



GRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2022

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From The President's Desk

By Travis LeMaster

The question asked of our Society "what is our purpose?" was answered recently when we were approached with an opportunity to obtain the copyright to the work Marion: A Pictorial History from the publisher.

A plea to the members and the community at large through social media resulted in several donations coming in towards purchasing the rights. With a target goal of \$2500, I was pleased that we were able to reach the goal and purchase the rights. Any additional donations received will go to the Publishing Fund.

I'm pleased to report that we now are in possession of not only the copyright to the work, but also the plates used in printing it. Whether we do a reprint or an update remains to be seen, but we as a Society have made the choice to live up to our motto of "Collecting, Preserving and Interpreting" the history of Grant County, Indiana.

Again, this is your Society and we need your input. If you have an idea that you feel would benefit the Society, please reach out to me at travis.lemaster@gmail.com

Memory Lane by Your name here

Do you have a family history or childhood memory to share?

It can be about a person/ people, a place, business, or an experience. Submit your story and an accompanying photo or sketch, if you have one, to the Grant County Historical Society Newsletter.

Mail your story to GCHS, P.O. Box 1951, Marion, IN 46952 or email it to rbissellcole@marion.lib.in.us

ON THE CALENDAR:

OCTOBER

- 7-8: Mississinewa 1812 reenactment of battle and encampments 4-7:00 pm
- 9: Mississinewa 1812 reenactment of battle and encampments 2-4:30 pm
- 13: Author Janis Thornton, 1965 Palm Sunday Tornadoes, meeting room B at MPL, 6 pm
- 15: Full Spec Fest at the orchard, 613 S. Miller Ave, Marion, food, fun, vendors, music, 12-8 pm
- 19 : GCHS meeting 6:15pm, Meeting Room B at MPL
- 22: UFO's in Grant County presentation, 1-3pm. Meeting Room B at MPL
- 22: Archeology presentation, 1 pm, Carnegie Room in the History Center at MPL
- 22: Fall Festival at Matter Park, food, fun, and all things FALL, 4-7:00 pm

NOVEMBER

- 16: GCHS meeting 6:15pm, Meeting Room B at MPL w/ speaker Mark Kreps presenting the Grant Brothers (namesake of Grant County).
- 19: Miracle on 3rd and 4th St., downtown, Santa, reindeer, movie & popcorn, vendors, 12-8pm
- 19: Walkway of Lights begins, 6-10pm through New Years Eve.

