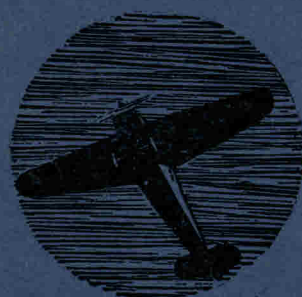


AMO  
CENTENNIAL  
SOUVENIR



1857-1957



*Program and History*

\$1.00



## CONGRATULATIONS!

To the Town of Amo on the Occasion of Your  
One Hundredth Anniversary

To have provided, for a Century, sound and progressive business facilities, to have maintained a high standard of social, cultural, educational and religious advantages for the Community, is an achievement for which you may be justly proud and which reflects the sterling character of your Citizenry.

The People of Coatesville and Community, linked so closely, as they are, with you in school relationships and activities, have a mutual interest which promotes a feeling of neighborliness and co-operation.

We, here at the Bank, are proud and deeply appreciative for the privilege we have of extending Banking Service to so many of your People and those in your community, and pledge the continuation of that service.



**The First National Bank of Coatesville**

**Member of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation**

## DEDICATION

Lest we forget and our descendants never know the true history of our town and community, we have gathered this information and dedicate this book to those pioneers who in the early part of the 19th Century carved out of the wilderness a foundation on which they started and their descendants and newcomers developed into a thriving and prosperous community.

Therefore we hold in reverence the memories of those brave and fearless settlers who chose this location for their future homes in which to live and rear their families and who established this new community, which later took its place along with the other important units of local government.

We of the present time have only a small conception of the hardships endured by these men and women who faced the problems of the future.

We residents of this town and community are enjoying the friendliness, neighborliness and sociability shown one another, found in a lesser degree in more congested areas.

We feel that if the curtain of time could be raised and our ancestors could look upon the stage portraying our present activities and modes of living, there would be no need for apologies or cause for regret and we hope that

the same spirit prevails as time goes on.

In this day of all the modern conveniences there is a tendency to fail to appreciate the privilege of living with these advantages at hand.

It is hoped that as a result of the scientific discoveries, medical advancements, power machinery, modes of travel and modern living, that the future generations may enjoy still greater advantages.

May we concentrate our thoughts and activities more and more on our churches, schools and homes, recognizing more fully their importance as the basic institutions of our land.

Let us be a booster for our town and community, ever keeping in mind some form of improvement, creating incentives for new comers to locate here, for former residents to return and make present residents glad and happy, while they are rounding out their life work here.

The Amo Community Improvement Committee, as sponsor of this Centennial Celebration, hopes that in collecting this data, it will be an inspiration to us as well as the oncoming generations to pull together while striving to make this a still better place in which to live, ever keeping in mind that we cannot stand still, as we either go forward or backward.



# THIS CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION

## IS SPONSORED BY THE

**Amo Community Improvement Committee,** composed of all the organizations of the entire Amo Community.

### CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES

**Co-Chairmen:** Kenneth Rhea and Leorn Davis.

**Concessions and Grounds:** Jack Stephenson, Chairman; Maynard Stephenson, Cleo Miller, David Miller, Robert Bombei, C. H. Rhoads, Jerry Stephenson, Bud Fisher, John Bombei, Jack Bombei, and Morris Wilcox.

**Tents:** Howard West, Chairman; Charles Whicker, and Maurice Newby.

**Parade:** Al Pugh, Chairman; Lou Gaston, Mary Brewer, Bill Nye, Josephine Reeves, Kirk Lawson, and Carl McCloud.

**Food:** Kathleen Hanlon and Viola Arnold, Co-Chairmen; Ralph Arnold, Virgil Phillips, Roy Travelsted, Delbert Unversaw, Paul Wise, Maynard Hunter, Marian Carter, Timothy Whaley, Jay Miller, W. R. Whicker, Morris Reeves, Alden Thornberry, Earl Malicoat, Herbert Greeson, Wallace Greeson, Woody Salsman, Charles Goss, Carl Van-nice, Raymond Kersey, and Harold Lynch.

**Traffic and Safety:** Robert Greeson and Hubert Burch, Co-Chairmen; O. E. Clark, Lee Hanlon, James Greeson, Leroy Miles, and Robert Greenlee.

**Beards:** Fred Mynatt, Chairman, and E. Miller, Jr.

**Museum:** Ivy West, Chairman; Roy West, Harold Jackson, and Miriam Whitecotton.

**Advertising:** Robert Welty, Chairman; Earl Cline, and Fonzer Buchanan.

**Souvenir Book:** Cecil Brewer, Chairman; Wendell Shirley, and James Lones.

**Signs:** Donald Hanlon, Chairman.

**Queens:** Bernard Casselman, Chairman; Ed Brinegar, and Wendell Scudder.

**Souvenirs and Prizes:** Woody Tharp, Chairman; Walter Hogue, Betty Tharp, Betty Stephenson, and Martha Davis.

**Bingo:** Joe Harper, Chairman; Frank Brewer, Hurley Winters, Willard Lydick, Kenneth Bray, Clifford Bryant, Pat Whitecotton, Mib Stuart, Joe Goss, and Ted Bartee.

**Entertainment:** Royce Yeager, Chairman, and Charles Burch.

**History:** Merle Masten, Chairman; Sam Coop-  
rider, John McWethy, and Robert Welty.

**Lighting and Public Address System:** Robert Keller, Chairman; Eugene Greeson, Homer Luttrell, and Marion Sechman.

**African Dip:** Hoy Travelsted, Chairman; Mike Wallace, and Donald Hanlon.

**Publicity:** Ruby Bray, Chairman.

**Bonnet Club:** Martha Davis, president; Leanna Harper, vice president; Alice Pugh, secretary, and Inez Rhea, treasurer.

Even though the names do not appear here, many have contributed much to the success of the Centennial Celebration.

