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Souvenir Book of Rossville,
Illinois Centennial, 1859-
1959.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY.

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CENTENNIAL

Souvenir Book



ROSSVILLE, ILLINOIS

The Rossville Canning Co.

1895 — 1924

The Rossville Packing Co.

1924 — 1959



Visit With Us During the Centennial

AUG. 6, 7, 8

Sincerely

Louis H. Schlecht

Richard E. Schlecht

L. Eugene Schlecht

*This Book is Dedicated to
The Memory of the
Pioneers of This Area,
Whose Foresight, Bravery
And Dreams of the Future
Made Possible Our
Community of Today.*

We, the people of the Rossville community, wish to extend our warmest welcome to all the visitors who are here to help us celebrate our 100th birthday. May your visit be a pleasant and memorable one.

The former Rossville residents who have returned for this celebration will notice many changes in our village. As they view the town, they will see our new modern schools, our recently built postoffice, the many improvements to both exteriors and interiors of the business houses and our newly added fire fighting equipment. As they visit our residential area, they will be pleased to see the well kept lawns and houses of the past generations are now complemented by the many newly built homes of this generation. As they stroll down the tree lined streets, many a memory of childhood will reappear.

To the visitors who are seeing Rossville for the first time, please feel free to wander throughout the entire town. We are very proud of our town and will make every effort to make your visit a pleasant one.

After visiting our town, we hope you enjoyed it enough to return again. If you like a friendly, attractive community, we are sure to see you again.

ROSSVILLE COMMERCIAL CLUB

Harley C. Leaver, President

John Gothberg, Vice President

Ross Songer, Sec.-Treas.

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Ill. Hist. Surv.

One of the most important of all tasks in connection with the Rossville Centennial fell upon our shoulders, that of making the decisions regarding what events would take place and who would be appointed to make each event a successful one.

A million thanks to all of those who accepted committee appointments and worked so untiringly; and to those who have contributed time, material or money.

It is our hope and prayer that this centennial will serve to rekindle a new love and appreciation for the spirit that builds communities such as ours.

We wish to express our thanks for the privilege of working with all the wonderful people in this community in the preparation and success of this event. Without the help and encouragement of all, our task would have been an impossible one.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Jack Gray

A. R. Whistler

Erma Cronkhite

L. A. Harris



ALVAN GILBERT

(From cut of 1875)

An early settler, a prominent Public Official, instrumental in the organization of the community and Village. A good businessman and a respected citizen.



STREET SCENE ON NORTH CHICAGO

Preface.

In 1778 the GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA passed an act declaring "that all citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia who are already settled or hereafter settle west of the Ohio River shall be included in a distinct County which shall be called Illinois County".

In 1787 as part of the newly born United States the territory extending northwest of the Ohio river to the Mississippi river became known as the "NORTHWEST TERRITORY".

In 1800 this territory was divided and the eastern part was set off as OHIO, and the remainder was called Indiana Territory. In 1809 Indiana was set apart and Illinois became an individual territory, and Counties were established by Gov. Nathaniel Pope. What is now Vermilion County was then a part of St. Clair County, and Cahokia was the County Seat. The counties were very few and very large and soon divisions were made. In 1816 Crawford County was formed, and it included the present Clark, Edgar and Vermilion Counties with the County Seat at Palestine. In 1819 Clark County was formed from

the north part of Crawford, with the County Seat, at Aurora on the Wabash north of Palestine.

Illinois was admitted to the Union December 3, 1818, and Vermilion County was established by act of the Legislature January 18, 1826, with its size about the width of Vermilion and Champaign Counties, and extending north to the south end of Lake Michigan. As settlers came and communities sprang up with the increasing population new counties were formed, with Cook County taken off in 1831, (Chicago population then between 900 and 1000) Champaign and Iroquois in 1833. Livingston in 1837 and Ford about the same time, Vermilion reached its permanent boundaries as at present. Its size is about 22 miles east and west, and 42 miles north and south, containing 579,840 acres.

The first land entered in the county was October 11, 1822 on the Little Vermilion River. The Government Land Office was then at Palestine.

The name "VERMILION" is derived from the Indian name of the color of the clay and muddy water of the river; the

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color resulting from the burning of the outcropping veins of coal. The same name appears on a river in Livingston and LaSalle Counties where the same conditions exist.

PIONEERS

Among the first pioneers to push northward from Danville were Andrew Davison, James Davison, Joseph Gundy, Thomas Gundy, Joseph Kerr and Peter Chrisman who chose home sites near Myersville, just west of Bismarck about 1826. Chrisman had a mill there. Some of these men also had lands in Rossville environs. Others came, moving on northward,—Daniel Liggett and John Bean at Rossville, Thomas McKibben, three miles east of Mann's Chapel, Robert Horr at Mann's Chapel, George and William Bicknell in 1834, two miles north of Rossville, Abraham Mann in 1835, three miles south of Rossville. Dr. Brickwell in 1836, in Rossville, Clark Green in 1835, east of Mann's Chapel, and A. Comstock in 1837, north of Rossville.

Alvin Gilbert was born in Ontario County, N. Y. July 11, 1810, son of Samuel and Mary Gilbert. He had two brothers, James H. and Elias M. Samuel Gilbert and family came to Illinois in 1825, and after one year in

Crawford County, came to Vermilion County and settled two miles south of Danville. Samuel's brothers Solomon and Jesse also came west, and in 1831 Solomon built a hotel (log cabin) at the west end of Main Street in Danville. Jesse built another hotel in 1833. Samuel Gilbert established the first ferry across the Vermilion river in 1828. Alvan worked on the ferry and also in his uncle's mill. Col. Othniel Gilbert is mentioned several times in the history but is not identified as to relationships.

Samuel Gilbert moved to Ross township in 1839, settling near Mann's Chapel, and was the first Justice of the Peace serving 10 years, and the first Postmaster, serving till his death in 1855.

Alvan Gilbert married in 1831, moving into Ross Township in 1832, buying a small farm near Mann's Chapel, later selling it to his father Samuel and purchasing another from his uncle Solomon in what is now the northwest part of Rossville. He lived on this about three years, then sold it and bought the Daniel Liggett farm, which is the south half of Rossville.

The government land office was established in Danville in 1831, and settlers increased rapidly.



LOOKING EAST ON ATTICA STREET

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A. R. Whistler, J. C. Culbert, F. C. Reinbold, Secy, Glenn Seymour,
Vice Pres. C. M. Ross S. Q. Smith, Pres. George F. Thomas, E. A. Peter-
son, Jess Young, Attny.



LOOKING SOUTH ON CHICAGO STREET.

One reference book gives the following statistics:—

1822, Only 8 white families in the county.

1830, Danville less than 100 population, 3 stores.

1840, Danville population 503, 3 stores.

1845, Danville population 600, 8 stores.

1850, Danville population 736, growing.

1860, Danville population 1632, growing fast.

1827, Chicago, about 6 or 7 white families plus Indians.

Gurdon S. Hubbard ran the first flat boat out of Danville, via the Vermilion, Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans in 1829. Col. Othniel Gilbert ran the last one in 1852.

Gurdon S. Hubbard and Norman D. Palmer, his partner had the first store in Danville, in the first frame building in the county, which was located where the Palmer American National Bank now stands.

The earlier inhabitants of this area of course were the Indians, of the Pottawatamie and Kickapoo nations. Also other Indian nations visited the territory from time to time. The salt

mines were known and visited by people from many miles away in every direction, and the settlement at what is now Danville was located on the line of Indian travel from Ohio to the Mississippi river. Other trails led in the main directions to the neighboring tribes.

The first white people were Indian Traders, who dealt kindly and lived peaceably and on friendly relations with the red men. The best known of these was Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard, of whom we shall write more later.

As the salt mines attracted the Indians, so they were the great factor that brought white explorers and settlers into this vicinity. They came up the Wabash and Vermilion rivers to discover the salt mines of which they had heard, about 2½ miles north and west of Catlin. (Sec. 16, T19N, R12W). The atlas of 1875 shows a subdivision of many small plots which would indicate that there was quite a settlement—somewhat permanent—there.

THE SALT MINES (from Beckwith's History)

No doubt the knowledge of the salt springs on the Vermilion River had strong influence for making the treaties with the Pottawatamies in July 1819, and with the Kickapoos in August

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1819. (Joseph Barron was the aide and interpreter for General Harrison, and was able to understand and speak all the Indian languages, so he had access to all information in official hands.) Almost immediately after the completion of the treaties with the Indian tribes, Barron and some friends planned an expedition to explore the Vermilion river in search of salt springs. His party consisted of four white men and four Shawnee Indians. Two of the white men, Lambert Bona and Zachariah Schecott (probably Cicott) were French and possibly Indian traders and acquainted with the territory and the presence of salt. Barron chose Truman Blackman — unfortunately — for the fourth in the party. They traveled up stream via the Wabash and Vermilion rivers, and found the Salt Springs Sept. 22, 1819. They returned to Ft. Harrison (Terre Haute) to make necessary reports and for further planning. Barron would have been credited with the first discovery and settlement had he not chosen Truman Blackman. For Blackman immediately betrayed Barron, and with a party consisting of his brother Remember Blackman, Seymour Treat, Peter Allen, Francis Whitcomb, and probably Dan Beckwith and George Beckwith who joined them after they left Ft. Harrison, hurried overland and

returned to the salt springs October 21, 1819, and made claim of first discovery.

It is thought that Seymour Treat was the first permanent white settler in the county, coming in October 1819. They were 40 miles from their nearest neighbor. Not long after their arrival they were joined by Francis Whitcomb, George Beckwith and Capt. Truman Blackman, and a company was organized for the production of salt. Tests proved the easy access and availability, and a well was bored to a considerable depth. It produced very briney water which produced a bushel of salt from 170 gallons of brine. (One writer states 100 gallons of brine). Large kettles were brought up river and 80 were in use boiling down the brine with an output reaching 120 bushels weekly according to some reports, and selling for \$1.50 per bushel. Customers came long distances to buy.

Early settlement began in the southern part of the County and spread northward as newcomers arrived. James Butler at Catlin, in 1820, Henry Johnston soon after on the Little Vermilion River, H. Luddington in 1822 at Catlin, (he had passed through this land about 1816 and there were no settlements between the Wabash river and Fort Clark (Peoria) and only two French families there.) Gurdon S. Hub-



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LOOKING SOUTH ON CHICAGO STREET

bard, agent for the American Fur Company, and Dan Beckwith also an Indian trader in 1823, Danville.

One reference lists the following families residing in the present territory of Vermilion County in 1823—

Seymour Treat, Achilles Morgan, Henry Johnston, George Beckwith, Alex McDonald, James Butler, Asa Elliott, and possibly two brothers-in-law of Johnston, Barnett and Absalom Starr may have been here then.

At this date the center of population and settlement was near Catlin, and the meetings for public action of every kind were held there.

ROSS TOWNSHIP

Vermilion County was established by Act of the Legislature January 18, 1826, and the act provided for appointment of Commissioners to select the location for the seat of County Government. The Commissioners reported March 25, 1827, having chosen the present site of Danville.

In the original division of the County, this Township included all lands north of the northern boundaries of Newell and Blount Townships, (which

is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of the center of Bismarck.) to the Iroquois County line, and twelve miles wide.

Among the earliest settlers we find these who pushed northward into the new country: — Jacob T. Ross, Sec. 9-21-11, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Alvin; Andrew Davison, 1828, 1 mile north of Moore's Corner; Joseph Gundy, 1828, and Jacob Gundy 1830, north of Bismarck; John Demorest, 1828, 1 mile west of Alvin; Daniel Liggett, 1829, Rossville; Alvan Gilbert, 1832, Mann's Chapel; Thomas McKibben, 1830, south of Bethel Cemetery; Willard Brown, 1835, southeast of Alvin; A. J. Miller, 1834, three miles east of Rossville; O. Pritchett, 1832, just north of Rossville.

The mill just west of Alvin was built in 1838 by a Mr. Clawson. Many of the timbers and much other help were furnished by Jacob T. Ross. The mill was operated by Clawson for a time, then purchased by Chrisman, (who sold his mill at Myersville because his brother had been accidentally killed in building work), who sold to Hoobler in 1848. He operated it until he sold to Jacob T. Ross in 1851. Mr. Ross

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ROSSVILLE PACKING COMPANY

HISTORY OF THE CANNING INDUSTRY IN ROSSVILLE, ILLINOIS

According to an article in "The Canning Trade" magazine published in 1914 entitled "A Brief History of the Canning Business in the Central West" written by Mr. William Moore of Hoopeston, Illinois, that industry was commenced in the Village of Rossville in the year 1895 when C. A. Allen of Hoopeston, Perry Stufflebeam, and Phillip Cadle of Rossville organized the Rossville Canning Company as a co-partnership. Scant information is available concerning this original venture; however, the factory burned in 1900, and activity was at a standstill for the next two or three years. About 1904 the property was purchased by John H. Leslie and Company of Chicago which firm rebuilt the plant and operated it until 1924 with J. F. Rutter of Rossville as manager. During these twenty years several different vegetables, including sauerkraut, and some fruits were processed, however, the principal product was, and still is, sweet corn. J. F. Rutter is remembered, not only as a machinery engineer (having designed the early "Rutter Kettle" or horizontal retort for processing canned products) but also, as a colorful personality and a one-man-band!

In 1924 interests from Hoopeston, Illinois in the persons of Richard Zook, William Miskimen, and Edward Trego purchased the plant, incorporating under the name of "The Rossville Packing Company". These men, from the two large canneries at Hoopeston, must have visualized the expanding markets for

canned foods which were rapidly developing at that time. In 1925 they selected Louis H. Schlecht, who had been active for some years with the Hoopeston Canning Company, to manage the Rossville operation. Under this organization from 1924 to 1934, the Rossville plant made further improvements and experimented with additional products for the plants at Hoopeston; beets and tomatoes were canned, but did not prove profitable. Then in 1929 all-green asparagus was introduced to the east-central Illinois canners with the first production at Rossville; from that original field on the old "Maier Farm" south of Rossville, asparagus acreage in north Vermilion County has now in 1959 reached well over 4000 acres. It should be noted that during this period the Rossville plant was more or less of an experimental and feeder operation; supplying the well-established plants at Hoopeston with additional production for their expanding sales, and with research for future products.

In 1935 under the pressures of the Depression Years, the Rossville cannery was offered for sale under sealed bids, and was purchased by Louis Schlecht, the acting manager, who then operated the plant as an individual proprietorship until 1947. These twelve years saw the fading-away of the colorful (but laborious) mule-teams and hand-jerkers and the advent of the mechanical pickers, the disappearance of line-shafts and remote drives, and of huge case-stacking crews in the warehouse—the

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in numbers and in extent of distribution and Ross Township was divided east to west by the section line which is the north boundary of the present incorporated limits of the Village of Rossville. The north Township took the name "LYON" but when they sent it in to the Secretary of States it was returned, because there was already a township in Cook County with that name. So the good citizens readily agreed to honor the popular military man from Illinois, U. S. Grant, by choosing his name for the new Township.

It is reliably reported that for quite some time the Attica Road was observed as the township dividing line, but the error finally noted and corrected. (The election records in 1872, on the proposition to incorporate the Village of Rossville read - - - " - - election was held in the Rossville House in the Town of Grant - - -") which was doubtless the hotel which stood at 107-109 N. Chicago Street.

Coffeen's history of 1870 lists statistics of Ross Township as follows: Area, 57,600 acres; In cultivation 11,892 acres; Population 1,738; 15 schools; 3 churches; 6 Sunday Schools; 2 Post Offices, Rossville, and Jordan (location not found.)

On June 13, 1927, action was completed dividing the townships with the south half taking the name "SOUTH ROSS."

SURVEY part of Ross Township

Records show that survey of Townships 21, 22 and 23, North Range 11, West was made December 3, 1822, and Townships 21, 22 and 23, North Range 12, West was made November 18, 1822. This is that territory from about 4 miles south of Bismarck north to the County line, and 12 miles wide, from the State line west to two miles east of East Lynn.

ELEVATION

The elevation of some of the towns in Vermilion County taken on the Railroad tracks—Grape Creek, 538, Danville downtown 597, Danville Junction 611, Alvin 662, East Lynn 693, Henning 695, Rankin 716, Hoopston 716, Cheneyville 722, Rossville 702, highest point in the County in the Section adjoining Reilly on southeast 770.

SOME ROSSVILLE INDUSTRIES

Grist Mill, about 1875, Ezra Werner the miller, followed by A. H. Gernand and others, where present Canning Co. is located.

First Canning Co. Stufflebeam, Redden, Cadle and Allen, used old Mill building, which burned.

Rossville Electric Light Co. built on the mill site.

Rossville Canning Co. established 1904.

Spring Lake Ice Co. F. L. Stewart, 406 N. Chicago St.

Bluing Factory, Mr. Wm. Thomas, Father of Mrs. Jack Cosby.

Brewery, Mr. Miklethum, where Christman Park is located.

Brewery, James Cornell, near 124 W. Attica St.