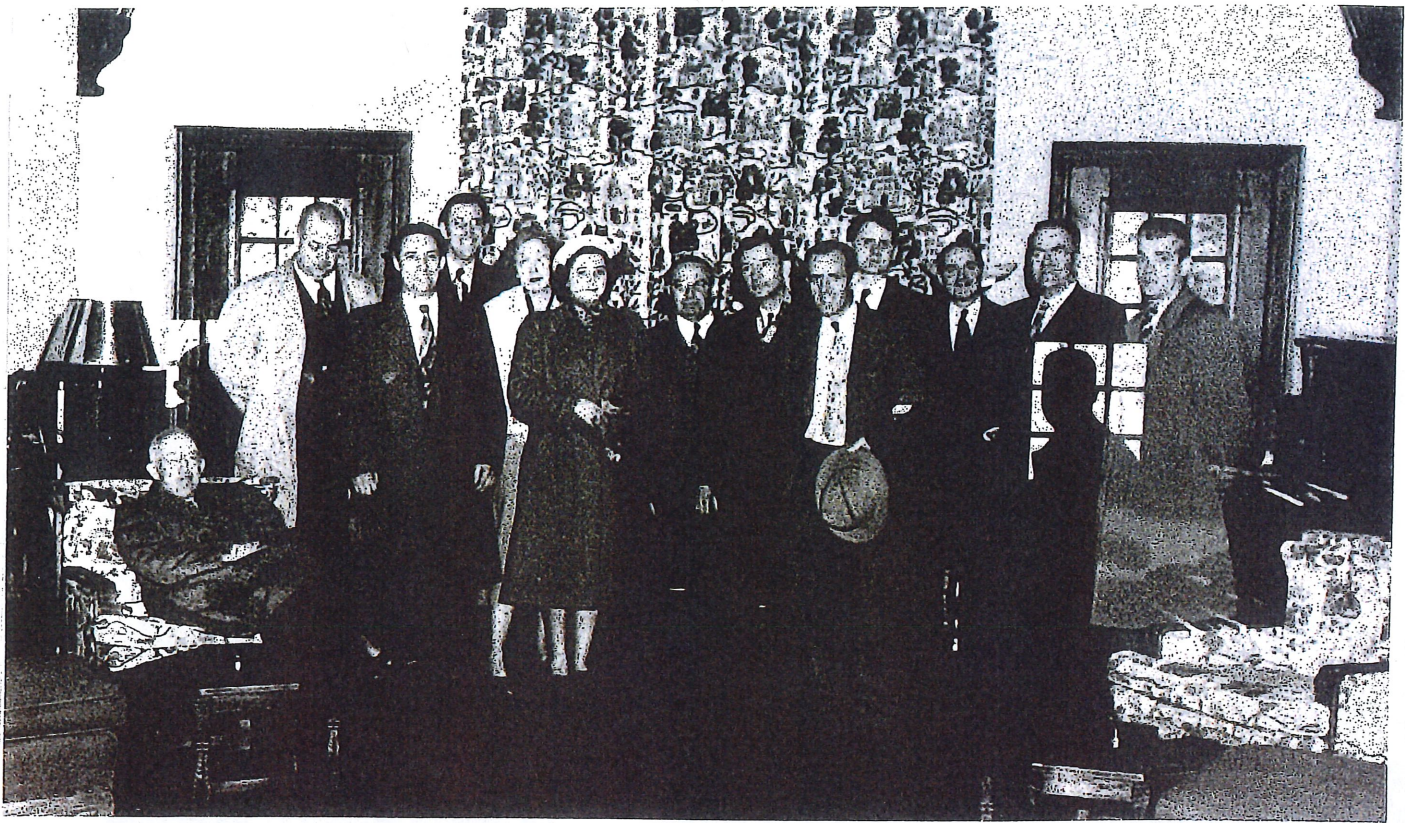
DECEMBER

No meeting

Enjoy your time with family!



Can you identify anyone?



SPENCER CARDINAL CORPORATION- After acquiring a three acre tract of land in West Marion between Butler and Forrest Avenues, just north of Factory Avenue, T.H. Bedell, Jr., president and general manager; Andrek McAnsh of Chicago, vice-president, and Robert Spencer, Jr., secretary-treasurer broke ground for a new, nearly-fireproof factory for the manufacture of extension tables and furniture. It was called Spencer & Bedell Co., but by 1911 it was simply Spencer Table Co. Changing of the guard and a new name in 1925 saw the inception of Spencer Table & Chair Co., E.L. Weesner Pres.; H.B. Wilkinson V-Pres and General Manager; Robert J Spencer, Jr. Treas.; A.L. Straughn Sec. Manufacturers of dining, breakfast and living room furniture. The entity known to westside residents as Spencer-Cardinal on North Butler and Belt R.R. was incorporated in 1926. Spencer Cardinal Corporation's officers at that time were R.J. Spencer, Jr. Pres; H.B. Wilkinson V-Pres. And Mgr of Sales; A.E. Osborn Sec.; and G.A. Wilkinson Treas. and General Mgr. who were still making dining room furniture.

Learned just today, this writer having received documents from Georgia State University Archives, the Spencer Cardinal Corp. signed an agreement with United Furniture Workers of America, Local 314 (Marion, IN) in 1942 unionizing all three plants, two of which are in Marion, and one at Wabash, Indiana.

The subject of our query today is the identity of the officers and stockholders pictured above c1955, of which two have been identified by Hugh E. Wilkinson's daughter, Alice Wilkinson Kreissler. We know the officers at that time were Robert J. Spencer Pres., Hugh E. Wilkinson V-Pres, C.C. Rhett's Genl Mgr, Joseph A. Buler, Treas.

