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ASSUMPTION CENTURY  
OF PROGRESS, 1853-1953.

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Illinois Historical Survey





**ASSUMPTION**



**CENTURY OF PROGRESS**

**SEPTEMBER 24 · 25 · 26**

**ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS**



Palmer  
1972  
1872

# ASSUMPTION CENTURY OF PROGRESS

ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
September 24-25-26  
1953

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

*Finance:*  
C. C. OWENS

*Entertainment:*  
DON KUHLE

*History:*  
C. G. WYSONG

*Dance:*  
RAYMOND DUNCAN

*Advertising:*  
WM. E. FEUERHAN

*Publicity:*  
W. R. PRICE

*Corresponding:*  
LESLIE STAUTER

*Free Meals:*  
JOHN W. VAN SYCKEL

*Coordination of Organizations:*  
MRS. JEFF RHOADES

*Concessions:*  
H. J. HARPOLD

*Antique and Hobby Shop:*  
MRS. BEN A. MICHAEL

*Children's Activities:*  
EMILY BOND

*Baby Beauty Contest:*  
MRS. C. C. OWENS



JOHN D. MALHOIT  
General Chairman

PAUL PARK, *Secretary*  
HUGO BRIN, *Treasurer*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

*Brothers of Brush:*  
BUD STRINGER

*Long Skirts:*  
MRS. ALBERT ROOT

*Decoration:*  
PAUL PARK

*Community Sales:*  
CLARENCE CURRY

*Electrical:*  
ERVIL A. BRANYAN

*Photography:*  
DOUGLAS COYNE

*Police:*  
ORLANDO LOWRANCE

*Parade:*  
LESTER SPRINKLE

*Raffle:*  
FRANK WOOTERS

*Registration:*  
MRS. JEFF RHOADES

*Style Show:*  
MRS. RICHARD WORKMAN  
RUTH STEIN

*Old Fiddlers' Contest:*  
WALTER W. GRAU

*Steam Engine Show:*  
RALPH FISHER

— WE WELCOME YOU —



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
SPRINGFIELD

WILLIAM G. STRATTON  
GOVERNOR

August 25, 1953

My heartiest congratulations to everyone in the Assumption area on the occasion of your centennial celebration.

The colorful history of your community, from its inception as an Illinois Central railroad station known then as Tacusa, through its evolution as a settlement of Canadian and Pennsylvania colonists, gives ample reason for your just pride in the integral part Assumption has played in the development of Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William G. Stratton".

Governor



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See. Hist. Survey

2930

## DEDICATION

*To the early settlers of Tacusah and Assumption who, by their foresight, courage, endurance, faith, industry, integrity, and thrift, have made it possible for the people taking their place to enjoy the comforts, freedom and all other benefits found today in Assumption, this humble history is reverently dedicated.*

*Assumption, Texas*

PUBLISHED BY  
PRAIRIE STATE TRIBUNE  
ASSUMPTION, ILL.



# THEN AND NOW

*By Coleman G. Wysong*

The hundred years from 1853 to 1953 have seen many changes, most of which have been progressive.

We talk of the good old days but few people care to return to them.

Where Assumption stands was an open prairie with no trees. It is said that every tree we have was planted here.

The surrounding country was largely swampy and many people believed it would never be fit for farming.

Cultivated fields have replaced these swamps.

Walking plows, cradles, hand sickles and scythes have given place to combines, tractors, automatic balers and other efficient implements.

In 1853 there were trails—mud roads which now are replaced by concrete and black-top highways and oiled lateral streets and country roads.

The ox cart and prairie schooner have been displaced by luxury Pullmans, visa dome coaches and airplanes. Of course, not all of these run through Assumption, but the best are within easy reach.

Rafts and rowboats have given way to steamers and barges.

Bridges, ferries, tunnels replace fords.

Early settlers ate "hog and hominy," buried vegetables and dried fruits. Now we have fresh vegetables and fruit brought in winter from warm regions. Canned and quick frozen products, refrigeration and deep freeze cabinets help to maintain good health.

The one-room cabins with open fireplaces have been supplanted by modest cottages, mansions; central heating by gas and coal stokers; gas and electric ranges with model kitchens and new furniture.

Candles and lamps have given place to neon and indirect ceiling and floor lamps.

Errands on foot or horseback could not compete with the telephone and telegraph.

City certified water plants have taken the place of wells and springs.

The general store filled its need but we now prefer the supermarket and department store.

We have few blacksmith shops but many garages and machine shops.

Home nursing and home remedies gave way to hospitals, clinics, medical specialists, toxine, shots, wonder drugs, amazing surgery, blood banks, and psychiatry.

Radio, television, concert series, cathedrals, university extension courses, movies, night clubs, taverns, gambling palaces, etc., have supplanted the little country

church, spelling bees, taffy pulls, picnics, hay rides, bob sled parties and wakes.

In 1853 most clothing was made by hand sewing or on the early foot-pedalled machine. In 1953 our clothing is made by piece work in great factories valued at millions of dollars. The shoe cobbler has surrendered to the great shoe factories.

The one-room school to which pupils trudged in all kinds of weather with a cold lunch is followed by great fireproof buildings with school buses, hot meals, and indoor toilets. However, many noted and noble citizens managed to get an education for service and happiness. Do all our pupils today benefit from their superior advantages?

Birth control and economic conditions have reduced the size of families.

Gas and electric motors make the tread mill unwanted.

Power washers and laundry service have made the washboard and tub out of date. Lye soap is now less valued than detergents.

Sanded floors or dirt floors have given up to hardwood floors, linoleum, broadloom carpets, oriental or domestic rugs.

Slop jars, privies, and "white owls" have surrendered to bathrooms. Showers and bath tubs are more used than the "crick" or wash tub.

There are more conducted tours than path finding. Luxury travel is a contrast to the covered wagon, ox, mule and horse caravans of pioneer times.

Motels, hotels, and restaurants have replaced the inn.

Bathing suits, strapless gowns and nylon have replaced the bustle, hoops, crinoline, corsets, ruffles and cotton of 1853.

The 1953 drug store that sells everything including a few drugs is a contrast to the apothecary shop of 1853.

Chain stores, cooperatives, stock markets, and daily market reports have had a marked effect on the small merchant and individual buyer.

We now have mail delivery, parcel post, air mail and special delivery where no mail or weekly mail was the rule.

Scrub animals with a few choice herds of livestock, open pollinated corn, and hit-or-miss agriculture have evolved into purebred animals, hybrid corn, scientifically crossed animals and poultry. Artificial insemination has increased champion milk producing and beef cattle.

Hoarded wealth once necessary may

# THE OLD STAGE COACH ROAD

By Stanley Smith

The modern movies have used the Stage Coach so often in western pictures with the excitement of hold-ups and gun battles of The Old West that the younger people of the last two generations little realize that our local town and villages of the Early Days were accommodated by a Stage Coach Route extending from Shelbyville to Springfield. This route angled across country in a northwesterly direction. We will pick it up first at Prairie Bird, (now called Henton) in Ridge Township. We have been told the Bushy Fork Creek was crossed on a ford of logs near the Henton Cemetery and most likely followed the present crooked road to-

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now be placed in banks with insured deposits. Checks replace cash transaction.

Infant mortality once so common with many little gravestones in old cemeteries shows the advance in medicine, better living conditions and nursing when we see most babies thrive and live.

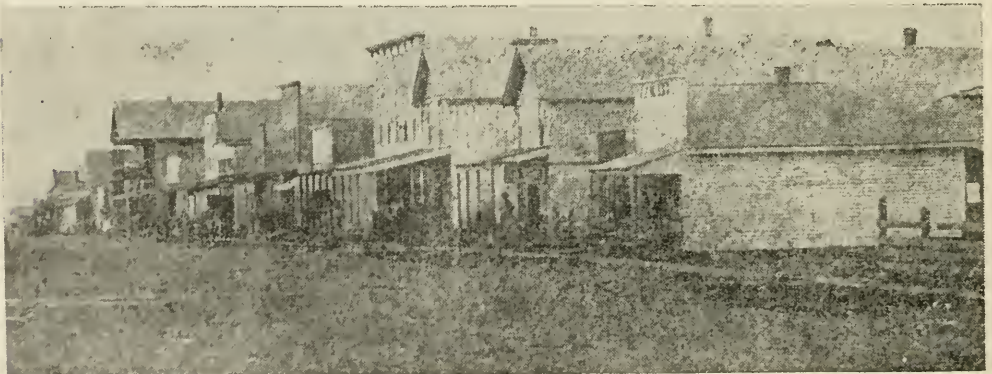
The life span has been greatly increased.

These are but a few of the changes from 1853 to 1953 in Assumption and America in general.

The reader is asked to meditate a while before reading further. He may then appreciate more fully the steadfastness and courage of our forefathers under privations and the lack of many things we deem essential.

ward another angling road in Rural Township, passing the Old Jenkins place now occupied by Herbert Jordan and the Andy Craig place, now occupied by Frank Southern. The Craig place was the location of what was called a Stage Stand. There the horses or ponies were changed. A stable was maintained for the tired, steaming team, and the fresh horses were hitched in their places to carry on the hurried trip in the direction of Springfield. However, the next stand was at Rochester, which was also prominent as the location of the Grist Mill. It seems that the law required a fresh team should be hitched on every forty miles.

As the route threaded its way through the woods and prairie grass toward Assumption, it left its marks on many fields of our present neighbors. Lake Fork Creek was crossed on a wooden bridge near the home of the late Heber Kiern, more easily described as the land now owned by Lela Rowley. A tavern was supposed to be located on the McClure land on the west bank of Lake Fork. The route carried on going right through the back yard of the present home of Sam McClure; thence westerly, likely taking in the Old Slough Corner west of the Clyde Cazalet home. That corner was graced by a mud hole, even in the later generations, that was a problem for a man on a horse, much less a stage coach.



PICTURE OF FRONT (Chestnut) STREET TAKEN IN 1866

Reading from right to left of the picture, locations at that time were as follows: Maher's pig pen; First South street; J. F. McKee, groceries; V. Evans, shoe shop; Bixby, dry goods and groceries; Dutch John, jewelry; Herdman & Moore, drugs; Morehouse, hardware; F. O. Pigeon & Bros., dry goods and groceries; DuBoce, photo gallery; Cancer, harness shop; D. LaCharite, dry goods and groceries; A. Cazalet, general store; Campbell, furniture; Crisher & Granier, harness; H. Myers, barber; Baltzley & Cogill, hardware; Byron Barrett, dry goods; Dr. Barrett, drug store; Second South street; H. L. Reans, groceries; Dr. Benepe's office; Etnire Hotel; P. Almonrode, gallery; W. McKnight, groceries; Hoyt, dry goods and post office; Mrs. Aldrich, millinery.

# SOME EARLY ASSUMPTION PEOPLE & THINGS

By Coleman G. Wysong

In 1787 the United States formed the Northwest Territory consisting of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Michigan and a part of Minnesota.

To this great region settlers came from eastern and southern states and from several foreign countries.

Illinois received her share and Christian County a part of these pioneers.

Some of our oldest families were among these energetic and hardy people.

In 1840 Ireland had a famine. One million people died and a million came to America. Assumption still has New England, Virginia, Southern and French names with some Irish names in its present population.

Many Irish helped build the Illinois Central.

In 1856 Col. Elisce Malhiot came from Assumption Parish in Louisiana. He bought railroad land which he sold to colonizers from Canada and Louisiana. Some of these spoke no English.

From these thrifty French, rugged Irish, and later sturdy Germans with the American stock from east and south has grown a prosperous and hospitable present population. Many of our people bear with honor and worthy pride some of these old names.

We extol the virtues of our forefathers not forgetting their human frailties and lapses. Some were sharp traders, some were too fond of liquor. For example, one man said to another as they sat drinking, "She's pizon, Jim, but we love it."

Families were large. There was a close home life. The conflicting and counteracting influences of today were not known. The church had few rivals as a meeting place socially and these people, while probably no more devout than their descendants, did build churches according to their choice and attended them well.

Schools came later. An early law required teachers to be able to teach the common branches. School houses finally covered the county about two miles apart. These were frequently used as community centers. Spelling bees, debates, and sometimes religious services filled them to capacity.

An early Assumption school was held in an upstairs room in a building that stood at the corner of Main and Samuel Streets. On one occasion the stove failed to draw. A volunteer tried burning soot from the pipe with paper. The soot blew into the room, not up the flue. The children clat-

tered downstairs with black faces.

The great American Trinity which is home first, church next, and school third has left its mark on our town and surrounding community. No one of these can fail without wrecking our civilization. We do indeed owe much to our far-sighted forefathers. Because of our mixed blood Hitler called the Americans a nation of mongrels. Time proved no discredit to this blending of the blood of venturesome and liberty-loving peoples from many cultures.

It is not possible in a history book of this size to write biographical sketches of our early prominent men and women. These may be found in large volumes published in 1880 by Brink, McConough & Co. of Philadelphia and in 1918 by Munsell Publishing Company of Chicago.

A few people living here today remember when there was a common between Greenwood Cemetery and the F. T. Wallace home. There was open range where the Rivard farms now lie.

Poor roads made Taylorville a day's round-trip journey.

Drainage was poor. Much of the low ground now drained by Big George was a swale covered with many kinds of wild flowers. Many people believed that this and other swamp land would never be fit for farming.

Ancestors of the Harley Mohr, Hazael Harpold and T. P. Myers families took oxen and mold board plows and plowed a furrow where the low land permitted. This furrow formed Big George.

Tile drainage followed in time. Now some of the best farm land in the township lies where these slews were thought worthless.

Our paved business and residence streets were once a loblolly in wet weather or inch deep in dust when dry.

The main business block once consisted entirely of wood buildings.

The town was without trees. Some people staked their milk cows on the streets. One old lady objected to another, saying they made the flies bad. She received this reply, "Go in the house and shut the door. The flies won't blow ye."

Every small town has had its characters. Every generation has its outstanding individuals. Assumption has produced its successful farmers, businessmen, doctors, chemists, musicians and its full share of those who gave their all in several wars.

To all these we take off our hats.

# HISTORY OF ASSUMPTION

*By the late H. C. LaCharite about 1900*

All history is a record of past events. The early pioneers are nearly gone and their names and what they did and endured would soon be forgotten unless some record be made.

A little more than fifty years ago this little town was a swamp, unfitted for the habitation of man or beast. The land was so level and the growing vegetation so rank that the falling rain would scarcely find its way to the sluggish streams.

There were no roads and the tall grasses were so high that a man riding horseback (the usual way of traveling) could scarcely see above them.

In 1852 the Illinois Central Railroad Co. laid out what now constitutes the central part of the town of Assumption, in lots and blocks, under the name of Tacusah. Shortly after that time Col. E. E. Malhiot, who had purchased most of the lands in the vicinity owned by the Railroad Company, laid out what was then called Assumption, virtually making one town with two names. In 1866 the name Tacusah was abandoned, and the new survey was called Assumption.

This town is situated upon the line of the Illinois Central Railroad, Section 2, Town 12 North, Range 1 East of the 3rd Principal Meridian. (The first election of Trustees was on the 31st day of March, 1866.)

Col. E. E. Malhiot, friend of Gen. Beauregard and Gen. Banks, who were interested in the Illinois Central Railroad, brought a colony from Canada in 1857. The name Assumption was given by Col. E. E. Malhiot, after a town in Canada. At this time there was nothing but a railroad warehouse and in this the colony was sheltered.

Mr. Lambert (father of Jos. L. and my great-grandfather) being a carpenter, erected the first house in the town on what is known as Samuel Street. His wife (my great-grandmother) was the only one of the emigrants who could speak English, having learned it in Canada. However, they were a resolute people who had come here to make homes and they founded an enterprising town which stands as a monument to their labors and perpetuates their memory.

All products were raised under many difficulties, but as the years passed the pioneer conditions were replaced by those of a more advanced civilization.

Dr. R. W. Johnson was another pioneer coming here with his parents in 1852, he



**DR. AND MRS. H. C. LA CHARITE**

being 2 years old. Deer and wild game were plentiful and they used five yoke of oxen to a plow to cultivate the land. Grain was cut with a sickle and cradled. Corn was cultivated with a walking plow and the seed was dropped by hand and covered with a hoe. Corn was shelled by hand at night, put in sacks or tied up in sheets, and it was sold for 10 or 12½ cents a bushel.

In March 1866, commissioners reported that Christian County, the name substituted for that of Dane, because many of the people had come from Christian, Ky., had been divided into 17 towns and Mr. Jacob Overholt of this town was one of the first Supervisors.

In 1857 the Catholic Church was organized.

Also in May 1857 the Presbyterian Church was organized at the home of Marcus Barrett.

In 1877 there were 300 people living here. The early settlers were of a religious turn of mind and they soon organized the Methodist, Baptist and Christian churches. As time passed churches and a school house were built and teachers were required to have a knowledge of reading, writing, arithmetic and an elementary knowledge of history and geography.

The first newspaper was printed in Pana and brought to Assumption. The first number was issued on April 22, 1871,

with R. M. Carr, publisher and J. M. Birce, local editor.

The first brick and tile yard was on what is now known as the Fitch Wallace home, then moved to the Balliett property, then to the site it now occupies but not in operation.

In 1880 there were two brick buildings on what is known as Front Street, the rest were small frame buildings.

Dr. Johnson, one of the first physicians, was located where Dr. Brown's drug store was on Front Street. He built the first 12-foot sidewalk in front of his place and laid out the east part of town. He also organized the Hackberry Camp Modern Woodmen of America. A. Cazalet ran the first dry goods and grocery store. La-Charite and Lambert's store stood where Chas. Owens now is, Dewey's Drug Store where First National Bank stands, Grain Store where The Leader stands. Silas Shafer had an implement store, Henry's Livery Barn was where the Middleton property is, Hillabrant's blacksmith and LaFolett wagon shop where the hotel now stands. The jail was where the Boy Scout rooms are with Cleve Little as the first night watchman. Simon's eating house was where Picker's store was.

In 1883 Benj. F. Hight and Silas Moore came from Macon, Ill., and organized the first bank. These men drew up the papers, in order to sink a coal mine in 1887 and 1888 and secured subscribers to incorporate it and become stockholders. They also formed the telephone and electric light companies.

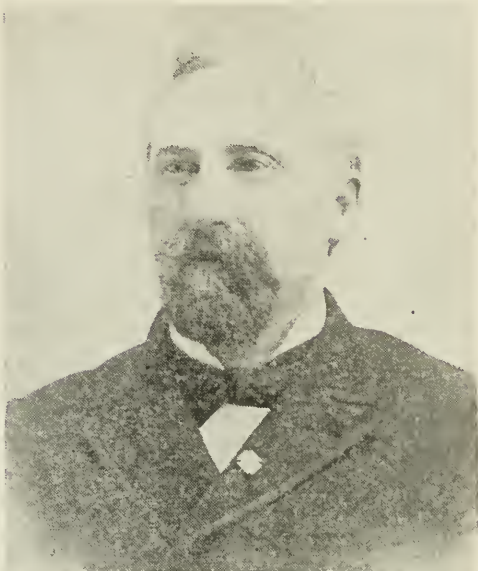
The first Post Office was run by Squire Reans on the Benderoth site. The town grew to have 1800 inhabitants with city water works and all things modern. The hard road runs through the edge of town. We have library, hotel, high school, Catholic school, and grade school.