Cigar Factory, Kadison Brothers, over 102 E. Attica St.

Creamery, Rossville Creamery Co. 127 W. Attica St. 1909 to

Cement Blocks, The Young Younguns" Jess & Homer, 1905

Wagon Factory, Byron Cronkhite, 315-321 E. Attica St. Building used also for

Threshers & Wagons, L. T. Austin

Ironing Boards, C. W. Meneley

Corn Shredders, Fowler, Stufflebeam; Building burned 3/1/1906

Bakery Wholesale & Retail, J. E. McCarty

Brick & Tile Plant, Habel Bros, 1889

Brick & Tile Plant Postlewait & Redden, 1905

Incubator Factory, A. Schafer, G. Maury, P. Warner, 1908

Laundry, Stifler—Kelley—Sparrow—German—McGranahan—W. Maury.

Tinsware & Utensils, Adam Hoover

Tinware & Art Novelties, H. Cain

Poultry Dressing & Shipping, Lyons & Marko

Cabinet Shop, James Atwood.

Shoe Factory, 1894-1901

Broom Factory, Zack Norton.

Rossville Greenhouse, Villars, 1897, J. Culbert—

Baw Industries, (Cob processing,) Joe Ashbrook

Harness & Buggies, E. J. Davis



The Williamson Hotel, 109 N. Chicago Street. The first hotel at this address was built in 1859, it was improved, changed ownership and was enlarged to become a well known landmark for travelers. It was burned in 1911.

DR. JOHN C. MASON

SINCE 1930

ROSSVILLE, ILL.

RESIDENT DOCTORS OF ROSSVILLE

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VILLAGE OF ROSSVILLE

Daniel Liggett and his family were of pioneering tendencies and came to Illinois and Vermilion County in 1829, and chose this for their home, which was a cabin located at 304 South Chicago St. (The Stufflebeam-Bracken home). They decided to make a permanent home and on January 29, 1833 he entered with the government the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 11-22-12, (which is the Village south of Attica St. and west of Church St. On January 2, 1936 he entered the 80 acres just east of Church St. and south of Attica St. Mr. Liggett died in 1838, and the estate was cut up and divided among his heirs, and the pieces were sold and traded time after time until by the early 1850's Alvan Gilbert owned the whole tract. The 40 acres just north of Attica St. and west of Church St. was entered by Alvan Gilbert on February 15, 1836, and the 40 acres just north of that was entered November 1, 1839, also by Mr. Gilbert.

Probably the first permanent settlers here were the Daniel Liggetts in 1829, John Bean 1830, and William and George Bicknell not long after. The crossing of the Chicago-Danville trail and the Attica-Paxton road, together

with the nearness of the Northfork river and the plentiful timber and fertile prairie made it the natural choice for newcomers to stop and a little community to grow. And it was equally natural for it to be given the name of Liggett's Grove. Somewhere and for some unknown reason the little village gained a decriptive name (we know not why) of "Henpeck" which appears to have been very widely used. But it was probably more or less customary for the first village or Township to be given the same name, hence with the platting of the Original Town, "ROSSVILLE" was born. (In some of the histories the writers have confused the Bicknell House — built at the river crossing two miles north of Rossville with the first settlement here.)

From Coffen's Handbook of
Vermilion County, 1870

The town of Rossville is beautifully located in the northern part of Vermilion County, on the line of the Chicago, Danville and Vincennes Railroad, in the edge of the timber on the North Fork of the Big Vermilion River, twenty miles north of Danville.

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The village contains nearly three hundred inhabitants, about twenty dwelling-houses having been erected here within the last year. The public school building and the excellent schools therein, under the management of Professor S. Q. Davison, assisted by the Misses Laurie Grant, Gracie Groves, and Eva Groves, is an institution which stands ahead, perhaps, of any other similar school in the county. The Methodist Episcopal Church lately completed, is worth over \$5,000.00. A Presbyterian Church is in process of erection. Business, although, perhaps, not numerously represented, is well represented by the excellent dry-goods store of Henderson; Lee & Co.; the Drug Store by I. B. Werner; the Agricultural house under charge of Mr. Deamude; and a few other stores. C. Tuttle, Esq., will soon add another dry-goods establishment.

The prospects of Rossville, are for the future, of the most encouraging character.

The "ORIGINAL TOWN OF ROSSVILLE," was platted August 6, 1859, and included less than the present business district - - - just around the crossing of Chicago and Attica streets, the southwest, northwest and northeast corners only. The southeast corner was not platted until April 3, 1862. All on the south of Attica St. was by Alvan Gilbert, and on the north of Attica St. by Joseph Satterthwaite and Alvan Gilbert. The village grew and Gilbert's First Addition was platted in August

1869; Gilbert's Second Addition in October 1871; Livingood's Addition (north side) in October 1871; and Gilbert's Third Addition in September 1873. Several others have followed these.

Rossville has grown to maturity and fulfilled the prediction of Mr. Coffeen. It is a village of such beauty that it attracts the attention of travelers and visitors. It is one of the nicest and best small towns in the county. On crossed paved highways; with good streets, well maintained; municipal water system that supplies plenty of water that is "tops"; natural gas, which became a reality in 1957; good churches with active congregations; fine schools which are up to date in facilities and curriculum, and staffed by well trained and qualified teachers; citizens who take pride in their homes and home town; public officials who take their responsibilities seriously and have an outlook toward an even better future; many other desirable attributes and the spirit of friendliness and helpfulness of all its people, it is only natural that to hundreds and hundreds near and far "Rossville" means "Home Sweet Home."

1959 VILLAGE OFFICIALS

President of Board— Harry M. Beckley.

Trustees, Francis D. Borrer, Stanley W. Paulson, Robert L. Lusk, Lewis Hathaway, Willard Hughes, Russell Young.

Village Clerk, Janice Yeoman Small; Treasurer, John R. Paulson; Police Magistrate, Otto Judd Funk; Police Chief, Robert L. Brake.



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Hoopeston, Illinois

ROSSVILLE INCORPORATED

The Illinois legislature passed an Act setting the plan for incorporating Villages, which act was approved April 10, 1872. On July 1, 1872, thirty three residents signed a petition to the County Judge, Hon. R. W. Hanford, to call an election to vote on that question, specifying the territory involved as the East Half of Section 12, and the West Half of Section 11 in T22N, R12W and representing that it contained more than three hundred inhabitants.

The Judge ordered the election for July 27, 1872. The election was held as ordered, with 68 voters listed and 53 for Incorporation and 15 against. The Judge then ordered an election on August 24, 1872 to elect six trustees for the Village of Rossville, which election was held. The POLL BOOK lists the following voters:—

1. Henry Bonnett, 2. Peter Treon, 3. J. A. M. Kokendefer, 4. George Haines, 5. J. B. Haas, 6. Thomas M Elliott, 7. J. V. Anderson, 8. W. W. Little, 9. Christopher Weingand, 10. Henry Purtell, 11. Wm. D. Foulke, 12. John Ross, 13. E. A. Dingle, 14. Fred Makenthum, 15. Mike Welch, 16. William Iva, 17. Alvan Gilbert, 18. S. D. Lewis, 19. John B. Lee, 20. B. A. Wait, 21. Abner Warner, 22. Wm. Greathouse, 23. Wm. Holden, 24. Henry Ebling, 25. George Bourne, 26. Wm. H. Harrison, 27. P. A. Savage, 28. John B. Warner, 29. Allen Scott, 30. J. H. Lloyd, 31. Wm. R. Harker, 32. Ezra B. Warner, 33. Elwood Agnew, 34. J. S. Tursher, 35. John McGee, 36. John W. - - - - -, 37. W. S. Head, 38. Wm. C. Bissell, 39. S. C. Baker, 40. J. S. Stout, 41. Joseph Allen, 42. A. B. Snider, 43. J. Grant, 44. Fred Groom, 45. Calvin Gwinnup, 46. I. T. Meneley, 47. Ira Green, 48. J. R. Baldwin, 49. E. E. Cooper, 50. J. A. Goudy, 51. Wm. I. Evans, 52. E. Birch, 53. T. D. Biddle, 54. D. C. Deamude, 55. W. J. Henderson, 56. M. T. Livingood, 57. Wm. Ross, 58. Patrick Rosater (?), 59. I. B. Warner, 60. I. W. Shilling, 61. W. I. Allen, 62. W. C. Tuttle, 63. Scott McNeil, 64. H. A. Allen, 65. A. Boyd, 66. Austin Clark, 67. Lewis Tuttle, 68. R. D. Purviance, 69. Thomas Wilson, 70.

John S. Lee, 71. Milton Lee, 72. E. M. Gilbert, 73. John Shumate, 74. Wm. M. Phillips, 75. James Cornell, 76. Mike Graham, 77. John Britton, 78. John F. Tuttle, 79. Wm. M. Tennery, 80. E. H. Grant, 81. Benj. Z. Duley, 82. Wm. Phillips.

The election results were, Trustees elected; R. D. Purviance, 77, I. B. Warner, 50, W. Laidlow, 48, W. C. Tuttle, 47, Wm. LeFever, 45, and Ira Green, 45. Others, S. D. Lewis 33, John B. Lee 33, B. A. Wait 33, Deamude 33, W. W. Phillips 31, Al Gilbert 1, Anderson 2, M. Lee 1, Grant 1.

Other men who signed the original petition to the court or voted in the first election and not listed among the above poll were —

George Bowen, W.N.Steel, Wm. S. LeFever, J. E. Hutchins, E. C. Gass, H. H. Horr, J. R. Lotbie (?), J. R. Smith, W. W. Littell, Charles Allen, C. Gwinnup, Wm. Laidlow, Richard Groves, Robert Biddle.

Laurels to present business people for the longest records of continuous activity seem to belong to Samuel Q. Smith, Clark Carter, and Jess Young, who through the years have been always on the job, dependable in their services and interested in community welfare.



Sam Q. Smith has operated his own business over 50 years and is still active. Mrs. Bert (Axie) Smith was active over 50 years but is now retired. They are not related.

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PAINT & VARNISH CO

50 Years of Paint Making

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"John"

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Hoopeston, Illinois

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Phone 110

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Carl W. Weber, R. Ph.

The Rexall Store

Hoopeston, Illinois

The Ritz Restaurant

"Where Quality Reigns Supreme
Home Made Candies"

Breakfast — Lunches — Suppers

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Hoopeston, Illinois

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SHOE STORE**

Hoopeston, Illinois

**Hoopeston Standard
Parts Co., Inc.**

—Automotive Parts And Supplies—

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Man to Know!

Machine Shop Service

COMPLIMENTS OF
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The Store For Men & Boys

Hoopeston, Illinois

205 East Main St.

Phone 133

THE BICKNELL HOUSE

George and William Bicknell homesteaded land about two miles north of Liggett's Grove on the Northfork stream about 1835. As traffic on the "trail" increased rapidly they erected the Bicknell Inn in 1845 at the crossing of the stream, and it was well patronized— it is said A. Lincoln was a patron, — and the place has been a land mark for over a century.

The house was occupied by William Bicknell, who never married, and his brother George and wife Millie Bicknell, who were parents of three children. Timothy, (born in 1835, the first white child born in Grant Township) Solomon and Clara. Millie Bicknell was a charter member of the Rossville Presbyterian Church. William Bicknell died in 1849 and Mr. and Mrs. George Bicknell died in 1857, and the daughter Clara kept house for her brothers until her marriage to Samuel Thomas in 1865. In that year they purchased for \$2000.00 eighty acres in Sec. 7, T22N R11W, (the present home of Charles Thomas) which is still in the Thomas family.

Samuel and Clara Thomas had nine children, Millie, Oscar, Frank, William,

Richard, Edward, all deceased, and Charles, George, and Mary (Mrs. Ross Fetters) residing just east of Rossville. There are also six grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. This is one of the few first settlers with descendants still in this community.

The Inn continued under new owners for many years, and was occupied as a dwelling until 1950 when it was moved to make way for a modern home.

Disastrous Fires

Dec. 9, 1879—School Building, N. Chicago St.

1886.—All buildings surrounding 2 brick stores at 106-108 and 110 S. Chicago St.

1888—School Building, (Grade and High) N. Chicago St.

July 10, 1894—All stores east of Chicago and south of Attica Streets.

1900—Canning Factory

Mar. 1, 1906—The Red Wagon Factory, East Attica St.

1908—Livery Barn, 106 E. Maple

1911—Williamson Hotel, 109 N. Chicago St.

1917—Garage, 113 W. Attica St.

1942—Garage, 106 W. Attica St. -----

1945—High School, Corner of Harrison and Benton.



BICKNELL HOUSE, ROSSVILLE

BEST WISHES

President and Board of Trustees, Village of Rossville

H. M. Beckley, President

F. D. BORROR

ROBERT LUSK

L. F. HATHAWAY

S. W. PAULSON

WILLARD HUGHES

RUSSELL YOUNG

JOHN PAULSON, TREASURER

JANICE SMALL, VILLAGE CLERK-COLLECTOR

O. J. FUNK, POLICE MAGISTRATE

ESTON N. CASE, SUPERINTENDENT OF UTILITIES

ROBERT BRAKE, POLICE CHIEF

WILLIAM H. COX, ASSISTANT TO SUPERINTENDENT

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POST OFFICE

The first regular mail service through this County began in 1832, from Chicago to Danville to Vincennes, Indiana. In 1836 another route was established to Decatur and Springfield, and another to Ottawa, and soon a third to the east through Newport, Rockville, Danville, Ind., and Indianapolis, and still another to Lafayette, Ind.

The first postal service for this vicinity was instituted at "NORTH FORK," (Mann's Chapel) in 1839, with Samuel Gilbert as Postmaster. The Post Office remained there until 1853, by which time "Liggett's Grove" or "Henpeck" had grown to a size demanding recognition and so it became the new location, but the name remained "NORTH FORK." When in 1859 the Village was platted and officially named "ROSSVILLE" from the Township name, the Post Office name was changed to "Rossville" also.

The office was located at times in the old Livingood home, 404 N. Chicago St:

in the building that first stood at 122 S. Chicago St; the first dwelling at 509 N. Chicago St; in some stores, and at 113 E. Attica St. for nearly thirty years, moving in 1923 to 105 N. Chicago. In 1958 a new building was occupied at 106 E. Maple Street with modern quarters and adequate room for the expanded business.

(Before Rossville had a postoffice one called "Rio" was located on Sec. 22, just south of Hoopston—near where the open air theatre is—and Allen Lewis was postmaster about four years with income of \$5.00 to \$6.00 per year. That was about 1838 to 1842).

Listed Postmasters include Alvan Gilbert, James Stewart, Joseph Satterthwaite, W. J. Henderson, J. W. McTaggart, Harry Shannon, Addie Shannon, Addison Davis, Theodore Habel, Joseph Braden, Leo J. Byrne, Russell Young, Edward Hathaway, Ross Prather, Joseph Brown.



ROSSVILLE HARDWARE

H. M. Beckley
OWNER

115-117 E. Attica St.

Telephone RI 8-2391

A Hardware store for 86 years, in the same location.

WELCOME TO ROSSVILLE

Help us celebrate our Centennial, And have a good time.

Standard Oil Co.

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AND
SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

R. H. Weber, Local Agent
Rossville, Ill. Phone RI 8-2461

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Open Every Day To Serve You
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Complete Line of Food
Confections

AMBIA BOTTLE GAS

AMBIA, INDIANA

An Old Timer With A

New Service

BOTH BULK

&



BOTTLE GAS



ROSSVILLE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

The Illinois law authorizing the incorporation of Building and Loan Associations became effective July 1, 1879. On May 13, 1881, a committee of Rossville citizens presented a petition for incorporation to the Secretary of State. They were given a permit to proceed with organization, and within ten days had applications for 255 shares of Capital Stock from 44 subscribers.

Call for an organization meeting was issued and on June 6, 1881 the meeting was held in the old "ODD FELLOWS HALL" (the upstairs of a frame building at 102 South Chicago St.). They chose a board of 12 Directors, and adopted their by-laws, and the Directors organized and selected the officers. This action was duly reported and approved and the ROSSVILLE BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATION was incorporated July 25, 1881.

The officers were: President, R. W. Weld, Vice-Pres., W. S. Demaree, Secretary, W. D. Foulke, Treasurer, D. Watson. Directors, (for 1 year) O. G. Crane, W. D. Foulke, Scott Crouch, John Milligan. (For 2 years) Wm. H. Harrison, F. J. Pastor, George Stamp, Allen Grant. (For 3 years) W. R. Weld, Emil H. Langhans, W. Watson, W. S. Demaree. Other member-subscribers: —R. L. Dengler, John Westfall, John Ruth, C. C. McAllister, John Keller, J. S. Stout, J. M. Stafford, E. B. Werner, Harry Shannon, W. W. Dale, Maurice Walsh, Emma Westfall, John B. Werner, Charles M. Ross, Henry Hughes, Peter Treon, Mike Graham, Ezra Hack-

man, Jacob Pirl, Carl Funk, Minna Funk, W. Vining, W. T. Vining, C. D. Smith, D. Holenbeck, Edward P. Langhans, Abraham Mann, C. W. Miller, G. Maury, John J. McElroy, W. R. Harker, H. C. Troupe.

