

## “Then and Now” By Hazel (Keen) Geiler

### Milk Delivery

Hazel Keen Geiler remembers when Francis Hammer would help his dad deliver milk daily in Kinmundy. It came in a glass bottle. In the winter the customers had to make sure they picked up the milk before it froze. In the summer, the iceman brought a block of ice each day and that kept the milk cool.

### School in the 1920's

In the 1920's Kinmundy had one school with two elementary grades in each room and high school upstairs. There was no sports program, bus service, indoor restrooms, gymnasium, or lunchroom. Hazel Geiler remembers going home for lunch each day. One time she went to her grandmother's house instead. She was serving turnips, and Hazel said she didn't like turnips. Her grandmother told her if she didn't like it she could just go on back to school. She ate the turnips and has liked them ever since. Hazel remembers the school principal, V.V. Barcroft, as a very stern man. When he appeared at the classroom door, everyone was scared. Spankings were common and so painful the children screamed.

### Wedding

Mr. Vallow, the Justice of the Peace, married Hazel Geiler in 1933 at her brother's house. After the wedding, the couple celebrated by going to the movie in Salem. After the movie, they came back to her parents' house for the night. The couple moved to Loogootee, but Hazel was only 16 and lonely out on the prairie. Her husband brought her back to Kinmundy, and they stayed.

### Transportation

A baby buggy served as Hazel Geiler's only transportation while her husband was away serving his country for a year during World War II. The baby rode in the buggy; the four-year-old held to the buggy, and Hazel pushed.

## Visiting Farina

When Hazel Geiler was a child, she always liked it when her mother suggested they get their work finished and go to visit her older sister in Farina. That could mean a train ride for 10 cents fare. However, she, Mabel Jackson, her sister; and her brother, George Keene, had been scared of being kidnapped on the train because one of the workers told them he thought he would just take the children home with him. Most of the time, the mother and children would walk the six miles, visit, and walk back. If they were lucky, Dutch Linton would come along and give them a ride.

## Sunday

The Church of God was popular in Kinmundy in the 1920's. Hazel Geiler's dad was the janitor and went early on Sunday to build a fire in two big stoves. After church, Hazel went to visit with friends for the afternoon or entertain them in her home. The food they ate had been prepared on Saturday because the family didn't believe in working on Sunday. The children weren't allowed to run the streets. They stayed at the host home until the family escorted them back to church for evening service.

## Baby Delivery

Hazel Geiler carried a kerosene lamp while helping her sister who was in labor. Her brother-in-law had no car so he walked to summon the doctor to the house. Despite the lack of electricity, transportation, and hospital care, the baby was delivered without incident.