## PROGRAM FOR AMO CENTENNIAL July 17, 18, 19, 20, 1957

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

5:00 P.M. Midway Attractions, Concessions and Museum Exhibits

7:00 P.M. Amo High School Band

8:00 P.M. Harlin Brothers

9:00 P.M. Crowning of the Centennial Queen

### THURSDAY, JULY 18

5:00 P.M. Midway Attractions, Concessions and Museum Exhibits

8:00 P.M. Harlin Brothers

### FRIDAY, JULY 19

5:00 P.M. Midway Attractions, Concessions and Museum Exhibits

8:00 P.M. Harlin Brothers

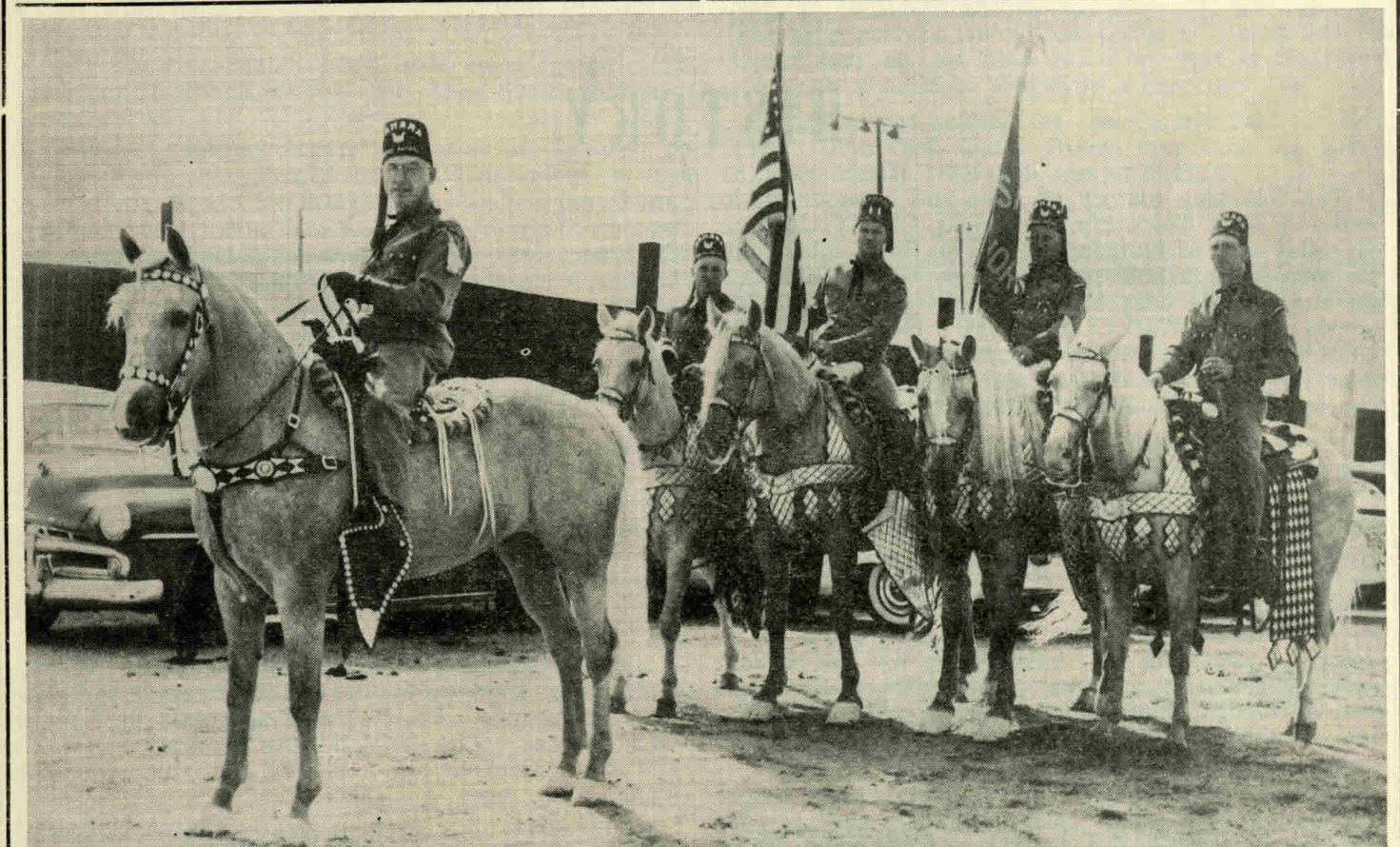
### SATURDAY, JULY 20

10:00 A.M. Midway Attractions, Concessions and Museum Exhibits

1:00 P.M. Grand Parade

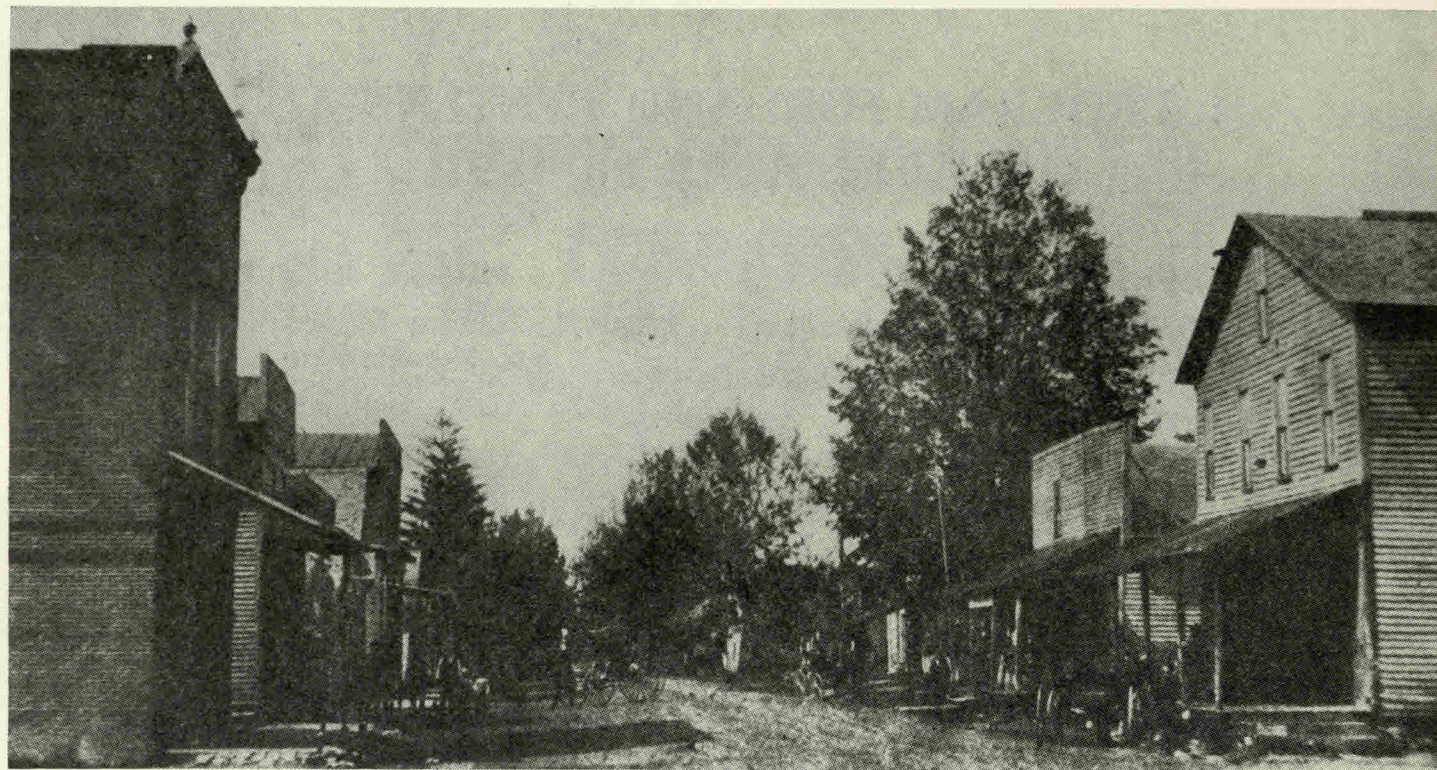
8:00 P.M. Harlin Brothers, sponsored by Burch Truck Sales

Drawing 11:00 P.M. Prompt



The Color Guard shown above will lead the Sahara Grotto Horse Patrol in the Centennial Parade, July 20th. This Patrol was organized in 1947 with a total of seven members. Since that time, many new members, fine horses and equipment have been added to make the Sahara Grotto Horse Patrol one of the leading horse patrols in this territory. It is rapidly gaining fame for its fine performances in parades and exhibitions.





The Business Section as It Looked Around 1900.

## HISTORY

The following history of Amo and community, located in Clay Township, Hendricks County, Indiana, 25 miles west of Indianapolis and on the Pennsylvania Railroad, about half way between U. S. Highways 36 and 40, has been brought about under the sponsorship of the AMO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, and we have endeavored to produce as near as possible a correct and complete account of the facts as our source of information would permit.

If any statement is incorrect or some fact is omitted, we assure you that it was not intentional.

The citizens of this quiet, peaceful rural town and surrounding community, together with former residents and other interested parties are gladly and enthusiastically giving their time and efforts to help assure this celebration on July 17-18-19-20, a marked success, feeling that they are amply repaid in so doing by providing this information for the present generations, many of whom are unaware of the trials and hardships which our pioneer ancestors endured while clearing tracts of forests for homes and cultivation purposes.

Rails had to be split for fences, logs cut and hewed for cabins, clapboards split for roofs and wooden ditches constructed for drainage of the land. Most of the trees, such as the oak, walnut, poplar, beech, maple and sycamore, were very large, some three and four feet or more in diameter.

In order to facilitate the clearing of the farm land, the owner often would invite his neighbors and oth-

ers to participate in a log rolling. In this case they would roll the logs together and burn them when dry. Such occasions were often accompanied by social activities, contests and gaiety. Also the women folk would prepare a noonday meal.

Most of the settlers emigrated here from North Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Doctors were scarce and usually quite a distance away. Home remedies were relied upon to a great extent in case of sickness and injuries.

There were no telephones or electric lights. Tallow candles were used to furnish light.

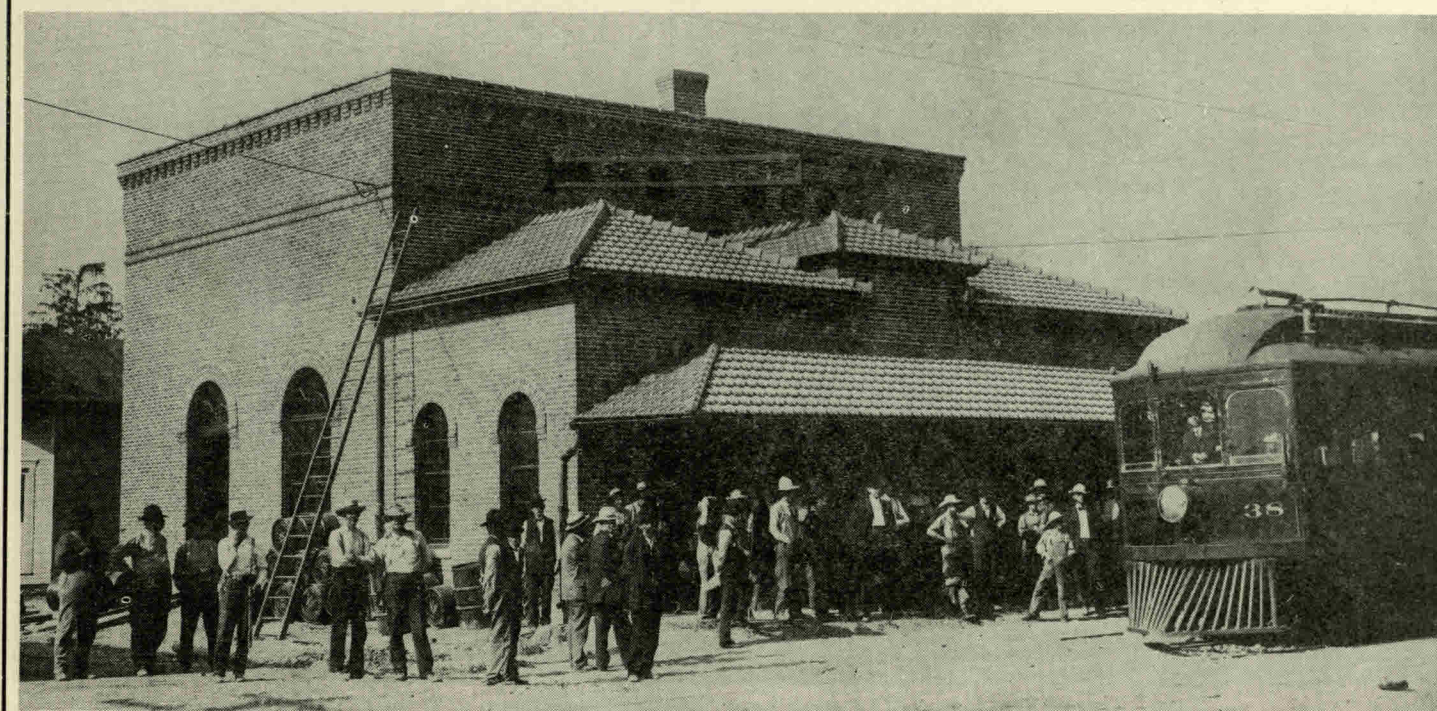
Religious services were held in the homes by circuit riders until churches were constructed. Opportunities for education were very meager until small one-room school houses were built and then the school terms were very short.

Roads were carved out through the woods, following lines of least resistance and at times in the year were impassable. People travelled mostly by foot or on horseback. The early settlers lived a rugged life and it was more or less a case of the survival of the fittest.

In the early day, oxen were the common beast of burden, but later were replaced by horses.

Corn was planted by hand and cultivated with a single or double shovel plow, which was pulled by a horse. Smaller grain was broadcast.

The cooking was done in the open fire place, which also furnished heat for the cabin. Their food was



The Arrival of the First Interurban Car in Amo, July 4, 1907

simple but wholesome, supplemented with wild berries, wild turkeys, deer and other wild life of the forest.

As the settlements grew, saw mills, grist mills, blacksmith shops, stores and other businesses were established.

Frame buildings began to appear as lumber became available. Neighbors would assemble to raise the framework of the barn which was held together by wooden pins. Many of the early houses were constructed in the same manner. They also contained much nice walnut and poplar lumber, which is very striking when one is torn down in the present day.

### HENDRICKS COUNTY

Hendricks County, of which Clay Township is part, was named after Gov. Hendricks and contains about one hundred thirty-five thousand acres of land, was organized in 1824 and was originally divided into nine Townships, but only four had at that time sufficient population to give them a civil organization.

The first settlements were made in the southeast part of the County by emigrants from North Carolina in 1818. First land entry was made in 1821.

The first County Commissioners were Thomas Lockhart, Gideon Wilson and Littlebery Blackley.

The first County Clerk (also acting as Recorder and Collector) was Levi Jessup.

The first Representative to the General Assembly was Lewis Masten.

The first Sheriff was Thomas Matlock. The first Coroner was Samuel Harriman.

The first Prosecuting Attorney was Harvey Gregg. The first Circuit Judge was W. W. Wick.

The first marriage license was issued to James Renolds and Rachel DeMoss, in November, 1824.

The first white child born in the County was Thomas Nichols.

The first Circuit Court was held one-half mile southeast of Belleville at the residence of Wm. Ballard. The only private room that could be found for the Grand Jury at that time was a dry spot in the forest where they could be seated on a log.

Danville was selected as the County Seat in July, 1824. The first Court House was built of peeled hickory logs in 1824 at a cost of \$147.00.

The jail was constructed of the same material at about the same time.

The first school in the County was taught at Danville in 1824 by Wesley McCinley. The first church organized in the County was the Baptist Church at Danville. The first steam saw mill in the County was built by a Mr. Coffin at Springfield (Springtown) one mile north of the present site of Amo.