Each of these 44 members subscribed for from 1 to 25 shares of Installment Stock upon which they paid 15 cents per week per share, and as soon as funds permitted loans on improved real estate were made. Operations have continued without interruption, serving both investors and borrowers, and making a valuable contribution to the growth and improvement of our fine community. We know of no other business in Rossville which can pass this record of 77 years. This Association has always been well managed, and directed by men who were prominent in the business activities of the community, and if we could list them all they would be remembered for their public interest and civil pride.

In the begining the Board of Directors met every Saturday evening and the members were expected to appear and make their weekly payments of dues. As years passed the Association grew with the community, and it has kept pace with the times in adopting modern methods, and maintained the highest standard of service to its customers, both investors and borrowers. This service has been so well received that the volume of business has more than quadrupled in the last ten years. Present Assets. \$330,000.00



A TYPICAL STREET SCENE OF ROSSVILLE

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Danville, Illinois

ALVAN GILBERT

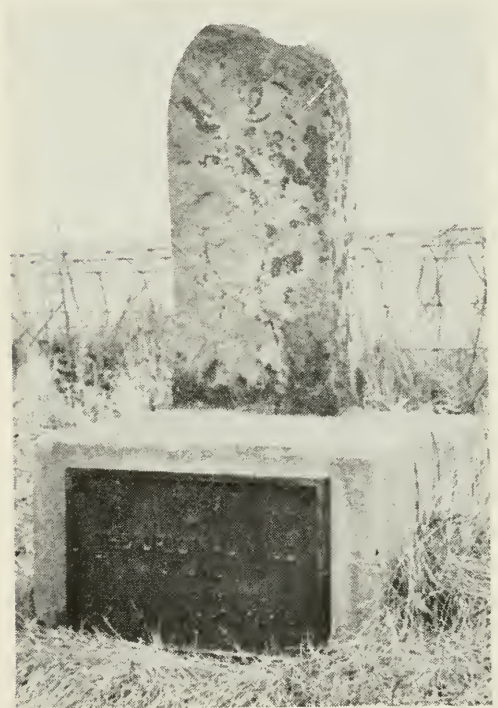
The Gilbert family was of English origin, and were early settlers in the Colony of Massachusetts. Alvan Gilbert was born in Ontario County New York, July 11, 1810, the son of Samuel and Mary Morse Gilbert. He had two brothers, James H. and Elias M. The family came west by boat to Crawford County Ohio in the spring of 1825. The next year they came west and settled about two miles south of Danville. Solomon and Jesse Gilbert, uncles of Alvan, came to Danville. Solomon building a mill on the north fork of the Vermilion river, and Jesse starting a ferry. Alvan worked for both in their businesses.

Alvan Gilbert married Matilda Horr April 18, 1831, and they moved into Ross Township in 1832, buying a small farm from his father-in-law, on the west side of the state road at Mann's Chapel. To this he added by entry and purchase until he owned about 240 acres. Later he sold this farm to his father and purchased another, the north part of Rossville, from his uncle Solomon. He lived there for some time then sold it, and by purchase, and trades became the owner of the original Daniel Liggett farm which was the south part of Rossville. He traded extensively and probably owned about 900 acres in Ross and Grant Townships. The Gilberts had two daughters, Sarah E. who married George C. Dickson, and Nancy J. the wife of Frederick Grooms. Mrs. Gilbert died in 1849 and Mr. Gilbert later married Nancy Horr, the widow of Samuel Elzy.

When Mr. Gilbert made his permanent home in Liggett's Grove it was but natural that the dwelling was at the spot where Liggett originally built his cabin.—now 306 South Chicago St. His acquisition of this land was not a single transaction, but many, over several years as he bought the various parcels into which the Liggett estate had been divided and allotted to the widow and other heirs. By the mid 1850s he had probably procured all of the quarter section south of Attica St. and west of Church St. And as an active community was developing Mr. Gilbert had foresight and faith in the future and in the summer of 1859 the ORIGINAL TOWN was platted and given the name ROSSVILLE, after the Township name,

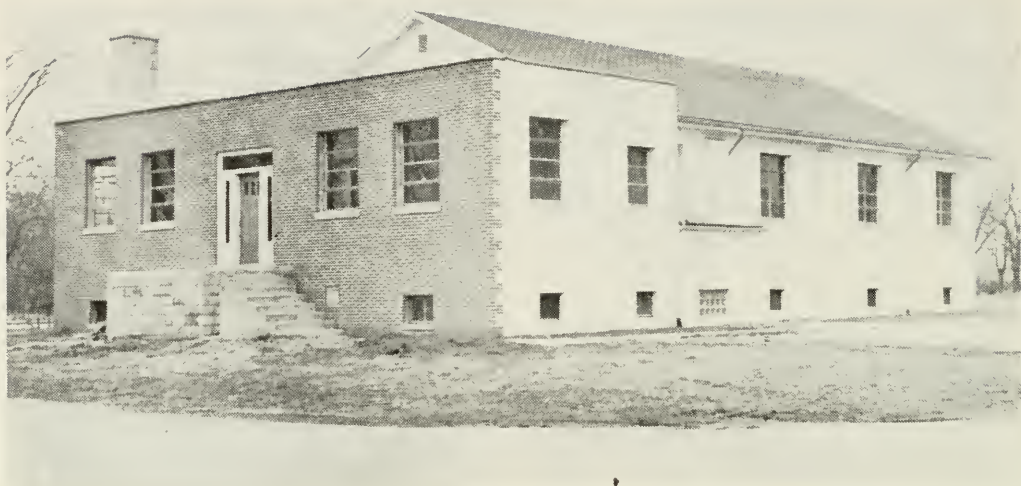
and this was officially dated August 6, 1859.

Mr. Gilbert was one of the Commissioners appointed by the Legislature to divide Vermilion County into Townships. He was chosen the first Assessor for the Township, and was an official for many years, serving as Supervisor for 18 years, and as Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors for most of that time. In 1876 he was elected to the Illinois General Assembly. It has been reported that he secured passage of a special bill which permitted the routing of South Chicago St. with a sharp curve east at Perry St. leaving his property with a spacious front lawn. (The street was straightened in 1940 when the new highway was improved.)



Original Milestone marking Hubbard Trail, State Highway near Mann's Chapel.

Thomas Bennett, another Englishman, came to America in 1851, living first in Danville and Covington, Indiana and in 1866 selecting his home site south of Rossville. He farmed extensively, and had a wide trade in fine livestock. He was interested in community affairs, very generous and a leader in the religious life of the community.



ROSSVILLE AMERICAN LEGION HOME

SPEARS-DUKES POST #733 AMERICAN LEGION

Application for a charter for the Rossville American Legion was received in the Department of Illinois June 22, 1921, with the name of Lloyd K. Spears Post #706. Seventeen veterans signed the application: F. Grant Williamson, Thomas E. Maury, Percy B. Potts, Dean E. Reece, Roy S. O'Laughlin, Otto F. Yeoman, Harold C. Crays, Charles D. Borrer, Otto N. Siewert, Alva Cronkhite, Fred L. Ervin, Offie Sloan, W. Earl Wright, Joseph A. Grimler, Clarence Morgan, Robert Bivans, Arista Trough.

Post #706 was in existence in 1921 with 36 members; in 1922, 17 members in 1923 there were no members and the Post was cancelled. Then on December 14, 1927, application for charter for Lloyd K. Spears Post #733 was filed with fifteen veterans' signatures: Harold C. Crays, Thomas C. Stifler, Clarence E. Morgan, Russell Young, Alva Cronkhite, Leo C. Smith, Ivan F. Bond, Eric O. Ryberg, Fern F. Coon, John Davidson, Dean E. Reece, Francis D.

Borrer, James E. Blake, Made H. Seals, Raymond H. Poland.

On January 22, 1947 the name of the Post was changed to Spears-Dukes Post #733. Thus an infantry soldier and an air force veteran, who died a war apart are memorialized by Rossville's American Legion Post. Pvt. Lloyd K. Spears was the only Rossville man to lose his life in World War I, and T. Sgt. William Dukes, the first to lose his life in the second World War.

Pvt. Spears was born in Kentucky and moved with his family to Rossville in 1905 when he was 18. He was drafted in 1917 into the Infantry, and died in 1918 in France, a victim of a German air raid. Sgt. Dukes was a native of Collison, Ill., and graduated from Rossville High School in 1940 and enlisted in 1942 in the Air Force. He was a veteran radio-operator and gunner in a B-17 bomber, and lost his life in an airplane crash over Reedham, England, February 21, 1944.

Ten boys who called Rossville "home," who gave their lives in W.W. II are: Harold Casner, Kenneth Huffman, Richard McLain, James Chittick,

Wilbur Hughes, Harold Poland, Hershel Mullins, William Dukes, Harold Lackey, Harlan Steele.

Eugene Lewis lost his life on a bombing mission over Korea during the Korean conflict.

Legion meetings were held in the rooms above 102 S. Chicago St. until 1934, when the Post purchased the Depler home at 105 Gilbert St. In 1952 this was sold to start the erection of the new Legion Home just completed on Thompson Ave. Volunteer labor is primarily responsible for this handsome Post edifice.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the American Legion, formed in Paris, France, March 15-17, 1919, with a purpose to "safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy", for which they had lately fought. This determination was incorporated in the preamble to the Legion constitution, which reads: "To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great war, To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness".

The American Legion plays an important role in veterans affairs. Volunteer service officers promote the Legion's vast rehabilitation programs. They initiate most of the claims for Veterans and their dependents. It's rehabilitation program is of service for the welfare of all Veterans, particularly the disabled, their dependents, the war widows and orphans. This involves the Gifts to Yanks and the distribution of the Poppy (the memorial flower of the dead).

One of the greatest peacetime contributions the Legion has made has been in helping youngsters, in child welfare and youth work. The local Post sponsors a Little League Baseball Team. Other programs under Americanism include Boys State and Boys Nation. Post #733 annually gives American Legion School Awards which is maintained on a national level, thru the Americanism commission of the American Legion.

1958-1959 OFFICERS

Commander George F. Perkins; Vice Comm. John C. Carter; Vice Comm. Clark Funk; Adjutant Joe P. Barragree Jr.; Finance Officer James C. Davis; Chaplain Leon Lloyd; Sgt. At-Arms

Richard Hughes; Historian Curtis German.

PAST COMMANDERS

F. Grant Williamson, Carl W. Smith, Russell Young, C. E. Morgan, Alva Cronkhite, Francis Borrer, Wade H. Seals, Harry M. Seals, Otto F. Yeoman, Raymond H. Poland, Walter Ernst, W. L. Freese, Lawrence McIntyre, Raymond Green, John Falconer, Jay Prillaman, Robert L. Lusk, Russell L. Ingram, Dallas Denison, Otto Judd Funk, Curtis German, Vernon LaMar, Clark Baker, Arlyn Dain, James C. Davis, Leland Lewis, George F. Perkins.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #733

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit to Post #733 was organized in February 1929, by Katherine Best the 18th District Director, with fourteen charter members: Gertrude Stifler, Wanda B. Davidson, Edna Boardman, Pansy M. Poland, Verna T. Strickler, Hetty M. Young, Mabel E. Blary, Lucille Morgan, Dorothy Ann Morgan, Esther Stifler, Bertha R. Cronkhite, Marjorie Young, Rachel R. Reece, Mary C. Spears.

Seven of the Charter members still belong to the Unit. The first President was Gertrude (Mrs. Thomas) Stifler. There have been 23 Presidents, seven serving more than once; they are: Gertrude Stifler, Verna T. Strickler, Lucille Morgan, Marjorie Young, Pansy Poland, Eunice Fitzwater, Blanche Borrer, Rachael Reece, Elizabeth Paulson, Effie Huffman, Maude Ernst, Esther Crawford, Mary Gladden, Claire Funk, Leola Queen, Winifred Yeoman, Marie Henak, Hazel King, Sue Funk, Ida Schaffer, Louise Foster, Betty Jackson, Evelyn Dain.

Prior to World War II a high of 58 members was reached, in 1958 the Unit reached an all time high of 205.

In 1934, the Junior Auxiliary was formed with sixteen daughters of Legionnaires enrolled. Present enrollment is 44. The Auxiliary also assisted the same year in the formation of Squadron #733 "Sons of The American Legion", enrolling 21 boys.

In the number one program, for which both Legion and Auxiliary were orga-

THE "300" ROOM

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Your Host—Bill Bolick

Perfect Food - Perfect Service

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SERVING A PROGRESSIVE COMMUNITY.

Jack Gray

L. A. HARRIS — INSURANCE

HERE TO SERVE ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS

107 Maple St.

Rossville, Illinois

nized, #733 has more than carried its share of the load. Participating in a financial way to all phases at a National and Departmental level, the Unit has maintained a corps of Volunteer workers (Gold Ladies) contributing thousands of hours and huge sums of material value to Danville V.A. Hospital as well as other Veteran Hospitals throughout the state. Auxiliary Service Motto: "It is so easy to forget, so blessed to remember."

Other programs carried out extensively are: Child Welfare, Americanism, including "Girl Good Citizen" selections, Girl's State, Veterans' Craft Exchange, National Security, Civil Defense, Legislation, Pan-American, Gold Star, Education of War Orphans, Community Service, and Music.

Since its organization, the Unit has had representation continuously on the District Board, including two District Directors, as well as one Fourth Division President, one Department Chaplain, one Veterans Administration Hospital Chairman, and numerous Department chairmanships and services. Unit #733 has won many awards for service.

In the new Post Home, the Auxiliary has answered the Legion's request to furnish the kitchen, ladies lounge, and any such other furnishing projects as can be accomplished.

1958-1959 OFFICERS

President Mary Gladden; 1st Vice-Pres. Gertrude Green; 2nd Vice-Pres. Gladys Laursen; Secretary Alice Courson; Treasurer Pansy Poland; Historian Marjorie Tweedy; Chaplain Goldie Pruitt; Sgt. At-Arms Betty Gaddis; Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms Louise Barra-
gree.



Herbert Smith Jr., Rossville letter carrier

FRED A. SMITH LUMBER CO.

Observes 50th Anniversary

This year has been a "Golden" one for the Fred A. Smith Lumber Company in Rossville, observing its 50th anniversary January 9th. The firm purchased the business from John E. Swift on January 9th and the actual deed was signed by Mr. Swift and his wife Nellie H. on March 11th 1909.

The lumber yard was originally founded in 1888 by the late L. K. Yeoman who was a native of Chillicothe, Ohio, and moved to Jasper County Indiana at the age of three and left the farm for Kansas in 1885. Three years later he came to Illinois and settled in Rossville and founded the Lumber yard.

Mr. Yeoman was killed on January 13, 1901 in a tragic accident as he was returning to Rossville after attending a horse and mule sale. Following his death the lumber yard was sold to John and Nellie Swift, who operated it until it was sold to the present owner.

Records indicate that the present lumber shed was built in April 1912 at a cost of \$2,357.31. This included the office of the company and was used until late in 1948 when work was started on remodeling the office. That task was completed in early 1949 and the company now has one of the finest yards in Illinois.

A list of managers from 1909 includes Lee Ireland; Clark C. Carter; Dick Miller; Ivan Bond; Merle Clem and Cecil Green who has been in charge since early in 1935. Through the years the company has had only two field managers; they are Leo Ireland and the present manager Irvin L. Weller. The company president is F. F. Bailey who has offices in Rockford, Ill.

In recent years many new homes have been built in Rossville, from small neat and attractive cottages to elaborate and ornate residences, and during the same time many existing homes have been remodeled and modernized into late style dwellings. If space permitted us to picture them you would see that every street is lined with well kept cheerfully inviting places, whose attractiveness could not be surpassed anywhere.

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GRAIN & COAL CO.**

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Hoopeston, Illinois

PHONE 54

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FARM EQUIPMENT
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Radio and Television"

**HOOPESTON
RADIO & TV SERVICE**

106 N. Market St. Hoopeston, Ill.

CULBERT THE FLORIST

One of the few family businesses operated for more than 60 years and now in the third generation, which has become a Rossville "Institution" through its long and high quality service.

James Culbert was born at John's Haven, Kincardenshire, Scotland August 31, 1846. He grew to manhood and learned the horticulture trade on a large estate. In 1869 he came west to St. Catherines, Canada, where he lived ten years following his trade. He then came to St. Louis, Mo., where he met and married Antoinette Johnson who had come to the United States from Prague. It was there that their son John was born.

In 1896 the family moved to Rossville, purchasing a small greenhouse from James Villars. It was located on the south side of McKibben St. and was later moved to its present location and enlarged. In the early years Mr. Culbert maintained the business here and also sold plants and flowers from a horse drawn wagon, visiting the neighboring towns, from where many children and grandchildren of former customers now come in their fine modern cars to take advantage of the fine Culbert service.