The credit for early settlers of this town is not due to the man alone but to the woman of that day also. Perhaps they were entitled to even more credit for the men could relieve the monotony of the routine work by the many excursions to the mill or to market, but the wife and daughters were compelled to remain at home and in practical solitude during the early days of anxiety.

But it was a work of love in that it bequeathed to those of us who have come after, all the wisdom gathered from the experiences of those who were here yesterday but today are gone.

*Note: This account should be read while keeping in mind that it was written about fifty-three years ago.*

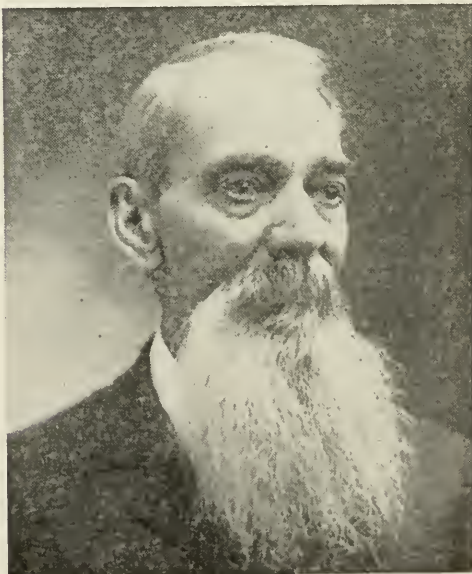
## TWO OF OUR EARLIEST BUSINESS MEN



**BENJAMIN F. HIGHT**

Started first bank, telephone company, electric plant and was instrumental in sinking of Assumption coal mine.

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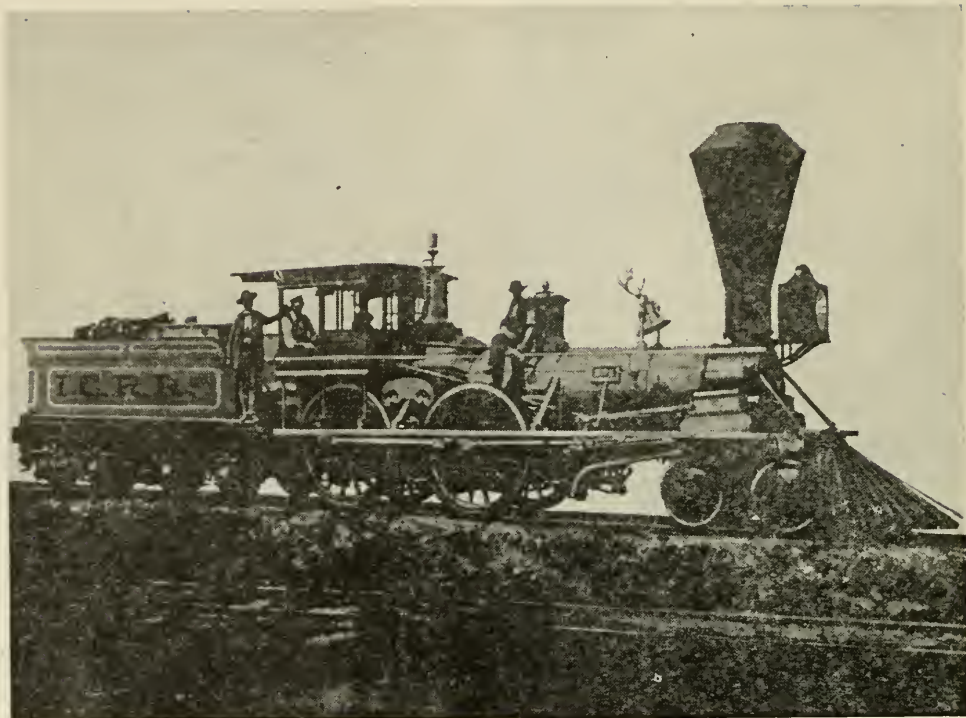


**JOHN W. HILLABRANT**

First to erect store in Tacusah.

# THE ILLINOIS CENTRAL

By Aaron M. Wysong



**"OLD NUMBER ONE" — FIRST ILLINOIS CENTRAL ENGINE  
TO ENTER ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS**

The Main Line of Mid America was chartered February 10, 1851.

The oldest portion, the West Feliciana Railroad in Mississippi and Louisiana, was proposed in 1828 during the presidency of John Quincy Adams.

At the outbreak of the Civil War 1700 miles of the present Illinois Central lines were in operation.

It has never been in receivership, never undergone reorganization, nor defaulted on any of its bonded debt.

It was the first land grant road in the United States.

In the early days of Assumption it was practically the only means of connection with the outside world, bringing and taking people, mail and freight.

During the Civil War its northern portions served the Union and the southern sections served the Confederacy.

The road was first incorporated by a bill introduced in December, 1835, at a meeting of the Illinois General Assembly in Vandalia, then the Capital. The sponsor

was John S. Hacker of Jonesboro and support was given by Lincoln and his partner, John T. Stewart.

Stock was authorized to the extent of \$2,500,000 but no one could hold more than five shares.

The Charter provided that in place of taxes the road was to pay the state 5 per cent of its gross operating income plus a state tax of about 2 per cent. This revenue paid off the state's debt of \$16,627,500. This payment applies, however, only to the original 705 and a half miles of land grant lines.

The state gave the railroad about 2,595,000 acres of land along its right-of-way which it could sell to farmers when the government sold alternate sections within the land grant zones.

Original Charter lines in 1856 ran from Cairo to Galena.

Assumption now has no passenger trains but much freight, especially coal, passes through.

The company has extensive lines to



Sioux City, Iowa, and to Kankakee, La-Salle, Freeport, Urbana, and service from Chicago to New Orleans.

When the original 705 mile charter line was undertaken, Illinois was still a wilderness. Towns were small, few and far between. Vandalia had 350 people. Six hundred lived in Decatur and 1594 in Bloomington. Primitive transportation was by river boats and stage coaches over mud roads. The Illinois Central when finished was the longest railroad in the world.

In 1855 the ninety-seven mile gap from Decatur to Sandoval was completed to Ramsey Creek in Fayette County. Two days later the first passenger train operated to Mendota over the Burlington to Turner Junction and over the pioneer Galena and Chicago Union to Chicago.

Today Assumption lies on the Springfield Division with headquarters in Clinton. Assumption Woman's Club was responsible for the rose garden replacing two-block-long junk yards along its track.

The elementary school Parent-Teacher Association, led by Coleman G. Wysong, school principal, secured warning signals with lights and gongs at the main crossings.

The road serves 14 states, 2200 communities and has 6500 miles of track.

In Christian County it employs 37 people with a payroll of \$136,000.

## Pioneer Harness Maker



**PETER YOUNG**

One of Assumption's early settlers, who was born in Quebec, Canada in 1861 and came to this community with his parents when one year old. He learned the leather business and trade of harness making at the age of 13 years and established his own business a few years later. Mr. Young married Stella Mae Winter of Owaneco and they were the parents of two children, Beulah and Lowell E. Beulah passed away in 1904 and Mrs. Young in 1933. Mr. Young spent his entire life in Assumption in the leather business, retiring at the age of 85 years. He was active until a few months before his death in 1949 at the age of 88 years. His son, L. E., continues in the leather business in this city.

COMPLIMENTS OF

# W. F. MILLER & SON

ASSUMPTION

— PHONE 215 —

ILLINOIS

**McCORMICK-DEERING FARM EQUIPMENT**

CONOCO PRODUCTS

SIMPLICITY GARDEN TRACTORS

HENDERSON LAWNMOWERS

BRIGGS & STRATTON GAS ENGINES

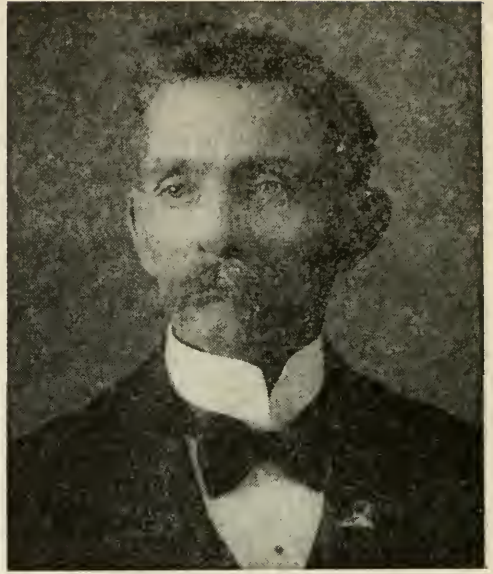
NATIONAL SAFES

INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS

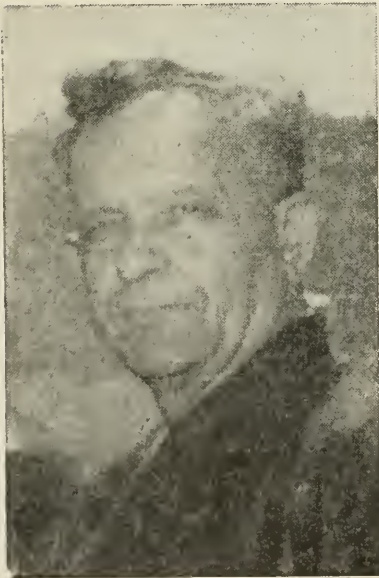
# ASSUMPTION OFFICIALS



**WARREN MAGEE**  
President of the Board of Trustees  
of Tacusah in 1853



**ISAAC L. LONG**  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees  
of Tacusah in 1853



**WALTER B. STEIN**  
Present Mayor  
of the City of Assumption



**GEORGE HUTCHISON**  
Early City Marshal

*Welcome Home, Friends and Visitors*

TO

ASSUMPTION'S 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS  
CELEBRATION



We are happy and proud to be a part of this  
Great Community and Celebration

31 YEARS



DEALER

*Plymouth — DeSoto*

Don

**KUHLE BROS.**

Leonard

OUR SINCERE  
CONGRATULATIONS

to the folks who have made Assumption  
the splendid city it is . . . and have made  
our 25 years of business here so enjoyable.



**R. C. SLOAN**  
Founder



*John Deere Farm Machinery*

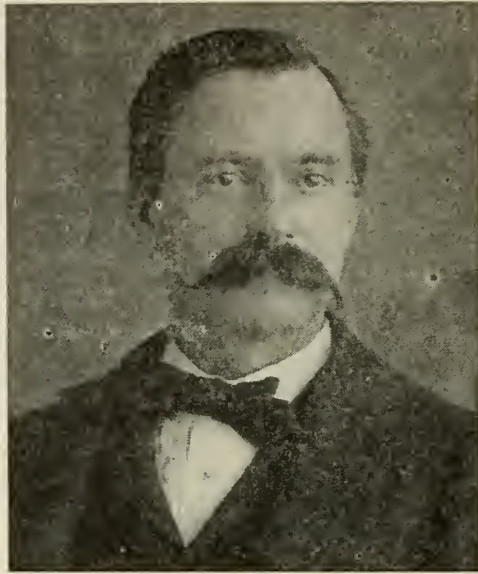
GENERAL ELECTRIC APPLIANCES

**Sloan Implement Co.**

# ASSUMPTION POST OFFICE

By *D. H. Stephens*

*Chief Post Office Inspector, Washington. D. C.*



**GEORGE W. HILLABRANT**

**First Postmaster of Tacusah**

ESTABLISHED AS: Tacusah, Christian County, Illinois, November 9, 1855.

NAME CHANGED TO: Assumption, March 10, 1858.

<i>Postmasters:</i>	<i>Date of Appointment</i>
George W. Hillabrant	November 9, 1855
Fredric A. Seymour	June 8, 1859
John A. Bridge	September 7, 1877
Robert W. Cartmell	September 28, 1885
John W. Moore	December 5, 1888
William T. Wallace	October 25, 1893
Horace L. Cushing	October 26, 1897
Edward C. Watson	February 10, 1902
Karl Hight (acting)	September 14, 1912
Ernest C. Foster	September 24, 1912
E. J. Cushing	July 11, 1913
A. D. Michael (acting)	February 15, 1921
J. L. Cushing	October 20, 1921
Fred W. Baxmeyer (acting)	October 1, 1925
Archie C. Etchison	January 28, 1927
Earl W. Nichols (acting)	April 6, 1931
Earl W. Nichols (regular)	January 7, 1932
Francis P. Ryan	May 19, 1936
Francis P. Ryan (military leave)	October 14, 1942
Miss Mary A. Ryan (acting)	October 15, 1942
Francis P. Ryan (restored)	March 15, 1946
Louis L. Pierson (acting)	January 31, 1951
John W. Duncan (acting)	June 30, 1953

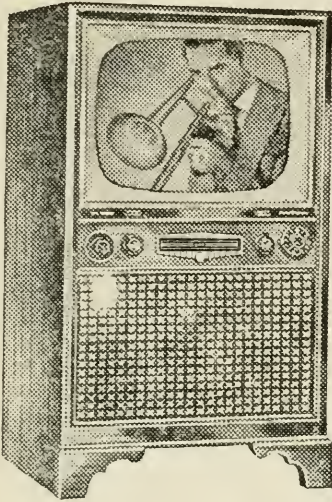
City Delivery established: November 1, 1918.

Domestic Money Order inaugurated: July 15, 1872.

International Money Order inaugurated: July 1, 1902.

COMPLIMENTS OF

# D. J. DOMAS



DEALER IN

*PHILCO...*

TELEVISION

RADIO

HOME FREEZERS

REFRIGERATORS

Phone 13 - - Assumption

COMPLIMENTS OF

# ISOME'S



Lois — Charley — Barbara — Jacqueline — ???

1929

1953

# PARIS CLEANERS

— 24 Years of Service —

MR. and MRS. WAYNE H. MICHAEL

# SOME EARLY PEOPLE AND EARLY BUSINESS

By Mrs. Ben Johnson

Mrs. Minnie Hillabrant Cushing, wife of Irvin H. Cushing, and mother of Mrs. Ruth Cushing Johnson of Assumption, and Mrs. Mildred Cushing File of Decatur, was the first child born in Tacusah, July 23, 1858. Mr. Irvin H. Cushing was the first child born in Tacusah Township, April 19, 1857, in a log cabin across the road to the north of Edwin Johnson's home. Edwin is his grandson.

Mr. Williams and John Hillabrant were the first to erect a store in Tacusah in 1854; they later sold the establishment to Marcus L. Barrett. John Hillabrant operated, after the sale of his former establishment, a blacksmith, wagon, paint, and upholstery shop, where the Community Building now stands.

George Hillabrant, who was Mrs. Karl Hight's father, was the first postmaster of Tacusah in 1855.

W. E. Cushing and his wife moved from Greene County in the spring of 1857 to a farm three and one-half miles northwest of Assumption. Three sons were born to this union, namely: Irvin H., Horace L., and Samuel E. Irvin married Minnie Hillabrant, Horace married Dora Pitzer, and Samuel married Lena Kinkead.

In the fall of 1875 the family moved to the village of Assumption, where W. E. Cushing with John E. Hunt and Guy H. Kinkead formed a partnership which was known as J. E. Hunt and Company. Within a month Mr. Kinkead, the only experienced business man of the firm, died. For a year Hunt and Cushing continued the business when Mr. Cushing bought the

interest of Mr. Hunt and took as a partner his oldest son Irvin. Within the first year they sold a one-third interest to J. W. Moore, who remained in the firm about one year, at which time Mr. Cushing purchased his interest. Horace was made a partner and Samuel followed in a short time, forming the firm which was known for many years as W. E. Cushing and Sons. They began the business in a one-story frame building, which was located one door south of the present location of the First National Bank.

In 1883 they began to enlarge their business by building their dry goods room with the opera house above, and in a few years added the lower story for their grocery room. Finding their space was still too limited, they made this room two stories, placing the stock of clothing upstairs. Still their business increased, and they found it necessary to purchase the adjoining two-story building on the west, which they occupied below with groceries and above with carpets, cloaks, trunks, etc. Their entire line then consisted of six departments.

When they sold their entire stock to R. S. Bohon of Decatur, on December 5, 1905, they had been in business for thirty years. After they had sold the business Irvin and Horace, with their families, moved to Decatur. Samuel continued in the grocery business in Assumption.

Horace's wife, Dora Pitzer Cushing, who has attained the age of 91 years, lives in St. Petersburg, Florida, with her daughter, Mrs. Madge Pahmeyer.



EARLY ASSUMPTION BUSINESSMEN

W. E. Cushing and sons Irvin, Horace and Samuel

# Trulock Chevrolet Co.

ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS

*We are happy to be a part of the  
Centennial Celebration*



May Assumption grow and prosper for a  
Bigger and Better Celebration in 2053

— WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING WITH YOU —



COMPLIMENTS OF

## Associated Garment Co.



ASSUMPTION — PANA — SHELBYVILLE

1853

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S

1953

TO OUR FAVORITE CITY . . . ASSUMPTION

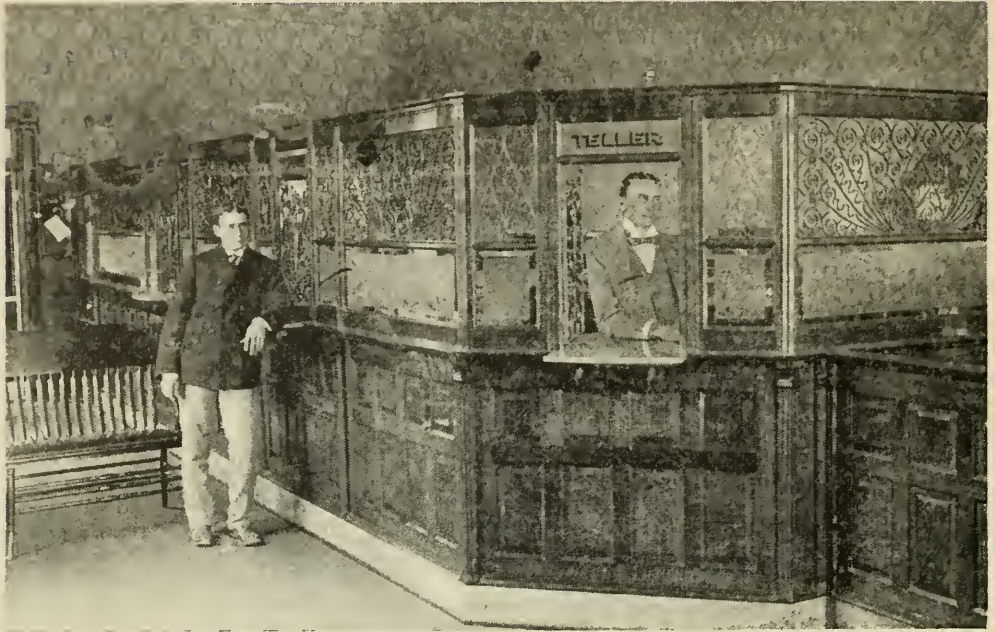
On Her One Hundredth Birthday

### The Prairie State Tribune

— YOUR HOME TOWN PAPER —

# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

*By Robert D. Corzine*



## INTERIOR VIEW OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN OLD LOCATION

First National Bank in corner building on Second South and Chestnut Streets now occupied by the Tribune Office. A. H. Corzine behind teller's window with Gus Conner, another bank employee, standing in the lobby to the left.

