCHOOL

Records show that large school districts were set up in 1858 and Dewey school was originally district 2 in section 83 of East Bend township. In 1867 the area was re-districted and district 2 changed to the number 6. At this time there were 52 persons of school age or under 21 years of age in the district.



Independent



Dixon



Dewey

On May 31, 1885 a division of property was made between districts 6 and 9 and the Dewey School district became known as Union district No. 9. Dewey School continued to use this number until April 7, 1908 when it became District 88. Trustees signing the records on organization of the new district were A.B. Hyde, M.B. Howard, J.B. Bartless and A. Sperling, clerk.

In the 1907-08 term a second room was added to the school with Alice Young teaching primary through sixth grades and Garland Terry teaching seventh and eighth grades and 2 years of high school. Both taught in 1908-09 and at that time the first high school class graduated. Graduates were Jess Guynn, Bessie Evans and Mabel Chatham. The school term 1909-10 was taught by Miss Young and Homer Phenicie. In 1910 Ethel Nordenberg, Freda Minks and Eva Minks graduated from the two-year term. In 1910-11 Miss Young remained as primary teacher and Clyde Young taught the upper room. The 1911-12 term was taught by Fannie Evans and Frankie Benjamin. From 1914 through 1916 Freda Minks taught the upper room. In 1915 the last year for high school classes, Charles Shields, Wanda Green and Archie Cook graduated.

The old school burned down in 1927 and classes were held in the Dewey Methodist Church until the new school was built at the cost of \$8,500. About 1954 the East Bend School, which was located two miles north was moved and added to the Dewey School making it a three room school house.

Community Unit District No. 1 was established in 1948. At this time an advisory committee of school directors pre-



Dewey School 1907-08. High School and Seventh and Eighth Grades. From left to right: A. Garland Terry, teacher, Eva Minks, Effie Evans, Freda Minks, Ethel Nordenberg, Rosella Lorenz, Mable Chatham, Irene Nordenberg, Olga Nordenberg. Front row: A.A. Jones, Harley Rollins.



Dewey Grade School 1916-1917

Front row l to r: Karl Dean, Amos Pickett, Sammy Knell, Johnny Ahnderson, Sperling Jones. Second row: Frank Asherman, Cecil Jackson, Mildred Hewerdine, Hattie Dean, Fred Asherman, Velma Hewerdine, Minerva Rollins, Boyd Dean. Third row: Marvin Knell, Carrie Nordenberg, Gertrude Jackson, Mae Harmon, Lloyd Rollins, Arthur Pickett, Boyd Dean. Teachers: Marion Hyde and J.V. Sims.

pared recommendations for a six-six plan of administration with the upper six grades in Fisher school and the lower six grades in five attendance centers.

Five generations of the Drennans, descendants of Andrew Jackson and Hannah Watson Drennan, early settlers in the Dewey area, attended Dewey School. R.F. Drennan started school in 1877. Mrs. Lila Drennan Rayburn of Champaign attended Dewey School and later taught the upper grades from 1934 until 1937.

School was terminated at Dewey on May 22, 1964. The last teachers at this school were Mrs. Chester Reeves, Mrs. Denis Bowsher and Mr. Orel Illyes. A pot-luck supper and meeting was held that evening at the Dewey Grade School honoring former teachers and pupils. About 225 people attended the supper and program. In the fall of 1964 all Dewey area students attended the Fisher School.

The Dewey Grade School was sold to Carl Budd. He changed the school into a home.

HYDE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 87 East Bend Township

1899-01 Ella Thompson
1901-02 Della Dolph
1902-05 Ethel Sawyer
1905-07 Rose Murray
1907-09 Hazel Evans
1909-10 Gaynelle Flagg
1910-16 Jessie Miller
1916-17 Catherine Murray
1917-21 Hygiene Carson
1921-22 Ruth Deany
1922-23 Geneva Cook
1923-24 Mae Harman
1924-25 Hygiene Carson
1925-26 Mae Harmon
1926-31 Mrs. Mae Sheppard
1931-33 Maurine Donovan
1933-48 Mrs. Zelma Guy
1948-49 Closed

DEWEY GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 88 East Bend Township

1899-01 Josephus Kirby
1901-04 S.W. Le Neve
1904-05 Howard S. Owen
1905-07 S.I. Cook
1907-09 Garland Terry and Alice Young
1909-10 H.W. Phenicie and Alice Young
1910-11 Clyde M. Young and Alice Young
1911-12 Frankie Benjamin and Fannie Evans
1912-13 (Not available)
1913-14 Russell Hyde and Daisy Walker
1914-16 Freda Minks and Daisy Walker
1916-17 J.V. Sims and Marion Hyde
1917-18 Edna Hazen and Marian Hyde
1918-19 Ruth A. Beeby and Lila Drennan
1919-20 Zella Camden and Emma Vogel (Mrs. W.R. Guy began Jan. 1, 1920)
1920-21 Zella Camden and Neva M. Nelson
1921-22 Ethel M. Ogg and Evelyn Crawford
1922-23 Iva B. Anderson and Evelyn Crawford
1923-25 Mrs. Sarah H. Reuter and Ina D. Koon

1925-26 Mrs. Sarah H. Reuter and Minnie Webster
1926-27 Mrs. Sarah H. Reuter and Mildred Brenneman
1927-28 Lillian G. Mitchell and Minnie Webster
1928-29 Vera Hammerlund and Myrtle Woodward
1929-30 Lila Rayburn and Myrtle Woodward
1930-31 Lila Rayburn and Neva Collins
1931-32 Lila Rayburn and Margery Wilson
1932-33 Lucy Spicer and Margery Wilson
1933-35 Lila Rayburn and Faye Walker
1935-36 Lila Rayburn and Faye Walker (5 mos.) and Doris Cole (3 mos.)
1936-37 Lila Rayburn and Maurine Donovan
1937-40 Mrs. Ana Keeley and Maurine Donovan
1940-41 Leona Walsh and Verda Hershberger
1941-42 Leona Walsh and Eleanor Morton
1942-43 Carolyn Emsing Hill and Eleanor Morton Busch
1943-44 June Hadler and Chloa Wyatt
1944-46 Pauline Zock and Doris Scott
1946-48 Elvadine Hudelson and Egith Moore
1948-49 Winnifred Roy and Edith Moore
1949-51 Verna Foster and Edith Moore
1951-52 Joan Amacher and Edith Moore
1952-53 Joan Amacher and Zelma Petty
1953-54 Lenora Reeves and Zelma Petty
1954-56 Lenora Reeves, Eleanor S. Auerback and William K. Kopp
1956-57 Lenora Reeves, Lenore C. Bowers and Orel T. Illyes
1957-59 Lenora Reeves, Helen Hilgendorf and Orel T. Illyes
1959-60 Lenora Reeves, Geraldine Y. Bowsher and Orel T. Illyes
1960-64 Lenora Reeves, Geraldine Y. Bowsher, and Orel T. Illyes
1964-65 Closed

DOBSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 89 (later District NO. 92) East Bend Township

1899-00 George H. Wright
1900-01 F.L. Stonehouse
1901-02 Ethel Mulvain
1902-03 Jesse Loveless
1903-05 Josie Gossard
1905-07 Fannie Evans
1907-09 Elsie M. Fletcher
1909-10 Florence Hamm
1910-11 Valentina Hawkins
1911-12 Carrie Minks
1912-13 Eva Minks
1913-14 Ella Gossard
1914-15 Ava Heyer
1915-17 Mrs. Ellie Fairfield
1917-19 Marie Ballew
1919-22 Gladys Rice
1922-23 Daisy Hinton
1923-25 Leslie Mitchell
1925-28 Harold Zehr
1928-37 Edna Alexander
1937-41 Mrs. Clara Springer
1941-48 Phyllis Yoder
1948-49 Closed

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 90**East Bend Township**

1899-01 Alice Jones
 1901-02 John F. Dailey
 1902-03 Pearl Dobbins
 1903-04 Mrs. Emma McCarty
 1904-05 Beulah Houston
 1905-06 Chester Evans
 1906-09 Katherine Maley
 1909-10 Gertrude Phelps
 1910-13 Ella Hummel
 1913-14 Carrie Minks
 1914-16 Irene Conner
 1916-17 Eva J. Minks
 1917-18 Catherine Starr
 1918-19 Frances Peterson
 1919-20 Mary A. Sampson
 1920-21 Ethel Carley
 1921-22 Margaret Howe
 1922-24 Bessie I. Outlaw
 1924-25 Dorothy Asher
 1925-28 Edna Alexander
 1928-31 Hattie Dean
 1931-32 Hattie Dean Dutton
 1932-33 S.M. Aldridge
 1933-36 George A. O'Neal
 1936-41 Alice Baker
 1941-42 No school
 1942-43 Mrs. Lois Banner Moore
 1943-44 No school

SPRING LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 91**East Bend Township**

1899-04 Mrs. Lizzie Jordan
 1904-06 Ida McConnell
 1906-07 Mrs. Lizzie Jordan
 1907-08 Mrs. E.J. Jordan
 1908-09 Homer Phenicie
 1909-10 Jessie Miller
 1910-12 Nellie Marshall
 1912-14 Freda Minks
 1914-16 Marion Hyde
 1916-19 Hazel Bocock
 1919-21 Marie Ballew
 1921-22 Myrle Pfoff
 1922-23 Dorothy Asher
 1923-24 Charles Shields
 1924-26 Anna McNeeley
 1926-27 Faye Corner
 1927-29 Ruth L. Harris
 1929-33 Cleo Cook
 1933-37 Clara Springer
 1937-39 Bonita Birkey
 1939-41 Theresa Guynn
 1941-43 Helen Birkey
 1943-44 Mrs. Neva M. Collins
 1944-45 Mildred Unzicker
 1945-46 Mrs. Amy Eichelberger (4 mos.)
 Mrs. Carrie Minks Miller (4 mos.)
 1946-47 Mrs. Leona Warren
 1947-48 Mrs. Elinor Zabriskie
 1948-49 Closed

HOUSTONVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 92**East Bend Township**

1899-00 Clara Dunaway
 1900-02 Pearl Dobbins
 1902-03 Grace Howard
 1903-04 Thomas O. Litton
 1904-05 William R. Boyd
 1905-06 Mrs. E.J. Jordan
 1906-08 Josie M. Gossard
 1908-10 Laura Fletcher
 1910-11 Florence K. Hamm
 1911-12 Zella Camden
 1912-13 Mrs. Viola Y. Edwards
 1913-14 Moss Carter
 1914-15 Effie J. Gossard
 1915-19 Alta M. Jones
 1919-21 Clara C. Gerber
 1921-23 Orpha Mullvain
 1923-24 Mrs. Orpha Schrock
 1924-27 Leone Batson
 1927-28 Consolidated with Dobson School

DIXON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 93**East Bend Township**

1899-00 Harvey Mulvain
 1900-02 Ethel Sawyer
 1902-03 Holbert S. Petersen
 1903-05 Pearl Dobbins
 1905-06 Alta Barker
 1906-09 Ethel Sawyer
 1909-10 Elma Hunt
 1910-11 Eva Johnson
 1911-15 Dot Ballew
 1915-17 Margaret Shinker
 1917-18 Verna Newcomb
 1918-19 N.B. Couberly
 1919-20 Alvina I. Ropp
 1920-23 Millard Osborne
 1923-26 Levinia Miller
 1926-27 Roy Gerber
 1927-31 Clara Unzicker
 1931-32 Clara Springer
 1932-35 Minnie Basting
 1935-38 Mrs. Clara Springer
 1938-39 Lola Suttle
 1939-41 Frances Gregerson
 1941-42 Mrs. Cleo R. Deremiah
 1942-44 Elsie Birkey
 1944-47 Eyvonne Unzicker
 1947-48 Mrs. Grace Gerber
 1948-49 Closed

EAST BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 94**East Bend Township**

1899-00 Nellie Vernam
 1900-01 Etta Rowe
 1901-02 Emma Stone
 1902-03 Etta Rowe
 1903-04 Ivy Johnson
 1904-05 Luella Van Meter
 1905-11 Lela Sawyer
 1911-13 Bede Coon

1913-16 Eva Minks
 1916-17 Nellie M. Mounts
 1917-19 Gladys Mullin
 1919-20 May Hendrya
 1920-21 Glenna Sellards
 1921-22 Marie Hartford
 1922-23 Marion E. Loveless
 1923-28 Chola Wyatt
 1928-29 Warren Brown
 1929-31 Edith Jones
 1931-33 Mrs. Zelma Guy
 1933-34 Gladys Minor
 1934-37 Mrs. Beulah C. O'Neal
 1937-39 Theresa Guynn
 1939-42 Verna Donner
 1942-43 Doris Jackson
 1943-44 Mrs. Faye S. Resler
 1944-46 Mrs. Alene Williams
 1946-47 Grace Neal
 1947-48 Mrs. Faye Resler
 1948-49 Closed

AMITY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 95
East Bend Township

1899-00 Emma Stone
 1900-01 Laura Koon
 1901-02 Iva Jordon
 1902-03 Laura Koon
 1903-04 Myrtle Prather
 1904-05 Mrs. E.J. Jordon

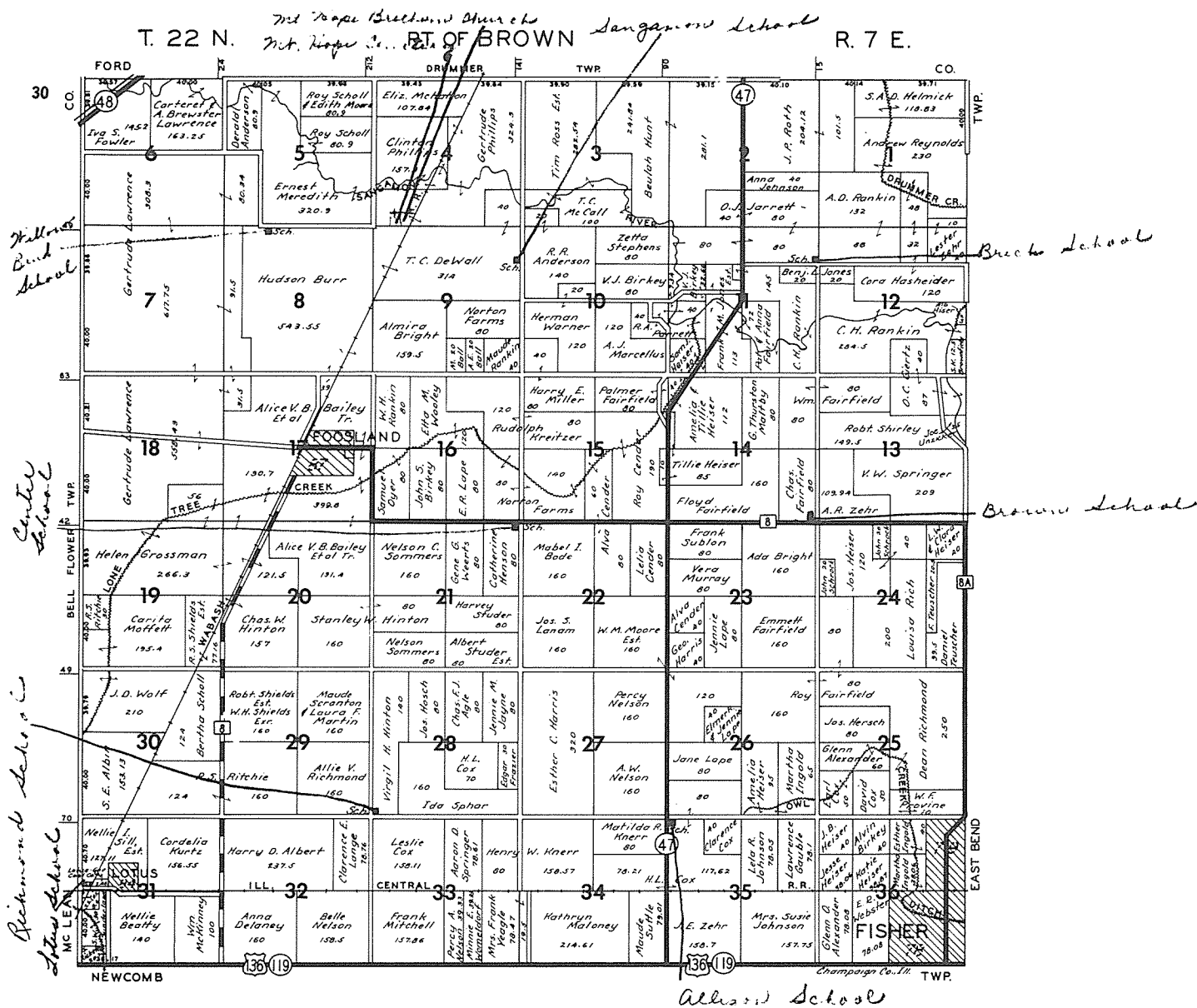
1905-06 Ethel Sawyer
 1906-08 Abigail Prather
 1908-09 Anna Rorem
 1909-10 Ida Hamilton
 1910-11 Marie Fretty
 1911-12 Ida Hamilton
 1912-13 Carrie Minks
 1913-15 Wanda North
 1915-16 Kern J. McGuire
 1916-18 Minnie M. Funk
 1918-19 Marion Hyde
 1919-20 Mary Mulvany
 1920-21 Clithroe Rudolph
 1921-22 C.A. Rudolph
 1922-23 Susanna C. Powers
 1923-25 Florence Fretty
 1925-26 Henry J. Sommer
 1926-27 Mrs. Genevieve Pufahl
 1927-29 Grace Pontius
 1920-30 Alta E. Good
 1930-31 Helen Nelson
 1931-32 Marguerite Serwice
 1932-34 Anna McNeely
 1934-35 Mrs. Charlene P. Porter
 1935-36 Ana H. Keeley
 1936-39 Margrette Mortweet
 1939-44 Mrs. Susie W. Johnson
 1944-47 Velda Unzicker
 1947-48 Mrs. Eyvonne Unzicker Stroh
 1948-49 Closed

EARLY SETTLERS OF EAST BEND TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 8 EAST

| Name | Post Office Residence | Occupation | Nativity | Came to County |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Behrens, Henry | Behrens Behrens | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1870 |
| Behrens, Mrs. Mary | Behrens Behrens | Wife of Henry Behrens | Germany | 1871 |
| Chism, Thomas J. | Fisher Section 20 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Logan Co., Ohio | 1854 |
| Chism, Mrs. Margaret | Fisher Section 20 | Wife of Thomas J. Chism | Butler Co., Ohio | 1861 |
| Campbell, R.W. | Tonelson Section 25 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Henry Co., Tenn. | 1875 |
| Campbell, Mrs. N. | Tonelson Section 25 | Wife of R.W. Campbell | Cass Co., Ill. | 1875 |
| Cranston, J. | Gibson, Ford Co. Ill. Sec. 6 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Champaign Co., Ohio | 1856 |
| Cranston, Mrs. A.R. | Gibson, Ford Co. Ill. Sec. 6 | Wife of J. Cranston | Lamoille Co., Vt. | 1859 |
| Dolph, R. | Fisher Section 31 | Farmer | Indiana | 1852 |
| Dolph, Mrs. Sarah | Fisher Section 31 | Wife of R. Dolph | Indiana | 1852 |
| Hewerdine, Thomas | Behrens Section 34 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Lincolnshire, England | 1853 |
| Hewerdine, Mrs. E. | Behrens Section 34 | Wife of T. Hewerdine | Muskingan Co., Ohio | 1853 |
| Heineman, John N. | Behrens Behrens | | Saxony, Germany | 1863 |
| Heineman, Mrs. M.N. | Behrens Behrens | Wife of J.N. Heineman | Saxony, Germany | 1863 |
| Hummel, Philip | Behrens Section 28 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1861 |
| Hummel, Mrs. Amelia | Behrens Section 28 | Wife of Philip Hummel | Germany | 1865 |
| Hummel, Henry | Behrens Section 28 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1861 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Houston, A.J. | E. Bend, Ford Co. Ill. Sec. 5 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Monroe Co., Ind. | 1853 |
| Houston, Mrs. S.J. | E. Bend, Ford Co. Ill. Sec. 5 | Wife of A.J. Houston | England | 1871 |
| Heyer, William | Fisher Section 29 | Farmer and Pro Cheese Factory | Germany | 1865 |
| Heyer, Mrs. Sophia | Fisher Section 29 | Wife of William Heyer | Germany | 1865 |
| Ham, A.J. | Fisher Section 31 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1865 |
| Ham, Mrs. Anna | Fisher Section 31 | Wife of A.J. Ham | Dublin, Ireland | 1865 |
| Jeffries, James | Behrens Section 32 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1860 |
| Jeffries, Mrs. Ruth | Behrens Section 32 | Mother of James Jeffries | Pennsylvania | 1860 |
| Johnson, James M. | Fisher Section 20 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1852 |
| Johnson, Levina | Died April 19, 1878 | Late wife of J.M. Johnson | Logan Co., Ill. | 1852 |
| Lorenz, Ernst | Behrens Behrens | Postmaster & Justice of Peace | Germany | 1865 |
| Lorenz, Mrs. Catherine | Behrens Behrens | Wife of Ernst Lorenz | Darke Co., Ohio | 1863 |
| Lorenz, Lewis | Behrens Section 27 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1866 |
| Lorenz, Mrs. Matilda | Behrens Section 27 | Wife of L.H. Lorenz | Switzerland Co., Ind. | 1863 |
| Miller, August C. | Behrens Section 34 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1868 |
| Miller, Mrs. Mary | Behrens Section 34 | Wife of A.C. Miller | Ireland | 1868 |
| Mattison, Charles | Fisher Section 19 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Clarke Co., Ohio | 1873 |
| Neal, Lemuel | Tanroul Section 36 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Champaign Co., Ohio | 1871 |
| Neal, Mrs. Jane A. | Rantoul Section 36 | Wife of Lemuel Neal | Champaign Co., Ohio | 1871 |
| Rundle, D.P. | Rantoul Section 35 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Rocking Co., Ohio | 1873 |
| Rundle, Mrs. Aroline | Rantoul Section 35 | Wife of D.P. Rundle | Logan Co., Ill. | 1873 |
| Sperling, August | Behrens Section 32 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1865 |
| Sperling, Mrs. Jane A. | Behrens Section 32 | Wife of August Sperling | Germany | 1865 |
| Sperling, Frederick | Behrens Section 32 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Germany | 1865 |
| Sperling, Mrs. Mary A. | Behrens Section 32 | Wife of F. Sperling | Germany | 1865 |
| Swayze, John | Fisher Section 17 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Wyandotte Co., Ohio | 1863 |
| Swayze, Mrs. Ella | Fisher Section 17 | Wife of John Swayze | Jo Davis Co., Iowa | 1871 |
| Tully, Andrew | Tonelinson Section 26 | Farmer & Blacksmith | County of Kent, England | 1868 |
| Tully, Mrs. Elizabeth | Tonelinson Section 26 | Wife of Andrew Tully | County of Durham, England | 1868 |
| Wilmot, L.D. | Gibson, Ford Co., Ill. Sec. 6 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Steuben Co., New York | 1875 |
| Wilmot, Mrs. S.A. | Gibson, Ford Co., Ill. Sec. 6 | Wife of L.D. Wilmot | Lake Co., Ill. | 1875 |
| Warrenburg, John | Fisher Section 20 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1865 |

p. 182 History of Champaign County, Ill. published by Brink, McDonough and Co. 1878.



BROWN TOWNSHIP

Brown Township is in the extreme northwest part of Champaign County. East Bend Township lies to the east of it, and Newcomb Township lies to the south. It is bounded on the north by Ford County and on the west by McLean County. It corresponds with Congressional township 22, range 7, east, and was taken from East Bend Township and organized in 1869.

The first settler in the township was Henry B. King, who about 1834 settled on the southeast quarter of section 4. For several years, King was the only man living in this part of the county, and his settlement was a kind of way-mark by which travelers passing through were directed. For a long time the only means of crossing the Sangamon River in this vicinity was by means of a floating bridge, constructed and kept in repair by Mr. King near where the two branches of the Sangamon unite. Mr. King sold his improvements to a man named Williams and moved to McLean County.

In section 1 on Drummer Creek, a man named Isaac Byers was an old settler. On this place an apple orchard was set out at an early date and the trees were large size in 1856.

The township received its name from William Brown who settled on section 3 in 1840. At that time the government sold land for two dollars to four dollars an acre. Mr. Brown later moved to Mahomet Township and died there.

On section 11, an early improvement was made by Montgomery Taylor. David Nicewander later lived on the same place.

The oldest settler in 1878 on the prairie in the southwestern part of the township was William H. Grove. He came to the township in 1852 and located on section 34, about two miles west of the present village of Fisher. Some people thought it was not wise to make a location so far out on the prairie, but Mr. Grove had known what it was to be subject to the malarial influence of timbered districts

in Indiana, and therefore chose a place where he and his family would be free from the ague. Mr. Grove had \$450 when he came to Illinois. With this sum he bought 320 acres of land. The flies were extremely bad in the summer. When he went to the mill or any other place, he was obliged to make the journey after dark in order to prevent his horses from being eaten up with swarms of flies which covered the prairie.

Thomas Stevens, a wealthy cattle dealer, settled in the north part of the township in 1855 but later moved to Gibson City in Ford County. About the same time Ithaman Maroney located in the extreme northwest corner, but in 1862 enlisted in the Union army and did not return to the county.

On section 16, Carl Dobson was the first settler. In 1854 Alfred Houston settled on section 13 but in 1860 he moved to East Bend Township. Other early settlers were Tilghman Smith on section 15, David Cooter, Gardner Sweet, and J.W. Tucker on section 13, John Strauss on section 4, John H. Myers on section 10, Thomas Carpenter and Jackson Rounds on section 11, John W. Douglas on section 34, John Lester on section 35 and C.C. Harris on section 36.

James Elder was the first baby born in the township. The first school in this township was taught in 1858 by Charles W. Knapp in an old log house on the Lee Brown farm. He was followed by James Lyons and Charles Atkins. It was the only school in the township for several years.

The first entry of land in this township was the southwest quarter of section 4 by Henry B. King in 1875.

INDIANS

Before the early settlers came to this part of Champaign County, the Indians used this area for hunting and fishing. The Potawatomi tribe named the river, Sangamon. Sangamon meant "plenty to eat," and the Indians did find plenty to eat in this area. Buffalo herds roamed this area. Deer abounded in the timber area along the river. Fish and turtles were plentiful in the river. Wild turkey, prairie chicken, ducks and geese could easily be found.

The early settlers regarded the Indians with caution. They did not like to have them congregate in large numbers near their small settlements. Mrs. Schaer remembers one Indian family that lived near her parents' home. This is her story:

"I wonder how many people in the Fisher-Dewey community remember the Hillsbury family, the one Indian family that lived in this community. There was the mother, Ike, and Garard or "Button," his nickname. I don't remember the father, but have heard them speak of him fighting in the Civil War. Also, they had a musket that he had used.

The Hillsburys lived about five miles northeast of Fisher near the Sangamon River. They loved to fish and hunt and to hear them talk you would have thought they owned the entire river and timber.

During the summer my father, Alvin Heiser, would hire them to work for him. It was always exciting to go with Dad back to their little shack to get them to help. Mrs. Hillsbury would be sitting outside in an old rocking chair smoking her corn cob pipe. It must have been in the early 1920's that the Mother died.

Ike and Button then lived together, very careful never to both leave the place at the same time as they didn't trust



Allison



Allison School 1911-12. Front row: Walter Zehr, Russell Wilson, John Foster, Harold Zehr, Jim Moore, Lyle Moore. Second row: Ralph King, Ada Morrison, Thelma Foster Gerber, Carl Harmon, Mae Harmon, _____ Holt. Third row: Hazel Wilson, Roy Wilson, Clarence Moore, Lela Foster DuVall, Zora Moore, Daisy Hawkins, Nelson (teacher) and Hattie Wilson.

putting their money in a bank. They could not read or write. When they bought their first car they brought their money in a fruit jar for Dad to count. Most of the money was in gold-back bills. They always said no one would ever find their money after they were gone and, as far as we know, no one has.

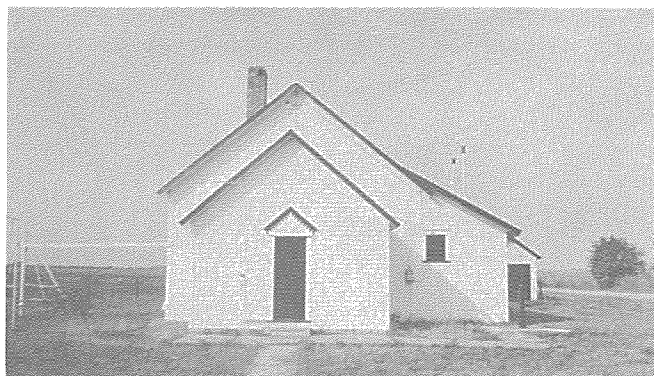
Ike was a very jovial man but Button was very different. Sometimes you could look up and see him standing there, never knowing how long he had been there. They have both been dead for a number of years. The place where they lived is gone, but I shall never forget the Hillsburys."

RURAL SCHOOLS

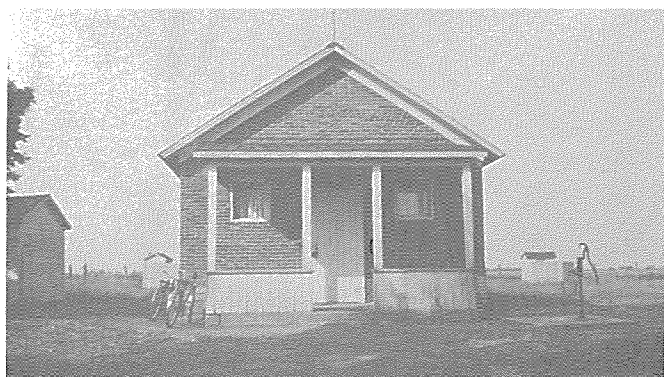
Allison School located two miles west and one mile north of Fisher burned to the ground in February of 1948. The fire was beyond control when discovered about 9:30 in the evening. Cause of the fire was not known. The teacher, Miss Cuba Richards of Farmer City, reported everything in the usual order when she left that evening. Directors of the



Richmond



Brown



Brick



Center

school made arrangements to rent an empty room in the Fisher Grade School building where the seven pupils finished out the school term.

Richmond School was closed in the spring of 1948. Mrs. Gladys Ballett was the last teacher at this school. Vern Gulick bought the school and tore down the building.

Center School was closed in the spring of 1946. Mrs. Bertha Zehr was the last teacher at this building. For a short time this building was used as a home. Later Don Horsch tore down this building.

Brown was the first school in Brown township. Tom Stevens built the first Brown school. The first directors were Milton Brown, Jack Rounds and John Schenk. Among the early teachers were Joe Knapp, John Zerbe, Ben Thrasher, Miss McMurry, Mollie Harnit and Ad Harper.

Mrs. Charles Fairfield wrote a short history of Brown School in 1936. She wrote that when roll was called there were two Schenk families and two Davis families. Fourteen Schenks and ten Davises headed the list. There were 60 or more students in all. They had double seats with three students in lots of the seats. Every week in the winter time, Literary and Debating Socials were held with record breaking crowds.

The second Brown School was sold to R.C. Maltty who remodeled it into a home. The third Brown School was built in the fall of 1882 by William Woods, a carpenter from Gibson City.

Brown School was closed in the spring of 1948. Miss Doris Roth was the last teacher. The building was used for storage by the Community Unit District No. 1 for several years and then torn down.

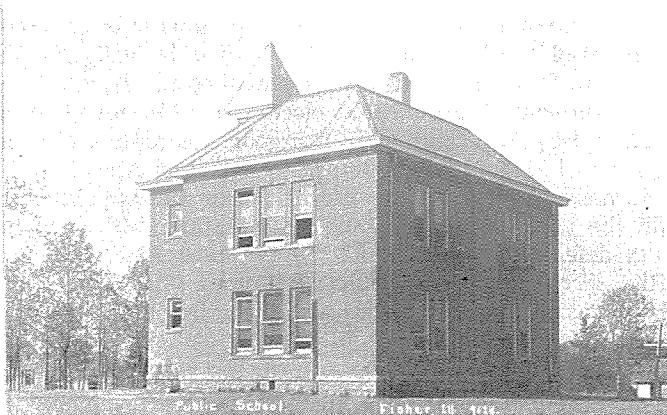
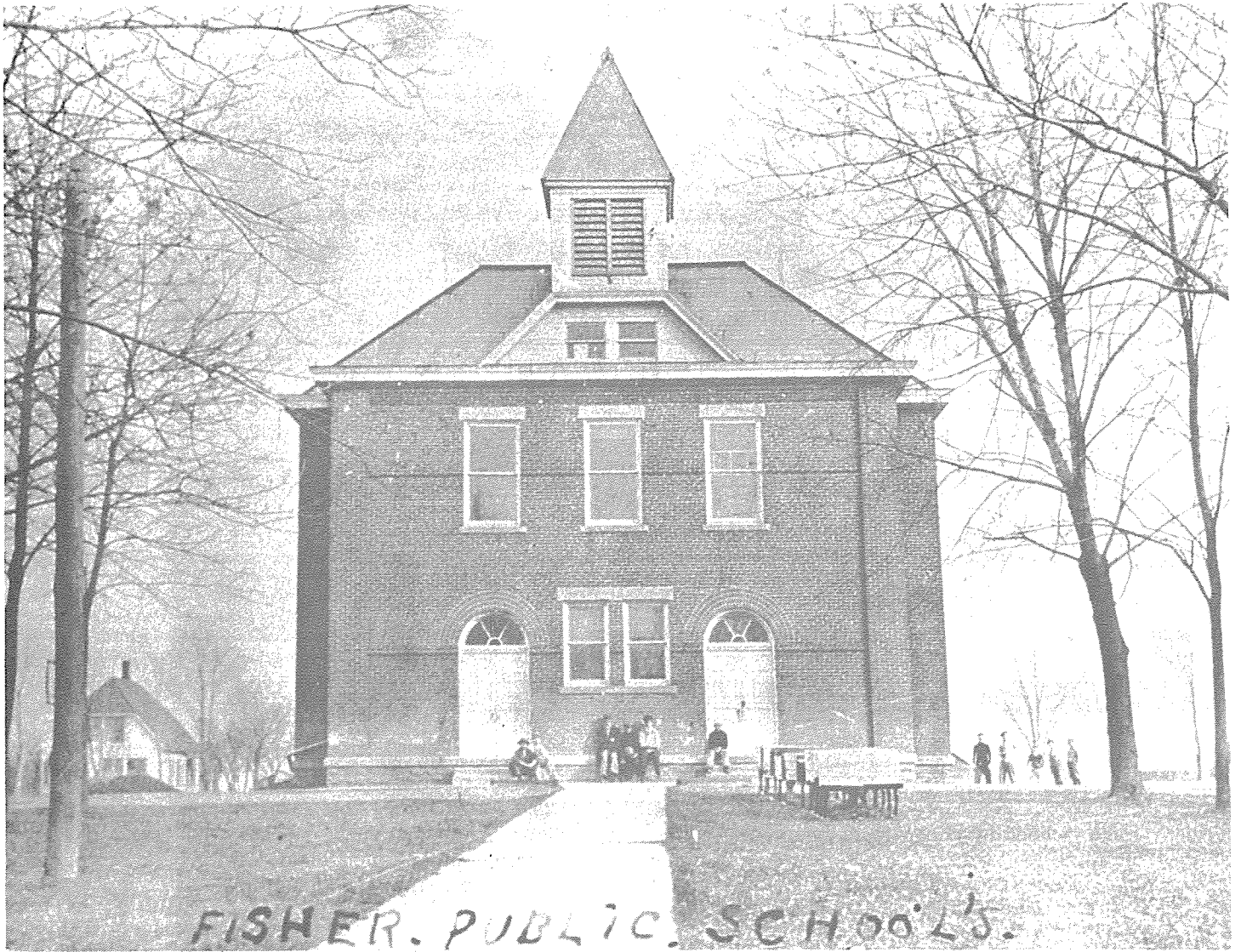
The Brick School was closed in the spring of 1942. Wilma Sadler was the last teacher. The school building was torn down and the ground reverted back to the owner. A large tree is still at the site of the school.

Sangamon (Helmick) School was closed in the spring of 1946. Mrs. Ruth A. Cox was the last teacher. The school sat empty for several years and then was torn down.

The first Brown township supervisor was Frederick Shoenberger in 1870. Anthony Schenk was supervisor in 1871 and 1872. He was followed by Jeremiah James in 1873 and Elijah Warner in 1874. Then Jeremiah James was supervisor from 1875 until 1879.

O.L. Gilmore was Brown township supervisor in 1914. He served until January 12, 1927 when he resigned his position. R.A. Sturgeon was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Sturgeon served until the election of 1933 when he was defeated by A.A. Smith. Mr. Sturgeon was returned to the office in 1937 and served until he resigned on April 8, 1943 and moved to Champaign. Floyd Jackson was appointed to fill the vacancy. Mr. Jackson served until 1948 when he was defeated in the election by Clarence Rice. Clarence Rice served three terms from 1948 until 1961. Evan Gibbens was elected Brown township supervisor in 1961 and is still serving in this position.

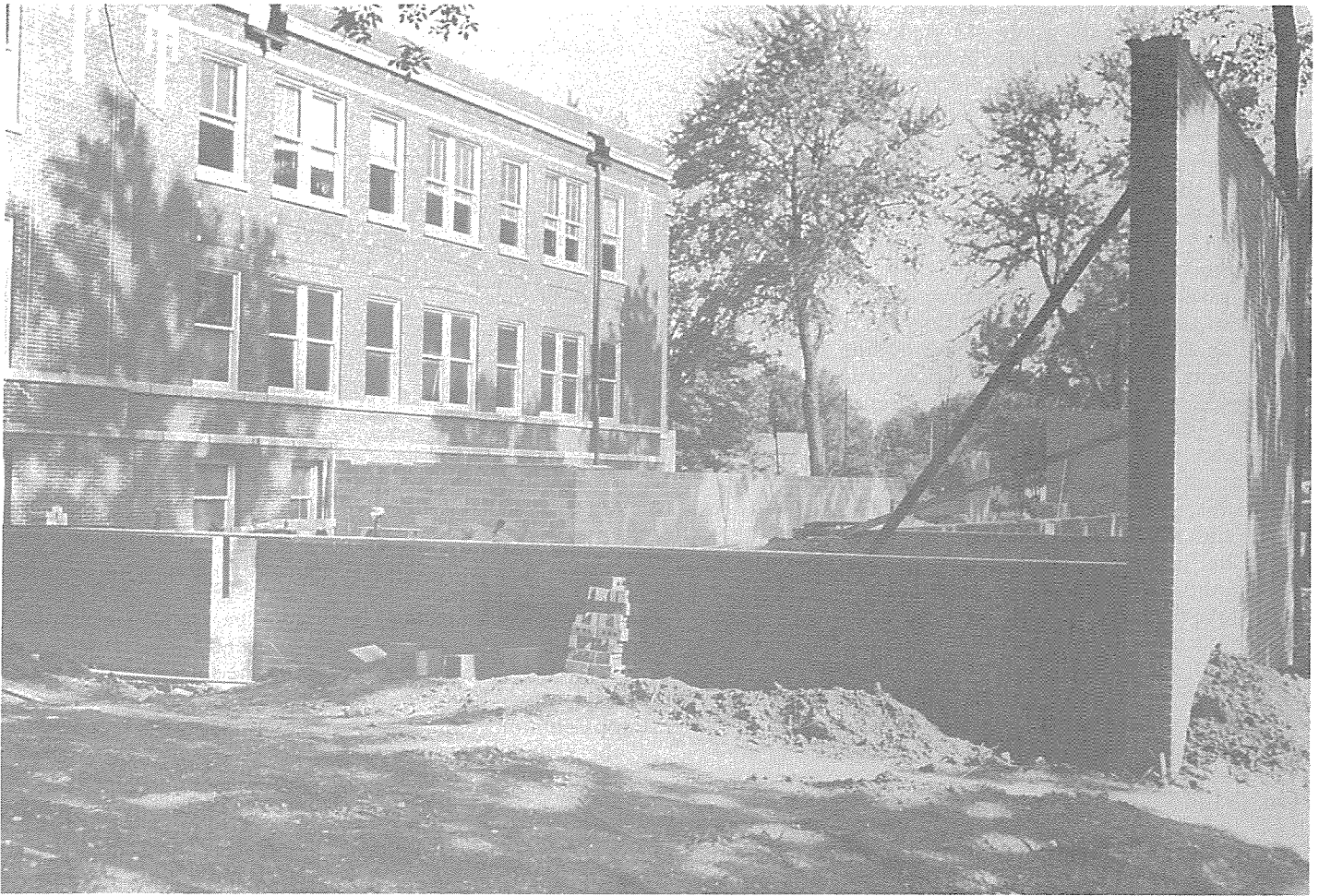
The present clerk of Brown township is Lyle Sheppard. He has held this position since 1953. The road commissioner is Walter Lammle. The present auditors are Robert Shields, Robert Rice, Ora King and Mrs. Aileen Jayne. The present cemetery trustees are Ronald Harsha, Oscar Thomas and Richard Shields.



Four room school building erected about 1890.



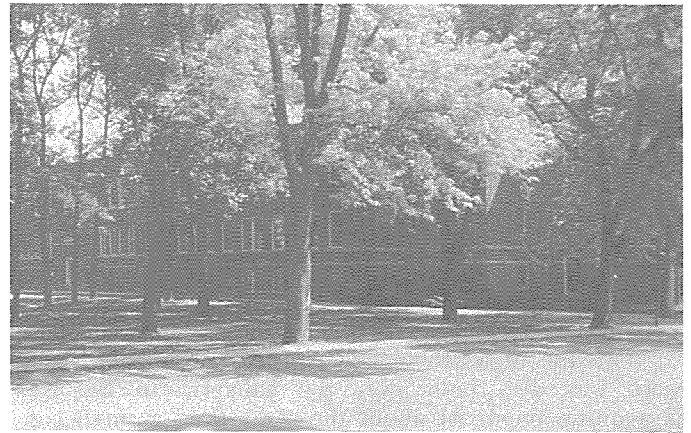
Fisher School building erected in 1914.



A wing was added in 1953 to the west of the Fisher Grade and High School. This wing contained 6 classrooms and administration offices.

SCHOOLS IN FISHER

The Fisher school district was first known as Union District No. 2. A small, one story frame schoolhouse stood in a lot in the southeast part of town, just across the highway north of the present Farm Service Station. In an election held on October 6, 1876, directors elected were S.A. Fisher, R.C. Outlaw and D.M. Tomlinson. A \$600 bond issue was voted to erect a new school building on lot 10, block 11, village of Fisher. Contract was let to build a one room, frame building at a cost of \$445. This location is now occupied by the Fisher Church of Christ and the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Burgess. School began here on January 1, 1877 with Ella McClelland of Foosland as teacher at a salary of \$45 per month. In 1880 the building was converted into a two story structure at a cost of \$460. The lower room was used by the lower grades and the upper room was used by the upper grades. T.H. Haden was engaged as principal at a salary of \$50 per month. Other teachers prior to 1889 were Ella Elder, P.N. Young, Mary Barber and L.B. White. Early members of the school board were A.D. Ricketts, T.H. Linebarger, Dr. W.K. Newcomb, H.T. Hateer and Peter Thompson. A deal was made in 1889, whereby this school and grounds were traded to J.W. Richmond for the block which is now the grade school campus. A new four room brick building was



Fisher Grade and High School in 1936.

erected on the new site. L.B. White was principal at this time. L.B. Saffer succeeded him as principal. The old school building was changed into an opera house.

The first high school graduates (class of 1895) were Wiley Lester and Clara Reasoner. In 1896 the graduates were Eugene Waggoner, Effie Naylor, Nellie Banner (Duvall) and Anna Kelley (McGuffin). Roy Bryant was the only graduate in 1897.

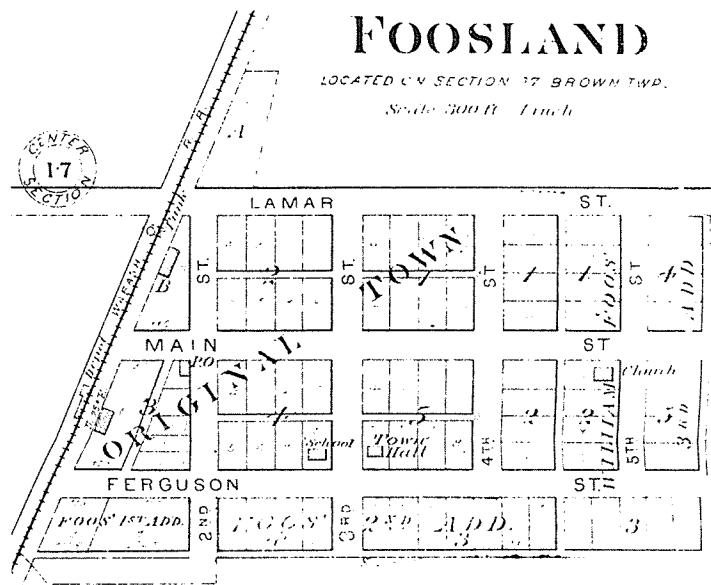
The grade school enrollment on March 1, 1901 was 73 students in the primary grade, 42 students in the intermediate grades and 60 students in the upper or grammar grades. In 1913 the Fisher school district was enlarged to include the Busey school district located in the northeast corner of Newcomb Township. This increased the district to 4,840 acres. The Busey school building was moved to the Fisher school grounds and was used until the new school building was completed. F.L. Lowman was principal and H.E. Trotter, F.L. Goldsmith and William Heyer were directors.

The present Fisher school building was begun in 1914 when a two and one-half story building was constructed at a cost of approximately \$45,000. This building consisted of eleven rooms and a small gymnasium and housed all twelve grades. The children were almost entirely from the village of Fisher except for some high school pupils who came in from the surrounding territory as tuition pupils.