Mr. Culbert was ably assisted by his wife who always greeted friends and customers in a very gracious manner. He was joined by his son John in 1908, at which time they added more glass.

In 1913 John was married to Mabel Case, who was an able partner in the business. They have two sons John Robert, and James. Both saw service in W. W. II. and upon their return to civilian life followed the "family line" and John Robert Culbert has advanced in the profession to be Professor in Floriculture at the University of Illinois. James worked with his father until 1957, when he took over the business. The business has a new modern shop, with greatly expanded facilities. And Wholesaling has been added. They grow fifteen acres of summer and early fall flowers at their place at 512 N. Chicago St. and instead of a horse drawn wagon, they send out daily a large refrigerated truck which supplies many of the retail florists located within a 60 mile radius from Rossville. James is assisted by his wife Molly, and their three children. Jimmy, Bruce and Laura, the fourth generation of Culberts who may become the future florists of Rossville.



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Danville, Illinois

Hickory 6-0203

GURDON SALTONSTALL HUBBARD
(From his autobiography published 1888
(% Mrs. D. W. Fithian and other histories)

Gurdon Hubbard was born August 22, 1802, in Windsor, Vermont.—the son of Elizur Hubbard, and Abigail Sage, Hubbard. His father was a lawyer, who in 1812 lost everything through bad investments. Gurdon was sent to live with an aunt where he could attend school. He returned home and in 1815, the family went to Canada, but Mr. Hubbard being an American citizen could not practice law there, and they were in very distressed circumstances. Gurdon, though young, was active in business, buying and peddling produce, starting with a capital of 25 cents. In 1816 he secured employment in a hardware store, working as clerk and handyman for nearly two years. Then he signed up to work for the American Fur Co. as a clerk, and in Mid May 1818 the outfit left for the west. Many weeks of trying travel conditions brought the outfit to Mackinaw Island, where the fur traders gathered and brought their furs in the spring for shipment east; then in the fall would return to their posts for the winter hunting seasons. Hubbard's first assignment was clerk with an outfit picked to go to Fond-du-Lac (Lake Superior). But through friends he succeeded in getting a transfer and was sent to the Illinois river territory and St. Louis. While they were at Mackinaw he became a close friend of John H. Kinzie, who later became a business associate, and was a very important citizen of Chicago.

Hubbard's first arrival in Illinois territory was at Calumet river September, 30, 1818. The next day the party continued around the lake shore and reached Fort Dearborn and Chicago. His second trip in 1819 brought him again to Illinois. His business and travels took him to St. Louis, Starved Rock, along the Des Plaines river, Ft. Clark (Peoria), Blue Island, The Fox river, Kalamazoo river, Muskegon and other points in Michigan. He continued in north Illinois, until 1823 when he was assigned to the Iroquois country—which included the Kankakee river, and the Iroquois river to a point just south of Watseka, and a wide hunting area.

It was natural for him to reach out, and by 1824 he had picked out a good route from Iroquois to Chicago, and then extended it on to Danville. It extended through what is now Blue Island, Homewood, Bloom, Crete, Grant, Momence, Beaverville, Iroquois, Hoopston, Myersville, and Danville, then further southwest to the salt works, Bement and Blue Point in Effingham County. His choice of route evidently was good, for in 1833-34 the Illinois General Assembly ordered a State Road to be located from Vincennes to Chicago and milestones be placed from Danville to Chicago, and the Commission adopted this trail most of the way.

Hubbard established headquarters in Danville about 1824 for his fur business reaching out to stations on the Embarrass and Little Wabash rivers. About 1827 this business slumped and he abandoned those stations and built the first frame building in Vermilion County, a store room, at the SE corner of Vermilion and Main streets, where the Palmer American National Bank now stands. His partner in the enterprise was Norman D. Palmer. The Indians came from many miles around to trade, bringing their families and camping on the bluffs for days at a time, trading their furs for the available merchandise. This business continued to shrink and about 1832 Hubbard converted his business to stock more suited to the needs of white settlers. Being desirous of returning to Chicago and his land interests there he sold his store and business to Dr. William Fithian, who continued it for some time. Dr. Fithian came to Danville in 1832 from Ohio, was a very civic minded man, and acquired extensive land holdings around the village of Fithian.

In earlier years Hubbard had an Indian wife, Watseka, by name, and she is remembered by the town (probably) named in her honor. However it is said that she could not become accustomed to civilized ways and returned to her tribe. Later in 1831 Hubbard married Miss Elenora Berry, whose sister married Dr. Fithian.

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Hoopeston, Illinois

Hubbard was the builder of the first Court House in Vermilion County, and active in many other improvements.

Hubbard had endeavored to interest some Danville people in investing in lands around Lake Michigan, but without success. When he left Danville about 1834, he became a very active booster in everything for improving Chicago.

He built the first brick building in Chicago.

He was the first meat packer in Chicago.

He was the first Insurance Underwriter in Chicago.

He helped organize the first Episcopal Church (St. James)

He represented Vermilion Co. in the General Assembly 1832-1833.

He encouraged the building of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, and was on the first board of commissioners.

He took the first flat boat from Danville via the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans, 1829.

He was one of the first trustees of the "Town of Chicago" when incorporated in 1835.

And countless other important undertakings.

He was a man of great physical stamina, moral courage, and upright character which brought him the respect of all who knew him.

Hubbard Woods at Chicago was named in his honor.

He died. Sept. 14, 1886, after an illness of three years, suffering with blood poison, losing one eye in 1883 and the other in 1885. He was buried in Grace-land Cemetery.

For many years the Hubbard Trail monument in the Bracken yard has attracted the attention of local residents and visitors. The following story was told this writer:—Some years after Mr. Hubbard had left these parts he returned and came to Rossville for a visit and to hunt deer. While visiting with his host with stories of his experiences on the trail, his host asked him just where the trail ran through Rossville for he would like to put up a marker. Mr. Hubbard located the place exactly and offered to send a marker if his host would have it set up.

ROSSVILLE, NOVEMBER 1863

By Charles W. Warner
(Rossville Press 12-1-1921)

Mr. Warner's list of the buildings in Rossville in November 1863 is given with present street addresses and occupants.

George Dickson, Res. 707 S. Chicago St.
(Noble Taylor's res.)

Fred Groom, Res. 505 E. Attica, (J. W. Ashbrook.)

Alvan Gilbert, Res. 304 S. Chicago,
(Mrs. Marcia Brackin.)

Hotel, 109 N. Chicago, (Dr. Mason's dwelling)

Store, 102 N. Chicago, (Grab-It-Here Store)

W. J. Henderson, Res. 403 N. Chicago,
(Mae Hathaway Res.)

James R. Stewart, Res. 509 N. Chicago,
(Minnie Thomas Res. East half.)

James Byrne, Res. 110 N. Chicago,
(Texaco Gas Station)

Joseph Satterthwaite, Res. & Post Office, 402 N. Chicago st. (North part of H. S. Grounds)

Wm. Laidlow, Res. 108 W. Attica,
(Township Building)

George Bourne, Res. 112 W. Attica,
(Barthel Baker Res.)

Store, 102 S. Chicago St. (Cy's Barber Shop.) The 1st store built in town.

Dr. Richard Brickwell, Res. 111 W. Attica, (Emery Beckley Res.)

School House, 117 W. Attica, (Still a part of Ross Songer's house.)

W. J. Henderson Store —frame —106-108 S. Chicago (Grays Clothing)

Christopher Weingand, Res & Shoe, 112 S. Chicago. (Self Help Groc.)

An apple orchard surrounded by a rail fence, with tall flag pole in corner, occupied the lot where the First National Bank stands and on eastward. All east of Chicago St. and south of Attica St. was meadow and farm land. By 1871 there were about twenty to twenty-five houses here and among the businessmen were James Cornell, J.R. Smith, W. J. Henderson, D. C. Deamude and Van Haas. This report states that Alvan Gilbert's home was the first brick building in the county outside of Danville.



ROSSVILLE TELEPHONE CO.

The Rossville Telephone Co., received its franchise from the Village about 1896 or 1897, and began construction of its plant and lines. These grew and in a few years connected Rossville with Alvin, Bismarck, Henning, Jamesburg and Pence, Indiana. After a few years Pence was detached and became a part of the system then expanding in Warren County.

The first central office was in the rooms above the First National Bank, but about 1904 or 1905 the Company purchased a dwelling at 110 N. Chicago St., where they had rooms for the switchboard, sleeping room for night operators, a business office and a work shop with adequate outside space. This was headquarters until April 1927, when they bought and occupied the building at 104 E. Attica St.

The first Directory of September 1958

listed 38 subscribers.

Charles Brown, (Alvin), Cunningham, W. T., Citizens Bank, C.& E. I. R. R., City Engine House, Cadle, Philip, Demarec, Dr. T. E., Dwyer, O. E., Evans House, Habel Bros, Hoover, A. Res., Hoover, A. Store, Hale, O. E., Independent Office, James, W. H., Judy & Landon, Kelley, J. (Alvin), Lee, Mrs. Kate, Mason, Dr. F. M., Maury, G. E., McGuire, R. G., Putnam, Ed, Prillaman, W. M., Press Office, Palmer, Dr. J. A., Reed, J. W., Stewart, F. L., Swift, J. E., Stiffler, J. K., Stufflebeam, O. P., Smith, George S., Shumate, Chas., Williamson Hotel, Wilson & Umbarger, Warner, P. M., Wilson, Dr. S. R., Williams, D., Yeoman, L. K.

Present subscribers, 1275.

The Rossville Telephone Co. was incorporated January 7, 1913, by Perry M. Warner, Charles Warner, and Fred

Draper, with 400 shares of stock. From time to time there were changes in officers and transfers of stock, until January 1934 when the Central West Utilities Corporation became the principal owner. Mr. Warner continued as manager being succeeded by Mrs. Mary Strickler Jan. 1, 1943, to July 1, 1952. Edward Summerill served for a year when Henry Thompson of Petersburg, Indiana became general manager with Edward Hirsch in charge locally, succeeded by C. Lowell Woodruff May 1, 1959.

The Company has endeavored to meet the needs of the territory and to keep abreast of the times. It is now fully modern having installed dial service in Alvin, July 1, 1950, Henning, April 3, 1953, Rossville January 15, 1956, and Bismarek June 15, 1956. The office building is fully modernized, and as a result of recent ice and sleet storms almost all lines have been completely rebuilt.

March 16, 1942, noon — a severe cyclone destroyed almost two-thirds of all buildings in Alvin, leaving destruction, six dead and many injured. With the back part of the telephone office

building blown off, windows out, and only one out line working, the courageous operator, Mrs. Jennie Crouse, worked steadily for more than fourteen hours, calling aid, sending and receiving messages; directing the injured and the workers; and turning one room of the office into a first aid station. For her alertness and heroic unselfish service she was awarded the Theodore N. Vail silver medal and \$500.00.

List of employees of the Rossville Telephone Company should include:—

Operators: —Naomi Davis, Lillian Stifler, Estella Bogart, Georgia Kinney, Earl Miller, Anna Williamson, Mary Long, Cleo Williamson, Josephine Santmyre, Elizabeth Hazel, Anna May Nichols, Pearl Cline, Lola Seals, Eva Bogart, Myrtle Watson, Bernice Seymour, Rebecca Bray, Pearl Hann, Mrs. Hogue, Juanita Seals, Etta Mack, Mary Gladden;

Bookkeepers and linemen; Flora Prevoe, Bessie Cornell, Bernice Young, Rachael Reece, Mary Strickler, Frank Reinbold, G. Will Miller, Herbert Williamson, H. M. Seals, L. McIntyre, Me. Hogue, John Falconer, Jack Smock.



VIEW IN ROSSVILLE CEMETERY

Queen Candidates and Sponsors



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Bonnie Bowles



Bonnie Butzow



Patricia Courson



Norah Gernand



Ann Harris

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- BONNIE BOWLES Rosville High School
(Student Council)
- BONNIE BUTZOW Rosville Saddle Club
- PATRICIA COURSON American Legion Auxiliary
(Post 733)
- NORAH GERNAND First Presbyterian Church
- ANN HARRIS American Legion
(Spears-Dukes Post 733)



Mary Lou Hathaway



Joetta Hughes



Theda Lou Platt



Sara Prillaman



Roberta Queen



Marilyn Weinard

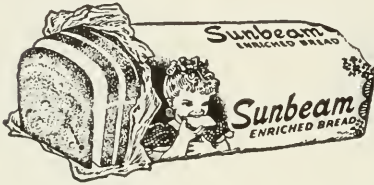


Diana Widaman

- MARY LOU HATHAWAY First Methodist Church
- JOETTA HUGHES Rossville Boy Scout Troop
- THEDA LOU PLATT Rossville Woman's Club
- SARA PRILLAMAN Rossville Commercial Club
- ROBERTA QUEEN Order of Eastern Star
(Rossville Chapter)
- MARILYN WEINARD Antioch Pixies 4-H Club
- DIANA WIDAMAN Rossville Civic Woman's Club

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Danville, Illinois



George B. Satterwhite Co.

Kraft System Recapping

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Radio & Batteries

12-14-16 N. Walnut Street

Phone 993

DANVILLE, ILL.

U. S. ARMY RADAR SITE

The Rossville Radar Site, situated one mile north and one mile east of the Village, was constructed early in 1958 and was activated in May with a complement of fourteen men. The site commander is Master Sergeant James L. Wooten, who is assisted by Sergeant First Class Leonard L. Christensen.

The Army personnel assigned here are well aware that they are playing a vital role in the defense of our nation. Their primary purpose is to provide an early warning for the Chicago-Milwaukee defense area in the event that enemy planes should attempt to get through to those heavy industrial concentrations.

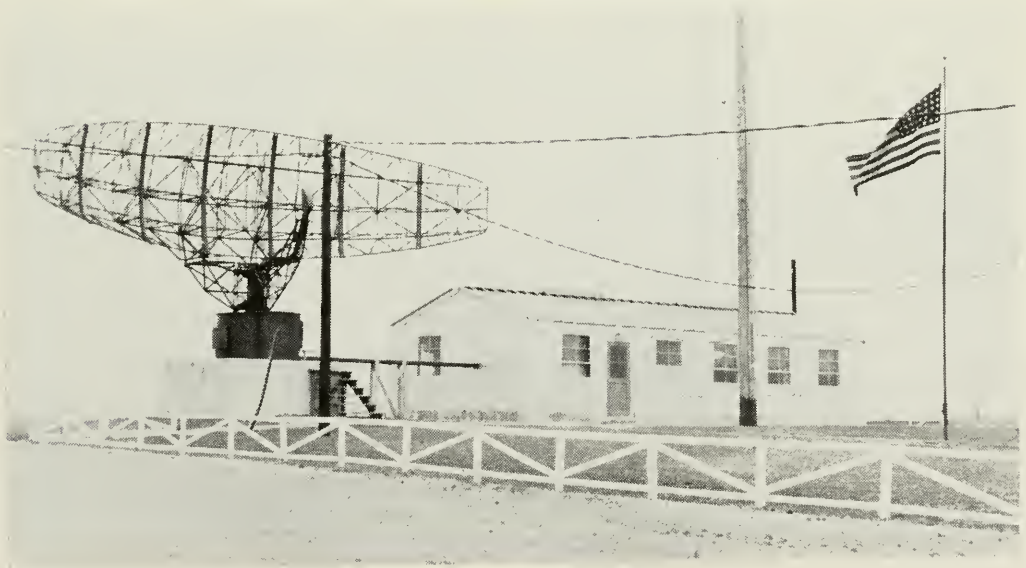
The site is in operation 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A large antenna is constantly scanning the skies for unidentified planes. Three men are on duty at all times to record and plot information received on the radar's screen.

Three structures make up the installation: they are a generator hut, the radar antenna, and the radar control and administration building. Sleeping and eating billets for the unmarried personnel are provided in Hoopeston, while families have been provided with dwelling places.

The Rossville installation is one of 10 sites in and around Chicago that work

in conjunction with the Nike Missile Site in Chicago. It is a part of the Radar Detachment (Provisional), 45th Artillery Brigade (Air Defense), Ft. Sheridan, Ill., which commands the Chicago-Gary anti-aircraft defenses, and is commanded by Brig. General Peter Schmick.

Another man, a native of Ireland, who came in 1862 was W. J. Henderson. He was very energetic in promoting and building up the town. He started his first store in 1862, and in 1864 built a good frame building at 106-108 S. Chicago St. This was replaced in 1875 by the brick building still there, and which was very advanced in style and quality and attracted attention throughout the County. (The second story room was the "Opera House" for many years.) Mr. Henderson engaged in merchandising, farming, hotel keeping, grain buying and general trading, for about thirty years. He was the father of five daughters, Jennie, Mary E. (Mrs. Charles Ellis), Fanny (Mrs. Dan Maury), Elizabeth E. (Mrs. Dan Watson), all deceased and Anna (Mrs. Frank Davis.) Davis).



U. S. ARMY RADAR STATION

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Than on Any Other Kind"

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DANVILLE, ILL.