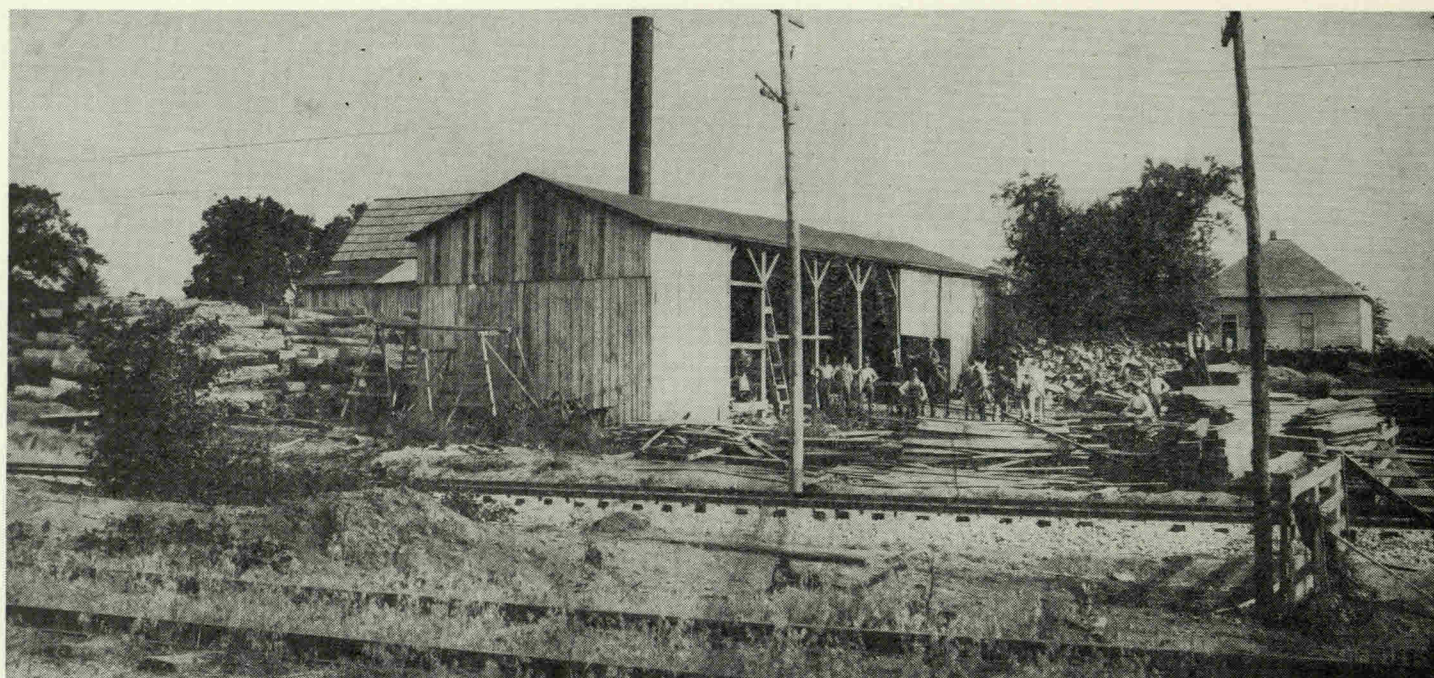
### CLAY TOWNSHIP

Clay Township was formed from parts of Marion and Franklin Townships, Hendricks County, in 1845. It was one of the smaller Townships of the County, but soon became the most thickly populated, having the most villages and Post Offices (6 of each) in the County. They were Pecksburg, Amo, Coatesville, Reno, Hadley, and Springtown.

In about 1905, 3½ more square miles was taken from Franklin Township and added to Clay Township, making both Townships about the same size.

The first settlement in the Township was made in 1825, but the identity of the settler is not known. Among families of other settlers prior to 1832, were Obediah Tincher, George Tincher, John Tincher, Jesse Hodson, Joel Hodson, John Hadley, Wm. Benbow, Dr. James Kersey, Newby Hunt, Abraham West, Nicholas Osborn, James Mason, George Hancock, George Brightman, Josiah Bryant, Caleb Johnson, John Cosner, John Moon, Wm. Thomas and Thomas Ray.





The Frank Horn Saw Mill. In Operation 1903-1918.

#### PECKSBURG

Pecksburg, located in the eastern part of the Township, was laid out in 1853 and was named for a Mr. Peck, the president of the railroad. For a number of years the village grew and prospered, but finally went the way of a large number of early towns that came into being and withered away.

#### RENO

Reno was established in 1870, when the New York Central Railroad was built. It is located in the north-west part of the Township. It also had its period of flourishing business and then decline. There is now one store and a few houses.

#### HADLEY

Hadley, located on the north central edge of the Township, was laid out in 1872, on the New York Central Railroad.

In 1948 is suffered a disastrous blow when struck by a tornado, which leveled the store and did extensive damage to a number of houses.

The store has been replaced and the Friends Church is there.

Hadley was first called Mimosa.

#### SPRINGTOWN

Springtown (formerly called Springfield) was laid out June 15, 1836, by John Tincher, Obediah Tincher, Henry Goldman and Alfred Hunt. It is located one mile north of Amo. The Hunt addition was platted in 1849 and the Goldman addition some time later. The town was formed from parts of four farms, owned by John Tincher, N W; Henry Goldman, N E; Milo Hunt, S W; and John Wright, S E.

At one time there were three stores. The first one was owned by A. Hunt. Later store keepers were a Mr. Brown, Sam Pearson and John Wilshaw.

Two blacksmith shops were operated by Flem Richardson and Cyrus Moore. Two shoe shops by Gil-

bert Rumley and Benjamin Tincher. The grist mill by a Mr. White. M. E. Church built about 1854.

A Post Office was established Dec. 21, 1843 and discontinued Nov. 23, 1865. The first postmaster was James Wright.

When the Vandalia Railroad was built a mile south of town, Amo was laid out on the railroad and several houses were moved down there. From then on Springtown gradually vanished until at the present time there are only three or four houses and the name left.

#### COATESVILLE

Coatesville is located in the western end of Clay Township and was laid out in 1850 by Henry Coat, John Masten and Annuel Edwards. It was first called West Milton.

It has gradually increased in population and property value down through the years. The tornado of 1948 destroyed a large part of the town, but it has been almost completely restored and today is a prosperous community.

#### AMO

Amo, whose original name was Morrisville, was laid out by Joseph Morris on July 23, 1850. It is not quite clear why the name Morrisville was changed to Amo, but according to the records and information at hand it came about through the efforts of some classical minded citizens, who desired a shorter name, August 13, 1855.

The founding of the town was due largely to the fact that the new railroad which was being built from Indianapolis to Terre Haute had missed the town of Springfield (Springtown).

The first house built here was by Wm. Tomlinson in 1850. Several buildings were moved here from Springtown and other new ones were built. Business places began to spring up and the Post Office was established in 1852.

New additions were laid out from time to time as the town continued to thrive. A saw mill, grist mill, chair factory, buggy factory, wagon factory, harness shop, skating rink, together with a doctor's office, dentist's office, and other enterprises, including two hotels and livery barn.

In a few years Amo became an important shipping point for logs, lumber, flour and live stock.



W. O. Brown's Grocery and Restaurant.

The various activities furnished employment for a large number of people. At one time the saw mill employed 25 men. Also several men were required to cut and haul the logs.

The wagon factory, employing several workmen, made wagons that bore the label "AMO WAGON."

The buggy factory employed several skilled workmen, including blacksmiths, carpenters, painters and others.

The grist mill, which some of the older citizens say was moved from Springtown and some say from Pecksburg, did a thriving business in producing flour and meal for the local community in the early day and in later years the AMO MILLING CO. manufactured and shipped large quantities of flour and corn meal.

Dating from back early in its history Amo enjoyed a widely known reputation for its school system, more of which will be said on another page.

The A. Rudd saw mill, which was located on the south side of the railroad at the west edge of town, bought large quantities of standing timber and several teamsters were furnished steady employment, hauling the logs to the mill where they were processed into merchantable lumber and shipped to Indianapolis and other points in carload lots. They also did a lot of custom work and local trade.

One hotel and rooming house stood where the Merle Masten residence is now and the other one was one block east. They were patronized mostly by travelling salesmen, who also were important customers of the large livery barn which stood on the adjoining lot to the Homer Luttrell residence.

The early railroad depot was a combination of telegraph office, passenger station and freight house.

The railroad furnished very satisfactory service.

There were two passenger trains each way daily, that would stop and pick up or discharge passengers. One could go in either direction in the morning and return late in the afternoon. One west bound train out of Indianapolis would stop about midnight.

There was also local freight delivery each way daily. Fresh bread was shipped from Indianapolis each morning. It was neither wrapped nor sliced.

The Boyd buggy factory, already mentioned, was located at the present site of the old interurban station (Amo Milling Company's office).

It is said that a saw mill was at one time in the early period, located on the lot occupied by the Raymond Kersey residence. Another saw mill was located just east of where the Amo Mill is.

The Railroad Co. constructed stock pens along their right-of-way between Pearl and Vine Streets. Live stock was assembled here and loaded on the cars. These pens were finally torn down and rebuilt at a location about two blocks farther east.

Amo was incorporated on April 29, 1913. It included parts of Sections 2, 3, 34, 35, of Clay Township.

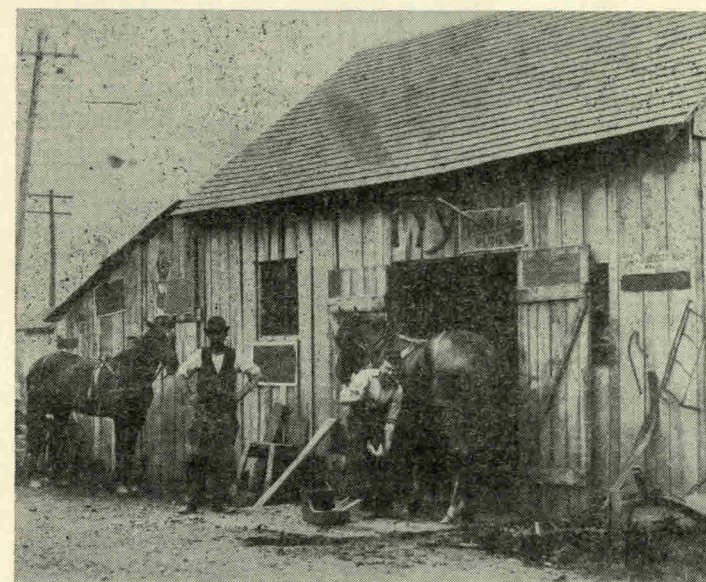
The first officials were: Town Board—George Hunter, President; Elmer Hodson and Earl Record; Clerk, A. D. Johnson; Marshal, W. A. Barker.

First side walks were laid in 1914 and 1915.

Street lights were installed 1916.

The first fire fighting equipment was purchased in 1922. It consisted of one water wagon, 150 feet of 3/4-inch hose, 3 nozzles and 2 clamps.

In 1936 the town purchased the Bank building. The lower floor was converted into space for the Post Office and the upper story was used for the Town Hall.



The Blacksmith Shop of Lee Hollingsworth.

The five additions to date, to the Town of Amo, are:

- 1—Benj. F. Scherer, 1st, June 29, 1863.
- 2—Wm. W. Scott, Aug. 8, 1864.
- 3—Benj. F. Scherer, 2nd, April 4, 1866.
- 4—Elam Benbow, June 13, 1867.
- 5—Hodson's, August 23, 1912.

The population of Amo in 1885 was 200, in 1914, 300, and now in 1957 it is approximately 400.



## OTHER EARLY SETTLERS

James Mason was born in Virginia in 1801 and settled in this community in 1824. He reared a large family; William, Elizabeth, John, James, George, Martin, Moses, Henry, Jane, Susan, Sara and Martha.

David Reitzel was born in North Carolina in 1806 and moved to this community in 1832, where he built



The First School Built in Amo. Built in 1868.  
Torn Down 1899.

a log cabin. The snow that winter was very deep and they lived principally on corn bread. He died in 1892.