In June of 1917, the community high school law was passed, making it possible to organize a high school district around a community center regardless of township lines. Fisher community High School District No. 301 was organized during the summer of 1918 and went into operation the following March. It was one of the first thirty community high school districts to be organized in the state. The original district contained 43 sections, but was later enlarged by 5 petitions circulated by the Board of Education, thereby adding over 20 sections to the original 43. The members of the Board of Education were Fred L. Goldsmith, president, Margaret L. Sale, secretary, Emma Bryan, Frank Williams and Charles Chenoworth. The high school board rented several rooms from the Fisher common school board for several years but in 1926 built a high school wing to the old building at a cost of \$90,000. This served as the high school until 1936 when an addition consisting of three rooms were built to the south end at a cost of \$27,000 plus some assistance from the Federal government. The high school board members in 1935 were J.M. Jones, president, G.C. Williams, secretary, and G.F. Beatty, F.R. Mitchell and A.D. Rankin.

In 1948 a community unit school district was organized consisting of all or part of 24 common school districts and the Fisher Community High School. As a result the Fisher building came under control of one board of education. This reorganization brought about an increase in enrollment which coupled with the desire for more modern facilities resulted in two more small additions in 1949. At that time the farm shop at the south end of the building was enlarged to make a room large enough for a cafeteria for both the high school and elementary school. A new room was also built over the cafeteria to be used as a music room. At about the same time a small concrete block building was built at the rear of the high school to be used as an agriculture building consisting of a classroom and agriculture shop. These combined additions were built at a cost of approximately \$45,000.

On December 6, 1952, the citizens of the Fisher-Dewey area authorized at an election the sale of \$155,000 in school bonds to pay for a new wing to be added to the west of the Fisher Grade and High School building. The new wing contained 6 classrooms and administration offices. A vocational education addition was also made at Fisher and a community room completed at the Dewey Grade School.

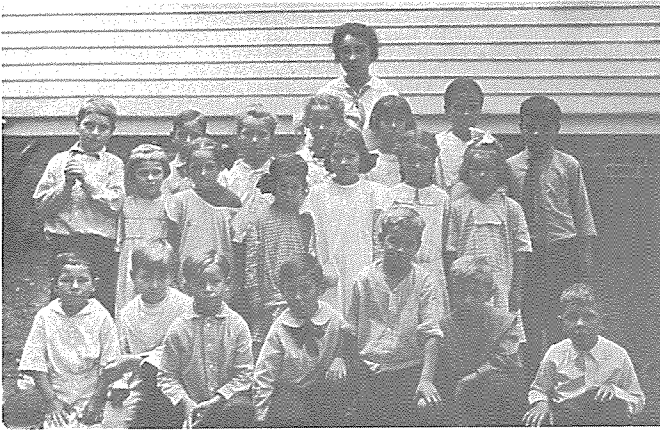


FOOSLAND

The town of Foosland on the line of the Chicago and Paducah (later the Wabash, presently the Norfolk and Western) railroad, was laid out in the spring of 1874 on the land belonging to William Foos. Mr. Foos was a resident of Columbus, Ohio. In 1854 he purchased 4000 acres from the government at \$1.25 an acre. This low-lying ground was under water most of the year so Mr. Foos spent thousands of dollars to improve the land. Ditches were dug and fences built until the huge tract of land was converted into excellent pasture, where large herds of cattle were fed. The dredge ditch was called Crane Ditch because of the many cranes found in this area in the 1800's. Early settlers told about the strange and unique dance they watched the cranes perform. Ducks, geese, pheasants and prairie chickens were also plentiful.

John Taylor built the first house on the present town site and became the town's first settler. The second building, a hotel and dwelling-house, was erected by George Dawson. James Malloy and a VanDeventer put up dwelling-houses about the same time in the summer of 1874. The first store building was put up by N.B. Tyler, who opened the first store in the summer of 1874. From Tyler this store passed successively into the hands of Warner and Snyder, Wilson Brothers, and William Phillips and was discontinued in January of 1878. The grain elevator, water tank, and railroad station were all built in the summer of 1874. C. Dyer of Mahomet built the second store in 1874 and opened the store on November 17, 1874. J.H. Pollock bought out C. Dyer and operated a general store for several years. Later the store was sold to Walter William Ritchie and later to Corley Ball and even later to E. Bright. Fire destroyed the original building but a new one was erected at the same site. L.M. Pfoff, an old resident of the town, operated the store until the 1930's when the depression forced him to close the store.

G.W. Dawson and William Ridge built a third store in the summer of 1874 and continued in business until the spring of 1875, when they disposed of their stock to Theodore F. Phillips. The following spring this store was discontinued.



Foosland School Primary Grades 1914

Front row, l to r: Hugh Taylor, Bruce Delong, ?, Everett Hudgens, Claude Beasley, Roy Scholl, Raph Shields. Second Row: Alva Boyd, Ruth Davis, Cleo Ross, Kathleen McConnell, Betty Bunn, ?, Opal Marshall. Third row: Gladys Marshall, Harriett Shields, Ruby Taylor, Alice Gibbens, Tracy Shields. Teacher Ruby Baughman.

The first blacksmith shop was built by Benjamin Sprague. Walter Halliday, who came from Scotland, was also a blacksmith in Foosland. Dan Callahan was the first restaurant owner in Foosland.

The post office was established in 1874. The first postmaster was G.W. Dawson, who was succeeded by Capt. E. Warner, who was also a Justice of the Peace and notary public.

The first physician in this village was Dr. Hill. Dr. Harvey L. Harris located here in February of 1875 and in 1878 he was the only physician in the place. Dr. Harris practiced in Foosland for a number of years, when he in turn was followed by Dr. A.C. Albright. In 1892 Dr. J.E. Lowry became the successor to Dr. Albright.

In 1878 there were two grain dealers in Foosland. One dealer was C. Dyer and the other dealer was G.L. Koons and sons. William Foos and Frederick Schoenberger had a large hay press.

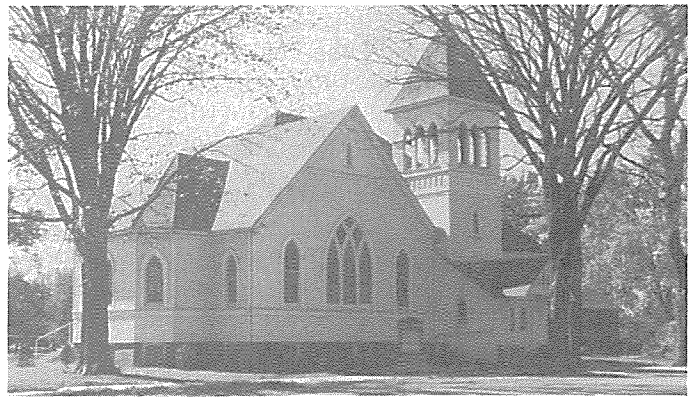
In 1878 there was one passenger and one freight train running each way daily on the Chicago and Paducah Railroad. This railroad has its southern terminus at Altamont and its northern terminus at Streater, where it connected with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. The American Express Company and the Western Union Telegraph Company had offices in Foosland.

For many years the children of Foosland tramped two miles across the swampy prairie to the Willow Bend school house. Mrs. Caroline Boyd told a story about a blue racer snake that she and her brothers encountered on their way to Willow Bend School. Blue racers are harmless unless bothered. For sport, one of her brothers amused himself by throwing clods at the unusual large blue racer. The snake raised up, looking as though it was running on its tail, and took after the children. Throwing a dinner bucket at it, the children ran and did not stop to look back until safety home. Needless to say, no one wanted to go back for the dinner bucket. Even after the land was drained, its appearance was by no means that of today. Rattlesnakes infested the lower areas, making foot travel hazardous.



Foosland School Intermediate Grades 1914.

Front row, l to r: Guy Marshall, Jim Ford, R. Kuhns, Kenneth Pfoff, Clyde Davis. Second row: Margaret Ball, Edith Scholl, Vivian Hinton, Hazel Beasley, Frances Gibbens, Faye Steele, Grace Davis, Dorothy Ball. Third row: Lottie Bolton, Marguerite Taylor, Lavonne Ball, Clinton Gibbens, Geneva Painter, Mary Taylor, Teacher Agnes Armstrong, and Etta Williams.



United Methodist Church of Foosland.

The Methodist Episcopal Church of Foosland was built at a cost of \$1050. The school house was built in 1877 at a cost of \$600. The United Brethren Church was built in 1875 northeast of Foosland at a cost of \$1300 at the site of the Mt. Hope cemetery. This church was later torn down and the lumber from the building was used in the home of K.D. Boyd (now the home of Roy Gerber).

J.H. Pollock, known as Father Pollock, reared a family of seven sons and one daughter, who grew to maturity in Foosland. Father Pollock was instrumental in establishing the Methodist Protestant churches in the school houses within a 10-mile radius of Foosland and he preached in the schools until a minister could be obtained.

After a few years the two Methodist churches in Foosland and the United Brethren Church were united becoming a Methodist Protestant organization. They held services in the former Methodist Episcopal building which stood on the site of the home of the late Alton De Long, until a new building was erected in the east part of town. This church is now the United Methodist Church of Foosland. Rev. Owen Candler is the present minister.

At one time Foosland had two grain elevators and two banks. One elevator was operated by George De Long and the other elevator was a co-op organized by the farmers of the area. Today there is only one elevator, the Foosland Grain Company. One bank was owned and operated by George De Long. Mayme Karr was the bookkeeper at the De Long bank. The other bank was the First National Bank which was started by the farmers of the Foosland community. Leo Bright, Fred Schmall and later Robert M. Shields were cashiers and Mrs. Maurice Ball was the bookkeeper at this bank. Both banks closed during the depression in the early 1930's. Mr. De Long also sold Studebaker automobiles.

In 1907 a fire destroyed the general store, a bank, a restaurant and the barber shop. On May 1923, the school was struck by lightning and burned late that afternoon. There was no more school that term for the grade school children. The high school classes were held to the end of the term in a home where Paul Verkler lives now. The following year high school classes were held in the same home. During the next school year the grade school children used the Odd Fellow's Hall which was above the general store for their classroom.

The De Long elevator was struck by lightning the same day and it burned during the night. Foosland Grain Company had bought out De Long earlier. There are grain bins now at the site of the old De Long elevator. The Foosland Grain office is the old De Long bank building. The First National Bank building is now the Foosland Fire Station.

The post office in Foosland is south of the grain office. Lewis Carter is the present postmaster and he has served in this position for several years. Loren Pfoff had the post office in one corner of the general store for many years. Paul Gilbert had the post office after Mr. Pfoff in the same building. Mr. Gilbert and his wife operated the general store for several years. When Mr. Gilbert left the general store he worked for the Foosland Grain Company at their elevator in Bellflower. The Foosland Grain Company also operates an elevator at McNulta which is about two miles west of Foosland.

Willow Bend School closed in the spring of 1916. Louise Oaks was the last teacher at this school. Attendance at the school had dropped to less than 10 students. Willow Bend School building was moved into Foosland across from the Farmers Elevator and Ira Bunn used it as a gas station. It has since been torn down.

In the spring of 1958 the Foosland Grade School was closed. Students at this school attended Gibson City Schools the following fall. The school was sold and is now being used as a home. The present businesses in Foosland are the Foosland Grain Company, Earl McKinney's Sales and Service of the American Motors Jeep, and Robert S. Hinton's Nitrogen Service.

Here is another version of the "History of Foosland" contributed by Mrs. Hazel Hull of Champaign, Ill.

"This problem has been bugging me for some time. I became aware of it after passing a state highway sign on Illinois 47 near Gibson City, Ill. The sign reads FOOSLAND — 2 MILES. I keep worrying about it. Can you help?

Here's my poem:

Somewhere in the state
There's a Foosland I know
For I've seen a sign
Telling me so.
I've searched many days
And many nights, too,
For word about Foosland
And news of the Foo.
Newspapers ignore it.
No magazine's for it.
Is Foosland a vacuum
That all must abhor it?
I've waited in vain
For word of the Foo
And news about Foosland.
What more can I do?
In sheer desperation
I'm turning to you.
Please! What is Foosland?
And who
Is a Foo?—**B.L., Villa Park**
Beeline will tell you
It's a land for real,
Full of 175 Pop.
All people of zeal,
And, once upon a time
It was just a swamp
Until Mr. Foo himself
Came to mop, mop, mop.
He paid \$1.75 an acre,
So the report goes;
And there were four to five thousand
For farming he chose.
Mr. Foo, by the way,
Wasn't Mr. Foo at all;
William Foos was his name
And New York businessman was his call.
Now all this we got
From Mayor Paul Verkler,
Manager of Foosland Grain Company
And a proud town crier.
Come to Foosland, he cries,
Come to Foosland all;
You'll like it here, yes you will,
So come one and all.

MT. HOPE CEMETERY

Mt. Hope cemetery is located about one and a half miles north of Foosland in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4-22-7 and contains two acres. It was dedicated for cemetery purposes by David Harpster on September 15, 1874. It is now taken care of by Brown Township. There are approximately 200 burials in this cemetery. It is fenced and well kept with trees and plantings. In 1937 Mr. George De Long of Foosland was president of the Mt. Hope Cemetery Association. Edward McJilton, Fisher, was a trustee and Corley Ball of Foosland was secretary-treasurer.

There are one or two veterans of World War I, three veterans of the Spanish-American War, and six veterans of the Civil War buried here. E. Warrener, a Civil War veteran is said to have been a veteran of the Mexican War also.

The present trustees of this cemetery are Richard Shields, Oscar Thomas and Ronald Harsha.



WILLIAM FOOS

William Foos was born on July 14, 1814 in Franklin County, Ohio the eldest son of General Joseph and his second wife, Margaret (Phifer) Foos. At the age of 14, it was necessary for him to help support his family so he rented land from his maternal grandfather, and successfully farmed assisted by his two younger brothers. At the age of 19 he was employed as a clerk in a dry goods store in Pekin, Illinois. In 1837 William Foos and a partner opened a dry goods store in Springfield, Ohio. Dissatisfied with his business partner, he sold out and afterwards engaged in the same business in Logan County, Ohio.

In 1837 William Foos married Sarah Mark, who was a daughter of James and Nancy (Van Kirk) Mark, of Madison County, Ohio. About 1839 they moved to London, Madison County, Ohio where he continued in the same trade. In 1846 he returned to Springfield, Ohio and again engaged in merchandising, which he continued until 1854. During this time he also engaged in a number of other business enterprises; buying wool, operating a cotton mill and in connection with his brother laid out ninety acres of

land in city lots, which later contained some of the best homes in the city.

In 1859 William Foos and his brother, Gustavus, established a private banking house, which in 1863 became the Second National Bank of Springfield, Ohio. William Foos was president and his son, Fergus W., was cashier. From 1866 to 1877, Mr. Foos was a member of the firm of James Leffel and Co., manufacturers of the Leffel turbine water wheel and other mill machinery. The success this company attained and the large profits realized were largely due to the energy and ability of Mr. Foos and his son, Lamar, who was in charge of the branch office in New York City.

When Mr. Foos sold out his mercantile interests in 1854, he purchased 4,000 acres of wild land in Champaign County, Illinois. He then built a neat and substantial home at 123 High Street in Springfield and decided to retire from active business. Only a short time elapsed before Mr. Foos realized that loafing was not for him, and so the banking house of Foos and Brothers was established.

About this time Mr. Foos began to develop the plan for improving his Illinois land. In this enterprise he spent thousands of dollars. The Foos farm is furnished with an abundance of water by the Lone Tree Creek and the Sangamon River, which pass through it and provide good drainage. Further drainage was secured by 15 miles of open ditch and \$3,000 worth of tile drains. The ground was so systematically laid out and the fields were so numbered that, by means of monthly reports, he was able to give the farm his personal supervision.

The Foos farm land was cut in the center by the Chicago and Paducah Railroad (now the Norfolk and Western) and upon it was located the railroad station and the village of Foosland, laid out by Mr. Foos in 1874. The original town plat was filed on July 3, 1895.

In 1880 Mr. Foos had from \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of stock, constantly cared for by his steward and assistants. He also had 1,500 acres of land under cultivation. On the Foos farm were 10 houses and 10 barns located at convenient places.

Mr. Foos gave land for the Methodist Church and for the parsonage. Mr. William Foos died in February of 1892 at his home in Springfield, Ohio.

In 1906 the Champaign Times contained this description of the Foos Farm. "The Foos farm, at Foosland, consists of 3,800 acres. The owner, F.W. Foos, resides in New York City, but often comes to Foosland and is well known here. (Ferguson W. Foos and Lamar Foos were the sons of William Foos.) His resident manager is Robert Gore Ball, a good farmer and most competent man in every way. For 15 years Mr. Ball has had the management of this big farm and seems to have given entire satisfaction both to the tenants and the owner. The farm rents to tenants for \$4 an acre cash, for either grain or grass land, except that when as much as 100 acres of grass are rented to one man, the price is but \$3.75. This is much lower than neighboring land can be rented for and therefore it is much in demand. There are 13 tenants in all. Of the 3,800 acres, there are 1,500 in grass, 700 in oats and 2,100 in corn — at least, that was the proportion last season, but the proportions differ yearly. An effort is made to keep changing from grain to grass, thus keeping the fertility of the soil. The farm is moderately well-tiled, has fairly good fence around it, but the buildings are not very new or up-to-date. Last

year there were raised on this farm — not including 1,500 acres of grass — 105,000 bushels of corn and 2,100 bushels of oats.”

The first manager of the Foos farm was Fred Schoenberger, who came from Springfield, Ohio. A home was erected for him 1/2 mile east of Foosland. Mr. Schoenberger was also the first township supervisor of Brown township.

Robert Gore Ball became manager of the farm in 1892. He continued to manage the farm until he was 77 years old.

In 1913 William H. Shields, son-in-law of R.G. Ball, became the manager. He served in this position until 1959.

From 1959 until 1974 Tracy Shields managed the farm. In 1974 the management of the farm was divided between Richard and Willard Shields, great grandsons of R.G. Ball.

The Foos estate farm is now 2,961 acres. There are no longer ten tenants and very little grass land. Richard Shields supervises the Lawrence Foos farms, the northern part of the original Foos farm. There are three tenants in this area — Richard Shields, Oscar Thomas and Evan Gibbens. Willard Shields supervises the White and Baily farms, the southern part of the original Foos farm. There are only two tenants in this area — Willard Shields and Ronald Harsha. The majority of the farm land is now in corn and beans.

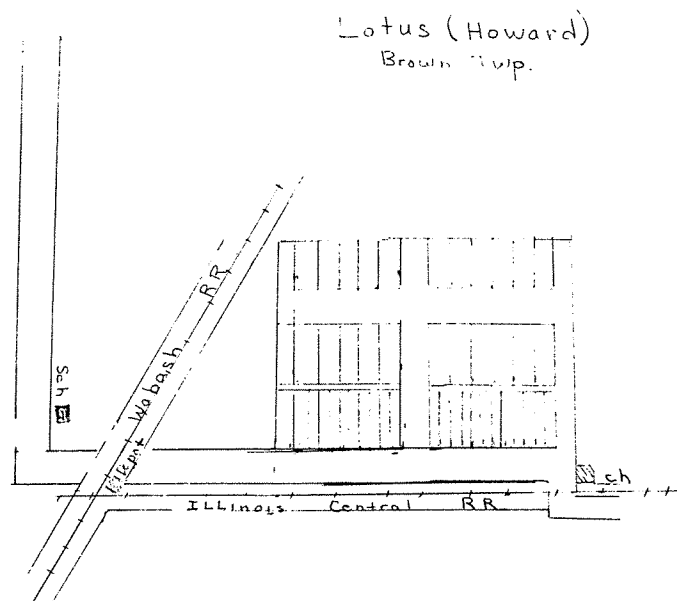
ROBERT GORE BALL

Robert Gore Ball was born in Boone County, Indiana, November 8, 1836, the son of Joseph and Ingabo (McDaniel) Ball. He married Susan Brock, a native of McLean county, and a daughter of Sherwood and Nancy Brock. They farmed in McLean county for six years, and in 1867 moved to Brown township where he farmed upon rented land for several years. He finally purchased a farm and lived there until 1891, when he sold the place and took charge of the Foos estate in 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Ball had thirteen children; Emma, who married William Ritchie, a merchant of Foosland; Caroline, who married K.D. Boyd of Foosland; Oliver, who was a railroad agent; Charles, who farmed in Brown township; Mary, the wife of S.E. Gibbens; Sherman, who farmed in Colorado; Corley, who farmed in Brown township; Ida, wife of J.P. Pollock of Foosland; W.T., who lived in Colorado; Nora, wife of Loren Pfoff, a grain dealer at Harpster, Ford county; David, who was a railroad agent; Hattie Ethel, who married William H. Shields; and Alice, who married Loren Lewis, who was a telegrapher for the Wabash Railroad.

Robert Gore Ball headed a movement which organized the United Brethren Church in the little one room Willow Bend School in 1869. He and his wife, Louis High and wife, and Lucinda Adams, wife of E.H. Adams, were the five charter members of the little mission church.

Mrs. Ball died on August 23, 1894. Robert Ball died on July 29, 1914 at his daughter Ida's home in Colorado Springs, Colorado while out there on a visit. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ball are buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery near Foosland.



LOTUS

Lotus, a small village west of Fisher, was formerly called Howard in honor of an early pioneer family that settled in that area. The name was changed in the early 1900's because mail and freight were mixed frequently with mail and freight for Harvard, Illinois. Lotus is served by two railroads, the Norfolk and Western and the Illinois Central. At the present time Lotus has a grain elevator and lumber yard. There is no school, no store, no post office, no depot and no church in Lotus.



Lotus

Lotus School was located west of the town. The white frame building faced south. There was a small vestibule to the front where the children hung their coats. Later rest-rooms were added to both sides of the vestibule. The school was heated by a pot-bellied stove in the northwest corner of the classroom. There were several windows to the west and the afternoon sun helped warm the classroom. Behind the stove were library shelves. On cold mornings the children would gather in this corner to get warm. A sidewalk was built from Lotus to the school. The children had much fun roller skating back and forth to school. Most of the sidewalk is still there. Lotus School was closed in the spring of 1949. Mrs. Verna Foster was the last teacher at this school. Allan Blair bought the school house



Two-story grocery store in Lotus was operated by R.L. Forsyth, brother in law of C.L. Albin. Pool Hall is to the east of the store. In the background at the left side are the Illinois Central Tower and the Old Wabash Depot.



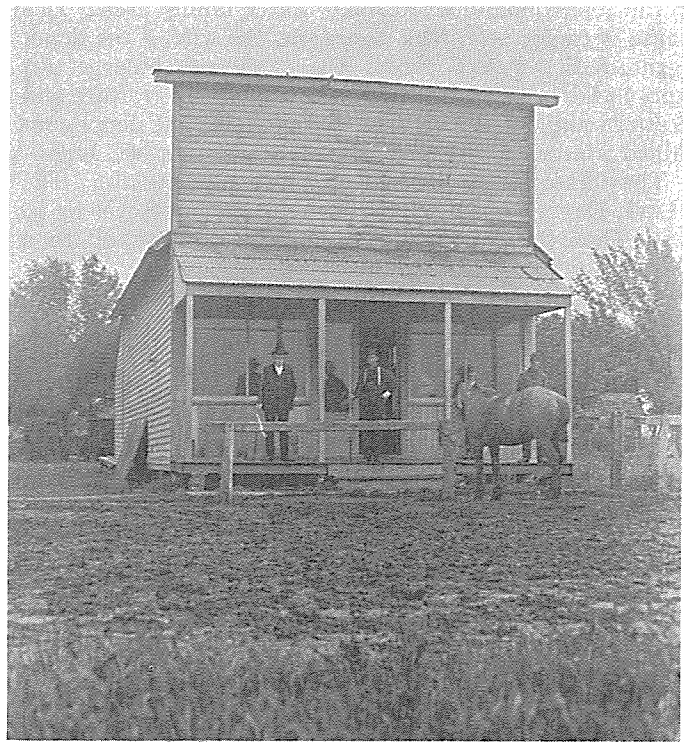
Old Wabash Depot in front and the old elevator that burned in August of 1940.

and moved the main part of the school west across the Norfolk and Western railroad tracks. It is now part of the Allan Blair family home. The vestibule still stands at the original site of the school. Mrs. Nellie Donahue Beatty, Mrs. Belle Tobin Yeagle, Frances Troster Kumler, and Amelia Troster Bright were early students at this school.

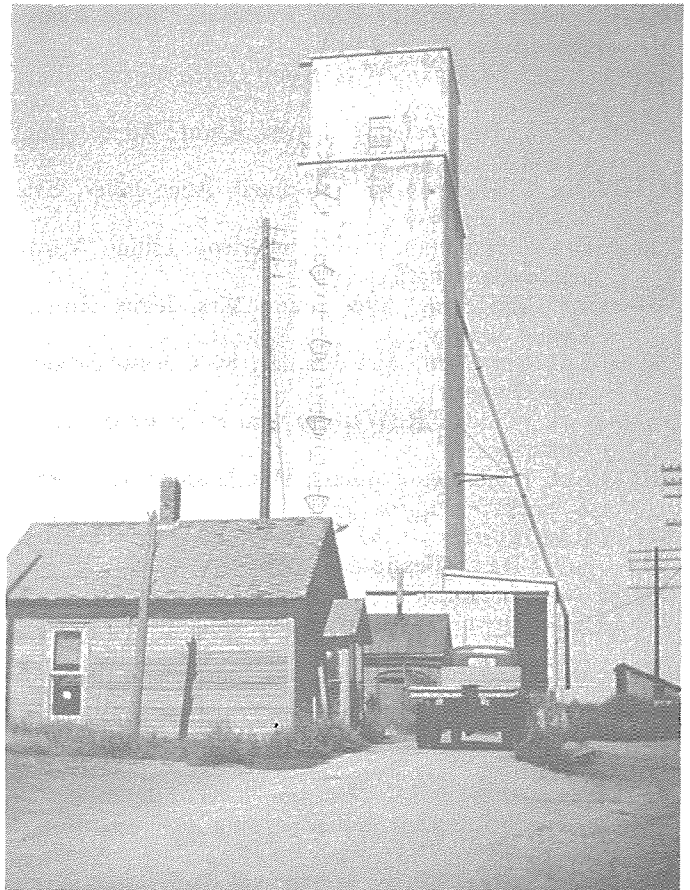
A Methodist church was located east of Lotus near the Illinois Central railroad tracks. This church was disbanded about the time Walker Methodist Church was built. Most members of the Lotus Methodist Church joined the Walker Methodist; although for a while, some members used the old store building for church services.

The first general store and a pool hall stood where Painter's Machine Shop is today. The pool hall was owned and operated by R.L. Albin. This building was later used as a store house for Lotus Grain Company. The general store was a two story building. It was owned and operated by L.R. Forsyth, a son-in-law of R.L. Albin. A second store was built by Charles and Ida Ennis close to the elevator. This building was destroyed by fire about 1928. R.L. Albin also had a lumber yard in Lotus. The first grain elevator was struck by lightning in August of 1940 and burned to the ground. Another elevator was built on the same site. A new grain office was built in 1949.

The post office was part of the first general store. Later when the store was discontinued, the post office was moved



Old Pool Hall in Lotus. R.L. Albin is the man to the left in the picture.



New elevator at Lotus with the old office in front.

to the Jones' home (where the Weaver family lived). This house is empty now. Mrs. Jones was the wife of the depot agent, R.E. "Casey" Jones. The depot was a large two story building located at the crossroads of the Norfolk and Western and the Illinois Central railroads. The depot contained a large waiting room and a big office for Mr. Jones.

The Illinois Central depot was a smaller building. The "Little Depot" was a wooden structure about 8 feet by 10 feet. There were steps on the outside leading up to a "tower" on top of the building.

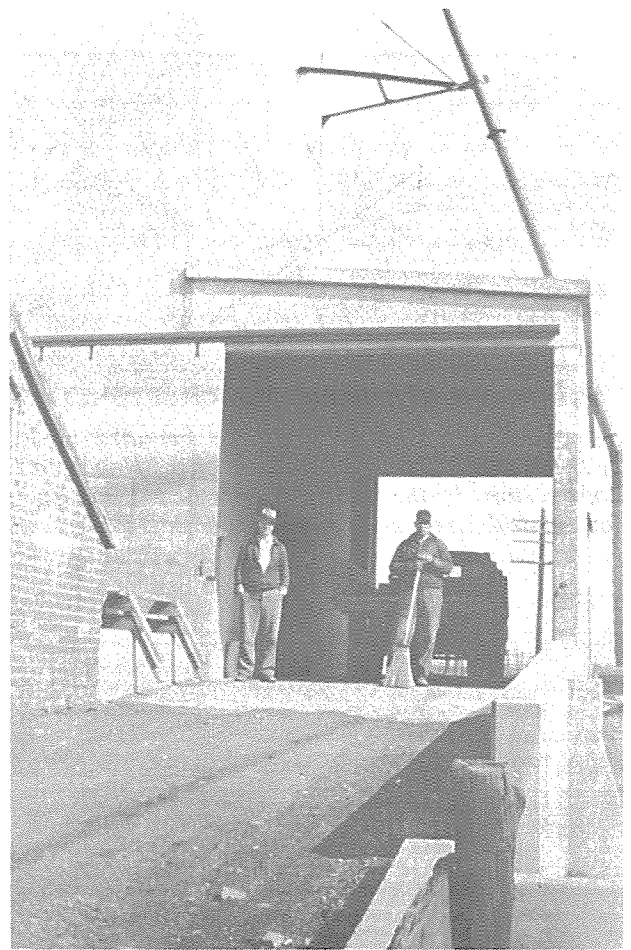
Sam Albin ran the grain office until his health failed. Then Clifford "Doc" Albin operated the grain office. He was succeeded by his son, Robert Albin. The present manager of the Lotus Grain Company is Vernon Guingrich.

Painter's Machine Shop is no longer in operation. This shop was owned and operated by Herb and Richard Painter for 10 years or more. They manufactured augers in their shop.

FISHER GRADE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 40

Brown Township

1899-00 H.A. Davis, W.B. Pusey, Bessie Nagle, Olive Jackson
 1900-01 G.W. Lawrence, Ora C. Hickman, Mattie M. Horner, Clara Schenk
 1901-02 G.W. Lawrence, Ora Hickman, Pearle Bachman, Clara Schenk
 1902-03 Ora C. Hickman, Alvin J. Hoskin, Alice Jones, Clara Schenk
 1903-04 Ora C. Hickman, W.E. Knott, Alice Jones, Lillian Zerbe
 1904-05 Ora C. Hickman, W. Ernest Knott, Alice Jones, Lillian Wardlow
 1905-06 Ora C. Hickman, S.G. Pursell, Alice Jones, Eva Shaffer
 1906-07 Ora C. Hickman, Isabel Robertson, Lillian Wardlow, Evelyn Shaffer
 1907-08 L.C. Ringeisen, Alice Jones, Mrs. Jessie Hazen, Evelyn Shaffer
 1908-09 L.C. Ringeisen, Alta Findley, Mrs. Jessie Hazen, Josie Gossard
 1909-10 L.B. White, V.R. Walker, Mrs. Jessie Hazen, Josie Gossard
 1910-11 L.B. White, Jesse oveless, Mrs. Jessie Hazen, Jessie Z. York
 1911-12 Jesse Loveless, C.M. Young, F.L. Warner, Mrs. Jessie Hazen, Jessie Z. York
 1912-13 (Not available)
 1913-14 S.G. Pursell, Sarah Hazen, Valentina Hawkins, Ellie Fairfield
 1914-15 Valentina Hawkins, Nellie Brandon, Mabelle Walker, Agnes Pompelly
 1915-16 Milton Dreyfus, Dot Ballew, Ava Heyer, Agnes Pompelly
 1916-17 Jessie Rice, Dot Ballew, Ava Heyer, Ada Nelson
 1917-18 Jessie Rice, Dot Ballew, Anna Hylbert, Agnes Pompelly
 1918-19 Jessie Rice, Helen Bryant, Hooker, Mae Keal, Agnes Pompelly
 1919-21 Jessie Rice, Dorothy Oldham, Olive Brandon, Agnes Pompelly



New elevator at Lotus with C.L. Albin to the left and Vic Painter on the right.

1921-22 Jessie Rice, Zella Camden, Dorothy Richmond, Lois Roy
 1922-23 Zella Camden (Guy O. Longenbaugh began Jan. 28, 1923), Gladys Rice, Mrs. Daisy Rome, Inez Goldsmith
 1923-24 Guy O. Longenbaugh, Gladys Rice, Mrs. Bernice Reynolds, Agnes Pompelly
 1924-25 Guy O. Longenbaugh, Gladys Rice, Mrs. J.J. Miner, Agnes Pompelly
 1925-26 Guy O. Longenbaugh, Gladys Rice, Mrs. J.J. Miner, Mrs. Ethel G. Lewis, Lois Bowman
 1926-27 Mrs. Katherine McHarry, Gladys Rice, Mrs. J.J. Miner, Jessie Warner, Leah Stewart
 1927-28 Mrs. Katherine McHarry, Gladys Rice, Anna McNeeley, Jessie Warner, Leah Stewart
 1928-29 Leslie Mitchell, Dorothy Sizer, Anna McNeeley, Jessie Warner, Ruth Hyre, Beulah Sheppard
 1929-30 L.R. Mitchell, Dorothy Sizer, Thelma Dubson, Jessie Warner, Ruth Hyre, Beulah Sheppard
 1930-31 L.R. Mitchell, Grace Neal, Jessie Warner, Ruth Hyre, Beulah Sheppard
 1931-32 Leslie Mitchell, Mrs. Grace Neal, Jessie Warner, Beulah Sheppard
 1932-35 Henry larence Goodart, Jessie Warner, Beulah Sheppard
 1935-36 Harry B. Green, Doyne Henry, Jessie Warner, Beulah Sheppard

- 1936-37 Harry B. Green, Doyne Henry, Beulah Sheppard, Jessie Warner
- 1937-39 Kenneth F. McHarry, Doyne Henry, Beulah Sheppard, Jessie Warner
- 1939-40 Kenneth F. McHarry, Jean Pierson, Beulah Sheppard, Jessie Warner
- 1940-41 Kenneth F. McHarry, Jean Pierson, Beulah Sheppard, Jessie Warner
- 1941-42 Warren Mulch, Beulah Alley, Virginia E. Portz, Jessie Warner
- 1942-43 Beulah Alley, Geraldine Bayer, Thelma Holland, Jessie Warner
- 1942-43 Beulah Alley, Geraldine Bayer Shields, Thelma Holland, Jessie Warner
- 1944-45 Beulah Alley, Maria Gensheiner, Thelma Holland, Jessie Warner
- 1945-46 Beulah Alley, Maria Gensheiner, Doris Jackson, Jessie Warner
- 1946-47 Beulah Alley, Maria Ehresman, Gladys Rice, Mrs. Jessie Warner
- 1947-48 Frank W. Kerr, Frances Siefferman, Gladys Rice, Jessie Warner Green
- 1948-49 Charles M. Bozarth, Jessie Green, Marian Wiesner, Chloa Wyatt Birkey, Gladys Rice, Edna Alexander, Frances Siefferman, Leonard Taylor, Helen Overman
- 1949-50 C.M. Bozarth, Helen M. Overman, Ralph E. Wade, Leonard A. Taylor, Helen Vitous Drom, Frances Siefferman, Edna Alexander, Gladys Rice, Doris J. Hannah, Corrine R. Crowley, Charlotte H. Hitchens, Jessie Green
- 1950-51 C.M. Bozarth, Edna Alexander Beck, Hilda Carper, Lorraine Chamberlain, Corrine R. Crowley, Betty L. Evans, Helen Overman, Gladys Rice, Frances Siefferman, Corene Taylor, Leonard Taylor, Ralph Wade, Susan Johnson
- 1951-52 C.M. Bozarth, Leonard Taylor, Helen M. Overman, Frances Siefferman, Ola Luther, Edna N. Beck, Gladys Rice, Corene Taylor, Susie Johnson, Betty Evans, Hilda Carper
- 1952-53 C.M. Bozarth, Helen M. Overman, Clarence Barker, Frances S. Ferguson, Edna M. Beck, Mary M. Smith, Gladys Rice, Ola Luther, Thelma Bozarth, Susie Johnson, Vera Martin, Helen DeSimone, Grace Phillips
- 1954-55 (Not available)
- 1955-56 Helen M. Overman, Susie J. Allen, Ova Jean Bayley, Edna M. Beck, Helen E. DeSimone, Theodore Ellis Jr., Frances Ferguson, Nancy Gates, Barbara Henderson, Mary Lammle, Ola Luther, Vera Martin, Lucille Brown, Grace Phillips, Ruth Raveill, Gladys Rice, Kathleen C. Williams
- 1956-57 Helen M. Overman, Setsue Y. Abe, Susie J. Allen, Edna M. Beck, Leona L. Brown, Helen E. DeSimone, Alice H. Essig, Frances Ferguson, Vera P. Huff, Ola B. Luther, Grace F. Phillips, Gladys Rice, June S. Sheppard, Elizabeth C. Stephens, Charlotte A. VanTreeck, Barbara C. Williams, Willis B. Wofford
- 1957-58 Helen M. Overman, Setsue Y. Abe, Susie J. Allen, Edna M. Beck, Leona L. Brown, Charlotte D. Clevenger, Helen E. DeSimone, Thelma L. Elkins, Frances Ferguson, Jerry Griffith, Vera P. Huff, Mary K. Lammle, Ola B. Luther, Eugene R. McNish, Grace F. Phillips, Gladys Rice, Betty B. Sims, Elizabeth C. Stephens, Willis B. Wofford
- 1958-59 Helen M. Overman, Setsue Y. Abe, Susie J. Allen, Edna M. Beck, Leona L. Brown, Helen E. DeSimone, Thelma L. Elkins, Frances Ferguson, Melvin Hill, Vera P. Huff, Mary K. Lammle, Ola B. Luther, R. Eugene McNish, Grace F. Phillips, Gladys Rice, June S. Sheppard, Betty B. Sims, Elizabeth C. Stephens.
- 1959-60 Helen M. Overman, Joanne M. Arnold, Edna M. Beck, Mrs. Buddy L. Berry, Leona L. Brown, Dorothy I. Cender, Priscilla D. Day, Helen E. DeSimone, Thelma L. Elkins, Frances Ferguson, R. Carolyn Hedrick, Melvin Hill, Vera P. Huff, Mary K. Lammle, Ola B. Luther, Grace F. Phillips, Gladys Rice, June S. Sheppard, Avis M. Suttle.
- 1960-61 Melvin Hill, Edna M. Beck, Buddy L. Berry, Leona L. Brown, Dorothy I. Cender, Priscilla D. Day, Helen E. DeSimone, Thelma L. Elkins, Frances Ferguson, R. Carolyn Hedrick, Helen B. Hilgendorf, Vera P. Huff, Mary K. Lammle, Ola B. Luther, Helen M. Overman, Grace F. Phillips, Lloyd F. Robinson, June S. Sheppard, Avis M. Suttle.
- 1961-62 (Not available)
- 1963-64 (Not available)
- 1964-65 (Not available)
- 1965-66 John Symes, Melanie Barth, Leona Brown, Ruth Brown, Marijo Carney, Dorothy Cender, Helen DeSimone, Thelma Elkins, Robert Emery, Frances Ferguson, Alice Gillespie, Pearl Hannula, Marie Hesterberg, Orel Illyes, Charlotte Jackson, Freelyn Jeffers, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Ola Luther, Sandra Martin, Janet North, Grace Phillips, Judy Puyear, Winona Rathje, Lenora Reeves, June Sheppard
- 1966-67 Gary D. Matteson, Edna Beck, Leanna J. Belson, Geraldine Bowsher, Alma Bremer, Leona L. Brown, Dorothy Cender, Harriet Cox, Helen DeSimone, Thelma Elkins, Robert Emery, Frances Ferguson, Alice Gillespie, Charlotte Jackson, Freelyn Jeffers, Eunice S. Kandel, Mary Lammle, Ola B. Luther, Sandra M. Martin, Marilyn Mead, Carole Naves, Janet North, Mitze Nitzsche, Grace Phillips, Winona Rathje, Lenora Reeves, Robert Rice, June Sheppard, Ruth Wilson, Jennifer Wiltsie
- 1967-68 Gary Matteson, Geraldine Bowsher, Leona Brown, Dorothy Cender, Harriet Cox, Helen DeSimone, Rosalee Duckworth, Thelma Elkins, Alma Emery, Frances Ferguson, Joan Hays, Joan Howard, Charlotte Jackson, Eunice Kandel, Sonja Keyt, Mary Lammle, Sandra Martin, Nedra Morgan, Mitze Mitzsche, Janet North, Dennis Palmer, Sylvia Parks, Grace Phillips, Lenora Reeves, Robert Rice, June Sheppard, Wanda Smith, Cathy Tursman, Susan Welcker, Ruth Wilson, Chris Yoder
- 1968-69 (Not available)
- 1969-70 Gary Matteson, Alice Anderson, Geraldine

Bowsher, Barbara Caviness, Dorothy Cender, Helen DeSimone, Beth Drost, Thelma Elkins, Lynda Ellestad, Frances Ferguson, Vicki Giehl, Ilona Grimes, Joan Herriott, Charlotte Jackson, Judith Jacob, Helen Johnston, Eunice Kandel, Sonja Keyt, Bruce Kleinhans, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Ola Luther, Linda Moore, Mary Oakes, Dennis Palmer, Lenora Reeves, Robert Rice, Patricia Schwarzentraub, June Sheppard

- 1970-71 Gary Matteson, Alice Anderson, Sharon Baker, Beverly Boas, Ann Bollero, Geraldine Bowsher, Janet Carriker, Barbara Caviness, Norman DeGraff, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Frances Ferguson, Ann Heaton, Joan Herriott, Judith Jacob, Eunice Kandel, Bruce Kleinhans, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Ola Luther, Margaret Marr, Linda Moore, Gayle Neher, Dennis Palmer, Robert Rice, Judith Shelton, June Sheppard, Marcia Julie Wood
- 1971-72 Gary Matteson, Sharon Baker, Ann Bollero, Geraldine Bowsher, Neala Caldwell, Janet Carriker, Barbara Caviness, Linda Damler, Steven Denny, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Gay Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Ann Heaton, Joan Herriott, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Ola Luther, Margaret Marr, Pamela Mitchell, Dennis Palmer, Robert Rice, Judith Shelton, June Sheppard, Glenda Smithson, Marcia Sullivan, Joan Wickliffe, Julie Wood
- 1972-73 James D. Hires, Sharon Baker, Ann Bollero, Geraldine Bowsher, Leona Brown, Neala Caldwell, Linda Damler, Steven Denny, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Gay Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Ann Heaton, Sue Hoecker, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Mary Ann Landefeld, Kathleen Laya, Donna Lea, Ola Luther, Pamela Mitchell, Joan Ozier, Jane Pacholke, Dennis Palmer, Robert Rice, Glenda Smithson, June Sheppard, Joan Wickliffe, Suzanne Wickum, Lyndell Wilken
- 1973-74 James D. Hires, Linda Ayers, Sharon Baker, Ann Bollero, Marlene Book, Geraldine Bowsher, Linda Damler, Steven Denny, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Gay Elliott, Frances Ferguson, Ann Gross, Sue Hoecker, Allyson P. Hoffman, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Ola Luther, Duane Meier, Donna Mitchell, Joan Ozier, Jane Pacholke, Dennis Palmer, Robert Rice, Susan Sewell, Glenda Smithson, Joan Wickliffe, Lyndell Wilken
- 1974-75 James Hires, Linda Ayers, Marlene Book, Geraldine Bowsher, Linda Damler, Steven Denny, Jane S. DesJardins, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Frances Ferguson, Ann Gross, Joan Herriott, Michael Dewitt, Sue Hoecker, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Mary Ellen Leonard, Ola Luther, Duane Meier, Donna Mitchell, Kanda Oyer, Jane Pacholke, Dennis Palmer, Sonja Phillis, Robert Rice, G. Jeanette Smithson, Ann Sweeney
- 1975-76 James Hires, Cynthia Adams, Dennis Beiermann, Marlene Book, Geraldine Bowsher, Patti Chapell, Linda Damler, Marlene Eichelberger, Thelma Elkins, Frances Ferguson, Joan Garretson, Ann

Gross, Peggy Jackson, Eunice Kandel, Mary Lammle, Donna Lea, Mary E. Leonard, Ola Luther, Duane Meier, Donna Mitchell, Kandy Oyer, Jane Pacholke, Dennis Palmer, Sonja Phillis, Robert Rice, Deborah Sans, G. Jeanette Smithson, Ann Sweeney

ALLISON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 41

Brown Township

- 1899-00 Maggie Shaffer
 1900-01 Jesse Loveless
 1901-02 Zona Elwarner
 1902-04 Della Dolph
 1904-05 Susie Pullen
 1905-06 Jennie D. Irish
 1906-07 Della Dolph
 1907-08 George W. Woodward
 1908-09 Mrs. Lillian Z. Wardlow
 1909-11 Margaret Sheppard
 1911-13 Valentina Hawkins
 1913-14 Effie J. Gossard
 1914-15 Milton Dreyfus
 1915-16 Ada Nelson
 1916-17 Florence Pursell
 1917-19 Mrs. Grace Neal
 1919-20 Chloa Wyatt
 1920-22 Indez Goldsmith
 1922-23 Clara C. Gerber
 1923-25 Minnie Webster
 1925-27 Bertha Reedy
 1927-32 Nellie Suttle
 1932-33 Ruth Lape
 1933-34 Mrs. Mabel Hazen
 1934-35 Mrs. Mabel Z. Schrock
 1935-43 Mrs. Edith Moore
 1943-45 Mrs. Ruth McClarey
 1945-47 Mrs. Verna Foster
 1947-48 Miss Cuba Richards

School burned February 1948; children finished the school year at the Fisher Grade School.