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ROSSVILLE METHODIST CHURCH

As settlements spread northward in the county, the first permanent homes in Ross Township were at what is now Mann's Chapel. The little settlement welcomed the occasional visits of itinerant preachers, and about 1837 the first Methodist class was formed, and became known as Bennett Class, being named for the leader and teacher Thomas Bennett, Sr. The population grew slowly, and the class continued to grow until it organized as a church and the Brick Church Building (still standing and being restored as a historical shrine) was erected and dedicated in 1857.

By this time "Liggett's Grove", "Henpeck" or "Rossville" as it was later named, had begun to thrive as a community about three miles north and church services were held there from time to time. Interest was good and the Rossville Methodist Church was organized during the winter of 1868 in the school building, where Sunday School and Church meetings were held until the erection of their first building which was dedicated July 17, 1870. The building was of brick, 34x56 feet, and cost \$5,500.00.

Among the first members of the church were: Dr. & Mrs. M. T. Livingsood; Mr. and Mrs. Noah Messick; Mr.

and Mrs. S. Q. Oavidson; Mrs. Hannah Brickwell; Mr. and Mrs. Milton Lee; Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Dingle; Mrs. P. Pendergrast; Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Campbell; Mrs. John E. Little.

The church grew and soon needed more room so an addition or Chapel was built to the east side of the building. This was during the pastorate of Rev. W. T. Beadles, 1886-1890. Many present old-timers remember this building well. After a decade of growth, the congregation again felt the need of more adequate modern quarters, and in the winter of 1902-03 it was decided to erect a new building, and a committee of eight was chosen to direct the work: F. L. Stewart, Chairman; D. W. Fithian, Secretary; D. Watson, Treasurer; Philip Cadle; George S. Smith; William Barcus; O. P. Stufflebeam; and Charles Umbarger. They met first April 6, 1903, proceeded with plans, and in the late summer the cornerstone was laid, during the pastorate of Rev. E. A. Hamilton. Rev. T. L. Hancock came to serve the charge that fall and carried the project on to completion with dedication February 28, 1904. The overall cost of this project was \$16,000.00. The Ladies Aid Society worked diligently to furnish the carpeting, pulpit furniture and other items, the members con-

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PIZZA KING

"HAVE PIZZA - WILL TRAVEL"

109 E. Main Street

Hoopeston

Illinois

tributed liberally and on the day of dedication the entire amount was over-subscribed by \$1300.00.

The building was very new in architectural style, decorated most beautifully, and fitted with furniture of equal beauty and elegance. It supplied adequate room for the needs of that day, and was an accomplishment which gave satisfaction and pride to the congregation and to the community as a whole.

In 1915 Philip Cadle presented the fine Austin pipe organ, which has added much to the services through the years. Though not a large organ, it is classed among the very best to be had. In 1947 Mrs. George Merritt, with the assistance of the Co-Workers Class and other individuals, presented the amplifying system by which music is broadcast through loud speakers on the outside of the church. This part of the program brings church services much closer to the aged and sick who are shut in.

Growing membership and increasing church activities gave the officials concern and our lack of space was a matter of discussion for many years but without positive action until early in 1948 the will to meet the need took hold, and a general meeting resulted in a decision to proceed with plans, and a committee was appointed, with Rev. J. Henry Cox and Wayne Pruitt as chairmen; F. C. Reinbold, Treasurer; Charles Mason; Sidney Adams; Delmar James; Richard Schlecht; Clarence Morgan; and Herman Starr. Architect Harvey Skadden was contacted, and he submitted a plan which contained all the features we desired and matched perfectly with the original building. It was approved and put up for bids, and contract let to Dahlquist & Sons, of Milford, for \$16,000.00. Earth was turned August 9th, and work moved steadily to completion in early spring, with dedication May 14, 1949. The addition was named "FELLOWSHIP HALL", and the address was by Dr. Thomas Bransford Lugg, son of a former pastor, and now Executive Secretary and Treasurer of the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church, on the subject, "FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH".

With the extra interior equipment, lighting, new heating system, etc., the total of this project reached \$30,000.00 which was readily met by the generous giving of our members and friends, by

the Women's Society of Christian Service, and special gifts.

The Church is fully organized and active in every department, education, evangelism, missions, and supporting the work of Benevolences, World Service, Colleges, Seminaries, Hospitals, Orphan Homes, etc., etc., Membership is 404, and Sunday School enrollment, 260.

Though this was organized as a **METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, with the unification of several Methodist bodies in 1939 it became a part of that large worldwide organization now known as **THE METHODIST CHURCH**.

Probably the first Methodist ministers to visit this community were Rev. Hiram Buck and Rev. W. H. Webster. Both came as circuit riders, but afterward became Presiding elders. Pastors serving Rosville have been:—

1868-70 J. A. Kumler, 1871 D. D. Alkire, 1871-72 B. F. Hyde, 1873-75 James Miller, 1876-78 James Shaw, 1879-81 Robert Stephens, 1882-84 Job Ingram, 1885 M. M. Davidson, 1886-90 W. T. Beadles, 1891-93 J. Winterbottom, 1894-97 M. Auer, 1898-00 W. S. Phillips, 1900 J. M. Morton, 1901-02 E. A. Hamilton, 1903-05 T. L. Hancock, 1906-13 E. H. Lugg, 1914, M. M. Want, 1915-19 J. F. Wohlfarth, 1920-22 J. A. Biddle, 1923-24 J. S. Tharpe, 1925 O. H. Meyers, 1926 J. A. Betcher, 1927-29 J. E. Reynolds, 1930-34 P. P. Carson, 1935-39 A. H. Flagge, 1940-45 E. A. Houldridge, 1946-49 J. Henry Cox, 1950 James H. Puzey, 1951-52 Elmer M. Ditch, 1953-56 F. C. Stelzreide, 1957-Arthur J. Scott.

Dr. W. W. Wohlfarth, present District Superintendent, is a grandson of our former pastor.

This Church was the recipient of a most generous gift in 1956 when Mrs. Marcia Brackin gave it a beautiful modern dwelling at 216 E. Maple St., for a parsonage, and later, funds to enlarge and make it adequate to the needs of the average parsonage family.

Among our rural neighbors there are many farms which have been in one family for more than a hundred years. Since our list is far from complete, we will not include it, but we congratulate all who have attained this distinction and wish them continued success and progress.

Best Wishes For A Successful Centennial

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MERCURY — EDSEL — LINCOLN DEALER

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YOUR

AUTHORIZED STUDEBAKER DEALER

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROSSVILLE

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Plumbing — Heating — Hot Water

CONTRACTORS

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SONGER ELECTRIC

Your G. E. Dealer

Hoopeston, Illinois

Phone 350

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Lewis R. Hott

C. E. Hott

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THE ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In its beginnings the Rossville Presbyterian Church was interwoven with the First Presbyterian Church of Danville. Solomon Gilbert and his brother were Danville pioneers. He became a charter member of that church in 1829. He was largely responsible for bringing "Father" Enoch Kingsbury there in 1831. His nephew Alvan moved to North Fork in the early 1830s, and helped organize the North Fork Presbyterian Church in 1850, and later helped move the church to Rossville. The I.O.O.F. Hall became its meeting place, along with other religious and community groups. A union Sunday School was held there for several years, before there were any church buildings in Rossville.

"Father" Kingsbury, first pastor of the Danville church (1831-52, and stated supply 1861-68), was the organizer and first pastor of the Rossville church, serving from 1850 until his death in 1868. He paved the way for the first building of the Rossville church, but did not live to see his dream consummated. On June 23, 1867 he presid-

ed at a sacramental service dedicating a communion set donated by the Olivet Presbyterian Church of Chicago. This gift was thankfully received, as evidence "that we should go forward and build a house, where these may be safely deposited, and God be honorably worshipped, not only by us, but by oncoming generations."

The first sanctuary was "a neat frame building", 32 by 54 feet, and costing \$3000, with \$1060 for furnishings, and \$600 for the manse, built next door. The dedication service was held in October of 1870. The building committee was: Alvan Gilbert, Thomas Armstrong, Abram Gernand, E. S. Townsend. The pastor, Rev. W. N. Steele, organized the Presbyterian Church at Hoopeston in 1872, and became its pastor.

Until about 1900 there was no Park Place, or West Maple Street. With its opening the present manse was built, and soon after, the present church building. Its corner-stone was laid July 3, 1902, and the building dedicated April 26, 1903. One account reads: "The Church cost \$11,500, including all

BEST WISHES
FROM
JULES STRAUS

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furnishings, and is a marvel of beauty and wise planning for that amount of money." Rev. Adam Schafer was pastor. The building committee was: A. H. Gernand, J. R. Barnes, J. W. Fagner, Ed Putnam, George Maury.

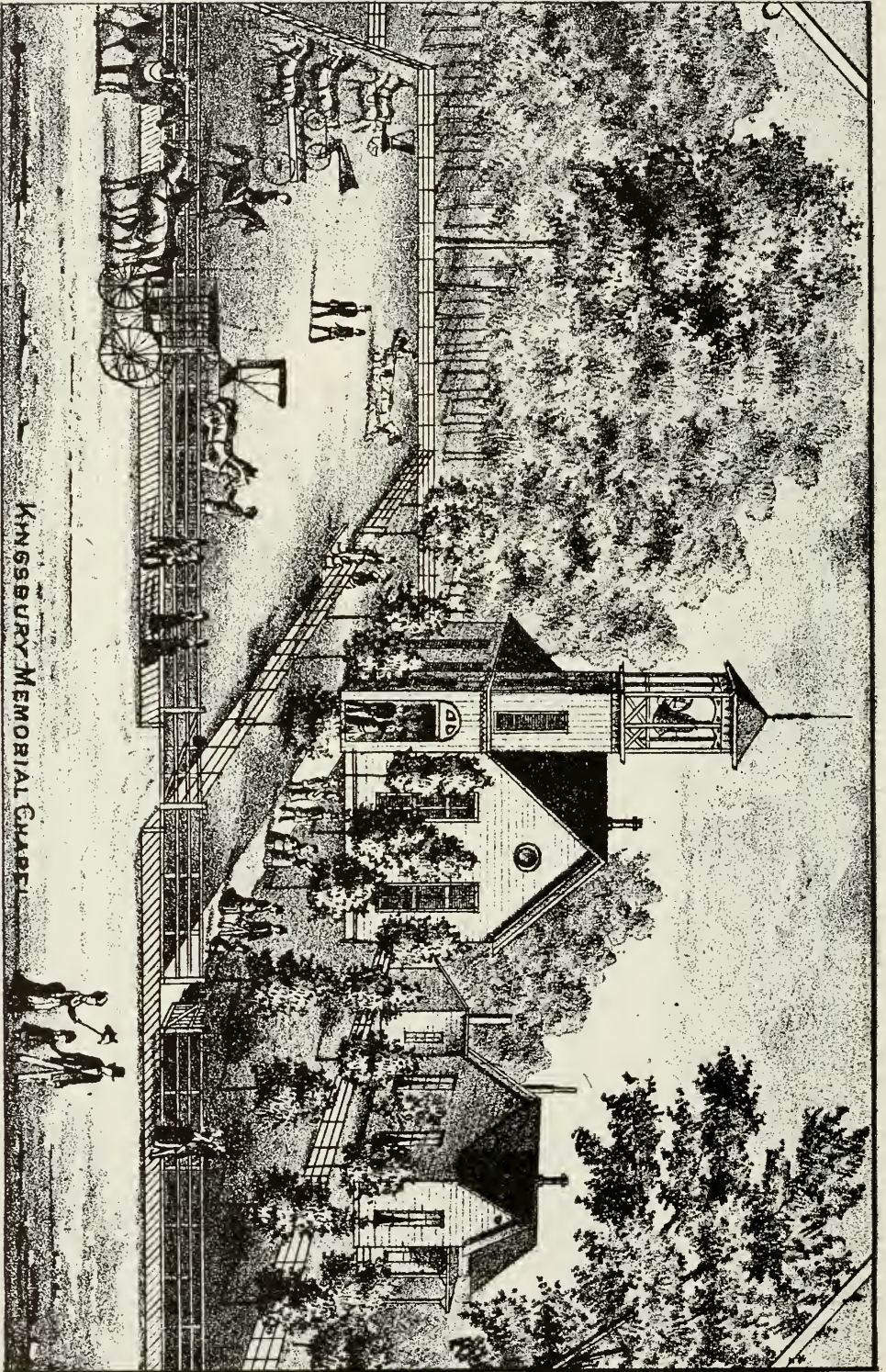
The Church was organized on October 12, 1850, in the North Fork School, with six charter members: Jesse Harris, Mrs. Millic Bicknell, Mrs. Eliza Kingsbury, David and Elizabeth Strean, Mrs. Nancy Gilbert. Mrs. Bicknell was the only charter member having descendants now in the church. Sue, with her husband George, operated Bicknell Inn until their death in 1857. Mrs. Mary Thomas Fetters is her granddaughter. Her great-granddaughter, Miss Mabel Fetters, is Sunday School Superintendent. John A. Maury is church treasurer and custodian. The elders are: George Gernand, Fred Dodrill, John Junkens, Dr. A. K. Bush, Mrs. Burns Lund, Mrs. J. W. Ashbrook. The trustees are: Harold Gernand, Gerald Carlson, Harold Smock. Rev. Roger C. Brown is the pastor.

A roster has been prepared of the 651 members who have been received into the church in the past 109 years. Repairs and improvements to the building are under way. Donors to the Memorial Fund, which is for this purpose, may have the names of loved ones who have passed away inscribed on a Book of Remembrance. The names and dates of the pastors who have served this church are as follows:

Enoch Kingsbury 1850-68, W. N. Steele 1868-74, John H. Dillingham 1874-80, W. C. Magner 1880-85, William McGaughey 1886-89, J. A. Smyth 1889-90, J. W. Mann 1890-85, Robert Carson 1897-98, R. S. Weinland 1899-01, Adam Schafer 1901-07, Albert Day 1907-11, W. J. Caldwell 1911-15, Spencer Baker 1915-18, Frank A. Campbell 1919-20, George M. Jordan 1921-23, C. H. Heller 1924-28, Bert Baker 1929-30, Norris C. Dickey 1935-38, C. H. Bryan 1940-42, Claude Shaver 1942-44, Walter Baker 1947-49, Lawrence Marshburn 1950-51, Sheridan Robbins 1951-53, Roger C. Brown 1953-



MANN'S CHAPEL NEAR ROSSVILLE



KINGSBURY MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The First-Presbyterian Church in Rosville (From cut of 1875). Lumber and materials were hauled from Paxton; it was dedicated in October 1870.



E.U.B. CHURCH

The Rossville United Brethren Church was organized in 1874 by Rev. J. W. Nye. For some time services were held in the homes of the members, until December 1875 a frame church building on North Church St. was purchased from the "Christian Church of Rossville". (Christian Church of Rossville purchased two lots July 13, 1873, and sold them after having constructed a church building Dec. 11, 1875 to the Rossville United Brethren Church.) This building served the congregation through many busy years until it was replaced in 1913 by a modern brick veneered structure, which was dedicated in February 1914 by Bishop Fout of Indianapolis. The trustees were J. M. Albright; Charles Dawson; R. T. Phillips; Dudley Huffman; and Mrs. James Poyner; and these with Odom Coake and Thomas Hushaw constituted the Building Committee. The pastor was D. O. Griffin.

Pastors who served Rossville Circuit before 1913 were the Reverends Jones, Sherrill, Coffman, Ballou, Brown, Alberts, Johns; E. E. Johnson, Phelps

Warren, Fowler, Miller, Byrd, Blackwell, and Tuggle.

In the early years Rossville Circuit included "Bethel" Church north of Alvin, and Centennial (school) west of Alvin. Both were flourishing congregations for many years, but the advance of modern times and transportation caused them to be discontinued many years ago. In recent years Rossville has been included in a Circuit with the Potomac Church.

Pastors who have served the charge since the erection of the new building are Reverends Griffin, E. E. Johnson, Pellum, Watts, Barr, Kok, Belden, Fowler, Taylor, Ade, Mumaw, Benner, Turner, Lathrop, Paine, Harry Johnson, Wortman, Ping, Ruhburg, Menton, Wilkinson.

In 1949 the EVANGELICAL CHURCH and the UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH united and became one body known as the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Rossville Congregation, though not large, is active and faithful, and cooperate in all united Christian effort in the community.

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ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The present site of the Rossville Church of Christ once was a blackberry patch owned by O. P. Stufflebeam, and west of Perry Buckners (201 Park Place) was a grove. Here a meeting was held in a tent by Evangelist S. H. Creighton, and a Mr. Swartz of Danville was the singer. On August 7, 1894 a meeting was called by Evangelist Creighton to form an organization of the Church of Christ in Rossville.

The elders appointed were R. M. Bentley, J. T. Combs, Johnathan Prather and deacons were Hiram Armantrout, T. A. Bratton, W. F. Cunningham and Silas Bennett. Church services were held in the old "hay market" (opera house) at 106 S. Chicago St, and later in the hall above 110 S. Chicago St. On September 19, 1894 work was begun on the building and it was completed and dedicated May 12, 1895.

