

The Quarterly Bulletin of the
Ripley County, Indiana, Historical Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 525
Versailles, Indiana 47042

Museum -- Corner of Main and Water Streets

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OCTOBER MEETING

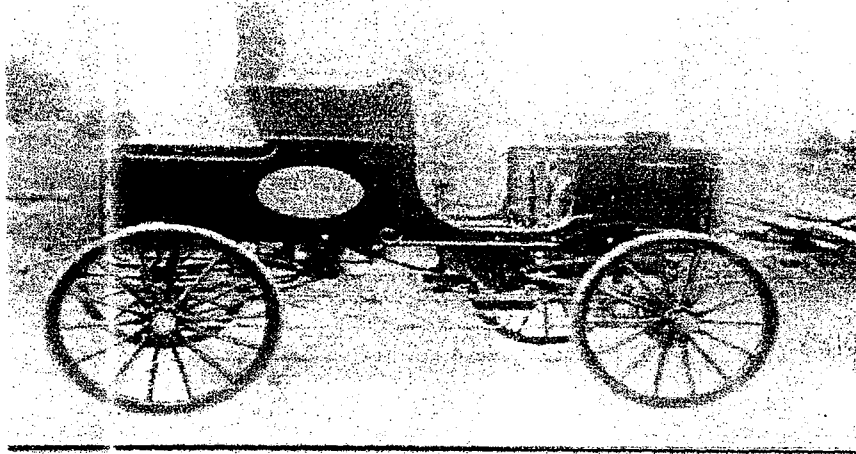
The October meeting will be held October 8th, at 2:00 P.M. in the RCHS building.

The July meeting was held on the 9th, on the Courthouse Square. The minutes were read by Henry Walker.

A Get Well card was signed by the members and guests for RCHS Treasurer, Bea Boyd.

The King Steam car is a beautiful car. Mr. Scholle takes great pride in preserving this unique contraption. See short article inside.

Membership Renewals. Bulletin address labels that have 1999 in the top left are your way of knowing if you still need to pay your 2000 membership dues. Please check your label, and renew your dues, if you haven't done so already. Memberships that haven't been paid by the October meeting are dropped off the roll.



Mr. Paul Scholle is a happy owner of a King Steam car. He brought his to the July meeting and spoke of the car. He says that the car was ahead of its time, by having rack and pinion steering, among other things. When asked about the speed, he said there wasn't any governor, so the cars went as fast as you wanted, as long as you kept opening the steam gauge. And if it continued building up speed, it would literally disintegrate instead of blowing up.

REMINISCES

Looking through some of our old 99 and 100 year old papers I found the following:
It cost \$1.25 for a years subscription to the Batesville Tribune. A typical want ad:

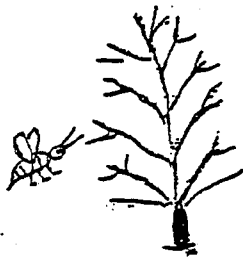
"WANTED: Reliable German girl or woman for plain cooking, washing and ironing in small family:
Address Cincinnati"

The election was also front page news. Bryant, Roosevelt and McKinley. Theodore Roosevelt became president with the assassination of William McKinley. I just learned the other evening from a question on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" that he was the first president to travel outside the U.S. He went to the Panama Canal. By the way, the contestant missed the question.

Anyone who has been able to visit the Archives the past few months have been able to see some wonderful work of our young folks. Mathew Cowan has a display of Morgan's Raid going through Ripley County. Mathew was in the 4th grade at Milroy Elementary School this past year. He won several awards: DNR State Award and 1st place at Indiana Jr. Historical Society State Convention. Congratulations, Mathew! Keep up all the good work. We hope to keep the display up during the Pumpkin Show.

Thanks to another member, David Dryer, who has donated four books on Indiana basketball to the society. We have another family file, "Lindsay", donated by Cheryl Black Obendorf. John Sheets has donated another family file on SHEETS.

Thanks to all!



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Summer is drawing to a close. Where did it go? Every little burg has had its celebration. This was the 20th year for Clarence English's engine meet. Each year the flag has been raised to honor a veteran. This year the flag was raised for Raymond Stratton, who was a Pearl Harbor casualty. He was on the Arizona on Dec 7, 1941. I remember Raymond. He rode the same school bus that I did when we went to Holton School. The Strattons lived in what we called "Forest Corner", now 950 W. The Stratton School House was in the Forest Corner neighborhood. It was closed in 1919. In 1979 I interviewed Josie Stratton Franklin. Her grandfather Ellis Stratton moved to Ripley County from Jennins near Butlerville. When he came the area was all trees. He cleared off a spot and built a log house, later building a brick house. When he left Jennings Co. his folks said "Ellis, you'll starve to death up there in that wilderness. He came, Cleared and had around 300 A. Many of the trees were large sugar maples and these were used to make maple syrup. Ellis's children were : John, George Jake, Robert, Joe, Martha, Elizabeth, Mary Ella, Susan, William. The land was divided in Ellis's will. You may not find any Strattons there but there are lots of Franklins.

In 1845, British soldiers in India began soaking their white uniforms in mud, coffee and curry to blend in with the landscape-creating a new color which is still popular today. KhAKI

Lillian Carmer, Asst editor of North Vernon Plain dealer does an article 100 years ago , covering every town in Jennings Co. This on was in the paper August 8, 1900. A lot of North Vernon people attended the Osgood Fair last week. They report having seen "the sights" and probably did, as 2 saloons were said to have been doing a big business , as were 2 hooche-kooche shows and other sights. The racing was poor.

While visiting the Newcastle Hall of Fame, my son bought a Postcard of the Butlerville Squirrel Stunt. This was the only information on the card. This happened in 1923. According to the story the boys dreamed up the stunt, checked with their coach, Herbert Whitcomb used it several times. It flabbergasted the opposition , referee and the IHSAA who later made a ruling against it. Raymond Rees, a 6'4" center, and Merlin Swarhout, 5' ,100lb forward. Rees would position himself in front of the goal. Swarhout would run toward Rees and scramble on Rees back like a squirrel and sit on his shoulders. The guard would throw the ball to Swarhout and the rest is history. Rees weight was 240.

Thanks to Dwain Crum for his faithful donations.

Just a reminder, it is getting close to dues paying time. The renewal fee is \$5.00. Send your dues to Mrs. Don Boyd, PO Box 83, Holton, In 47023.