Eli Phillips was born in North Carolina. He was married in that state to Peggie Cosner. They came to Indiana and settled in this community in 1834. They reared nine children: William, Eli, Israel, Phoebe, Parmelia, Abigail, Peggie, Jane and Arcadia.

John Masten was born in North Carolina in 1799. He married Sarah Cosner and to them were born fourteen children: Manuel, Mary, David, Hannah, John, Phoebe, William, Mathias, Cyrus, Eli, Sarah, Levi, Reuben and Nathan.

He came to Indiana and settled in a thickly wooded section about 1½ miles south of the present site of Amo, in 1832. He purchased 160 acres, which by hard work and thrift he added to it until he owned over 1,000 acres. He was a strong Union man in the war, in which he had two sons, one of whom lost his life, and was the first one buried in the Amo cemetery.

Frederick Whicker was born in North Carolina in 1794. He was married to Elizabeth Cosner and they reared eleven children: Dorinda, Eliza, John, Lewis, James, Abigail, Mary, Loretta, Frederick, Allen and Sarah.

They came to Indiana and settled in a dense forest, three miles south of the present site of Amo, in about 1832.

Jehu Hadley was born in 1810 in North Carolina and came with his father to Indiana and entered a tract of land in the south part of this community.

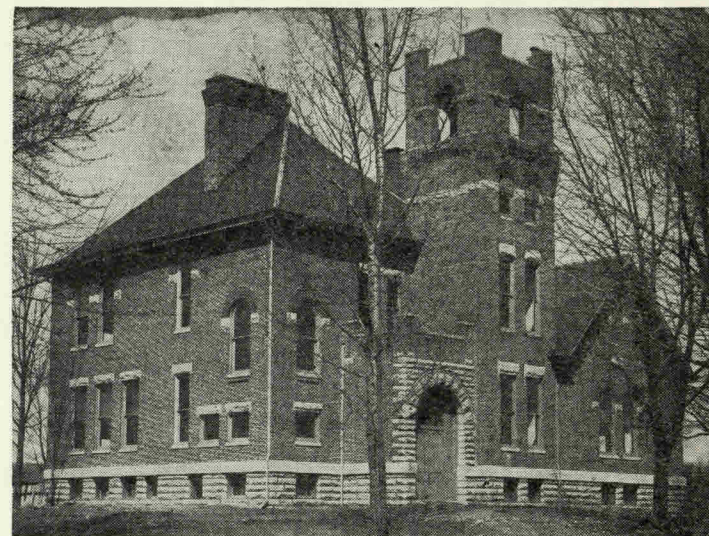
It was considered a worthless swamp, but by hard work and perseverance, it was made into one of the best farms in the community. He was married in 1837 to Jerusha Stiles and to them were born ten children: Nancy M., Mary F., Henry C., George W., Marcus L., Sibyl A., Alice E., Laura E., Jerusha E., and Jehu S.

Joshua Hadley Jr. was born in North Carolina in 1783 and came to Indiana, settling about 2½ miles north of where Amo is now. One of his motives was to get away from the evils of slavery.

Anthony Cosner was born in North Carolina in 1799 and married Katie Phillips. To them were born six children: John, Mahlon, Samuel, Lucinda, Sarah and William. In 1836, they moved to Indiana and settled in the thick woods about 2½ miles south of the present site of Amo.

Asael Hunt came from North Carolina, married Rachel Johnson and settled about 2 miles north of the present site of Amo, in about 1831. They reared a family of eight children: Elizabeth, Margaret, Bert, Lethe, Cynthia, Lydia, Albert and Caleb. Mr. Hunt cleared a large farm, was a prosperous farmer and lived to be eighty. His granddaughter, Marcia Coop-rider, is a resident of Amo.

Abraham West was born in North Carolina in about 1800. He married Sina Hadley and moved to Indiana, settling in the woods, 2½ miles southeast of where Amo is now, in 1828. He reared a family of nine



The Second School Building, Built in 1899; Burned 1904

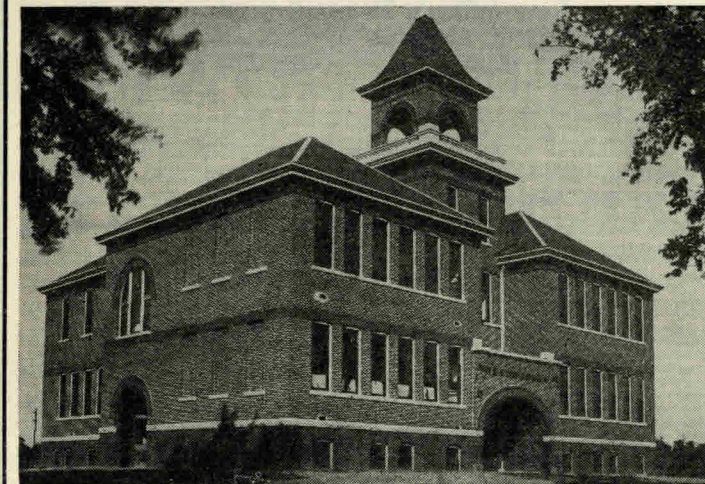
children: William, Washington, Columbus, Diego, Narcissus, Malissa, Amanda, Ellen and Scipio. By hard work and thrift he accumulated about 600 acres of land and died at the age of 62.

Jesse Hodson came to Indiana from North Carolina in about 1831 and settled one mile north of the present site of Amo. He died in 1837 and his son Eli inherited the farm. Eli reared eight children: John, Henry, Jesse, James, Jerimiah, Noah, Eli, and Matthew.

## FIRST GENERAL ELECTION IN CLAY TOWNSHIP

The poll book for Clay Township of the first general election, that of 1846, which was held at Springfield (later named Springtown, located one mile north of the present site of Amo) on August 3rd, gives the names of 101 eligible voters which are here copied as forming a nearly complete list of pioneers of that day.

Caleb Hunt, Thomas Hadley, Benjamin Pickett, Abraham West, Mordicia Samuels, Joshua F. Huckings,



The Third School Building, Built in 1904; Burned 1913.

Peter Long, Wesley Hardwick, Erasmus Nichols, Milton Asher, Phineas Moon, Eli Hodson, Henry Bland, Robert Harvey, Menchor Coe, John Candiff, John Harlan, John Gambold, Phineas Tomlison, Ransom Estes, Edward Estes, John Johnson, Mathias Alaster, Carver Benboel, Timothy Swaim, Clark Hill, David Masten, Henry Coates, James Wright, William Talbot, Hiram Jones, Elijah Anderson, Isaac Miracle, Wm. Dalton, Harvey Stanley, Samuel Stanley, Francis Huckings, Edward Tomlison, Miles Richardson, Allen Pearson, James Pearson, George Tincher, Henry Goodman, Winson Yates, Jesse Turbeville, Jonathan Mendenhall, Hugh McKee, Harvey Richardson, Tandy Scott, Elijah Wright, Solomon Rushton, Benjamin Gaeres, Joel Haggins, Eleazer Hunt, Jabez Watson, John Wright, Thomas Parker, Milton White, John Stanley, Wm. Benbow, Charles Green, Robert Walker, Edward Newman, Jacob Workrider, Jesse Watson, Albert Hunt, John Newham, Wm. Mann, A. Edwards, Jesse Hackett, James Acres, Alfred Hunt, Ellis King, Henry Wise, Asahel Mann, Wm. Tincher, Alexander Adams, Robert Stanley, Nathan Harvey, Blake Swain, Wm. Hayworth, John Harrison, Silas Dixon, Nathaniel Hadley, Jeremiah Smith, Eli Phillips, John Edwards, Samuel Phillips, Joseph Morris, Wesley Pearson, Elihu Dixon, Elam Benbow, Price Hall, James Hayworth, John Hancock, Wm. Cosner, Joel Hodson, and Wm. Beechardson.

Amo was in 1885 made the voting place for the entire Township and remained as such for several years.

## HARD TIMES

Soon after the first settlements there came upon the country the most disastrous monetary crisis

which ever afflicted the American people, adding to the hardships and privations necessarily incident to the pioneer life and making hard times in those days a reality. One man waited two months to get the 25 cents necessary to pay postage on a letter from friends in North Carolina.

A young man, since a prominent citizen of the county, went to Owen County with 75 cents to buy some corn, which he failed to get, but he purchased a little flour, which his widowed mother compounded with something else to make it go further and made bread. Upon this and milk, the family lived, during which time, the young man walked four miles each day to "deaden" trees at 37½ cents per day to pay 26 per cent on the money that paid for their 80 acres of land.

Thus lived the pioneers of our community, the subjugators of the wilderness as year after year, from the sweat of their toil wealth grew out of the ground and the little original corn patch widened and grew to broad fields, and to the single cow and calf, new members were added until the herds covered the hills and valleys. So the inconveniences of those early days passed slowly away and the comforts of the civilized world found room in the enlarged and beautiful homes of the people.

## RAILROAD

The Terre Haute and Richmond Rail Road was chartered January 26, 1847. The railroad was being built through Clay Township in August, 1850.

First time an engine passed over the entire line was February 16, 1853.

Later called Terre Haute and Indianapolis Rail Road, Vandalia Rail Road, and Pennsylvania Rail Road.

Last spike in the railroad was driven between Fillmore and Greencastle. The grade for the railroad was built by men using wheelbarrows.

While building the railroad near Crittenden some of the workers took the cholera and many died. They



The First Motor Driven School Bus. O. Z. Stayton, Driver.

were buried close by.

The Royal Scott, the London, Midland & Scottish Railways' complete express train, which had been on exhibition at the Chicago World's Fair, passed through Amo on October 12, 1933. Several persons gathered



along the tracks to watch the train go by.

On October 31, 1908 there was a train wreck just east of town and one man was killed.

When the Vandalia Railroad was built, it was necessary to provide some convenient way to keep the engines supplied with water, so large wooden tanks were constructed close to the track. They were placed high enough so that the water would flow from the



Post Office and Postmaster, Loren Hadley, 1909-1918.

tank down through a spout into the boiler of the engine.

One such tank was located at the creek, near the east edge of Amo. At the edge of the creek channel as near as possible to the tank, one or more large cisterns were constructed to hold water from the creek. The walls of the cistern was composed of piling and lumber. The top was covered to keep out trash. The water was pumped from the cistern by hand and forced into the tank above.

## CHURCH HISTORIES

### AMO BAPTIST CHURCH

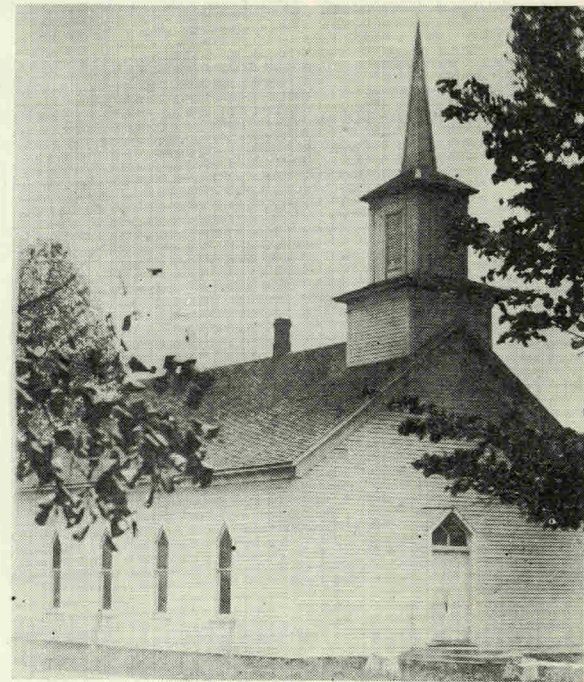
The Amo Missionary Baptist Church had its beginning July 18, 1866, at a meeting in the old school house on the hill one-half mile northwest of Amo. At a business meeting August 3 of the same year, plans were effected to erect a house of worship. R. N. Harvey, Harding Tinscher and S. N. Hubbard were the building committee.