In the early spring of 1900, a group of local citizens started the organization of a national bank for Assumption. As a result, in May, 1900, the First National Bank of Assumption was opened for business with the following officers: President, August Cazalet; Vice President, C. C. Corzine; Cashier, A. H. Corzine; Assistant Cashier, "Gus" Conner.

The bank was located in the building now occupied by the Prairie State Tribune where it continued in business until 1929. After purchasing and remodeling the building where the bank is now locat-

ed, it moved there in the fall of 1929. During the depression of the early 1930's, this bank was one of three out of twenty-one banks in Christian County remaining open. It is now the oldest of six banks in Christian County, having celebrated its fiftieth anniversary three years ago.

From a small beginning its total resources have now grown to over three and one-half million dollars. The present officers are: President, L. C. Corzine; Vice President and Assistant Cashier, Hugo Brix; and Cashier, D. C. Corzine.

Congratulations to a Fine Community

**C. A. (Guinea) LUPTON**

**COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS**

**ASSUMPTION TOWNSHIP**



FIRST  
NATIONAL BANK  
OF  
ASSUMPTION

*Christian County's Oldest Bank*

ORGANIZED IN 1900

Member Federal Reserve System



Deposits in this bank insured up to \$10,000.00 each,  
in the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

# ASSUMPTION COOPERATIVE GRAIN CO.

*By Carleton G. Simcox*

Prior to Oct. 1, 1929, there were three grain companies in Assumption, namely, Assumption Elevator Co., Farmers Grain Co. and LaCharite Grain Co. The stockholders of these three companies organized an operating company known as the Assumption Grain Co. This procedure eliminated any competition in the grain markets of Assumption.

In August of 1934 a group of farmers, feeling that we should have a competitive market, held a meeting and decided that Farmers Cooperative Grain Company should be organized and they proceeded to perfect an organization which was incorporated in September of 1934. This organization was set up under the Federal Law known as the Capper-Volsted Cooperative Act.

The first step taken by the new company was an attempt to purchase one of the existing grain elevators, but they failed in this. They then proceeded to establish an office in a garage building, install a set of scales, bought a dozen scoop shovels and during the next eight months they scooped 280,000 bushels of grain into railroad cars.

The new company was started by borrowing \$1,000.00, fourteen farmers signing a note for same. In 1935 a lease was secured on Illinois Central Railway property on which they erected an office and a 10,000 bushel elevator. This operation was financed by selling stock in the amount of \$5,925.00 and borrowing \$6,000.00 from the St. Louis Bank for Cooperatives. The business grew much faster than anticipated by its members and it was necessary to build another 16,000 bushel storage in 1937. Again in 1939 it was necessary to add more capacity and a 26,000 bushel addition was constructed. Again in 1939 it was necessary to add more capacity and a 26,000 bushel addition was constructed. Again in 1943 they built two concrete tanks with a capacity of 42,000 bushels. In 1944 the company purchased the Farmers Grain Co., (it was a Farmers Grain Co. in name only) and the LaCharite Grain Co. This brought their total grain capacity to 197,000 bushels. In 1949 four, 25,000 bushel concrete storage tanks were constructed making a total capacity of 297,000 bushels, the largest country grain storage in the State.

The company has operated at a profit every year of its existence. The first dividend was paid June 1st, 1941; prior to this

all profits were invested in the facilities. At the annual meeting of December 6th, 1939, it was voted to retire all preferred stock leaving only Patronage Stock outstanding. The patronage stock has no par value, and is not transferable.

Under the by-laws of the company each patron is entitled to one share of common or patronage stock and each patron has one vote in the transaction of business of the Company.

As of June 1, 1952 the Assumption Cooperative Grain Co. has made a net profit of approximately \$420,000.00; of this amount \$220,000.00 has been returned to the patrons and the balance is invested in the property. A complete record in the office shows the amount of each individual's share of the profits invested. These investments are paid to the patron if he ceases to be a producer of grain, or in the case of death, said profits are paid to the estate of the deceased.

Several years the company has handled more than a million bushels of grain annually, the largest volume being 1,444,000 bushels.

The Board of Directors consists of seven. The following men have served on the Board: H. J. Harpold, C. G. Simcox, A. J. Richards, Oscar Workman, J. W. Van-Syckel, Lewis Kuhle, Elmer Potter, C. C. Cazalet, Henry Schwab, Sam Mink, Earl Bilyeu, Paul Uffelman, J. F. Himes, Wayne Rowley, D. C. Davidson, James Malhoit, Philip Hebert, L. H. Kuhle, Arthur Barror, C. C. Owens, Robert Riley and Earl Damery. C. G. Simcox has served as Manager the past eighteen years.

## ASSUMPTION CO-OP. GRAIN COMPANY

THE FARMERS OWN COMPANY

1934

1953



#### FREIGHT HAULED BY WAGON IN OLDEN DAYS

The Illinois Central station in Assumption with a fence around the park. There was only a single track, no switch track. Freight had to be unloaded into drayman's wagon. Pictured here are Moses Stutsman, driver; Charles Padgett, in straw hat; man in center is I. C. brakeman. Box car was No. 3965.



C. E. CURRY — ASSUMPTION, ILL.

ASSUMPTION COOPERATIVE GRAIN CO.

**YOUR FUNK'S G-HYBRID DEALER**

# HISTORY OF THE MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ASSUMPTION

*By Don Edwin Johnson*

As the village of Assumption was first called Tacusah, so was the church called Tacusah until the towns of Tacusah and Assumption united under the name of Assumption. Since that time until 1921, when the name was changed to Memorial Presbyterian Church, it was known as the Assumption Presbyterian Church.

Marcus L. Barrett was the first Presbyterian who became a resident of Assumption, and as he was strongly and faithfully devoted to the church of his choice, and was able by his keen foresight to see the advantages of this church to this new settlement of Tacusah, he soon had a meeting arranged and a minister invited to preach to the few scattered inhabitants that made up this new settlement. At that time only a very few houses could be seen from the depot of the Illinois Central Railroad, that was then in its infancy of diligent service to the surrounding countryside. The Presbyterian Church was the first Protestant Church to serve this settlement. It was organized in the residence of Marcus L. Barrett, which was the depot, on the 27th day of May, 1857, by the Reverend Mr. H. R. Lewis of the Sangamon Presbytery, who was invited to attend this special work. The congregation was gathered from miles around, and it was organized with twenty-four members.

The first Elders of the Church were S. C. Sheller and William G. Calhoun. The first communion service was held May 8th, 1859, in Mr. Overholt's warehouse with the Reverend Mr. Lewis officiating. Elder W. G. Calhoun was appointed the first delegate to the Synod of Illinois in 1860, representing the church for the first time.

The first church edifice was erected in 1861, and it was dedicated on June 23rd of that year. The building was erected at a cost of one thousand dollars; the ground upon which it stands having been donated by E. E. Malhot. A manse was constructed on the same lot as the church in 1876, at a cost of seven hundred fifty dollars.

In the year of 1878 the Assumption Presbyterian Church shared services with the Bethany Presbyterian Church, the pastor preaching in Assumption in the morning and at Bethany in the afternoon. Reverend Maynard was the pastor at this time.

In 1888 the Trustees sold the church



**MARCUS L. BARRETT**

building and moved it off the church grounds, and erected a new church building at a cost of four thousand dollars. On October 25th, 1888, the church was incorporated under the name of the First Presbyterian Church of Assumption. In 1902 the church building was enlarged by the addition of an annex for the use of the Sunday School, which addition was built at a cost of twenty-four hundred and fifty dollars. This edifice was removed in 1919 for the erection of the present church.

Thirty-one years after the erection of the second building, Miss Mattie O. Johnson, whose generosity and great devotion to the service of her God and her fellowmen will be cherished forever, presented to the community of Assumption one of the most modern and adequately equipped church edifices to be found in a town of its size. An excellent and imposing pipe organ was given to the church by Mrs. Clara Myers, Mrs. L. B. Farrell, Mrs. C. G. Wysong, all deceased, and Thomas P. Myers. This organ has added greatly to the impressiveness of the services and it is always a pleasure to hear the melodious strains that it brings forth. Both gifts were properly and impressively dedicated Sunday, June 5th, 1921, at which the Reverend Dr. W. H. Penhallegan of Decatur

delivered the dedicatory sermon, with the pastor, Reverend Elmer S. Martin, officiating in the formal dedication ceremony.

In sacred memory of Miss Mattie O. Johnson, who presented the church to the congregation, they voted unanimously to the change of the church name from "The First Presbyterian Church of Assumption" to "The Memorial Presbyterian Church of Assumption" at a congregational meeting on the 19th of October, 1919. This third church was erected at a cost of forty-five thousand dollars, and it has proved sufficient to meet the requirements placed upon it by the past.

With the numerous improvements and redecoration when necessary, the church will be quite able to meet all the requirements placed upon it by the years to come and it will remain as a guiding light and a bastion of faith to the endeavors of the community.

The succession of ministers who have been connected with the labors of the church is as follows: H. R. Lewis, 1857-60; Clark Loudon, from 1861 to 1866; B. E. Mayo, 1866-68; Washington Maynard, took charge of the church as a supply in 1868 and was installed as pastor, September 24, 1873, which pastorate ended in September, 1875; R. M. Neill was employed as supply on January 1, 1876, for one year, but owing to adverse circumstances he was forced to leave in August of 1876. Washington Maynard again occupied the

pulpit, beginning October 1, 1876, and he left the charge after a number of years of diligent and faithful service. He was followed in the charge by Reverend Lafferty; O. P. Galloway; L. B. Dye; A. M. Elliot; L. M. Coffman; William MacKay; J. N. Strain, 1902-04; J. F. Fetteroff, 1904-05; C. H. Ticknor, 1905-06; J. F. Rogers, 1906-10; H. G. Duzenbury, 1910-13; W. A. Sears, 1914-19; W. H. Penhallegan, 1919-20; Elmer S. Martin, 1920-23; E. E. De-Long, 1923-28; John Meeker, 1928-32; Philip R. Coen, 1932-38; John P. Emig, 1938-42; James W. Rankin, 1943-44; Kenneth Brown served as pulpit supply from May of 1944 to Reverend Rankin's return from the service of his country in April of 1946. Reverend Rankin remained as pastor until 1950 when Howard Strong became the pastor of the church and he remains in that position today.

The Memorial Presbyterian Church of Assumption has grown from its humble origin in the town's first depot to a haven for the weary of heart, spirit, and faith. As the City of Assumption has grown, so has the Presbyterian Church and it will always remain as a haven of rest in this world of turmoil.

Chimes were presented to the church in 1949, by Leonard and Donald Kuhle, as a memorial to their father and mother. The sweet and resonant chords of these chimes may be heard throughout the community on many occasions.



**LEWIS KUHLE FORD AGENCY ON FIRST STREET**

In building now occupied by Central Illinois Feed & Supply. The late Mr. Kuhle, local Ford dealer in the early "gas buggy days", is pictured on the right with Sam Hallowell in the center and Bill Moore on the left.

## OLD RESIDENTS OF COMMUNITY

John L. Ryan was born in Assumption, Illinois, December 1st, 1865. His parents came to Assumption from Ireland in 1858. His father was section foreman on the Illinois Central Railroad and lived in the section house which stood on the corner where the State Bank Building now stands. It was in this house Mr. Ryan was born.

In the year 1869, his father bought the farm southeast of Assumption (part of which was purchased from the Government), where Mr. Ryan and his family still reside.

In his early manhood Mr. Ryan was a railroad telegrapher and station agent for the Chicago and Alton Railroad, stationed at Carrollton and Jacksonville, Ill. In Jacksonville he met and married Miss Ellen Cullen. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1947. They are the parents of seven living children.

Mr. Ryan is a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and a lifelong Democrat.

He takes an active interest in the affairs of the farm and is an avid baseball fan.



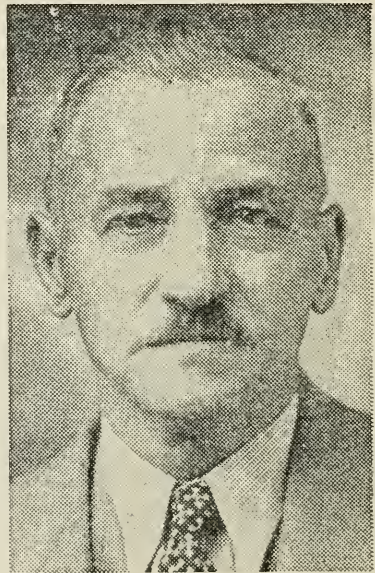
**JOHN L. RYAN**

Aged farmer residing southeast of town



**PETER F. PIERSON**

Assumption's oldest citizen who is 94 years of age. He was born at Canton, Ohio in 1859, to Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pierson, and moved to Blue Mound, Illinois with his parents in 1869. He was married to Carrie L. Reis and moved here with his family to the Myers farm north of Assumption in 1897. He retired in 1930 and now resides with his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Louis L. Pierson.



**G. J. ADELHART**

Assumption's oldest business man, having conducted a meat market and grocery store here for the past fifty years. He is 80 years old and also numbered among our oldest residents.

CONGRATULATIONS  
ON  
CENTURY OF PROGRESS  
**DECHY'S MARKET**  
FRESH MEATS and GROCERIES

COMPLIMENTS  
— of —  
**Norman C. Huss, M. D.**  
Assumption, Illinois

Compliments of  
**Wilfred S. Miller, M. D.**  
Assumption, Illinois

Compliments of  
**Dr. G. P. Walker**  
— DENTIST —  
Assumption, Illinois

Congratulations to Assumption  
On Your Hundred Years of Progress  
**HUGO'S TAVERN**  
●  
FINE DRINKS and SANDWICHES

Compliments of  
**C. A. MARKWELL**  
TILE DRAINS  
... or ...  
SUMPS FOR FIELD TILE

CONGRATULATIONS ASSUMPTION  
ON OUR 100th ANNIVERSARY  
**THE BEAUTY SPOT**  
LEONA RICHARDSON, Prop.

COMPLIMENTS  
— of —  
**JONES GROCERY**  
GROCERIES and MEATS  
— Open Every Night —

CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ASSUMPTION  
— A Great City —  
**FATSO'S BILLIARDS**

CONGRATULATIONS  
to  
*"The Old Home Town"*  
**MR. and MRS. A. D. DAY**

# THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ASSUMPTION

By Rev. Dr. C. T. Stolze



The Catholic Church of the Assumption undoubtedly gave the City of Assumption its present name. This church was established in the year of 1857, when thirty-five families of French Canadians came to Tacusah, as Assumption was then known. The leader of these early settlers was a Colonel Malhiot. These early families were joined about the same time by several families from the County of Assumption in Louisiana. Together these early beginners settled the land of virgin prairie which was almost submerged in swamps. Colonel Malhiot donated the land on which they built a little log church, which they named for the beloved Mother of God, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This first church was built on the northwest corner of what is now known as the Adelhart farm.

From 1857 to 1868, all the priests were natives of France. The first priest was Father Venissa. In quick succession came Fathers Gonant, Dutour, Magne, Vogt, Bedard, Recouvreur and Jacque, all from France.

On Oct. 17th, 1858, four records of baptisms are found in our present baptismal register. The first to appear is that of Mary Bergeron; next Augustina Rose Cesar; then Mary LaFlamme, and then

Francis Xavier Malhiot, all baptized by Father Gonant. The records are beautifully written in Latin and very legible. It is evident from this fact that visiting and neighboring parishes supplied the spiritual wants of the early settlers for the first year, 1857.

The present church was built in 1870 by Father Jacque. There followed in order the following priests: Fathers Withoff, Kempen, DeChene, Leufgen, Pennartz, Ader, Mahoney, Carroll, DeChene. Father DeChene remained the longest, for 22 years. It was under his leadership that the present convent and school were built in 1903, and given over to the care of the Dominican Sisters, who have served uninterruptedly ever since. Three of the sons of the parish school have become priests and eleven daughters have entered the religious life as nuns.

Father D. J. Higgins remained for 13 years and made many improvements. The present rector is Rev. Dr. C. T. Stolze, who has been here for the past twenty years, coming in the year 1932. Since then all the buildings have undergone a complete remodeling. The church has undergone a complete renovation costing \$50,000.00 with all the latest equipment, marble floors, the latest electric pipe or-



gan and beautifully decorated murals done in oil, which rank this church with the best far and wide. This renovation was completed in 1938. In 1949 the new \$90,-000.00 parsonage was constructed. The home as it stands today is one of the most beautiful and attractive residences in this part of the State.

The parsonage is eighty by fifty feet, and consists of eight rooms, all on one floor, three complete baths, floors of concrete with carpeting to the walls; windows, screens and storm-windows are all of aluminum; the roof is green tile with copper guttering; heated with the latest baseboard hot water radiation. The pastor's suite comprises a library, lounge, living room and bedroom. A spacious dining room will accommodate thirty or more priests. The sixty-foot basement consists of recreation room for priests, laundry room and furnace room with oil burning furnace.

The parish consists of 200 families of energetic business and farm families.



**MRS. JOHN F. BEHL**

At the age of 17 years when she came to this locality in 1872. She passed away June 22, 1947, shortly before her 93rd birthday. Her children are Lee J., A. J., and John A. Behl, and Veronica Michael.



**CITIZENS BAND OF ASSUMPTION**

Front row, reading left to right: Martin Watson (drums), Corwin Neal, Alhime, Frank Gandy. Middle row: C. A. DuBoce, Herman LaCharite, H. J. Harpold, Wayne Hight, Pete Randall, Waldo Long, Leland Watson, Floyd Holler. Back row: Fred Null (leader), E. A. Tobias, L. A. Tripp, Karl Hight, Rolland Lambert, Virgil Fenton, Elmer Tripp, Albert Lipp, E. C. Foster, Ira Tobias, Walter Short (manager).

# ASSUMPTION METHODIST CHURCH

*By Mrs. Ervil Branyan*

The Assumption Methodist Church had its beginning in the year 1860 when eight members banded together to form what they called the "M.E. Society." Joel H. Abbott was chosen "leader" and the DeMottes, J. L., Ann and William, J. P. and Ann Stark, Hulda Cushing, and J. K. Morton comprised the class. For some time this society held its meetings in a carpenter shop which stood on the corner of Second South Street and the alley.