Charter members living here now (1950) are Mrs. Will Christy, Mrs. Al Christy, Orth Prather and Mrs. Axie Smith. Mrs. Smith, then Axie Bentley was the first to make confession and was baptized July 9, 1894 in the creek

north of Rossville.

Ministers through the years have been: A. W. Conner, A. W. Jackman, E. E. St. John, A. H. Hale, J. P. Givens, twice, William Grant Smith, R. W. Nelson, Frank Shane, Mr. Davis, C. M. Wright, Charles Adams, Harold Eakin, H. E. Oldaker, R. Bristol, Lafe Hoff, D. D. Diek, Roy King, Winfield Richards, Paul Magnuson, Paul W. Boyer, Ottis E. Platt, twice, Dale Baker, R. G. Mundhenk.

Several years after the dedication, the church was remodeled, making an entrance to Sunday School rooms and putting a basement under all the building, making a kitchen and dining room, which are also used for Sunday School rooms. Mrs. Alma Prillaman had a new baptistry installed in memory of her husband, Glenn Prillaman. The scenery was painted by Odella VanNault of Montpelier, Ohio. A few years ago a new furnace, stoker and blower were purchased. The Home Builders class, Cecil Green teacher, bought new hymn books, and center light for auditorium and tiling for the vestibule. Mr. and

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Mrs. Orth Prather gave the Steinway piano that belonged to his parents, in their memory. We now have a Hammond organ, new pews, communion and pulpit furniture, new carpet, new lights, and the church has been redecorated this past year, the work being done by the men of the church.

This church supports the work of the Vermilion County Society of Churches of Christ, which established and helps maintain the North Side Church of Christ in Danville. While the church often works jointly in various enterprises with other Churches of Christ, it is yet a self-governing body, free in Christ from all organizations as to government.

Recent years have brought an awakening in missionary giving from this church. We have preaching Sunday morning and evening, prayer meeting on Wednesday evenings, also choir practice and young people's meeting on Sunday evenings. A large group of young people, whose work is directed by Mrs. Cecil Thomas, comprise an active group in the church, often providing special music at Sunday evening services. Every Summer several of our young people attend Christian service camps. Two from this congregation have gone into the ministry, Frank Stipp and James Deck. James Deck is now a student at Lincoln Bible

Institute, Lincoln, Ill. Thirty-two new members have been added to the church during the past year. (The preceding was compiled and written in 1950 by Mrs. Axie Bentley Smith, who was church clerk for many years.)

In 1955 an addition was made to the front of the building giving four additional class rooms and a needed overflow to the auditorium. In 1956 the auditorium was completely rewired, replastered and decorated. Then in 1957 two new class rooms were created and two rest rooms added. Rewiring of the entire building along with replastering of the basement was completed in 1958. The entire outside walls have been tuckpointed, a new roof applied, a new gas heating plant installed and new office equipment and public address system added.

The Missionary and Benevolent giving of the church runs around \$5,000.00 per year and the annual budget amounts to over \$31,000.00. Attendance is currently averaging over 200.

Ottis E. Platt, the present minister, is in the tenth year of his second ministry with the Rossville Church.

James Deck is now ministering to the Huron, S. Dakota church, and is a member of the faculty of Dakota Bible College. Francis Keith Jackson is a student at Central Bible College, Moberly, Mo. preparing for the ministry.



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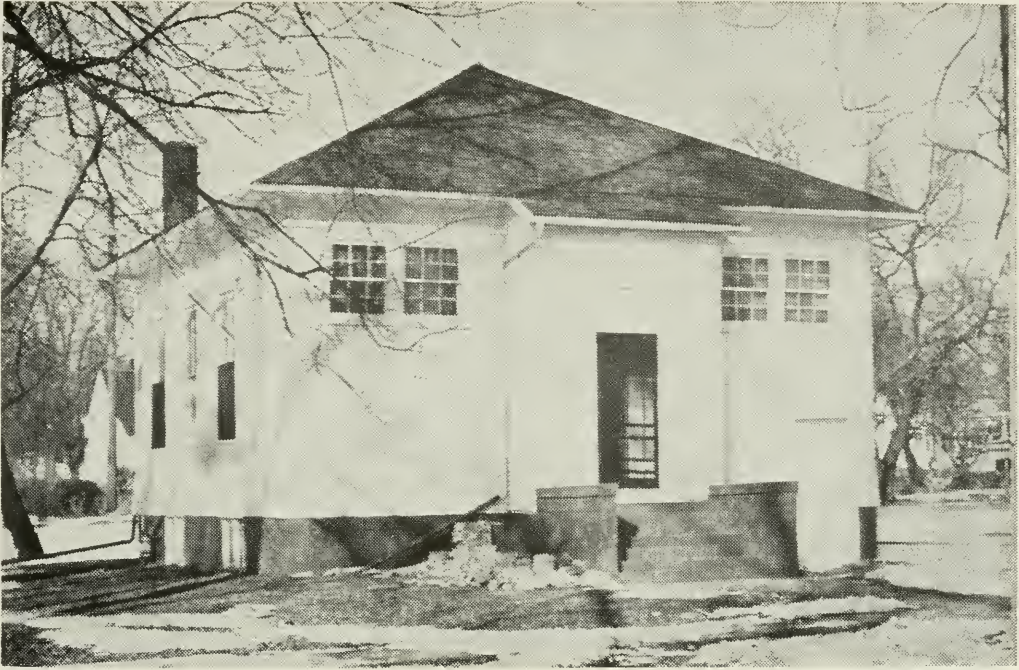
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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Rossville Church of the Nazarene was begun in May, 1932, in a rented store room as a Mission under the Board of the Hoopston Church of the Nazarene. The members were Mr. and Mrs. James R. Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ervin, Mrs. Ora Shumaker, Seals, Eugene Shumaker, Miss Wilma Atwood, and Mrs. Ethel Henderson.

The local church was organized January 24, 1933, with Rev. Bertha Humble as the pastor. The small congregation was very faithful and practiced generous sacrificial giving. Their number increased and their desire for a church home of their own was fulfilled in 1948, during the pastorate of Rev. A. L. Taylor, when they purchased a lot at 202 Stewart St. and a rural school building which was placed at this location and improved into a very attractive and adequate Church, of which they may be justly proud.

Other pastors who have served the congregation are Elmer Swisher, John Leih, Rudy Ketterman, Don Scarlett, Fred Vaught, C. W. Brockmuller, A. L. Beard, Everett Rothman, Hanson Goin, A. L. Taylor, Walter Frakes, Walter Miracle, and J. M. Thomason.

MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Rossville Missionary Baptist Church was organized May 21, 1955, with eight charter members who transferred from the Baptist Church of Somerset, Kentucky. Rev. Claude Brooks was the pastor, and James Burton, Harrison Hunley and Merrell Redmon the deacons.

They have worked steadily and faithfully, with good attendance at the regular Sunday School, Church, and Special services. The membership has grown to 36, and they are now served by Rev. Hollis Atnip, formerly of Lafayette, Tenn. as pastor, and James Burton is clerk.

Abraham Mann Jr. came from England as a child in 1835, the family purchasing large tracts of land in Ross township. His mother died in 1840, his father (Abraham Sr.) in 1865, and his brother John in 1873. Mr. Mann was a large farmer and stock raiser, and the mansion which he built in 1874 was the finest in the County. He was public spirited and very liberal to worthy objects of charity, to schools and churches.

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ANTIOCH CHURCH OF CHRIST

The hardy settlers who had made their homes in the district northeast of Rossville strongly felt the need of spiritual teaching and fellowship, and one man, John Ross, started a Sunday School which was conducted in the 1860s in a school house. A minister, James A. Conner, from Attica, held a meeting and a Church of Christ congregation resulted, and services were held monthly at the school. A few of the families were: — Thomas Butt, William Moore, Noah Brown, Wilson Abbott, William Brillhart, Aaron Fitzwater, Sam Smith, and Watt Duley.

They prospered and in 1869 an acre of ground was donated by Hugh Heaton and his wife, and a frame church house was built. Lumber was hauled from Attica, Ind. by Cassius Youngblood, I. N. Heaton, John Ross and others, and the building was completed in 1870, and fully paid for in 1871, the total cost being \$1,638.30. It was named the **ANTIOCH UNION CHURCH** and was for all denominations to use. Ministers of the Christian, Methodist and Presbyterian churches from Attica, Hoopeston and Rossville preached on Sundays, but in time only the Church of Christ minister continued to serve them. The congrega-

tion was faithful and grew and in 1910 they erected a commodious and well equipped brick building at a cost of \$13,375.00, which was dedicated "THE **ANTIOCH CHURCH OF CHRIST**" May 21, 1911.

Antioch has continued to serve with zeal and enthusiasm with effective efforts in community leadership. It has grown in strength, power and numbers, and in 1954, in order to meet the needs of the large school and church attendance they constructed a three-story annex, containing class rooms, study and office, halls, auditorium overflow and rest rooms, with furnishings, at a cost of \$40,000.00. This is one of the finest rural church plants anywhere.

During the ninety one years only twenty-two Church of Christ ministers have served this congregation. Ralph M. Small, the only resident minister has served here for the last twenty years. Since founding, over one thousand members have been received into the membership. At present there are about 225 resident members, and average attendance is 260.

The church is strong in its missionary work, and supports missions independently and directly. It gives

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support to ministerial training schools —the Cincinnati Bible Seminary (of which Brother Ralph Small is a graduate) and the Lincoln Bible Institute; welfare institutions —the Children's, Old Folks Home and Christian Hospital in St. Louis, and many independent mission stations both at home and abroad. Mr. Samuel J. Miller was the missionary treasurer for twenty-five years.

The annual Thanksgiving reunion or homecoming, an all day service, was held the first time in 1915, and has become an annual affair to which all look forward with pleasure and anticipa-

tion. It is a day of worship, breaking bread, and reminiscing.

Ministers who have served since 1878:

James A. Conner, M. J. Hobson, A. W. Conner, Eugene Martin, A. Chapman, Clarence McFadden, A. G. Hubbard, Mr. Castle, A. W. Jackman, P. J. Lough, Mr. Shaw, T. L. Stipp, Harvey McBroom, Mr. Caudle, Lew D. Hill, H. E. Oldaker, Luke Warren, W. H. Kerr, A. L. Crim, Lewis Hotelling, Thomas Wilson, and Ralph Small, 1939 to date.

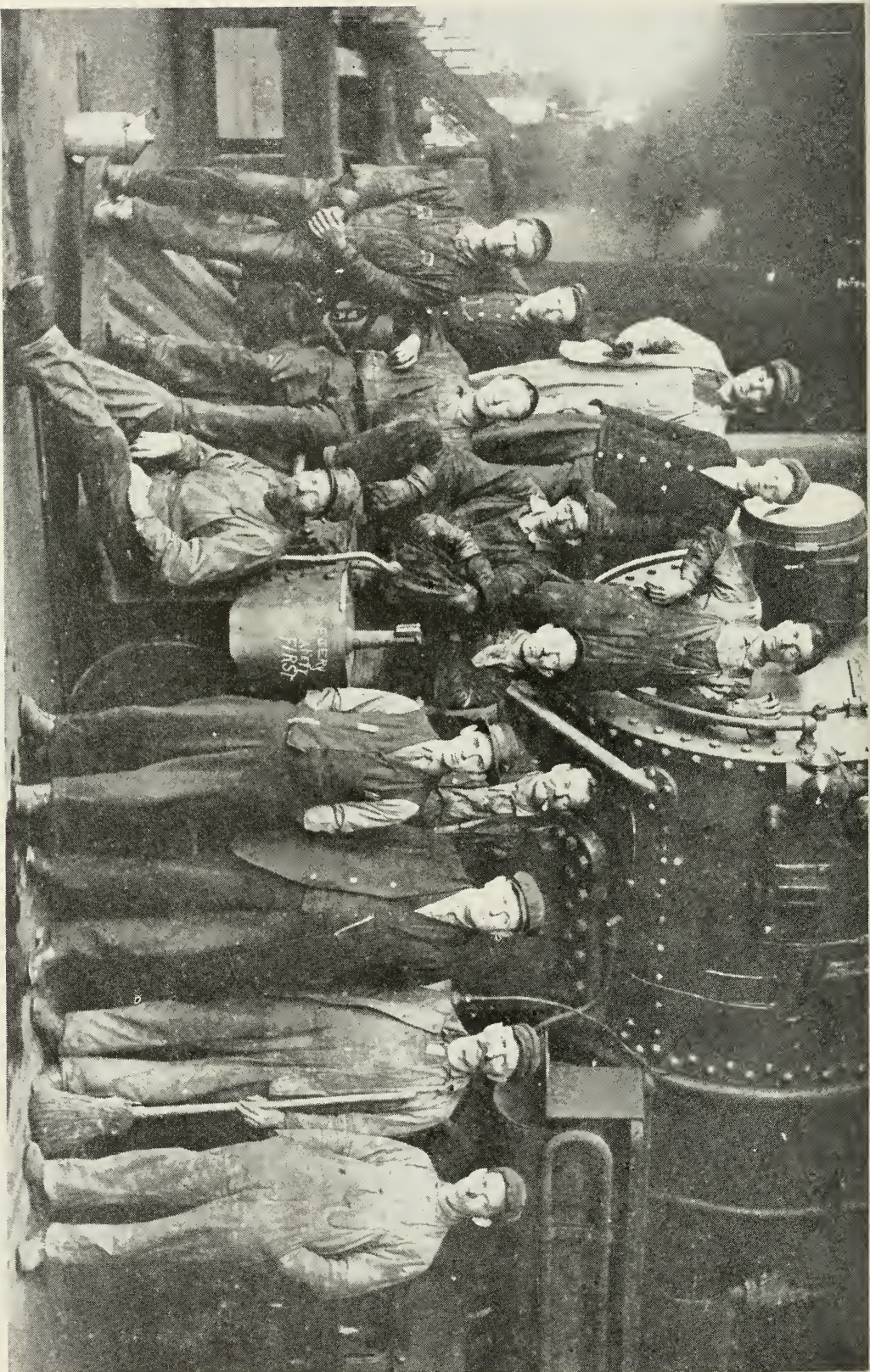
(Lack of space forces brevity. A fine complete history compiled by Eunice Spears Fitzwater was published in 1954, and copies are still available.)



FIRST ANTIOCH UNION CHURCH, 1870



STREET SCENE IN ROSSVILLE



TOP ROW Pealy Fugate, Percy Potts, Ursul Cox, MIDDLE ROW: George Kimberlin, G. Will Miller, Charles Wilson, James Stewart, Bert Shultz, Claude Mackin, LOWER ROLL: Henry Conley, L. Archambeault, Charles Snider, Orville Evans, Robert Evans.

Location of the Division Point of the E. J. & E. R. R. at Rossville for 25 years gave a boost to the population, and economic life. The roundhouse crew pictured represent just a few of the fine families who lived or worked here.

ROSSVILLE LODGE #527 ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

In response to the petition of several brethren of the community, the Grand Master of Illinois Ancient Free and Accepted Masons issued a Dispensation authorizing the organization of a Lodge in Rossville, and the first meeting was held November 23, 1866, with Henry C. Ellis, Worshipful Master; John Ridgeway, Senior Warden; N. Griffing, Junior Warden Pro Tem; E. S. Pope, Secretary Pro Tem; R. Potter, Senior Deacon Pro Tem; J. V. Blackburn, Junior Deacon Pro Tem; Jacob Haas, Tyler Pro Tem. (Many details are lacking as the first secretary's record is missing.)

Rossville Lodge #527 was chartered October 1, 1867, the Charter being signed by Jerome R. Gorin, Grand Master, and H. G. Reynolds, Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Charter members were; John Ridgeway, S. D. Lewis, Henry C. Ellis, E. S. Townsend, Daniel P. Haas, John R. Jerault, H. D. Campbell, A. M. Davis, William York, J. D. Bingham, and Jacob Haas. First meeting was October 19, 1867.

The Lodge was duly organized with Hohn Ridgeway, W.M., Henry C. Ellis, S.W., and James D. Bingham, J.W. as the leaders in establishing the Lodge in the young and growing community.

The first meeting place was in the Odd Fellows Hall, which was the second story of the frame mercantile building which stood at 102 S. Chicago Street. This building was built about 1857, and the hall served as the meeting place for public meetings, Lodges, and religious meetings. The secretary's book records that "meeting was held in Freeman's Hall". This was the meeting place until about 1883, when they rented a hall in the J. S. Crane building at 124-126 E. Attica St. (The building was a store and stood north and south then. Later turned and made into apartments. The rent for this hall was \$15. per month, whereas they had paid \$40. per year to the Odd Fellows, whose hall was used by many others.) But the Lodge was not too satisfied and kept wishing for better quarters, and in 1885 took action to build the second story on a store building which (Bro.) George Depler was building at 106 S. Chicago St. The work was completed and Mr. Depler

gave the Lodge a deed to the second floor, Jan. 13, 1886. In 1891 the Lodge purchased the entire building. The lower floor was a public hall and Opera House, and at one time a Hay Market.