Some details of these construction plans were as follows: Two lots on which the building was located were purchased from Caleb Hunt for \$65.00. John

Whicker of Stilesville donated walnut, poplar, and ash trees from his farm to supply the major part of the lumber that was used, which was sawed by E. B. Owen and was hauled to the mill by numerous yokes of oxen.

This building was used as erected until 1914 when some improvements were made, chief among them being the basement which was large and modern. The Church was dedicated January 13, 1867. Rev. F. D. Bland offered the prayer dedicating the building to the worship of God. Rev. A. C. Edward of Plainfield was the first pastor. During his one year pastorate there were thirty additions to the Church. Other pastors were Rev. Wilson Trent, 2 years; Rev. Moore, 16 months; J. W. Sherrill, 8 years; Rev. George Reber, 6 months; Rev. T. A. Clevenger, 2 years; Rev. R. N. Harvey, 1 year; Dr. G. W. Terry, 9 months; Rev. W. W. Hicks, 3 years; Rev. B. W. Harmon, C. C. Marshall, R. A. Fuson, J. N. Tinscher, J. F. Griffith and B. F. Mugg served short terms. Then Rev. J. L. Beaman served 2½ years, Rev. R. N. Harvey a little over 2 years, Rev. Cline, 1 year; Rev. Hays, 1 year; Rev. C. F. West, about 3 years; Rev. J. E. Sherrill, about 4 years; Rev. E. R. Carswell, 1½ years; Rev. C. M. Clark, 2½ years; Rev. P. A. Bryant, 1 year; Rev. Gilbert McCammack, 2 years.

On May 5, 1930, the little Church by the side of the road was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Some of those folks, sadly watching in a driving rain as the building slowly fell into ashes, were children and grandchildren of that same noble



The Baptist Church Before the Fire in 1930.

group of pioneer spirits who organized and built that building. Many eyes were wet and many hearts were being crushed as the fire relentlessly lapped up those old sills and framework hewn and laid by beloved ancestral hands. Night closed in with hope virtually at an ebb tide. That night seemed to spell "Doom" for the Amo Missionary Baptist Church. But hope cometh with the morning and truly it was so.

For plans were already forming and in just five days the church members met and soon work was beginning on the present new building. In four short months, services were being held in the new church basement and on May 24, 1931, the building was dedicated. Rev. A. T. Slaughter was pastor at that time. Rev. Ray Banks was then called and was with us almost 4 years. Rev. Burns was called as pastor in May, 1937, and tendered his resignation in April, 1938, to take effect May 1. Rev. Frank Kerner was called in July of that year to finish the year.

Rev. Arthur Ramsey was called as pastor in January, 1939. Rev. Carl McBee was called in April, 1940. He was with us until the close of 1941.

Rev. Dallas Rissler was called for pastor by unanimous vote for the year 1942. It was discussed and finally put to a vote as to whether we combine the Sunday School and Church Treasuries. This plan was adopted and is still being successfully used. Rev. Raymond Rissler was called in 1946 and tendered his resignation in 1951. Rev. A. E. Chastain was called March 25 to fill the unexpired time of Raymond Rissler and the following year of 1952. Improvements made this year were, a new Hammond Organ, new choir and class room seats, chairs for the little folks' class rooms and folding doors which made two extra class rooms.

Under the faithful guidance of Rev. Chastain the church grew and prospered. His pastorate was closed in Amo in December, 1954.

In the early part of 1955 a young minister, Rev. Wm. Keith, was called as pastor. He and his wife and three small daughters were the second to occupy the new parsonage which had been dedicated in October, 1951. Under Rev. Keith's leadership the past two years the church has had many happy hours. In February of this year, 1957, Rev. Keith tendered his resignation and the Rev. Bob Phillips has been called to fill the pastorate.

A welcome is extended to each and all to attend services here. God has richly blessed Amo Baptist Church from its beginning and we pray that we will ever abide in his Holy Grace.

### AMO FRIENDS CHURCH

The first Friends Meeting to be organized in Hendricks County was known as the White Lick meeting, located about one mile north of Mooresville.

The first meeting near Amo was known as the Spring Meeting, located just north of town, the present building of Clyde Terry being part of the old meeting house. In April, 1882, it was decided to change the location to Amo. The property was sold to James Kersey for the sum of \$400.00, this sum being turned over to the building committee. In June, 1882, a building site was purchased from Harvey and Arcada Summers and additional land deeded to the meeting by Caleb and Mary Hunt.

Religious services were held in the Amo school house while the church was being built. It was built during the summer of 1883, the cost being about \$1,500.00, much material and labor being donated.

In December, 1890, Joshua M. Cook of White Lick became our first resident pastor. In 1891 the parsonage was completed at a cost of \$650.00.

The Church has been improved from time to time,

a basement and furnace having been added and later the pulpit, which was on the south side of the church, was moved to the west end. Later more Sunday School rooms were built and an entrance built on the south and the pulpit built in the east end where the first entrance was located.

An Aid Society was formed and named the Willing Workers.

The active resident membership has always been small but the faithful few have bravely maintained and carried on.

The pastors down through the years to the present day are as follows:

Joshua M. Cook, Flora Holiday, Willis Bond and Wife, Sarah and John Woodard, Amos Cook, Nerius Hodgins and Wife, Milo Hinkle, Frank Barret, Willis Cook, Peter W. Radabaugh, George K. Hobson, Oattie Sherrill, Orley Smith and Wife, Lawrence Hadley, Austin Osborn, John Hadley, Mead Kelsey, John Stipp and Wife, Leslie Bond and Wife, Miriam Jessup, Addie Christie, Stanley Springer, Carl and Lena Cox, James and Margaret Carter, Clive and Louisa Phillips, Herbert Engle, William Bacon, Izetta Rennels, Charles Thomis, and Helen Hester.

### AMO METHODIST CHURCH

The building for the Methodist Church, located in the south part of town, was started in 1866, on land given by John and Sarah Masten. It was completed in 1867 at a cost of \$2,000.00. The church was organized in that year with 20 members. The first pas-



The Methodist Church Before Being Remodeled in 1916.

tor was Rev. Francis M. Pavey, 1865, 1866. Evidently there was a congregation of this church before this time as ministers are given for as far back as 1853 and 1854, and the same minister served the Springtown Church also. His name was Lewis Roberts. The second pastor after the church was completed was Rev. Bardin H. Bradbury, 1867 and 1868, and it is said that he was a splendid preacher and keen-sighted business man who owned and operated the Amo Flour Mill. In



1888 and 1889 the pastor was George A. Bond, an Englishman, who true to the nature of his countrymen was fond of walking and the story is told of his closing his service at Amo at 12:00 and then reaching Coatesville prior to the arrival of the fast train due at 12:18.

There is an active Sunday School in connection with the Church which contributes much to the church. At one time the young people had an organization known as the Epworth League and is now known as the Methodist Youth Fellowship. There have also been missionary societies in the church which worked hard to contribute to both foreign and home mission fields. In 1903 the Ladies' Aid Society was formed. Its purpose then as now, though its name is changed to the Women's Society of Christian Service, is for the help and support of the Church.

When the first building became inadequate for the growing congregation, it was remodeled to be as it stands today. This was started in 1916, completed

and re-dedicated on March 4, 1917. The cost was about \$8,000.00.

We who are members of this Church and community are humbly grateful for the help and guidance given by this Church, its members, pastors and fellow workers down through the years. We appreciate the achievements of the past 100 years and hope and pray that the next century will be crowded with even greater opportunities and achievements than the past has been.

The pastors serving this congregation through the years have been:

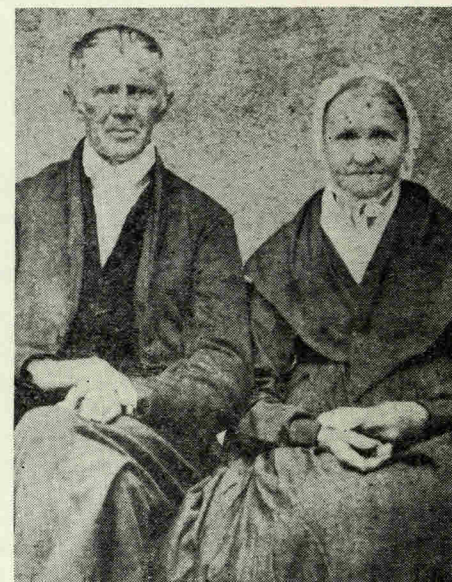
1853-54, Lewis Roberts; 1855, Conrad S. Burgner and C. B. Heath; 1856-57, Alfred G. Chenoweth; 1858, John S. Donaldson; 1859-60, John F. McDaniel; 1861, Martin L. Green; 1862, William H. Smith; 1863-64, Jess S. Woodward; 1865-66, Francis M. Pavey; 1867-68, Bardin H. Bradbury; 1869-70, John F. Daniel; 1871, John F. McDaniel and W. C. Davisson; 1872-76-78, Nelson Green; 1873-75, Daniel W. Risher; 1879-80,



CHARLES and ASENATH OSBORN



EDWARD and POLLY ESTES



DR. JAMES and ELIZABETH KERSEY

**Charles and Asenath Osborn**—Charles and Asenath Hyatt Osborn, pioneer Quaker family, came to Indiana from Guilford County, North Carolina, in 1850. The journey was made in two wagons which took about one month. They settled first near Rainstown, but found it so swampy that they remained a very short time and later moved to the farm which is two miles west of Amo. They were life long members of the Society of Friends and always attended First Day and Fourth Day meeting. They were married at Deep River, North Carolina, in 1833. There were six children: Elizabeth, Hannah H., Alpheus, Cuthbert H., Martha, and Sibyl. Cuthbert H. Osborn remained at the home place and was later married to Anna M. Grimes in 1871; two children: Elda Gray and Elmina Huls. Later he married Asenath Carter in 1877; two children: Orrin S. and Ora Hunt.

**Edward and Polly Estes**—Edward B. Estes came with his parents from Chatham County, North Carolina in 1821 and settled in the White Lick neighborhood.

**Mary H. Smith Estes**, better known as Polly, came

with her parents to the White Lick neighborhood in 1835. She and Edward Estes were married in 1838 and he brought his bride to the farm which had been entered around 1833. The farm is located two and one-half miles southeast of Amo. They had four children: Evan, Icabenda Glover, Egan, and Lear. Evan and Lear remained at the home place until the death of Evan in 1900. Three years later, Lear moved into Amo where she lived until her death in 1935.

**Dr. James and Elizabeth Kersey**—James Kersey was born in North Carolina on February 22, 1801. He was educated and married in North Carolina, coming to Indiana about 1830. He and his wife first located in Wayne County, this state, and in 1832 came to Clay Township, where he entered three hundred and twenty acres of land from the government. Shortly after coming to this county he took up the study of medicine. After completing his course he practiced his profession in this county until his death in 1883. Dr. James C. and Elizabeth (Hodson) Kersey were the parents of nine children: Jesse, Abigail, James, Rachel, Mary, Isaac, Jonathan, Ezra, who was killed in the Civil War, and Amos.