In 1868 they started the building of a church which was completed in 1869 at a cost of \$4,000. In 1876 a parsonage was built for \$750. H. B. Tobias was chosen as Sunday School Superintendent by this group of earnest workers. The official board consisted of Ames Kerr, steward and trustee; E. W. Mohr, steward and trustee; E. J. Fribley, steward; Isaac Campbell, J. A. Wemple, and H. H. Tobias, trustees. The Reverend J. M. West came to be their pastor in 1871. There were twenty-two pastors in the years following his appointment up to 1904 when J. M. Bennington arrived to be the last pastor to officiate in the old frame church.

Since the old church was no longer adequate for the growing congregation, the members decided to build themselves a new one. The last morning sermon in the old church was given on August 26th, 1906, by the Rev. Gay who had been pastor of the church in 1881. He expressed appreciation for the help given him during his pastorate and gave special thanks to Mrs. A. H. Keller. He also thanked Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Tobias, Mr. and Mrs. Fribley, Mr. and Mrs. Eli Mohr, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Shafer, Mrs. E. J. Adams, Arthur Wemple, Mrs. William Reading, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Padgett, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Keirn, and Mr. and Mrs. Amos Kerr. Pastor Bennington preached the evening sermon and Corwin Neal sang "Tell Mother I'll Be There."

On Monday morning a group of young men, including William and Everette Thomas, H. M. Wemple, and A. E. Stanley, supervised by Rev. Bennington, started tearing down the old church. On Tuesday morning the bell was taken down much to the dismay of the many pigeons who had made the belfry their home. Rev. C. M. Barton of Waverly delivered the address at the "ground breaking" on the following Monday.

The cornerstone of the new church building was laid on October 23rd, 1906, in the afternoon. The address was given by Rev. Van Cleve, pastor of Grace Meth-

odist Church in Decatur. The stone was laid by Rev. B. F. Shipp, presiding elder of the Decatur District. There was an anthem by the choir and a solo by Miss Fitzsimmons. Placed within the cornerstone was a Bible, a hymnal, a 1904 Discipline, a church directory, pictures of the old church, a picture of Isaac Campbell, a 1906 penny, plus copies of church papers.

The new church was dedicated on July 21st, 1907. The opening meeting was a Sunday School Rally with many former ministers as guests. I. L. Long was Superintendent of the Sunday School. The Tobias orchestra played at the opening exercises. There was a large crowd attending the morning worship service. Ushers were A. Corrington, Hollis Christopher, Corwin Neal, Waldo Long, Earl Robinson, John Baltzly, Rolla Beilsmith, Howard Tobias, and Elton Jones. Page boys were George Fleck, Paul Christopher, Frank Tobias, Wilbur Crouch, Lisle Haverfield, Warren Lock, Orland Neal, Harry Jenkins, and Virgis Jones.

Rev. W. D. Parr of Kokomo, Indiana, preached the morning sermon from the text "Love Never Faileth." Mrs. Leroy Johnson sang a beautiful solo. There was a great money-getting campaign at this service and during the day, and the amount of \$12,187 was given. Karl Hight was treasurer of the board and he appointed Mary Hollett and Rev. H. B. Montgomery as clerks. At 2:30 p.m. there was a "Children's Hour" with Rev. Shipp speaking.

Miss Lulu Hildreth sang "Just a Little Pansy." Children were baptized at this service. The evening service was taken over by Rev. Parr and at the close of his dedicatory declaration the congregation and choir broke forth into "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow."

So, they built our present church, and forty-six years have passed. The people who worked so hard have many of them gone on, leaving someone else to fill their places, all working for a common aim, to spread abroad the love of God.

Our present minister is Robert Boley, and preceding him were Arthur Scott, Dean Sharp, Charles Liston, A. E. C. Pentland, Lewis D. Hopper, John Decker, Rev. Henry, A. J. Powell, J. Fred Melvin, Milton Wilson, and many others. Members of the church with the longest continuous service are Mrs. Alta LaCharite and Karl Hight, who both joined the church in 1893, under the ministry of Peter Slagle.

*Compliments of...*

## CITY OFFICIALS

W. B. STEIN, Mayor  
KARL HIGHT, City Clerk  
DELLA GRANT, Treasurer  
CHAS. SLOAN, Police Mag.

— ALDERMEN —

W. R. PRICE  
ALBERT ROOT  
A. D. MICHAEL  
WILLIAM CRAFT  
WAYNE BRACKETT  
WILBUR TANKERSLEY

*Congratulations...*

from

## Township Officers

SEWARD LONG  
SUPERVISOR  
CHAS. W. ISOME  
TOWN CLERK  
KARL HIGHT  
ASSESSOR  
J. A. MYERS  
EMMETTE ISOME  
JUSTICES OF PEACE  
W. B. STEIN  
CONSTABLE

*Greetings on Your Century of Progress*

## COUNTY OFFICIALS



H. R. (Reg) TURNEY, County Clerk and Probate Clerk  
EARL R. LANCASTER, Circuit Clerk and Recorder  
JAMES CASHIN, County Treasurer  
LEONARD (Doc) NORRIS, Sheriff  
CLOYD WRIGHT, County Superintendent of Schools

# ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY BUILDING

By Coleman G. Wysong



## COMMUNITY BUILDING

The building now owned by Assumption Township and used by the community as a place for elections and other public meetings was for many years a hotel.

It was built for a hotel and as a memorial to Philip Kemmerer by his wife, Sarah, and was dedicated in 1908.

All prominent people of Assumption were guests at this dedication and many were speakers or took other parts in the ceremonies. Caterers and waiters were brought from St. Louis for the elaborate banquet.

Some of our professional people made Hotel Philip their temporary home when first coming to Assumption.

It served as a hotel and still houses the

Public Library, Boy Scout Room and Rotary Room. Other groups meet in it, also. For some years it had a gymnasium and a club room for the Y.M.C.A.

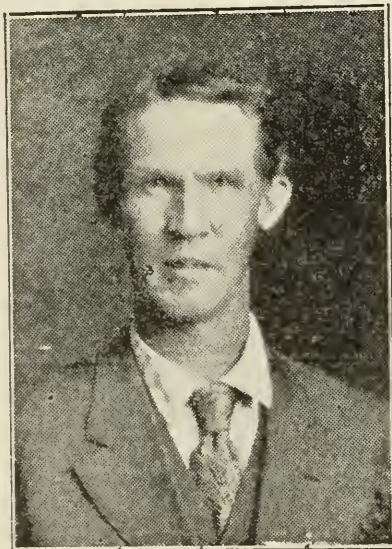
Then, with the elimination of passenger trains through Assumption, and the increased travel in automobiles by traveling men, it ceased to pay as a hotel and stood idle for a time.

Due to the foresight and public spirit of Dr. B. F. Zobrist, several interested citizens saw possibilities in this building which was on the verge of being sold for salvage.

It was purchased at Master's Sale October 29, 1937, by Charles Spence, realtor, for these citizens who signed a note guaranteeing its payment.

On March 25, 1938, at a special election the voters of Assumption Township decided it should be a recreation center and become public property. Bonds for reimbursing the guarantors were voted at this election. The last was retired in 1951 on November 1. It is now supported by a nominal tax. It has great possibilities and, no doubt, will be maintained properly. Few small cities have a public building of such fine appearance and utility.

Present trustees of the Assumption Community Building are: B. F. Zobrist, Roy Jones and Claus Rohweder.



**F. T. WALLACE**

Retired farmer and business man, who is one of our oldest citizens.



**DR. B. F. ZOBRIST**

Prominent physician of Assumption, who recently observed his fiftieth year in the medical profession. He is a former mayor and has always taken an active part in all affairs for the betterment of our community. He is a veteran of World War I.

BEST WISHES  
ON A  
SUCCESSFUL CENTENNIAL  
**RUTH'S BEAUTY SHOP**  
RUTH LOCKART, Prop.

COMPLIMENTS  
— of —  
**CECILE'S**  
LADIES' and MEN'S WEAR  
HARRY and KONITA  
HILDA

Compliments of  
**WAYNE MIDDLETON  
STOCK FARM**  
CHESTER WHITE HOGS

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# KEMMERER ORPHANS' HOME

*By Rev. Peter Fischer, Superintendent*



**KEMMERER HOME**

Mr. Philip B. Kemmerer, a kind-hearted citizen of Assumption, Illinois, willed most of his estate, consisting of 420 acres of land in Christian County, two and one-half miles south of Assumption, besides notes and money, to found and sustain a home for friendless, dependent or orphan children of all denominations. His will provided that said Home should be under the control of the Presbyterian Churches of Central Illinois and his widow, Sarah A. Kemmerer, was named as executrix to carry said will into effect.

Mr. Kemmerer died on Christmas Day, 1905, and his will was contested by heirs-in-law. After a long expensive litigation, involving the loss of more than \$10,000 and nine years in time, the Supreme Court sustained the will and held that the Churches of Central Illinois meant those of the Mattoon and Springfield Presbyteries. Shortly after 1914 the Presbyteries appointed by the Supreme Court assumed control of the trust and a Constitution was adopted. A Board of Control consisting of five members was created and conducted the affairs of the Home until the year 1939 when there was a revision of the Constitution and By-Laws, and the former Board of Control became known as the Board of Directors.

The present brick building was erected and furnished in May, 1914, at a total cost of \$13,353.30—encumbered by a debt of \$4,000.00.

The early years of operation were difficult and discouraging times. The farm land had to be drained and fertilized and cost several thousand dollars. At first there were only a few children and no field worker for the institution. The first Field Representative was employed in 1920 and accomplished a great deal toward building up the Orphanage. In 1923 Miss Emma Rhea became Field Secretary and it was due to her tireless efforts that the Home was placed on a paying basis.

Miss Mary Louise Elder assisted Miss Rhea for some time and later became acting State Secretary, in which office she acted for some thirteen years. Rev. Peter W. Fischer, formerly Superintendent of the Presbyterian Orphanage of Missouri, and a Presbyterian minister, came to Kemmerer Home as General Superintendent in January, 1950.

The Board of Directors still controls the affairs of Kemmerer Home but in 1951 the number of members was increased from five to nine. The following officers and directors are serving on the Board at present:

President and director, Rev. Horace Batchelor, Mattoon; treasurer, W. R. McGaughey, Millikin Bank, Decatur; secretary and attorney, James S. Baldwin, Millikin Bank Bldg., Decatur. Directors: Rev. J. Frank Janssen, Jacksonville; Rev. Roscoe Coen, Vandalia; Rev. Richard Graebel, Springfield; Howard Ainsworth, Mason City; Harry Jenuine, Greenup; Carl Simcox, Assumption; Mrs. Harry Hershey, Taylorville; LeGrand A. Flack, Effingham. Carl Simcox, director, of Assumption has also been appointed as trustee of the farm lands by the Christian County Court and he is responsible not only to the court but to the Board of Directors as well.

In January, 1939, a non-profit, charitable corporation was formed under the laws of the State of Illinois and the name of this corporation was Kemmerer Orphans' Home. A charter was obtained from the Secretary of State and was approved by the Department of Public Welfare. The board was organized by electing proper officers and has been in effect ever since. This reorganization plan is believed to set forth a legal entity capable of receiving gifts either personal or real property and of legally holding such gifts for the purpose set forth in its charter. The institution is securely under the control of the Mattoon and Springfield Presbyteries and its stability and legal status cannot be questioned.

Kemmerer Home is located on the northeast corner of the original Kemmerer home farm and we have about 8 acres for our own use. We have spacious yards surrounding the Home building and several large garden patches, small orchard spaces, and chicken and stock yards. The rest of the 420 acres is tenant-farmed and is supervised by Mr. Simcox.

During the fall and winter of 1947-48

the original Orphanage Building was remodeled and enlarged. The addition included a large laundry room in the basement; a large, well-lighted, modern kitchen and back porch on the first floor, and four bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. This construction was completed at a cost of \$33,415.74. With this additional space we are now able to care for 26 dependent or orphan children. Most of the time we have our full quota and as a general rule we have to turn away many boys and girls during the year due to lack of room in which to care for them. During this same period of building a cottage was built west of the institution at the cost of \$11,000.00 for use by the superintendent and his family.

At present we have outlined tentative building plans whereby we will have sufficient room to care for at least 56 more children. We hope to use the cottage plan in our program.

The resident children of Kemmerer Home are admitted after careful and complete investigation of their case history. Our children come here either by court order, through the churches, or are sent by voluntary arrangement with the parent. Our Home is supported by gifts from churches, individuals, by bequests, by county courts who partially pay for their own children, or by income from our farm lands. There is a definite age limit—2½ to 13 years of age. Children are allowed to remain here at Kemmerer Home until they reach majority, until such time as

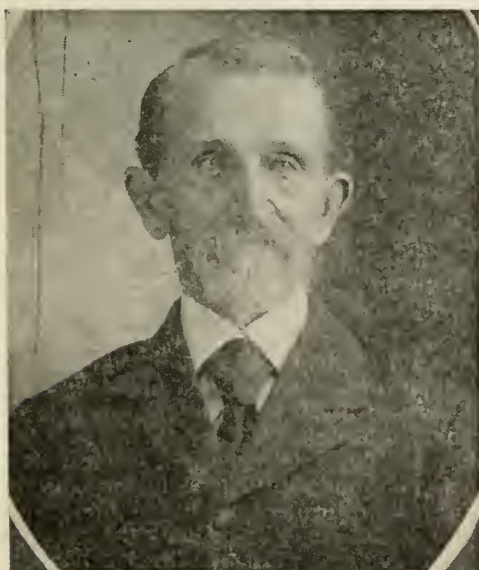
they can be reunited with their family, or until foster homes can be found for them. Our boys and girls attend the Assumption Town Schools and are encouraged to get a higher education. They are active in all school functions and our staff members are interested in all P.T.A. activities.

We attend the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Assumption. Our boys and girls and some of our staff take active part in the church activities. We observe our own religious services here at the Home and have an appropriate chapel service each Friday evening. Our matron, Miss Lura Vincent, holds a Master's Degree in Religious Education and leads our children in a fine religious program.

We have 10 people on the staff here at Kemmerer: the Superintendent and his wife, the Reverend and Mrs. P. W. Fischer, the matron, a boys' housemother, girls' housemother, secretary and bookkeeper, caseworker, cook, maintenance man and the laundress who comes in four days per week.

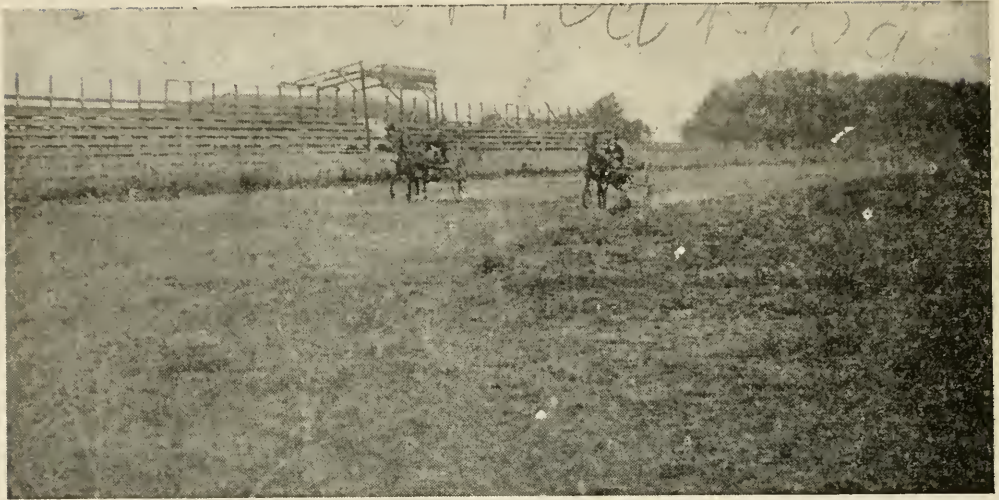
We publish a paper quarterly, "The Kemmerer Chronicle," in which we try to give you some interesting items and pictures of the children in some of the activities and life here at Kemmerer.

We are always glad to welcome visitors and the children are thrilled to have "company". Visiting hours are usually on Sunday afternoon but we are always glad to have folks stop in and visit with us and make a tour of the Home whenever it is convenient for them.



MR. AND MRS. PHILIP B. KEMMERER

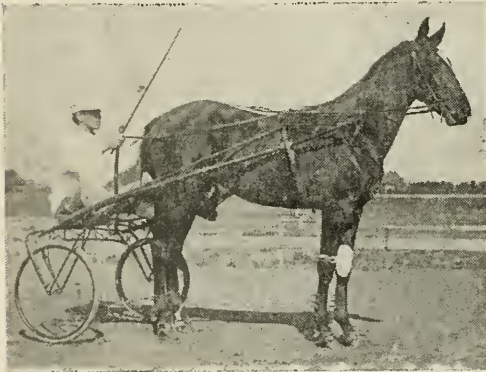
# ASSUMPTION RACE TRACKS



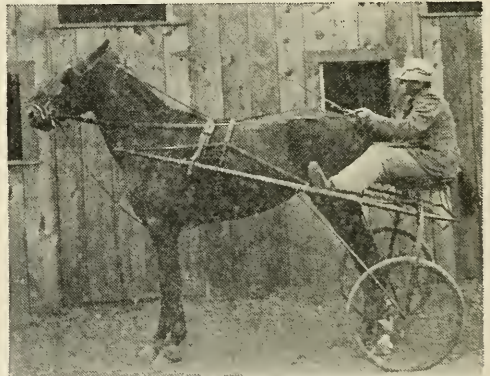
## ASSUMPTION FAIR RACE TRACK

This race track located on Myers section, north of present Poteet residence, furnished much enjoyment to residents of this community about 68 years ago. Big George ran through the center, dividing the bleachers on the left from the track. Access to the track was made by way of bridge.

## JOHNSON'S OLD RACE TRACK AT NORTH EDGE OF ASSUMPTION



Charles Craft, driver at the Johnson race track, who now operates a truck line, hauling drayage between Decatur and Pana.



The late Merton Johnson with Lyn Gould, well known racer.

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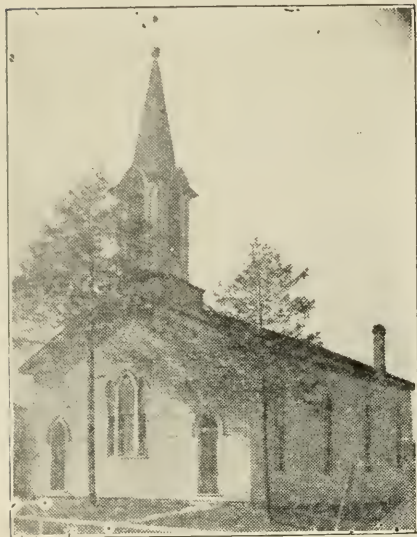
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# ASSUMPTION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*From An Old Record*



**OLD CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

In the autumn of 1870 Elder J. M. Morgan held a meeting in the Baptist Church and baptized several people. They, with several others of the same faith, numbering twenty, met in different homes on the Lord's Day and observed the Lord's Day or communion. The gospel was frequently preached by J. M. Morgan and A. D. Northcutt.