Rossville Lodge was very active and had many devoted members, and enthusiasm led them to dream of a better home, and just after the turn of the century, 1904, they built the Masonic Temple and Opera House at 108 North Chicago Street. This was a decided addition to Rossville, and the Hall and Opera House were described as the finest in the County. This was the Lodge home until 1947, when it moved to 108 S. Chicago St., where they have more convenient and adequate quarters.

Rossville Lodge has always been active and held an important place in the community. Many business and professional men and leaders in religious, educational and community enterprises have been members of the order and took active part in the work of the craft. Membership has been variable with times and conditions, with a total of 458 who have been recorded, and 167 present listed.

Growth and success of the Masonic Lodge naturally led to the institution of Morris Chapter #216, Royal Arch Masons, and Rossville Chapter #386 Order of Eastern Star, and the three orders have united in harmonious efforts for more than fifty years.

Masters of Rossville Lodge
#527 A. F. & A. M.

First Meeting, U.D. Nov. 13, 1866.

First Meeting, Under Charter,
Oct. 19, 1867.

1867 Henry Ellis, 1868, John Ridgeway, 1869, S. D. Lewis, 1874, A. M. Davis, 1875, S. D. Lewis, 1877, E. F. Birch, 1878, W. W. Phillips, 1880, Harry Shannon, 1883, John R. Livingood, 1893, H. H. Depler, 1894, Charles A. Shumate, 1896, H. H. Depler, 1897, Thomas A. Habel, 1898, H. H. Depler, 1903, Charles Reiff, 1904, J. S. Christman, 1908, F. C. Shannon, 1909, J. S. Christman, 1914, John Maury, 1915, Sam Q. Smith, 1916, Thomas C. Stifler 1917, Theodore Habel, 1918, C. Albert Miller, 1919, Edwin Smith, 1920, H. H. Depler,

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MORRIS CHAPTER #216 ROYAL ARCH MASONS

1922, Thomas E. Maury, 1923, J. William Christy, 1925, Leo C. Smith, 1927, J. William Christy, 1928, Clarence H. Carter 1930, J. William Christy, 1932, Elmer A. Peterson, 1934, John C. Culbert, 1935, F. C. Reinbold, 1937, Henry A. Mayhue, 1938, Francis J. Christman, 1939, E. H. Cosat, 1940, Don L. Prillaman, 1943, Walter T. Schriever, 1944, John H. Junkins, 1945, Cecil G. Green, 1946, Fritz Schriever, 1947, Vernon Kelley, 1948, Don E. Ellis, 1949, Raymond Jones, 1950, Sidney W. Adams, 1951, Richard Kelley, 1952, Vernon Kelley, 1953, Robert L. Lusk, 1954, P. Y. Warf, 1955, Harold L. Smock, 1956, H. Leland Allison, 1957, W. R. Waschick, 1958, Harrison M. Seals, 1959, Dale L. Cronkhite.

1959 OFFICERS

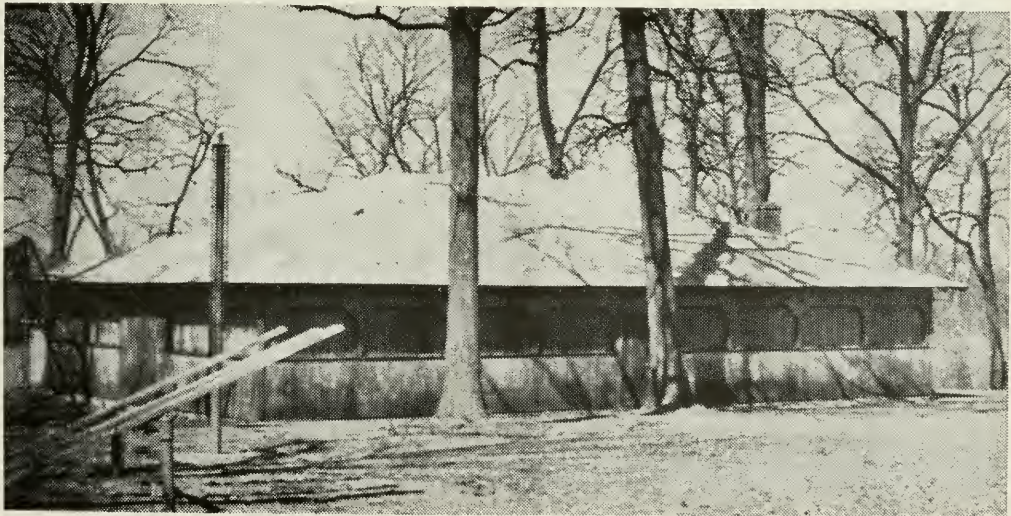
W.M. Dale I. Cronkhite; S.W. William King, Jr.; J.W. Stanley Lithgow; Treas. Foy C. Reinbold; Secy. Sidney W. Adams; S.D. Harold Gernand; J.D. Howard J. Bray; S.S. Raymond Jones; J.S. Claude R. Kelley, Mar. Arthur J. Slavin; Chap. William E. Pettice; Tyler C. Albert Miller.

This Chapter was chartered October 31, 1902, and has a record of continuous activity. The charter members were:

Fred Albright, Charles Albright, Harvey L. Bracken, J. William Christy, Joseph H. Christman, Byron E. Cronkhite, Thomas Dengler, Charles T. Fleming Adam Hoover, Benjamin J. Habel, W. H. James, Henry Johns, Charles W. Meneley, John Maury, Frank M. Mason, Joseph Mackin, W. M. Prillaman, James W. Prather, E. J. Phelps, J. William Reed, Mark Ruth, Charles Reiff, Frank Reinbold, George S. Smith, Charles A. Shumate, Frank C. Shannon, Frank L. Stewart, J. W. Veatch, Alva W. Weingand, Henry Conley, Hugh H. Depler.

1959 OFFICERS

E.H.P. Donald King; King Foy C. Reinbold; Scribe Abram Hackman; Secy. Robert L. Lusk; Treas. Claude R. Kelley; Chap. Vernon Kelley; Cap. of H. Wayne Pruitt; Prin. Soj. Sidney W. Adams; R.A. Cap. Arthur J. Slavin; M. 3rd V. W. R. Waschick M. 2nd V. E. A. Peterson; M. 1st V. Raymond Jones; Sent. C. Albert Miller.



CHRISTMAN PARK

A tract of about 17 acres of land was deeded to Rossville in January 1939 for park purposes by Francis J. Christman. It is located one block west of Chicago St. and north of the Rossville Cemetery property. It was accepted and by public vote a park district was organized to

manager and have control of its property and use. Public subscriptions provided a fine shelter house; and fireplaces, city water, playground equipment, tables, bandstand, etc. were installed. It is well kept and inviting, and during seasonable weather it is in constant use and enjoyed by groups and individuals every day, and most fully appreciated by all.

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15 N. Vermilion

ROSSVILLE CHAPTER #386 O.E.S.

Charter was issued for ROSSVILLE CHAPTER #386 Order of Eastern Star October 5, 1898, with sixteen charter members: Sarah M. Yeoman, Bertha Shumate, Martha E. Habel, Mary Reinbold, Cynthia Fleming, May Fleming, Mary Kammeyer, Florence Depler, Lewis K. Yeoman, Charles A. Shumate, Theodore E. Habel, Joseph S. Christman, Charles Reinbold, Charles T. Fleming, George Kammeyer, Ezra Smock.

The Chapter grew rapidly, and was very active in their assistance in the furnishing of the new hall. Through the years interest has been maintained, and many projects have been planned and carried out successfully. The Chapter has always co-operated with the local orders and with neighboring Chapters, and are known as gracious hosts, and welcome visitors.

Worthy Matrons have been: Sarah Yeoman, Flora Depler, Nannie Logan, Ida Layton, Auta Layton, Lavina Christman, Nettie Satterwhite, Effie Prillaman, Bertha Shumate, Josephine Ray, Jennie Christman, Laura Shannon, Katherine Mason, Lydia Thurber, Jessie Fithian, Lenora Wilson, Addie Borror, Martha Habel, Pauline Paulson, Julia Stewart, Oda Eyestone, Murrell Case, Pearl Ennis, Ara Smith, Bessie Alison, Ethel Carter, Cora Grunwoldt, Irene Bush, Harriette Edwards, Mary

Ashley, Pearl Applegate, Nettie Miller, Josephine Jackson, Dorothea Erxleben, Nancy Jones, Opal Matthews, Bertha Kelley, Helen Jones, Tessa Mayhue, Alberta Lusk, Kathleen Schriever, Isabelle Long, Patricia Norton, Nellie Waschick, Ruth Grunwoldt, Pearl Kelley, Leola Queen.

Worthy Patrons have been: L. K. Yeoman, Hugh H. Depler, Charels Meneley, Frank Reinbold, Charles B. Strickler, William Borror, Albert Miller, Frank Borror, Fritz Schriever, James Stewart, Fred Austin, Walter Ennis, Clarence Carter, Henry Mayhue, Redford Edwards, Albert Miller, Vernon Kelley, Raymond Jones, Donald Ellis, Walter Schriever, Robert L. Lusk, W. R. Waschick, Sidney Adams, Claude Kelley, J. Edward Gillis.

1959 OFFICERS

W.M. Bonnie Berglund; W.P. Delmar Berglund; A.M. Marguerite Lund; A.P. A. Josh Slavin; Secy. S. W. Adams, Treas. Ruth Grunwoldt; Cond. Florence Leaver; A.C. Waneta Stickrod; Chap. Bertha Kelley; Mar. Leola Queen; Org. Vera Mitchell; Adah Eula Beckley; Ruth Winifred Kelley; Esther Maxine Miller; Martha Marilyn Kinnett; Electa Edna Hughes; Warder Helen Jones; Sentinel Arliss Kinnett; Color Bearer Walter Schriever.



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KANKAKEE

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Stella Baking Co.
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111-115 South Hazel Street
DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

operated the mill and seeing the need he put in a stock of merchandise, and this was the first store in the Township. Mr. Persons became the owner in 1858, and operated for some time. At his death Sangster and Swazey of Cincinnati became the owners and they carried on the business until they sold to John Mains in 1867.

The name "Mains' Mill" will be well remembered by the older residents of 1959 we are sure, the next younger generations will recall it as the landmark at Barlow Park and picnic grounds, where the pleasures of fishing, swimming, boating and camping were enjoyed by many for several decades. Barlow Park was one of the earliest places which had cottages to rent to vacationers, with an abundance of fishing, convenient swimming pool, and a sizeable launch for those who liked boat-rides in style and also plenty of small boats for those who preferred their own power. Modern ways and new developments doomed the old mill to abandonment and it was torn down in April 1939.

It was natural that Ross' Mill, being the only store in the Township, would be the meeting place of the scattered residents for visitation and for consideration of matters of public interest. And at the time of the organization of the Township one of our references states that there was a strong desire on the part of many to name it "NORTH FORK" but a majority swung the decision in favor of "ROSS" in honor of Jacob T. Ross who was a very public spirited citizen. (One reference states it was first named North Fork and later changed to Ross, but the change was apparently made when the organization changed from the Precinct to Township form.)

The first officers elected for Ross Township in 1851, (49 voters) were:— Supervisor, John Hoobler; Assessor, A. Gilbert; Clerk, R. Brickwell; Collector, James Gilbert.

In 1852 with 47 voters they chose: Supervisor, Thomas McKibben; Assessor, A. Gilbert; Clerk, R. Brickwell; Collector, James Gilbert.

By 1862 the population had increased



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DIVISION OF ILLINOIS BRICK CO.

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DANVILLE, ILLINOIS



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serve cold . . . ice cold

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CUSTOM KILLING & PROCESSING

For Home Freezers

THE BEST IN ALL MEAT PRODUCTS

change to individual motor drives for machinery, and to the use of modern materials handling equipment in storing the canned product. These were some of the technological changes going on. There were also some changes which caused stress; the need to develop markets —to stand on one's own feet sales-wise, to develop working capital and bank credit to finance the new equipment and expanded production demanded by more recent times. However, within the span of these twelve years there was consolation in knowing that production demands of the war-years were filled, that a clientele of good customers was developing in a field of diminishing numbers, and that the Rossville plant had achieved a reputation for efficiency in the production of fancy canned corn and asparagus.

In 1947, upon the return from the Armed Services of L. Eugene and Richard E. Schlecht, a Co-partnership

THE ROSSVILLE PRESS

During the last 80 years the ROSSVILLE PRESS has been in operation, sometimes flourishing and at other times barely existing, but always providing the news of Rossville to its readers.

The Press was founded in 1879 by Frank (Tony) Pastor, and the first issue was published June 18th of that year. It was published in the rooms over what is now Gibson's, (110 S. Chicago St.), and was moved to its present location about 1893.

Prior to 1879, the ROSSVILLE OBSERVER was published in Bloomington, Ill., by Moore & Riley, and sent to Oscar G. Crane for local distribution, and about 1874 they moved to Rossville and had their shop in the old First National Bank building. No information is on record as to whether Mr. Pastor purchased the Observer, or whether they "just closed their doors". Old timers are of the opinion that they just quit. At any rate it was about this time that the PRESS came into existence.

In 1894 the Rossville Enterprise ran in opposition to the Press and was published by the Dill Brothers in the basement of the Crane Building, 107-9 E. Attica St. This paper existed for a pe-

was formed with these sons; in 1958 ownership was transferred by Louis Schlecht to them. Of recent years, production of the Rossville plant has been around three hundred thousand cases of corn and twenty-five thousand cases of asparagus. Year-round employees number twenty-five to thirty; employment at peak production is about two hundred and fifty. Extensive alterations and improvements are now in progress to expand corn production and to provide this operation with the latest equipment in the field.

Louis, Eugene, and Richard Schlecht want to take this opportunity to express our hope that we will be well along with corn canning during the Centennial Celebration August 6, 7, and 8, and that all the old-timers, new-timers, and guests will stop by at the "Cannery" at that time to make a short "field-trip" and to visit with us.

riod of 6 or 7 years and then went the way of the Observer.

In December 1905 the PRESS carried news stories concerning the beginning of a new paper in Rossville to be backed by the "wets" of the town. However, by the end of the year talk had subsided and the paper never appeared.

The PRESS is proud that it has in its possession a copy of the Rossville Observer, Volume 1, No. 20, published Thursday morning, February 1, 1877; also a copy of the PRESS Volume 1, No. 15, published Wednesday, September 24, 1879. In this issue we find it was an eight page paper, containing 5 columns of its present day width (13 ems) and one column length of 17½ inches. An ad appears on page 5, advertising W. J. Henderson's Dry Goods & Grocery Store. It was the largest store of its kind here, and was located in the building now occupied by Gray's Clothing, at 106-108 S. Chicago St. Wm. R. Harker carried an advertisement for his harness business located in the site now occupied by the Village Office.

The grist mill was operated by Henderson and Werner, and was located where the ROSSVILLE PACKING CO. stands. The mill was one of the finest in Illinois. The Star Hotel, own-

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210 East Penn St.

Hoopeston, Illinois

Slaughtering Wholesale Meats

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TO THE

SHACK"

728 W. Penn

Hoopeston, Illinois

FARIS JEWELRY COMPANY

131 EAST MAIN STREET

DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

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CONSTRUCTION & REPAIR

ROSSVILLE, ILLINOIS

QUALITY WORK AT A

MODERATE COST

201 THOMPSON
PHONE RI 8-3811
DALE

315 THOMPSON
PHONE RI 8-3832
RICHARD

ROSS SONGER

SUPPLIERS OF

SINCLAIR PRODUCTS

Hoopeston, Illinois

The Rossville Press

ROSSVILLE, ILLINOIS

Albert J. Schroeder

Marie (Smock) Schroeder

Publishers

ed by A. Pauley, was located west of the Township Building, and advertised that traveling men would find this a pleasant place for an overnight stop

A popular barber shop was operated by two colored men, Morris and Hosten, in the front part of a building which stood at 101 S. Chicago St. (Lewis & Yeoman). There were two rooms back of the barber shop, one used as a boxing room, the other as a Gamecock Fighting room. On the second floor was a poker hall or gamblers den.

Indian Blood herbs and Stomach Bitters were prominently advertised in those days, as was a Chicago Business Directory for visitors to the windy city. The closing Chicago grain prices on Sept. 23, 1879 were: Spring wheat \$1.03, Winter wheat \$1.07, Corn 38c Oats 27, Rye 59c, Barley 78c; Pork \$8.80.