RICHMOND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 42

Brown Township

- 1899-00 Lulu Beatty
 1900-01 Lillie Zerbe
 1902-02 Anna Shaffer
 1902-03 Clifford C. Trott
 1903-05 Julia Hauter
 1905-06 Elsie Commenski
 1906-07 Orpha Fisher
 1907-09 Meribah Clark
 1909-11 Agnes Austin
 1911-13 Robert Shields, Jr.
 1913-14 Ada Nelson
 1914-16 Mrs. E.J. Jordan
 1916-18 Lillian M. Collins
 1918-19 Mrs. S.N. Madden
 1919-21 Virgil Fielder
 1921-22 Agnes Hines
 1922-23 Susie Warner
 1923-24 Edith School
 1924-25 Mae Harmon
 1925-26 Iva Overmyer

1926-27 Mabel Leischner
 1927-30 Grace Davis
 1930-31 Myrtle Kufner
 1931-34 Leda Shields
 1935-39 Mary Suttle
 1939-48 Mrs. Gladys Ballett
 1948-49 Closed

LOTUS (HOWARD) SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43
Brown Township

1899-00 Bridgie Power
 1900-01 Bea Powers
 1901-02 S.S. Stansell
 1902-04 W.D. Madden
 1904-05 Bertha L. Smith
 1905-06 Flora E. Cresap
 1906-07 W.R. Boyd
 1907-08 M.C. Blacker
 1908-09 Elizabeth Muhlemann
 1909-10 George Kirk, Jr.
 1910-11 Frances Troster
 1911-12 Mrs. Viola Edwards
 1912-14 G.O. Taylor
 1914-16 Stella Halladay
 1916-17 Ralph L. Smith
 1917-19 Chrissie McDowell
 1919-20 Xantha Bateman
 1920-21 Thelma Foster
 1921-23 Chester Beasley
 1923-25 Margaret Ball
 1925-27 Iona Purdum
 1927-29 Iona Decker
 1929-30 Myrtle Kufner
 1930-31 Earl M. Adams
 1931-32 Henry J. Sommer
 1932-34 Mrs. Grace Padley
 1934-35 Doyne Henry
 1935-36 Mrs. Charlene Porter
 1936-44 Mrs. Ethel Wheeler
 1944-48 Miss Lorene Hiter
 1948-49 Verna Foster
 1949-50 Closed

FOOSLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44
Brown Township

1899-00 Claude Stark and Olive Jordan
 1900-03 Roy H. Jones and Miss Elizabeth Nagel
 1903-04 Roy H. Jones and Vine McComb
 1904-05 A.A. Allen, Rose Washburn, May Smith
 1905-06 A.A. Allen, Stelle Morehouse, Mary Wilson
 1906-07 J.L. Hisson, Stella Morehouse, Elizabeth Wilcox
 1907-08 J.L. Hisson, Julia Hauter, Stella Morehouse
 1908-09 J.H. Dolph, Nellie T. Fruin, Mrs. Effie D. Reese
 1909-10 C.W. Eaton, Lillian Z. Wardlow, Mrs. Effie D. Reese
 1910-12 Jacob Staagaard, Jessie Patterson, and Mrs. Effie D. Reese
 1912-13 available)
 1913-14 G.F. Moore, Sidney R. Newcomb, Marjorie Thompson
 1914-15 Clyde L. Todd, Sidney R. Newcomb, Marjorie Thompson

1915-16 Levi Lathrop, Agnes Armstrong, Ruby Bohlman
 1916-17 David O. Ritz, Mary F. Ritz, Lois Boulware
 1917-18 Horace York, Ferne Mitchell, Ora Craig, Zelma Preston
 1918-19 Ira McKinney, Ferne Mitchell, Ora M. Craig, Zelma Preston
 1919-20 J. Roy Byerley, Ferne Mitchell, Ora Craig, Zelma Preston
 1920-21 J. Roy Byerley, Earl Painter, Blanch L. Hinthom, Zelma Preston
 1921-22 J. Roy Byerley, Earl Painter, Ruth Baptiste, Zelma Preston
 1922-23 J. Roy Byerley, Earl Painter, Marie F. Gullett, Zelma Preston
 1923-24 J. Roy Byerley, Mabel Earl, Dulcie Hayes, Marie Gullett, Zelma Preston
 1924-25 J. Roy Byerley, Mabel Earl, Mrs. Elva Lake, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1925-26 J. Roy Byerley, Mabel Earl, Mrs. Juna Hodgson, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1926-27 J.C. Briggs, Lora Briggs, Juna Hodgson, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1927-28 J.O. Briggs, Lora Briggs, Juna Hodgson, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1928-29 J.O. Briggs, C.B. LaDine, Juna Hodgson, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1930-32 M.D. Leota Miller, Earl Adams, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1932-33 M.D. Taylo, Mrs. Orpha Stutsman, Earl Adams, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1933-35 Lyndon Banner, Mrs. Orpha Stutsman, Earl Adams, Edith Scholl, Zelma Shields
 1935-37 Mrs. Orpha Stutsman, Edgar Dixon, Earl Adams, J.W. Niswanger, Zelma Shields
 1937-39 Edgar N. Dixon, Helen M. Overman, J.W. Niswanger, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields
 1939-40 C.A. Stickler, E.N. Dixon, Helen Overman, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields
 1940-41 Gordon Hirst, E.N. Dixon, Helen Overman, Edna Alexander, Betty Ann Sandstedt, Zelma Shields
 1941-42 Gordon Hirst, E.N. Dixon, Mrs. Ava Hirst, Helen Overman, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields
 1942-44 Gordon Hirst, E.N. Dixon, Mrs. Ava Hirst, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields
 1944-45 Gordon Hirst, Mrs. Ava Hirst, Chloa Wyatt Birkey, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields
 1945-46 James T. Kirk, Edna Alexander, Chloa Wyatt Birkey, Zelma Shields, Thornton R. Kuh
 1946-47 James T. Kirk, Edna Alexander, Mrs. Chloa Wyatt Birkey, Zelma Shields, Mrs. Wilma Player
 1947-48 Mrs. Chloa Wyatt Birkey, Edna Alexander, Zelma Shields, Mrs. Wanda Mears

CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 45
Brown Township

1899-00 Alta Barker
 1900-01 Mary Rose
 1901-03 Bessie Arcus
 1903-04 Beulah J. Houston
 1904-05 Avis Whallon
 1905-06 Lillian Wardlow
 1906-08 Beulah Trott

1908-10 Bessie Yorke
 1910-11
 1911-12 Hazel Ricketts
 1912-13 Marguerite Godwin
 1913-15 Effie Evans
 1915-16 Luella M. Scholl
 1916-17 Daisy Ainsworth
 1917-18 Idabelle Stolz
 1918-19 Elizabeth Bartlett
 1919-21 Leda Shields
 1921-23 Thelma Foster
 1923-25 Lloyd Pfoff
 1925-28 Margaret Ball
 1928-31 Harold Zehr
 1931-32 Mabel Zehr
 1932-33 Mrs. Mabel Zehr Schrock
 1933-34 Mrs. Mabel Schrock
 1934-35 Mrs. Clara Gerber Lawrence
 1935-36 Mrs. Grace D. Gerber
 1936-37 Mrs. Lorene Green
 1937-39 Lucile Bohrer
 1939-41 Lottie Hammel
 1941-42 Dorwin C. Myers
 1942-43 Harvey C. Birkey
 1943-46 Mrs. Bertha Zehr
 1946-47 Closed

BROWN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 46
Brown Township

1899-01 Ethel Mulvain
 1901-03 Mary Rose
 1903-04 Mary Alta Barker
 1904-05 Alta Barker
 1905-06 Emmet Jones
 1906-08 Mrs. Effie D. Reese
 1908-10 Mr. Leslie Bright
 1910-11 Mrs. Lillian Z. Wardlow
 1911-12 Mr. Walter H. Newcomb
 1912-13 Mrs. Ellie Fairfield
 1913-14 Lissa G. Williams
 1914-16 Margaret Sturgeon
 1916-17 Mabelle C. Walker
 1917-20 Carl Pfoff
 1920-21 Carol Sturgeon
 1921-23 Lloyd Pfoff
 1923-24 Thelma Foster
 1924-25 Lewis J. Yordy
 1925-26 Dorothy Brown
 1926-27 Dorothy Ball
 1927-30 Grace Neal
 1930-31 Marie Mitchell
 1931-32 Myrtle Woodward
 1932-34 Grace Neal
 1934-35 Clara Gerber Lawrence
 1935-37 Grace Neal
 1937-38 Ruth Simon
 1938-39 Virgil Montgomery
 1939-40 Verda Hershberger
 1940-41 Mrs. Mabel Fairfield
 1941-42 Verda Hershberger
 1942-46 Grace Neal
 1946-47 Mrs. Eunice Kandel
 1947-48 Miss Doris Roth
 1948-49 Closed

BRICK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 47

Brown Township

1899-01 Della Dolph
 1901-02 Anna Mulvain
 1902-03 Grace Romine
 1903-04 Florence Bay
 1904-05 Ray W. Chamberlain
 1905-06 Elizabeth C. Wilcox
 1906-08 Clara E. Swayze
 1908-09 Florence Hamm
 1909-10 Lula Hunt
 1910-12 Emma Abbey
 1912-13 Marie C. Erp
 1913-15 Verna Newcomb
 1915-16 Sylvia Shrinker
 1916-19 Wanda Greene
 1919-20 Carolyn Schuette
 1920-21 Estal Britton
 1921-22 Russell Paxton
 1922-24 Alene Turner
 1924-25 Estella Scholl
 1925-26 Walter Williams
 1926-27 Grace Davis
 1927-30 Lavinia Davis
 1930-36 Cleo Rankin
 1936-41 Ruth Lape
 1941-42 Wilma Sadler
 1942-43 Closed

SANGAMON (HELMICK) SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 48

Brown Township

1899-00 T.J. Stickrod
 1900-02 Julia Hauter
 1902-03 Ethel Mulvain
 1903-04 Clara Coons
 1904-05 Isabel Gannon
 1905-06 Beulah Trott
 1906-07 Elsie Comminski
 1907-10 Anna Johnston
 1910-12 George Sparks
 1912-15 Earl Painter
 1915-16 Lillian M. Collins
 1916-17 Edith Downs
 1917-18 Harold Steele
 1918-19 Verna Newcomb
 1919-20 Winifield Hartford
 1920-21 Lucille McMurray
 1921-23 Edythe Alexander
 1923-25 Chester Beasley
 1925-28 Ruth Anderson
 1928-29 Josephine Mooney
 1929-31 Edna Anderson
 1931-33 Elmer R. Schrock
 1933-34 Fern Basting
 1934-35 Mrs. Ruth Miller
 1935-36 Hazel McKinney
 1936-40 Cleo Rankin
 1940-41 Paul Woodburn
 1941-42 Mrs. Mildred Billings
 1942-43 Verna Newcomb
 1943-46 Mrs. Ruth A. Cox
 1946-47 Closed

WILLOW BEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 49

Brown Township

1899-01 Isabel Gannon
1901-02 Alice Jones
1902-03 Nellie Boyd
1903-06 Anna Johnson
1906-07 Ida Conrad
1907-08 Cora Rankin
1908-14 Mrs. E.J. Jordan
1914-15 Edna Sloan
1915-16 Louise Oaks
1916-17 Closed

FISHER HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 301

Brown Township

1917-18 F.L. Lowman, Marion C. Boyd, Sadie Johnson
1918-19 William M. Loy, C.O. Pryor, E. Jean Cox
1919-20 William M. Loy, Estelle Kamm, Alfred Rebbe, E. Jean Cox, Eunice Leonard
1920-21 E.G. Yaeger, C.O. Pryor, Ina M. Hamlin, Elsie Kramers, E. Jean Cox, Estelle Kamm, Hannah Gevertz
1921-22 E.G. Yaeger, H.E. Eveland, Esther L. Bosold, Lora M. Pinder, Mary E. Phelps, Ina A. Hamlin, Viola Bauman
1922-23 H.E. Eveland, G. Price Jones, Ruth Brewer, Lora Pinder, Mary E. Phelps, Marie E. Movell, Harriet M. Rush
1923-24 H.E. Eveland, G. Price Jones, Ruth Brewer Stephens, Marie Lovell, Josephine Rogers, Mary Munson, Marjorie Campbell
1924-25 J.J. Miner, Mary Munson, Mrs. Sara Hawkins, Mary Grace Dodd, Clarence Ems, Nellie Bates
1925-26 J.J. Miner, Ruth Long, Mrs. Sara Hawkins Irons, Clarice Crisman, Elizabeth Countryman, C.E. Ems
1926-27 J.J. Miner, Ruth Long, Velma Wray, Clarice Crisman, Elizabeth Countryman, C.E. Ems
1927-28 John E. Farley, Clarence Ems, Ruth Long, Clarice Crisman, Velma Wray, Marian Deach
1928-29 J.E. Farley, Clarence Ems, Velma Wray, Clarice Crisman, Marian Deach, Mary Crathorne, Bernice Webber
1929-30 J.E. Farley, G. Clayton Towless, Clarice Crisman, Bernice Webber, Mary Crathorne, Marian Deach, Velma Wray
1930-31 J.E. Farley, C.A. Bell, Frances Williamson, Velma Wray, Imogene Ruff, Margaret Mallot, C.B. LaDine
1931-32 Clyde M. Campbell, Bell, Frances Williamson, Harley Hayes, Marjorie Randall, Mary Duncan, Helen Asbury
1932-33 Clyde M. Campbell, C.A. Bell, Harley Hayes, Marjorie Randall, Marion Scott, Mary B. West, Helen Asbury
1933-34 Clyde M. Campbell, Harley Hayes, Carl Bell, Marion Scott, Marjorie Randall, Mary West, Katharyn Keys
1934-35 Clyde M. Campbell, Walter B. Lacey, Harley Hayes, Marjorie Randall, Katharyn Keys, Georgene Larsen, Grace Whittington
1935-36 Clyde M. Campbell, Harley Hayes, Marjorie Randall, Katharyn Keys, Grace Whittington, Georgene Larson, W.B. Lacey

1936-37 Eugene L. Ihrig, Walter B. Lacey, Harley Hayes, Marjorie Randall, Beatrice Dons, Georgene Larson, Lucille McIntire
1937-38 E.K. Ihrig, J.E. Potts, Cynthia Stocker, Lois Body, Georgene Larson, Beatrice Dons, Murl Sailsbury
1938-39 E.L. Ihrig, James E. Potts, Murl B. Sailsbury, Ivan Harnew, Beatrice Dons, Cynthia Stocker, Madge Moore, Eloise Wright
1939-40 E.L. Ihrig, James E. Potts, Murl Sailsbury, Ivan Harnew, Beatrice Dons, Cynthia Stocker, Madge Moore, Eloise Wright
1940-41 W.L. Scofield, Murl Sailsbury, Ivan H. Harnew, Marshall J. Scott, Beatrice Dons, Madge Moore, Geraldine Morgan, Colita Knewitz
1941-42 W.L. Scofield, arroll L. Dunn, Murl B. Sailsbury, Marshall J. Scott, Coleta Knewitz, Mary E. Luckey, Helen Aiken, Gertrude Keyl, Juanita Hamm
1942-43 Maurice E. Foreman, Helen Aiken, Donald Carlock, Alice Kudina, Dorothy McArtor, Beatrice McClelland, Marshall J. Scott, Jane Trotter, Grace Wiley
1943-44 Maurice E. Foreman, Evelyn E. Ellis, Bessie Griest, Howard Jackson, James L. O'Malley, Mary Frances Schooley, Jane Trotter, Marcella Wilson, Marshall J. Scott
1944-45 Maurice E. Foreman, Bessie Griest, Kaye Fisher, Howard Jackson, James O'Malley, Mary Francez Schooley, Marshall J. Scott, Muriel Aileen Ryan, Marcella Wilson
1945-46 Maurice E. Foreman, Kaye Fisher, Bessie Griest, James O'Malley, Muriel Ryan, Winifred Humphries, Marshall J. Scott, Marcella Wilson
1946-47 Thomas Hood, Marshall Scott, Werner Scofield, Phyllis Mayer, Metta Zahorsky, Kaye Fisher, Donna Weidenfoeft, Elizabeth Frasure, Robert Vinson
1947-48 Thomas A. Hood, Werner Scofield, Jeanne Tingley, Elizabeth Frasure, Marshall J. Scott, Robert Vinson, Metta Zahorsky, Annette G. Reeves, Doris Hysler
1948-49 Thomas A. Hood, Charlotte Donahue, Catherine Mohan, Max Parsons, Marian Van Reese, Annette Reeves, Marshall J. Scott, Jesse Smith, Jeanne Tingley, Betty J. Kuhn
1949-50 Thomas A. Hood, Max Parsons, Marshall J. Scott, Jesse Smith, Lila Jeanne Athey, Catherine P. Mohan, Jeanne Tingley, Marian Van Reenen, Thornton C. Blayne
1950-51 Thomas A. Hood, Max Parsons, Lila Jeanne Athey, Catherine Mohan, Carroll Moyer, Dean Johnson, Jessie Smith, Jeanne Tingley, Marian Van Reenen, Bonnie Lewis
1951-52 Thomas Hood, Max Parsons, Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Edwin Sauer, Carroll Moyer, Jeanne Tingley, Fred Honn, Walter E. Bright, Harlow B. Swarthout, Leo Provost, Doris Pierson, Ralph E. Wade, Mrs. Dorothy Fitzgerald, Leonard Taylor
1952-53 Thomas Hood, Max Parsons, Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Walter Bright, Juanita Fletcher, Thomas Merrill, Carroll Moyer, Doris Palmer, Leo Provost, Edwin Sauer, Harlow Swarthout, Leonard Taylor, Ralph Wade

1953-54 Thomas A. Hood, Elaine P. Hannah, Vernon S. Rocke, Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, Walter Bright, Edwin W. Sauer, Harlow B. Swarthout, Carroll Moyer, Eugene Loftiss, Ralph Wade, Marilyn J. Robertz, Dorothy Short, Leonard Taylor, Stafford Simer, Frederick A. Manzara, Juanita Fletcher

1954-55 Carl Wagner, Vernon Rocke, Fred Biggs, Walter Bright, Charles Dickinson, Lila Jeanne Eichelberger, William Kopp, Carroll Moyer, Marjorie Oathout, Marilyn Robertz, Edwin Sauer, Dorothy Short, Donald Paul, Leonard Taylor, William Stanbery, Ralph Wade

1955-56 Vernon S. Rocke, James E. McNamara, Arden L. Crawford, Charles W. Dicksson, Mary Jane Hinnners, Carroll Moyer, Marjorie Orr, James R. Roberts, Edwin W. Sauer, Dorothy B. Short, George W. Stanbery, Ivan Stearns, Barbara M. Ullrich, Ellen E. Zumwalt

1956-57 Vernon S. Rocke, James E. McNamara, Nancy J. Adolphson, Lois Armstrong, Elsie Blair, Arden L. Crawford, Carol L. Lendrum, Maurice S. McElhiney, Carroll Moyer, Marjorie Orr, James R. Roberts, Edwin W. Sauer, Patricia S. Seaman, Jean Shelly, Ivan Stearns

1957-58 Vernon S. Rocke, Carl E. House, Lois Armstrong, Elsie Blair, Arden L. Crawford, Helen H. Gooch, Merle Hilgendorf, Carol L. Lendrum, Maurice McElhiney, Carroll Moyer, William J. Nye, Marjorie Orr, Edwin Sauer, Ivan Stearns, Barbara R. Witkovich

1958-59 Vernon S. Rocke, Carl E. House, Lois Armstrong, Elsie Blair, Arden L. Crawford, Dewitt Garrett, Jr., Merle R. Hilgendorf, Charlotte L. Jackson, David E. Lindsay, Maurice S. McElhiney, Carroll Moyer, Sharon W. Murray, William J. Nye, Marjorie Orr, Edwin W. Sauer

1959-60 Vernon S. Rocke, Carl E. House, Elsie Blair, Everette R. Breningmeyer, Elsie M. Grisolano,

Roy F. Hatfield, Merle R. Hilgendorf, Charlotte L. Jackson, David E. Lindsay, Mary K. McCarty, Carroll Moyer, Marjorie Orr, Harriet L. Rechnitz, Louisa R. Replogle, Edwin W. Sauer, James E. Waugh

1960-61 Vernon S. Rocke, Joseph E. Foster, Elsie Blair, James R. Brooks, Kenneth B. Cottingham, Elsie M. Grisolano, Roy F. Hatfield, Merle R. Hildendorf, Charlotte L. Jackson, Carroll Moyer, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Paul E. Quinlan, Harriet L. Rechnitz, Edwin W. Sauer, Barbara R. Swalley, James E. Waugh

1961-62 Vernon S. Rocke, Joseph E. Foster, Wayne Allen, James Brooks, Thomas Calhoun, Suzanne Carey, Kenneth Cottingham, Roy Hatfield, Merle Hilgendorf, Charlotte Jackson, Patricia Mukherjee, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Paul Quinlan, Edwin Sauer, Barbara Jean Swalley, Maureen Wallace, James Waugh, Gail Ann Went

1962-63 Vernon S. Rocke, Joseph E. Foster, James Brooks, Thomas M. Calhoun, Paula Griffith, Roy Hatfield, Bill G. Hester, Carolyn G. Honton, Charlotte L. Jackson, Mary B. Lanier, Ann M. O'Leary, Marjorie Orr, Richard Prentice, Paul E. Quinlan, Joan T. Radecke, Dalia M. Radzinski, Edwin W. Sauer, Mrs. Paul R. Thomas, Maurine O. Wallace

1963-64 Vernon S. Rocke, Joseph E. Foster, Lucia Bliss, Sharon Lewis, Susan Kuehn, James Brooks, Charlotte L. Jackson, Jack Webber, Peggy Schlapper, Edwin W. Sauer, Carol Royan, Roy Hatfield, Martha Harris, Richard Prentice, Madeline Radzinski, Paul Quinlan, Marjorie Orr, Thomas M. Calhoun, Maurine Wallace

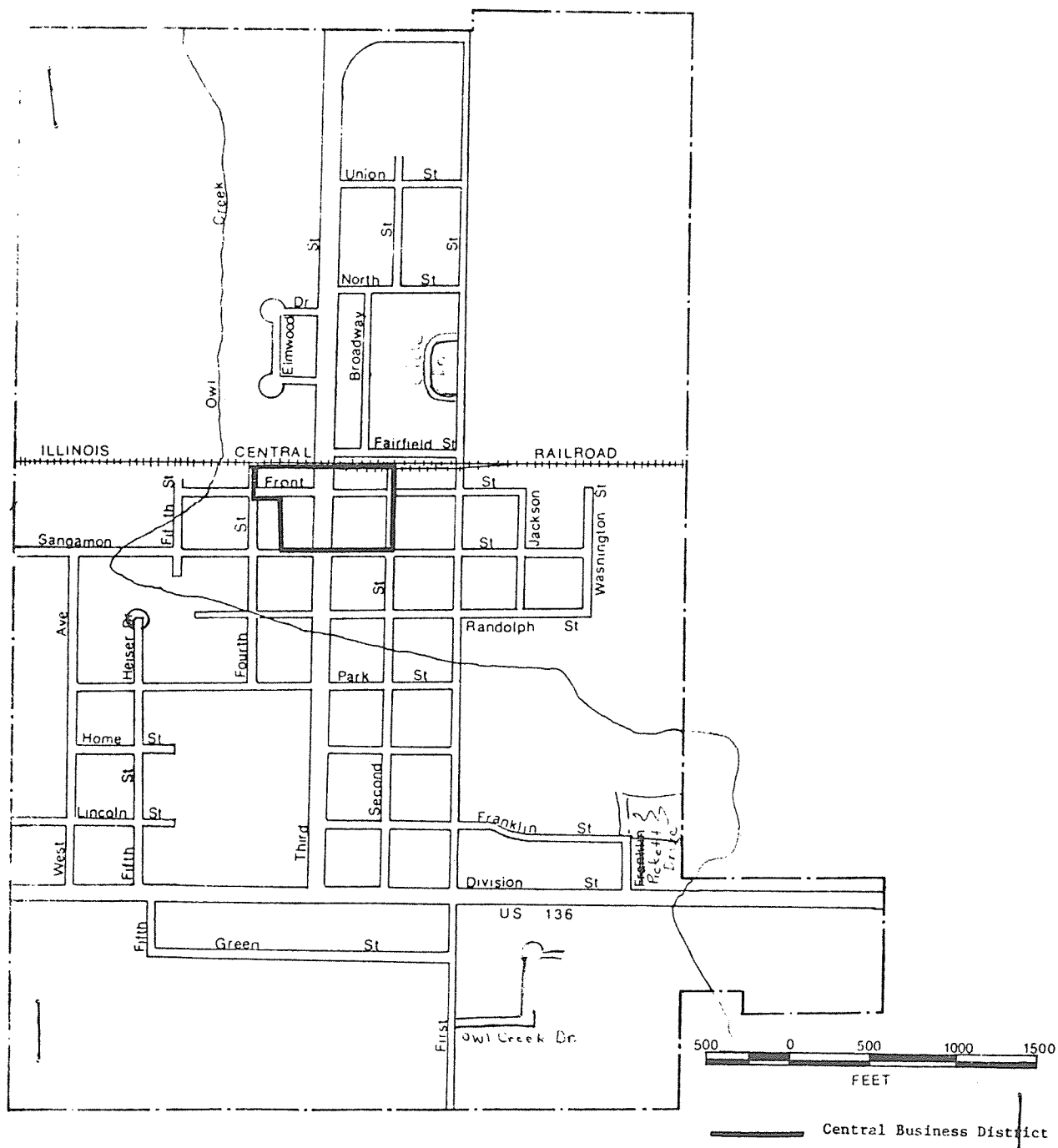
In the fall of 1964 the new high school in Newcomb township was ready for students. The rest of the high school teachers are listed in Newcomb township.

EARLY SETTLERS IN BROWN TOWNSHIP 22 RANGE 7

| Name | Post Office-Residence | Occupation | Nativity | Came to County |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Carman, Phillip | McLean Co., Ill. Sec. 31 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Vermillion Co., Ind. | 1873 |
| Carman, Mrs. Lydia | McLean Co., Ill. Sec. 31 | Wife of Phillip Carman | McLean Co. Ill. | 1873 |
| Fish, S.A. | Fisher Fisher | General Merchant | Windom Co., Vt. | 1876 |
| Fish, Mrs. Eliza A. | Fisher Fisher | Wife of S.A. Fish | Oida Co., N.Y. | 1876 |
| Grove, William H. | Fisher Section 34 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Dearborn Co., Inc. | 1852 |
| Grove, Mrs. Rebecca | Fisher Section 34 | Wife of W.H. Grove | New Jersey | 1852 |
| Harris, H.L. | Foosland Foosland | Physician and Surgeon | Nicholsville, Ky. | 1874 |
| Dyer, C. | Foosland Foosland | Grocer, Dry Goods, Clothing | Fayette Co., Ohio | 1862 |
| Richmond, B.F. | Foosland Section 29 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Tazewell Co., Ill. | 1871 |
| Richmond, Mrs. Bessie | Foosland Section 29 | Wife of B.F. Richmond | Michigan | 1871 |
| Roadman, W.S. | Foosland Section 29 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Westm'rld Co., Pa. | 1873 |
| Roadman, Mrs. L.M. | Foosland Section 29 | Wife of W.S. Roadman | Clay Co., Inc. | 1873 |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|------|
| Schenk, Anthony | Foosland Section 14 | Farmer, Stock Dealer, Moulder | Prussia | 1857 |
| Schenk, Mrs. Mary | Foosland Section 14 | Wife of A. Schenk | Prussia | 1857 |
| Underwood, J. | Foosland Section 19 | Farmer & Stock Raiser | Butler Co., Ohio | 1865 |
| Vance, William | Foosland Section 4 | Farmer & Stock Dealer | Pendleton Co., W. Va. | 1870 |
| Vance, Mrs. Eliza | Foosland Section 4 | Wife of William Vance | DeWitt Co., Ill. | 1870 |

p. 182 History of Champaign County, Ill. published by Brink, McDonough and Co. 1878.



MY OLD HOME TOWN

While traveling 'round from place to place
I never yet have found a place
That looks as good to me
As does my old home town.

Sometimes, when I have been away
And seen the city life
I'm happy to be back home again
Away from all that strife.

For here I greet the friends I know
While walking down the street
I stop to talk to Bill and Joe
And other friends I meet.

And if a pal I wish to see
And want to grab his hand
I walk up to the corner bank
And there I take my stand.

Soon I see him, far up the street
I know him by his walk
And when he comes along we meet
And have a little talk.

We ask about each other's health
And talk about the weather
About the good old times we had
When we were lads together.

We talk about the friends we knew
About the folks at home
We talk about their children too
And how they all have grown.

At last when I return at night
Those familiar sights I see
I am resolved, the old home town
Is good enough for me.

—Lewis C. Vorn Holt

FISHER

The town of Fisher was laid out in December of 1875 by Robert Fisher, a prominent farmer and stock raiser who owned 1400 acres in Condit and Newcomb townships. Mr. Fisher acquired the land on which the village was placed in 1871. The original town plat was filed on January 20, 1876 by Robert Fisher and the town was named in honor of him. The village of Fisher was incorporated on May 1, 1896 with L.D. Oliver as the first president of the village board.

With the nearest railroad station ten miles distant, marketing of products was difficult. Robert Fisher became one of the leaders in the building of the narrow gauge railroad to Fisher and had the station located on his land. Fisher was the western terminal of the Havana, Rantoul and Eastern railroad in 1876. The train engine was turned

around on a spot now occupied by the City Building and returned to Lebanon, Indiana. Later the railroad was extended to LeRoy and still later was changed to a standard gauge railroad.

Before the town of Fisher was laid out, a small community settlement was located at the corner where the four townships meet. This settlement consisted of a store and post office, a church, grist mill and brick factory. The businesses and post office which had been called Newcomb were moved to Fisher and Charles Wilson was the first postmaster in Fisher. In 1877 the Methodist Church was moved into Fisher.

The first house was built by Tandy Pritchard in May 1876 and J.A. Burge built another house soon afterwards. Mr. Burge established the first blacksmith shop in town. The Burge home is located at 112 South First Street and is now the home of Mrs. Emma Zimmerman.

The first store was started by David Kimmel in 1876. He later disposed of his stock to John Thomas and Andrew Roberts. The second store was opened in July 1876 by Thomas Rome who disposed of the stock to John Nichols in 1878. Mr. Rome was a brother of Robert Rome who owned a general store in Fisher from 1892 until his death. The first hardware and drug store was opened by John Thomas in September of 1876. John H. Gossard opened a boot and shoe store in the fall of 1877 and the second blacksmith shop was opened by William Omby in August of 1877. The following is a complete list of Fisher businessmen in 1878:

General stores—E.G. Fish and Co.

Charles Wilson and Co.

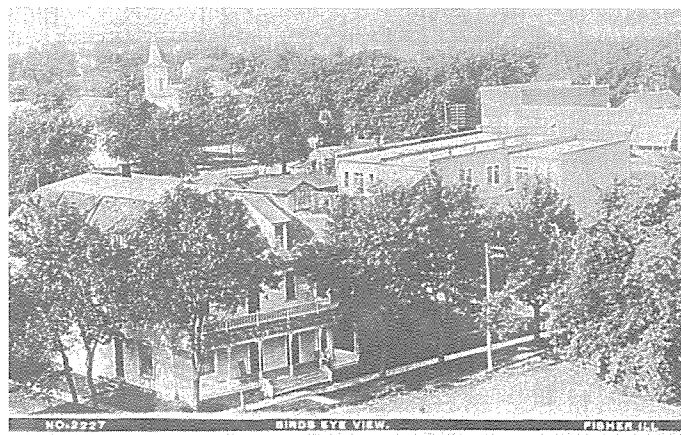
John Nichols

Hardware and Drugs—J.W. Lateer and Co.

Blacksmiths—J.S. Burge

William Omby

In 1878 the railroad was completed west to LeRoy. By 1892 Mr. Pritchard had built eleven houses in Fisher. Mr. F.B. Vennum conducted a general store until 1886, when he established the first bank in Fisher. Gabriel Burgess opened a hotel, Tremont House, in 1880. In 1892 J.M. Savage opened a second hotel.



An early hotel in Fisher. This hotel was located south of the J.E. McJilton Lumber Co. The steeple on the Methodist Church can be seen in the background.

In 1892 Sale and Ward were dealers in grain and coal and sold farm implements. David Naylor bought the tile and brick business of J.H. Linebarger and became a dealer in grain, tile, coal and feed. Mr. Naylor came to Illinois from Ohio in 1865. He bought the Suttle Farm for \$10.00 an acre. This land is located two miles west of Fisher at the junction of Route 47 and 136. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Nelson live there now.

A.E. Carpenter was a dealer in grain and coal. F.E. Putnam had the lumber business. A.L. Baker in 1890 became the dealer in meal, graham flour and feed. H.J. Stansell, who came to Fisher in 1883, was a blacksmith. He had a machine run by steam for sharpening and polishing plows, disks, cutters, etc. without taking them to pieces.

W.H. Fisher and a Mr. Persels had a general store in 1892. Frank Morgan also had a general store. J.W. Kenward was the jeweler and watchmaker in 1892. O. Hamilton operated a small restaurant and sold some groceries. J.O. Palmer had a drug store and also carried jewelry, musical instruments, school books, etc. A.N. Loveless had a furniture and undertaking business on the west side of First Street. He carried all kinds of fine furniture and in the rear of the store he had caskets, coffins, burial cases, robes and shrouds. He also had a hearse. Edmund Naylor and A.J. Bill had a real estate, loans, and insurance business. In 1892 Fisher had its first newspaper, *Fisher Times*, published by H.W. Rodman. Belle C. Hennigh had a millinery shop on the southeast corner of Third and Front Street.

In 1892 J.W. Richmond was an importer of fine horses and stock. Mr. Richmond married Berda Kertz. They lived in Fisher, and hired hands took care of the Richmond farm. Mr. Richmond owned a tract of 2,000 acres lying on three sides of the town. In 1892 he had 60 horses and raised many cattle. The Richmonds owned a large house on West Sangamon Street that today belongs to Charlie Cook and also the home of Amanda Blair which was recently sold to Lloyd Sloat.

Later the Richmonds sold their home on West Sangamon Street to Thomas Reardon. Mr. Reardon used a large stable to the rear of his home for "breaking" work horses. Part of the foundation of this stable is behind the new home of Francis Whitaker. This stable burned and John Reardon, the son of Thomas Reardon, lost his life in the fire.



Picture taken in 1918 shows Mrs. L.O. Sale's flower garden and the Reardon Stable.

On April 9, 1902, the city of Fisher was razed by fire. The blaze started in an empty part of the F.B. Vennum twin building. A.F. Davis occupied the other part of the building with his residence behind his confectionary and restaurant.

Smoke from the fire aroused him in time to awaken his family and a blind couple, Mr. and Mrs. C.S. Hoffman who lived nearby, and save them from the flames. He, with the help of Mrs. Stapp, the telephone operator, aroused the town to its danger.

When the total of the destruction was counted up, it was found that about \$65,000 worth of damage was caused and nearly all of the business section was taken by the fire.

Among the amusing incidents connected with the terrible fire, one lady was reported to have put her bustle on the outside of her dress while dressing hurriedly, and one man was up-town with his pants on wrongside out.

Within another nine months, another bad fire occurred in Fisher. It happened early on a Sunday morning in January, 1903. Everyone of the frame buildings on the west side of the main street were destroyed with their contents. How the fire originated was a mystery as each of the occupants took particular notice of their stoves before closing up to go home and none of the stoves contained much fire.

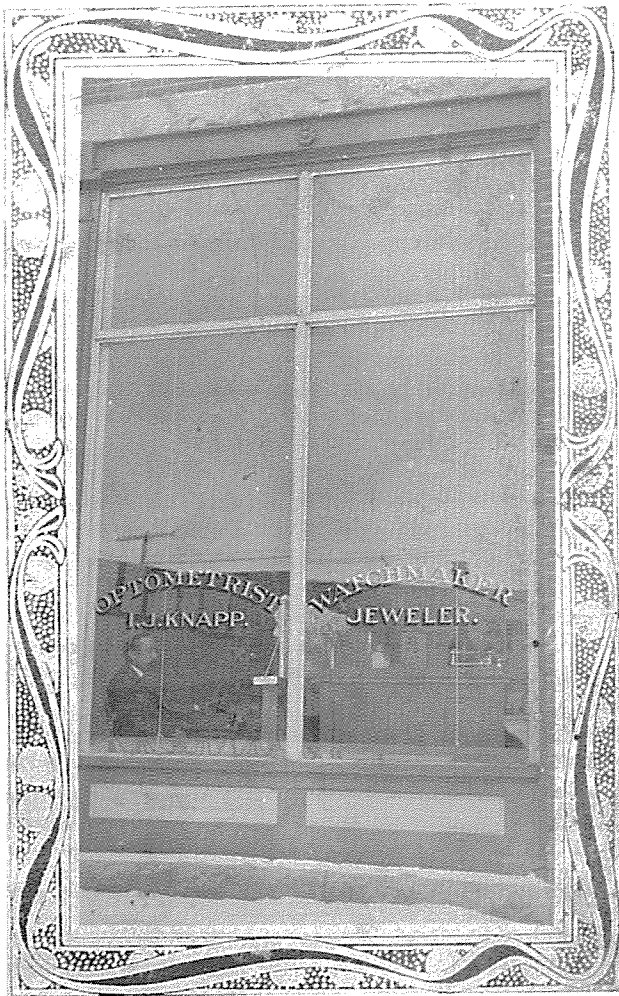
As far as is known Fisher had the first woman rural mail carrier. In 1902 it seems that Sue M. Howard was the only woman in the United States who delivered mail. She had a new buggy, especially equipped with a miniature arrangement of post office boxes against the dash board in front of her so she could sort the mail. Her buggy was a light, short-coupled covered wagon with running gears painted red, the bed was blue and the top was white. There was a window on either side and at both ends.

In February of 1902 the wife of the president, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, sent a handkerchief that was to be sold at a bazaar. The bazaar under the direction of the Epsworth League of the Fisher Methodist Church was successful. The handkerchief brought \$8.50 of the entire proceeds which amounted to \$67.50.

In 1902 a Mr. Watson built a hotel just east of the Fisher Methodist Church. When Mr. Watson died, his daughters, Mrs. C.R. Ring and Mrs. C.O. Pryor, sold the hotel to Lyle and Lucille Sheppard. They changed the hotel into an apartment house. Later the house was owned by Mrs. Erke and then later by Mrs. Ann Smith. The owners are now Harvey and Viola Stacey.

On May 6, 1902 the village board voted to allow a license for a saloon in Fisher. The decisive vote came from the president of the board after three of the board voted for and three voted against. Jim Lynch operated a tavern on the corner across from the elevator. Later Sammy Williams operated a tavern for his uncle, Jacob Williams, on Front Street behind Heiser and Ingold. By 1920 no saloons could legally operate in the United States because of the Eighteenth Amendment.

Then in 1933 the Eighteenth Amendment was repealed and for a short time liquor was sold again in Fisher. At one time there were three taverns in Fisher. Two were on Third Street. For a short time there was a tavern where Earl Hanner now lives. The other tavern was on the west side of Third Street where Fisher Flooring is now. This tavern was operated by "Butch" Dutton who came to Fisher as a barber and later operated a tavern. The other



I.J. Knapp, optometrist, watchmaker and jeweler.

tavern was on Front Street behind Heiser and Ingold and was operated by Louie Kuhns. In 1935 both candidates for the office of mayor were opposed to the sale of liquor so Fisher went dry and has remained that way.

The first car in Fisher was owned by J.C. Wheeler. It was a red touring car. C.M. Ricketts owned a Ford Run-about. Both men got their cars in the summer of 1907.

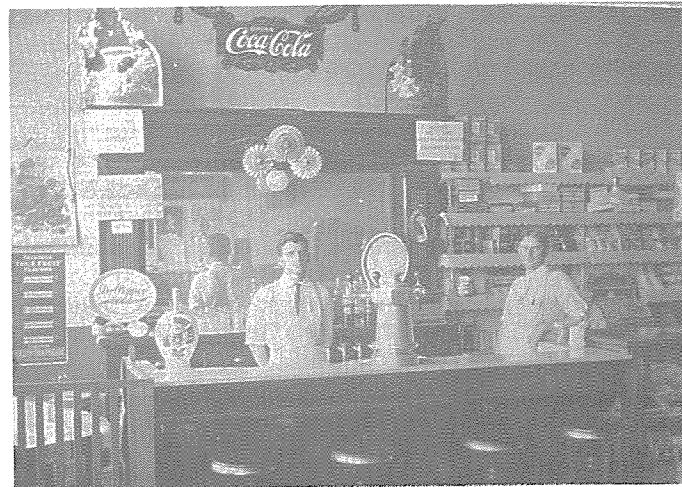
About 1915 Fisher had an optometrist. His name was I.J. Knapp. He had an office on Third Street. Mr. Knapp was also a jeweler.

A railroad time card contained the following schedule for the train:

| East | | West | |
|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| No. 823 | 7:45 a.m. | No. 894 | 9:45 a.m. |
| No. 893 | 3:49 p.m. | No. 834 | 3:45 p.m. |

On July 20, 1919 about 4:30 p.m. an airplane hit the flag pole in the intersection of Third and Front Street. The pilot, Michael Cisonos of Chicago was killed. Lt. William Slade of Columbus, Ga. was injured in the accident. Both men were stationed at Chanute Air Base. The plane had successfully passed over the city earlier, but on the return trip over the city, the plane hit the flag pole. Ronald Hill has part of the propeller from this plane.

The K.K.K. held a large meeting on a Sunday afternoon in July 1924 in the Sperling's Grove, one and a half miles



Elza Roles and Bert Chapman in their confectionary and restaurant about 1916.

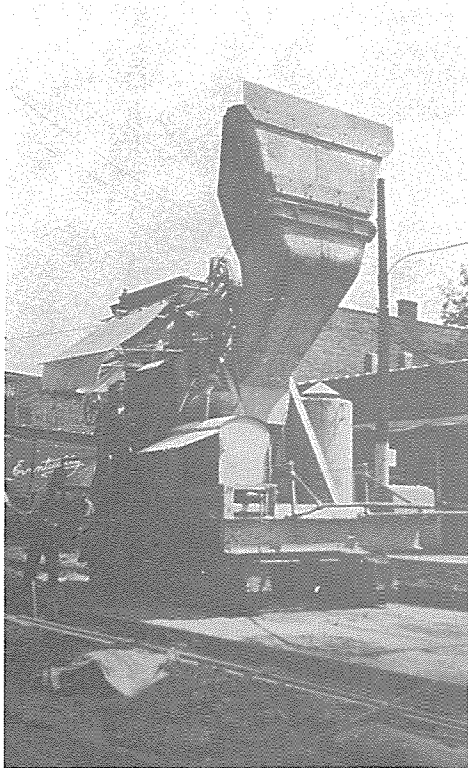


This picture shows the flag pole after the accident. In the background from left to right are The Fisher Reporter Office, the Fisher Post Office and A.W. McJilton's General Store.

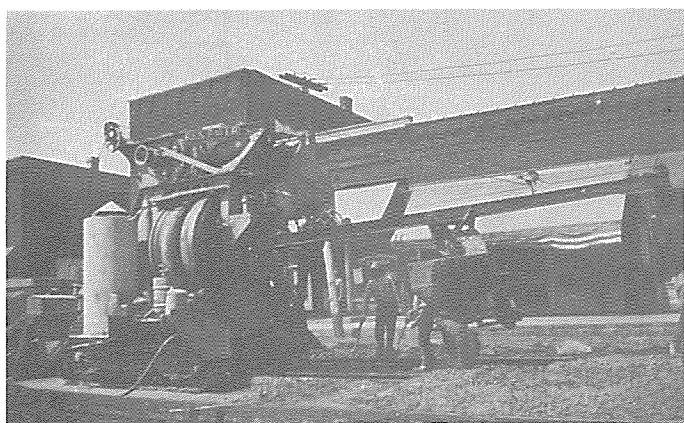
east of town. It is said that 2,000 cars were counted and the attendance was estimated to have been about 8,000 people. The address was delivered by Rev. T. Frank Hollingsworth of Villa Grove. Music was furnished by the St. Joseph Girls' Quartet and the Sidney Glee Club. At twilight three classes were naturalized. A fiery cross, 45 feet high was burned in the evening which could be seen for miles. The original cross was to have been 70 feet high but was broken in the raising. People from every part of Champaign county and many adjoining counties were present. (This article was taken from the *Fisher Reporter* of July 16, 1924.)

About 1925 Champaign County put a single slab road, nine feet wide, down Third Street in Fisher and on to Foosland. Through the Fisher business district the road was doubled in width. Businessmen were assessed to help pay for the additional width. Some local citizens contributed toward the road improvement. However, cars could still get stuck in the mud in downtown Fisher until the sides of the road were fixed.

The depression caused a lot of heartache and despair. The bank closed and so did some of the stores. Prices were



Road is paved to Foosland.



Streets are paved in Fisher.



Fisher Water System was constructed in 1935.

cheap and money was scarce. At the Ford Motor Company in Fisher in 1930, one could buy the following:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Standard Coupe | \$495 |
| Sport Coupe | \$525 |
| De Luxe Coupe | \$545 |
| Two Door Sedan | \$495 |
| Three Window Ford Sedan | \$600 |
| Deluxe Sedan | \$640 |
| Model A A Truck Chassis, 157 in. wheel base | \$535 |
| Model A A Panel Delivery Truck | \$780 |

All prices f.o.b. Detroit, plus freight and delivery. Bumpers and spare tire extra at a low cost.

The Fisher water system was the first W.P.A. project in Champaign County. The water system which was constructed in 1935 brought much convenience and fire protection to the community. It took two and a half years before water was supplied to all the homes. Local labor did the work and the village provided 1/5 of the funds. Much

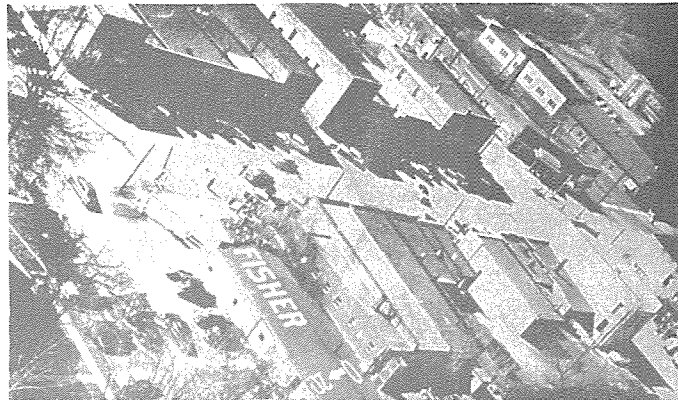
credit for the water system is due to the late F.B. "Daddy" Means, who was mayor at the time. Ora A. King was village clerk. Board members were H.B. Steele, Herman Adams, W.H. Smith, Otto Giertz, Frank Foster and Leslie McJilton.