In the spring of 1874 D. J. Watson, Dr. S. M. Benepe and J. J. Benepe were chosen trustees. The following year D. J. Watson gave the lot on which the present church stands and a building was begun

in October, 1875. It was dedicated by Elder N. S. Haynes of Decatur on the second Sunday of January, 1876. It stood in a grove of maples and was 54 by 36 feet with an 18-foot ceiling. The spire was 85 feet high. The church seated 325 and cost \$3800.

Following a meeting in which 41 persons were added, a full organization of the church was completed. W. P. Mauzy and D. J. Watson were ordained elders. William Abbott, Dr. Benepe and J. J. Benepe were deacons.

From then on there was rapid growth.

Other early ministers were O. Q. Oviatt, J. O. Henry, G. F. Adams, F. M. Gwinn and D. P. Henderson.

Officers were J. R. Milligan, S. M. Coonrod and E. E. Cowperthwait.

In 1880 there were 112 members and a Sunday School of 90 with J. M. Birce superintendent and A. G. Chilton, secretary.

The building was remodeled in 1916 with basement and heating plant added.

In 1953 the church was redecorated. It is doing good work and over the years has numbered many outstanding citizens among its members.

Present pastor is Ed Armstrong and officers are: Elders, Robert Carroll, Leslie Stauter, Ivan Trulock, Leroy Trulock, Robert Corzine. Deacons are Bob Hallas, Milliard Long, Merle Beard, Melvin Mathias, Fred Hott, George Bryant, Fred Durbin, C. C. Owens and Claus Rohweder. Trustees are K. P. Branyan, C. C. Owens and Claus Rohweder.



**OLD TILE AND BRICK YARD LOCATED IN SOUTHEAST ASSUMPTION**

# ASSUMPTION CENTURY OF PROGRESS

ASSUMPTION, ILLINOIS

---

Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
September 24-25-26  
1953



## *Program*

(All times listed are Central Standard Time)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

CENTURY OF PROGRESS CHURCH SERVICES

Please attend the Church of Your Choice in Centennial Costume

7:30 P.M. Century of Progress Sing — Water Tower Park

All American Quartet

Local Talent

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

12:30 P.M. OFFICIAL SALUTE

12:30 P.M. Judging of Flower Show — Community Building

1:00 P.M. Assumption Band

1:15 P.M. Organ Music — Mr. John LaMothe  
 Mr. John D. Malhoit, President of Century of Progress  
 Mr. Walter B. Stein, Mayor of Assumption, Illinois  
 Senator Lloyd E. Davis, 40th District  
 Honorable Everett M. Dirksen, United States Senator  
 Honorable William G. Stratton, Governor of the State of Illinois  
 Officials of Illinois Central Railroad  
 Organ — Mr. John LaMothe

2:00-3:00 Free Acts

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES — Square Dance Platform

2:30 P.M. Candy Kiss Scramble ..... Pre-School Ages

	1st	2nd	3rd
2:45 P.M. Wheelbarrow Race, boys 12-14 .....	\$ 3.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 1.00

3:00 P.M. Bubble Gum Contest, largest bubble .....	Girl, \$3.00; Boy, \$3.00		
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	1st	2nd	3rd
3:15 P.M. Sack Race, boys and girls 6-9 .....	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

3:30 P.M. Frog Race, any child with frog .....	3.00	2.00	1.00
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3:45 P.M. STAGE FOR FREE ACTS ON STREET— Cracker Eating Contest, all ages .....	3.00	2.00	1.00
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4:00 P.M. FREE BARBECUE  
 School Band — Organ — Dance Orchestra

7:00-8:00 Free Acts

8:00 P.M. CENTURY OF PROGRESS BALL — Dance Floor  
 Crowning of King and Queen of Century of Progress

8:30 P.M. SQUARE DANCE CONTEST—	1st	2nd	3rd
Best set Adult Dancers .....	\$24.00	\$16.00	\$8.00
Best set Costumed Dancers .....	24.00	16.00	8.00
Best set Children to 14 .....	24.00	16.00	8.00
Best Costumed Dancers to 14 .....	24.00	16.00	8.00

Free Square Dance

STEAM ENGINE SHOW AND DEMONSTRATION  
 North End of Chestnut Street

ANTIQUe SHOW — Sloan Building

FLOWER SHOW — Community Building

DOLL SHOW—

	1st	2nd
Prettiest Doll .....	\$3.00	\$2.00
Ugliest Doll .....	3.00	2.00
Most Unusual .....	3.00	2.00

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

12:30 P.M. Registration of Old-Timers

1:00 P.M. Organ Music — Mr. John LaMothe

1:15 P.M. CHILDREN'S PARADE — Led by High School Band

	1st	2nd	3rd
Pre-School Kids .....	\$10.00	\$5.00	\$2.50
Ages 6-9 .....	10.00	5.00	2.50
Ages 9-12 .....	10.00	5.00	2.50
Ages 12-14 .....	10.00	5.00	2.50

(Every child in parade will receive a treat)

2:00 P.M. Organ — Mr. John LaMothe

2:15 P.M. BABY BEAUTY SHOW—

In memory of "Aunt Bet" (Mrs. A. H. Corzine) — Water Tower Park

- Class 1—Girls, 1 month and under 1 year
- Class 2—Boys, 1 month and under 1 year
- Class 3—Girls, 1 year and under 2 years
- Class 4—Boys, 1 year and under 2 years
- Class 5—Girls, 2 years and under 3 years
- Class 6—Boys, 2 years and under 3 years
- Class 7—Twins, 1 month and under 3 years
- Class 8—Girls, 3 years and under 4 years
- Class 9—Boys, 3 years and under 4 years
- Class 10—Girls, 4 years and under 6 years
- Class 11—Boys, 4 years and under 6 years
- Class 12—Twins, 3 years and under 6 years
- Class 13—Girl's Sweepstakes, any age, 1 month to 6 years
- Class 14—Boy's Sweepstakes, any age, 1 month to 6 years

Prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places — Loving Cups for Sweepstakes

3:00 P.M. Steam Engine Show — County Line Hot Shots — Added Entertainment

4:00-5:00 Free Acts

5:00 P.M. Judging of Store Windows

7:00 P.M. Free Acts

7:30 P.M. FREE STYLE SHOW — Athletic Field

Organ Music

	1st	2nd	3rd
Baptismal Gowns, oldest .....	\$5.00	\$2.50	\$1.00
Girl's Costume, oldest .....	5.00	2.50	1.00
Boy's Costume, oldest .....	5.00	2.50	1.00
Ladies' Costumes—			
100 years .....	10.00	5.00	
75 years .....	10.00	5.00	
50 years .....	10.00	5.00	
25 years .....	10.00	5.00	

Wedding Dresses—

Oldest .....	10.00	5.00	
Most Beautiful .....	5.00	2.50	

Couple's Real Wedding Clothes—

Oldest .....	15.00	10.00	
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Men's Clothing—

Oldest .....	10.00		
Handsomest .....	5.00		

War Uniforms—

Civil, Blue .....	5.00		
Civil, Gray .....	5.00		
Spanish-American .....	5.00		
World War I, Army .....	5.00		
World War I, Navy .....	5.00		

Bathing Suits—

Ladies', oldest .....	5.00	2.50	
Men's, oldest .....	5.00	2.50	

Capes, Shawls, Bonnets .....	5.00	2.50	
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Twirling Exhibition — Charlene Beard

Organ

9:00 P.M. Free Square Dance — Water Tower Park

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

10:30 A.M. BIG STREET PARADE—

	1st	2nd	3rd
Organization Floats .....	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$15.00
Business Floats .....	50.00	25.00	15.00
Individuals .....	50.00	25.00	15.00
Church Floats .....	50.00	25.00	15.00
Ox Team Floats .....	50.00	25.00	15.00
Horse-Drawn Floats .....	30.00	20.00	10.00
Horse-Drawn Singles .....	30.00	20.00	10.00
Most Original Old-Time Float .....	30.00	20.00	10.00
Best Looking Family .....	25.00	15.00	10.00
Novelty Bands .....	20.00	15.00	10.00
Best Comic .....	15.00	10.00	5.00
Old Cars .....	15.00	10.00	5.00
Saddle Horses, riders to dress .....	12.00	8.00	6.00
Ponies, riders to dress .....	8.00	5.00	3.00
Bicycles, decorated .....	5.00	3.00	2.00

1:00 P.M. Organ — Mr. John LaMothe

1:30-2:30 Free Acts — Big Stage

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC FIELD—

2:45 P.M. Catch the Greased Pig, age 14 ..... Prize, Pig

3:00 P.M. Greased Pole Climb, age 14 ..... Prize, \$5.00

3:15 P.M. Rooster Chase, ages 12-14 ..... Prize, Rooster

	1st	2nd	3rd
3:30 P.M. Three-Legged Race, ages 9-12 .....	\$3.00	\$2.00	\$1.00

3:45 P.M. Tug-of-War, boys, ages 10-14 ..... Prizes to each boy on winning team

CONTEST ON FREE ACT STAGE—

	1st	2nd	3rd
2:00 P.M. Ladies' Nail Driving Contest .....	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$1.00

(Bring your own hammer)

2:30 P.M. Steam Engine Show — County Line Hot Shots — Entertainment

3:30 P.M. Old Fiddlers' Contest

4:00 P.M. Organ — Mr. John LaMothe

6:00 P.M. JUDGING LONG DRESSES—	1st	2nd
Best Family in Centennial Costume .....	\$15.00	\$10.00
Most Beautiful Genuine Centennial Costume ..	5.00	2.50
Most Beautiful Reproduced Centennial Costume ..	5.00	2.50
Most Handsome Couple in Centennial Costume ..	10.00	5.00
Most Handsome High School Couple in Costume ..	10.00	5.00
Most Handsome High School Couple in Old, Original Costume .....	5.00	2.50
Most Beautiful High School Girls in Repro- duced Costume .....	5.00	2.50
Girls, 13 years of age and under, in Centennial Costume .....	5.00	2.50
Boys, 15 years of age and under, in Centennial Costume .....	5.00	2.50
Best Home-made Calico Dress .....	10.00	5.00

JUDGING BEARDS—

Fanciest Beard .....	15.00	10.00
Ugliest Beard .....	15.00	10.00
Longest Beard .....	15.00	10.00
High School Boy with Best Beard .....	15.00	10.00

(No false beards or imitations will be judged)

7:30-8:30 Free Acts

8:30 P.M. Free Square Dance

10:30 P.M. Century of Progress Car given away at Intermission of Square Dance

# BAPTIST CHURCH

The (Old) Stonington Branch Church was organized March 12, 1865, at the Union Schoolhouse, northwest of Assumption, according to the following resolutions: "Resolved, That those members of the (Old) Stonington Baptist Church who desire to unite in sustaining religious meetings at the Johnson schoolhouse, have our unqualified approbation. Resolved, That we recommend said members to associate together as a branch of the Stonington Church and to exercise all the rights and privileges of a church except in matters of discipline and the reception or dismissal of members."

"March 12, 1865: Met according to appointment and after a sermon by Brother Maxwell the following received the Right Hand of Fellowship by Brother J. M. Cockran; To-wit: James Ridge, M. P. Webster, Thomas Tucker, Sarah Ridge, Mrs. Susan Cushing, Lizzie Soge, Mrs. I. Pierce, and Mrs. J. T. Webster. M. P. Webster was chosen Clerk and James Ridge, Deacon. Sister Jane Harris and Sister Rachel Lovering were received by letter. On July 16, 1865. Richard Palmer was received as a candidate. On May 13, 1865 Sister Nancy Coonrod was received by letter. On November 10, 1867, W. E. Cushing was in the group baptized and received into full membership. Rev. J. H. Maxwell, the first regular pastor, and his wife were received by letter January 11, 1868."

Through the interest and efforts of the members of this Stonington branch-church, Rev. R. R. Coon and some Baptists in and around Assumption, the Baptist Church of Assumption was organized. As the directors wished to dispose of the old schoolhouse, W. E. Cushing and James Ridge, as a committee, were able to purchase this building and it was moved to a lot procured from Col. E. E. Malhiot. The building was repaired and remodeled with funds secured from Baptists and friends. The building was dedicated and the church organized with seventeen members and recognized as a regular missionary Baptist Church August 17, 1870. The church was constituted February 27, 1870, and recognized by Council August 27, 1870, and received as a member of Springfield Association September 2, 1870. Rev. R. R. Coon was the first pastor; James Ridge and W. E. Cushing, deacons; and Charles Beeman, clerk.

In 1893, Rev. H. F. Jordan was sent here as a missionary pastor by Springfield Association. Under his supervision and

through the prolonged effort, physical and spiritual, of the members, a new brick building was erected. It was 36 feet by 60 feet and cost \$3500. Rev. Bowyer preached the dedicatory sermon and Rev. Coon, who had been the first pastor, gave the prayer.

The first offering to Foreign Missions was made in October, 1875. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1894 and Mrs. Susan Cushing was the president. The parsonage was completed in 1896 with the members doing the greater part of the work. These included W. E. Cushing, Joe Harpold and Frank Barton, all experienced carpenters. During the pastorate of Rev. C. L. Berry extensive repairs were made to the church and two Sunday School rooms added. These were dedicated June 20, 1909. The Women's Missionary Society was organized September 12, 1911, by Miss Inga Patterson, a returned missionary from Japan. It has proved to be one of our most helpful and inspiring organizations. One of our daughters, Mrs. Mae Cushing Howard, served as a missionary-teacher in Rangoon, Burma, for a period of years.

A basement was put under the entire building in 1922 when Rev. W. L. Markland was minister. Several of our sons have served in World Wars I and II and our service flag bears some gold stars.

Rev. D. H. Blakeney is now pastor, taking up his work on March 29, 1953.

The records made by the fathers of years ago show that whatever elements of weakness were peculiar to the church, they also had elements of strength. The church has gone through seasons of success and also seasons of discouragement, but always the faithful few, earnestly contending for the Faith, once delivered to the Saints, as they understood it.

—Approved by the Church, March 22, 1953.



W. F. MILLER

One of our oldest business men. Served as Mayor of Assumption for two terms.

# ST. PAUL CHURCH

*By Rev. T. H. Hosto*

St. Paul Evangelical and Reformed Church, familiarly known as the "Dollville Church," is one of the landmarks in Shelby County. It was founded in 1865 by a group of people, mostly of German descent, who had come to this locality earlier from parts of Ohio and Indiana.

Under the leadership of one Matthias Galster, who had studied in Germany and was gifted as an orator and organizer, the small group of thirteen families banded themselves together and met for a few years to worship in the home of the Reverend Mr. Galster. The house, located a mile and a half northeast of the present church, is still standing and is owned by Ervel Pierce.

In 1869 the charter members assisted in erecting the first church building, on an acre tract of land donated by one of the group, the late Jacob Weber. The structure, built largely of home-made soft brick, is still used as a meeting place for church and community gatherings.

The present church building stands on a prominence at the crossing of two old county roads. It was erected in 1887 when the congregation was at its peak, and is a commodious structure, seating about 300 people. Some of the old timers say that the church was often filled to capacity on special occasions.

The congregation also owns a large parsonage for its resident minister, with all modern conveniences. It is located on a two-acre tract of land purchased between 1880 and 1884. Another tract lying southeast of Dollville was purchased about the same time to serve as a cemetery.

In the 88 years of its existence seven ministers have labored among the members of St. Paul Church. They are as follows: Matthias Galster, 1865-1880; F. Grabau, 1880-1884; from 1884-1887 there was no minister; G. Bleibtreu, 1887-1888; Philip Wagner, 1888-1904; Karl J. Mueller, 1904-1939; D. E. Werner, 1939-1942; T. H. Hosto, 1942 to the present time.

The officers of St. Paul Church in 1953 are: president, Charles Rau; vice-president, William Brunken; secretary, Julius Metzger; treasurer, Albert Munzenmaier. The other members of the church council are: Walter Gerhold, Arthur Christopher, Fred Doll, J. F. Himes and John Gerhold, Jr. Mrs. J. F. Himes and Mrs. Roscoe Vincent serve as pianists. The officers of the Sunday School are: J. F. Himes, superintendent; Mrs. Mildred Conner, assistant superintendent; Mrs. John Weber, secretary; and Fred Doll, treasurer.

Three women's societies are busy within the congregation and have contributed much to the support of the local church and the denomination, besides aiding in every worthy cause in the county and community. They are: Sewing Circle, with Mrs. Harry Metzger as president, Mrs. Raymond Smith, vice-president; and Mrs. Earl Cook, secretary-treasurer. Women's Guild: Mrs. Ed. P. Metzger, president; Mrs. Fred Galster, vice-president; Mrs. Fred Doll, secretary; Miss Rose Weber, treasurer. Ladies' Bible Class: Mrs. F. J. Himes, president; Mrs. Clarence Barringer, vice-president; Mrs. John Weber, secretary; Mrs. Julius Mautz, treasurer.

COMPLIMENTS OF

**BECK'S PAINT STORE**

EARL R. PETERS, Proprietor

●

WALL PAPER — PAINTS — VARNISHES





**EARLY PICTURE OF ASSUMPTION'S MAIN STREET**

Frame building in foreground to the right is old lumber yard conducted by Stapleton & Mitchell, with I. C. freight house just to the north of it. On corner across the street to left is building where Prairie State Tribune is now located. Beautiful Railroad Park now occupies spot where lumber yard and freight house were situated.

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**WATT & DUNCAN BLACKSMITH SHOP**

Located on corner north of present Trulock Chevrolet Co. Pictured, left to right, are: Bob Branan, Alex Watt (holding horse), and John N. Duncan.

# HISTORY OF THE NAZARENE CHURCH

On the twenty-fifth of July  
In Nineteen Twenty-three,  
A big brown tent was put up  
And some people came to see  
Just what was going to happen;  
They did not understand  
That God had in mind to start a church—  
A loyal holiness band.

A preacher and some singers  
Had been sent to tell to all,  
Of Jesus' love and mercy  
And redemption from the fall;  
They preached and prayed and shouted  
And some folks heard the word,  
They loved the Gospel message  
And trusted in the Lord.

For one month the meeting lasted  
Through storm and wind and rain;  
Of course, some days were sunny  
To relieve the stress and strain;  
They then decided it was time  
To organize a church;  
They feared the preacher would depart  
And leave them in a lurch.