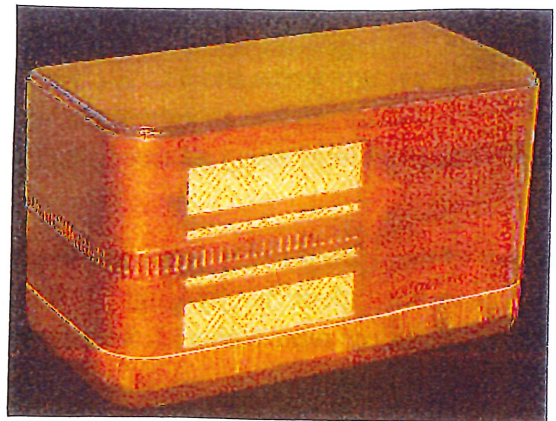
Pictured: seated 1) Mr. ____; standing 2) Mr. ____, 3) Mr. ____, 4) Mr. ____, 5) Mrs. ____, 6) Mrs. ____, 7) Mr. ____, 8) Mr. ____, 9) Mr. ____, 10) Mr. ____, 11) Mr. ____, 12) Mr. Casper C. "Cap" Rhett's, 13) Mr. Hugh E. Wilkinson.

Email: rbissellcole@marion.lib.in.us

Spencer Cardinal Corporation

Marion, Indiana

Example of a Dining Room Suite and a sample cabinet #652 (1941) for a 5-tube AC/DC radio.



CRIME TIME

SEMI-WEEKLY CHRONICLE-MARION, INDIANA

TUESDAY—28 SEPTEMBER 1897—PAGE 3, COL.1.

A COLD-BLODDER MURDER

COMMITTED THIS MORNING NEAR CENTER SCHOOL HOUSE,
MONROE TOWNSHIP.

NOAH JOHNSON SHOOTS AND KILLS MISS TACIE MANG.

THE SHOOTING CAUSED BY JEALOUSY — BLOOD HOUNDS PLACED ON MURDERER'S TRACK — He Flees Through Cornfields and Woods to Gas City and Gives Himself Into the Custody of the Law — Now in Jail — Tells His Story.

Friday's Daily.

Two fence rails, one over the other in the shape of a cross, in the road leading from Upland to Van Buren, mark the spot where Miss Tacie Mang, the eighteen year old daughter of Martin Mang, fell down and died this morning from as brutal and cowardly a murder as ever caused innocent blood to flow. The slayer was Noah Johnson, the twenty-two year old son of John F. Johnson, who had worked on his father's farm during the last three years as a farm hand. Jealousy was the motive for the foul assassination.

The scene of the murder is ten miles from the city, a little south of east. Going east on the Soldier's Home pike seven miles brings one to the Monroe Center school house, and three hundred yards south of this was where the bloody deed was committed.

A representative of the Chronicle, who reached the scene at half past ten o'clock this morning, found the farmers for miles around assembled and greatly excited, and could they have got their clutches on Johnson it is safe to say that the Governor of Indiana would have had provocation for an other fulmination against lynch law. There were but two witnesses of the tragedy aside from Johnson. These were Miss Emma Pierce, the special chum of the victim, and Marshal Pence, a fifteen year old boy, who was accompanying the two girls to school. Indeed, it might be said that Johnson was the only spectator of his savage act once he slipped up behind his victim and shot her while the backs of all three were turned towards him.

Miss Emma Pierce probably tells the most accurate and connected story of the affair. Johnson was the ardent lover of Miss Mang, and was insanely jealous of her. Miss Pierce told the Chronicle that last night Miss Mang and Johnson and herself and Curt Ferguson went to services at the M. P. church. At the conclusion of the meeting all four got into Johnson's buggy and were driving homeward when Johnson became angered at something that his sweetheart said about Henry Gage, the new school teacher, who had opened the school at Monroe Center last Monday, and whom Johnson appeared to regard as a likely and formidable rival. In his burst of anger Johnson ordered the three people out of his buggy, and they obeyed. Johnson himself got out, and once the vehicle was emptied he wanted Miss Mang to get back in, and go driving with him. This she refused to do, saying that she had been put out of the buggy once, and she would not take chances on his doing it again. Johnson was insistent, and Miss Mang was determined. She started to overtake Ferguson and Miss Pierce, who had started to walk home, and Johnson followed her. He caught her by the arm, and she resisted him, and in the scrimmage Johnson's hat was knocked off in the dust. He left the hat and followed Miss Mang, who had caught up with the other couple.

She insisted on going home with them telling Johnson that his conduct had been such that she wanted nothing more to do with him, and that he should go about his business and not attempt to pay her any more attention or molest her further.