Residents of Fisher have been supplied with natural gas since 1963. The first natural gas in Fisher was officially turned on by Allied Gas Company, a subsidiary of the northern Illinois Gas Company on September 6, 1963.

Contracts were let for a sewer system for Fisher in August of 1967. Within a few months sewerage service was available for Fisher residents. The village of Fisher received a grant of \$50,000 from the Federal government if it had the sewerage system under construction by September 1, 1967.



Water pipes are laid in Fisher in 1935.



Fisher, Illinois Aerial View, 3rd Street looking north.



Floyd Fairfield in sleigh in front of his home north of Fisher.

Some of the men who have served the village of Fisher as mayor are L.D. Oliver, O.L. Gilmore, L.D. Roles., James Ballew, Charles Duvall, Rudolf "Rudy" Muhleman, F.B. Means, Sherman Merritt, Dr. Whitmore, Floyd Kelly, Walter Smith, Kenneth Kellar and Gale Heiser. The present mayor is Gale Heiser. The town clerk is Richard Fiets. The village board members are Terry McGarigle, Kenneth Elkins, Herb Kersey, Don Lehman, Harvey Thomas and Gale Eichelberger.

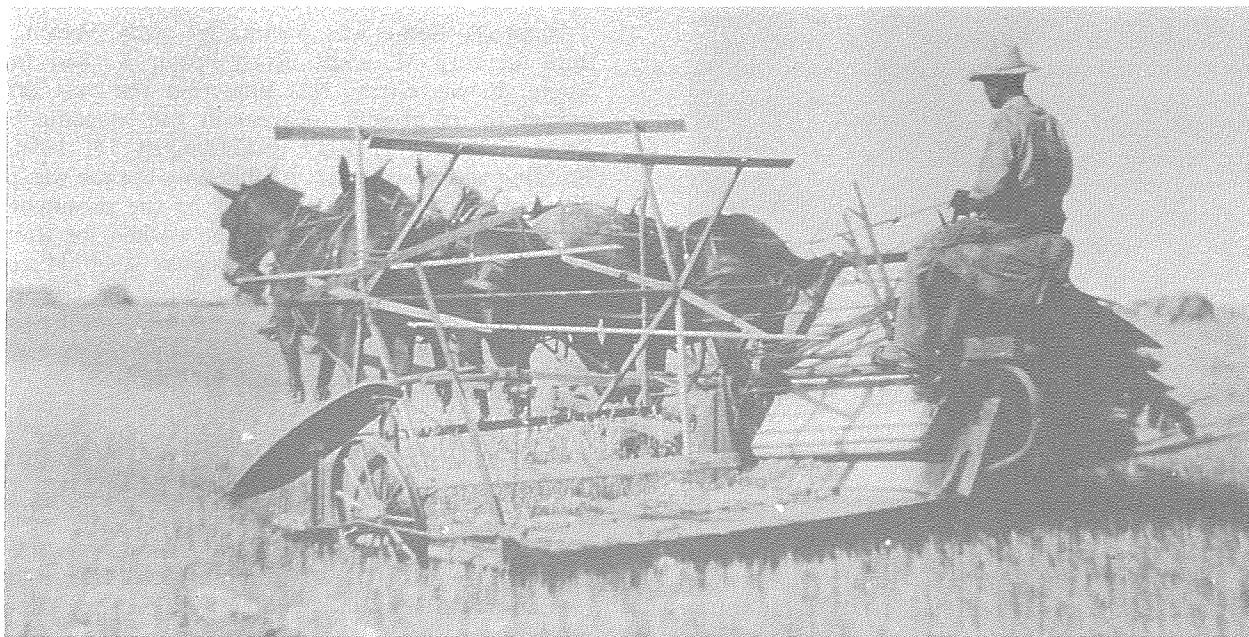
THE POWER PLANT

In 1905 Wardlow Brothers installed a D.C. (direct current) electron system for lighting the village of Fisher. In 1906 the system was purchased and run by the village. The huge dynamo would be started at dusk and run until midnight. The ladies of Fisher were very pleased, for by doing their ironing and cleaning at night, they could do it electrically.

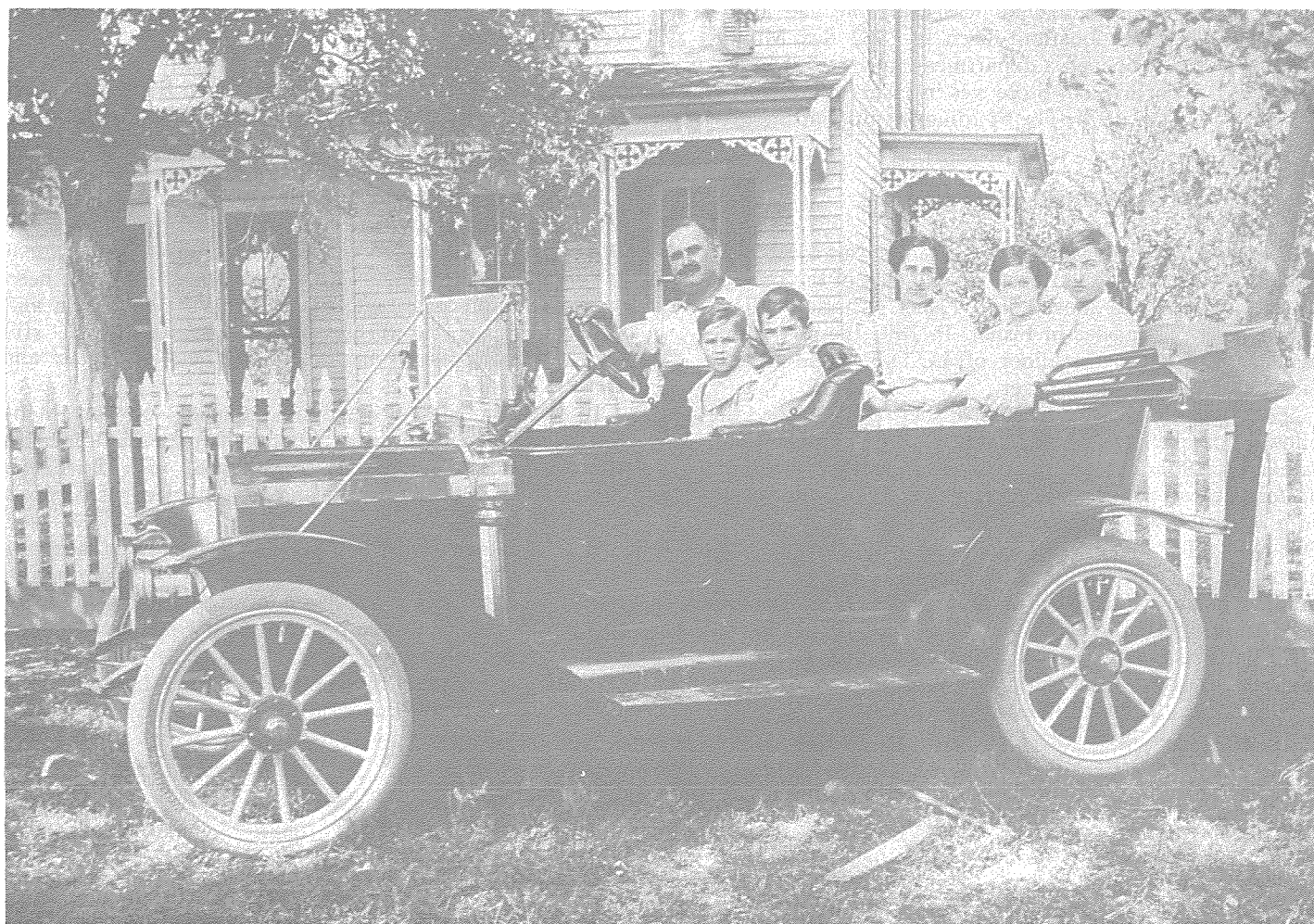
In 1925 this system was sold to the Central Illinois Public Service Company with the understanding that the system would be changed to A.C. (alternating current) and that Fisher would have 24 hour service.

On November 24, 1926 the *Fisher Reporter* had an article, "When are we to have the new lights?" People were complaining that Bellflower and Foosland had been hooked onto the new system; but although poles were set and most of the wiring was done, Fisher was still without 24 hour service.

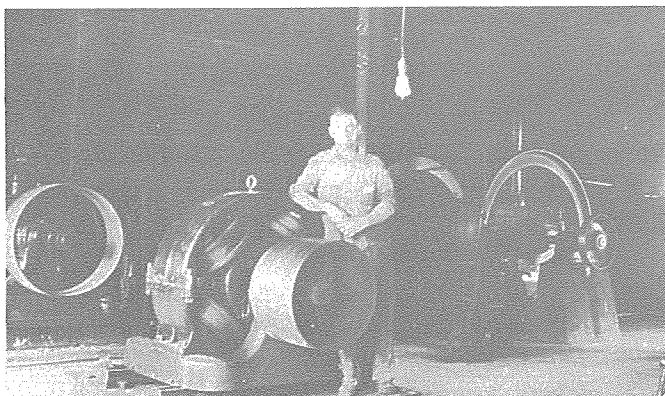
Then on a Wednesday evening, December 15, 1926, the C.I.P.S. turned on the "high line" juice and the streets of Fisher were illuminated by the new light system. After that the work of changing business houses and residence lights from 220 D.C. to the new 100 A.C. current progressed rapidly. The juice came over the new line from Gibson City. The same line also served Foosland and Bellflower. Under the new system, Fisher had 24 hour service for residences and businesses and until midnight service for the streets.



Floyd Fairfield harvesting oats on his farm north of Fisher.



Mr. and Mrs. Moore and their family in a Flanders car made by the Studebaker. In the front seat of the car is Lyle and Jim Moore, with their father, William Moore. In the back seat are Clarence, Zora and Mrs. Clara Moore, who died on April 4, 1976 at the age of 97. The picture was taken in front of their farm home in Brown township.



Robert "Ren" Wilson in Fisher Power Plant about 1923 or 1924. The power plant used a diesel engine at this time.

The C.I.P.S. opened an office in Fisher where Minnie's Department Store was until recently. "Tanky" Bryant operated the office for the company. Electric appliances were sold in this store. Kesterson's had had a restaurant in this building before the C.I.P.S. used the building. Later when the C.I.P.S. closed their office here, Shirley Kidd used the building for his restaurant. He later sold out to Marlin Miller, the son of Opal Jervis, and he had a restaurant at the same location. Then in 1962 Rex Minnie from Farmer City opened a department store in this building. Minnie's Department Store was in Fisher for 12 years. The store closed in 1974. The building is empty at the present time.

THE FISHER POST OFFICE

When the railroad came to Fisher, the Newcomb post office and store which had been located east of the present Amvet building was moved into Fisher. Charles Wilson was the first postmaster in Fisher. In 1892 the post office was located on the first floor of I.O.O.F. building and H.H. Newcomb was postmaster.

According to records at the Fisher post office, the following people have served as postmaster in Fisher. From January 1, 1901 to May 31, 1907, W.H. Fisher was postmaster. He was followed by Lemuel D. Roles, who served from June 1, 1907 to December 30, 1914. On January 1, 1915 Mrs. T.P. (Pearl A.) Hollingsworth became postmaster. At this time the post office was located in a small building north of the Rome building. Mrs. Hollingsworth served until December 30, 1919 when Fanny E. Roles became postmaster. She served from 1920 until November 15, 1923. Gladys M. Feltham was officer in charge from November 16, 1923 until February 28, 1924.

Daisy A. Rome was postmaster from March 1, 1924 until January 31, 1929. Ruth Foster worked for Daisy Rome. It was during this time that the post office was moved to its present location in the Masonic building. From February 1, 1929 until August 15, 1934, Ralph Redding was postmaster. At this time the job was political, and postmasters were appointed by the president. Annabelle Armstrong and Ruth Foster worked for Ralph Redding in the post office. From August 16, 1934 until June 22, 1974, Mervin F. Hinton was postmaster. Gladys Nelson was officer in charge from June 22, 1974 until February 1, 1975, when Jack Floyd became postmaster at Fisher. The job as postmaster is no longer a political job.

HISTORY OF BANKING IN FISHER

The banking history of Fisher begins with the organization of the Fisher State Bank in 1882. There is no accurate information available about the operation of this bank until about 1919 when its statement showed deposits of \$200,000, capital and surplus of \$40,000, loans of \$175,000 and cash of \$65,000. From about 1915 to 1930 the bank was run by S.E. Albin, J.G. Mitchell or E.M. Vennum of Fisher.

The First State Bank of Fisher originally was a private bank organized as the Farmers Exchange Bank on March 1, 1903, by George W. Busey and Mathew W. Busey of Urbana, Illinois, and William H. Fisher and Captain J.B. Lester of Fisher, Illinois.

These banks were to a great measure responsible for bringing about diversified farming in the area from 1900-1920. Livestock and poultry became an important segment of the farm economy. The banks seem to have been responsible for organizing the Fisher Farmers Grain and Coal Company, a farmer-owned elevator which still operates today as an important business of Fisher and Dewey, Illinois.

In 1918 the First State Bank interests were bought by S.H. Busey of Urbana and apparently remained under his control until the bank was consolidated with the Fisher State Bank, a locally-owned and locally-operated bank on October 28, 1926.

Both banks in Fisher had prospered from their inception until the period of deflation began in 1920. These banks, like most banks in rural communities, found the going rather difficult as a large portion of their deposits were invested in farm mortgage loans.

The following table is compiled from data obtained from Polks Bank Directories:

| FISHER STATE BANK FIRST STATE BANK OF FISHER | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (Combined) | 1920 | 1925 | 1926* | 1929 |
| Deposits | \$450,000 | \$395,000 | \$332,000 | \$165,000 |
| Loans | 350,000 | 370,000 | 328,000 | 125,000 |
| Cash | 110,000 | 71,000 | 45,000 | 50,000 |
| Capital | 50,000 | 50,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 |
| Surplus and Undivided Profits | 9,000 | 17,000 | 16,000 | 7,000 |

*First State Bank consolidated with Fisher State Bank on October 28, 1926.

The Fisher State Bank closed April 14, 1930. To the best of our knowledge all deposit liabilities were paid from the liquidation of assets. The charter was dissolved on March 12, 1937.



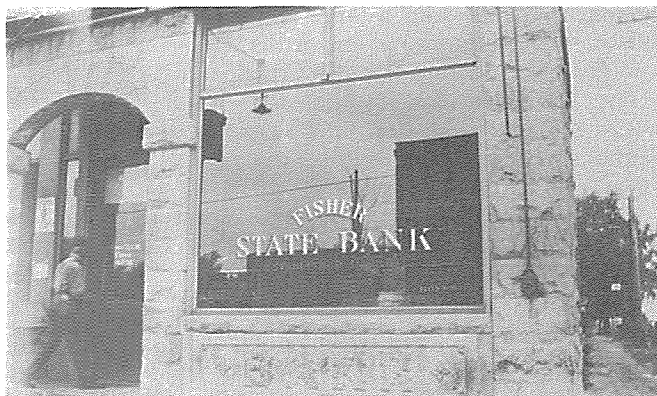
Dwight L. Shaw, chief executive officer of the Fisher National Bank (picture taken in 1955).

THE FISHER NATIONAL BANK

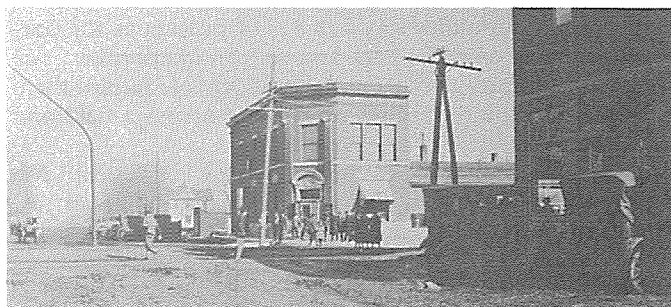
For many years the businessmen of Fisher and the farmers of the area felt the need of a bank in Fisher. There had not been a bank in Fisher since April 14, 1930. In late 1954 The Fisher Businessmen's Association voted unanimously to proceed with the organization of a bank. In November 1954 a Bank Organizing Committee was appointed by the Fisher Businessmen's association and as the committee proceeded with its work the interest of the community became even more apparent. Investigations showed that at this time Fisher was the business center of a community of about 3,300 and could well support a bank.

Through the guidance of the Harris Trust and Savings Bank of Chicago and the cooperation of nearly 120 stockholders, the bank became a reality. Dwight L. Shaw was secured as the first Chief Executive Officer of the new organization. The bank was first housed in a new building which was erected on the east side of Main Street by A.F. Birkey, a local contractor. The bank, known as the Fisher National Bank, was opened for business on November 18, 1955, with A.D. Stuehm making the first deposit. The original Board of Directors was made up of Dwight L. Shaw, Leland Nelson, Ernest Minks, Roy Hicks, and Jesse Heiser. Dwight Shaw continued as Chief Executive Officer until August 1973, at which time he retired and was replaced by Charles W. Brownlee. The original building was enlarged in 1967 and was again remodeled in 1974.

At the present time the bank shows deposits of over five and one-half million dollars and has seven full time employees and one part time employee. The Board has been increased to eight members, including Roy Hicks, President, Charles W. Brownlee, Executive Vice President and Cashier, Jesse Heiser, Vice President, Paul Barker, Kenneth Kellar, Walter Oyer, Howard Stuehm and Leonard Stocks.



The Fisher State Bank was organized in 1882. It was located on the northwest corner of Third and Front Street. Later Dr. E.E. Smucker had his office here. The front of this building was changed. It is now part of Heiser & Ingold Grocery Store.



Busey Bank, Lane's Blacksmith Shop, Flag Pole after airplane crash.

The bank has become a full-service bank, offering all types of loans, savings deposits, time deposits, checking accounts, safety deposit boxes, and night deposit service. It offers a walk up window on Saturday mornings and evening hours on Friday evening.

FRANK B. VENNUM

Frank B. Vennum married Sarah Marsh, sister of George Marsh. They came to Fisher in the 1880's and engaged in a general merchandise business in an old building that stood upon the site of the Fisher State Bank (where Heiser and Ingold is today). The family resided in the rooms above the store. Later he erected a small building adjoining the Oddfellow's building and started a bank, the first in Fisher.

The Vennums helped organize the Church of Christ in Fisher. They were close friends of Stephen Fisher, a minister, and kept their interest in the church after moving to Bloomington and later to Champaign. The organ in the Fisher Church of Christ is dedicated to them and was a gift of their children Ernest Vennum and Vinnie Vennum Johnston.

Later Frank Vennum moved the bank to the southwest corner of Third and Front Street. The Buseys had another bank across the street. Later the two banks were merged with Mr. Vennum as president. Mr. Vennum became a

prominent banker and a large landowner in east central Illinois. Mr. Venum was one of the organizers of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank in Champaign.

The Venums also lived at 601 South Third Street (where the Delawders and later Amanda Blair lived). Mr. Venum planted many trees on the present Fisher Grade School playground.

Frank B. Venum lived more than seventy years. He died in a hospital in Rochester, Minnesota on November 22, 1926. Sarah A. Venum died in March of 1932. There are no living descendants.

BANK ROBBERIES

Records show two bank robberies in Fisher. In 1901, the State Bank of Fisher was held up and robbed by a lone bandit. The robber, pursued by citizens, boldly invaded the cab of a locomotive attached to a freight train standing at the railroad station. He drove the engine crew out with a pistol and steamed off down the tracks with the train. Getting the train under way was a slow process as the pursuers swarmed onto the cars and set the handbrakes, one after another, until the locomotive was unable to pull them farther. Then the robber set off on foot across a field and was captured.

On the afternoon of November 8, 1929, Curley Hill followed a Hudson car into Fisher. He noticed the driver toss a bottle out by the roadside. Curley stopped, took the bottle into Fisher to the druggist and was told it contained "drugs". So with this information, C.R. Potts, town marshal, was alerted to look out for possible trouble in the area.

As C.R. Potts happened by the State Bank of Fisher later, he couldn't believe his eyes! He saw a lone bandit wearing a handkerchief mask, holding a pistol in the faces of W.L. Davis, cashier, and his assistant, Cecile Cook. The bandit had politely said, "Hand over your money, please!" Potts snatched out his revolver and leaped for the door. By that time the robber bolted through the door and began running up the middle of the street, tracking from side to side, making a difficult target. Potts blazed away at him but desisted further shots as a group of school children appeared on their way home and the robber was dodging behind them.

The next moment the man leaped into a sedan and raced northward out of town at a reckless speed. He was pursued by "Peg" Ricketts, Jim Moore and Mike Taroff. A wild chase continued over the country roads and at several times the robber was almost caught. He finally lost his "would be" captors; but not until some exciting moments had been exchanged.

Leslie R. Mitchell was driving from Fisher to Danville that afternoon after school and he happened onto a car traveling at great speed. Mitchell followed the car and memorized the license plate, Illinois 235-142. Later a third car emerged from a side road and was between Mitchell and the fast moving sedan. Then the third car stopped at a town and Mitchell saw the sedan ahead of him again but he noticed something very strange, the license was now Indiana 48-815. As they arrived in Danville the sedan turned a corner and disappeared. When Mitchell returned to Fisher that evening he learned that the Fisher Bank had been robbed that afternoon.

Mitchell decided to contact Elmer Shoaf, county sheriff, and give an account of what he had seen on his way to Danville.

With this information, Mr. Shoaf began his investigation. The Illinois plates were issued to a James Zounis of Chicago. The Indiana plates belonged to William S. Ragan care of the Linde Air Products, Co., Indianapolis, Indiana. Both men were reported as respectable businessmen. Suspicion rested on Ragan since he had been transferred to the Chicago plant several months earlier.

Ragan was traced to a Chicago hospital where he was a patient suffering from gunshot wounds. He had been admitted for treatment with the story of surprising an intruder in his office the evening of November 8, 1929. He had taken his wife and children to Danville for the day and on returning to Chicago, had stopped to pick up some things in his office where he was shot.

This story was accepted and no suspicion was cast on Ragan as he had kept on his overcoat at Danville and Chicago and his wife hadn't seen any blood on his clothing before he went to the hospital.

However, after Sheriff Shoaf presented his evidence, Ragan was charged with the Fisher bank robbery and several robberies in Indiana and Illinois.

After the charge was delivered, Ragan told Shoaf this story. While living in Indianapolis he bought a home on the installment plan. Both he and his wife had been ill for many weeks. The cost was tremendous and he was unable to meet his home payments. The people he bought it from hounded him for payment of principal and interest and refused to take back the property as payment in full.

Ragan said he began drinking too much and was drinking the day he drove to Fisher. He said he had no idea of robbing the bank and only on the spur of the moment put the handkerchief over his face and rushed in with a pistol he carried for protection, when driving, and demanded money. "You think I ran out without the money because I saw the marshal watching me? Not at all! It was because I suddenly realized what I was doing and was overcome with horror. I didn't see the marshal until he started shooting at me."

Believe it? Not altogether! Ragan was a bank robber and probably for the reasons he gave — to obtain money to pay his debts.

Leslie Mitchell was the recipient of the reward money as it was his being able to supply the license numbers that led to the identity of Ragan.

—Condensed from "Real Detective Tales", August 1930, by Helen De Simone.

TELEPHONE SERVICE

A telephone service and exchange was established about 1900 by E.G. Coon of Rantoul. In the May 24, 1901 issue of the *Fisher Reporter*, we find that telephone poles were being set in the Sizer area.

In 1915 this business became a co-op. A group of men, Charles Fairfield, Cephas Williams, Chris Sommers, Ora Gilmore and O.C. Giertz, bought out Mr. Coon and set up the Co-op. Robert Sturgeon was secretary for this group. The telephone exchange was located where Dr. Rohde's office is now. Clinton Osborne, Clarence "Tanky" Bryant, Chester Warrenburg, Charles Dorr and Wren Wilson set up telephone lines in the Fisher area.

Ella Schrock worked as bookkeeper for this company. Later Inez Lane Rice and Lela Foster Duvall were bookkeepers. Mrs. Rice remembers that on November 11, 1918 when the Armistice was signed, Mr. O.C. Giertz and another director closed the switchboards and took the telephone operators to Champaign for the Armistice Day celebration.

In 1927 a fire destroyed all the switchboards and a few pieces of office equipment. The telephone office was then moved into the rear of the Masonic building where it continued to operate until Fisher went on the dial system. W.C. Drysdale purchased the controlling interest in 1928. Four telephone operators worked around the clock each day in Fisher. Telephone operators who have served the people of Fisher are Frank and Minnie Baker, Pearl Hemphill, Edna Cornell Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Stucker, Nell Parker, Edna Duvall Wilson, Elsie Crist, Mae Harris, Lena Schrock, Lucille Crozier, Lulu Cook, Maxine Muhleman, Esther Unzicker, Eleanor Horsch, Joyce Keith, Pat Zook, Dorothy Cender Schroeder, and Aldythe Springer. When the dial system came to Fisher in 1957 or 1958, telephone operators were no longer needed in Fisher. Lucille Crozier and Pat Zook went with Illinois Bell in Champaign. Maxine Muhleman, Clinton and Richard Osborne went with Eastern Illinois Service in Rantoul. Clinton Osborne retired in August of 1964 after 35 years of service. At the time of his retirement he was in charge of the equipment room. When Mr. Osborne first started with the telephone company, he set up poles alone, which he towed on a cart behind his automobile. Our telephone service is now owned by the Mid-Continent Telephone Company of Hudson, Ohio.

FISHER NEWSPAPERS

In December of 1889 Mr. William Rodman commenced the publication of a newspaper at Fisher called "The Times," which he continued to publish for about two years, when the office was sold to Naylor and Bill. They changed the name to "The Fisher Reporter." Under this name it was jointly published by these two men for about a year, when A.J. Bill succeeded to full control. After one year Mr. Bill sold to R.M. Hall, who published the newspaper for two years. Then Mr. Hall sold the paper to George E. Haas, who was a skilled printer and versatile editor. Mr. Haas continued the publication of the newspaper until August of 1902 when he sold to Alva Gilmore.

On May 8, 1813 Pearl M. Hollingsworth began to publish another weekly newspaper which was called "The Fisher News." In September of 1919 P.M. Hollingsworth sold his newspaper business to Alva Gilmore and the two newspapers were merged into one. The newspaper changed its publication date from Friday to Wednesday. The newspaper ran a story each week, received world news which came to the office already printed, and published a serial called "The Imposter."

In 1929 the editor was C.T. Allen. J.T. Waters was editor from 1930 to 1938. Then Russell Geist was editor from

1938 until 1944 when he sold to a Mr. Johnson who published the paper until January 1, 1946. From January 1946 until June 1, 1946 Gordon Renfro and A.O. Bracket edited and published the newspaper.

On June 1, 1946 Leslie C. Sparks bought the newspaper. Mr. Sparks retired in January of 1973. His sons, Robert H. and Kenneth M. Sparks still publish the weekly Fisher Reporter and do job printing.

The *Fisher Reporter* has been in four different locations. Its first location was in a small building on the east side of Third Street next to the railroad. In 1930 while Charles L. Allen was editor, the *Fisher Reporter* was moved into the office and display space of the Ford garage, where Flo-Con is now on Third Street; the northwest side of the building was used by Fisher Independent Oil Co. Later the Fisher Reporter was moved into the I.O.O.F. building, where the Fisher Recreation is today. After Mr. Sparks bought the newspaper, it was moved across the street to its present location.

The "Fisher News" published by Pearl M. Hollingsworth was located on the second floor of the building that is Heiser and Ingold Store today. The newspaper office was at the end of the hall. The second floor also contained the real estate and insurance office of Robert Sturgeon and the office of Dr. Miller, a dentist.

ENTERTAINMENT

Although there was much hard, grinding labor in earlier days, the people of that day were probably quite as happy as people are today. The early settlers had parties, dances, ball games and picnics. They went boating and swimming. During the winter months there were sleighing parties. At Christmas time there were special programs at the schools and churches. Frequently schools would have social activities one evening a month during the winter months and everyone in the surrounding neighborhood would be invited.

The Fourth of July was a special day. Children and grown-ups were thrilled when they saw the grand old flag, heard the band play, and heard someone read the wonderful document, The Declaration of Independence. Picnic lunches were enjoyed by all. There were games and contests for old and young, boys and girls.

When the two story frame school on Third Street between Randolph and Sangamon Street was closed, the building became an opera house. Local groups put on plays and musical numbers. These were community projects and all who wanted to participate could do so.

Chautauqua meetings were held in the fall of the year about 1913. These meetings were held in a large tent on an empty lot near the United Brethren Church or on the school grounds. There were entertainers, lecturers and singing groups. People would buy season tickets for the afternoon or evening shows. The Chautauqua meetings were one week in length.

In the 1920's the occupants of Fisher could entertain themselves on Tuesday and Saturday evenings by visiting

This page sponsored by:

RANTOUL MOTORS, Rantoul
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BANK OF RANTOUL, Rantoul
FISHER REPORTER, Fisher



Looking south on Third Street about 1910 one could see the Band Stand at the intersection of Third and Front Streets. The steeple of the Methodist Church can be seen on the left side.



George Smith had a movie house shown on the right side of this picture. Movies were shown on Tuesday and Saturday nights. Across the street Overland cars were sold by Ernest Trotter in the Oddfellows building.



Fisher Carnival in downtown Fisher in the early 1900's.



Fisher Carnival in Cox's pasture in August of 1912.

the Community Theater where they watched the latest movies. This movie house was owned by George Smith and was located where Hendersons is now. The movie house was later destroyed by fire.

The Rice-Percy players from RKO Vaudeville circuit came every summer in the 1930's. These players performed in a huge tent due to the fact that Fisher buildings were not large enough for their presentations. The large tent was placed on the empty lot on the northeast corner of Sangamon and Third Street. In 1933 this company was headed by Jack Percy and included Jessie Mae and Charlotte Leighty.

After World War II, Ero Hewerdine showed movies in the Rome building on Tuesday and Saturday nights. Later when Unzickers bought the building, they used the projection room for their office.

From 1940 until 1949 Fisher had a bowling alley. It was located on the second floor of the Rome building. There was an outside stairway on the south side of the building that people used to reach the second floor. Herman "Mox" Adams and his wife, Velma, ran the bowling alley.

In the late 1940's and early 1950's, the businessmen of Fisher provided free movies for the people of Fisher on Saturday nights for several weeks during the summer months. These movies were shown on empty lots near the business section. Parents frequently did their shopping while the children watched the films.

The people of Fisher have always shown an interest in sports. Fisher had produced some very good football, basketball, and baseball teams. During the summer months there is baseball for boys and girls of school age or older.

THE "PUMPKIN VINE"

The Havana, Rantoul, and Eastern Railroad was planned and organized in Rantoul. The company was granted a charter on April 1, 1873 and construction began on August 10, 1874. It was completed on February 1, 1877 from West Lebanon, Indiana to LeRoy, Illinois.

The railroad was completed in phases. The first being from Alvin, Illinois to Fisher, a 40 mile line, which was completed by January 1, 1876. The railroad was extended to LeRoy by February 1, 1879. The company had planned to run the railroad to Havana, Illinois to connect with the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes railroad. The goal was to build an east-west railroad from coast to coast with Rantoul as the major railroad headquarters.

Benjamin J. Gifford was the originator of the idea and president of the company. He had served in the Civil War, returned home to Plano, Illinois, went to college and then started a law practice at Rantoul. The following men were officers and members of the board of directors:

Benjamin J. Gifford President
Guy D. Penfield Secretary

Abram Cross Treasurer
 Sheldon Tomlinson Vice President

Lewis Hicks, H.E. Bullock, John W. Dodge, J.A. Benedict, E.H. Williams, A. Lucky, R.B. McPherson, John J. Fitton, John L. Lester, Frank White, T.P. Barnes, William M. Phillips, John A. Fisher and Lewis Kuder.

Several towns and stations along the railroad received their name from the men associated with this railroad. Gifford was named by B.J. Gifford, the "father of the road." Fisher was named for Robert Fisher, a heavy stockholder and later vice-president. The Dewey station was named for Milo Dewey of Plano who was a large stockholder and later treasurer. Tomlinson was named for the business partner of Lewis Hicks of Rantoul.

Obtaining the charter for the railroad was easy but obtaining money for the construction was another matter. Success of the enterprise depended largely upon raising money from the citizens along the route. People of Illinois had been besieged by promoters of other railroad schemes that had not materialized. Meetings were held in every town and cross roads along the proposed route. All farmers, merchants and land-owners were asked for funds. By July 1875 subscriptions for \$145,000 had been obtained but less than \$5,000 had been paid in. In the first six months of operation the railroad carried 5,964 passengers and moved 7,956 tons of freight. The first outgoing shipments were wheat, corn and livestock. The first incoming freight was coal, lumber, household goods and farm implements. To serve its customers, the railroad company had two locomotives, two passenger cars and 88 freight cars.

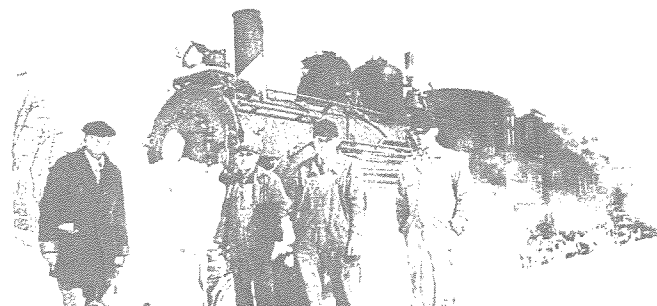
The "Pumpkin Vine," as the railroad was nicknamed by the people of Fisher, was a narrow gauge construction with tracks only three feet apart. This factor had economic advantages but it also created great problems. When freight had to be transferred to another railroad, it had to be unloaded piece by piece or bushel by bushel. If the Havana, Rantoul, Eastern Railroad had had standard tracks, the freight cars could simply have been transferred to another track. The railroad was in trouble from the beginning, the cost of operation and interest on bonded indebtedness took all of the earning and left nothing for the stockholders.

On May 1, 1880 the Havana, Rantoul, and Eastern Railroad was sold to Jay Gould, a notable financier, and for the next six years it was operated as part of the Gould system. These six years were hard years for the "pumpkin vine." The system defaulted on its mortgage bonds and went into receivership. It was finally sold at public auction at Springfield, Illinois on October 27, 1886. The railroad was sold at \$100,000 to Anthony J. Thomas, second vice president of the Hill Lines in the northwest. This company leased the railroad to the Illinois Central on June 1, 1887.

When the Illinois Central took over the railroad, the property was in a run-down condition. The Illinois Central issued a million dollars in bonds to rebuild the railroad. During the summer and fall of 1887 the narrow gauge track was replaced by a standard track. Later the lease was terminated and the railroad property was purchased by the Illinois Central System in September of 1903. Since that time the railroad has been operated as the Rantoul District of the Illinois Central System Company. At the present time grain and corn cobs are the principle outgoing freight, and fertilizer, lumber, coal and machinery are the main inbound loads.

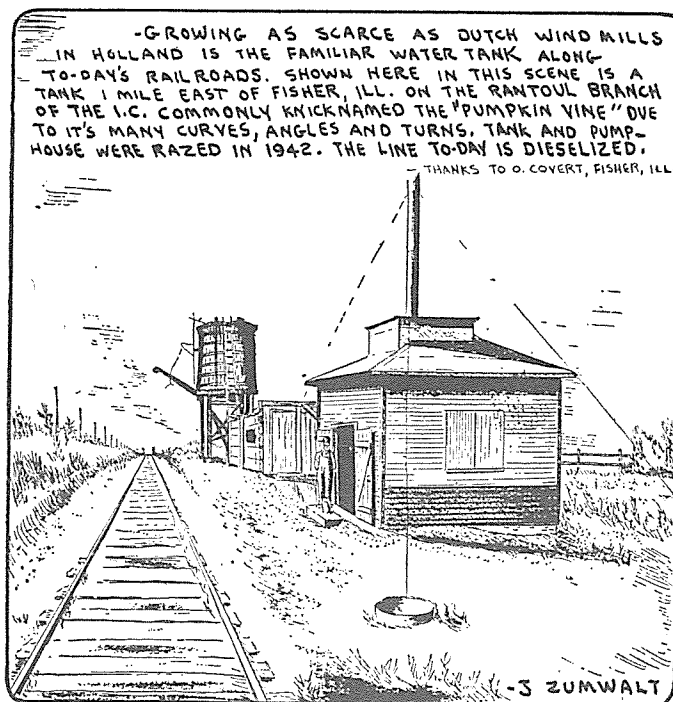


Engines 2323 and 2117 of the Illinois Central Railroad at the Fisher Depot.



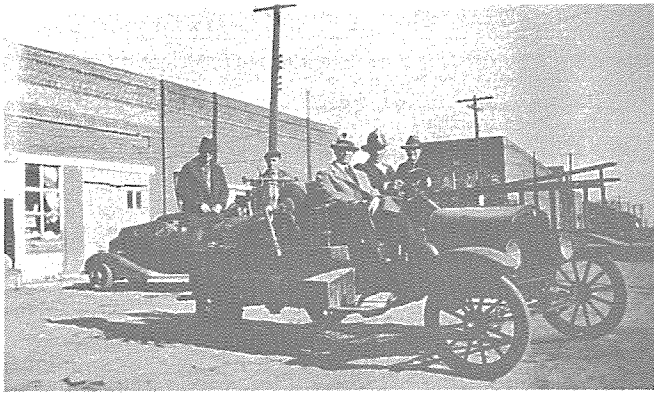
Bill Kidd of Fisher and the trail crew, Gordon Douglas, Harry Kaler and Tom Evans in front of Engine 401 of the I.C.R.R.

Sunday, Nov. 20, 1955



YESTERYEAR'S SKETCHES

By Zumwalt



The Model T Fire Truck. From left to right in back—Les McJilton, Ora King and Daddy Means. On the seat are Merle Sheppard and Glade Sunderland.

The railroad also offered passenger transportation to area towns. The “pumpkin vine” made one passenger and two freight trips from Rantoul to Fisher and LeRoy. On February 6, 1903 eight inches of snow fell in this area. The temperature dropped to 17 degrees below and the drifting snow caused great problems for the train crew. Doctor S.W. Shurtz of Champaign and a trained nurse were on the passenger train on their way to care for a patient in Fisher when the train became stuck in a snow drift. They were taken off the train about 1 a.m. the next morning and brought into Fisher by sleigh.

By 1920 the passenger revenue was off due to the coming of the automobile and paved roads. In 1927, the Illinois Central petitioned the State Commerce Commission for permission to discontinue passenger service. This was granted in 1933 but the railroad company was required to continue freight service to pick up livestock and grain.

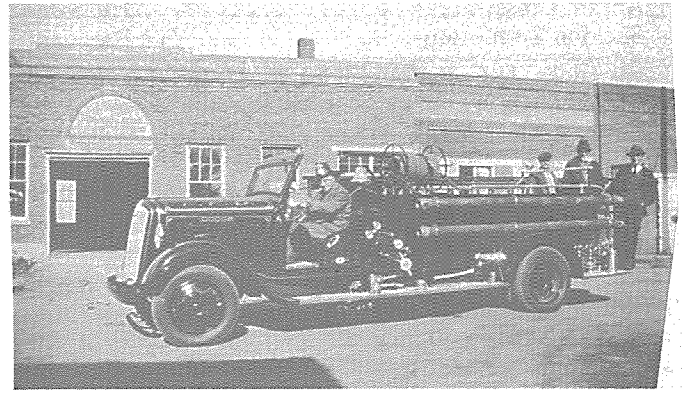
FISHER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The earliest method of fighting fires in Fisher was the bucket brigade. Later the village got a chemical fire fighting apparatus. This was a two wheel cart on which was two tanks about 5 feet in length and a hose. A chemical was inserted in the tank which created pressure for the hose. The wheels on the cart were buggy wheels. This cart had a tongue in front but it was never pulled by horses. Whenever a fire occurred, the men would run to the city building and pull the cart to the fire. This slow moving vehicle was used only in the village of Fisher. Later the village bought a Model T fire engine which was used for several years.

A Fisher Fire Department was organized on January 6, 1923 with the following officers and members:

Jess Hill, fire chief
N.J. Walker, assistant chief
Ralph Redding, treasurer
S.W. Naylor, secretary
Oscar Zook
Clinton Osborne
H.O. Holl
C.L. Bryant
Chester Warrenburg
J.W. Kidd

Orla Trotter
Walter Rice
Alvin Baker
Otho Parker
James Jones



In the front Merle Sheppard. On the back Ora King, Les McJilton and Daddy Means. 1936 Dodge Fire Truck.

The Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District was organized in January of 1948. Emmet C. Fairfield of Fisher, Arthur E. Ball of Foosland and A.A. Jones of Dewey were appointed trustees by order of the county court of Champaign on December 17, 1947. Emmet Fairfield served as president, Arthur E. Ball served as secretary and A.A. Jones served as vice-president and assistant secretary of the board of trustees. The newly organized fire district serves all of Brown and East Bend Townships, 84 per cent of Condit Township and 57 per cent of Newcomb Township.

At the time the district was formed, the village of Fisher had a 1936 Dodge fire truck which was kept in the City Building on Front street. The new district bought the Dodge fire truck and the siren from the village of Fisher. This truck is now housed in a building at the west end of the Mini-Park on Third Street. Many young people have fond memories of a ride on this old red truck during Fire Prevention Week of the year that they were in first grade. The Mini-Park and the building for the old red fire truck have been made possible through the efforts of the Junior Women's Club.

The first volunteer fire department members of the Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District from Fisher were:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| E.C. Fairfield | Ellis Birkey |
| Ora King | Ernest Minks |
| Harold Hill | Floyd Kelly |
| Kenneth Kellar | Leo Elkins |
| Charles Duvall | Chester Warrenburg |
| Roy Hicks | Everett Hedrick |
| Walter Lammle | Howard Stuehm |
| Floyd Birkey | A.D. Stuehm |
| Otho Covert | Eldon Foster |
| Glen Wilson | Jack McJilton |
| H.E. Adams | |

The volunteer fire fighters from Foosland were:

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Arthur Ball | Earl McKinney |
| Fred Cox | Robert Shields |
| Roy Gerber | C.L. Albin |
| C.F. Beasley | Paul Gilbert |
| Sam Sampson | Ralph Shields |
| Fred Davis | |

In Dewey in 1948 the volunteer firemen were:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| A.A. Jones | Lyle Birkey |
| Earl Fink | William McCroskey |
| John McCoy | Donald Drennan |
| Ray Eichelberger | Carrol Birkey |

Norman Polk
Dean Ward
Roy Grieser

John Murray
Glen Hewerdine

In 1951 Ellis Birkey was Fisher fire chief and Harold Hill was the assistant fire chief. In Dewey the fire chief was Sam Sommers and Les Drennan was the assistant fire chief. The fire chief of Foosland was Paul Gilbert and his assistant was Eddie Stricklin.

The Dewey Fire Station was built in 1954 by K.C. Kellar at a cost of \$12,840. The Fisher Fire Station, a 44 by 52 foot structure, was built in the same year on ground formerly belonging to Sidney and Florence Smith at a cost of \$14,378 by K.C. Kellar. The Sangamon Valley Fire Protection District bought the old bank building in Foosland from the Foosland Grain Co. for \$500 and remodeled the building at a cost of \$4,752 to serve as the Foosland Fire Station.

At the present time Fisher has two 1,000 gallon pumps and one rescue truck. There are 25 volunteer firemen at Fisher. Lyle Cagle is the fire chief and Harvey Thomas is the assistant fire chief.

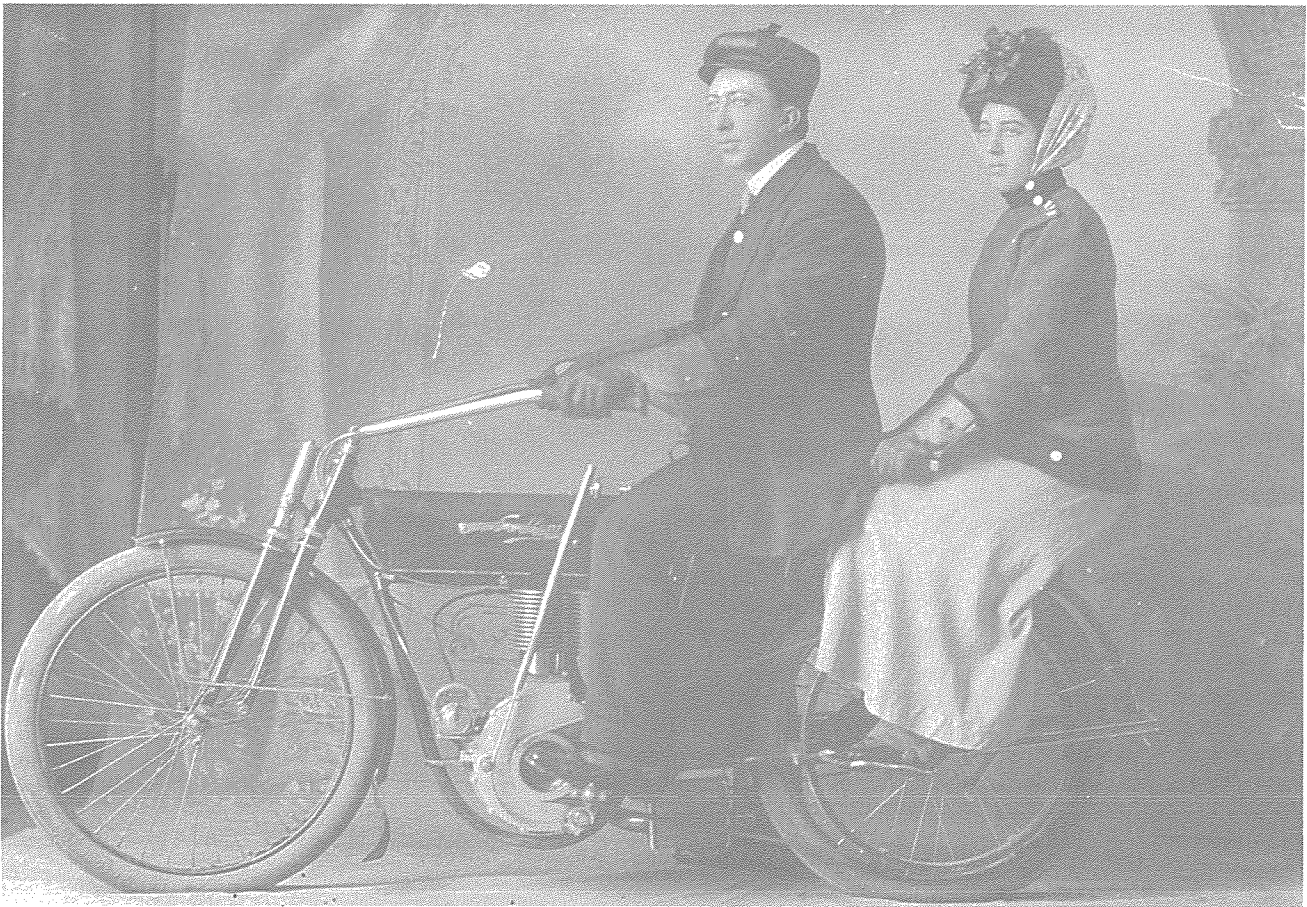
In 1976 Foosland has one 1,000 gallon pumper and 14 volunteer firemen. The present fire chief is Paul Verkler and the assistant fire chief is Floyd Garrett.