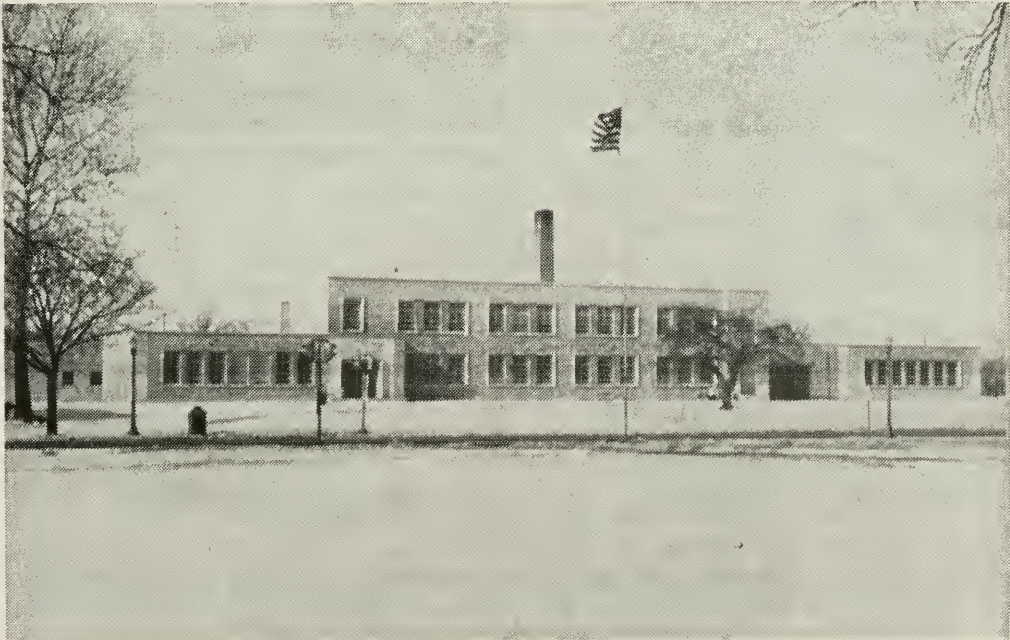
An advertisement told of the opening of school in Rossville, listing the studies available with High School tuition \$15.00, Grade School \$12.00, and Primary \$10.00. R. D. Barton was the Principal, W. W. Phillips President of the School Board, and Milton Lee, Secretary.

The August 22, 1905 issue carried the story of the First Auto Accident in Rossville as follows: Dr. L. C. Messner from Potomac turned south at the

square "at a high rate of speed" and collided with the mule team and carriage of Everette Lynch, who with his wife and four children were thrown out, the team ran away and the carriage was demolished. "Miracle no one was killed." Dr. Messner agreed to pay all damages.

Thus through the years the Press has noted the comings and goings, the joys and the sorrows, the festivals and the work-a-day activities, the news of our Churches and Schools, Clubs and Societies, the excitement of storms and wrecks, elections and athletic contests, all with the personal and homey friendly touch and the sympathetic and charitable handling of the editor publishers. Veritably it has become an "INSTITUTION".

The roster of publishers is not long, and began in 1879 Frank J. Pastor, 1885 C. A. Stuck, 1886 Frank Pinkerton & W. H. Sowden, 1888 Chas. F. Overacker, then Mr. Gardiner, then Dill Brothers, 1890 F. J. Pastor, 1895 P. M. Warner, 1897 J. Gus Lane, 1900 Joe Steen, 1901 Wm. Bogart, 1901 E. E. White, 1904 Bert Pinkerton, 1912 Walter Scott, 1920 George F. Harling, 1925 F. S. Austin, 1931 George A. & Roma Reinhardt, 1935 O. J. Schroeder & Wm. H. Wright, 1936 A. J. Schroeder.



ROSSVILLE COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

**TED'S TAP
KING COLE TAVERN**

"Where Old Friends Meet"

113 E. Main St.

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Hoopeston Hardware Co.

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GENERAL HARDWARE

Dutch Boy Paints - Varnishes

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EVERYTHING FOR

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218 Main St.

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Wallpaper, Paints, Window Glass

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BEST DEAL
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Sheet Metal Work

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107 W. Main Phone 793
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ANTENNA INSTALLATIONS

90 Day Warranty On Parts

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Sheridan Fixture Co.

101 E. MAIN STREET

Hoopeston, Illinois

KELVINATOR

HOFFMAN



FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING—1858

THE ROSSVILLE SCHOOLS

The first school in Rossville was opened in the Fall of 1858, in the Odd Fellows Hall at 104 S. Chicago St., and with Horace Wayne as teacher. A small frame building was erected and was occupied before the end of the school term. The building is now a part of the Songer residence at 117 West Attica St.

The school continued for 10 years as an ungraded school with one teacher and a five or six months term. In 1867, by consolidation of districts a union district was formed and in the spring of 1868 a two story brick building was built at the North Chicago St. grade school site. Four teachers were employed and the course of study extended, but the term was for six months, with a spring term if the patrons voted favorably. Teachers changed frequently. Between 1868 and 1876 principals employed were: W. H. Bissell, Miss Olive Coffeen, J. F. Heritage, Miss Harriett Wilson, J. B. Hooper, B. F. Cole and H. M. Connelly.

In 1875 a two room addition was made, teachers increased to six, and the course of study further extended. In 1878 the Rossville High School graduated its first class of seven members. Dec. 9, 1879 the building was burned, and churches were used as temporary quarters until a new building was completed. It was a two story, eight room brick, costing fifteen thousand dollars.

In 1882, after a careful examination, Rossville High School was by vote of the faculty of the U. of I. placed on their list of accredited High Schools.

November 27, 1888, the community again suffered the loss of their school by fire, and again they continued in churches and halls of the town. Plans were promptly made to rebuild, and on Sept. 16, 1889 school opened in the new building. It was a brick, two stories and basement, with eight class rooms, library, halls etc, and the basement containing the heating apparatus and recreation rooms. This building is still serving for the eight classes of fifth to

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In Our Past
ROSSVILLE
For Our Future
Continued Progress

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REINBOLD INSURANCE

F. C. REINBOLD
Rossville, Illinois

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Authorized BUICK and OPEL Dealer

Sales & Service

Your home town dealer

We try to please

You are always welcome

HERE'S TO A SUCCESSFUL CENTENNIAL

Mason Williamson

MACE'S TAVERN

125 South Chicago St.

Rossville, Illinois

eighth grade pupils.

Enrollment grew and quarters were inadequate, and in 1898 a new High School building was erected on the east end of the campus. It contained eight rooms, laboratory, library, office, halls, basement etc. It served well until October 11, 1945 when it burned. 876 of R.H.S. Alumni were graduated from the building, and about 100 others spent a part of their time in it.

Again temporary room was provided by extending the gymnasium, using the Town Hall and renting mercantile buildings, and this arrangement served until completion of the new modern High School located on the west side of the highway, which was occupied in January 1950.

During later years the High School District was enlarged by inclusion of neighboring non-high school territories, also combining with Alvin High School District.

Rossville has never lagged behind in adopting new methods or improvements in any line, and today ranks high among the best Schools of the State. Faculties for both grade and high schools are well chosen, experienced and capable with up-to-date training, graduates of high ranking colleges and universities.

The grade school enrollment, increased by the assimilation of adjoining districts, outgrew the capacity of the building, and an addition of eight class rooms with assembly, office, halls, heating plant etc, and of a modern one story style, was erected north and east of the old structure. It takes care of the first four grades, with the four upper grades filling the old building to capacity. This new building was occupied in 1954.

A welcome modern feature is the cafeteria which began operation in January 1950. It is under competent management, on a non-profit set-up, and serves well balanced meals at very moderate prices. Presently they serve an average of 275 dinners daily.

Records are so incomplete that it would be impossible to list all teachers who have served our schools. Superintendents who have served since those listed above, are W. F. Wilson, W. H. Chamberlin; L. Parton; S. B. Messer; H. W. Flanegin; J. S. Ragsdale; I. A. Smothers 1897; Ralston Gray 1922; R. H. Poland 1924; John N. Reid 1947; John J. Rush 1951; Frank Singer 1952; W. R. Pogue 1958.

Enrollment of the grade school is 377, high school, 179, with 18 grade school teachers and 13 high school teachers.



ROSSVILLE GRADE SCHOOL

LET'S GO BOWLING

BULAN'S BOWL

1436 Warrington Avenue

DANVILLE, ILLINOIS

Danville

Livestock Commission Co.

HOGS BOUGHT DAILY

SALE MON. & TUES.

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"Danville Floor And Wall Store"

When We Floor U-U-Stay Floored

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Danville's Largest Used Car Dealer

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Danville, Illinois

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SERVICE TO THE SICK

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SIGNS OF ALL KINDS

Marsters Sign Co.

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Danville, Ill.

GLO MOTEL

State Route I-U. S. 136

1½ Miles North Of Danville, Illinois

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AIR CONDITIONERS

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Montgomery Realty Co.

904 N. Vermilion St.

Danville, Illinois

Lloyd H. St. John Ted Brinkman

Hugh Reid Alice Richards

Betty Burch Florence Strawser

*A FEW OF THE EARLY
BUSINESS MEN OF ROSSVILLE*

S. Frazier	1856	Mdse	F. B. Laytons	Mdse
Whitcomb & Upp		Mdse	B. F. Logan	Butcher
W. R. Gessie		Mdse	George Maury	Grocer
Jonas Sloat		Blacksmith	J. E. McCarty	Bakery & Confections
Gideon Davis	1859	Hotel	C. A. Shumate	Blacksmith
W. J. Henderson	1862	Mdse	Wilson & Umbarger	Mdse
Short Brothers		Mdse	Adam Hoover	Hdw.
Milton Lee		Mdse	Daniel Watson	Banker
W. D. Foulke, Surveyor, Notary Public, Cattle Buyer, etc.			Samuel Collison & George Crays	Bank
James Byrnes		Miller	D. C. Williamson	Hotel
E. H. Grant		Drugs	Jess & Dick Smith	Clothing
Elias M. Gilbert		Livery	Bert Smith	Groceries
J. C. Gundy		Mdse	Charles Meneley	Drugs
J. R. Smith		Gen. Store	Elmer Gernand	Drugs
Wm. York	Grain and Stock buyer		McConnell & Wilber	Mdse
Joseph Satterthwaite	Surveyor, and Postmaster		F. C. Shannon, Furniture & Undertaker	
J. B. Werner		Drugs	C. F. Davis & Son	Furniture & Undertaker
D. C. Deamude	Hardware, Tinner, agricultural implements, grain		James Blue	Dry Goods
W. C. Tuttle		Dry goods	J. W. Reed	Grocery
A. T. Search	Justice of Peace		Chas. Johnson	Barber
Ezra Werner		Miller	Mr. Postlewait	Elevator
Fred R. Makenthum		Brewer	George Ray	Attorney
J. V. Anderson		Mdse	W. B. Redden	Attorney
E. S. Baldwin		Drugs	Wm. Prillaman	Elevator
Wm. R. Harker		Harness	G. L. Merritt	Elevator
J. F. Meneley	Blacksmith—wagons		H. James	Drugs
M. W. Phillips		Lumber	James Coon	Livery
Washington Watson		Banker	Andy Miller	Livery
Charles Ross		Drugs	L. K. Yeoman	Livery
Wm. E. Willis & Co.		Drugs	J. E. Swift	Lumber
D. Sycott		Tailor	O. E. Dwyer	Saloon
Lefever & Cunningham		Mdse	Wm. Payne	Blacksmith
O. G. Crane		Mdse	M. Neves	Saloon
James Cornell		Brewer	J. F. Rutter	Canning Factory
J. Stout		Drugs	Manager	
James Round		Clothing	George Brown	Barber
About 1890			Wid Brown	Barber
Byron Cronkhite	Wagon factory		Dan Kelley	Laundry
Ed Putnam		Elevator	Matie Cook	Millinery
Ed Loring		Livery	Miss Guignon	Millinery
Van Haas		Butcher	Ella Walker	Millinery
S. McGuire		Photographer	Andrews Bros.	Grain
Joe Steen		Drugs	Jacob Stephenson	Blacksmith
Daniel Maury		Drugs	N. J. Smith	Groc.
Born, Beaver & Dwiggin, Dept. Store			T. J. Norton	Shoe maker
W. T. Cunningham		Mdse	Oscar Funk	Shoe maker
Habel Bros.	Tile & bricks		Maury & Shumate	Hardware
Rossville Shoe Factory			Joe Brooks	Cigar Store
John Ross		Bakery	John Maury	Electric Lite Co.
T. W. Whinyates	Furniture & Undertaker		Dudley Huffman	Saloon
Thomas Campbell		Banker	George Stamp	Groc.
Westfall & Putman		Barbers	Grant Williamson	Restaurant
Villars		Greenhouse	E. J. Davis	Harness
James Culbert		Greenhouse	D. C. Putman	Shoes
			J. P. Tubbs	Butcher
			Dale & House	Clothing
			Bedinger & Gass	Clothing

Charles Gephart	Tailor	C. A. Carter	Cigar Store
Hathaway & Ewen	Clothing	F. L. Stewart	Spring Lake Ice Co.
Sam Q. Smith	Tailor	Fred A. Smith	Lumber Co.
J. W. Veatch	Jeweler	J. E. Swift	Hdw.
George Young	Poultry	Fish Bros.	Blacksmiths
Lyons & Marko	Poultry	Homer Perkins	Blacksmith
J. M. Bivans	Meats	Mary German	Laundry
H. L. Brackin	Grain	O. E. Dwyer	Groc.
Mielke Bros.	Tailors	Guthrie & Medlar	Meats
Byrne & Maury	Hdw.	D. H. Smith	Clothing
Evans Hotel		C. B. Strickler	Transfer
Windsor Hotel		Wm. Bowlby	Grace Theatre
Curtis Redden	Attorney	A. M. Prather	Plumbing
Smock & Habel	Plumbing	Mrs. J. F. Rutter	Milliner
O. P. Borders	Drugs	Gene Smith	Garage
C. E. Ross	Mdse	S. W. Paulson	Hdw & Plumbing
Robert Braden	Attorney	Homer Stephens	Drugs
C. C. Carter	Grain & Coal	Gene Smith	Bank
Charles Hazel	Butcher	Davidson Bros.	Ford Dealers
Miller Bros.	Bakery	C. F. Gathard	Groc.
Prather Bros.	Conf.	Ross Krugg	Barber
Wiseman Hotel		Siewert & Smith	Meats
Jess Young	Attny	F. McMains	Bakery
G. W. Williamson	Rest.	Alva Cronkhite	Garage
A. Rund	Meats	Homer Marxmiller	Body Shop

-1859-

ROSSVILLE, ILLINOIS.

Pioneers coming west and north settled here in 1829. Daniel Liggett chose the site for its beauty, location, fine soil, timber, and abundance of wild-life for food; at the crossing-Hubbard Trail and route Attica Ind. to Paxton Ill. Others came, settlement became known as "Liggett's Grove"-later dubbed "Hen-peck". First public building (104 S. Chgo. St.) 1857, a store with hall above. 1st school in hall, 1858, 1st school bldg occupied soon, it is now part of dwelling, 117 W. Attica St. "ORIGINAL TOWN" platted & named AUG. 6, 1859. Village voted to incorporate July 27, '72. North Fork P.O. estab. at Mann's Ch. aple 1839, moved here 1853, and name changed to "Rossville" 1859. C.D. & V.R.R. (C&E) came 1871. Telephone Co. began 1897. Dixie Highway about 1920. 1st brick bldg, 101 N Chgo St 1872, Bank & store; Henderson bldg 106-8 S Chgo, 1875; Jonas Sloat blacksmith '57, Gideon Davis built hotel 109 N Chgo St. 1859 Comstock Elevator 1873; Rossville Mill 1875; 1st Brick School N Chgo St! 68, burned '79, rebuilt-burned '88, present old grade bldg built '89. H.S. estab; First class graduated 1878; Ricknell House 2mi north, 1847; Church Buildings Methodist '70; Presbyterian '70; United Brethren 1875; Ch of Christ '94; Newspapers-Observer '73; Enterprise '76; Press '79. E.J. & E. Div-1905-27. First Vil. Offs; Trus-R. E. Purviance; I. B. Werner; W. C. Tuttle; W. Laidlow; W. F. Lefever; I. Green; B. Z. Duley, Clk; J. W. McTaggart
Police Magistrate
1959



Mrs. Anna Beckner, Mrs. Jessie Fithian and Mrs. Louise Hathaway dress in the spirit of the Centennial.



Mrs. Elva Gagnon and Mrs. Roy Goin



Mrs. Dorothy Donovan, Mrs. May Stephenson,
Mrs. Leota Deck, Mrs. Ruth Barcus,
Mrs. Anna Sheffield



The Centennial Spirit expressed by this group in front of Mann's Chapel.



Mrs. Waneta Stickrod



Mrs. Nellie Bivans

48 V 144
#3500

Rossville Grain Co.

Grain – Coal – Seeds – Fertilizers

Service to the Rossville

Community since 1924

We are proud to have had the opportunity to share in part of the 100 years existence of the town of Rossville.

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Mfg. of Aluminum Products,

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Glass For Any Purpose

Table Tops

Glass Wall Tile

Curved Windshields

Mirrors Made To Order

Plate Glass

Cathedral Glass

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ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

Since 1928



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