Miss Mang went with Miss Pierce to the home of the latter and spent the night with her, and Johnson went to look after his hat and his horse and buggy. He was in an ugly mood and muttered incoherent threats of vengeance. The young ladies got themselves ready and started for school this morning at about half past seven o'clock. On the way they met Marshal Pence, and he accompanied them. The schoolhouse was not open and they strolled on down the road toward the residence of Frank Hayes. On the way they met Johnson, who gave them a salutation to which the girls responded in a gingerly fashion. He said something to the effect that he had not yet found his horse and buggy, and wanted to know if they had seen anything of the turnout. The two girls and young Pence turned and started back toward the schoolhouse. They passed Johnson again, and the latter followed. Pence walked in the middle of the road with Miss Mang on his right, and Miss Pierce on his left. Miss Mang and Pence were swinging a dinner bucket between them. They heard the footsteps of Johnson approaching from the rear, but no one paid any attention to him. He had perhaps approached within five or six feet when there was a sharp crack of a pistol. With a convulsive movement Miss Mang jerked the dinner bucket out of the hand of Pence, and fell prone on her face in the dust. The bullet entered at the base of the brain and lodged in the skull. The two companions of the victim were fairly transfixed with horror, and were temporarily deprived of the faculty of speech or motion. Johnson stood for a second, and then, apparently satisfied that he had done his work completely, he bounded over a fence, ran across a corn-field and disappeared in the woods to the west.

The ringing of the dinner bell at the residence of Frank Hayes gave the alarm, and the farmers came from all directions. W. M. Pierce was the first man to reach the prostrate girl, and he picked her up and raised her to a sitting posture. She gasped but once or twice and then died. She was carried to the residence of Frank Hayes. Doug Johnson was dispatched to Marion for the sheriff, and a messenger went to Van Buren to summon David M. Richardson and his bloodhounds. The house where Miss Mang's body lay was filled with weeping women. The mother had come, and in a condition of hysteria, had started to run across the fields, and was carried back home. The sheet that covered the body being turned back, revealed the face of an unusually pretty girl, with a clear, white skin and a wealth of brown hair. Her clothing was smeared and clotted with blood, and an ugly bruise over her right eye showed where her face had come in contact with the hard road. She was attired in a simple dress with a flowered figure. On her bosom she wore a button having on it an American flag, and her collar was fastened with a pin with the initial "M".

The father of the dead girl conversed in choked utterances of the tragedy. Johnson, he said, had been a frequent visitor at his house during the last two years and he understood that he wanted to marry Tacie. He had always deported himself as a gentleman, Mang said, and the father had never objected to his visits. Mang moved to Monroe township from Clinton county two years ago. Four years ago he came from Ohio. Tacie he said was the seventh of ten children.

It was evidence that Johnson had made the remark that something would happen before long.

Richardson, with his dogs arrived from Van Buren at half past eleven. The dogs took the trail and skimmed along in the direction of Gas City but Johnson had given himself up before the dogs were started.

JOHNSON TELLS HIS STORY.

"If I Could Not Have Her No One Else Should"

Officer Pemberton of Jonesboro was walking along the streets of Gas City this morning about 9:30, when a young man apparently about twenty years of age walked up to him and asked him if he was the officer of the town. He replied that he was not but pointed to Officer Hoagwood and said he was an officer of Gas City. The young man approached Hoagwood and asked him if he was an officer of Gas City and receiving a reply in the affirmative the young man said to him: "I guess I'll give myself up to you." "What for," said Hoagwood. "For murder," replied the young man. Officer Hoagwood had only a few minutes before received a telegram from Upland announcing the murder of Miss Mang by Noah Johnson, and at once concluded that the slayer of the young lady stood before him. Johnson confirmed this by stating what he had done and the Gas City official was at once anxious to get the young man safely off his hands. He called Officer Pemberton to him and both acting as an escort, brought the young man to Marion on the streetcar at 10:20 and took him to the sheriff's office where he was turned over to Deputy Carl Lewis. Lewis at once escorted him to the county jail, where he was placed behind the prison bars.