At the Dewey Fire Station are two fire trucks, a 1,000 gallon pumper and an 800 gallon tanker. There are 14 volunteer firemen in Dewey. The fire chief is Wendell R. Coulter and his assistant is Don Hughey.

The present trustees of the Sangamon Valley Protection District are Robert Shields of Foosland, Floyd Kelly of Fisher and Ronald Kuhns of Dewey. At the present time Robert Shields is president, Floyd Kelly is secretary and Ron Kuhns is treasurer of the organization.

BILL KIDD

J.W. Kidd came to Fisher in 1894 at the age of eight. His father, Charles, had a restaurant in Fisher. The restaurant burned but was rebuilt. Bill Kidd worked on the switchboard installed in Fisher. This switchboard was in the Shuck building. Bill Kidd moved to Oklahoma in December 1902. He helped install the first telephone in



Bill and Weltha Kidd on his motorcycle taken about 1910 while they were living in Oklahoma. Bill Kidd frequently told a story about how he lost his wife while riding on the motorcycle. It seems that they hit a bump and she fell off. Bill rode for several miles before he realized he had lost her. He returned for her and fortunately she was not hurt. Bill and Weltha Kidd had no children. He died on July 22, 1962 and she died on December 20th of that same year.

This page sponsored by:

SHELHOUSE & MOLLOY REAL ESTATE, Rantoul
LITCHFIELD HARDWARE, INC., Rantoul

BOB CENDER OF COUNTRY COMPANY INSURANCE, Fisher
SCHROCK SOIL SERVICE TESTING STATION, Fisher

Fort Reno and Fort Sill during his three years in Oklahoma. In 1905 Bill came back and helped construct the first light plant in Fisher. After this light plant burned, Bill helped to build the second one.

In September 1906, he married Weltha Selby. About this time automobiles first made their appearance. Bill moved to Pana, Illinois and started a Ford Agency and garage business. Mr. and Mrs. Kidd were in Pana for a short time and then they moved to Oklahoma. In the fall of 1911 they returned to Fisher, and Mr. Kidd and O.L. Gilmore started a garage business here. They also had a Ford Agency. They continued in business until 1919, when Bill bought out his partner. Mr. Kidd built the building on the northwest corner of Third and Front Street. In 1916 he

built the building where Flo-Con Systems, Inc. is now on Third Street. In 1919 Bill Kidd sold the Ford business to Dan Gerber.

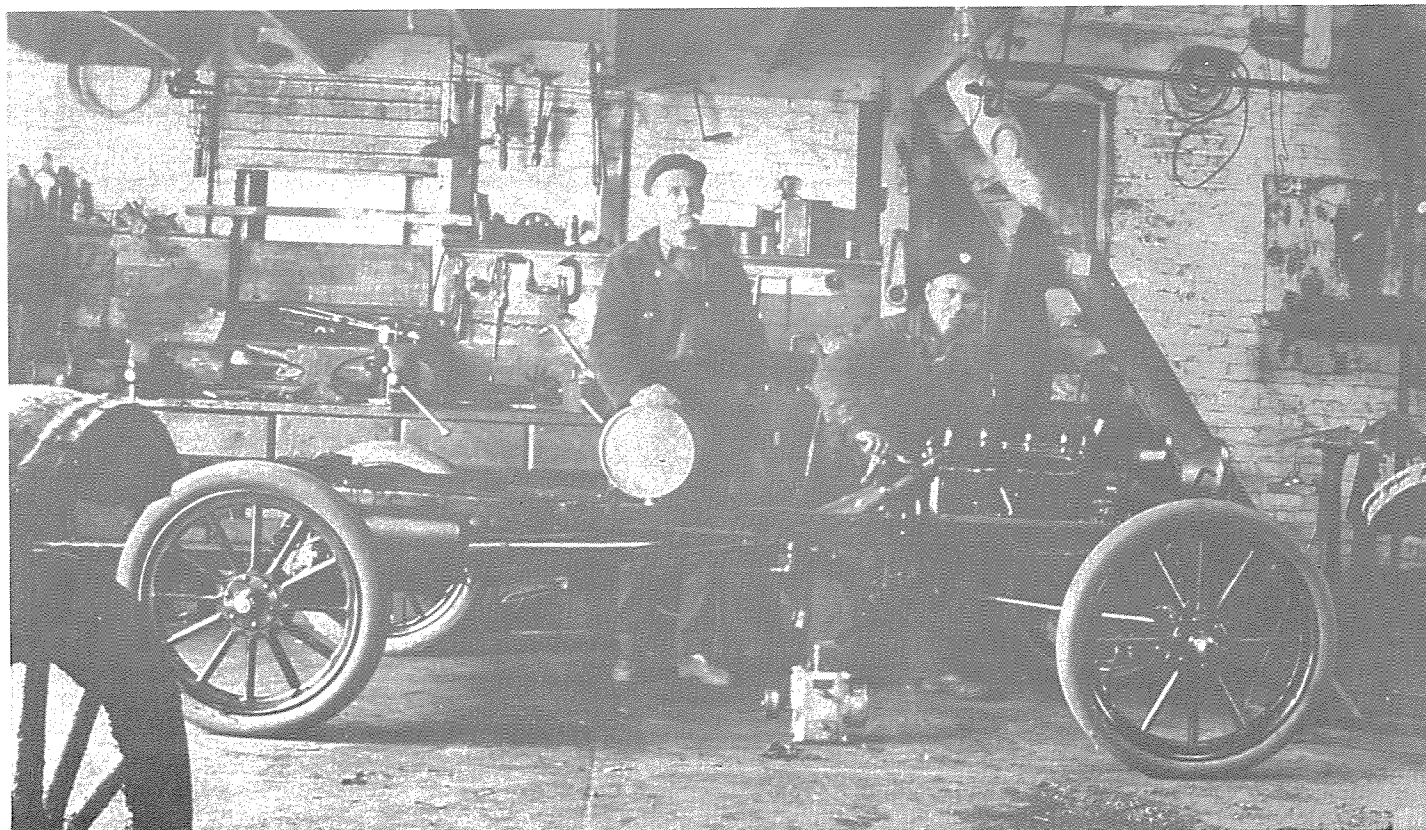
In 1925 Bill Kidd remodeled his first building, where Gale Heiser has his Standard Service business today. Jim Moore leased the building in 1926 from his uncle for whom he had worked for several years. In February of 1945 Mr. Kidd sold his business and building to James Moore and considered retiring. However, he continued to use a small shop in this building to work on his hobby, radios, until his death in 1962. Jim Moore sold the building in 1973 to Gale Heiser and he has since remodeled the building.



Pete Sheppard and Jim Moore in 1916 in front of Bill Kidd's Garage on Front street.



Robert Wilson worked for Bill Kidd in early 1920's.

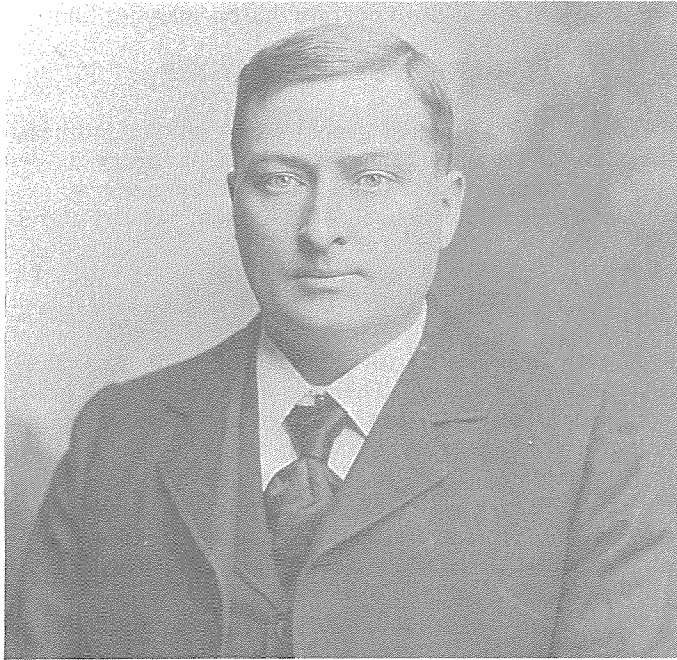


Oscar Zook and Billy Morris assembling a new Ford in Bill Kidd's garage.

The Model T Ford came to Fisher around 1921. The cars were not assembled. The various frames, chassis, tops, windshields, etc. came in crates in box cars on the freight trains. When they arrived, they were assembled at the local garage. By 1926 the last Model T Ford had arrived. No Ford cars were made in 1927. In 1928 the Model A arrived assembled and ready to go.

HARDWARE STORES

J.O. Sayers owned and operated a hardware store where Marge's store was located until recently. The Sayers received the first wireless in Fisher. It was from their son, Frank, who was a medical officer in the Navy, telling of his



J.O. Sayers owned and operated a Hardware Store in Fisher in the early 1900's.



Mrs. J.O. (Fannie) Sayers was the daughter of Capt. and Mrs. F.B. Sale. She was a sister of Edwin C. Sale, the father of Dr. L.O. Sale. Mr. and Mrs. J.O. Sayers were very prominent citizens of Fisher from 1900 until he retired in the early twenties and they moved to Ohio.



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rhoten and daughters, Julie on the left who became Mrs. Will Jackson and Belle on the right who became Mrs. L.B. White. Mr. White was superintendent of Fisher Schools in 1909-10 and 1910-11.

This page sponsored by:

VISTRON CORP., SOHIGRO SERVICE CO., Fisher

FISHER HARDWARE, Fisher

safe arrival in the Dominican Republic. The message was dated August 3, 1914.

J.O. Sayers sold his hardware store to Dan Webster and moved to Ohio. Later Webster and Provine had the store. Then only George Webster owned the hardware store. Emmet Fairfield bought the store in 1946 and the store was called Fairfield Hardware and Electric Store. Mr. Fairfield had a tin shop on Front Street previously. This is

now the location of the truck testing lane. Orville Schrock operates this business for Everett Hedrick.

About 1965, the Fairfield Hardware and Electric Store building was sold to Marge McCorkle. She operated a clothing store for several years, closing her business in 1975.

Everett Hedrick now owns the hardware store in Fisher. Ora King and Orval Boyd operate this business for him.

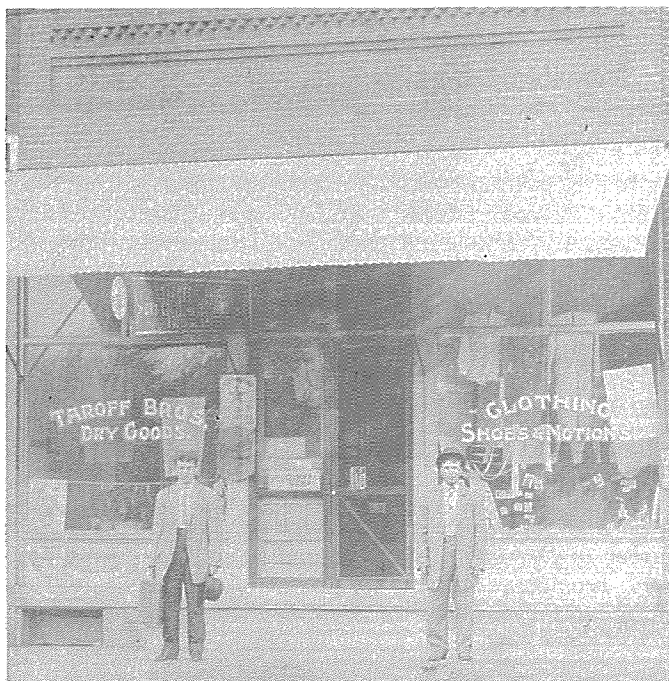
RHOTEN'S GENERAL STORE

Kinneth Rhoten had a general store on the southeast corner of Third and Front Street. This building was destroyed by fire in April 1902. Later Mr. Rhoten was a janitor at the Fisher School. Mr. Rhoten was the grandfather of Floyd Jackson.

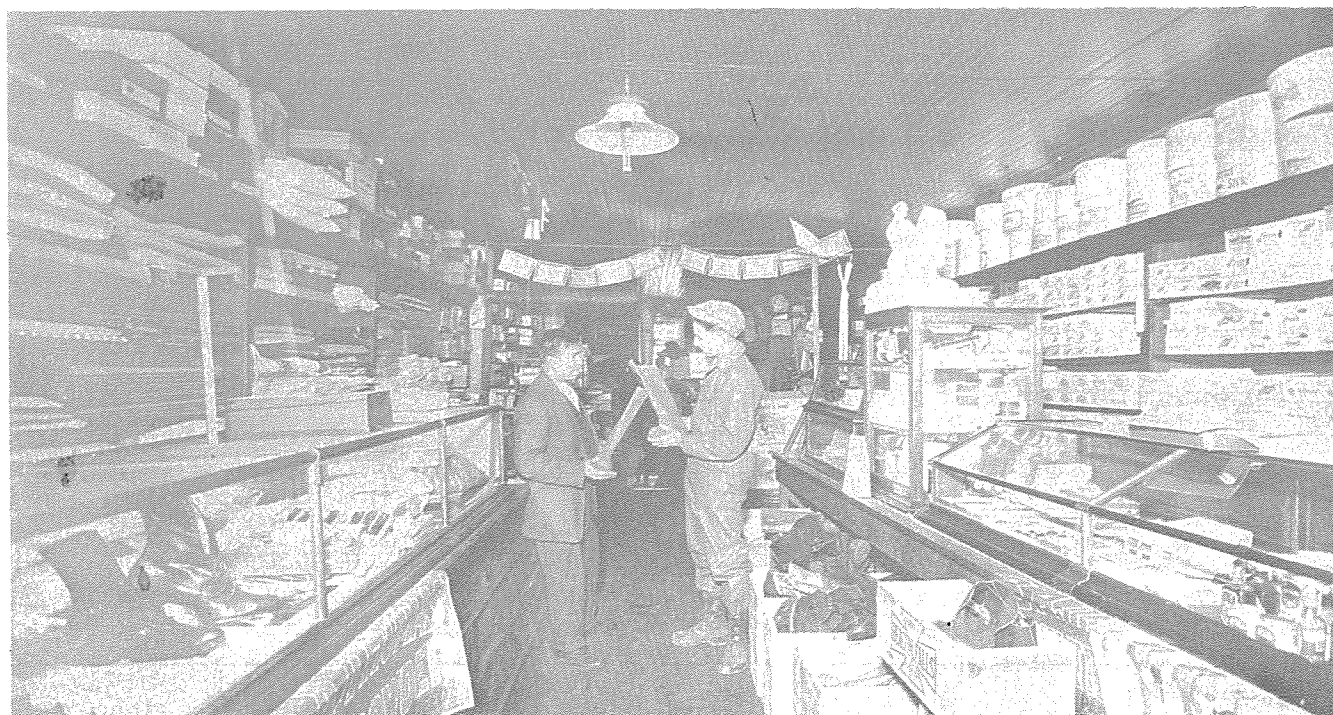
SHUCK'S MEAT MARKET

Orlando Shuck came to Fisher about 1920. At first he had a small restaurant. Then he had a slaughter house east of Owl Creek and north of town. He operated a meat market in the small store next to the alley on the west side of Third Street. Later Mr. Shuck added groceries and a few other items to his store. In 1933 one could buy a broom for 23 cents and a pound of Rosemary coffee for 33 cents a pound at Shuck's. Mr. Shuck later sold his business to Mr. Gramley of Gibson City.

Mrs. Shuck's father had a large barn on the corner of Randolph and Third Street. Armstrong's barn was used as an ice house. At first ice was taken from the river during the winter months, hauled to the barn and covered with sawdust. The ice was used during the summer to make homemade ice cream. There was also another ice house operated by a man named Schuyler on the alley back of where Jack Welborn lives now.



David and Sam Taroff in front of their store on the west side of Third Street.



Sam Taroff and a customer in the Taroff Brothers General Store.

As more people bought ice boxes, more ice was needed. Mr. Armstrong would go to Champaign for ice. Twice a week, Mr. Armstrong would deliver ice to Fisher residents. People would place a card in the window if they needed ice. Mr. Armstrong could tell by the way the card was turned if the customer wanted 25, 50, 75 or 100 pounds of ice.

Mr. Armstrong's barn was also used as a stable. Several high school students in the 1920's and 1930's rode horses into Fisher each morning. Their horses were left at Armstrong's barn during the school day.

Tommy Miller had a livery stable on Third Street north of the railroad tracks in the early 1900's. This barn was later used for storage of road equipment for Brown township until the township building was erected just north of the Flo-Con building.

Dr. Martin received his diploma as a veterinarian in 1900. He came to Fisher to work for Jackson Richmond, who kept a stable of fine horses. At first Dr. Martin had his office in a barn on Front Street belonging to Tommy Dale. Mr. Dale tore down the barn and built the building where Springer's and later Schaer's had their implement shop. Then Dr. Martin had his office in Armstrong's barn on Randolph and Third Street. Dr. Martin and his family lived where Richard Osborn lives today. Fisher had two more veterinarians, Dr. Hapenny and Dr. Roscoe Ralph. Dr. Ralph was in Fisher in the late 1920's. He moved to Watseka, Illinois.

TAROFF'S GENERAL STORE

Taroff's general store was located where the drug store is now. Sam Taroff, the father of Mrs. Lyle E. (Lou) Bayler, and David Taroff were the proprietors. Sam Taroff had had a store in Penfield before coming to Fisher in 1920. Sam worked in the general store in Fisher for ten years and then sold his interest in the store to Mike Taroff, his brother, who operated the store for a few years. Then David took over the management of the store. Sam Taroff and his family moved to Indiana for about three years where he farmed. Then he moved back to Penfield and later to Armstrong, Illinois where he had a general store. About 1933 Sam Taroff and his family returned to Fisher where he worked at odd jobs until his death in 1940.

Wes Bowley had a restaurant to the north of Taroff's. When Wes Bowley's restaurant burned in July of 1944, David Taroff sold the building to Wes Bowley. This building was later sold to Lela Nelson and she operated a drug store and lunch counter in this building. In 1974 she rented the drug store to Larry Kelly and he is the present proprietor.

KOYEN'S CASH STORE

One of the early settlers and business men was J.W. Kenward. He came from Roberts, Illinois in 1892 and opened a general store and jewelry repair shop. Mr. Kenward also carried a fine line of jewelry, watches and clocks to sell to his customers. In 1902 fire destroyed the store. Mr. Kenward rebuilt but the new store was destroyed by fire nine months later. He then rebuilt a larger brick store, where Western Auto is now, and added groceries along with his general store and jewelry work. In 1920 he took

his son-in-law, Henry Koyen of Wisconsin, into partnership with him. After Mr. Kenward's death in 1934, the store became known as Koyen's Cash Store. Mr. Koyen died on September 12, 1949. Mrs. Koyen carried on the business with the assistance of Zula Foster Miller who had been assistant at the store for 14 years. In 1953 Mrs. Koyen sold the business to D.W. Ralph and Sons.

RALPH'S IGA STORE

On November 13, 1953 D.W. Ralph and sons, Junior, Clarence and Ralph, started an IGA store in Fisher. The store offered a complete line of groceries, fresh produce, meat and miscellaneous items. The fresh beef and pork were provided by their slaughterhouse. In June 1960 the business was sold to J.M. Jones Company, distributors for IGA stores. In 1971 they sold the store building to David Overholt who now operates the Western Auto Store.

D.W. RALPH AND SONS SLAUGHTER HOUSE

D.W. Ralph and sons, Junior, Clarence and Leonard built in 1950 a slaughterhouse in the northeast part of Fisher. They did custom butchering and processed the meat ready for freezing. Also, they bought beef cows and pigs, processed them and sold fresh meat. In 1967 they sold the building to Kaiser Fertilizer which continues to occupy the building.

KAISER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL

In 1961 Aylco Chemical Company of Sullivan, Illinois, started a business in Fisher. They were located on North First Street near the Fisher Farmer's Grain and Coal Co. The plant was operated by Willard Heiser and Harvey Stacey. They sold nitrogen and plowdown, and did custom spreading. In 1963 Southern Nitrogen of Savannah, Georgia, a basic manufacturer of nitrogen, bought out Aylco Chemical Company.

In the fall of 1962 Fred Kaiser bought the custom spreading services from Harvey Stacey. In February of 1965 Willard Heiser left the business and Fred Kaiser took over the management of the plant. At that time agricultural chemicals and custom spreading of chemicals were added to the services this company provides.

In November of 1966 Kaiser Agricultural Chemicals of Oakland, California, a division of Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Company, bought out Southern Nitrogen. When this change was made suspension fertilizer was added and trips to fields were cut in half.

In the fall of 1967, Fred Kaiser moved his business from the old location near the railroad tracks to Ralph's Slaughter House at 414 North First Street. Leon Springer and David Haggart, Sr. are employed by Mr. Kaiser.

CUSTOM FARM SERVICE

Custom Farm Service was begun in 1966 and was located one-half mile north of Route 136 on Route 47. Custom Farm Service was a division of Gulf Oil Company. This was a fertilizer company supplying fertilizer, chemicals and limestone to the farmers. The managers of this plant included Lyle Cox, Kenneth Nelson and Richard Furtney. This plant was closed in the summer of 1971.

FISHER NITROGEN SERVICE

Fisher Nitrogen Service was founded in 1956 with fertilizer plants located at Fisher and Foosland. Services include dry and liquid fertilizers, chemicals and spreading service. Present owner is Robert S. Hinton, Foosland, Illinois.

HEISER AND INGOLD GROCERY

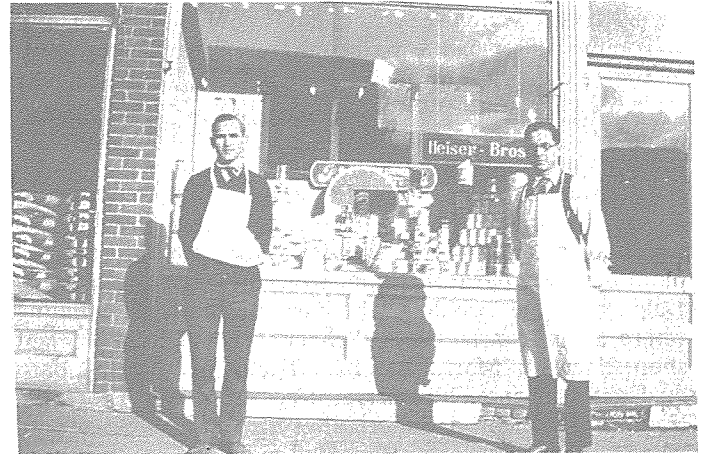
This grocery store began on the east side of Third Street where the *Fisher Reporter* is now. Jesse Heiser and his brother, Roy, bought the store and stock from Simon Dreyfus. They called their store Heiser Brothers. Besides selling groceries, they also sold shirts, work clothes and dry goods. At this time there were four other stores in Fisher that sold groceries: A.W. McJilton General Store, Webster Brothers, Kenward's and Charley DuVall.

A year later in 1922 there was a fire which damaged Heiser Brothers grocery store and stock. This fire badly hurt the brothers financially but they decided to try again in an empty building on the west side of the street. In 1924 Roy Heiser decided to leave the grocery business. On February 1, 1926 Harvie Ingold became a business partner in the business and they bought the store which is now their present location from Cecil Hedrick.

This year marks the golden anniversary of Heiser and Ingold. They have seen many changes occur in this fifty

year period. In the early 1920's a grocer would order merchandise from salesmen who came to the store. Most of the goods arrived by train. Today groceries are ordered by IBM tape and transmitted by telephone to the warehouse.

In the 1920's a grocer might order a car-load of potatoes or 1/2 carload of flour. Flour came in 48 pound bags. Po-

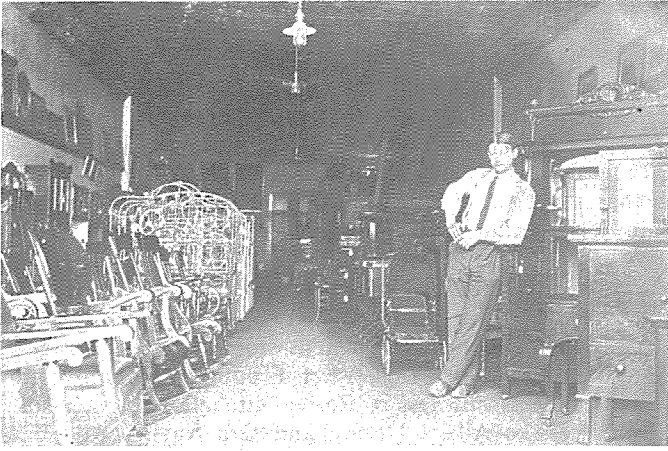


Heiser Brothers Grocery Store was on the east side of Third Street where the Fisher Reporter is today. In the picture taken about 1921 are Jesse and Roy Heiser.



This is the inside of the Heiser and Ingold Store as it looked in late 1940's. In the picture from left to right are Mary Ann Heiser, Mrs. Carl Allen, Jesse Heiser, Dale Ingold, Harvey Ingold, a salesman, Mrs. Floyd Kelly and Milton Kelly.

This page sponsored by
HEISER & INGOLD, Fisher



Homer Bailey in his furniture store where Heiser and Ingold is now.

tatoes, sugar, rice, corn meal, beans and other items came in 100 pound bags.

Coffee came in one hundred pound bags. The coffee beans had to be roasted at the wholesale house; then the coffee was ground at the store for the customer. Tea came in thirty pound chests.

Fifty years ago the grocery stores in Fisher did not sell bread. Many people made their own bread. Robert and Caroline Harder had a bakery store next to Heiser and Ingold. Later bread came by train from a bakery in Arcola.

No soft drinks or ice cream were sold in the grocery store. Ice cream and pop were sold at the restaurants. Charles Kidd had a restaurant which later became the R and B (Redding and Bowley) Cafe. Later the restaurant was run by Bowley alone.

The other restaurant was run by a man named Sample. He sold his restaurant to Hap Barrett, who later sold the restaurant to Shirley Kidd.

Jesse remembers that during the summer, they sold lots of lemons. There was no Kool-Aid and no concentrated lemonade. People made their own lemonade. As the demand for lemons increased, the price of lemons also increased.

At first the grocery store did not sell meat. Schuck's had a butcher shop where fresh meat was sold. Later Harve Studer started a meat department in Charles Webster's store. When Charles went out of business, Harvey Studer moved to Heiser and Ingold's and opened a meat department there.

Fifty years ago there was no soap powders. The grocery store carried P and G, Ivory, Fels Naptha bar soap. Many people made their own soap at this time and lye was a necessary ingredient.

Farmers would bring in butter, eggs and cream to trade for groceries. Grocery stores did not sell fresh milk. Many people had their own cows or they bought milk from a neighbor or friend. The only refrigeration in the store fifty years ago was a large wooden ice box.

Jesse remembers the rows of hitching posts on Front Street near the lumber company and the blacksmith shop. There were also hitching posts on Sangamon Street. There was a watering trough under the band stand for the horses.

Dale Ingold joined the firm in 1948. Today he is the grocery buyer for Heiser and Ingold.



Frank Foster and Oscar Zook had this Ford Agency about 1925. This building is used today by Flo-Con Systems, Inc.

BAKERY SHOPS

About 1915 Shorbs had a bakery and lunchroom. In 1918 the Robert H. Haerdters operated the Fisher Bakery in the building to the south of where Heiser and Ingold is now. The Haerdter family lived where Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Sloat live today. The Haerdters (later spelled Harder) moved to Gibson City in the late 1920's and opened a bakery there.

The Haerdters sold the bakery store in Fisher to Mr. and Mrs. A.A. Smith. In the 1930's the bakery shop was in the Oddfellow's building on the northwest corner of Third and Sangamon Street. Frank Foster had a bread route for the Smith Bakery. Later they sold the bakery to Merle Sheppard.

CREAMERY

In the 1930's Fisher had a creamery. At first the creamery was located where Collins Barber Shop is today. Cream was brought into Fisher and sent by truck to Pioneer Creamery in Champaign. Later the creamery was moved to where Dr. Rohde's office is now. At that time the cream was sent by truck to Sunbeam of Chicago. James Reinhart and R.R. Wilson worked at the creamery.

FURNITURE STORES AND FUNERAL HOMES

A.N. Loveless probably had the first furniture store and undertaking business in Fisher. In 1903 J.C. Wheeler and Leo Kurtz had the furniture store and undertaking business. They were followed by Homer Bailey and later Dan Hazen. About 1915 Bert Chapman and Luther Wade had the furniture store. In the last 1920's Cecil Hedrick had a furniture store.

Mrs. Luther Wade remembers that her husband would buy caskets in Arthur, Illinois. At first embalming was done in the home. Visitations were held at the home of the deceased. A short funeral service was usually conducted at the home prior to the funeral service at the church.

In 1947 the Blairs of Mahomet used the home of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Neal as a funeral home. Now the Blair Funeral Home of Mahomet uses the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ems as a funeral home.

In 1957 Luther Wade used his home on Jackson Street as a funeral home until his death in 1952. Then the Ford-

Baier Funeral Home of Paxton used Mrs. Wade's home as a funeral home until 1969.

Oscar Zook and Frank Foster had a Ford Agency where the Flo-Con building is on Third Street in Fisher about 1920. They sold Allis Chalmers tractors and farm machinery. They also sold the Wood Brothers threshing machines.

In 1932 "Huck" Stuehm rented this building from L.O. Church. He used part of the building as a garage. Mr. Church made the front part of the building into living quarters for the Stuehm family. In 1947 this business was moved south to its present location on Route 136.

In 1947 Central Illinois Tractor and Equipment Company of Springfield, Illinois, a Caterpillar dealership, purchased a building on North Third Street from A.D. Strehm to open a branch in Fisher in order to better service and sell Caterpillar equipment in a 13 county area surrounding Fisher. Families were moved here from Springfield and Peoria and housed in remodeled apartments in the north part of town. Several area men were trained in diesel mechanics and Central Illinois Tractor continued operations here until 1952 when the dealership was sold to Roesch-Zeller Equipment Company.

At this time Earl Shapland, manager of Central Illinois Tractor, left Fisher to form a new company, Henderson Manufacturing Company. This firm began operation on December 15, 1952 in Decatur, Illinois, manufacturing a light weight, aluminum, power lawn mower. Henderson Manufacturing Company manufactured the mower for 2 years in Decatur before moving back to Fisher in 1954 to a building in the main section of town vacated by Williams and Neuman. Henderson continued operating in this building until 1961 when Roesch-Zeller moved their plant to Champaign. Henderson Manufacturing Company was able to obtain this location and expand their operation. Mowers were manufactured at this location and sold nation-wide, along with a lawn renovator manufactured for Scott Seed Company, custom lathe work, Gang-Nail roof trusses and prefabricated apartments and houses until 1968.

In 1968 Henderson Manufacturing Company sold the mower business to a mower manufacturer in St. Paul, Minnesota in order to provide more space for a new product started in 1967, the manufacture of steel teeming valves. The valves, patented and designed by Earl and Jim Shapland are used by steel manufacturers to control the flow of hot molten metal poured from the bottom of a ladle. This method is replacing the old stopper rod method used by steel companies for almost a century.

Henderson Manufacturing Company continued to manufacture the sliding gate valve until December 31, 1970. At this time through licensing arrangements with U.S. Steel Corporation, Henderson Manufacturing Company formed a new company, FLO-CON SYSTEMS, INC. to design, manufacture, install and service sliding gate valves for steel companies in the United States, Canada and South America.

Flo-Con Systems, Inc. continues to use the old Henderson location for a metal fabricating and machine shop. In

March 1974 a new assembly plant and temporary offices were completed on the south edge of town on route 136. At the same time a new assembly plant began operation in Grove City, Penn. Flo-Con Systems, Inc. presently employs approximately 100 people at the Fisher location.

Henderson Manufacturing Company, managed by George and Betty Kiefer, purchased a building at the northeast corner of Third and Sangamon in 1973 from Gale Heiser and continue to do custom lathe production.

IMPLEMENT STORES

Mr. Schenk had an implement store on Front Street a little west of the present Fisher Produce Company. Mr. Schenk sold his business to Ralph Mitchell, who later sold the business to Albert Hamm and Ora Naylor, who had worked for Mr. Mitchell. Hamm and Naylor sold Verlie and Henney buggies, Hayes corn planters, Monitor gas engines and power washers, Avery and Davenport wagons, and a full line of pumps and tanks. While Ora Naylor and Albert Hamm owned the business, the building and all its contents were destroyed by fire.

Then Straut Naylor, Ora Naylor and William Sitts had an implement shop in the southeast corner of the Flo-Con building on Third Street for some time. Later Ora Naylor went into business with John Reardon. They used the building which is now occupied by the Fisher Reporter. They sold farm implements and Chevrolet cars. Later Sherman Merritt had a pool hall at this location. Grover Parker, a friend of Mr. Merritt operated the business for him. After Mr. Merritt's death, his wife operated a pool hall in the small store where the Fisher Flooring is now located.

In the 1930's and early 1940's Elmer Springer had an implement shop on the north side of Front Street. Mr. Springer sold Allis Chalmers farm equipment and maintained a service department. Floyd Birkey worked for Mr. Springer. Later this business was sold to Maurie Schaer.

In 1945 Jim Williams and Ronnie Neumann opened a farm equipment franchise in Fisher. Wilson Eden was their bookkeeper. Jim Williams and Ronnie Neumann rebuilt a 4,500 square foot building which had been gutted by fire in 1944. The building is south of Heiser and Ingold. They used a lot across the street for storage where the Fisher National Bank is now located. Williams and Neuman sold Case farm equipment and maintained a service department. Jim Williams and Ronnie Neumann pooled \$4,000 to begin their business. Shortly after they opened their business, Case went on a strike for eighteen months. When the strike was settled, the business boomed. Williams and Neumann remained in Fisher until 1958 when they opened a new store east of Urbana. In 1963 they became International Harvester dealers.

In 1946 Marvin and Ellis Birkey built Birkey's Service on the lot north of the Fisher Methodist Church. The partnership serviced farm machinery as well as cars and trucks. They continued in this business until 1953 when they took over I H dealership and two new partners, Floyd Birkey and Jack McJilton. A new building was erected on Route 136 across from the Fisher High School and the



Schenk's Implement Building on Front Street. This building burned about 1917.

name of the company was changed to Birkey's Farm Store. The original garage was sold to Gale Heiser. In 1956 this company took over the I H store in Thomasboro in conjunction with the store in Fisher. In 1959 the store was incorporated and both stores combined into one large building on Route 136 west of Rantoul. At the present time there are two stores, one in Paxton and one in Rantoul.

FISHER FARMER'S GRAIN AND COAL CO.

The Fisher Farmer's Elevator Co. was established Jan. 14, 1911 with a capitalization of \$8,000. The first president of the organization was Charles Fairfield.

The original wooden elevator burned in the early 1920's and was replaced in 1923.

In 1939, the company built a new storage bin capable of holding 22,000 bushels of grain and purchased the elevator formerly owned by Mr. Charles E. Gilman.

The J.M. Jones grain elevator in Dewey was purchased by the company in August 1954. Storage space there consisted of two concrete tanks with a total capacity of 45,000 bushels.

In 1961 a 150,000 bushel addition was completed in Fisher, making the company one of the largest in the Midwest, with a total capacity of 545,000 bushels, or close to the equivalent of the entire 1961 Ill. corn crop. This total included the company's elevator and storage facilities at Dickerson and Dewey. At this time there were 103 stockholders and a capitalization of \$40,000.

The Dickerson facility burned in the early spring of 1972 and the original wooden Jones elevator in Dewey burned in Jan. of 1973.

The 1970's have seen several new additions take place at the Dewey site. During the summer of 1972 storage for 600,000 bushels was added, followed by an 800,000 bushel addition in 1973. A dryer capable of handling 2,700 bushels an hour was erected in 1974. In 1975 two bins were built to hold 650,000 bushels.

The first manager of the elevator was Mr. Sperling, followed by Mr. Farlow, W.H. Allen, Harold Steele, Dick Thomas, Richard Borchers, and John Cummings.

This bi-centennial year of 1976 finds the Fisher Farmers' with approximately 700 stockholders, a capital of \$150,000 and storage facilities of 2¾ million bushels. A feed mill and mixing unit are part of the company's operations as well as field seed cleaning. The last three seasons a large percent of the corn shipped out by the company has been done by way of 100 car trains.

LUMBER BUSINESS

According to the *Fisher Reporter* of 1892, F.E. Putnam was a dealer in lumber, lime, cement, etc. Mr. Putnam had bought out J.A. Axtell in 1891. A few years later Will Swayze had the lumber yard. In 1908 Mr. Swayze sold the lumber yard to his brother-in-law, J.E. McJilton, who operated the lumber yard under that name until 1930. Ed McJilton had farmed northeast of Fisher. He was married to Augusta Heyer and they had four children, Alva (who later operated the general store on the northeast corner of Front and Third Street), Elsie (who married Ernest Minks and lives at 203 East Sangamon in Fisher), Leslie (who now lives in Florida) and Hazel McJilton Montgomery of Oak Park, Illinois.



J.E. "Ed" McJilton in 1913 in lumber company office.



J.E. McJilton Lumber Company.

In 1921 a new building was constructed on the same site. After the death of Mr. J.E. McJilton, the name of the lumber yard was changed to McJilton and Son and the lumber yard was operated by Leslie McJilton and his son, Jack, who is now mayor of Rantoul. In 1948 or 1949 the office was enlarged and the show room expanded. In 1951 the lumber company was sold to H.E. Moore of Cham-

paign and he operates the company under the name of Fisher Lumber Company. Lyle Cagle, who had worked for Leslie McJilton for six years is now the manager of this business. Besides Mr. Cagle the company employs Bob Moore, Larry Mines, Lyle Zahnd, and Kay Thomas is employed part time as a bookkeeper.

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FAIR LADY BEAUTY SALON, Champaign
SPRINGER FORD, INC., Rantoul

BIRKEY'S FARM STORES, Rantoul & Paxton
LITTLE'S MEN AND BOYS, Rantoul

ROME'S, McJILTON'S, and UNZICKER'S PLUMBING AND HEATING

George and Ella March operated a general store for Frank B. Venum about 1885. Later they sold their general store to Robert Rome. Robert Rome built a large two story building on the north-east corner of Front and Third Street. In 1919 the building was sold to A.W. McJilton. He and his wife operated a general store at this location until 1924. They sold groceries on the south side of their store and dry goods on the north side. They also sold shoes. Romes had had a millinery department at the front of the store. McJiltons sold out this merchandise and did not continue the millinery department. Mrs. McJilton, who now lives in Champaign, remembers that they were open on Tuesday and Saturday nights until midnight. She remembers that free movies were shown on Saturday night in a vacant lot across from the Methodist Church. People sat on board benches as they watched the silent movies. While McJiltons had the general store, the second floor was used for storage. Later Mr. and Mrs. A.W. McJilton moved to Champaign.

Then Les McJilton used this corner building as a shell box factory. Later silent movies were shown in this building. Ero Hewerdine operated the film projector. When Unzickers bought this building, they used the projection booth as an office.

William Unzicker began the plumbing and heating business in a small building west of the first water tower about 1902. This building has since been torn down. Ores and Jim Unzicker took over their father's business on January 1, 1948. They moved their business to the building where the *Fisher Reporter* is now. This building was too small so they sold the building to Everett Hedrick. He had a TV sales and service shop there. Mr. Hedrick sold Admiral television sets and Melvin Webster did television repair and service work. In the spring of 1949, Ores and Jim bought the McJilton building on the corner of Front and Third Street for their plumbing and heating business. Later Ervin and Jim Unzicker bought out Ores Unzicker and they operated the business. Then Jim Unzicker bought out his brother, Ervin, and operated the business alone until May 1, 1969.

STIGER'S BODY SHOP

Ervin Unzicker sold the Rome building to Robert A. Steiger, who had planned to build a body shop at this location. Mr. Steiger hired Merwyn Stiger to tear down the Rome building and the small buildings to the north of the Rome building. Robert A. Steiger moved to Bloomington and sold the lots on the northeast corner of Front and Third Street to Chester Thompson, who later sold the two lots to Merwyn Stiger in September of 1973. Mr. Stiger built a body shop, construction and real estate office. Mr. Stiger is not a licensed broker. He sells only what he has built or owns.

PLUMBING, HEATING, SHEET METAL AND ELECTRICAL WORK

In 1947 Charles E. Hauersperger had a tin shop in a small barn north of the railroad tracks on Third Street. He did heating and sheet metal work. He also made hog feeders and automatic watering troughs. Then he bought a building on Third Street from Lloyd Drook, who worked on carburetors and fuel pumps. Later Mr. Hauersperger sold the building to Emmet Fairfield. From 1951 until 1960 Charles Hauersperger and Emmet Fairfield did plumbing, heating, sheet metal and electrical work at this location. Emmet Fairfield used part of the building as a warehouse.

In the late 1960's Everett Hedrick tore down this building and built the present Truck Testing Lane. From March 1970 until the present time Orville Schrock has operated the truck testing lane for Mr. Hedrick.

THE FISHER PRODUCE COMPANY

The Fisher Produce Company began in a building on Third Street on the north side of Owl Creek where the Armstrong Ice House was later located. Mr. Frank Hill started the business in 1907 on the site which is now the Daisy Swinford's home. The business grew and later moved to its present location at 202 East Front Street. The first building, on this site was two stories with a basement, and was built in 1920, at which time the business was incorporated. The first principals of the new corporation were Frank Hill, President, Dow B. Hicks, Treasurer and O.L. Gilmore, Secretary. Later Mr. Stanley S. Dreyfus came into the business. The building had cold storage rooms, which were new at that time. This building burned in 1927 and the present building was erected on the same site. The main business of the corporation was dressing and packing poultry and grading and packing eggs. At times as many as 25 people were employed to pick chickens, which at first was done by hand and later by mechanical pickers. The more experienced pickers could pick between 75 and 150 chickens in a day. The eggs and dressed poultry, packed in boxes, were sent by refrigerated cars cooled by ice to Boston, Mass., to the firm of Bolton & Hicks Co., which was owned and operated by three uncles of Roy E. Hicks and later owned entirely by Mr. Dow B. Hicks. The Boston firm had salesmen who sold the eggs and poultry in the Boston area. This being the time before the cars were refrigerated mechanically, the cars were loaded with 4 or 5 tons of ice and salt in Champaign. Stops were made while the cars were in transit to reice and salt in order to keep the poultry and eggs refrigerated until they reached their destination. Some of the early hucksters or buyers for the company were Mr. Bill Potts, Les Hewerdine, M.A. Williams, Elza Roles, Robert "Ren" Wilson, Fern White, Martin Anderson, V.D. "Bun" Foster, and later, Harold "Bus" Hill, Joe King and Charles "Dingbat" Cornell among others. These men bought poultry and eggs

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FISHER PRODUCE CO., INC., Fisher
FISHER LUMBER CO., Fisher

from the farmers for the company. Mr. George Keifer was also a buyer for the company at one time.

In the early thirties, Mr. Frank Hill sold his interest in the business and Mr. Stanley S. Dreyfus of Terre Haute, Indiana took over the management. Mr. Roy E. Hicks came into the business in 1930 and Floyd C. Kelly in 1931.

During the war years, much of the poultry and eggs were diverted to the government, the eggs going to the drying plant in Indianapolis and cars of poultry shipped to Boston would be taken over by the Army and shipped back out to Texas before the cars were unloaded. Mr. Frank Hill, after selling his interest in the company, later moved to Havana, Illinois and engaged in the business of raising turkeys.

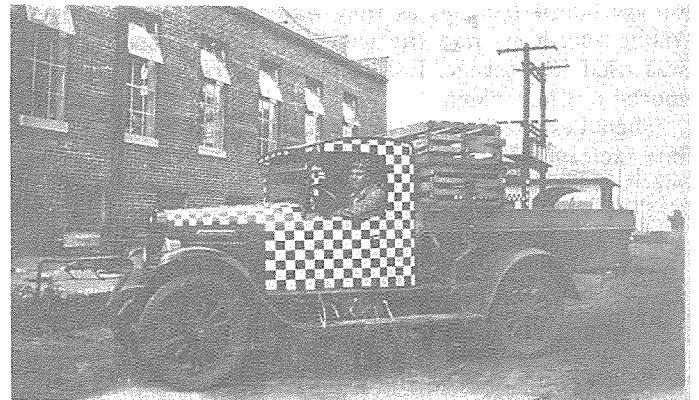
About 1946 or 1947 this company stopped dressing poultry to ship east. There was too much poultry being raised in the Delaware, Maryland and Virginia area and commercial broilers were coming into the picture. Then Mr. Dreyfus and Mr. Dow B. Hicks took over control of the Vigo Poultry Company of Terre Haute, Indiana and Mr. Dreyfus began to devote all his time there. Roy E. Hicks and Floyd C. Kelly took over the management of the Fisher Produce Company and shortly after the passing of Mr. Dow B. Hicks became the owners. The company had now moved into a large scale broiler business and furnished live broilers for a processing plant on a daily basis for a few years. Mr. Michael T. Kelly came into the firm, which had now moved from the broiler business into the milling business and the feed business in a more serious way. Although the company has been a Purina Dealer since 1927, this was the first time that they had gone all out in the feeding of large commercial flocks of turkeys, broilers, hogs, cattle and dairy cows. Later Michael T. Kelly became general manager and Roy E. Hicks continued as office manager and Floyd C. Kelly assumed the management of the contract flock of turkeys, pullets and layers. The company is also involved heavily in the Arthur, Illinois area, having a large warehouse and office space under lease there under the name of Fisher Produce-Arthur Grain Co. Mr. Raymond Rowe of Oakland, a former Purina salesman, is manager of the Arthur area.