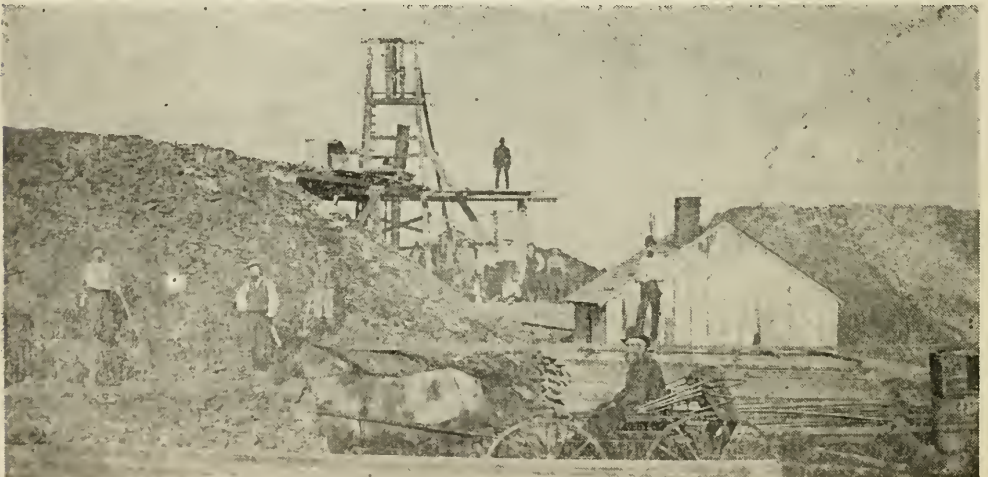
On Sunday, August twenty-sixth,  
As in camp meeting day,  
They gathered at a building  
Built the tabernacle way;  
The preacher then did dedicate  
That place for God and right;  
Some people said, "We're going to join  
And walk in all the light."

A pastor then was sent to tell  
The people how to walk,  
And serve the Lord in righteousness—  
It must be more than talk;  
The church began to prosper  
And many came to hear  
The preaching of God's Holy Word,  
Their hearts to warm and cheer.

For four long years they worshipped  
In this building though 'twas small;  
They were faithful in attendance  
And in loving one and all;  
God blest them in their labors  
And gave a vision true—  
A better church we now must have,  
Let's get a building new.

Through sacrifice and labor  
And friends standing by them, too,  
A new church soon was finished  
And God proved what he could do;  
The people with rejoicing  
And joining hand in hand,  
Dedicated this new building  
For holiness to stand.

Well, thirty years have come and gone,  
Many things have happened, too,  
But mid the struggles and the tests  
To God they have been true;  
Some members had to move away,  
Some left this vale of sorrow,  
But some day we shall meet again  
With the coming of tomorrow;  
Where pain and death are never known  
And heartaches come no more,  
We'll dwell with Christ forevermore  
On that happy golden shore.



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HARDWARE — FURNACES  
ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

# PUBLIC UTILITIES

*By Wendell R. Price*

In all places of human habitation the first requirement is a source of water suitable for drinking and cleansing. When our forefathers first settled in this community they found that water could be obtained by digging wells in nearly any place to depths from 20 to 60 feet which made it possible for families to establish homes in town and in the farming area around Assumption. Such wells furnished the water for domestic use from the time of the first settlers until the early 1900's, when a series of disastrous fires in the residential and business district made it obvious that a more reliable supply of water was needed.

Consequently, the city authorities resolved to erect an overhead water tower, with mains and hydrants distributed over town, and this was done in 1912, during the administration of Mayor Arthur La-Charite, when a 70,000 gallon storage tank with an altitude of 100 feet was erected in the City Park. A number of hydrants were located about town, and the tank was filled from local wells, with the idea of keeping it merely as a fire protection supply. Business houses and residents soon desired to tap these mains for "piped in" water, and a permanent source of supply was needed. A number of local sources were tested and found inadequate for the growing demand, and in 1913 a source near Spring Creek, about 3 miles southeast of Assumption, was tested and supplied water at the rate of 100,000 gallons per day. A six-inch main was laid from this source to town, and a pumping plant erected drawing water from a group of 17-foot drilled wells. The water was found to be pure and soft and free from mineral, and this source continues to supply the water for all public use. From time to time new or additional wells and pumping equipment have been added, and the plant modernized, being now semi-automatic in operation, with power purchased from the Central Illinois Public Service Company.

In 1947 a treatment plant was built and put into operation, to remove the iron and to soften and chlorinate the water. This plant, built at a cost of about \$15,000, makes the water supplied to the public very palatable and with a high degree of purity and bacteriological safety. Specimens are analyzed and tested regularly by the State of Illinois, and a careful check kept of the condition of the water from day to day.

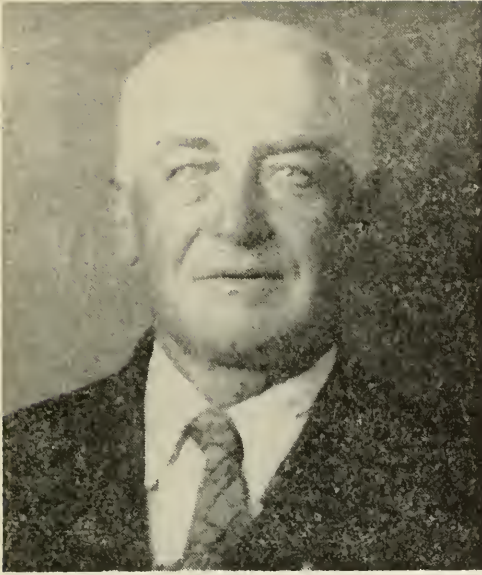
There are now about 450 properties served, with 40 hydrants, and with mains within easy reach of practically all points within the city limits. The pumping and treating plants have a maximum daily capacity of 180,000 gallons of water, although the ordinary daily demand runs from 70 to 125 thousand gallons. The system is owned by the City of Assumption, and produces a net revenue, after maintenance, operation and depreciation, of over \$2,500 annually, which is at present obligated to the payment of \$8,000 of revenue bonds. It has been the policy of the present and most past City Administrations to use the profit from the Water department to extend and improve the system, although from time to time it has been deemed necessary to use some of the net revenue to supplement the general fund.

## **Sewer System**

After a public water supply became available in 1912, a number of citizens realized the advisability of creating a public sewer system. A bond issue was floated, and a complete system of combination storm and sanitary sewer was built, having mains and laterals adjacent to every property in the city limits. This system has been very satisfactory until the present, but sanitary considerations make it appear advisable that a sewage disposal plant be built in the near future. Consideration is being given to this matter at present.

## **Fire Protection**

From the earliest date protection against fire has been a necessity, and in the late 1880's a hand-power fire engine was purchased and used for this purpose. About 1900 an engine driven horse-drawn engine was bought, and with improvements was used until 1937 when a pumper truck was purchased, having a tested capacity of 500 gallons per minute. In 1949 a Fire Protection District was created, including the city and 68 sections of agricultural territory. The Fire District purchased an additional 500 gallon pumper and built a fire house, which now gives Assumption and the neighboring community exceptionally good protection against fire and other public calamity.



**THE LATE MR. AND MRS. JOSEPH MALHOIT**

Old-time residents who took an active part in all community affairs. They were the parents of Joseph, James and John Malhoit, Irene Smith, Nora McNeil and Mae Teets.

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**OLD TYPE FARM WAGON WITH HIGH SIDEBORDS**

Seated on wagon containing big load of corn, weighing 9300 pounds, is Alfred Tapp. On ladder beside him is Peter Young, who sold the wagon with the guarantee that if the load broke the wagon he would replace it with a new one.

# HISTORY OF CENTER METHODIST CHURCH

By Mrs. Harry Weiland

On April 3, 1860, Shelby County was divided into townships, Rural Township being divided into two equal parts. The road running north and south in the center of the township was the dividing line, the East District being styled as No. 1 and the West District as No. 2. At this time a schoolhouse was standing near where the Empire School stood later near the home of Elmer Potter. A dispute arose in the community and the building was sold to a group of people and moved to the location where Center Church now stands. It was used as a church, being the first public building on that corner. Center Schoolhouse was built in 1870 and was used as a voting place until the town house was built by Henry Stutsman in 1890. S. M. Harper can remember his father telling him how they couldn't cross the bridge near his home with this schoolhouse and they had to go around through fields.

Traveling ministers held meetings at the church until in 1871. The church was organized with Rev. Smithson as presiding elder and Rev. Daniel McKinney as pastor and was called Center Class, Shelbyville Circuit, Gosport District, Illinois Conference of the M. E. Church. One of their rules was "Remember to fast and pray on the Friday previous to each quarterly meeting."

These people were charter members: James Himes, George Bender, Elizabeth Russell, Emanuel Mose, Sarah Himes, Mary A. Himes, Mary Bender, Anna Russell and Nancy Mose.

Those that joined a little later were: Thomas Lowe, S. M. Myers, John W. Rhodes, Lucinda Myers, Mary J. Burk, Loretta Lowe, R. R. Rhodes, W. M. Myers and Clark Burk.

These parents were followed by their children and many of these have passed on. Now some of the grandchildren and great-grandchildren are helping to carry on the work. In 1878 the Center Society was organized in the name of Center Methodist Episcopal Church South. At this time there were 30 members registered and they had around 80 in attendance.

During 1903 it was decided to build a new and larger church. Rev. J. W. Reeves was pastor at this time. On May 8, 1904, the church was dedicated with Rev. Westcott as elder and Rev. Reeves as pastor. This church was blown down by a cyclone which passed through the community on

Saturday afternoon, May 26, 1917. In the late summer of 1918, the church trustees bought the Grace Evangelical Church that stood just across the line in Christian County on the northeast corner of the farm now owned by Paul Uffelmann and the home of Dale Sloan and family. This church was moved by being divided into two parts, and much credit can be given the trustees and members at that time for our present place of worship which was dedicated June 28, 1919, with Rev. Humphry as elder and Rev. G. W. Green as pastor. No record is found as to when we were placed in the Waverly District, but we were in this district until the unification of the Northern and Southern Methodist Churches a few years ago. It is now called Center Methodist, Henton Charge, Decatur District, Illinois Conference.

Early in 1950 the men of the community started digging out the basement at the church, with the Young Married People's class as sponsors. With good cooperation it proved to be a success. John Seigfried was employed and with the help of the community the basement was finished. The W.S.C.S. ladies bought two gas stoves, one for cooking and the other for heating. S. M. Harper made a nice counter with shelves and drawers to hold dishes and utensils. Several tables were donated and tables were made from boards by Frank Southern and helpers. On Sunday afternoon, November 12, the basement was dedicated by Dr. Hurst of Decatur, the District Superintendent.

It's been hard going all these years with hard times, cyclone and all. But we are proud of our church and thank all those in the earlier days for their sacrifices that we might have a nice church to worship in.

## COMPLIMENTS

— of —

### Post Office Employees

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Lyle Nicol James Jackson

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Karl Hight

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# ROUND GROVE CHURCH

*By Gladys Harper Myers*

Robert Harper, a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian, became a member of the Prairie Bird (Henton) Presbyterian Church in 1854. He and his family later attended the Presbyterian Church in Assumption, going in all kinds of weather by the usual method of travel—the wagon, later the spring wagon. When his health began to fail and he could no longer stand the exposure, he became interested in establishing a church near his home. This resulted in the building of Round Grove Church just across the road from his home in 1878. The charter members were Robert Harper and his four daughters, Mary, Ella, Laura, Agnes, and a niece, Allie Brinley. It was a very large church and beautifully built on the inside. In the 80's and 90's it had a large membership with such family names appearing on the church records as McClure, Cochran, Dowler, Elmore, Will Himes, Jenkins, Oaks, Houston, Gregory and others.

Singing-schools were held at the church and as James W. Fritz, who lived on the Ridge once commented, "People came to the Round Grove singing-school for miles

around, because 'Uncle Bob' Harper was an unusually good singing teacher. It is a pleasure to remember him as he led the singing-school". Outstanding programs were given during the 80's and 90's. Some of these during the 90's were printed programs. On one of these appeared a male quartet by Charles and Elmer McClure, Alonzo (Bud) and Robert Harper. Among the weddings held was a double wedding on Christmas Day, 1894, when Dr. J. E. Harper and Iva Potter, John McClure and Carrie Harper were married.

Early ministers were O. B. Huston, J. Bernard, G. E. Clark, William Mackay, C. F. Rogers, Bert Rogers, Fred Mansfield, J. S. Walls, W. R. Johnson, the last being William Jobe. With the advent of the automobile, Round Grove went the way of many country churches, being too near town. In 1933 the church was taken down, board by board, by a minister who was also a carpenter, and rebuilt in Casey, Ill., where it has been a thriving church, having sent out several promising young ministers.



**BIG CROWD AT LEADER DEPARTMENT STORE**

Sale day in the "Good Old Days" at The Leader Store, conducted by Edward Ramsey, Sr. and O. P. Galvin, in location now occupied by Associated Garment Co., on corner of Second South and Chestnut Streets.



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Idle  
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Mr. and Mrs. John D. Malhoit

# MT. PLEASANT CHURCH OF GOD

*(Dedicated to Mr. A. C. Foltz of Assumption, Illinois—only living Charter Member of the Mt. Pleasant Church of God)*

The Mt. Pleasant Church of God, located 5¼ miles east of Assumption, became an organized church Jan. 29, 1887 as a result of a protracted revival meeting, held by Elder O. B. Huston in what was known as Independence School House, ¼ mile east and 1 mile north of the present church site. The original charter consisted of 27 members from the community.

On March 10, 1890, a special meeting was held to make arrangements for erecting a Bethel in the northeast corner of the William Beckett farm, the present location of the church. Mr. Beckett donated the plot of ground on which the church and cemetery are located. This building was completed and dedicated August 10, 1890, at which time it was named the Mt. Pleasant Church of God.

For several years the Round Grove Church (located about 4 miles southeast of Assumption until removed to Casey, Illinois, to build a new church there) and the Mt. Pleasant Church were on the same circuit and served by pastors on half-time basis.

During the year of 1929 the present building was erected as the result of a windstorm which damaged the original Bethel to the extent it had to be rebuilt.

The church has shown considerable gain in spirit and number of members the past five years under the pastorate of Rev. Gordon Jenkins to the extent that more seating capacity, basement rooms and pastor's study are badly needed. Early in 1953

plans were made to enlarge the present Bethel by approximately one-half. Actual starting time of construction began July 20, 1953.

The following have pastored the Mt. Pleasant Church in past years:

- Rev. Gordon Jenkins, present pastor;
- Rev. G. E. McDaniel, now pastor at Wichita, Kansas;
- Rev. A. F. Jenkins, now pastor at Decatur, Illinois;
- Rev. O. J. Acklin, now pastor at Warrensburg, Illinois;
- Rev. A. E. Mowry, now pastor at Martinsville, Illinois;
- Rev. Ernest English, deceased;
- Rev. Chester Hix, retired;
- Rev. William Jobe, now pastor at Decatur, Illinois.

Others whose location at present are unknown or who have gone on to their reward: Rev. Davidson, 1917; Rev. W. B. Johnson, 1913-16; Rev. John Bernard, 1912; Rev. Primrose, 1910; Rev. O. B. Huston, 1911; Rev. Mansfield, 1908-09; Rev. B. H. Rogers, 1905-07; Rev. R. S. Mackey, 1902-03; Rev. I. H. Richmond, 1901; Rev. C. F. Rogers, 1898-1900; Elder O. B. Huston, 1897; Rev. W. R. Johnson, 1896; Rev. F. W. Hatch, 1894-95.

Mr. A. C. Foltz of Assumption, Illinois, is the only living charter member of the Mt. Pleasant Church of God and his faithful years date back to the original organization of the church in 1887.



LAYING CORNERSTONE OF HOTEL PHILIP FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

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# ASSUMPTION SCHOOL HISTORY

By C. J. Myer

The first teacher in Assumption was Luceba Barrett Loomis. She was a daughter of Marcus and Nancy Peebles Barrett. She arrived in Assumption on April 15, 1857. She taught the first school in a private home on the north side of West Samuel Street about seventy-five yards west of the Main Street pavement.

The first school to be constructed in Assumption was located on the site of the present Baptist church. It was constructed in 1862. A new grade school was built near the location of the present grade school and was called the West School. The school was used for High School students and Grade School students.

Another school building was constructed on the present site of the Sloan Implement Company. This building was called the East School. The High School was moved to the building and the high school occupied the upper floor and the first and second grades occupied the lower floor. The remainder of the grade school students were in the West School.

In the minutes of the Board for a meeting held Sept. 6, 1898, the addition to the West Side School was accepted.

The oldest copies of contracts found were signed in September, 1898, and the salaries ranged from \$80 to \$35.

On May 11, 1899, the Board made a motion to pay the East and West Side janitors

\$25 per month.

The oldest High School grade records found were for the graduating class of 1902-1903. The oldest grade school records found were for the students in 1907-1908.

There was a great need for a new High School and the cornerstone for the present building was laid in 1913.

In 1917 the West Side school was torn down and the cornerstone for the present grade school was laid. During the time that the West Side school was being constructed, school was held in the East School and the Mitchell Hall.

In 1925 and 1926 the gymnasium was added to the High School building.

The Vocational Agriculture building and school bus garage was completed in 1950.

The rural school building northwest of town, known as the Union School, was moved into town and put south of the High School building and is now used as the Band building. It was moved in during the summer of 1951.

In the summer of 1952, the large Millot building located southwest of Assumption, was moved in and placed between the High School and Band building. It is used as a Junior High school for the 7th and 8th grades. The basement is used for the School Cafeteria and the Junior High Industrial Arts classes.



OLD EAST SCHOOL



OLD WEST SCHOOL



ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

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PHONE 99 - - ASSUMPTION



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DEALER

LARRY GUINN  
CONSIGNEE

R. C. (Chet) WOLFE  
SALESMAN

## Community's First Teacher



**LUCEBA BARRETT LOOMIS**

Luceba D. Barrett was born in Virginia, the second of a family of thirteen, on the 5th of June, 1830. In April of 1857 she moved to Tacusah with her brother, sisters and parents, Marcus L. and Nancy Peebles Barrett. Luceba started the first school in the settlement of Tacusah and Assumption in the fall of 1857 and she continued teaching for about five years. The location of this school was on Samuel Street, about a half block west of Main Street.

After the War of Secession she married Jason Loomis and moved to his home in Kansas. She lived there until her husband's death in 1910 when she returned to Assumption. She died on the 21st of August, 1911, at the home of her sister, Emma C. Pitzer, and she was buried on the Barrett lot in Greenwood Cemetery.

## Early Tacusah Resident



**EMMA BARRETT PITZER**

Emma C. Barrett was born in Pennsylvania, the thirteenth child of Marcus L. and Nancy Peebles Barrett, on the 28th of June, 1854. The family moved to Tacusah in April of 1857 before Emma was three years old. The family lived in the Illinois Central Railroad Station until their home was completed across the street from the Presbyterian Church. Emma married Horace J. Pitzer of this city in 1873. Their children were Eulalia, deceased, Stanley M. and Lalia A. Pitzer. Her husband died in 1909 and she died many years later on the 31st of December, 1947. She is buried on the Pitzer family lot in Greenwood Cemetery.