A Chronicle reporter called at the jail and had a half hour's conversation with young Johnson, who told his story of love, jealousy and tragical ending. "I have been going with Miss Mang for over two years. We were lovers for a long time. The Sunday night before Barnum's show was where we became engaged. I did not take her to the show and she became angry and said she did not mean it when she said we would be engaged. Since then she has been flirting and carrying on with Curtis Ferguson, although she denied it to me. Last evening Miss Mang did not go home from school, but took supper with Emma Pierce, who lives about three-fourths of a mile west of the schoolhouse. There was church at the corner last night and I drove over there. I went out towards Pierce's and met the girls coming to church. They got in and rode to the church with me. After church Curtis Ferguson got with us and we all piled into my buggy and started for a drive. Ferguson and Miss Mang began acting as I did not think they should have done, and when one of them while cutting up in the buggy struck me in the mouth with their elbow I told them all to get out. I was mad. No sooner had they got out than I was sorry and asked them to get back, but they would not do it. I walked at my horse's head and with them, when I found they would not get in the buggy. We took her home."

Continuing, Johnson said that he drove to his home, where he passed a sleepless night, and from a slight sleep awakened early. Going to a box where his father kept his business papers and accounts he took a revolver from it and placed it in his hip pocket. After breakfast he left home about 6:30, and went to a neighbor's, where he settled for threshing wheat. He continued on to the home of Elijah Welsh, which is about a half mile south of Monroe Center schoolhouse. While talking with Welsh Miss Mang and Miss Pierce walked past them without speaking to him, and went a short distance south, where they met young Pence. "They turned around and came back," said Johnson, "and passed us again without speaking. After they had passed, I followed them, and about a third of a mile south of the schoolhouse overtook them. Pence was walking between the two girls, Miss Mang being on the east side of him. She did not speak to me when I came up, nor I to her. I walked along beside Miss Pierce, and tried to talk to her without much success, and concluded I was not wanted. I dropped behind a little, and from Miss Mang's actions I imagined she was making fun of me. I was mad all over, and, pulling my revolver, fired one shot at her. As soon as I did this, without waiting to see the effect, I jumped a fence and ran west through a cornfield. I continued running, keeping to the woods and fields as much as possible, until within two miles of Gas City, when I took to the road, walked to Gas City and gave myself up."

"Do you realize what an offence you have committed?" was asked him. "Yes, I do. I knew at the time what I was doing." "Do you think you were justified in doing what you did?" he was asked. "Well," he replied, "I think I was, in one way, anyhow. If I could not have her no one else should."

He told the above story in a rather disconnected manner, but still did not seem at all excited. He stood leaning against a table, with his arms folded and did not seem much concerned about the outcome. "You will find two shots gone out of the revolver," he said, "but I only fired one."

He was asked if he knew the result of his shot. He said he did not, but supposed the shot had killed the girl. When asked if he had ever spoken to Ferguson about the way he was doing, he said he had not and said that Ferguson had spoken to him about trying to go with her. He had tried to discourage it but finally told Ferguson that if he could win to go ahead.

He was asked what caused him to commit the act. "I do not know, unless you would call it jealousy, I wanted her, and wasn't going to let anyone else have her.

Johnson is twenty-two years of age and told the reporter that Miss Mang was seventeen. Ferguson, he said, was twenty and Miss Pierce sixteen. Johnson is five feet five inches in height and weighs 122 pounds. He has blue eyes, set deep in his head. He is without moustache but has a stubby beard of about four days' growth. At times the faintest trace of a lisp can be heard as he talks. He told the reporter that his home had not been what it might. "I have a stepmother, and you know they are not often times what they should be. In addition to the trouble at home came the trouble with Miss Mang. All together I was worked up."

PRISONER SEARCHED

When taken to the jail he was searched, and two handkerchiefs, a revolver, a pocket knife and bill book were taken from him. Also a celluloid picture of William J. Bryan was found in his pocket. The revolver is a common, ordinary looking 32 calibre affair, made by Hopkins & Allen. It has five chambers, two of them having empty shells and three loaded.

MARION DAILY LEADER, 31 JANUARY 1903, PAGE 1, COL 3

NOAH JOHNSON, WHO KILLED SWEETHEART, DEAD AT PRISON

Noah Johnson, the slayer of his youthful sweetheart, Tacie Mang, died yesterday of consumption at the Michigan City penitentiary, where he was serving a life sentence. He was stricken with consumption about a year ago, and although attempts were made to have his sentence commuted so that he might be brought to spend the remainder of his days the movement was not successful.