The company, which is now owned by Roy E. Hicks, Floyd C. Kelly and Michael T. Kelly, employs Mr. Joe Miller, Mr. George Tomblin, and Mrs. Lynn Estes at the Fisher plant, and now grinds and mixes feed for livestock and poultry for farmers in the Fisher Community and in the Arthur Community as well as furnishing feed for large contract operations in the Danville, Georgetown, Oakwood, Clinton and Wapella areas.

At one time the Fisher Produce Company owned a building on Third Street. This building was located where the north part of Hedrick's Hardware Store is today. The R and B Cafe was in the south part of the Hardware Store. The Produce Company used this building for storage. One afternoon in July of 1944, fire broke out in this building. Firemen from Fisher were assisted by companies from Rantoul, Chanute Field, Gibson City among others but the stubborn blaze fed on the stock of supplies in the building and little was saved from the Produce Building and the R and B Cafe. The Taroff Store next door had some water damage and there was also some damage in the Heiser and Ingold store.



Fisher Produce Building in the 1920's.



Robert "Ren" Wilson about 1929.

RESTAURANTS IN FISHER

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Kidd had one of the first restaurants in Fisher on the west side of Third Street about where the hardware store is now. Ralph Redding and Elza Roles bought the restaurant from Charlie Kidd. Mr. Redding had had a sandwich and coffee shop beside the old telephone office about where Dr. Rohde's office is today. Later Elza Roles went into the restaurant business with Mr. Chapman on the same side of Third Street but farther south about where Minnie's Department Store was located. This second restaurant was later operated by Shirley Kidd and was called Shorty's Cafe.

Wes Bowley had worked for Rome's General Store. Mr. Bowley left Rome's Store and went into business with Ralph Redding. They operated the restaurant together as the R and B Cafe. On January 31, 1929, Ralph Redding became the postmaster. Wes Bowley continued to operate the business. In July of 1944 Wes Bowley's restaurant burned. David Taroff sold his building which was to the south of the restaurant and Wes Bowley moved his restaurant to this location. He continued to operate the restaurant until his health failed. In the spring of 1958, this building was sold to Lela Nelson and she moved Daddy's Pharmacy to this location.

SHORTY'S CAFE

Raymond Kidd and his family came to Fisher in 1923 from Fairmont, Illinois. Raymond Kidd bought out Harry Allen's Harness Shop which was located where the Laundromat is now. Mr. Kidd also repaired shoes. Shirley Kidd opened a restaurant across the street from his father's business. Shirley Kidd and his mother operated the restaurant with help from his two brothers, Roland and Gale. Raymond Kidd continued to run the harness shop until there was no need for his business. Then he went into the restaurant business with his wife and son, Shirley. In 1933 one could buy a special plate lunch for 20 cents. Barbecues were 5 cents and half of a hot beef sandwich was 10 cents at Shorty's Cafe.

FISHER DRUG STORES

In 1903 the drug store in Fisher was owned and operated by O.L. Gilmore. About 1909 or 1910 Walt Carlyle had a drug store where Heiser and Ingold is today for a short time. Frank Baker "Daddy" Means came to Fisher in 1911 and worked as a clerk in the Carlyle Drug Store.

There were 600 people in Fisher at this time. In 1912 Mr. Means opened his own drug store in the building on the west side of Third Street just south of the railroad tracks, where O.L. Gilmore had had a drug store earlier.

Frank B. Means was born on May 28, 1875 at Saybrook, the son of Daniel and Rebecca Means. He graduated from Bradley University as a registered pharmacist in 1896. He married Dora Short on May 3, 1898. Mr. and Mrs. Means moved to Fisher in 1911 from Sheldon, Illinois. For over 40 years he ran the only pharmacy between Gibson City and Rantoul. His slogan was "Daddy Has It" and the traveling salesmen varified it. His customers brought him prescriptions from towns in a 30-mile radius without a doubt but that he could fill them. And he always did.

Just to be sure he had everything and a place to put it, Daddy had his one story shop shelved to the ceiling with a little spiral staircase and a kind of second story landing along each wall. The place was jammed with medicines, but if one asked Mr. Means for some item that would normally be used only once a year he could go directly and unhesitatingly to it. There was no soda fountain in Daddy's Pharmacy but he carried school supplies.



From left to right—Dolph Roles, Wes Bowley, Ralph Redding, Ora King, E.W. Heiser, "Biddie" Bryant, Curtis Underwood, Melvin Ricketts, and Dean Painter. The R&B Cafe, 1926.

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WELLER'S COMMUNITY HOMES, INC., Champaign
BURGER BOY—DAIRY BOY, Rantoul

Mr. Means received his nickname at a band concert given by the Fisher Concert Band of which he was the manager and played the drums. While he and Mrs. Means had lived in Sheldon, they had on several occasions chaperoned a group of young people. The young people had nicknamed Mr. Means, Daddy, and Mrs. Means, Dore. In one town where they were giving a concert, one of the young people from Sheldon saw Mr. Means playing the drums and called out, "Hi, Daddy." Some of the band members heard this and so the nickname stuck.

After William Moore retired from the farm and moved into Fisher, he worked part time in Daddy's Pharmacy. Lela Nelson began working for Mr. Means in 1929. She worked for him for 27 years.

Mr. Means died on April 11, 1956 at his home following a heart attack. Frank B. Means was mayor of Fisher when the water system was completed in 1936. He was a member of the Fisher Masonic Lodge and the Fisher Christian Church. Mrs. Means died March 12, 1970. A daughter, Dorothy Jones, and two grandchildren live in Winterhaven, Florida.

Lela Nelson bought Daddy's Pharmacy in 1956. In the spring of 1958, she bought a building in the next block south from Mr. and Mrs. W.A. Bowley. A.F. Birkey remodeled and modernized the building. In September of

1958, Lela Nelson moved the drug store to the new location. Assisting Miss Nelson in the drug department was Charles Sievers, registered pharmacist. On April 6, 1964, Lela H. Nelson leased the pharmacy to D.C. Gilbert. She continued to operate the cafe and fountain and sell drug sundries. Larry L. Kelly became the new pharmacist at this time. The name of the store was changed to Buck's Pharmacy in December of 1972. Mr. Gilbert operated the drug store until October, 1974. Larry L. Kelly has managed the drug store since that time.

HISTORY OF FISHER ENGINEERING COMPANY

In May, 1968, Jack C. Spitz and Denis L. Bowsher legally formed a partnership and founded Fisher Engineering Company. It was originally housed in a small converted poultry building at Bowsher's, ½ mile east of Fisher on Route 136.

In the beginning, it was a second job for both men with the hope that it would eventually become a full-time operation. They worked nights and Saturdays.

At the time Magnavox was located in Champaign-Urbana, Jack Spitz was employed by them. It was learned that Magnavox was in need of specialized, one-of-a-kind machines for their operation. Fisher Engineering bid for



Frank B. Means and Walt Carlyle in front of the Carlyle Drug Store on Third Street where Heiser and Ingold Store is today. This picture was taken in 1911.

and received the purchase order for several of these machines. They also made other small parts for Magnavox.

After Magnavox closed the Champaign-Urbana plant, Fisher Engineering entered a state of limbo. For a time, the dream of both men seemed about to die. Then in April of 1971, they made a few parts for another young company with a dream. It was the Vetter Fairing Company. Vetter perfected a frame-mounted windshield for motorcycles called the Windjammer. Fisher Engineering was manufacturing the metal brackets that attach the fairing to the motorcycle frame. As Vetter grew, so did their purchase orders to Fisher Engineering.

The partners were finding it necessary to hire outside help to fill the orders. By fall of 1972, both men had quit their jobs and were working full time for Fisher Engineering. Jack, as chief engineer, was in charge of tooling, while Denny was in charge of production. With the aid of several part-time employees, they were able to meet Vetter's orders. 4,610 units were produced in 1972.

The need to incorporate was growing, so on November 1, 1973, Fisher Engineering legally became a corporation. By now six people were employed full time and three part time. They were producing 22 different kinds of frames for Vetter. In 1973 they produced a total of 14,575 frames.

The business began to outgrow the building. Early in 1974, Jack purchased the Maurice Schaer implement building in down-town Fisher and moved his part of the business to that location.

By summer, 1974, Fisher Engineering was employing eleven full time people and six part time. They were manufacturing 4,000 frames a month. Space continued to be a problem. Denny began renovating the 250-foot building on his property to be the future home of production for Fisher Engineering.

The corporation produced 34,470 frames in 1974. During this year, the tooling part of the company in the downtown location made the prototype side car frames. They also made tooling for Vetter's Windjammer bracket for the big Harley Electra.

In January, 1975, Fisher Engineering moved into the large building on the Bowsher property. By this time, 32 different kinds of frames were being made. In early spring, Honda Motorcycle Company commissioned Vetter Fairing Company to make the tooling necessary to manufacture a fairing and mounting bracket of Honda's own design. Fisher Engineering was granted the purchase order for the tooling and production. Jack Spitz began work on tooling at his building. After completing the tooling for the new Honda line, Honda put a hold on production as of October, 1975. However, the demand for the Windjammer kept the Bowsher building in full production.

Jack Spitz moved from the downtown location to the building across from the high school in July, 1975. The function of this building is tooling, design and general machine shop work.

At present, Fisher Engineering employs 15 full time people and 4 part time. In 1975 they produced 50,000 frames. Due to some technicalities, the name of the

corporation will soon be changed to Fisher Metals, Incorporated.

The company can best be described as a fabricating machine shop with the capabilities of building tools, dies, jigs, fixtures, experimental prototypes and some product design. In the past, the main business has been with Vetter Fairing Company. But the partners have an eye for the future, with hopes of expanding their business.

T.E. DALE BUILDING

Tommy Dale had a livery stable on Front Street just west of the city building. Later Tommy Dale tore down the large barn and built another building in its place. The Fisher Motor Company occupied this building for a while. It was operated by Thomas O'Hare and later by Harold Behrens. Charlie Cook also used the building for a time as a truck garage. Then later Springer Implement Company was located in the T.E. Dale building.

LANE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

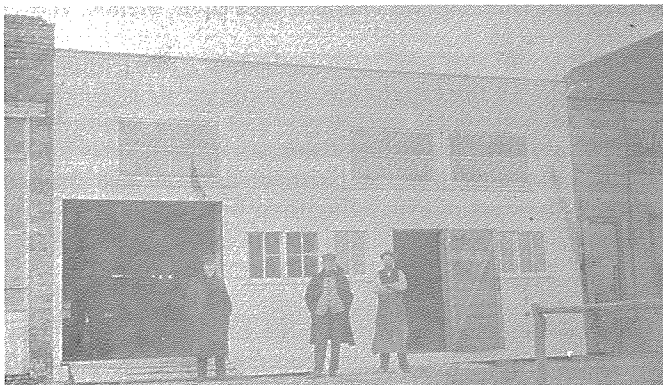
Thomas J. Lane came to Fisher in 1912. He built a blacksmith shop on Front Street where the small telephone service building is now. He was a blacksmith at this location until his health failed about 1919. His brother, Ed, came to Fisher and operated the blacksmith shop for him. In 1921 the building was sold to Charles Fairfield and Ed Lane rented the building and continued to operate the blacksmith shop. Inez Rice is the daughter of Thomas J. Lane.

NEWTON ROLES AND WALTER SMITH

Newton Roles had a blacksmith shop on Front Street next to Emmet Fairfield's Plumbing and Heating Shop. In the 1940's Walt Smith owned and operated the blacksmith shop. Later he added a wrecker service in the west part of the blacksmith shop. When Walt Smith died, his son, Ted Smith, took over his father's business and operated the blacksmith shop until 1968 when he moved to Arizona. Ted Smith sold the building to Keith Dohleman. Mr. Dohleman has a job in Urbana and does "part-time" welding.

Mr. Lyman Whitaker and his family moved from the Saybrook-Arrowsmith area to a farm 1½ miles southeast of Fisher in March of 1913. Two years later the family moved to Fisher and Mr. Whitaker began his draying business. Whit, as he was fondly called, used a wagon and horses for his work. He hauled freight from the depot to the different business houses on Third Street. For thirty years he did mowing for the State of Illinois Highway Department using a mowing machine pulled by a team of horses.

A very familiar scene in town was to see Whit driving down the street with his wagon loaded with Fisher children. During the years when the main source of heat was coal stoves and furnaces, Mr. Whitaker hauled coal to



Newton Roles' Blacksmith Shop. From left to right: Van Stuckey in long coat, L.D. Roles, Newton Roles with blacksmith apron.

homes and business places. Children would stop their play at recess when Mr. Whitaker arrived at school with a load of coal, to look at the horses and watch the coal slide down the chute into the coal room.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker were the parents of 11 children, eight of whom survive. There are four still living in Fisher, Francis Whitaker, Gladys Larson, Dorothy Birkey and Lucille Sheppard. The other children are Velda Kattner, Nawley, Penn.; Jim Whitaker, Memphis, Tenn.; Robert Whitaker, Rantoul and Wayne Whitaker of Bayles Lake, Loda.

Mrs. Whitaker died in March, 1956 and Mr. Whitaker in March of 1967.

OYER TRUCKING SERVICE

In 1936 Elmer J. Oyer was employed by Jess Naffziger of Foosland who was in the trucking business. Mr. Oyer bought Jess Naffziger's truck and business in 1938. At that time they hauled mostly livestock and coal. In the next few years, Mr. Oyer added other farm commodities to his trucking business. He hauled limestone, fertilizer, eggs, grain and feed. He also hauled groceries for the Royal Blue Stores in Onarga, Gibson City, Paxton, Rantoul and Shuck's Store in Fisher. In 1938 the livestock was hauled to the Union Stockyards in Chicago, with some going to Peoria and Indianapolis.

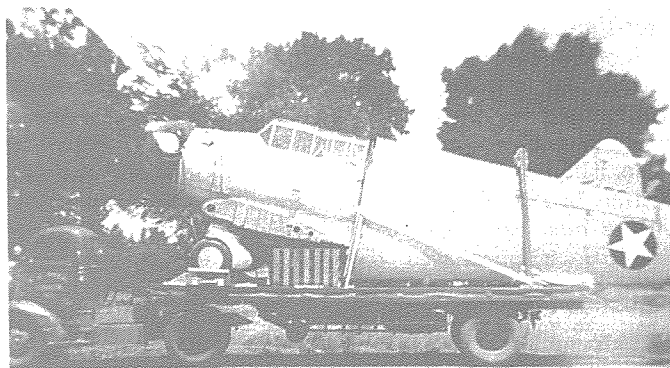
In 1943 he hauled two airplanes. The government donated them to colleges. The planes were loaded at Chanute Field. One plane was taken to Kalamazoo, Michigan and the other to Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In 1941 Elmer Oyer bought the freight hauling business from Manefee Transfer Company and delivered freight in Rantoul and Chanute Field. He continued this hauling until 1962 when the Illinois Central Railroad quit the freight business.

Mr. Oyer also shipped corn cobs out of Fisher to Memphis Tenn. for the Quaker Oats Company. In 1959 he sold this business to Charles Goins of Gibson City.



Lyman Whitaker with his team and wagon.



Elmer J. Oyer hauling a plane from Chanute Field, Rantoul in 1943.

At one time he employed four men and his equipment at that time was 4 tractors, 5 stock trailers and a van. He also had 2 straight trucks and a limestone spreader.

In the last five years more farmers have been going into grain farming so there is less livestock hauling. Mr. Oyer does most of the hauling now himself. At the present time he has 1 tractor, 2 livestock trailers and a van. Most of the cattle go to Joliet and some to Peoria and Indianapolis, Indiana. The hogs are usually hauled to local markets in Forrest, Gibson City and Farmer City. Grain and feed are also hauled by Mr. Oyer.

CHARLES E. COOK, TRUCKING

Charles E. Cook began his trucking business by hauling milk from the Fisher area to Pioneer Creamery Co. in Champaign in 1925. As a side line at that time he bought and butchered beef and pork and sold it to regular customers.

In 1928 he moved from rural Mahomet to Fisher, where he continued in the trucking business. He hauled livestock for the Champaign County Livestock Association for several years, prior to 1942, when he again did private trucking. He hauled grain and coal, and operated an ice delivery business.

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OYER TRUCKING SERVICE, Fisher
SERVICEMASTER PROFESSIONAL CLEANERS, Rantoul

SULLIVAN CHEVROLET CO., Champaign
BANK OF ILLINOIS, Champaign

In 1942 he operated three trucks and a pick up, hauling coal from mines in southern Illinois and Indiana. He also moved other merchandise from Kentucky, Indiana and Wisconsin on a permit, often referred to as the granddaddy permit which is still in use.

He had a franchise with Economy Buildings and sold and moved Economy Cabins for some time. He continued to haul grain for local farmers until 1967 when his health failed.

His truck permit has been made into a corporation and is operated as Cook Transports out of Paxton and may be seen across the United States. His son James R. Cook, who drove for his father, purchased the truck delivery in 1958 operated by Herman Adams of Fisher for many years. His delivery service was for Eisner Grocery Company in Champaign. He continued this work until 1963 when the work was discontinued. He operated on a truck permit now in a lease contract. He sold his 1949 Dodge truck to Delmar Crooks, Fisher, who has had it restored and is still using it for hauling grain.

THE M.P. SCHAEER BUSINESS IN FISHER

In 1938, M.P. Schaer moved to the old Valentine Birkey farm, ¼ mile north of the Mennonite church, after having farmed the Chris Good farm for four years, and started in the livestock trucking business in the community, known as "Schaer's Service." In 1939, he moved the business into Fisher where he continued this service for eleven years. During this time he widened the service to hauling of coal, groceries, steel, freight, and spreading of limestone on the farms in the community.

During World War II, he also hauled 5' shell boxes for the United States Navy, which were manufactured by the McJilton Lumber Co. in Fisher. One load a day went to Decatur, with two loads a day, going two days a week, and two loads per month were hauled to Kalamazoo, Michigan. Three to four loads a week were also hauled from Bloomington, Illinois to Hammond, Indiana. These boxes were manufactured by the Kuhne-Simmons Corporation of Rantoul, Illinois. It required three tractors, five semi-trailers, two straight trucks, and 6 or 7 drivers to keep all trucks at the right place at the right time. During the war, Mr. Schaer also sat up a small stock yards at the north edge of Fisher, buying hogs for Eastern Packers, thus giving Fisher its first and only local hog market.

In 1962, Mr. Shaer sold out the trucking business and moved back to the farm. In 1962, he returned to Fisher and bought the Springer Implement Company located on Front Street and operated it for twelve years, discontinuing it in 1974. He handled several lines of farm machinery, plus parts and operated a general farm repair business.

In 1974 Mr. Schaer sold his building in Fisher to Jack Spitz, who used the building as part of the Fisher Engineering Company. In 1975 Jack Spitz moved into a larger building on Route 136 north of Fisher High School. Mr. Spitz sold the building on Front Street to Alfred Siewert and he uses the building for storage.

BARBER SHOPS

In 1916 Millard E. Neal came to Fisher to open a new barber shop. His brother Ernest joined him and they operated a two chair shop.

Jim Ballew and Bill Gardner had their shops but their equipment and style services were not modern at that time.

Mr. Neal recalled that it was 1914 when he rode his horse to meet the train which took him to Bloomington to write the State of Illinois exam qualifying him with a license to barber. He had worked several years prior as an apprentice so now he was ready to operate on his own.

His first shop was in the building north of the Rome store and he soon moved to the location south of the Post Office; now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Larson.

Mr. Neal's pride was in a well kept shop and his interest in the latest styles and supplies. He went to Beauty School in 1930 and won his license as a hair stylist and not only gave permanents to the Fisher ladies but was available for appointments in a shop in Saybrook and one in Rantoul.

Walter and Richard Dutton worked in the barber shop for Mr. Neal in the 1930's. His son Melvin joined him for a short time; coming from a shop in Decatur where he had attended barbering school.

In 1936 Mrs. Grace Neal got her license from beauty school and she worked in the shop evenings, weekends and during the summer months when school was over. She got started by helping Mr. Neal evenings since he didn't feel it "gentlemanly" to be in the shop alone with a lady customer.

Around 1944 the Neals bought the building formerly occupied by Dr. Troyer. Bert Lake worked for him at this time. In 1946 Mrs. Neal joined the shop full time.

In 1950 the Neals built a new home in the south part of Fisher and opened their shops again in the basement of their new residence.

In 1971 Mr. Neal had an operation and later broke his arm so his career came to an end when he was eighty-seven years young.

In 1974 Mrs. Neal decided to close her shop after giving Mrs. Dora Hoffmann a permanent. She was ending her career at the young age of eighty-four.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Neal enjoyed recalling the years they had spent in the barber and beauty shops and remarked that great progress has come about during a span of nearly sixty years.

Paul Barker came to Fisher about 1934. He rented a building from Mr. Merrifield and opened a barber shop where Dr. Rohde is now. Later Mr. Barker bought the building where Dr. R.P. Dowd had had his office and had a barber shop there until 1958. Then he leased the building to Gus Staley of Champaign. Paul "Deke" Barker continued to do some barbering in the afternoons and evenings for some time.

In January 1966 Kenny Collins started a barber shop in a little two room building near the grade school on the northwest corner of Second and Park Street, working in the evenings. (This building has since been torn down.) In March of 1966 he rented the barber shop from "Deke" Barker. William "Wes" Burgess worked with Mr. Collins for a year before going into business in Rantoul. The barber shop is closed on Sunday and Monday. It is open on Wednesday night. Kenny's brother, John, helps him in the shop on Wednesday evenings.

BEAUTY SHOPS

Several beauty shops have operated in Fisher, especially since 1940. One of the first was the beauty shop of Keith

Smith. Marjorie J. Murray started the Kurl Shop in her home on April 18, 1946. Blairs of Mahomet bought the shop owned by the Neals and started a beauty shop on November 10, 1947. This building is now the Laundromat.

Myrna May changed the building where Daddy Means Drug Store had been into a beauty shop. She called her shop Tawyna's. Wendy Shreve also worked in this building before opening her own shop near her own home on Jackson Street. Darlene Zehr has a beauty shop at this location now.

Later Mathews of Champaign operated the beauty shop on Third Street. Then Florine Berkhart operated the business as Fisher Fair Lady at 101 North Fourth Street. The present owner is Joanne Garth.

Vi Chandler, Doris Schroyer, Donna Gilmore and Connie Burgess have beauty shops in their homes. Mrs. Pam Christians, who lives on Route 136 about 6 miles west of Fisher has a beauty shop behind her home.

STANDARD STATION AND COZY CORNER

The first gas station on the northwest corner of Third and Division Street was a small wooden structure. Mr. Houser, who came from Indiana, was the first to operate this station. He was followed by Harold Smith. While Harold Smith operated the Standard Service Station, his wife, Stella, and her sister managed the small restaurant, Cozy Corner. Later her mother-in-law took over the restaurant.

Later Fred Tatman had the station. When he left, Henry Christensen took over the gas station. He was followed by Don Horsch and then Bob McClure. While Joe Wilson had the gas station, the old building was torn down and a new and larger station was built by Standard. John Barrett had the station from September 21, 1959 until April 7, 1975. Tom Hedrick is the present operator of the Standard Service Station.

The Cozy Corner was managed by William P. Peterson in the early 1940's. Mrs. Henry Christensen had the restaurant in the late 1940's. Then Mr. and Mrs. Henry Armstrong operated the restaurant until 1954. Mr. and Mrs. George Panattoni operated a restaurant in the old building from 1954 until 1958. When Standard Oil built the new station, they did not rebuild the restaurant. Mr. Panattoni bought a lot from Alton Zehr and a new Cozy Corner was built by George Panattoni with the help of Bill Gossard, Herb Kersey and Alton Zehr. The restaurant was opened in 1959 and the Panattonis operated the Cozy Corner until 1970. They rented the building to Mrs. Orval Boyd for 2 years. The building was sold to Peter Delmonaco in 1974. At the present time he has rented the building to Mary Hughes.

The A and E Motel was built about 1960 by Mr. and Mrs. Alton Zehr. They are still the owners and operators of Fisher's only motel.

Fred Goldsmith was the first operator of the bulk gas plant for Standard. Mr. Goldsmith had a horse drawn tank wagon. He was followed by a Mr. Jones and later Straut Naylor. William Nelis was also a bulk gas plant

operator for a short time. On March 15, 1925, E.W. Heiser took over the operation of a bulk gas plant. He continued in this business until 1961 when he turned the business over to his son, Gale. The Standard Bulk Gas Office is on the northwest corner of Third and Front Street. The bulk plant is located north of the Prairie Wind Stables.

DEEP ROCK STATION

One of the first gas stations in Fisher was a Deep Rock station located on Third Street south of the Fisher Methodist Church. The station, which had a stucco exterior, was owned and operated by A.K. Wyatt, who with his family lived in the house that stood at the northeast corner of Randolph and Third Street. In the late 1940's the station had been changed into a small home and Mrs. Stucker lived there.

PRAIRIE WIND STABLES

In December 1969, Golden Miss Stables began operation in boarding horses, training them and also having horse shows. In March of 1975 the name was changed to Prairie Wind Stables. It is run by Dr. Mike Bently and his wife, Mindy. Dr. Bently is a veterinarian at the Illinois Equine Center in Farmer City, Illinois. The stable trains hunters and jumpers as well as boarding and exercising horses. Hunter and jumper clinics will be held by a professional trainer. He will be demonstrating procedures. The stable will no longer be having horse shows.

Peggy Heiser gives Western Pleasure riding lessons. The stable is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gale Heiser.

GULF STATION AND HOBBS USED CAR LOT

The Gulf Station on the northwest corner of Division and First Street was built by Stewart Oil Company of Champaign. Everett Hedrick opened the station in 1959 and operated the station until 1962. Then Floyd "Pee Wee" Fink operated the station for less than a year. Gene Welborn had the station from 1963 until 1967. Lynden Estes took over the station in 1967 and operated the station until it was closed in 1973. For a while the building sat empty until Jim Hobbs and Frank Taylor started a used car lot at this location in March of 1975. Jim Hobbs bought out Mr. Taylor in January 1976 and he and his wife operate the used car lot at the present time.

HOBBS T V

Hobbs TV is located at 301 North First Street. Dale Hobbs started this business in February of 1972 as a TV repair service. Then in December of 1974, he added the sale of television sets to his business. Mr. Hobbs sells RCA, Zenith and Sanyo television sets. Danny and Don Hobbs and Terry Henshaw work for Dale Hobbs.

ESTES GARAGE

Wayne Zehr built the house and garage on the northwest corner of Division and Fifth Street about 1947. He used the small building on the corner as an auto body shop. In 1952 Frank Reber bought the house and garage. He did not use the garage as a business place. Then for a short time Wilbur Davis manufactured an automatic adjustable wrench in the garage building. Later Jack Morgan had a garage business at this location for about two years. He was followed by Merwyn Stiger who had a garage business and a real estate office in the garage. On June 1, 1973 Lynden Estes bought the garage and house at 200 and 202 West Division. He operates the garage at the present time. He provides radiator and gas tank repair, air conditioning service, tune-ups, engine overhaul, gas and electric welding, small engine and lawn-mower repair.

BRAKE'S WELL SERVICE

Raymond K. Brake went to work at the age of 16 in the oil wells of Chautauqua, Kansas. He worked first for the Prairie Oil and Gas Co. and later for the Sinclair Co. He moved to Eldorado, Kansas and worked many years for Cities Service before moving to Centralia in 1942. When he began work in southern Kansas, Mr. Brake used horses, wagon and a pole. From this he went to tractor and then to modern day equipment. What took all day to do, can now be done in 15 minutes.

Raymond K. Brake and his wife, Leita, moved to Fisher in 1970 after having lived for 4 years near Mahomet. They are the parents of four sons — Kenneth, Leonard, Harold and Edward. All four sons have worked with the company. Leonard left the company in 1963 and lives in Hoffman, Illinois. Harold left in 1975 and lives in Odin, Illinois.

In 1943 the Raymond K. Brake Well Service started in the oil well servicing business at Centralia, Illinois. In 1958 they began working for gas storage companies along with the oil well servicing. In branching out into the gas well servicing, the need to find a central area became expedient. The shop for the company moved to Third and Sangamon in April 1966. Kenneth and Edward Brake moved their families to Fisher in June 1966. The office for the company was moved to Fisher in August of 1968 along with the families of Herbert Helpingstine and Joe D. Greer. Harold Brake moved his family to Gibson City in June 1968 and then to Fisher in 1971. The shop was moved to 309 North Third in 1973 and the office to its present location at Third and Front Street. Mr. Brake now has 3 grandsons working with the company — Terry, Wayne and Philip Brake.

This company does repair and maintenance work on gas storage wells in the area of Fisher, Bloomington, Lexington, Hudson, Pontiac, Streator, Mendota, Herscher, Arcola, St. Elmo, Media, Sparta, Waverly, Tuscola, Hillsboro and Lincoln, Illinois. They also work in Montezuma, Indiana, Florissant, Missouri and Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Raymond Brake has retired and his sons have taken over the business. Mr. Brake does some farming and a little gardening.

CO-OP LOCKER SERVICE COMPANY

In 1944, the Co-op Locker Service, an affiliate of the Farm Bureau Company, purchased the building at 120 S. Third Street and built onto the south side. In November of 1944 they opened for business. This company did farm slaughtering, complete processing such as cutting, wrapping, and freezing all types of meats, vegetables and fruits. They also cured and smoked all types of meats such as bacon, hams, pork loins, beef bacon, turkey, etc. Another service offered was locker rental and storage.

Due to the change to larger and less farms, the locker plant was closed in 1972. In September of 1974 the building was reopened as the Village Coffee Shop. It offered sandwiches and fountain service. This business closed on the last day of June 1975. During the summer of 1976 this building will be used as the hospitality center of the Fisher Centennial.

FISHER FLOORING

Wes and Ginny Oyer opened their store February 1, 1975. When they started their business, they sold carpeting and vinyl flooring. They also had draperies, kitchen cabinets and vanities.

They have expanded since opening. They now carry C.B. Radios and equipment, wallpaper, cleaning products, ceramic tile, counter tops (formica and cultured marble), smoke detectors, Corning counter savers (portable and built-in), Corning stoves, and fire places in addition to merchandise the store sold when it first opened.

Wes and Ginny are planning more expansion in the future. They will also be moving to a new location soon.

FACTORY FABRICS

The Factory Fabrics opened for business in the basement of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Don Wilkin in October of 1972. After experiencing a rapid growth, the business was moved to the northeast corner of Third Street and Route 136, the former location of the Dog and Suds Drive-In Restaurant. The building was torn down and a new building was erected. As the business draws many out-of-town people the new location was easier to find. Much needed space was added as sewing classes were offered by Mrs. Edith Greer. Custom pattern making is also offered by Renate Tesrow. This unique service has helped to increase interest of many out-of-town people.

DAN TEUSCHER'S EGG BUSINESS

Dan Teuscher built the cage laying house in 1963. The Honegger house, which holds from 10,000 to 12,000 birds, is a 32 ft. by 310 ft. structure. It has an all automatic

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LYN ESTES GARAGE, Fisher

RAYMOND K. BRAKE WELL SERVICE, Fisher

FACTORY FABRICS, Fisher

FISHER FLOORING, Fisher

watering and feeding system, and also automatic egg gathering belts. Water is added to the dropping pits and is cleaned each day with a special made pit cleaner. All manure is hauled out in liquid form.

Several years later Mr. Teuscher built a Mix Mill feed mill and he grinds all the feed used. Most eggs are sold wholesale to the Walker Egg Co. in Gilman. However, quite a number are sold to local customers.

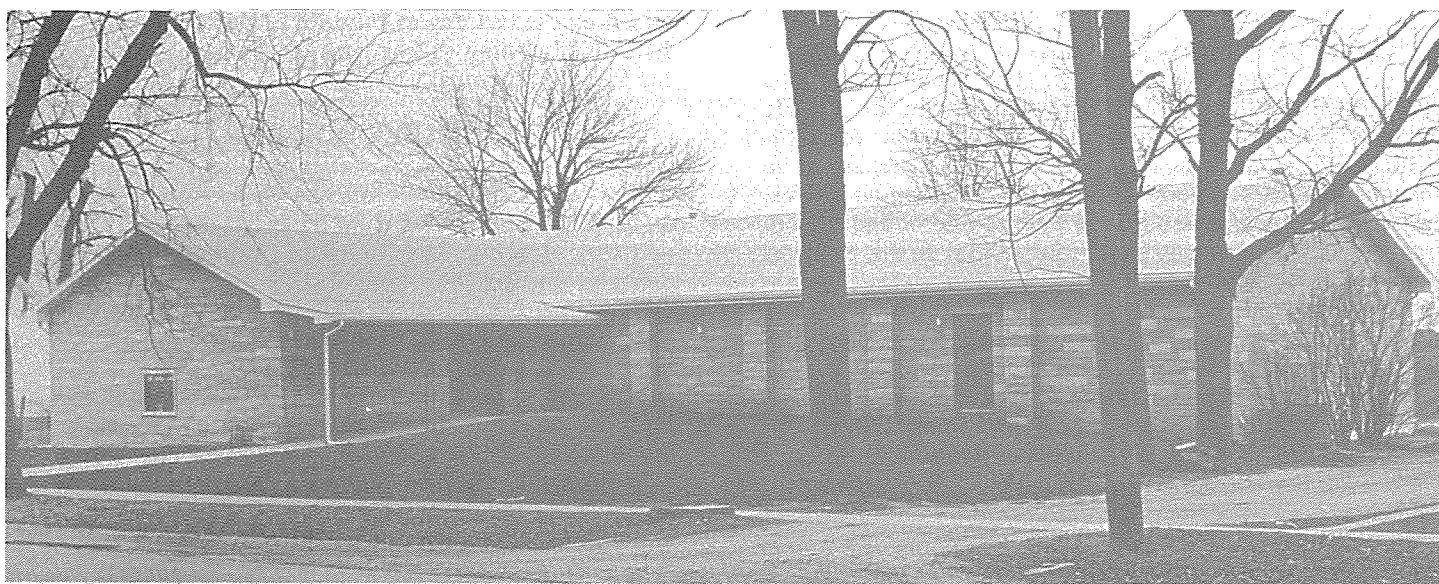
CHUCK'S FLOWER AND GARDEN CENTER

Charles Teuscher started his business in the spring of 1969 on a part time basis while employed in the greenhouses at the University of Illinois. Chuck worked in the

Ornamental Horticulture Department for approximately nine years serving as a foreman of the greenhouses the last few years he was at the University. In 1969 he began with one small plastic greenhouse. The following year he built another plastic greenhouse. In 1972 he completed construction on two glass greenhouses, and then he resigned his job at the University of Illinois to go into the business full time. Since 1972 he has added two more glass greenhouses of the same size.

He initially started growing annual bedding and vegetable plants but has since expanded into tropical and potted plants, such as lilies, poinsettias, chrysanthemums, gloxinias, azaleas, etc. At the present time a large percentage of the potted plants are sold wholesale to florists in the surrounding area.

CHURCHES IN FISHER



First Baptist Church of Fisher in 1970.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

During the early spring of 1957, the Immanuel Baptist Church of Rantoul under the guidance of their pastor, Rev. A.P. Hamrick, conducted a religious census of the Fisher community. The result of this census revealed enough prospects to start a Baptist work. First meeting for worship and fellowship was June 13, 1957. After a few meetings in the homes and a tent revival, it was decided to start a mission with meetings held at the City Hall. Immanuel Church of Rantoul was the sponsor of the Mission. A house and lot was purchased at 309 North Third on May 30, 1958. Meetings were then held in this house. The mission was organized into a church in 1958 with 25 charter members.

The church continued to grow and in the summer of 1959 a building 26 by 48 feet was constructed for use as an auditorium. The house was still used as Sunday School class rooms. Money for construction was raised through the selling of church bonds. About 1960 a building fund was started. The church began to decline in 1966 and

1967. The church was without a pastor most of the time in 1968. A.P. Hamrick served as interim pastor in 1968. In 1968 the Cragar family moved to Bellflower, Illinois, where Mr. Cragar was fifth grade teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Cragar joined the First Baptist Church in August of 1968. Mr. Cragar was also a Baptist minister. In February of 1969 he became pastor of the church. In 1969 the auditorium was paneled, 18 new pews were bought and two classrooms were added inside the auditorium.

In 1970 the house was torn down and construction was begun on a new auditorium. The old auditorium was made into four class rooms and an entrance way. The new Baptist Church has 5,488 square feet of floor space, consisting of an auditorium, office-library, rest rooms, pastor's study and full basement. Indiana split stone was used on the exterior. The cost of the structure was \$60,000 with \$10,000 worth of volunteer labor, trucks, machines, etc.

In May of 1971 several members retired from the Air Force and moved from the community. In March of 1971 the Sunday School average went to a high of 90. By June of 1971 the average Sunday School attendance had dropped

to 66. By October 1972 the Sunday School average had dropped to 50 and it has not been over 50 since that time. Rev. Cragar left the church in February of 1974. Rev. E.R. Justice became pastor of the church in May of 1974. Rev. and Mrs. Justice live at 7 Green Street in Fisher.

This church started with 25 members. Four families remain from the charter membership. The members hope that their church will again experience a steady growth.

FISHER CHURCH OF CHRIST

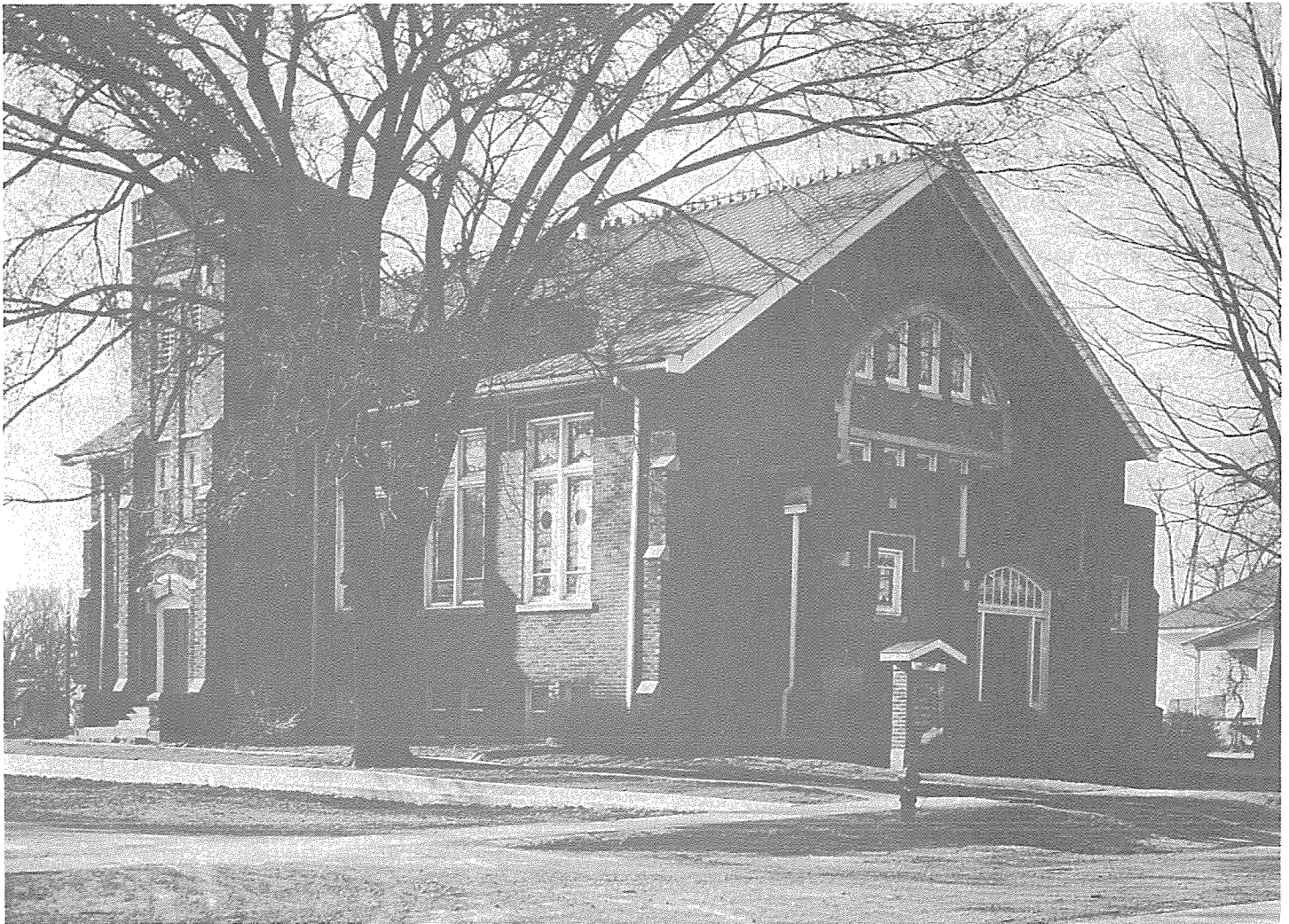
Early in the 1870's groups of people were meeting at various places in this part of the county. Preaching was held at intervals at the Independent school house and later at the Allison school house. From these groups and under the leadership of Evangelist H.C. Castle of Boswell, Indiana, a temporary organization was formed at Fisher on October 25, 1885. For this congregation, Jacob H. Judy

was appointed an elder and M.L. Teach and F.B. Venum were appointed deacons.

On January 1, 1886, Elder A.G. Hubbard of Boswell, Indiana, was secured as "teacher" and a permanent organization was formed on March 1, 1886. To lead this organization J.H. Judy and F.B. Venum were appointed elders and George Hazen, William Morgan, M.L. Teach and George Lamb as deacons.

In a short time the growth and success of the church demanded a permanent church home, and J.W. Richmond gave two lots where a church building was completed and dedicated about 1888. The building committee was Jacob Judy, William Allison and William Morgan. The church continued to grow under the ministry of E.C. Stark and a new six-room parsonage was built on the lot adjoining the church building.

In 1903 the church building was found to be inadequate to meet the needs of the congregation and therefore it was



The Fisher Church of Christ was built in 1917.

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LUX MEMORIAL CHAPEL, Rantoul
SHAW READY MIX CO., Rantoul

remodeled. The parsonage was also remodeled into a comfortable nine-room home.

In January, 1917, property was bought for a new building for \$3,500. A building committee made up of Charles Fairfield, Charles Gilmore, Andrew Scott, Joe Evans, and George Jones, was appointed January 28, 1917. During the summer a beautiful brick veneer modern building was built. It was dedicated on December 2 of the year. The church and lot cost about \$20,500.

The parsonage, which stood on the lot adjoining the old church building, burned during the morning service on a Sunday morning in late 1923. The present parsonage, which is to the south of the present church building, was purchased in early 1924.

On March 1, 1936 the Golden Jubilee Anniversary celebration was held under the leadership of a committee made up of: O.E. Richardson, minister-chairman, Miss Effie Evans, Mrs. Glade Sunderland, Mrs. Glen McNeely, O.B. McEldowney, Mrs. Charles Fairfield, Mrs. J.E. McJilton, Mrs. Emma Bryan, Roy Fairfield, and J.E. McJilton.

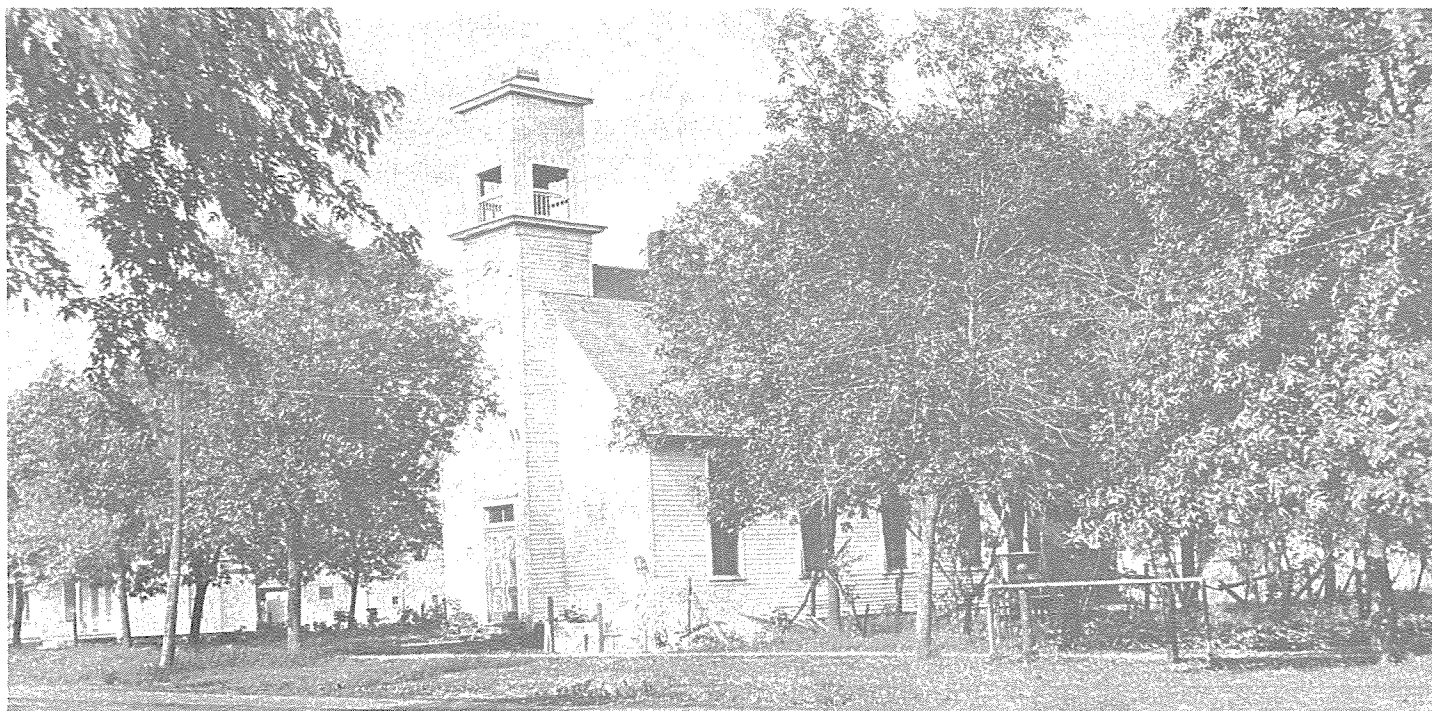
In January, 1961, a program of remodeling and redecoration was begun. The program included the provision of three new class rooms on the second floor which can be opened up into the auditorium for overflow seating when necessary. Partitions and folding doors were placed in the north room of the basement providing three class rooms there also. The entire building was redecorated. The cost of this program was about \$6,000.