Jesse Hill; 1881-82, Jonathan B. Combs; 1883-84, Elihu Mason; 1885, Daniel Risher; 1886-87, John E. Newhouse; 1888-89, George A. Bond; 1890, John P. Henson; 1891, Frank W. Gee; 1892, James L. Grenway; 1893, D. W. Raines; 1894, H. A. Church; 1895, Frank S. Ditto; 1896, J. H. Frost; 1897, John R. Troxell; 1898, John H. Rayle; 1899, W. L. Dexter; 1900-01, G. E. Kitchen; 1902, G. E. Mason; 1903, A. W. Smith; 1904, W. H. Nesty; 1905, J. A. Clearwaters; 1906-07, Lorenzo D. Dodd; 1908-09, P. T. Shields; 1910, Owen Wright; 1911-13, Calvin O. Smock; 1914-15, David E. Noland; 1916-17, W. J. Stewart; 1918-19, C. N. McBrayer; 1920-21, J. W. Cordrey; 1922-24, A. M. Mahaffie; 1925-26, Roy J. Hicks; 1927-28, R. W. Fish; 1929-30, Carl Martini; 1931-36, H. M. Davis; 1937-39, Ralph M. Jones; 1940-43-44, James Burroughs; 1941-

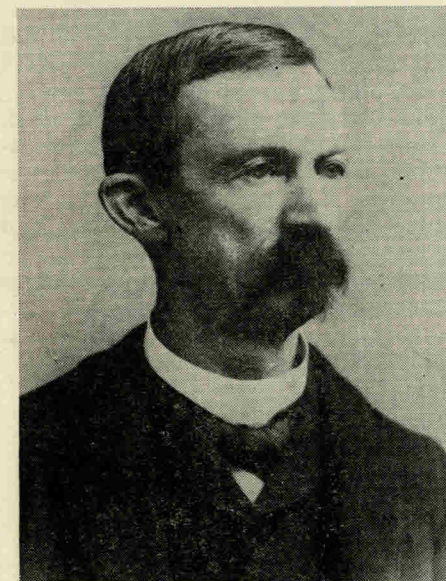
42, J. S. Godwin; 1945-48, Carlyle Mason; 1949-51, J. T. Dodds; 1952-53, John Cowan; 1954-57, William Tresslar.

## HISTORY OF AMO SCHOOL

The story of the rise and development of Amo School is very similar to the history of other Township High Schools of Central Indiana.

In 1862 under the trusteeship of David Walker, a one-room frame building was erected on the hill just north of town, on what is now the Sam Coopriders land.

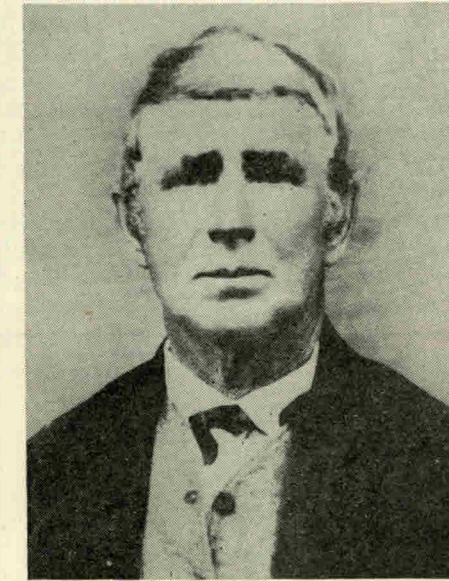
The people of Amo, then a small village in its teens, wanted the school house built in town but Mr. Walker, the trustee, said it must be built on the hill. After much controversy, Mr. Walker secured a man with the necessary equipment and raised the frame work during the night.



ISRAEL H. GEORGE



JANE MENDENHALL GEORGE



SAMUEL PHILLIPS

**Israel Hogue George**—1840-1910. Druggist and Postmaster. Israel George was born April 15, 1840 in Ohio and spent his boyhood near West Newton, Indiana. He came to Amo in 1872, purchased the house just south of the Friends Church as a residence and opened a drug store in partnership with Addison Dixon near the new railroad in a frame building which had been moved from Springtown to Amo. He purchased the store the following year. His stock consisted of a full line of "drugs, spices, and oils and leads for mixing paints." He was postmaster from 1873 to 1875 and again from 1877 to 1885. The post office was located in the southeast corner of the front room of the drug store. "Uncle Is" sold the store in 1900 to Ozro Hadley and with the money bought the Hardwick farm in the Hadley neighborhood. This farm is now owned by his granddaughter. He campaigned for the Republican Party, was active in community affairs and promoted the organization of the Amo Telephone Company.

**Jane Mendenhall George**—1842-1919. Born February 7, 1842, near West Newton, Indiana. Married Israel Hogue George August 19, 1872, and came as a bride to the house just south of the Friends Church at the corner of Vine and North streets where she lived until "Uncle Is" passed away in 1910. This house was built by James Ralston in 1868. It was the first

house in Amo to have screen doors and the same frames are still in use. Grapevines planted in the south yard by "Aunt Jane" still bear fruit. She was famed for the pickling of fruits and vegetables from her garden and for the baking of salt rising bread. She was the sister of Thomas Mendenhall, postmaster from 1885 to 1897. The George home was always open to orphans and the needy. She and Mr. George had one adopted daughter Ella Ward George (Mrs. Fay Masten), in whose home she died. Two granddaughters survive, Edna Wright Morris and May Masten.

**Samuel Phillips**—Samuel Phillips was one of the pioneers of 1836. He was born in North Carolina on July 6, 1808, the son of John S. and Sally Phillips. After his father's death, Samuel, his mother and his sister Sally came to Hendricks County and settled on Section 4, Clay Township. Samuel bought a tract of land which he cleared and improved and made his home until his death July 31, 1880. Samuel was married in 1839 to Rachel Newman, a native of Randolph County, N. C. She was born in 1818, a daughter of John and Elizabeth Newman, who came to Hendricks County in 1837. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips were the parents of nine children: Jonathan F., Susanna E., Albert L., Lewis A., Samuel E., Sallie M., John N., Oliver P., and Emery E.



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We are not sure about some of the above names prior to 1896, which were compiled from information obtained through some older citizens and from old publications.

### HISTORY OF AMO P. T. A.

The Amo Parent Teachers' Association was founded in 1925, and received a charter affiliating it with the National Congress of Mothers' and P.T.A. Association. Mr. Fred Shirley was chosen as the organization's first president. The membership for the initial year was sixty-one.

The years 1926-27 found a teacher Mrs. Ella Gambold as president, however she saw fit to resign the office soon after the year started, and Mrs. Ruth Stark, now

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**COATESVILLE**

**ELEVATOR**

deceased, finished the unexpired term. Mr. John Greenlee of Coatesville, headed the organization for 1927-28. Following him came Mrs. Carrie Edmondson 1928-29 and the next year Frank Edmondson. 1930-31, Mrs. Hazel West was president. For a short time it seemed that a custom was being set of having a lady president followed by a man. At least this plan carried for the first six years of the P.T.A. existence. Then came a break in the procedure when Mrs. Oscar Benbow was chosen president after Mrs. West. Following Mrs. Benbow came Mr. Victor Burch, who was followed by another man, Jess Baker. He presided during the years 1933-34. In the tenth year of the P.T.A.'s life, Mrs. Fern West was president. She was the first of a line of presidents' to succeed themselves, as she held office from 1934 to 1936. Mrs. Seth Hadley was president thru 1936 and 1937. The years 1937-38 and 1938-39, found Louise Casady as P.T.A. leader. The next president was the Coatesville Herald editor, Mr. Harmon Hathaway. His term was 1939-40. He was succeeded by Mrs. Carl Cox for 1940-41. Mrs. Laura Biehl of Coatesville, handled the presidents' duties in 1941-42. In 1942 Wendell Smitherman was presiding over the Amo P.T.A. He served until 1944. Mrs. Viola Arnold guided the organization thru the next two school terms, starting in 1944 and ending in 1946. She was followed by Mrs. Miriam Whitecotton, who served from 1946 to 1948. The president for 1948-49, was Vivian Winks, a Coatesville teacher and school patron. Once again Mr. Wendell Smitherman was chosen to take over the duties of president and he served from 1949 to 1950.

Mrs. Ruth Jackson, an Amo teacher was Association president from 1950 to 1951. She was followed by Mrs.

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Carl Vannice, who held the office from 1951 to 1952. A Coatesville patron and teacher was the president from 1952 to 1954. This was Mrs. Joe Davidson. Next Mrs. Gladys Kersey served from 1954 to 1955. The next year of 1955-56, Mrs. Ivy West, a teacher and patron, lead the P.T.A. Mrs. West was elected for a second term, 1956-57.

This organization has contributed much to the schools general welfare. It has sponsored numerous projects such as home-economics equipment, library books, playground apparatus, movie projector, band-uniforms, and many things that could not at the time have been provided in any other way.

The P.T.A. enrollment for 1955-56 is about 114 members.

### AMO POST OFFICE

Postmaster and date appointed: Joseph Morris, June 1, 1852 (established); Isaac Larrance, March 20, 1853; Stephen S. Shields, September 16, 1857.

This office was discontinued October 5, 1859. Re-established November 23, 1865.

James G. Ralston, November 23, 1865; Elizah B. Owen, April 20, 1868; Isaac Ratliff, February 28, 1870; Israel H. George, April 9, 1873; Elizah B. Owen, March 18, 1875; Israel H. George, March 9, 1877; Alethe E. Deitrick, October 29, 1885; Martin Roberts, September 25, 1888; Annie E. Crose, December 11, 1888; John W. H. Newman, April 4, 1893; Thomas Mendenhall, June 1, 1897; Loren Hadley, July 10, 1909; Estella McAninch, July 11, 1918; Mrs. Ruth O. Stark, February 19, 1923; Mrs. Donius T. Cox, December 31, 1945; Frankie Brewer, March 31, 1947; Mrs. Glen D. Bray, July 7, 1954.

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**AMO COMMERCIAL CLUB**

Organized June 14, 1935 for the purpose of sponsoring anything for the benefit of the community.

Charter members were; W. R. Fuson, John Robbins, Grant Scott, Etna Lefforge, Merle Masten, Victor Burch, Simon Whicker and Jess Baker.

First president was Roscoe Edwards with Merle Masten as Secretary-Treasurer.

During the following years the Commercial Club sponsored many community projects and social activities, among them being help in securing W.P.A. assistance in erecting the school gymnasium, improved roads and streets, summer free movies, community sales, library, fish fries, a doctor, town hall, band, concerts, barn dance program, band stand, fire department, barber shop, victory gardens, service plaque, hallowe'en street festivals, Boy Scouts, and Christmas decorations for the town.

The hall over Whicker's store was purchased in 1952 for a meeting place and recreation center and a separate recreation club formed from the Commercial Club, which furnished the hall with the recreation facilities.

In 1954 the Recreation Club was merged with the Commercial Club and a new constitution and by-laws written. After this merger a membership drive brought the membership up to eighty members.

Although this Centennial celebration is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Amo Community Improvement Committee, the idea had its birth in the Amo Commercial Club.