The remains will be shipped to his relatives at Upland and will be given burial there. Throughout all his troubles his relatives clung closely to him and did all that lay within their power for him.

Johnson shot and killed Tacie Mang, his schoolmate and sweetheart, on the morning of Sept. 24, 1897, as she was on her road to school. He was jealous of her and claimed afterwards that she had told him she had jilted him and was receiving the attentions of others. On the morning of the murder he met the girl in company with Emma Pierce and Marshall Pence. Miss Mang did not speak to Johnson and after they passed him Johnson drew his revolver and holding it near the girl's head fired a bullet in her at the base of the brain. She died in a few minutes and Johnson, who had fled, was captured at Gas City. He served about five years of his sentence.



POWER TO THE PEOPLE

*Excerpts from the Chronicle
Tribune article dated April 25,
1982 by Rod King
See full article in the Indiana
Room, History Center, Marion
Public Library*

‘The year was 1900. A new century was beginning, and new ideas would follow. Downtown Marion was taking on a new look. Electrical power lines stretched to businesses. The age of electricity was upon the city. This is the story of the “Electrification of Marion”...’

It’s hard to imagine Marion without electricity. But, for the first 60 years of its 191-year existence, that’s exactly the way it was. There were no electric ranges, hair dryers, clothes dryers, irons, radio, television, microwaves or video games.

But, when it did come, it spread quickly through the growing town. Electric service first came to Marion in 1892, just 13 years after Thomas Edison invented the first practical electrical light bulb. It probably would have gotten here sooner if it hadn’t been for the discovery of natural gas in the area in 1887.

A representative from a Wabash company came to town looking for a likely place to put an electric dynamo – or generator. He did not need a power plant, but a steam power plant or boiler in operation on which the dynamo could be attached to produce electricity. A deal was struck with O.H. Keller, owner of the Keller Chair factory at Fifth and Nebraska, who was interested in bringing electricity to the city. Keller quickly realized the potential of the dynamo and along with M.C. Meade, purchased the dynamo and began providing service to a few other customers from just before dusk to midnight for lights only.

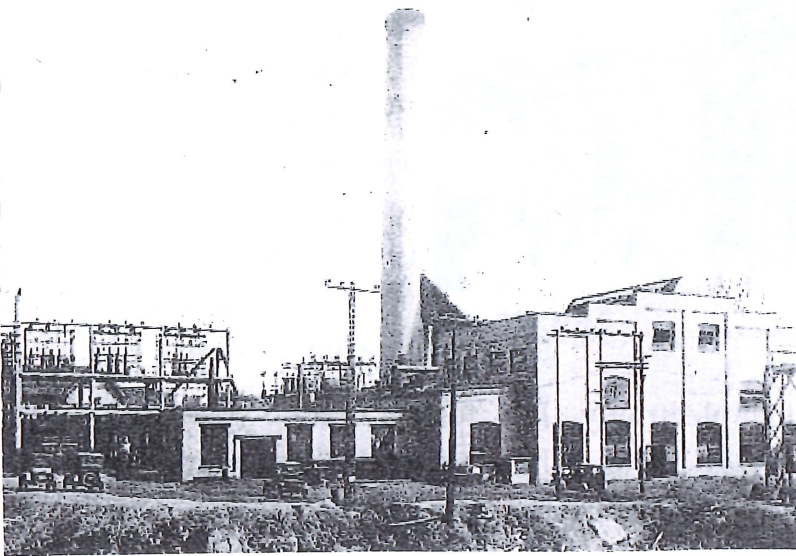
Among the first customers of the original light plant was the Freel and Mason Drug Store, Lee Hall’s Drygoods, Barney Prin’s Clothing, “Heavy” Smith’s Shoes,

Power continued

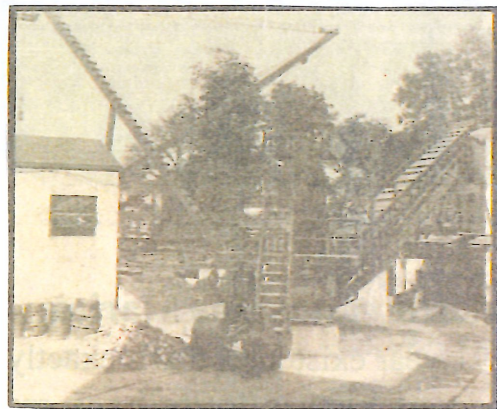
John Davis' Drug Store, Pat Kiley's Bar, Cubberly's Cigars and Tobacco. The little plant also served R.H Frank Furniture, Wiggers Buggy and Harness, Oyster Bay Hotel, Gunder Brothers General Store, Cliff's Ferris' Eye Glasses, Swanger and McLain Stoves and Tinware, Gharley Levy's Meat Market, Beshore's Tin Shop and the Jason Wilson Bank.