The present minister of the Fisher Church of Christ is David Beavers. He assumed his duties at this church on February 22, 1976. Rev. Beavers is a native of Mattoon, Illinois, and is a graduate of St. Louis Christian College.

He has ministered for over 16 years in Illinois, Georgia and Florida. Mrs. Barbara Beavers is a native of Ft. Myers, Florida. The couple have four children — Chris, Lorna, Tara and Cara — all living at home. The Beavers family have lived in Florida for the past seven and a half years.

THE UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH

The United Brethren Church was organized at the residence of Rev. David Naylor, two miles west of Fisher, in 1867, by Rev. William Ferguson, of the Central Illinois Conference. In the year following, a school house was built in the neighborhood and regular services were held in it until 1875, when the first house of worship was erected and dedicated by Lyman Chittendon, of Westfield, Illinois. This church was known as the Otterbein or Naylor church. Services were held regularly in the Otterbein church until the erection of a Brethren church in Fisher, when, owing to their close proximity, services were finally discontinued at the former church. IN 1890 under the supervision of Rev. S.H. Welch the church at Fisher was sold and the Otterbein church moved to town, being placed on the north side of the railroad on lots donated by David Naylor. The church was thoroughly repaired, papered and painted. It was then dedicated by Bishop Castle, and occupied by the society until 1914, when a modern structure was erected on the site of the old church. The new church building was dedicated by Bishop H.H. Fout under the pastorate of T.H. Decker. Meetings were discontinued in 1934 and the church building was sold and moved to Bloomington where it was used as a girls' dormitory. The members of the congregation either joined the Fisher Methodist Church or the Fisher Church of Christ.



The Otterbein Church which was moved from the southwest corner of the intersection of Route 136 and Route 47 into Fisher in 1890.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodist Episcopal Church members held church in the Busey School house located one mile south of Darrel Cox's present home until 1870. At that time a very small Methodist church was built one-half mile south of here on the first acre of Newcomb township. It was Newcomb Society and was a part of the Mahomet circuit. Rev. M.D. Hawes was the minister in charge and T.I. Coultas was junior minister.

At that time the territory of the circuit extended as far north as Gibson City and northwest as far as Ludlow. The first pastor of the Newcomb circuit was a young man from Switzerland, Melchoir Auer, a graduate of Wesleyan University. The members of the first Board of Stewards were: H. Phillippe, Robert Fisher, M.T. Burwell, Henry Morain and F.B. Sale. The entire membership on the circuit was about 85.

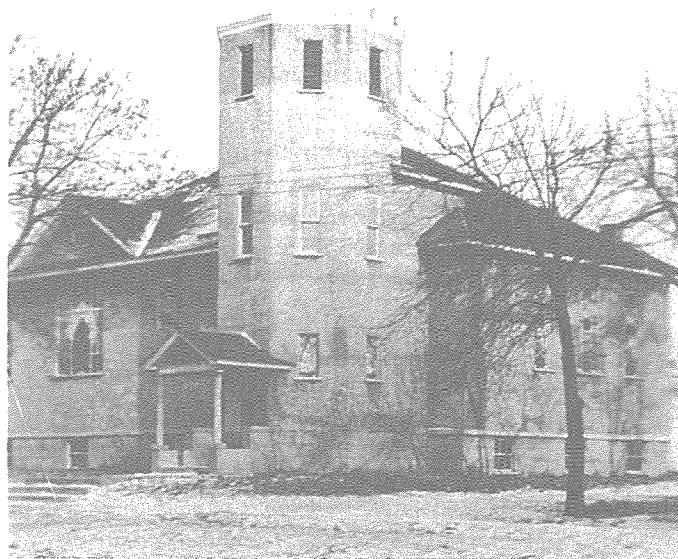
During that year a Society was partially organized at the Schoenbarger School house (now Foosland). King's School house (later Mount Vernon) was detached from Middletown (Mahomet) circuit and added to Newcomb, making it a four-point circuit. The salary Rev. Auer received for a year's work was \$600.

At the conference of 1873, Mounts School house (later named Beulah) was detached from Ludlow and added to Newcomb. Charles E. McClintock was sent as pastor. A small farm house which once stood on the north side of Route 136 one-half mile east of Fisher served as the parsonage for the pastor. Rev. F.B. Sale, father of Mrs. J.O. Sayers and grandfather of Dr. L.O. Sale, was appointed assistant minister at a salary of \$330 per year.

The second Fisher Methodist Church was built in 1874. The new and larger building resembled the Mt. Vernon Church which still stands seven miles southeast of Fisher. A common feature of the time was two front doors; one for women and one for men. The pews were also divided to seat men and women separately. The old church building was used as a parsonage.

The following year three more church buildings were erected: Foosland, Harmony (southwest of Elliott) and Beulah Chapel (southwest of Rantoul). Newcomb circuit then covered all of the territory extending north of Mahomet to Gibson City and east to the Illinois Central Railroad. In the fall of 1876 the circuit was reduced to four "preaching points" — Newcomb, Wesley Chapel, Shiloh, and Beulah Chapel. The other church areas were added to other adjoining circuits. When the circuits were this large, it was impossible to have church services every Sunday but the congregation had Sunday School each Sunday. When the pastor was not there to preach they had "Class Meeting" after Sunday school led by some spiritual leader in the community.

Early in 1876 the Havana, Rantoul, and Eastern narrow-gauge railroad, being built from Rantoul to LeRoy, had reached the site of Fisher. The little town of Fisher had been laid out in December of 1875 on land belonging to Robert Fisher and named in his honor. Several homes had been constructed in Fisher so it was decided to move the church to its present location. At this time the town extended from First Street to Fifth Street and from Owl Creek north to the railroad. The total cost of moving and



The United Brethren Church erected in 1914 on the site of the old church in Fisher. The exterior walls were stucco.

relocating the building was \$255.47. The church building was moved by oxen and capstan, a vertical windlass. At the annual conference held at Clinton on October 3, 1877, the name of the circuit was changed from Newcomb to Fisher. D.P. Lyons was pastor at the time the church was moved.

Rev. Peter Slagle was sent as the pastor in 1877. A parsonage at the present site was purchased for \$490 from Dr. Joseph Karr. The west lot was purchased later.

Beulah Chapel was detached from the circuit in 1892 and Wesley Chapel was destroyed by fire the next year. Nothing was saved from the fire except the wooden benches which were given to Fisher. This reduced the circuit of two points, Fisher and Shiloh. The Rev. William Gooding was pastor at this time. In 1896 the church building was remodeled by adding a basement and installing a furnace.

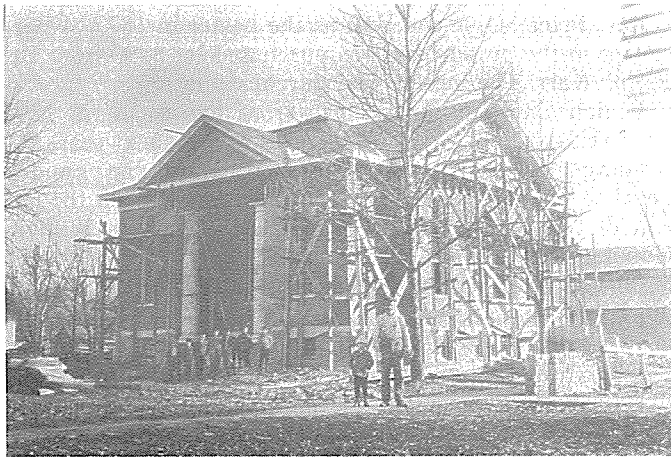
In 1911 while Rev. D.H. Harley was pastor, it was decided to build a new church. L.D. Oliver, Roy Mitchell and C.L. Duvall were members of the building committee. The trustees were instructed to sell the old building and turn the proceeds over to the building committee. The building was sold at public auction and soon it was torn down and removed. The church is 46 by 60 feet in colonial style of architecture with brick veneer and slate roof. The auditorium has a domed ceiling, bowled floor, mission oak pews, Grecian-Ionic style of cornice and was originally beautifully frescoed in tan effect at the base, graduating into sky-blue. There are two Sunday school rooms upstairs and in the basement—a reception room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, furnace room, and cloak room. The building was heated with steam, lighted with electricity and was considered very modern for those days. It was completed at a cost of \$11,000. Dedicatory services were held in the new building, Sunday, February 4, 1912. Bishop William F. Anderson delivered the morning sermon, conducted the dedicatory service and preached the evening service. The sycamore and red bud trees planted around the church are reported to have been dug from Newcomb's Ford.

Fisher was made a station in 1916 with Rev. S.N. Madden as first station pastor. In 1922 the new parsonage was begun. It was completed the first year of Rev. W.B. Theobald's pastorate at a cost of \$6,000. Dewey Church was added to the Fisher pastorate. About 1930 the Dewey Church was detached.

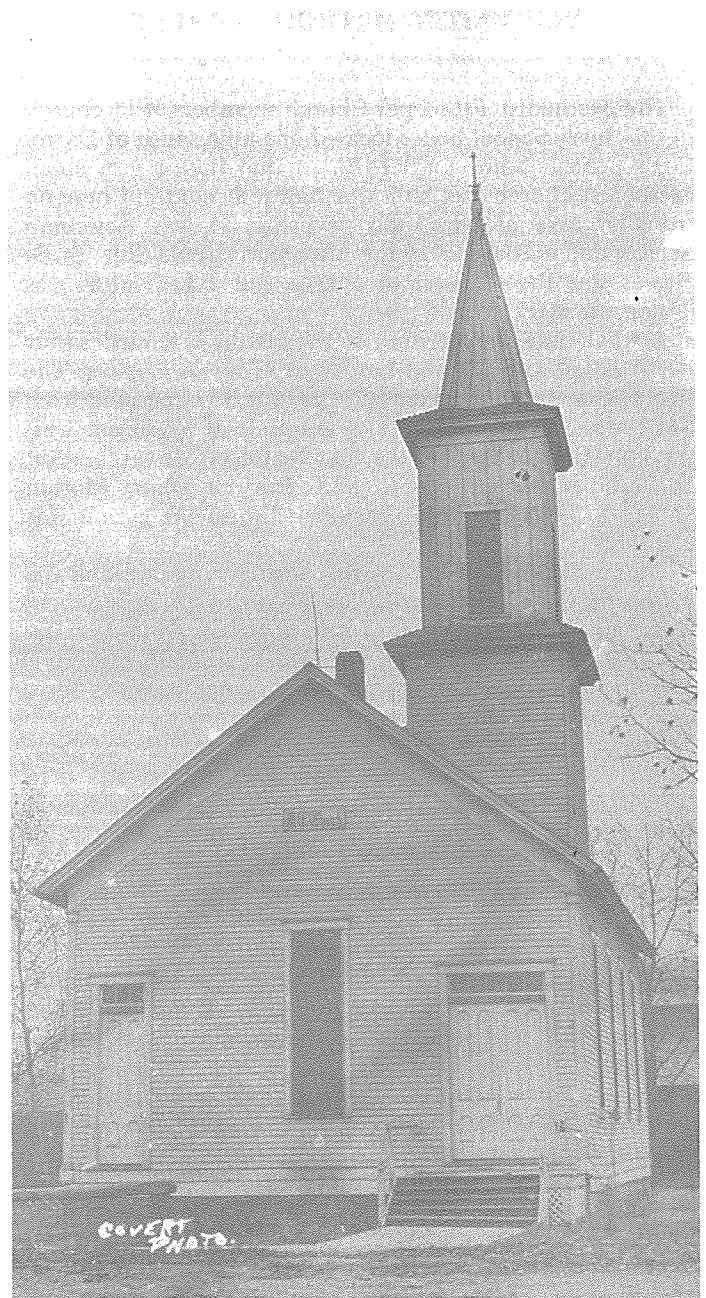
Rev. E.H. Sauer came in 1950. He was Conference Treasurer for 20 years and was the acting chaplain for the opening session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, D.C. While Rev. E.H. Sauer was pastor, the Dewey Methodist Church was sold to the Mennonites for \$500. The church accepted the money and such equipment as could be used.

The Consecration of the Education Building was held Sunday, February 15, 1959, with an all day service under the leadership of Rev. David Palmer. The building consisted of six classrooms, assembly room, rest room and a full basement. The building was constructed by Kenneth Kellar at an approximate cost of \$20,000 including the south entrance added later. In 1966 a new heating system was installed in the main church building. During the same year the property immediately south of the church was purchased for \$5,000.

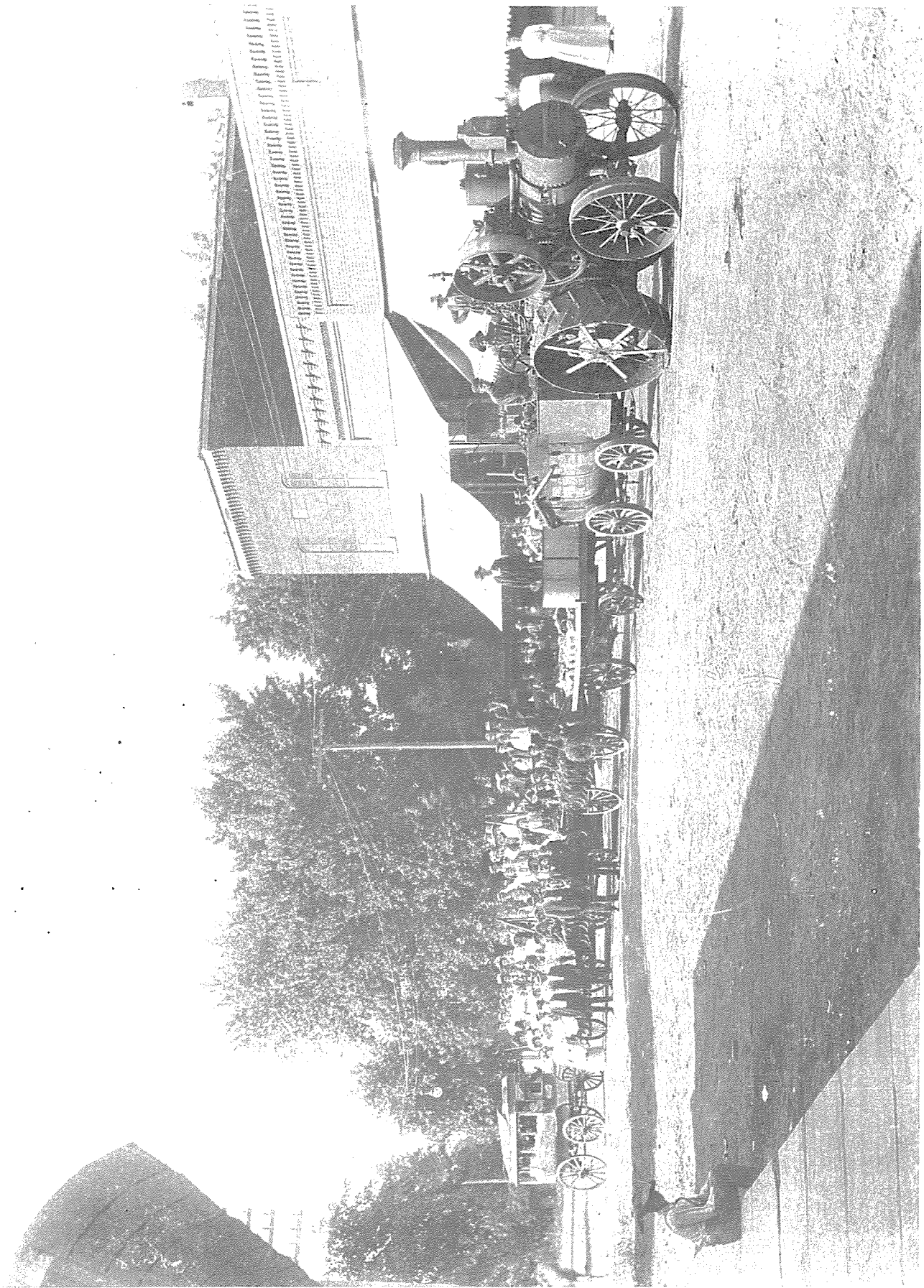
The present pastor, Rev. Wendel Arms came to Fisher on June 20, 1970. Rev. Arms and his wife, Pam, live in the parsonage on West Sangamon with their two children, Matthew Wesley and Melissa Kristen.



In 1911 the Fisher Methodist Church was erected on the southeast corner of Sangamon and Third Street. The old church was sold at auction, torn down and removed. Armstrong's barn and ice house can be seen in the background.



This Methodist Church was built in 1874. It was moved from Newcomb township to the location of the present Fisher Methodist Church in the late 1870's.



Fisher Methodist Church Sunday School Picnic on August 26, 1908. Mrs. Kenward mother of Mrs. Koyen, is at the far right in front of their store.

FISHER'S DOCTORS



Dr. Elder was an imposing looking man. There were no dentists in Fisher at that time and he pulled teeth with almost no pain killer. Later his granddaughter recalled how dreadful to hear were the occasions when an arm or a leg had to be removed.

FISHER'S FIRST DOCTOR

Dr. James G. Elder was the first physician in Fisher. Dr. Joseph Carr was the next doctor, but he did not remain long. About 1880 Dr. A.L. Elder practiced here for a time and then he moved to Nebraska. Dr. W.K. Newcomb located in Fisher and continued an active practice here until 1896 when he moved to Champaign.

Dr. James Gageby Elder was Fisher's first doctor. His wife was Susan King Elder. Both were born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. He served as a doctor in the Civil War from Somerset County. Very soon after the war ended, he moved his family to Illinois. His office and home was at 209 East Sangamon (where Ron Smithson and his family lived). He had the home built and the family occupied it until their son, James A. Elder died in December of 1933. The doctor's office was in the northwest corner room and could be entered from the street without disturbing the household. Two of their four children lived to be adults. Ella Elder attended Wesleyan University at Bloomington, Illinois, and became a teacher in Fisher and organist for the Fisher Methodist Church. She married



Dr. W.K. Newcomb was a member of the Fisher School Board while he lived in Fisher. Later he moved his practice to Champaign.

George Marsh in 1885 and they bought the general store in Fisher from Frank B. Vennum. This store later became Rome's and then later McJilton's. George and Ella Marsh were in business until her death at 28 years of age, following the birth of their only child, Mabel Ella Marsh, whom her parents, the Dr. Elders, raised. Mabel Ella Marsh married Claude P. Hinton. Leone Hinton Foster of Mahomet and Alice Hinton Andrews of Terrace Park, Ohio are their children and the great grandchildren of the Elders.

James A. Elder was a well-known painter and paper hanger. He remained a bachelor and lived in the family home until his death in 1933.

This family is buried in Naylor Cemetery. Dr. Elder died about 1902 and Mrs. Elder in 1916.

In 1912 there were three doctors in Fisher: Dr. J.G. Lamb, Dr. Ralph P. Dowd and Dr. L.O. Sale. Dr. Lamb lived in the house of Cecile Cook when it was located where the Fisher Church of Christ stands now. Dr. Lamb stayed in Fisher for a few years before moving his practice to the Bement and Cerro Gordo area.

Dr. G.M. McClure came to Fisher in the middle 1930's. He had an office in the last building on the east side of Third Street next to the railroad tracks. He lived in the Charlie Webster home while in Fisher. This house is now the home of Joe Robbins. Dr. McClure moved his practice to Champaign.

DR. RALPH P. DOWD

Ralph Dowd was born August 18, 1868 at McArthur, Ohio. He attended college at Athens, Ohio and later attended the Miami Medical School at Cincinnati, Ohio where he received his doctor's degree in 1893.

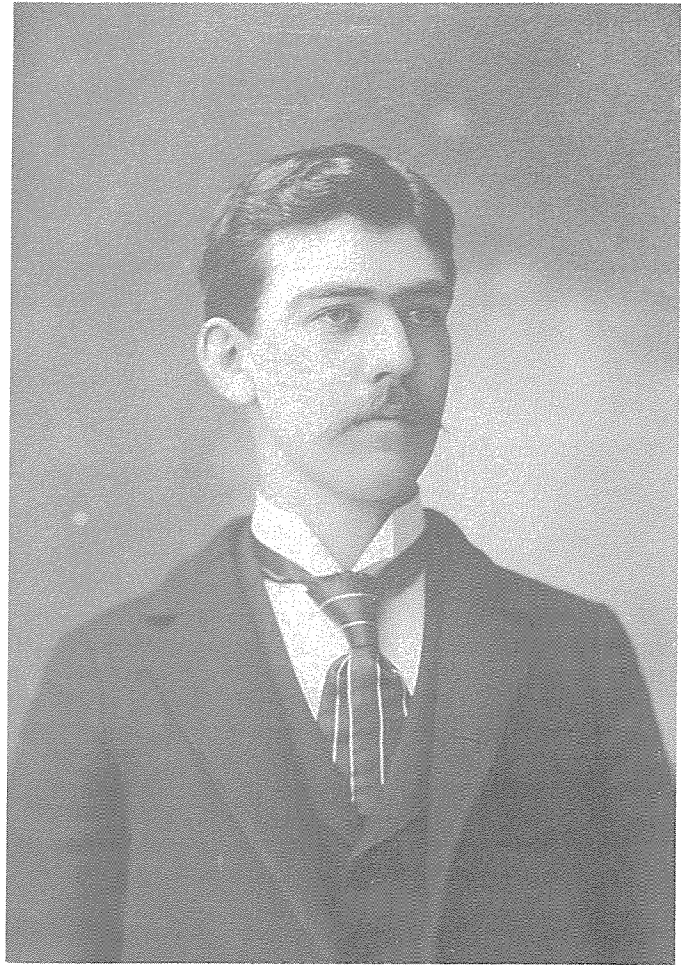
He came to Champaign County in 1894 and practiced in the vicinity of Fisher and Dewey for 36 years. He was a very quiet, slow-moving man.

Dr. Dowd married Mary Frances Matheny, who was born on June 30, 1869 in Nashville, Indiana, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Francis D. Matheny. She came to Fisher in 1876 with her parents at the age of 7. She married Dr. Dowd on November 15, 1896. Dr. Dowd's office was where Kenny Collins barber shop is now. Dr. Dowd built the house where Jacob Zehr now lives at 103 South Second Street. His mother-in-law, Mrs. Francis Matheny, lived on the northwest corner of Second and Sangamon. The Dowds had two sons, John M. and Carol. John M. Dowd lives in McLeansboro and Carol lives in Florida.

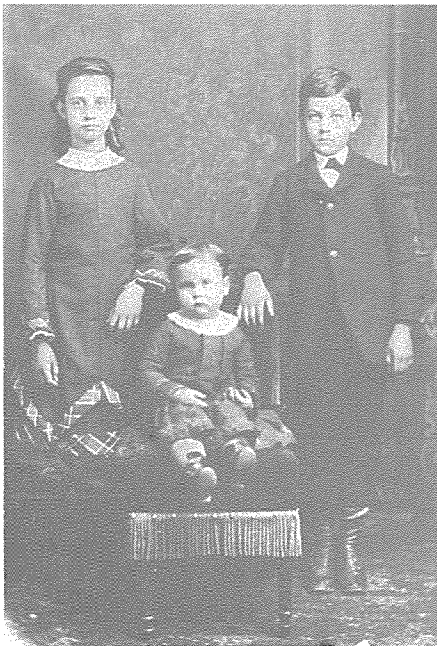
Dr. Dowd died on September 29, 1930 following a lingering illness. His wife died in July 1948 in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ems. Dr. and Mrs. Dowd are buried in Willow Brook Cemetery.

DR. L.O. SALE

Leslie Oscar Sale was born on a farm north of Dewey on July 10, 1872, the son of Edwin C. and Mary C. Sale. He was one of a family of five; he had two brothers and two sisters.



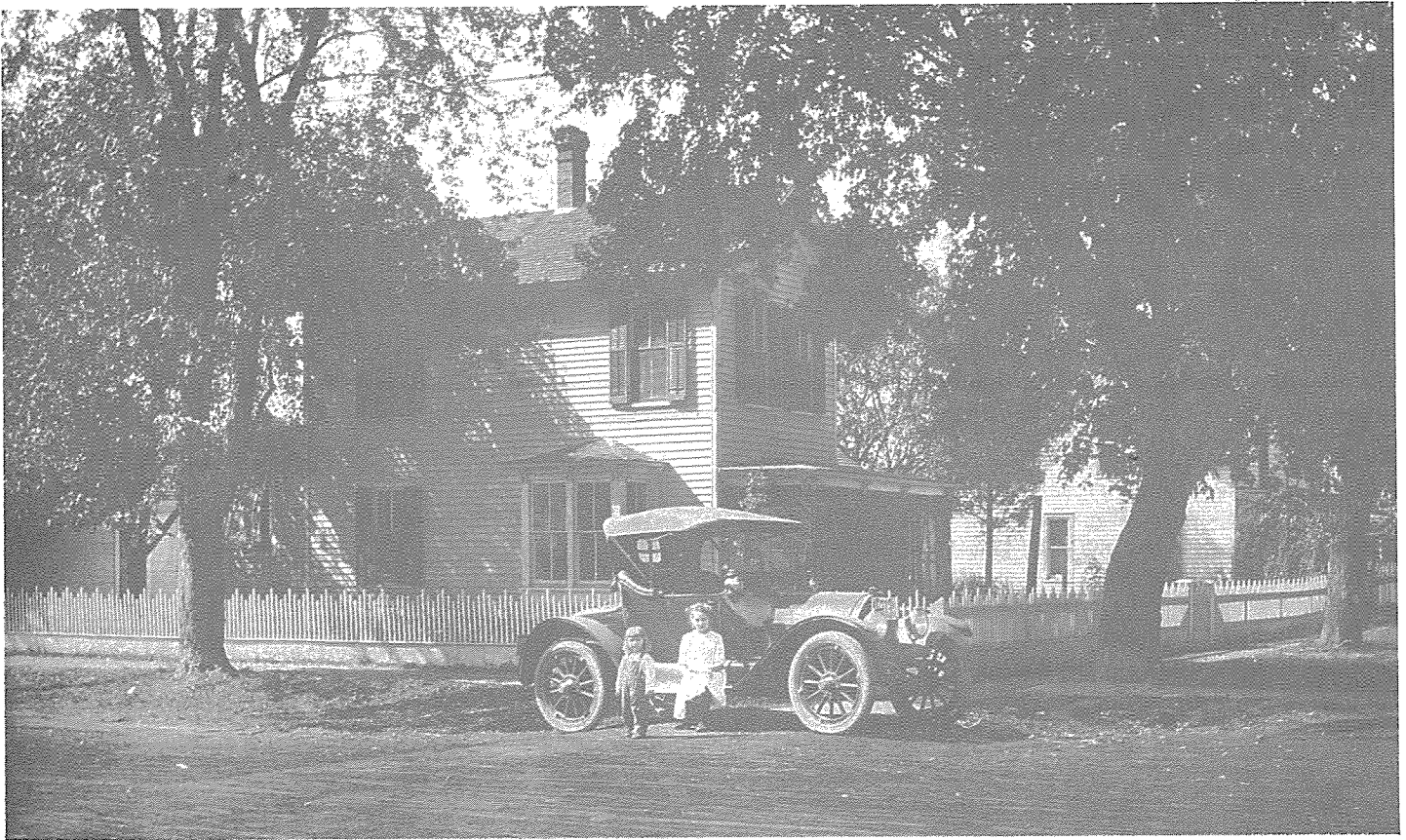
Dr. L.O. Sale as a young man.



From left to right Minnie, Walter and Leslie (Dr. L.O.) Sale.



Dr. Sale in office using microscope about 1898.



Dr. and Mrs. Sale's home on the southwest corner of Sangamon and Third Street. Edwin Sale and Carol Sturgeon in front of 1914 Buick. This house was moved to 508 South Third Street and is now the home of Ruth J. Foster.

Farming didn't seem to impress him as a lifetime job, neither did being a station agent, as he was for a year in Dewey. His one year as a country school teacher convinced him that he did not want to be a teacher. Likewise, interest in the grain business with his father did not appeal to him.

After attending Normal and the University of Illinois, he decided to study medicine. He enrolled at Northwestern University in 1892 and was graduated from the medical school there in 1896.

Since the Sale family, relatives and friends, lived in and around Fisher, it seemed logical for him to come back home and put out his "shingle." At the same time there were three other doctors in Fisher, one in Dewey and two in Foosland.

On June 18, 1900, he married a school teacher, Margaret Laurinda Moore of Mansfield, Illinois. They were married in Rantoul, Illinois with Rev. Wheat of the Methodist church performing the ceremony. Rev. Wheat was the father of the late Congressman, William Wheat of Rantoul. The newlyweds began housekeeping in a house that had always been the home of an M.D.'s family. Drs. Elder, Newcomb and Shurtz had lived in the house then on the corner where the George Webster house stands today.

In July 1903 the oldest son, Russell Linden Sale, was born and lived only a short time. On June 29, 1912, Edwin W. Sale was born. He married Elizabeth Moore. Edwin Sale is an attorney living in Kankakee, Illinois. They have a daughter Margaret "Peggy" Elizabeth, named after her grandmothers, Margaret Sale and Clara Elizabeth Moore.

Peggy Sale married Tom Hubbard, Jr. and they live in Rochester, New York.

Dr. Sale recalled he got off to a flying start as an obstetrician by delivering twins, a boy and a girl, to Mrs. Ed Woolever, only a short time after he had begun his practice in 1896. During his time, he delivered over 2,000 babies and most of these were born at home.

The telephone reached Fisher in the early nineteen hundreds and was a very great help in the doctor's business, saving many tedious miles of travel with a team and buggy, or a two wheel cart, if the roads were muddy. Three teams of horses with an occasional one from "Tommy Miller's Livery" barn were required to help him fight the mud roads.

The ultimate in time saving seemed to be reached when the automobile made its first appearance but it was limited to good roads so horses still needed to be kept for use. The first car to puff into Fisher was Dr. Sale's second hand Winton, which perversely refused to be adapted to village and country roads. It chugged up and down the streets only a few times.

The second car was a real success. The small white Buick roadster was the wonder of all the boys of Fisher. Receil "Babe" Kidd, Tanky Bryant, Chester Warrenburg and others were on hand to fill the back seat as often as possible when the doctor was starting to the country.

During Dr. Sale's many busy years he saw the field of medicine make great strides in prevention and cure of diseases and the preservation of health in general. In the early



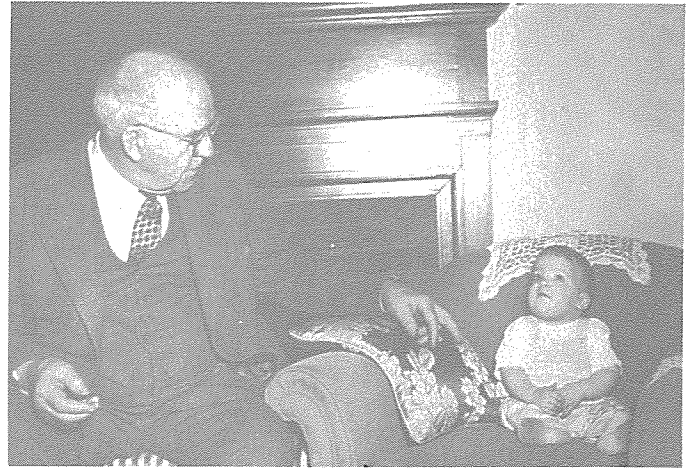
Dr. and Mrs. Sale on their 50th wedding anniversary.

fall of 1918 the European flu descended on this community and continued at intervals of six weeks through the winter of 1918. For months the doctor would fill his satchel and numerous bottles and envelopes with medicine and leave his office with his driver and make twenty to thirty calls before returning home. In many homes all were ill and the driver would carry water and fuel for the household while the doctor examined and cared for the sick. Dr. Sale is known to have dispensed the first aspirin tablets in this area before they were generally known or named as such.

Dr. Sale weathered the years of depression long on accounts and short of cash, but with an undiminished interest in the ills of the young, old and middle-aged. The amount of charity work which Dr. and Mrs. Sale have done would be very hard to evaluate. Both were active in church and community affairs. They took a keen interest in children and gave freely of their time to school and youth groups.

Dr. Sale served on the Fisher Village Board for many years. He was active in Boy Scout work. He was charter member and director of the Fisher Lions' Club and a past master of the Masonic Lodge. He was a member of the board and treasurer of the building committee that erected the Methodist parsonage in 1923.

He did volunteer service during both wars, conducting first aid training classes and was an examining physician for the Champaign local board 1 in the last World War. He was a member of the county and state medical



Dr. Sale and his granddaughter, Peggy Sale.

societies, the American Medical Association and the Aesculapean Society of the Wabash County.

Mrs. Sale worked in the Doctor's office as his receptionist and secretary for many years. She continued her interest and support in the Methodist Church, Women's Club and the Garden Club. She was a member of the school board and held many important positions in the organizations to which she belonged. The Camp Fire Girls were fortunate to have her as their leader and she took personal interest in the young women, helping them with their continuing education and in their professional careers.

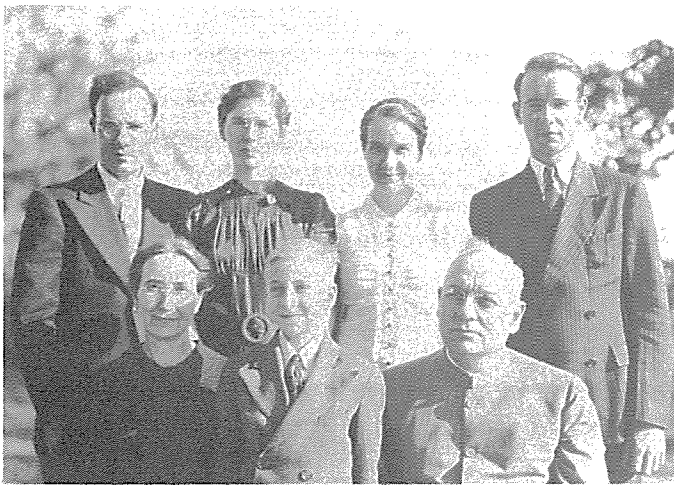
Many will remember the treasures in Dr. Sale's attic. When the school or community needed props and costumes for their play, Mrs. Sale would allow the use of their furniture or clothing. The "old" clothes lent an authentic style and after Mrs. Sale's death, the Doctor continued this practice.

Dr. and Mrs. Sale were honored many times by the local community for their achievements. In June of 1950 the couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In 1951 the county chose Dr. Sale as the "outstanding medical practitioner" of Champaign County for that year.

Mrs. Sale died on May 15, 1954. Dr. Sale lived alone in their home and remained active ending his medical practice in March of 1962, completing 65 years of practice here. Dr. Sale died on April 26, 1962 in the Cole Hospital, Champaign. Funeral services were held at the Fisher Methodist Church on Saturday, April 28, with Rev. David Palmer of Terre Haute, Indiana officiating and Rev. Richard Fleming assisting. Rev. Palmer chose as the title for the sermon, "He stood head and shoulders above all the people." I Samuel 9:2 Dr. and Mrs. Sale are buried in Willow Brook Cemetery, south of Fisher.

DR. GEORGE TROYER

George D. Troyer was born February 26, 1890 in Howard County, Indiana. He married Kathryn Sommers on July 12, 1914. Dr. and Mrs. Troyer were missionaries in India from 1923 to 1936. From 1937 to 1944 Dr. Troyer practiced medicine in Fisher. While the Troyer family lived in Fisher, Dr. Troyer was also assistant pastor at the East Bend Mennonite Church. The Troyer family lived at 505



Picture of the Troyer family when they lived in Fisher. Back row, l to r: Nortell Troyer, Helen-wife of Nortell, Annabell Troyer and Dana Troyer. Front row, Mrs. Troyer (Katheryn), Weldon Troyer and Dr. Troyer.

South Fifth Street where Mrs. A.D. Stuehm lives now. Dr. Troyer's office was where the Laundromat is now.

From 1944 until 1967 Dr. and Mrs. Troyer served as missionaries in Puerto Rico. In 1967 they retired and moved to Goshen, Indiana where Dr. died on December 6, 1969. Mrs. Troyer died in March of 1973.

DR. ERNEST E. SMUCKER

Dr. E.E. Smucker was born on June 3, 1919 in Goshen, Indiana. At the age of nine months, his parents took him to India where they served as missionaries. Ernest Smucker attended Woodstock School in Mussoorie, India and graduated from high school there in 1936. He attended Goshen College at Goshen, Indiana from 1937 until 1941, graduating with a B.A. and B.S. Ernest E. Smucker attended Northwestern University Medical School from 1941 to 1945 and received his M.D. upon graduating there. He did his internship in 1944 and 1945 at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

Dr. Smucker married Mary Lichty, who was born near



Picture of the Smucker family was taken in June of 1957 before they left Fisher. Left to right: Elaine, Mary (Mrs. Smucker), Mark, Mary Caroline, Dr. Smucker, Julia. Standing in back: Ernie and Jon (Paul was born in Oct. 1957 after leaving Fisher).

Archibald, Ohio in 1917. Mary Lichty graduated from Nurses Training at LaJunta, Colorado in 1938. She also graduated from Goshen College in Indiana with a B.S. in Nursing in 1943.

Dr. Smucker inquired of the War Manpower Commission as to a needy place in Illinois for Doctors and was directed to Fisher or Gibson City. They chose Fisher because of the Mennonite Church of which they became members, and because of encouragement received from the minister and church people to come here.

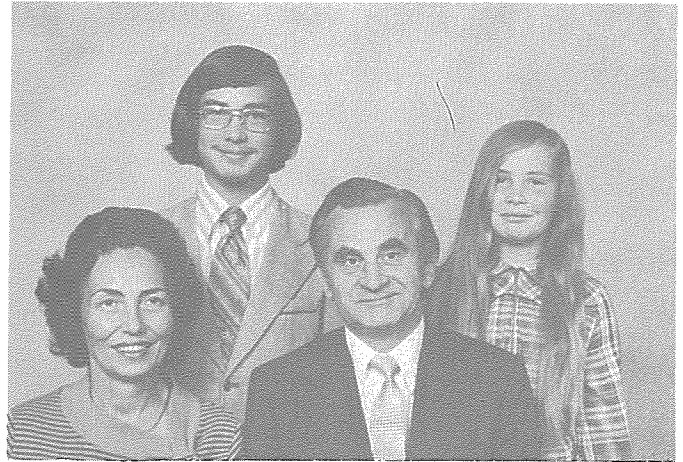
Dr. Smucker began his general practice as physician and surgeon in Fisher in September of 1945. His office was in the old bank building on the southwest corner of Third and Front Street. The Smuckers lived at 404 South Second Street where the Charles Hauerspergers live now, until they built a new home on West Sangamon. The Smucker family remained in Fisher until July of 1957.

From 1957 until 1961 Dr. Smucker was in surgical residency at Evanston Hospital in Evanston, Illinois (Northwestern University). Since 1961 Dr. Smucker has been on the staff of the Goshen General Hospital and the Elkhart General Hospital in Goshen and Elkhart, Indiana. Dr. Smucker has limited his practice to General Surgery since 1961. In 1962 he was Diplomate of American Board of Surgery by examination. Dr. Smucker was accepted into the American College of Surgeons at the general meeting in Miami, Florida in 1974.

DR. WALTER ROHDE

Dr. Walter Rohde was born in Berlin, Germany on January 1, 1920. His father, Otto, and one sister still live in Germany. Walter Rohde graduated from the Wuerzburg School of Medicine in Germany in 1944. He began his residency in 1945 at the University of Berlin in internal medicine and neurology. Dr. Rohde was a professor of medicine at the University of Berlin until he came to the U.S.A. in 1952. He spent one year as a doctor at the TB Sanatorium in Pennsylvania. He served one year of internship at West Suburban Hospital, Oak Park, Illinois. After one year of general practice in Michigan, he came to Gifford, Illinois in 1955. In 1957 he moved his general practice to Fisher and took over the office of Dr. Smucker. He used Dr. Smucker's office which is now part of Heiser and Ingold Store until 1959 when he moved his office to its present location on the east side of Third Street.

Dr. Rohde is a member of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Practice and the College of Emergency Physicians. He was instrumental in forming the Trauma Center at Burnham City Hospital in Champaign because of a need for 24-hour facilities to handle all types of emergencies. Since 1973 he has been



Dr. and Mrs. Walter Rohde, Thomas and Yvonne.

Director of the Regional Trauma Center which facilitates a radius of approximately 50 miles. Dr. Rohde is also a member of the Fisher School Board and is now serving as its president.

Dr. Rohde and his wife, Margot, live on West Sangamon Street in the former home of Dr. Smucker and his family. Dr. and Mrs. Rohde have three children; Michael now living in Miami, Florida, Thomas and Yvonne who live at home.

For two years Dr. Rohde shared his office with Dr. J.M. Hess, who came here after his internship in Chicago. Dr. Hess now has a general practice in Rantoul and Dr. Hess and his family live in Rantoul.

Dr. William Cook, who was a civilian dentist on Chanute Air Force Base, spent approximately four years in Fisher and used part of Dr. Rohde's office space. Dr. Cook and his family now live in Dixon, Illinois.

DENTISTS

In 1903 Fisher had the first dentist, Dr. J.T. Watters. Later Dr. Miller had a dentist office on the second floor of the bank building on the southwest corner of Third and Front Street. He was followed by Dr. S.J. Whitmore who had an office in the same building until he moved his office to his home on Park Street where Norman De Graff and his family live now. Dr. Whitmore was in Fisher for twenty-five years before he moved to St. Joseph, Illinois. Then Dr. William Cook came to Fisher. He used one room in Dr. Walter Rohde's office space. Dr. Cook and his family lived in the Stiger addition while in Fisher for about four years. Later Dr. Cook and his family moved to Dixon, Illinois.

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS



Taken in 1882 in Rantoul on Decoration Day.

FISHER CORNET BAND

In 1882 Fisher had a cornet band. The band had large wagon pulled by four horses which they used when they traveled to give a concert. A picture of this group can be found in the Fisher Reporter of February 1, 1933. The members of the Fisher Cornet Band in 1882 were Fred Covert, William Heyer, Godfrey Heyer, Charles Mattinson, Willie Heyer, Ed McJilton, Joe McJilton, Isaac Pheris, Chris Hummel, Fred Sperling, Henry Rush, and Isaac Davis.

FISHER CONCERT BAND

The Fisher Concert Band was advertised as the best arranged concert band in central Illinois. They played not only in Fisher but for all kinds of celebrations, picnics, etc. Prof. Phillip Cole of Mattoon was their musical director and Prof. W.B. Scott was their vocalist. F.B. Means was manager of the band and Milton Dreyfus served as secretary. The members of the band and the instruments they played are listed below:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monroe Dreyfus | piccolo and flute |
| Milton Dreyfus | clarinet and violin |
| John Dowd | clarinet |
| Carl Throckmorton | clarinet, violin and piano |
| Cecil Hazen | clarinet |
| Ferne White | clarinet |
| Phillip Cole | cornet and violin |
| Alva McJilton | cornet |
| J.S. Rome | cornet |
| C.L. Bryant | cornet |
| Leslie McJilton | cornet |
| W.E. Oliver | saxophone, vocal soloist and piano |
| Clinton Osborne | alto |
| Orla Wade | alto |
| Charles Hamm | alto |
| Charence Moore | alto and violin |
| P.M. Hollingsworth | slide trombone and baritone |
| Fredrick Reuter | slide trombone, violin and cello |

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| S.D. Donovan | euphonium |
| Phinas Hamm | tenor trombone |
| William Heyer | tenor trombone |
| William Kidd | baritone |
| William Moore | B bass and violin |
| J.E. McJilton | E bass, violin and string bass |
| Luther Wade | E bass and violin |
| F.B. Means | drums and traps |

This group of men gave many concerts in Fisher. The band stand stood in the center of town, at the intersection of Front and Third Street. Below the stand was a large tank and watering trough for the horses.

FISHER I.O.O.F. LODGE #704

Fisher I.O.O.F. Lodge #704, was organized in 1882 with seven charter members.

In 1888 the present Odd Fellow building was built. It is a large two story brick structure. The lodge room was described in an early historical article (taken from Fisher Times, Oct. 28, 1892) as a large lodge room, elegantly furnished and its profusion of emblems gives it a very attractive appearance.

Officers of the lodge in 1892 were Daniel Watson, Noble Grand; C.R. Morrison, Vice Grand; A.J. Bell secretary; J.W. Richard treasurer; A.J. Morrison, Warden; Ed Smith, Conductor; A. Paulus, Guardian; James Jorgan, Inside Guardian; J.R. Sheppard, Right Supporter to Noble Grand; J.M. Moore, Left Supporter to Noble Grand; J.W. Sheppard, Right Supporter to Vice Grand; Frank Miller, Left Supporter to Vice Grand; M.L. Teach, Right Scene Supporter; William Sheppard, Left Scene Supporter; A.B. Morrison, Deputy; and W.H. Fisher, Delegate to Grand Lodge.

Meetings were held on Saturday evening. The membership had grown to 65.

The building stands as of the early date, but has been redecorated recently and is carpeted. A modern kitchen is being used quite frequently. Gas heat is installed, and rest-rooms are at the foot of the stairway. Present membership is 20 members.

Other branches of the Order were organized and used the facilities of the building.