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# ASSUMPTION GRADE SCHOOL P.-T. ASSN.

*By Mrs. E. C. Coatney*

Sometime prior to the year 1911-12, an attempt was made to organize a Parent-Teachers Club, at a meeting held in the East Side School building. This, however, was a failure.

In 1911-12 the Assumption Woman's Club under the leadership of Mrs. Jennie Wright, president, invited the Grade mothers to meet with them at the Hotel with Mrs. Ella Vogel. This attempt was also a failure, as the mothers seemed to be afraid to come; consequently the organization was not completed as had been the hopes of Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Vogel and other members of the Club, who had forseen the need for such an organization.

Nothing further was done until on Friday afternoon March 28, 1917, when the Parent-Teachers Organization of the Assumption Grade School was formed at a meeting of teachers and mothers held in the eighth grade room of the old West Side School building.

The purpose of this organization was: to establish a better understanding between home and school; to create a greater interest in public education, and for better community welfare.

The association started with the follow-

ing enthusiastic persons: Mrs. N. A. Crouch, Mrs. John Howk, Mrs. Herman C. LaCharite, Prof. C. G. Wysong, Miss Ella Cronin, Miss Ruth Bennett, Mrs. Mary Clark, Mrs. Estelle Reber, Mrs. Faye Barr, Miss Ruth Cheshire, Miss Sue Clark, Miss Clara Clayton, Mrs. F. E. Taylor, Mrs. Karl Hight, and Mrs. C. A. DuBoce.

The officers elected were: president, Mrs. N. A. Crouch; vice president, Mrs. John Howk; secretary, Mrs. H. C. LaCharite.

In 1953, after long months of discussion and after more than 35 years of Congress membership, the Grade School and the High School P.T.A.'s merged into one group in hopes that increased interest and attendance would result.

Tribute and appreciation should be given to the long list of active, hard working members, men and women, who throughout the years contributed time, talents, money and hard work toward making this association and our town a better community for boys and girls to grow up in. Space does not permit names to be listed—but "by their works shall ye know them" for they live in the hearts and minds of our townspeople.



ASSUMPTION GRADE SCHOOL

# D. A. R.

By Mrs. Edwin Johnson

The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution is an association of American Women, organized in Washington, D. C., on the ninth day of August, 1890, with only three members and now it has grown to the point that more than one hundred seventy thousand public spirited women are within its ranks.

This Society was organized with the purpose of upholding the American birth-right, protecting Americans in their beliefs of freedom, and educating America's citizens in their responsibilities to her. The objects of the Society as stated in its Constitution shall be: To perpetuate the memory of our illustrious ancestors who fought and died for the cause of freedom; by the preservation of all documents and records pertaining to the acquisition of our freedom and the celebration of all events pertaining to this acquisition; to carry out the injunctions of Washington and thereby afford to the American people all the advantages of their freedom; and to aid all mankind in the preservation and extension of its blessings of liberty. The Society believes in true and undying patriotism, loyalty to our government that leaves no room for communism, a true love of peace, and a living faith in God.

Membership is restricted to women who are direct descendants of those who actively fought for American independence, providing the applicant is personally acceptable to the Society.

The National Society owns an entire city block in one of the most beautiful sections of Washington. Three splendid buildings for distinctly different purposes occupy this block, namely, Memorial Continental Hall, the Administration Building, and Constitution Hall. This is the largest group of buildings in the world built and financed entirely by a woman's organization.

The Society has collected many historical relics, which, with the society's fine genealogical library of more than 32,000 volumes (not including thousands of pamphlets and manuscripts) is housed in the Washington headquarters. The Society supports many schools in underprivileged areas for the diffusion of knowledge among men and it continuously strives for the preservation of true Americanism. The Society publishes The National Historical Magazine, as well as a series of lineage books containing the record of the ancestry of members of the organization.

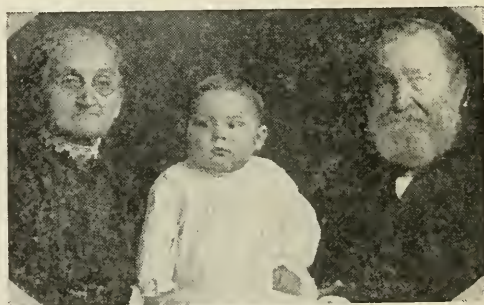
The Assumption Chapter of the N. S. D. A. R. was organized in 1937 and was

named the Peter Meyer Chapter to pay homage to Peter Meyer, a Revolutionary patriot, who came to America from Germany and took the oath of allegiance and fidelity in 1777 to defend his chosen country. Five of the original twelve members of the local chapter are proud to be descended from this patriot. Peter Meyer's grandson Peter was one of the earliest settlers of Assumption, and it was in his grandson's home where this Chapter was organized. At this meeting the following officers were installed: regent, Mrs. Hattie Long Myers; vice regent, Miss Velma Waddle; secretary, Miss Helen M. Johnson (now Mrs. Jeff Rhoades); treasurer, Mrs. Mary Louise Pitzer Johnson; registrar, Mrs. Ethel Shafer Pitzer.

Other members at this time were: Mrs. Carrie Leavitt (now deceased), Mrs. Nina Shafer Foster, Mrs. Elsie Watson Harnly, Miss Eva Long, Miss Edna Waddle (now deceased), Miss Clara Margaret Myers (now Mrs. Harry Allen), Miss Dotha Myers (now Mrs. George Hiler).

At present the chapter has 31 members, six of these being charter members.

Since the day of the organization, the members have taken an active part in all D.A.R. programs, have supported all state and national special projects, and have made a special effort in supporting Approved School work, American Indian work, Ellis Isle and the Good Citizenship Pilgrimage program.



PHOTOGRAPH OF MYERS FAMILY

This picture shows Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Myers, early settlers, with P. L. Myers, Jr., 9 months of age. Mr. and Mrs. Myers were grandparents of Thomas P. Myers, prominent farmer of this community. The infant is his son, Paul. The elder Mr. Myers helped organize the Assumption Mutual Building & Loan, the coal mine and Assumption Fair and served as president of each. He was among the early members of the Masonic Lodge here and a trustee of the Presbyterian Church.



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# MASONIC LODGE

By Leslie Stauter



**THOMAS P. MYERS**

**50-Year Member of Masonic Lodge**

Bromwell Lodge No. 451, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, was organized in Assumption in 1865 and named in honor of H. P. H. Bromwell who died that year while serving as Grand Master of the State of Illinois.

The first Masonic Lodge Hall was located on the site where the present City Hall is located. It burned in 1901. The next was a building purchased from Lyman T. Watkins and was located where Ryan's Tavern now exists. In 1924 this building was sold and the present location established.

During the 88 years of existence, 36 Worshipful Masters have been elected, the first being the late A. B. Hammer and the present, George Hiler. Leonard A. Tripp and Frank M. Gandy, both Grand Lecturers in the State of Illinois, have been District Deputy Grand Masters for several years each. There are two 50-year Masons in the Lodge at the present time, Russell Campbell and Thomas P. Myers. The Lodge enjoys a membership of a little over 100 members.

## THOMAS P. MYERS

AGENT FOR

**United States  
Fire Insurance Company**

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Organized 1824

**CASH CAPITAL \$2,000,000**



**THE LATE MRS. A. H. CORZINE**

Affectionately known as "Aunt Bet" by young and old in this vicinity. Prominent club woman and sponsor of many children's activities.



**MRS. HENRY HARPOLD**

Member of the well known Adams family of north of Assumption. Resided here for many years before her death. Mrs. C. C. Owens and H. J. Harpold are her children.

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FOR FALL PLANTING**

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

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problems with you

Have on hand numerous kinds of



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THOS. P. MYERS, President  
C. C. OWENS, Vice-President  
FRANK M. GANDY, Secy.-Treas.

**Directors**

F. T. Wallace	G. P. Walker
G. E. Lovering	W. R. Price
C. C. Owens	Thos. P. Myers
K. P. Branyan	C. Rohweder
G. J. Adelhart	

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MEATS and GROCERIES

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MATTOON, ILLINOIS

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL No. 1026

*By George LaCharite, Edmond Galerno, Louis Vilmur*

In the early part of 1900 interest in the Knights of Columbus was first evidenced by the activity of Attorney M. J. Fitzgerald and Henry LaCharite, who were quite enthused about joining the Knights and forming a Chapter in Assumption. However, before the Assumption Chapter was formed, Attorney M. J. Fitzgerald, H. B. LaCharite and Joe Myers, in the early part of 1904, joined the Pana Council of the Knights. Also before the Assumption Chapter was started, and on November 20, 1904, twenty-three men from the Assumption area joined the Pana Council of the Knights and took the three degrees of the Order, which were at that time given at the Roley Opera House in Pana. The exact records of those that joined have been lost, but a few of the older Knights of Columbus have given the following names as a partial list of those who joined in Pana on November 20, 1904: Louis Vilmur, Fred Vilmur, Sr., Edmond Galerno, Joseph Galerno, David LaCharite, H. B. LaCharite, J. A. LaCharite, E. J. Cushing, Fr. Joseph Dechene, N. L. LaRochelle, T. J. Connolly, Thomas Devlin, Adam Fleckenstein, Nelson Lambert, James Connolly, Octave DeMars and Theodore Hebert.

On July 16, 1905, the Assumption Council No. 1026 was organized at Assumption, and all of the former men who had entered the Knights of Columbus Council at Pana transferred to Assumption and became charter members along with a new class of candidates, which went into the Order in July of 1905. The records of the new members who joined in July of 1905, outside of the transfers from Pana, have been lost but some of the older members of the Knights gave a partial list of those who joined as follows: Louis Vilmur, Fred Vilmur, Sr., Edmond Galerno, Adam Fleckenstein, Nelson Lambert, James Connolly, Octave DeMars, Theodore Hebert, John Behl, Dr. G. J. Rivard, Wm. Tex, John E. Cashin, J. N. Richard, James Willette, T. J. Michael, John E. Smithers, Michael Lawlis, Theodore Malhot, Joseph Galerno, J. L. Ryan, C. Connors, J. B. Cashin, James O'Brien, C. F. Young, John J. Matthew, John W. DeBrun, F. E. Despres, James Perry, Wm. H. Smallwood, Theo. Despres, James Mulligan, John Horn, Benjamin Meyer, E. G. Wagner, John Riley, J. B. Tomlinson, Fred Bantner, F. B. Despres, John A. Bantner, D. C. Ryan, John Armstead, Joseph Simons, Sr., Albert J. DeMars, Lee J. Behl, John

Adelhart, Jr., Delmas Domas, H. B. LaCharite, Albert Chatman, Fr. Jos. Dechene, David LaCharite, J. A. LaCharite, Thos. H. Devlin, Terrence J. Connolly, N. L. LaRochelle, Alphonse Pannitone, Edward Cushing, Edward Royer, John Moran, Frederick Adelhart, E. J. Cocagne, John Connolly, Daniel Davy, Leonard Fleckenstein, Thomas Hogan, Vincent E. Michael, Frank A. Michael, Alphonse A. Michael, Patrick McGuar, Jeffrey Norris, Charles C. Wilson, Henry J. Vilmur, Albert Vilmur and Julius P. Vits.

The new class of candidates in July of 1905 received their three initiative degrees in the Columbia Hall and the banquet celebrating said organization was given in the evening at the Opera House, now the second floor of the present National Bank building.

The first and second degrees were given by the Decatur Council of the Knights, and E. J. Morrissey and staff of Alton were in charge of the third degree ceremony.

The first Grand Knight of the Council was M. J. Fitzgerald and the first Financial Secretary of the new Council was J. A. LaCharite; the first Lecturer was T. J. Connolly; and the first Warden was Louis Vilmur, who held this office from the organization of the Council until 1940. The first meeting place was upstairs over Assumption's present Post Office, which reports indicate was at that time owned by M. J. Fitzgerald. The first death of any of the Knights of Columbus after the organization of the Assumption Council was that of Adam Fleckenstein.

The Assumption Council had their lodge rooms up above our present Post Office for about fifteen years and about 1918 moved to the second floor of the Herschel Travis Hardware store, and was in that location until 1933, when the Travis Hardware building burned to the ground one bitter cold night in February. The Council then took up quarters over the Domas Grocery where they remained until May of 1953, when they purchased their own building, the former I.O.O.F. building on North Chestnut (Front) Street. Their new headquarters have been extensively remodeled and redecored.

Over the years the Council has had many social and religious programs, and many interesting noted speakers, and has proved to be a fine organization for the Assumption community.

One of the highlights of the Council's

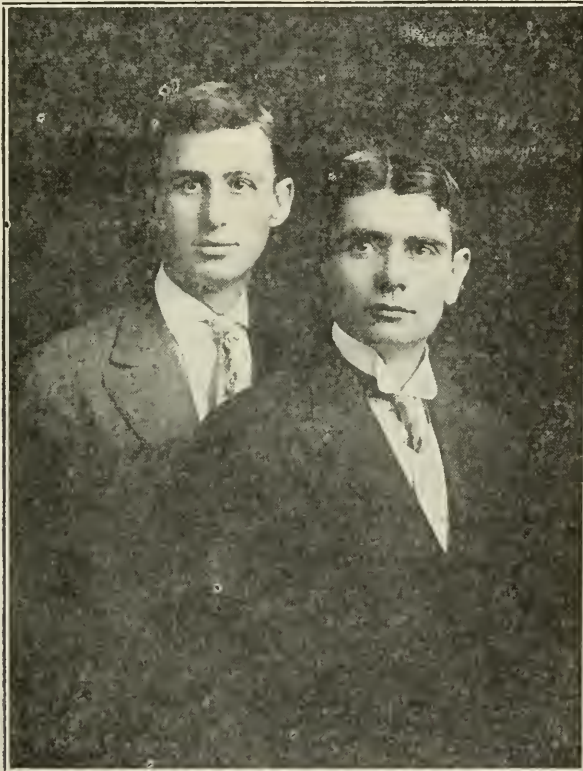
history was when Attorney M. J. Fitzgerald arranged for an address to the Council by U. S. Senator James Graham of Springfield. The Council has for years had dances, card parties and of recent years formed a blood bank, which until a year or so ago, was quite active.

It is noteworthy that several men over this period of fifty years were, no doubt, responsible for keeping the Council alive and going, and for that matter special tribute should be given to Attorney M. J. Fitzgerald, who died in 1938, who was very active in Knights of Columbus work, not only in Assumption, but throughout the State of Illinois, serving as a State officer. Also to be given special note was Edmond Galerno who served for years as Financial Secretary of the Assumption Council.

The exact list of Past Grand Knights is also impossible to get, but the following

names will cover most of the Grand Knights who served over this period of 48 years: M. J. Fitzgerald, T. J. Connolly, J. A. LaCharite, B. A. Michael, Thomas Bantner, Darvin Domas, A. L. Michael, John Barry, T. J. Lacy, Thomas J. DeBrun, Joseph G. Chasco, A. M. Jackson, Darrel Cocagne, Ernest Schwab, Paul McGuar, Lyle Connors and Joseph Cocagne.

The present officers of the Knights of Columbus are as follows: Grand Knight, Joseph Cocagne; Deputy Grand Knight, John Rever; Chancellor, Roy Grant; Recorder, Gerald Ryan; Financial Secretary, Ernest Schwab; Treasurer, James Jackson; Lecturer, Ernest Schwab; Advocate, Joseph Dunn; Warden, Karl Wikowsky; Inside Guard, C. Aderman; Outside Guard, Patrick Jackson; Trustees, Paul McGuar, Patrick Dunn and Lyle Connors; Chaplain, Rev. Clem T. Stolze.



#### EARLY PICTURE OF LOCAL MERCHANTS

D. J. Domas and E. J. Galerno, who entered grocery business in partnership 45 years ago. Later Domas purchased his partner's interest and still continues in the business having added a line of television, radios and electrical appliances. Mr. Galerno conducts a neighborhood grocery on the west side of town.

## TWO OF ASSUMPTION'S EARLY PHYSICIANS



DR. R. W. JOHNSON



DR. GEORGE J. RIVARD



WORLD WAR I RED CROSS WORKERS

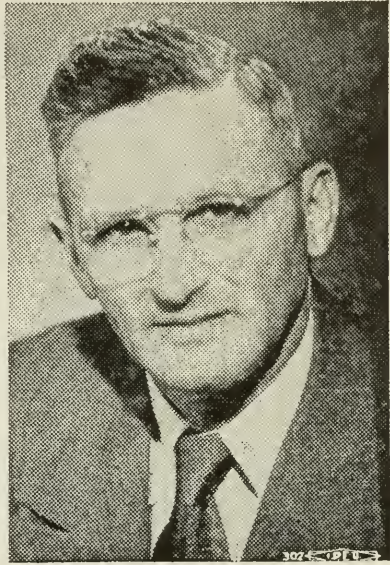
Bottom row, left to right: Regina LaCharite, Eva Dickson, Mrs. Robison, Mrs. Coonrod, Mollie Patten, Mary Lovering. Top row: Edith Hight, Maggie Hight, Luella LaCharite, Minnie Wilson, Eula Gandy, Alice Conner, Mollie Travis, Mrs. William Smith.

**CONGRATULATIONS ASSUMPTION . . .**  
**On a Hundred Years of Progress**

Assumption, the home town of the Sprinkles for more than 85 years, is located in the midst of some of the most fertile farming land in the great State of Illinois and is inhabited by the finest of people who make good citizens, excellent neighbors and the best of friends. May I always be worthy of your confidence.

**Clarence E. Sprinkle**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE



**BEST WISHES TO ASSUMPTION ON**  
**YOUR CENTURY OF PROGRESS**



**Lloyd E. Davis**

•

**State Senator**

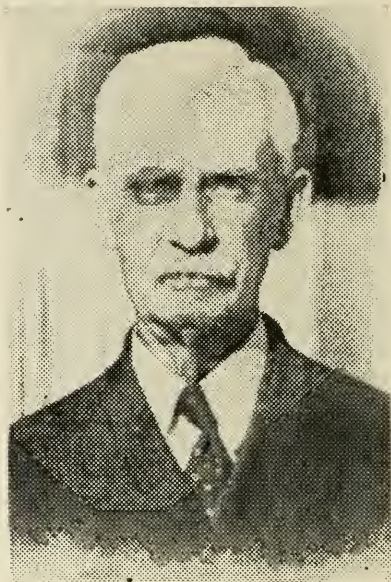
FORTIETH DISTRICT

# OLD RESIDENTS OF COMMUNITY



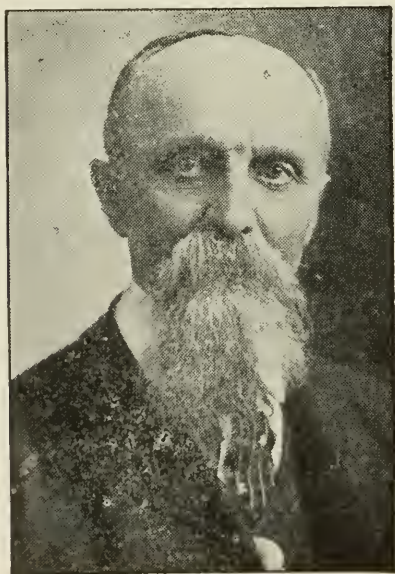
**JOHNSON FAMILY**

The late Mr. and Mrs. Leo Johnson and their children, Leola, Ben and Robert.