Presidents of the Commercial Club and the years in which they served are as follows; R. L. Edwards, 1935-

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1936; Simon Whicker, 1937-1938; Charles Bryant, 1939; Merle Masten, 1940; Wayne Bray, 1941; Merle Masten, 1942; Etna Lefforge, 1943-1948; Theron Ogle, 1949-1950; Pat Whitecotton, 1951; Maurice Newby, 1952; Kenneth Rhea, 1953; John McWethy, 1954; Robert Welty, 1955; Woodrow Tharp, 1956-1957.

AMO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT  
COMMITTEE

Realizing the need for a community building in the neighborhood of Amo, the Amo Commercial Club started the movement by donating \$400.00 in 1955. In order that the whole community might participate, a group composed of a delegate from each of the community's organizations met and organized the Amo Community Improvement Committee. The chief purpose of the committee is to direct the drive for funds and act as Treasurer and Controller of such funds.

The present membership of the committee is as follows: Amo Town Board, Kenneth Rhea, President; Auxiliary, June Greeson, Vice President; Methodist Church, Madge Lydick, Secretary-Treasurer; Baptist Church, Al Pugh; Friends Church, Ruby McWethy; Boy Scouts, Gene Greeson; P. T. A., Leroy Miles; Home Economics Club, Josephine Reeves; Township Advisory Board, Morris Reeves; Commercial Club, John McWethy; Fire Department, Fred Mynatt.

THE AMO FFA CHAPTER

Future Farmers of America is the national organization of, by, and for farm boys who are studying vocational agriculture in public secondary schools which operate under the provisions of the National Vocational Education Acts. It is an educational, non-

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profit, non-political farm boy organization of voluntary membership, designed to develop agricultural leadership, character, thrift, scholarship, co-operation, citizenship, and patriotism. Boys must be enrolled in vocational agriculture to become eligible for membership.

The Amo Future Farmer of America Chapter was organized in 1939. So Amo is one of the 8,570 local high school chapters located throughout the 48 states, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico.

**BOY SCOUTS**

The first successful Scout Program to be started in Amo was in April 1955, when Troop 313 was organized, with 35 registered Scouts under the leadership of Scoutmaster Alton Pugh and Assistant Robert Greenlee. It has become an outstanding troop in its two years of existence.

In April 1956 an Explorer Post was started with the older boys from the Scout Troop. Leadership is under the counseling of Homer Luttrell and Louis Gaston.

Also in April 1956 a Cub Pack was organized with 23 cubs. Fred Mynatt was first Cubmaster. The present Cubmaster is Walter Hogue with Gifford Smith as Assistant, assisted by Den Mothers, Marion Phillips, Blanche Sechman, Alice Pugh, Dolly Burch, Ivy West, Hazel Travelstead and Florence Greenlee.

Several men active on the committee of these three units have made it possible for the boys of our community to enjoy Scouting and organized leisure time.

Eugene Greeson as committee chairman and Norris Coopridier, as Institutional Representative, have spent much time and energy to help make the Program so

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successful. John McWethy is Neighborhood Commissioner. The Scouts and Explorers are sponsored by the Commercial Club, and the Fire Department is sponsor of the Cubs.

**4-H CLUB**

As an outgrowth of the farmers' institute work, a boys' corn club was formed in Macoupin County Illinois, in 1899. The first official emblem was used in 1907. Club work for boys and girls in Indiana began with a number of Counties claiming to be first in 1900. In 1905 Purdue University pioneered the movement through its Agriculture Extension Department.

In 1956, Hendricks County had 1214 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H Club work. The program in Clay Township has been very successful with many participants and under excellent leadership.

**AMO FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Amo Commercial Club undertook to raise by donation from the farmers of East Clay Township, money to build a fire station, however, not enough could be raised. Those who had donated were asked if they wanted their money back, in which case some of it was repaid. This money which was left, together with the donations taken from the residents of the community of Amo and donations from other residents of East Clay Township of materials and labor, built the first fire station in the year 1950, which is owned by the Town of Amo and located at the present site.

The Town Board had appointed the Fire Chief previous to the building of the Fire Station. The first fire truck was purchased December 13, 1950. The Town Board borrowed the money from the Coatesville First

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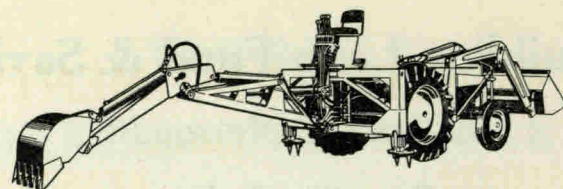
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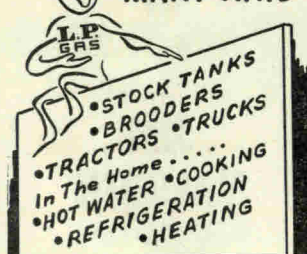
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National Bank to buy the first chassis for the Fire Department truck. The Town sold fire protection to the Township to cover the notes for the fire equipment; these notes were soon paid. The Town still sells fire protection to the township, in order to help keep the Fire Department in operation.

The first fire alarm was answered by the fire department on Saturday, May 26, 1950, to a fire north-east of town.

In 1951, the Fire Department in order to try to help with expenses and buy additional equipment had a fish fry and tractor pull.

The first tank truck was an old gas tank truck which had a capacity of 600 gallons of water, however, today we have a modern truck with a tank capacity of 1000 gallons, which was purchased in 1955. In 1956, the Fire Department was enlarged, by the addition of a new room on the back of the original station and Town Hall. The firemen together with the assistance of other members of the community now have a station large enough to house the two trucks and equipment and also a kitchen which is used for the fish fry and other community activities.

In the year 1957, through the cooperation and assistance of the Town of Amo and residents of East Clay Township, we will strive to protect and make this one of the best communities in which to live.

### A. V. F. LADIES' AUXILIARY

The Ladies' Auxiliary is an organization formed by the wives of firemen, and their duty is to aid the firemen when they need help by serving refreshments and giving first aid if necessary.

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iliary is a member of the Indiana Firemens Organization and its Auxiliaries, which includes firemen all over the state. A convention is held each year at which time the firemen and the auxiliaries are all together and elect their state officers for the year.

The Amo V. F. Ladies' Auxiliary was organized June 7, 1954 by thirteen members. The officers were President, Mrs. Marion Phillips; Vice-President, Mrs. Betty Stephenson; Secretary, Mrs. Viola Arnold; Treasurer, Mrs. Martha Davis; Chaplain, Mrs. Alice Pugh. The firemen presented the ladies with a white Bible and Gavel, which are used in conducting their meetings.

Twelve of the thirteen members took a Red Cross first aid course. Two of these members, Mrs. Dolores Burch and Mrs. Florence Greenlee, proceeded further and took an advanced course.

In January, 1955, the organization collected clothes and toys and contributed them to the East Side Christian Center in Indianapolis.

During the winter, the ladies served food to the Amo and surrounding community firemen when they were fighting fires during extreme cold weather.

Officers for 1956 and 1957 were elected at the June meeting; President, Mrs. Hazel Travelsted; Vice President, Mrs. June Greeson; Secretary, Mrs. Dolly Burch; Treasurer, Mrs. Florence Greenlee; Chaplain, Mrs. Marion Phillips; Marshal, Mrs. Viola Arnold.

The preceding paragraphs have told the story of the Auxiliary almost to the present time, however, we hope to have a bigger and better organization in the future and have now completed plans for the Annual Talent Contest to be held April 13, 1957.

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**INDEPENDENT ORDER OF  
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Amo Lodge of I. O. O. F. No. 701 was instituted July 27, 1893.

The charter members were: Wm. E. Varley, J. S. Carter, W. W. Cosner, A. J. Cosner, C. H. Masten, H. C. Summers, H. P. Hopkins, E. L. Fuson, R. A. Fuson, T. A. Vaughn and Elmer E. Masten.

Fourteen members came in by card and twenty-three were initiated the night of institution.

H. P. Hopkins was the first Noble Grand and J. W. Newman the first Secretary.

The Lodge membership consisted of the most influential and respected men of the community, and at one time there were more than 100 members.

The Lodge surrendered its charter March 13, 1952.

**REBEKAH LODGE**

Princess Rebekah Lodge No. 491 was instituted September 3, 1895, with the following as Charter Members: Maria R. Cosner, Sarah J. Varley, Laura A. Thompson, Flora A. Fuson, Novella Newman, Laura E. Masten, Cyrus H. Masten, Claybourne M. Justice, E. E. Masten, J. S. Carter.

Their first Noble Grand was Laura A. Thompson and the first Secretary was Maria Cosner.

The lodge surrendered their charter in October 1947.

**IMPROVED ORDER OF RED MEN**

On the 4th Sun, Worm Moon, G.S.D. 419, Common Era, March 4, 1910, Amo Tribe No. 503, Improved Order of Red Men, was instituted, at Amo, Hendricks County, Indiana by Charles C. Burche, who had been appointed installing officer by The Great Sachem of

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The Tribe was instituted with 26 names on the Charter, granted by the Great Council of Indiana, Improved Order of Red Men the parent organization.

The following 26 names appear on the records as the Charter Members; E. S. Miller, Charlie Summers, Grant Scott, G. F. Hunter, C. C. Branson, Willis Bundy, Cyrus Snyder, Wm. McCammack, Erwin Rudd, Frank Horn, Charlie Hodge, Charlie Kersey, Otto Whicker, Carl McCloud, Louis Wright, John Wright, George Whitecotton, Ernest Henderson, Elsworth Parker, O. S. Osborne, Edgar Waters, Forest Hill, Allen Osborne, Lee Hollingsworth, Louis Owen, Arthur Rumley.

The first officers of Amo Tribe No. 503, were elected and installed on the night of the installation of the Tribe, as follows; Prophet, Scott Miller; Sachem, George Hunter; Senior Sagamore, Grant Scott; Junior Sagamore, Otto Whicker; Chief of Records, Leslie Owens; Keeper of Wampum, William McCammack.

Scott Miller was the first representative to the Great Council Session, held in Indianapolis, on October 18, 1910.

Assisting in the installation was the Degree Teams of Tuscola Tribe No. 167, of Plainfield, and Casco Tribe No. 482, Hazelwood.

Amo Tribe had their first meeting place in the First National Bank building and a few years later purchased the building on East South Street, near Pearl Street, which was then called "Red Men's Hall."

The Tribe grew and became a force for much good in the community, by looking after the sick, and upon the death of a member honored the departed member with services and by helping the family to defray the

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burial expenses. Whenever little children were orphaned, the order would give the widow assistance in raising the children.

Then during the depression years, the membership fell, as it did in so many other organizations, that only a few members remained. On December 3, 1936, they surrendered their Charter to Edward C. Harding, then Great Chief of Records, of the Great Council of Indiana.

And so died a fraternal order in the town of Amo, after 26 years of good in the community.

#### **DEGREE OF POCAHONTAS**

Amo at one time had a Pocahontas Lodge No. 346, but we have been unable to ascertain the date of its institution or date of the surrender of its charter. From the information at hand, it would seem that it had its being from March 1910 to December 1936.

#### **AMO WEDNESDAY CLUB**

The Amo Wednesday Club "A Study Club," was organized in September 1907, with the following members; Laura Owen, Gertrude Orrell, Anna Tinscher, Etta Christie, Abbie Johnson, Ada West, Dell Scott, Flora Fuson, Bernice Garrison, Ross Hadley, Ollie Hadley and Bertha Edwards.