Fidelity Encampment was organized in 1891. Names found among their officers were: A.B. Morrison, William Vance, A.E. Morrison, Dr. Elder, and J.W. Richmond. They had 50 members.

Glenwood Rebekah Lodge #17 was instituted March 17, 1892 with 54 members. Mrs. A.B. Morrison was Noble Grand; Mrs. John Hiteshaw, Vice Grand; Mrs. C. Jenkins, Secretary; Mrs. George Mounts, treasurer; Mrs. E. Allison, Chaplain; Mrs. M.L. Teach, Warden; Mrs. T. Lamm, Conductor; Miss Ellen Morrison, Inside Guardian; Mrs. G.L. Mounts, Outside Guardian; Miss R. Swayze, Right Supporter to Noble Grand; Mrs. R. Stucker, Left Supporter to Noble Grand; Mrs. James Sheppard, Right Supporter to Vice Grand; Mrs. George Robeson, Left Supporter to Vice Grand; Dr. Newcomb was Deputy.

This lodge closed, but the date is not known.

Maple Leaf Rebekah Lodge was the second Rebekah Lodge in Fisher. No information is available on its officers or membership. It was closed in the 1920's.

Owl Creek Rebekah Lodge #91, was organized and instituted in April 1929 with 42 Charter members, four of them still active members. They are Cecile Cook, who was a member of Mahomet Rebekah Lodge before coming to Fisher; Stella Smith, Ethel Warrenburg, all continuous members since 1929 and Luther Barrett.

Cecile Cook was initiated March 12, 1922 at Mahomet. She served as the first Noble Grand of Owl Creek Rebekah Lodge. Present membership is 78. The lodge is very active and ranks high in the Jurisdiction of Illinois. Edna Sparrow is presently serving as Noble Grand.

Fisher I.O.O.F. Lodge #704 has absorbed Dewey Odd Fellow Lodge, Foosland Odd Fellow Lodge and Mahomet Odd Fellow Lodge.

Elliott Odd Fellows were consolidated with Dewey, and Mansfield Odd Fellows had consolidated with Mahomet, years prior to the consolidation with Fisher.

The Dewey I.O.O.F. Lodge #794 was organized in 1890. Some names on their membership list included: Frederick Sperling, Ernest Lorenz, Robert Chatham, Theodore J. Moller, Louis Lorenz, Oliver Nordenberg, Chris Hummel, A.E. Ward, Richard Hammer, J.A.F. Sperling and Ole Anderson.

The Dewey I.O.O.F. consolidated with Fisher #704 on June 6, 1940.

The 7 Charter Members of Fisher #704 were: W.H. Allison, J.W. Axtell, W.B. Stoddard, W.H. Cosner, A.B. Morrison, E.M. Allison, and Abraham Paulus.

The I.O.O.F. building is a center for many community activities. Fisher Lions Club meets twice a month and Fisher Business Men recently organized (April 21, 1976) meet one day each month for luncheon meetings.

Members of Owl Creek Rebekah Lodge #91 serve the Lions' dinners and Business Men's luncheons.

The first floor recently housed the Youth Recreation Center, now closed.

Rebekah-Odd Fellowship has made its mark on Fisher Community, all through the many years.

In an article found recently, we find in 1916 some of the officers of Maple Leaf Lodge included were Mrs. E.J. Hollingsworth, Noble Grand; Mrs. Elza Heckman, Vice Grand; Mrs. Mary Dale, Secretary; Lucy Chamberland, Financial Secretary and Elizabeth Gardner as treasurer. Elizabeth Gardner was a charter member of Owl Creek Rebekah Lodge #91 and was the person who suggested its name.

Nelle Parker and Inez Rice, members of the present lodge, were also members of Maple Leaf Lodge.

SANGAMON LODGE NO. 801, A.F. & A.M.

The Masonic Lodge of Fisher is one of the older organizations in this community. The lodge received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Illinois on October 6, 1891. The charter members are as follows: John Odell, J.W. Richmond, B.F. Lamb, A.D. Ricketts, A.C. Reynolds, Frank Morgan, Jesse Green, S.B. Sale, T.O. Pritchard, C.F. Austin, B.R. Hammer, E.M. McKee, William Banner, William T. Morgan, George Cook and Albert Kimball.

The newly elected officers were: John Odell, Worshipful Master; J.W. Richmond, Senior Warden; B.F. Lamb, Junior Warden; S.B. Sale, Treasurer; A.C. Reynolds, Secretary; Frank Morgan, Senior Deacon; B.R. Hammer, Junior Deacon; W.H. Banner, Senior Steward; Albert S. Kimball, Junior Steward; Charles Austin, Tyler.

John Odell farmed southeast of Fisher. He was a big booster in getting the lodge started. William Morgan, B.F. Lamb and S.B. Sale were appointed on a committee to rent a hall to hold the meetings. The building of J.W. Richmond was rented for \$63.00 a year. Frank Morgan was appointed to procure a Seal. He purchased one for \$4.05.

After the stated meeting January 4, 1892, G. Burgess served dinner to the twenty members present. He charged \$6.25 to serve the entire dinner. According to the minutes of Feb. 1, 1892, John Odell, the master, purchased a new Bible for \$2.00. C.F. Austin, the tyler, was instructed to purchase a carpet sweeper for \$2.50. The lodge purchased coal from the firm of Sale and Ward. M.L. Outlaw did the draying. The dues were three dollars a year and the new members paid ten dollars per degree for the three degrees in the blue lodge. At a meeting on January 16, 1893, Dr. W.K. Newcomb presented the lodge with a historical gavel.

Several new members were initiated into the lodge between the year 1891 and 1900. Some of the new members were William Suttle, G. Burgess, F. Dobbins, H. Newcomb, E. Lorenz, G. Susdorf, J. Strong, G. Mounts, W. Swartz, A.J. Hamm, Benjamin I. Jones, W. Wormaldorf, F.B. Sale (grandfather of Dr. Sale), H.F.A. Sperling, A.H. Sperling, (great-uncle and grandfather of August Sperling), A.J. and A.B. Morrison and George A. Fisher. The Village of Fisher was named after the Fisher family. Bonner Sale built the house at 505 North Third Street, Kenneth and Lynn Blackburn live there now.

Around the turn of the century many new members were added. Some of you may remember such names as Robert Sturgeon, Godfrey Sperling, Dr. Lamb, Dr. Sale, John Lester, James Ballew, J.O. Sayers, J.E. McJilton, R.T. Miles, Charles Jervis, William, Orval and Wirt Hinton, Cephas Williams, Alton Delong, Ross Drennan, William Jackson, John, Carl and A.A. Jones, Frank Ward, Alva Gilmore, former editor of the *Fisher Reporter*, Frank Ward, Rev. E.K. Crews, Rev. Singleton and Rev. Coleman.

The membership in the Masonic Fraternity has grown over the years until today there are 112 members in good standing. Five of them have been members for over 50 years. They are Millard Neal, Straut Naylor, Clarence Ems, Floyd Jackson and James Moore. Four new members were initiated this year — Dale Drennan, Ronald Sapp, Jasper Burrell and Edward Janeski. Two members transferred here from another lodge — Arthur Pickett and Charles Brownlee.

The present officers of Sangamon Lodge No. 801 are as follows: Evan Gibbens, Worshipful Master; Walter Rudy, Senior Warden; Edward Peerman, Junior Warden; Floyd Jackson, Treasurer; Mervin Hinton, Secretary; Roy Gerber, Chaplain; Herbert McClain, Senior Deacon; Donald Drennan, Junior Deacon; Harvey Thomas, Senior Steward; Duane Shields, Junior Steward; Ralph Potts, Marshal; and Gerald Butturff, Tyler.

The lodge helps support the Children's Home at LaGrange and the home for the aged at Sullivan, Illinois.

This year the lodge along with other Masonic Lodges in Illinois contributed to the relief of many of the people in Guatemala following the earthquake.

FISHER AMERICAN LEGION POST #450

The Fisher American Legion Post #450 charter was issued at National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana by National Commander Franklin O. Olier and attested by Lemuel Bolles, National Adjutant, Aug. 1, 1920, countersigned by William R. McCauley, State Department Commander, and William O. Setcliffe, State Dept. Adjutant on Aug. 10, 1920.

There were 41 Charter members: W.M. Loy, C.T. Horseman, C.F. Osborne, Leo D. Outlaw, C. Minks, M. Hitchins, John Underwood, Otho O. Covert, Arthur W. Bowley, P.M. Hollingsworth, Julius F. Musgron, Boma Jones, Eugene B. Stucker, Ernest B. Neal, Herman E. Pearler, Loren L. Knell, Willie E. Green, Fred H. Shields, Alton Schwartz, Merle Crooks, Arthur Bader, Lewis E. Phillips, Ray Chamberlin, Carl Ferguson, Charles F. Krupar, Ollie Reynolds, Earl Hanner, Charles L. Mitchell, William Rollins, Wiley Estes, Jessie F. Guynn, Harvey C. Woliung, John M. Dowd, Colby Roberts, Milton Dreyfus, Monroe Shrenfus, Charlie Tomblin, Stanley Dreyfus, Walter B. Rose, William H. McCreekey, and C.O. Pryor.

Officers of original charter members in 1920, Fisher Post #450 were: Commander P.M. Hollingsworth, Vice Commander Leo Mitchell, Adjutant A.M. Jones, Medical Officer John Underwood, Chaplain Merle Crooks, Sgt. of Arms Clarence Horseman, and Historian J.O. Pryor.

There are 3 members, namely C.F. Osborne, John Underwood and Charlie Tomblin, who are still members of the local Post #450. The post has been in continuous operation for the past 56 years. Most of the original members are deceased.

At the present time there are 16 members in the Fisher American Legion. David Yoder is the present commander. The projects sponsored by this organization are the same as the American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion sponsors the Americanism essay contest in both grade and high school. They help sponsor the Boys State organization. They maintain an interest in the legislative programs for veterans and the widows of veterans. They also help sponsor a teen-age baseball team.

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary was issued a charter on June 11, 1931. Charter members were Mrs. John (Neva) Underwood, Mrs. Harlie (Beulah) Sheppard, Mrs. R.E. (Elsie) Jones, Mrs. Henry (Amy) Koyen, Mrs. Charlie (Ida) Tomblin, Mrs. Ray (Alma) Collins, Mrs. Charles (Lulu) Cook, Mrs. Mae Collins, Mrs. Jordan (Vera) Murray, Mrs. Clarence (Florence) Ems, Mrs. Charles (Gladys) Dean and Mrs. Browder (Faye) Flanagan. Mrs. Flanagan, who lives in Kentucky, and Mrs. Sheppard, who lives in Arizona, are no longer members of this organization. Mrs. Amy Koyen,

Mrs. Florence Ems and Mrs. Charles Dean of Rantoul are the only living charter members in the Fisher area.

The American Legion at one time had its own building on the west side of Third Street south of the alley. Wesley Oyer owns this building at the present time. The American Legion had fish fries in this building and served meals for the Lions Club.

The Champaign County Council of the American Legion was organized at the home of Mrs. Florence Ems. Mrs. Louise Gher was the first president of this group. The council still continues to operate. The American Legion Auxiliary furnished wheel chairs, hospital beds, walkers and crutches free of charge to anyone who needs them.

The American Legion Auxiliary makes visits to the Veterans Hospital at Danville. They take used clothing and Readers Digest condensed books to veterans. They furnish canteen books for veterans. The canteen books can be used like money at the hospital to buy candy and other small items. The organization also shares in the making of poppies and makes crossword puzzles for veterans. Mrs. Ems has visited the Veterans Hospitals regularly for 15 years. The late Mrs. Lure Smith visited the Danville Veterans Hospital regularly for 10 years.

The organization has a seven point program for serving the Veterans Hospital. The program includes veterans craft, treasure house, Christmas gifts, hospitality fund, Easter fund, insulin fund, and canteen fund. Under this program the members of the American Legion sell crafts made by veterans, provide money for veterans to buy small gifts for their immediate family at Christmas time, provide some entertainment for veterans, provide insulin for veterans who are diabetic, etc.

The American Legion Auxiliary helps to sponsor the Illinois Cottage of the Soldiers and Sailors Children's Home in Bloomington. They help provide a birthday fund and spending money for the children.

Mrs. Neva Underwood was the first president of this organization. Miss Cecile Cook is the present president. There are about twenty members of the Fisher American Legion Auxiliary.

FISHER LIONS CLUB

The Fisher Lions Club was organized May 23, 1938, with twenty-four members, by Atwood Laurence of Chicago. Charter night was June 21, 1938, at the Fisher High School, where a banquet was prepared and served by the women of the Fisher Church of Christ, with 154 people attending. Dist. Gov. Rev. Cecil Carpenter of First Christian Church of Peoria gave the address, and presented the charter to Lion President E.L. Ihrig. Other clubs attending charter night were from Champaign, Potomac, Cerro Gordo, Peoria, Gibson City, and Homer.

The first officers were: President E.L. Ihrig, First Vice President R.B. Salladay, Second Vice President L.C. McJilton, Third Vice President Mervin Hinton, Secretary-Treasurer A.A. Jones, Lion Tamer Herman Adams, Tail Twister A.D. Stuehm, and Directors Roy Fairfield, Dean Robinett, Henry Koyen and Dr. L.O. Sale.

Charter members were: Mervin Hinton, Roy Hicks, Floyd Kelly, Floyd Jackson, Roy Fairfield, A.D. Stuehm, Harold Steele, A.A. Jones, Russell Geist, Herman Adams, O.H. Koyen, J.E. Potts, A.A. Smith, L.O. Sale, James Moore, E.L. Ihrig, Ross Salladay, L.C. McJilton, Dean Robinett, L.J. Greiser, Phil Hitchens, Shirley Kidd, George Webster, and Joe Allen.

Over the years, the Fisher Lions Club has had many projects, centering on the areas, schools and the community, and several phases of help to the blind. They have a yearly Candy Day, from which the money is used only for blind and other eye problems, such as glasses for people in the community, Seeing Eye Dogs, Hadley School for the Blind, reading material for the blind, recreation camps for blind children, and glaucoma mobile units. For many years the Fisher Lions Club co-sponsored the Athletic Banquet, and the Attendance and Scholarship Awards Banquet. They sponsored the Boy Scouts at one time. Early in their history, the Lions, with the Women's Club, co-sponsored the WPA library six days a week, five hours a day, with Mrs. Irene Erwin, now Mrs. John Kuhlig, as librarian. Beginning in 1947, the Lions held a Fisher Community Sale on February 22 each year. This has been discontinued. The Lions Club has always purchased fair trophies, and furnished cash prizes for Fisher High School Homecoming floats. Recently, they have held a yearly Flea Market with lunch stand, and also a Pancake Sausage Supper each year. For many years volunteers from the Lions Club have parked cars at the High School football games. They have purchased playground equipment and at times helped with Christmas lighting decorations for the village.

On June 10, 1963 the Fisher Lions Club celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversary, at a banquet at the Fisher High School, where Mrs. Guy Rankin and her helpers prepared the meal, served by the Junior Women's Club. Committees serving for this event were: Entertainment, William Motzer, Joe Foster, Delmar Crooks; Food and Decorations George Harris, John Barrett, Burdette Griffith; and Publicity Harold Steele, Richard Fleming and Mervin Hinton.

Paul Davis of WCIA was the master of ceremonies. The speaker was Ralph A. Whitten, Director of Lions International, Des Moines, Iowa.

The Fisher Lions Club meets the second and fourth Monday evenings for dinner, followed by business meeting and program. For many years, their dinners have been served by the Rebekah Lodge of Fisher in the I.O.O.F. Hall, Fisher. Their Christmas banquet is usually combined with the Fisher Evening Club. Twice a year they entertain their wives at a Ladies' Night. In the summer months they meet only once a month, for social evenings, either at someone's home, the Fisher Fair Grounds, or at the Lake of the Woods, with their families as guests. The membership is now 26.

THE FISHER COMMUNITY FAIR AND HORSE SHOW BORN 34 YEARS AGO

Strange as it may seem, the tire and gas rationing program in World War II was the main reason for starting the Fisher Fair in 1942. The scarcity of rubber imports and the need for extra gasoline at that time put severe limits on auto and truck travel except for farming and necessary business trips.

Both FFA (vo-ag students) and 4-H Club members were required to exhibit their projects before their projects were considered completed for full credit.

The nearest place to show 4-H projects, both in agriculture and in home economics, had been at the Champaign County Fair in Urbana. FFA projects were shown at a sectional fair held at a county fairground that often was as much as 60 miles away. This seemed to be too far from home with tire and gasoline rationing in effect.

The FCHS Agricultural Education Advisory Council with members from all over the Fisher High School district called attention to the growing travel problem faced by 4-H and FFA members. After careful study the council recommended that arrangements be provided so any regularly enrolled 4-H or FFA member in Brown, East Bend, Newcomb or Condit Township could exhibit his or her project near home. The Fisher High School Athletic Field was suggested as the most likely spot and plans were started for the first "fair." Officers and members of the advisory council, including community leaders like Roy Fairfield, A.A. Jones, Jesse Naffziger, Russel Geist and others, worked hard to make the one-day outdoor event a success. Unfortunately, more than 4 inches of rain soaked the exhibitors and their livestock before the judging was completed and the ribbons were awarded. The water and mud failed to dampen the fun and it was decided to hold the event again the following year (1943). But this time, to avoid the chance of being soaked again, the event was moved to the Fisher High School grounds, so exhibitors could take shelter in case of rain.

With protection from the weather in case of rain and indoor exhibit space available, it was decided to make the event a family affair. 4-H members were encouraged to exhibit Home Economics projects and folks of all ages were invited to exhibit their best foods, flowers, and handiwork.

Encouraged by widespread public support, a talent show was added for evening recreation. Afternoon events included a pet parade, athletic contests, horse driving and riding demonstrations and lots of good fellowship.

Under the leadership of Bill Fairfield, together with his wide circle of friends interested in pleasure horses, the horse show attracted so many spectators and exhibitors that arrangements had to be made the following year to move back to the High School Athletic Field . . . this time with tents to protect exhibits and exhibitors in case it rained.

Perhaps because the Fisher Community Fair and Horse Show filled a need for education, recreation, sociability and recognition for the entire family, the event kept getting larger each year.

Financial support from the state, which soon became available, provided the funds needed for buildings, equipment and attractive cash prizes.

Always a people's fair, the Fisher Community Fair and Horse Show has continued to reflect credit on the parade of folks who have worked hard to make it an event that brings out the best in all of us.

The Fisher Fair will be held this year from July 14 through July 17. The present officers are Edwin Sauer, president; Ronald Kuhns, first vice-president; W.F. Province, second vice-president; Mrs. Grace shields, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. N.N. Kesler, first assistant secretary.

HOME BUREAU AND HOMEMAKER'S

EXTENSION HISTORY

Home Bureau had its birth in the area in 1918 when the Condit Unit of Home Bureau was organized. Mrs. Will Jackson was the chairman of that first unit. Charter members were Mrs. G.G. Cochran, Mrs. Ida Davis, Mrs. Cecil Drennan, Mrs. V.D. Foster, Mrs. W.J. Hewerdine, Mrs. Chester Layman, Mrs. Nellie Quinn, Mrs. L.F. Putnam, Mrs. Mabel Shields, Mrs. W.H. Sitts, Mrs. Ruby Asher, Mrs. R.D. Wirt, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. W.H. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. G.C. Williams, Mrs. Henry Swartz, Mrs. L.N. Dunlap, Mrs. True Drennan, Miss Lila M. Drennan, Mrs. W.J. Pilgrim, Mrs. Bessie Shields, Mrs. Harry Flagg, Mrs. William Swartz, Miss Fern Swartz, Mrs. A.H. Parker, Mrs. Ernest Stout and Mrs. Earl Fletcher. In the early days of Home Bureau many times husband and wife both joined. The group dissolved a few years later when there was no County Home Adviser and began a little later as the Condit-Dewey unit. Mrs. Chester Layman of Dewey is the only living charter member of the unit. The Fisher unit was organized in 1938 and was later dissolved. The name of the organization was changed to Homemaker's Extension in 1962 and remains as the only organization with the purpose of providing ongoing education for homemakers through the Extension Service of the University of Illinois. The Dewey Unit of Homemaker's Extension has 53 members and actively supports the Fisher community.

This organization regularly meets at 1:30 P.M. on the third Tuesday of every month at the Fisher Methodist Church. The present president is Mrs. Lowell Heiser.

THE FISHER WOMAN'S CLUB

The Fisher Woman's Club was organized on January 14, 1903, under the name of Fisher Association of Domestic Science. Its first president was Mrs. William Jackson. There were eleven charter members. One of these, Mrs. Myrtle Robinette of Berkeley California, survives.

The meetings were often demonstrations of food preparation, with the food served later for refreshments. Papers on various topics such as Woman's Suffrage and Child Training were prepared. Music was presented by members, children of members and outside talent. Later a Club Chorus was formed. Dues were \$.25 a year and membership began at age 14. The meeting places were in homes; the parlors of the Methodist, Dewey, Shiloh and Christian Churches; the Home Economics Room at the High School and the Fisher Amvet Building.

Some early projects were beautification of the Village which included flower beds at the railroad station and cemetery, and the planting of shrubbery at the curve on the northeast entrance to Fisher. The Club members served lunch at the High School Basketball tournament in 1926 and the proceeds were used to purchase a red velvet curtain for the school stage.

In 1924 the club was affiliated with the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs and in 1928 joined the Champaign



The Fisher Woman's Club celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an afternoon tea at the Amvet Building on April 4, 1953. From left to right are Mrs. L.O. Sale-pouring, Mrs. Corwin Richard, Mrs. G.C. Williams, Mrs. P.W. Miller, Mrs. Robert Canney, Mrs. A.H. Gerber, Mrs. Bess Armstrong, Mrs. Ernest Minks, Mrs. John Mitchell, Mrs. Horace Hazen, Mrs. Merle Crooks, Mrs. A.D. Stuehm, Mrs. Roy Fairfield, Mrs. Newton Roles and Mrs. S.D. Donovan.



From left to right: Mrs. Donald Sizer, Mrs. William Provine, Mrs. Claude Hinton, Mrs. Glenn Wilson and Mrs. Henry Hadler.

County organization. The name of the Club was changed to the Fisher Woman's Club at a meeting in January, 1926. Later projects included making dressings for the Red Cross; working for the Cancer, Red Cross and Community Chest drives; members served on the Sugar Ration Board; the Summer Library; the Fisher Fair and the U.S.O. in Rantoul.

The Club observed its 50th year with a lovely tea on April 4, 1953 at the Fisher Amvet Building. 106 persons registered. Mrs. A.A. Jones was Champaign County President in 1953-54. Mrs. Glade Sunderland was County Secretary in 1953-54, and Mrs. Henry Hadler was County Treasurer in 1963. Several members have served as 19th District Chairman. The Club helped organize the first Junior Woman's Club in Fisher in 1935. It later became the Fisher Evening Club.

A tea was held in observance of the 60th anniversary of the Club on June 6, 1963, at the Fisher Amvet building. A luncheon and program at the Paradise Inn, on October 4, 1973 marked the 70th anniversary of the Club.

Present local projects have included contributions to the A.F.S. Student Fund; community improvement donations to the Old Fire Truck Building, the hand railing at the Methodist Church; the Park at the Fairgrounds; the cookies for Halloween and Christmas children's parties and cakes for the U.S.O. at Rantoul. The club has helped with many state projects including Cancer and Brain Research; Scholarships for Indian and Latin American Students; contributions to Illinois Cottage in Park Ridge School for Girls; the Gateway House Foundation; the Alta M. Babb Memorial Fund; Veterans' Hospitals in Illinois; Care; and the Sao Paulo Drug Abuse Project.

The club has 41 past presidents, many are still active members. The present membership is 42. Mrs. William Fairfield is serving as president for the club year 1975-76. The club is looking forward to observing the 75th Anniversary in 1978.



From left to right: Mrs. Ernest Nelson, Mrs. Roy Scholl, Mrs. J.T. Moore, Mrs. Ernest Minks, Mrs. L.O. Sale, Mrs. William Provine, Mrs. Ray Dillman and Mrs. J.G. Buchan.



The Fisher Woman's Club celebrated its 60th anniversary on June 6, 1963 at a luncheon meeting at the Amvet Building in Fisher. From left to right: Mrs. D. Merrett, Mrs. H.F. Thut, Mrs. Ernest Minks, Mrs. A. Milehan and seated are Mrs. Donald Sizer and Mrs. Clyde Armstrong.

FISHER EVENING CLUB

At a special meeting of the Fisher Woman's Club at the Fisher Grade School on Monday evening, January 6, 1936, a Junior Woman's Club was organized. Vilma Adams was elected sponsor representative from the Fisher Woman's Club. Those who signed the charter that evening were Evelyn Beatty, Mary Suttle, Othelia Adams, Dorothy Nelson, Elizabeth Robinette, Lucille and Elizabeth Rohlfing, Madeline Smith, Ernestine Rice, Freida Dean, Dorothy Drennan, Marion Jones, Betty Richards and Vilma Adams.

The following officers were elected that evening: Evelyn Beatty, president; Dorothy Nelson, vice-president; Elizabeth Robinette, secretary; Madeline Smith, treasurer. Any woman between the ages of 16 and 30 was eligible to join the Junior Woman's Club. Meeting date was set for the second Monday of each month.

The name of this organization was changed to Fisher Evening Club in the early 1950's and the age limit was removed. The membership increased at one time to over 60 but the present membership is 36. Three charter members are still members of this club.

The club has been very active in community affairs. The first Fisher kindergarten was organized by the club. Kindergarten classes were held for several weeks during June and July. A few years later kindergarten classes became a part of the Fisher school system.

The Fisher Evening Club offers each year a music scholarship, an art scholarship and a conservation scholarship to students in the Fisher area. The club helped to develop the Fisher Community Park on the east side of Fisher. Contributions have been made for the Fisher Antique Fire Truck Building, the Mini Park in the business district, and the Fisher A.F.S. At Christmas time the club remembers the shut-ins and elderly of the Fisher community with small gifts.

The club has had a food stand at the Fisher Fair since the Fisher Fair Association was organized. The food stand is the only money making project that the club sponsors.

The Fisher Evening Club celebrated its 25th anniversary at its regular meeting on September 11, 1961 at the Amvet building in Fisher. A style show was given with costumes from 1936. At the present time this club meets the second Monday evening of each month in the homes of club members or at the Fisher Methodist Church. Mrs. Merle (Edith) Heiser is the present president.

FISHER JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

The Fisher Junior Women's Club was organized in 1960 under the direction of the Fisher Evening Club. In 1961 it was federated into the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. Fifteen ladies organized this group as a service organization. At the present time there are still two charter members in the club.

The early activities of the club included a bike safety check lane and sponsor of the summer library program. They gave first aid classes to the community. Until the tuberculosis office was closed in Champaign, the club worked each year helping with their annual mailings.

The main money making projects over the years have been a bazaar and helping the Fisher Evening Club with

the food stand at the Fisher Fair. With this earned money they have given United States flags to the school, sponsored the Brownie and Girl Scout troops and sent music and art students to camp during the summer.

The club members helped the Fisher Evening Club work on the community park at the fairgrounds. With community help and support they sponsor the community Halloween party and the annual arrival of Santa Claus at Christmas. The Christmas decorations in the business district and the Santa house were purchased and made with the help of community funds.

The latest project and the bicentennial project was the construction of the building for Fisher's antique fire truck. Through pledges and donations from citizens and businesses this building became a reality. On December 29, 1975 the fire truck was placed on display for the community to enjoy.

The club tries to help in any community projects that further the betterment of the community. Their goal is to aid in any children's activities and to serve the community in the best way possible. At the present time there are 19 members but the organization had a high of 35 members at one time.

The first president of this club was Mrs. James (Lila) Waugh and the present president is Sarajane Annin. Two women from this organization have been junior district directors. They are Marlene Eichelberger and Cathy Delaney. Marlene Eichelberger has also served as junior state membership chairman.

FISHER GARDEN CLUB

In the summer of 1971 the Fisher Garden Club was organized. Its purpose is to create an interest in gardening, to protect our native growth and to encourage beautification through the use of natural plant materials.

Six large redwood planters, purchased by the club, are placed in the downtown business district each summer. They are planted with flowers and maintained by club members.

At the present time there are 17 members. The ten current members from the original group who joined in 1971 are: Leita Brake, Raymond Brake, Jane Cox, Mildred Emerson, Agatha Heiser, Elsie Minks, Ann Neumann, Evah Provine, Katherine Springer, and Esther Unzicker.

Flower arranging is a favorite program topic. Other topics are varied and include growing house plants, fruits, vegetables, flowers and the problems connected with their growth.

The general public is always welcome at the Garden Club meetings. Club meetings are held either in the homes of members or at the Fire Station on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. The first president of the organization was Mr. Raymond Brake. The current president is Ann Neumann.

KUNTRY KUZINS SQUARE DANCE CLUB

The Kuntry Kuzins square dance club was organized in 1970 in the home of Don Malcom, who was the club caller at that time. The club began with twelve couples. There are fourteen couples in the club now. This club meets the first and third Saturday nights of each month at the Fisher

Fair building. Their anniversary dance was May 29. A Federation dance was held in Springfield, Illinois on May 1, 1976. There was a National Square dance in California on June 24, 25, and 26. Some couples from this club take their campers and attend state and national square dances. They also travel to other clubs and other clubs come here for dances.

During the winter months of 1975-76 this club gave square dance lessons to 23 children between the ages of 8 and 12. Visitors may come to watch the square dances at any time. Square dancing is good entertainment and creates good fellowship. Square dances are held in all 50 states and in many foreign countries. The present officers of the club are Richard and Shirley Meunieu, co-presidents; Norman and Joyce Zeck, co-vice presidents; Bob and Patsy Muncy, co-secretaries; and Vernon and Barb Odom, co-treasurers.

SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

In 1931 a civic minded group of citizens of Fisher saw the need of some recreational grounds for this vicinity. Under the leadership of these men a plot of ground was purchased on the east edge of town. The plot was large enough for laying a baseball diamond and was paid for by popular subscription. It was then given to the school district, but the control of activities, except for those of grade and high school, was under the Softball Association.

This playground has furnished recreation for people of all ages in this community such as the town Softball League, 4-H Softball League and the Farm Bureau Softball League, tournaments, grade and high school softball leagues, high school football, teenage Baseball League and all other sports activities. The field is now owned by the city and is what most of us know as the Little League Field.

A softball team was organized in 1933 by C.L. Allen. In 1934 a league was formed consisting of eight teams. They charged 5 cents admission which paid all expenses.

The teenage baseball team was organized in 1947 by Lonnie Scofield in which about 15 boys participated.

On April 5, 1959 a meeting was held in the home of Everett Hedrick for the purpose of forming a Fisher Little League Association. These men also felt the youth of Fisher needed some form of recreation and entertainment. The Little League Association was incorporated on June 4, 1959. The men responsible for this organization were Everett Hedrick, Burdette Griffith, James E. Williams, Howard Stuehm and Frank Reinhart. Donations from various clubs, organizations, and businesses helped get the Little League started. These people and interested citizens have continued donating their money and time to keep the Little League going.

The Little League used the grade school baseball field (by the football field) for several years. They now use the field at the fairgrounds.

The first coaches for the four teams were: Sox—Ora King; Cubs—Taylor Williams; Braves—Melvin Hill; Yankees—Darrell Fairfield. The farm team managers were John Hudspath and George Roberts.

The Pony League was started in 1967 by Ron West, Ken Brake and Leonard Unzicker. They play ball on the baseball field at the High School. Donations help keep this club going and very active today.

The Pony Tail League was started in 1968 by Dorie Willard, Doreen Sparks and Ruth Unzicker. They are sponsored by the Mobil Gas Station, Howard Stuehm.

In 1974 McCurdy Seeds of Fisher sponsored a men's softball team. They belonged to the Gibson City League. Most of these men are from the Fisher area. This year, 1976, they have become a traveling team. They will have approximately 40 games played here in Fisher. They are using the Little League field.

A Women's Softball team has been started this year, 1976, with most of the women from the Fisher area. They have joined the Rantoul League. They are sponsored by the Heiser Oil and Gas Co. They are planning a softball tournament to be held in Fisher this year.

4-H CLUBS

4-H Clubs, and all the activities associated with the 4-H program, have played an important part in the lives of many of the children and young adults in this community for the last fifty years. Many area residents look back on the years they spent in a 4-H organization with the realization that taking part in the various activities of a 4-H club has played a vital role in their growth and development. In addition to the wealth of information to be learned from the wide variety of projects offered through 4-H, many other activities are available to 4-H members including public speaking, health, safety, physical fitness, softball, judging, camping and leadership training.

The 4-H Club which has been in existence for the longest, continuous period of time in this four-township area is the Condit Agricultural Club which was chartered on July 17, 1934. The first leaders of the Condit club were Frank H. Ward, Godfrey Guynn, and A.A. (Winnie) Jones. Mr. Jones led the club for twenty-five years. Other long-time leaders were Lou Crowley (1938-52), Ray Brock (1955-65), Kenneth Kesler (1955-75), and Marion Pasley (1961-76). Many other men have helped lead the club for shorter periods of time over the years.

The Condit Club has always had a large membership, including both boys and girls, from all four townships in the area. In 1939, the Condit Ag. Club had its highest enrollment of 73 members. Today the club's enrollment averages from 35 to 45 members each year.

Girls' 4-H organizations have also been very active in this community. Records have not been kept as well, however, and the only information available is that the first girls' 4-H club in the Condit area was organized as early as 1921. Many, many women of the community have volunteered their time and service through the years to be the leaders of these home economics clubs.

A number of 4-H members from both the agricultural and home economics clubs of this community have received the highest honors which the 4-H program offers. These awards include: state and national competition in demonstration and judging contests; trips to Club Congress, leadership camps, and citizenship conferences; the Key Club award; and winning many prizes and honors at the State Fair.

It is due to the dedication of the many men and women who volunteer to become 4-H leaders that 4-H work can be carried on successfully and have the valuable constructive influence it does on the young people of the community.

DIXON SCHOOL

by Karen Heiser, Second Grade

First place winner in the Dewey State Bank
Centennial Contest

My grandfather and my father both went to Dixon
School, a one room school in East Bend Township.

The first school, which my grandfather attended, had a
bell tower with a big bell in it. There were three posts near
the door for people to hitch horses to.

In about 1932 this school burned. While the new school
was being built, the children had class up the road in a
house now owned by Mrs. Lizzie Oyer.

The new school was used for 16 years. The same three
hitching posts stood in front of the new school. My father
went to this school. When consolidation came in 1948 the
children rode buses to Fisher. The second Dixon School
building is now the residence of Mrs. Clara Naffziger.

THE PIONEER MERCHANT OF DEWEY

by Lisa Alexander, Eighth Grade

Received First Prize in the

Dewey State Bank Centennial Contest

Back in Saxe-Weimer, Germany,

on March 7, 1843,

Began the life of Ernst Lorenz,
the pioneer merchant of Dewey.

Setting sail for America, risking fortunes
in a new and untried country,
Four children and their parents
land safely in New York City.

Now this little lad of six
travels with his family,
To their first home in this free land
to the town of Cincinnati.

That pioneering spirit
leads them on further,
To Covington, Kentucky,
cross the Ohio River.

There the future
pioneer merchant of Dewey,
Had but ten months of schooling,
poor little Ernie.

Our country now engaged
in a great Civil War,
At the age of eighteen
he walked out the door.

Dedicated to serving
his adopted country,
Four long years spent,
that pioneer merchant of Dewey.

He was wounded four different times,
though not seriously,
For Generals Crittenden and Howard
he fought so bravely.

While serving in the cavalry
of the Union Army,
He cast his vote for Lincoln,
of the Republican Party.

Bids farewell to his kin
at the close of the war,
Sets out for Champaign County,
and says no more.

In East Bend
he starts his life of farming,
Collects enough wood
and puts up a dwelling.

On to Houstonville
he sets up a shop,
Becoming postmaster
and did not stop.

His get-up-and-go
succeeded again,
As he moves to the only town
in East Bend.

In the middle of an oat field
he erected a building,
A home for his wife, a post office,
and store for selling.

Its postmaster he becomes
in '76,
Behrens is the name of the town
in the stocks.

As the railroad went by
there came to be,
A new name for the town,
it's now Dewey.

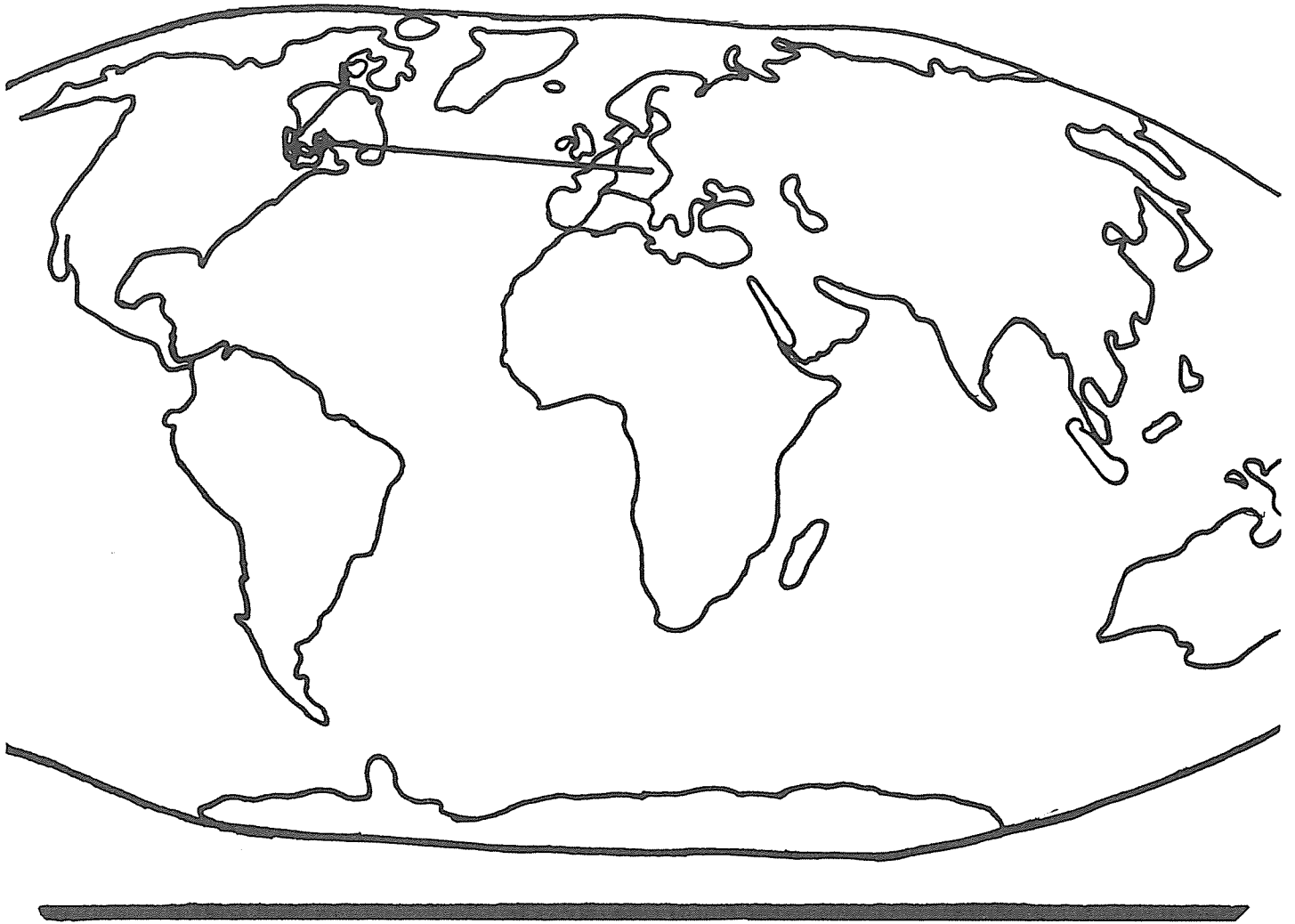
Later he serves
as a school director,
Justice of the Peace,
and an assessor.

Life of the pioneering merchant
comes to an end,
As he leaves eight children
to carry on his trend.

In this Centennial Year
go take a look,
At his tombstone
high above a brook.

Tree stumps of concrete
encircle his plot,
Though the date of his death
we know not.

In Beekman you'll find
his grave so renown,
But we do not know
if he's in the ground.



Ernst Lorenz we hereby salute
so humbly and proudly,
An unending spirit
of the pioneer merchant of Dewey.

FROM SAXONY TO DEWEY
by Laura Alexander, Fifth Grade
Received First Prize in
Dewey State Bank Centennial Contest

It all began in Saxony, Germany on November eleventh, eighteen forty-seven. My mommy and daddy are Dorthea and Gottlieb. My parents brought me to America when I was only two years old. My sister and two brothers came with us. Boy did I get sick on that Boat! My first home was in Cincinnati, Ohio. Shortly afterward we moved to Covington, Kentucky.

I was twenty when we came to Dewey. On August fifth, eighteen seventy-two, I married Miss Matilda Heinemann. Matilda and I had six children.

My wife's mother was Julia Heinemann and her father was John N. Heinemann, who was born in Germany and came with us to America when he was a young man. My father-in-law first settled in Indiana, where he married Julia and later came to Dewey. He had a grain business in Dewey. I understand you still have a grain business there — and so much bigger now!

For two years after I was married I operated rented land. Then I purchased one hundred sixty acres of raw land which I made into good farm land.

I did many things. I ran a restaurant business in Elliott and later conducted a hotel in Paxton for a year and a half. In January, eighteen eighty-one I came to Dewey and had a business with my brother Ernst until August. Then I started a small business of my own.

When I first started in my business my stock of goods costs only seventeen dollars and fifty-five cents. I gradually increased my stock to meet the growing demands of the people, and I had a good general store, supplied with everything, in first class condition. My store was right next door to your present bank. My wife always had the coffee "hot," on a big stove in the middle of the store. She had a millinery in the back and all those things to sew a dress.

I voted for the first time and cast my vote for General U.S. Grant in eighteen seventy-two.

You are probably wondering who I am. I am Lewis H. Lorenz, a well known merchant of Dewey, Illinois.

Oh yes, I must admit, folks. I'm no longer around to give all this information about my life and good times in Dewey. My heart felt thanks goes to my great-great granddaughter, the author of this essay. Enjoy your Centennial Year!

HOME SWEET HOME
by Kim Bidner, Fifth Grade
Received Second Prize in
Dewey State Bank Centennial Contest

The North half of the Northwest Quarter of Section twenty-three, Township twenty-one (Condit Township) North, Range eight East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Champaign County, Illinois is where I have lived all my life (all ten years). One of the most interesting history lessons is reading an abstract of title, especially if it is for the land you live on.

In 1855 Abijah O'Neill purchased our farm from the United States. He sold it to Dan Yount for \$5.47 an acre.

Myron Nelson was the first owner to make his home in this location. He bought this farm in 1874 and they spent their first winter in a dugout which is now part of our basement. It was a little more than 100 years ago that he built his four-room house above the dugout. Janice Nelson Knoxon (a Fisher graduate) is a great-great granddaughter of Myron Nelson.

Three generations of Nelsons owned this farm before my grandfather bought it in 1941 for \$135.00 an acre. Six more rooms had been added to the house during the years. Grandpa wanted to build a new house here but my mother thought it would be sad to lose such a well-built old house.

The only description for the house at this time was that it was interesting. It had just gone through the depression of the 30's and didn't have any paint, the roof was leaking, and the porches were coming down.

Mother starting painting the house but my Dad did most of it. After a new roof was added and the porches were repaired, the house was beginning to look much better. Most of the old windows have been changed, they caused a little too much ventilation in the winter time.

For the house's centennial, we have just finished adding a pioneer fireplace. An old lamp is on the mantel with the inscription "Home Sweet Home." Dad has been building an old rustic fence and a small silo. Inside the silo is part of the old windmill that pumped the water for many years. He has been planting all kinds of trees — his favorite project.

Our basement is bigger now and has a furnace. It still has the old door that the first owners used long ago.

Maybe someday I'll write a book about all the memories we've had growing up here. My favorite pastime is listening to stories my brothers and sisters tell of their childhood days (I'm the caboose). My oldest brother and sister started to school at Quick, a one-room country school. Another story in my book would be about the airplane that used to be in our haymow.

God has been good to us, we've always had a bountiful harvest. It has truly been "Home Sweet Home" to all of us.

Perhaps if this house and I take good care of each other, I'll be around to help celebrate it's bi-centennial.

ROBERT FISHER — THE MAN
by Mark Ledingham, Fifth Grade
Received Third Prize in
Dewey State Bank Centennial Contest

Robert Fisher was born in Madison County, Ohio, on August 22, 1829. He and his father owned 1,000 acres of land in Newcomb and Condit Townships. With this land, he raised crops and livestock.

He married S.A. Ham, daughter of Bartholomew A. Ham; they raised six children — James F., Lucinda J., George A., Wiley D., Charles H., and Minnie A.

In 1852, he joined the Old Line Wings and cast his first vote in support of General Winfield Scott. When the Republicans later organized, he became and remained a strong party supporter.

This energetic and influential man also took an interest in the Havana, Rantoul, and Eastern Railroad, which was being built at that time. He gave his earnest support to the building of the road. Having been a member of the Board of Directors from the beginning and having been one of the seven men who gave money and time to this common cause, Robert Fisher later became one of the principal owners of the railroad. He was also the largest stockholder in the Leroy Narrow Gauge Railroad, a 22½ mile strip of railroad being laid from Fisher to Leroy.

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Church Anniversary Booklets

- "Sixty Years with East Bend—History and Photographic Record of the East Bend Mennonite Church" by E. William Heiser
- "Fisher Church of Christ—75th Anniversary, 1889-1961"
- "First United Methodist Church Centennial Anniversary, 1870-1970, History of Church and Area"
- "Shiloh United Methodist Church Centennial Anniversary—1865-1965"
- "History of the Fisher Baptist Church" by Joe Greer

I have also used material from the Fisher Reporter, the Champaign News Gazette, the Rantoul Press and the Pantagraph. Most of the material on the cemeteries of the four townships came from a study made by Godfrey Sperling when he was Champaign county surveyor. I have also used material from articles written by Thomas Sloan Hewerdine in a journal written in August of 1939.

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