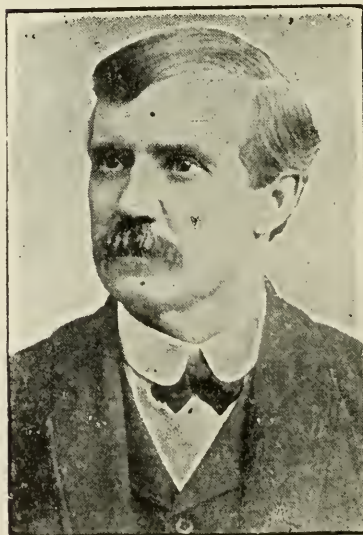
**FRANK MITCHELL**

Old-time lumber and furniture dealer in Assumption.



**SILAS SHAFER**

Prominent in coal circles in this area in the early days.



**SAM HAVERFIELD**

Served as city clerk for many years.



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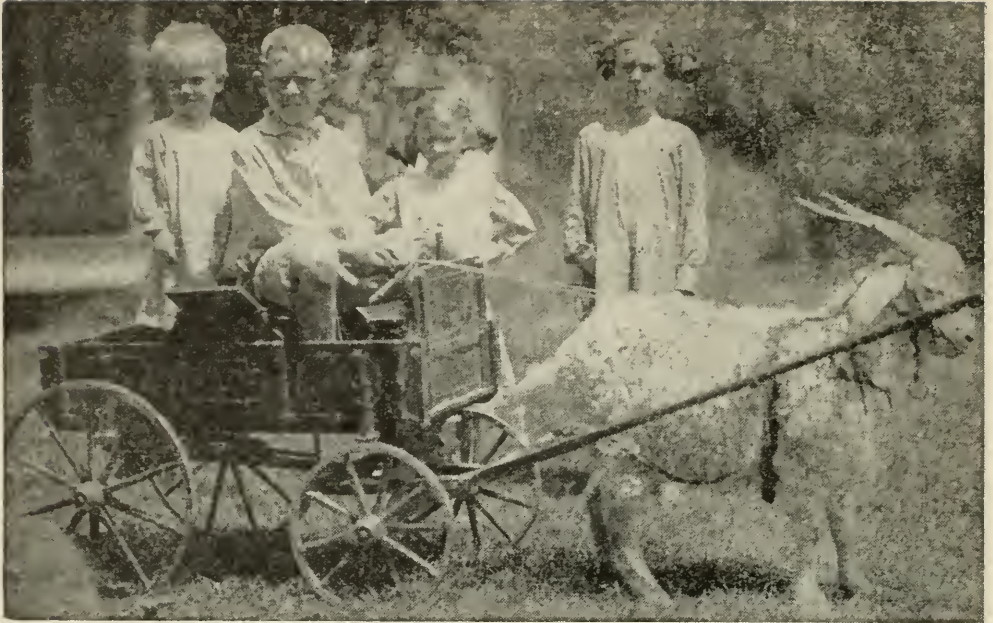
PANA, ILLINOIS

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SUCCESSFUL CENTENNIAL

**E. A. BRANYAN**

ELECTRIC SERVICE

Assumption, Illinois



**THE KUHLE CHILDREN WITH THEIR PET GOAT**

Pictured here are four children of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Kuhle with their pet goat and wagon. Driving is Herman with Leonard standing behind. The girls are Hazel and Florence awaiting their turn for a ride in the wagon.

— ESTABLISHED 1869 —

**GEO. V. PENWELL & SONS CO.**

DEPARTMENT STORE



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*Sincere Congratulations . . .*

to the active sponsors of the Century of Progress and I hope your interest shall continue to make Assumption the outstanding community of Christian County. Working together enthusiastically for a common good assures any community wholesome good government.

*Carl H. Preihs*

# HISTORY OF ASSUMPTION WOMAN'S CLUB

*By the late Mrs. Julia LaRochelle*

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Assumption Woman's Club our memories take us back to the fall of 1902 when a group of women met and organized a Chautauqua study class, consisting of 14 members. They took for their study course, the "Hall in the Grove", which when completed in four years, would entitle them to receive their diplomas, and these diplomas gave them the privilege to walk through the gates of the "Hall in the Grove," in Chautauqua, New York. Five of the members have had that honor.

The first meeting of this group was held in the room upstairs, now owned and occupied by Dr. Miller. The building was at that time owned by Mr. Silas Shafer, who offered it to them for a meeting place rent free. Since the room was not furnished each lady was asked to bring her own chair with her.

In March, 1907, this same group of women with others held a meeting in the home of Miss Ivah Fear. The purpose of this meeting was to organize a Woman's Club. On March 29, 1907, the Assumption Woman's Club was organized with four departments: Chautauqua Literary and Science Circle, Music, Domestic Science, and Civic. The first president of the club was Miss Ivah Fear (now Mrs. Boulware of Cody, Wyoming).

It was State Federated the same year. Not long after its organization it adopted for its motto—"Knowledge, Virtue, Charity, Truth; United We Stand, Divided We Fall."

For its club flower it chose the carnation; the club colors are pink and white.

So the C.L.S.C. was the trunk of the tree from which all other branches grew.

Now that the organization of the Woman's Club had been completed and the four departments had their work outlined and the work was going according to schedule, the Assumption Woman's Club began to look around for something worthwhile to do for the good and betterment of our town and its community.

In 1903 a small Public Library had been started in the C.L.S.C. study room, which housed it for five years, where it struggled along with donations of books and personal gifts. When in 1908 Mrs. Sarah Kemmerer, a prominent citizen, gave a gift of money to build a Hotel, she specified in this gift that the Public Library should have a permanent home within the hotel building. When the cornerstone of

the Hotel Philip was laid, the Assumption Woman's Club was asked to take part. Miss Ivah Fear, our first president, placed the first trowel of mortar with which the cornerstone of the Hotel was laid.

When the Hotel was completed and the Public Library moved into its new home, the Assumption Woman's Club, as its project, took over the responsibility of its upkeep. To do this it sponsored Tag Days, gave suppers to create interest and cooperation for the Library. This it did until 1938 when it received its tax money and now we are very proud of our Public Library.

From 1907 to 1925 the Assumption Woman's Club still had its four departments. In 1926 the Junior Department was added to the club. In 1929 to 1930 the Garden Department. In 1930 to 1931 the Progressive. In 1935 to 1936 the Dramatic, making eight Departments and with the membership growing.

In the year of 1917 to 1918 the Assumption Woman's Club leased the Illinois Central Railroad's two blocks running north and south along Front Street as its second project and began its beautification.

It was in the years of 1927 and 1928 that the Salute to the Flag, American Creed, Club Collect were printed in our year-book.

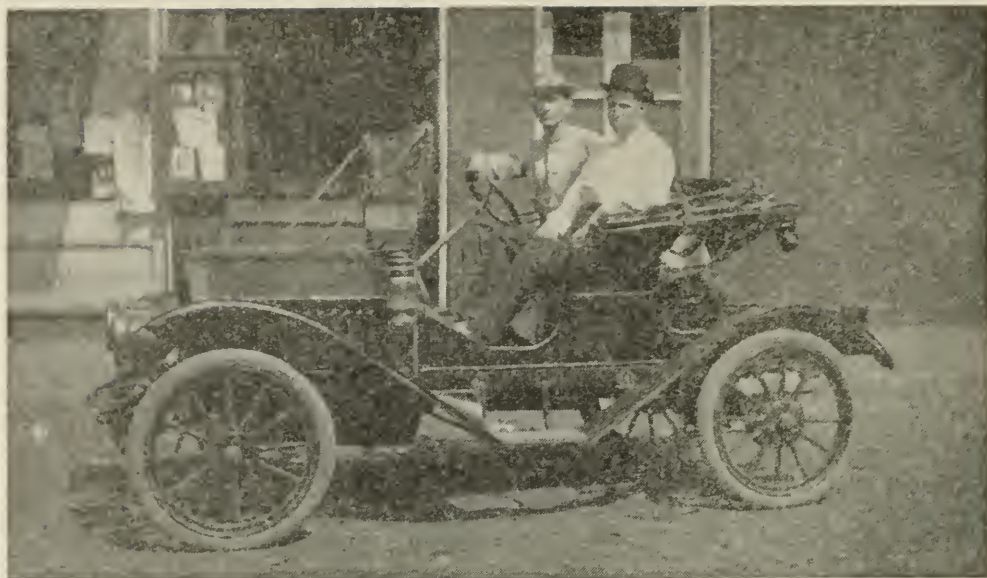
The Assumption Woman's Club has had the honor of having three District Presidents and two County Presidents selected from its membership.

"All things worthwhile from small beginnings grow,

As did our club dreams of forty years ago."

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STATE FARM AGENT  
for  
AUTO — LIFE — FIRE  
*Insurance*  
LYDIA POTTER  
— LOCAL AGENT —

Phone 138 Blue



**OUT MOTORING IN 1911**

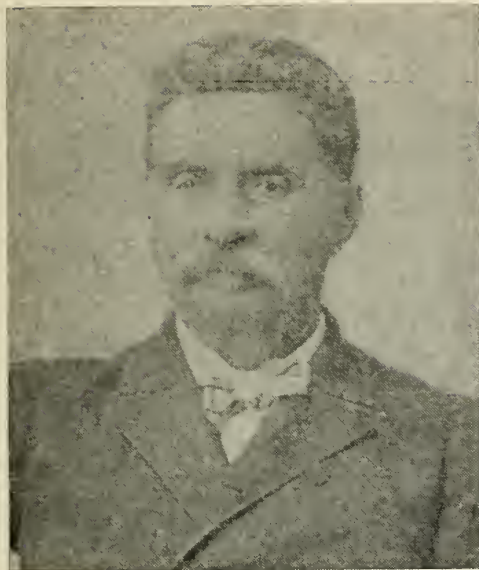
C. A. (Hank) DuBoce and Leonard Tripp enjoy a spin in the DuBoce car.

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**GETTING READY FOR PAVING**

Work underway on First (Short) Street preparatory to laying pavement. Guy Taylor driving the Cushing delivery wagon, Dave Burkhart with team and grader in the center, other driver is unidentified.



**AUGUST CAZALET**

Born in Ganges, France on December 25, 1828. He spent his youth and early manhood in his native country. He served an apprenticeship at the stone mason's trade, later becoming a contractor and builder. In 1853 he was married to Julia Galliac. To this union two children were born, Leona, a daughter, and Leon, a son. In 1858 Mr. Cazalet brought his wife and two children to this country on a sailing boat. They came at once to Ottawa, Illinois, where he established a stone yard and engaged in contracting and building. Later, in 1862, they moved to El Paso, where Mr. Cazalet entered in merchandising with his brother. He sold his interest and moved his family to Assumption in 1865 and engaged in merchandising here. During his business career in Assumption he acquired about one thousand acres of land, built fourteen business houses, five of them brick. He made three trips back to France to import Percheron and French Coach horses. He died in 1915.



**J. A. "Art" LACHARITE**

J. A. "Art" LaCharite, long associated in business and farming pursuits of the Assumption community, died in 1927 at the early age of 52. He had been associated with the Illinois State Bank of Assumption for 31 years, and through the bank had made a wide and extensive acquaintance in this area. He was also an officer of the Assumption Coal Co., and had always extended every effort to keep the mine in operation. He served as mayor two terms, during the first paving and water system improvement. He was the oldest son of David LaCharite, who likewise had been associated with the State Bank and the Assumption Coal Co. Mr. LaCharite married Anna Cronin who preceded him in death in 1918, leaving six children, Edwina, Leon, Charles, Margaret, Rosalie and George. George lives in Assumption and practices law here. "Art" LaCharite will long be remembered by the farmers and business men of the community, with whom he had worked in connection with their banking and finance problems.

## **FRIBLEY & LaCHARITE**

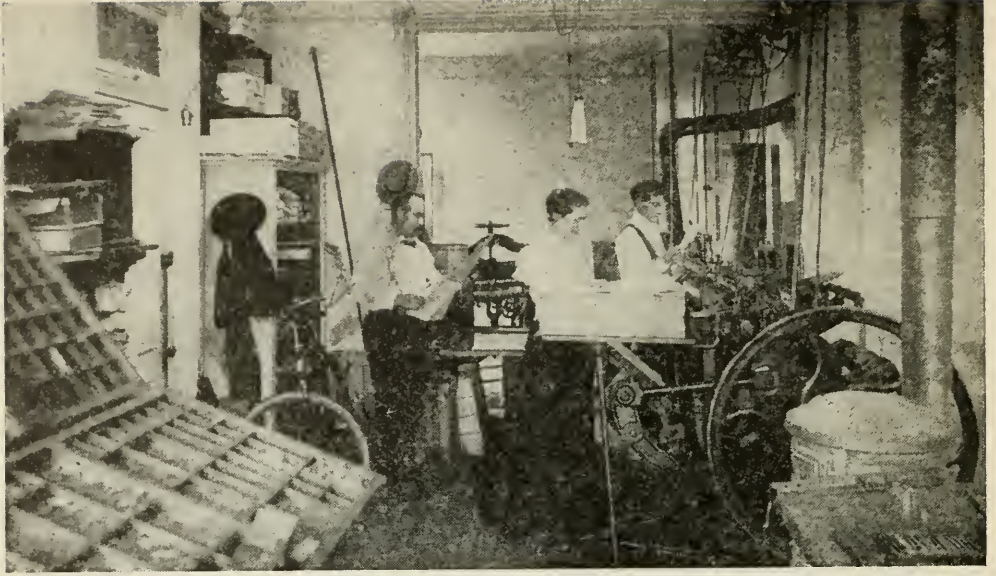
**ATTORNEYS AT LAW**

Phone 3300 — Fribley Building

Pana, Illinois

**JOHN W. FRIBLEY**

**GEORGE J. LaCHARITE**



### THE ASSUMPTION NEWS

Herbert Bixby, publisher; Alice (Fanson) Clark, assistant; Shorty Adams, printer's devil. Office was located in one-story building on First (Short) Street in location now occupied by Nave's Body Shop.

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### OLD FUNERAL HEARSE

Belonging to the late J. C. Shafer, long-time funeral director in Assumption.

## THANKS . . . .

When a community undertakes to celebrate its 100th birthday and to commemorate the deeds of those who played a part in its founding and development, nothing is more important than the willingness of public minded citizens to accept individual responsibility and to offer their best in cooperation and sacrifice. Of equal importance is the willingness of organization groups to lend the constructive force of combined effort, and to these individuals we owe our thanks.

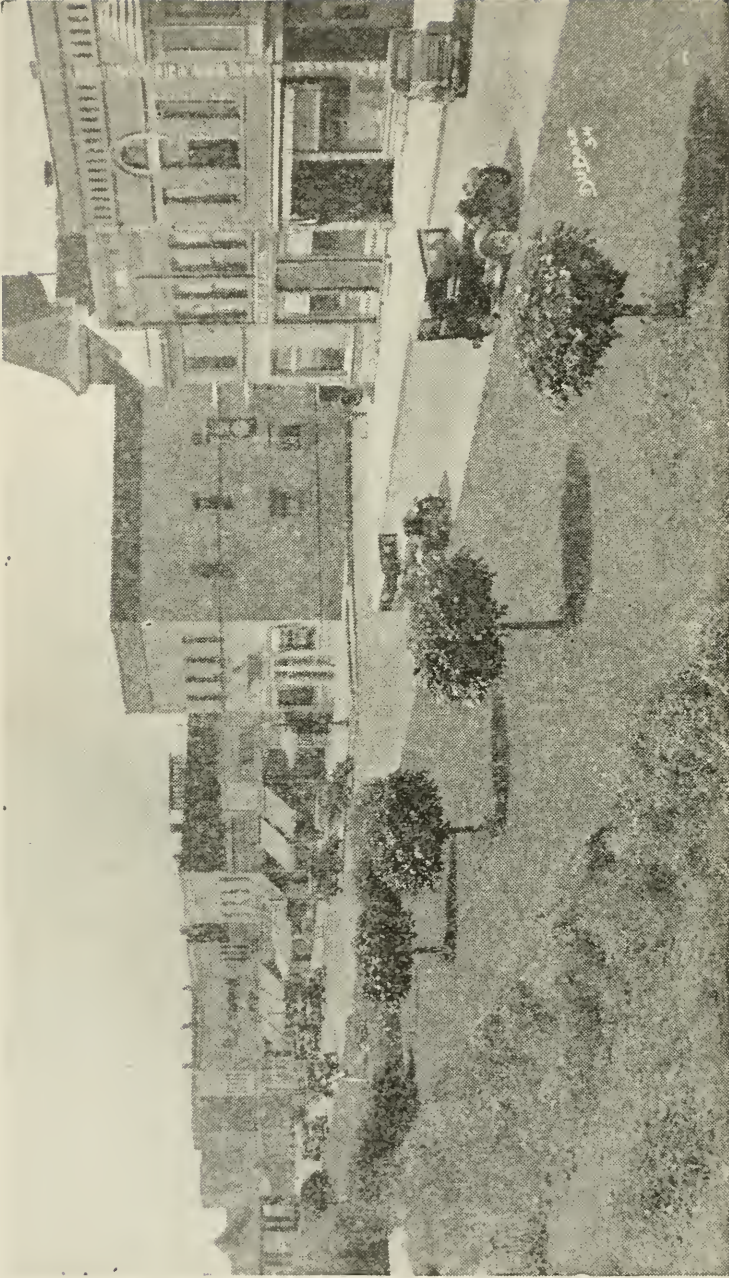
To the many advertisers who have shown their faith in the celebration by their financial support, we give first thought.

To all of the committees who served so faithfully, without any complaint on their part, we wish to say we thank you. We know our forebearers would have been proud of these people and their accomplishments.

We wish to express our thanks to all individuals, all religious, civic, veterans and social groups, who worked so hard with personal sacrifice to make this possible.

It is our hope that we all have received a better understanding of our own people and their problems that we may be a better united community for the good of its people.

The universal acceptance of the Century of Progress is evidence of our determination to build a bigger and better Assumption.



**1934 SCENE OF CHESTNUT (Front) STREET**

Looking south from Bank corner.





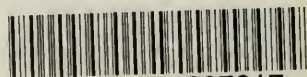








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