This club, with fifteen members, is still active.

#### **AMO COTERIE CLUB**

The Amo Coterie Club was organized in September, 1923, with eight members; Lelia Logan, Edna Summers, Gladys Stuart, Fern West, Hazel Hadley, Helen Hadley, Helen Vaughn and Carrie Edmonson. In November of the same year, four additional members were accepted; Mary Masten, Christine Wallace, Hazel Bartholomew and Alpha Watson. Mary Masten is

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still an active member at the end of 34 years. The club is still active with a maximum membership of fifteen.

#### **AMO HOME ECONOMICS CLUB**

The Amo Home Economics Club was organized in May 1919, by Miss Pansy Norton, the first Home Demonstration Agent in Hendricks County.

Hazel West was the first President of the Club, which numbered twenty-five. Of the charter members, Edna Phillips, Elnora Shirley, Marcia Coopridge, Edith Masten and Hazel West, after 38 years, are still active members.

#### **MOTHERS' CLUB**

The Mothers' Club was organized in September 1910, with twelve members; Myrtle Hodson, Edna Phillips, Maude Moon, Martha Whicker, Victoria Osborn, Elnora Shirley, Ruth Bundy, Daisy Benbow, Edith Masten, Kate Hadley, Mabel Parker and Marcia Coopridge.

While some of the members are widely scattered and the Club ceased to be active, all are still living.

#### **RECORD BLIZZARD**

On Friday, January 11, 1918, a heavy snow fell in this community, and by the next day the temperature fell to 23 degrees below zero, with a high wind blowing a real blizzard. The roads were impassable and business activities were virtually at a standstill.

Some livestock was frozen to death and many people had frosted hands and feet.

#### **DISASTROUS FIRE**

On one night in October 1904, a fire broke out in a two story frame building, which stood on the east side of Pearl Street, where the old interurban build-

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ing now stands. This building was destroyed and the fire spread to the north, consuming two others, Thomas Mendenhall's general store and his residence.

Thus one half of a block of old landmarks on the east side of Pearl Street were left in ashes. By hard work on the part of the bucket brigade, the buildings on the west side of the street and to the north were saved.

#### **THE INTERURBAN RAILROAD**

The T.H.I.&E. Traction Co. finished its electric railway between Indianapolis and Greencastle in 1907, running the first car on July the 4th of that year. The road was operated very successfully for several years and rendered a great service to the towns and communities through which it passed.

There was a car each way each hour through the day, one each way at 9:00 o'clock and at midnight. The same service was available at all crossings, by flagging. There was also freight service each way daily.

Gradually cars making local stops were replaced by limited cars, making fewer stops. Each time a change was made, it resulted in less service locally.

The coming of the automobile and paved roads spelled the doom of the interurbans and the Company went into receivership in April 1930, and sold in 1931 to Indiana Railroad, which also went through receivership and interurban transportation for Amo ceased, January 10, 1940.

O. S. Osborn was a passenger on the first car operated through Amo and also on the last one.

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Hadley, Frank Stears, Willie Varley, Arthur Lambert, Clifford Ratliff, Auburn Rumley, Arthur Rumley, Earl Bundy, Vellie Gasper, and Hubbard Weekly.

#### **THE TRAIN WRECK IN 1918**

On Friday, January 18, 1918, Amo was the scene of confusion and excitement. Ten cars of gasoline and five cars of crude oil in a freight train going through town at about 40 miles per hour, left the track and some of them caught on fire. The exodus from town seemed as though an army had come, as the townspeople began to flee.

Men supporting the sick and crippled, women with babes in arms and children holding each others hands, poured out of the houses in Amo that afternoon and took the road leading to the north as if the German army was coming from the south. Behind them rose an immense column of smoke, lighted now and then by great tongues of fire. Fifteen cars of crude oil and gasoline in a Vandalia freight train, wrecked in the edge of town were burning and there was danger of a terrific explosion any minute. The burning oil and gasoline caused a roaring that was frightful and the scene was one to shake the strongest nerves. The people of Amo had brought to their door in a slight degree what the people of France and Belgium had been undergoing when invaded by the Germans.

Fortunately, the fire burned without an explosion and it burned for hours. Before darkness set in, the column of smoke could be seen for miles, drifting to the east.

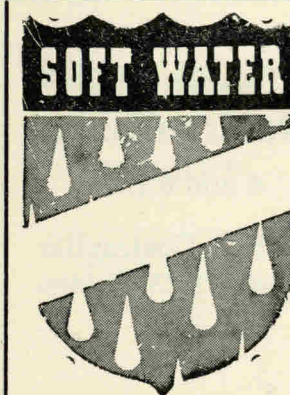
The wreck occurred about 4 o'clock p.m. The engine blew out a cylinder head which struck a switch target

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with such force that the switch was loosened and the car wheels split the switch, throwing the cars off the track.

The wreck caught fire immediately and the conductor and brakeman dived off the caboose into the deep snow and running through the streets of Amo, called to the people to get out of town as quickly as possible, as an explosion that would blow up the town was liable to occur.

Then the exodus commenced. The ground was covered with several inches of snow and the temperature was below zero, but no time was lost in hitching up horses to buggies and wagons. In the rush, families became separated, members stopping at different farm houses, some of which were found deserted as the owners had fled farther north. People in some homes that had no phones were not located until late in the night. Some did not return home until the next morning. It was reported that some Springtown folks left their homes and went farther north.

The fear of an explosion overcame all curiosity to see the wreck and the population of Amo was practically nothing for several hours. Fortunately no one was injured and only one house was destroyed, but there was much discomfort from exposure in the subzero weather. An oil tank car rolled down an embankment almost against Arthur Rumley's house, which was soon destroyed by fire.

An official of the Railroad Co., stated that it was the luckiest tank car wreck he had ever known. Vandalia officials fully expected an explosion and sent a relief train ahead of the wreck train crew. It carried doctors and nurses and remained until 1 a.m. with fortunately nothing to do.

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After the excitement wore away and families were united and people became more normal, there were many laughs over humorous incidents. One man was seen carrying some long underwear on his arm and one woman said that she did not run but passed several that were. Even yet it is risky to ask some Amo citizens how far they went and when they returned home.

#### **HOG KILLING TIME**

Hog killing time became an important event in the rural life.

After the wild geese began to migrate southward and the first cold weather appeared, the neighborhood hog killings would start. The large iron kettle which was an important item on every farm was placed on a "spider" filled with water which was heated to the boiling point and then put in a barrel slanted from a platform.

After the hog was shot by one of the neighborhood marksmen, "stuck" and pronounced dead, it was dragged by some men or a horse to the barrel, into which it was placed, kept until the hair slipped, then taken out onto the platform and "scrapped." It was then hung up by placing a gambol (a piece of wood about eighteen inches long, two or three inches thick and sharpened at both ends) under the strong tendons of the hog's hind ankles and suspended from a scaffold, where it was washed, dressed, halved, then placed on a platform, where it was quartered, leaf fat and ribs removed. The shoulders, hams and sides were then trimmed, salted and placed in a barrel for a few weeks, then taken out and smoked.

The rest of the lean meat was ground into sausage

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by a hand mill, or grinder.

The fat was put in the large kettle and cooked until done, then put in a press under pressure until the lard in liquid form went into a jar, where it was kept for future use.

Very often after butchering tools and equipment were cleaned, the men would engage in a shooting match to test their skill with their trusty rifles.

Another important activity of the winter time was the harvesting of ice.

Buildings were constructed with double walls, filled in between with sawdust.

When the streams and ponds were frozen over with ice of a sufficient thickness, it was sawed out in large blocks, hauled to ice buildings, called an ice house, where it was stacked up and covered over with a thick layer of saw dust to preserve it for summer use.

Some of these buildings were large for commercial use and others were for individual use.

One unique character of the early day was the pack peddler, who walked from one settlement to another, calling on each family on his route. He would carry quite a load on his back. He carried an assortment of goods. Among them were dry goods, kitchen ware and other household articles.

He often carried messages from one family to another. Later he used a horse and wagon to transport his wares, then came the huckster wagon which collected farm produce and carried quite a line of goods from the store for sale or exchange.

**E. B. OWEN & CO.**

At one time, E. B. Owen & Co., was one of the leading firms of Hendricks County. It was established in 1870

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and carried a full line of boots, shoes, queensware, dry goods, hardware, stoves and furniture. They also operated a coal yard, which was situated along the Vandalia R. R. and had a capacity of 150 tons.

E. B. Owen, senior member of the firm, was born near Plainfield, in 1837. In 1864 he started in business by buying a sawmill in Amo, in partnership with Benjamin L. and John T. Thompson. They conducted this business for two years, then sold it, after which Mr. Owen and William F. Henley purchased a store from James G. Ralston, which they managed for two years, then sold out. A short time afterward, Mr. Owen and John V. Parker bought the same store back again and continued to manage it for six years, at which time Mr. Owen bought Mr. Parker's interest and continued to operate the store alone until 1896, when he formed a partnership with his brother, J. A. Owen, who had been a clerk in the store since 1875. It was then operated as E. B. Owen & Co. until the death of the senior member of the firm.

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In about 1950, his son, Howard took over the business and in 1952 a large building was erected at the east edge of Amo.

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George Mason, Water Station Engineer; J. R. Mason,  
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Parker, School Teacher; James G. Ralston, Merchant  
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John Shaffer, Carriage Builder; Elwood Stanley, Har-  
ness Maker; G. W. Smith, Miller; S. T. Tinch, Hotel  
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**THE AMO MILLING CO.**

According to information as related by some of the older citizens, part of the Amo mill structure was moved here from Pecksburg soon after the railroad was built. In the early years of operation, burrs were used to grind meal and flour.

The following list of owners was compiled from individuals and records, but may not be complete.

Mr. Morrison, Isaac Ratliff, Bardin Bradbury, C. L. Harper, G. W. McCloud, G. W. Smith, Ira Dooley, Wheeler & Howell, James Hopwood, Mr. Smith, J. J. Doan, W. E. Christie and Dr. White, J. N. Phillips, H. E. Keeney, Etna Lefforge, J. P. Whitecotton.

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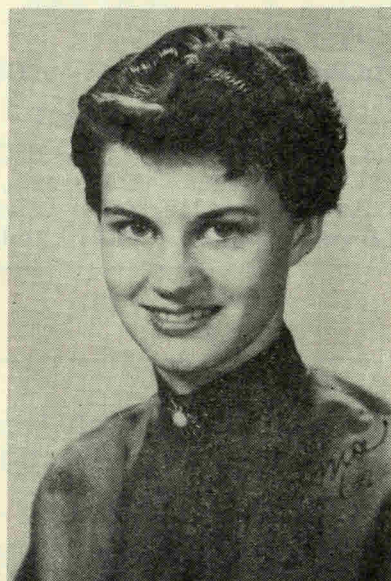
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To those in our community who gave so graciously of their time and untiring efforts in their devotions to their committees, sometimes working around the clock, that our Centennial Celebration be an unexcelled success, we take this opportunity of expressing our deepest appreciation.

As you read through the pages of this, our Centennial Book, we sincerely hope you enjoy its contents as much as we have enjoyed compiling it for you.

## THANK YOU

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AUTOGRAPHS

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TO OUR NEW FRIENDS—We extend a cordial invitation to avail themselves of the protection and security offered by our Agency.

TO ALL—We pledge our earnest determination to render always the best of friendly service.

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