(Stop in the History Center at MPL to learn more about these companies.)

In 1901 a second electric supplier came on the scene and by 1905 the demand grew so quickly that a larger generating plant was built on the east side of Branson Street north of the Mississinewa River to meet the need.



General Service Co. 1st & Branson
Service was from dusk to dawn



Conveyor belts transporting coal into the
plant for burning.



Meter readers made their rounds in
the 1920s in vehicles like this.



FROM THE 1927 KITCHEN

SPECIAL MENUS

(Which dishes have remained traditions in your family?)

Thanksgiving

Cream of Tomato Soup Crackers
Roast Turkey or Chicken
Gravy and Giblet Dressing
Cranberry Jelly
Candied Sweet Potatoes
Mashed White Turnips
Pickles and Olives Waldorf Salad
Plum Pudding Pumpkin Pie
Coffee Nuts

Christmas

Fruit Cocktail Celery, Olives
Roast Turkey or Goose Gravy
Oyster Stuffing Mashed Potatoes
String beans Baked Squash
Stuffed Tomato Salad Mince Pie
Fruit Cake Coffee Candy

From the 1927 Kitchen of Mrs. C. H. Lund

WALDORF SALAD

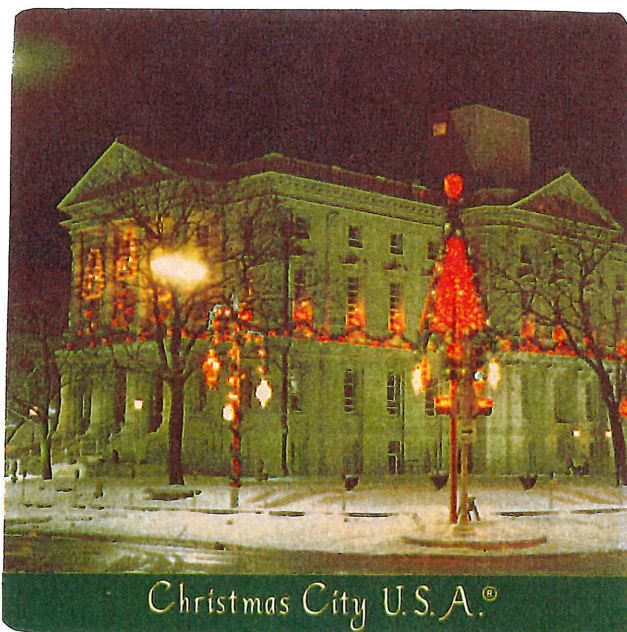
1 cup cubed apples
1 cup celery, cut in small pieces
1 cup nut meats
Salad dressing to moisten.
Serve on lettuce leaves.

From the 1927 Kitchen of Mrs. C. T. Austen

GINGERBREAD WITHOUT EGGS

1 cup sour milk
1 cup molasses
Pinch of salt
1 tsp cinnamon
2 tsp ginger
1 tsp soda
2 ½ cups flour
2 ½ Tbsp shortening, melted

This recipe assumes from this point forward that you know the size of your pan and how long it needs to be in your medium to hot wood or gas stove. If you try this recipe, I'd suggest a 350 degree oven and test with a toothpick after 45-50 minutes. Let us know how it turns out.



Christmas City U.S.A.®



GCHS, P.O. BOX 1951, MARION, IN 46952

GRANT COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Membership Application

Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms.

Address

City, State, ZIP

Phone

Email

\$10.00 Student
\$20.00 Individual
\$30.00 Family
\$100.00 Business Sponsor

Membership dues are payable to the Grant County Historical Society. Payment may be sent to P. O. Box 1951, Marion, Indiana 46952 or paid at any GCHS meeting.

Members receive the Society's newsletter.

For more information about programs and activities, you may email the Society, access the Society's website or visit the Society's Facebook page.