

“Local Fox Hunters Club from Sandy Branch and Breakneck (Swift) community”

By Marvin Bassett

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“One of my script advisors suggested that when local news is scarce, why not write something of a historical nature of the past decades from west of Kinmundy. OK, now is the time.

I’ve chosen the Local Fox Hunters Club from Sandy Branch and Breakneck (Swift) community. There was two factions of guys interested in the red fox population. A few hunters wanted to shoot them for their hides as there was a market for them. The other group and most vocal of the two was the chasers and they had no use for anyone that would kill a fox. I’m more familiar with the second group. On many occasions we would pass by a place where a small bond fire had been burned as the guys would gather around to listen to the fox chase and argue who’s hound was in the lead. The chase would end when the fox had enough and would go into it’s den usually before eleven p.m. Conditions had to be just right for best results like no wind, and early dew and red fox close by. The club would have a reunion west side of Kinmundy in Charlton Park and invite other Fox chasers from far and near for their field trials and judging of hounds. I will list some of the members as I remember but not all since I was not involved in the sport or hobby. These are remembered as some of the guys I’ve seen around at bond fires. S.M. “Mac” Robb, C.C. “Pid” Bassett, Raymond Swift, Clyde Ballance, Glen Johnson, D.A. Arnold, Thurman Robb, Elsworth Harvey, and Ed Jezek one of the younger members. This sport has faded away due to passing of the active members and when Interstate 57 came through so many prize hounds were getting killed trying to cross the highway trailing the wily fox. Then too the fox population dwindled and coyotes became numerous. They were asked if that hobby wasn’t a waste of time to sit out in the mosquito’s and listen to an old hound bay off in the distance. The answer was “Oh no, it’s a lot of fun and good fellowship besides we get away from the ole Lady for a spell.” We pay tribute to the memory of the members of the Fox Hunters Club of yesteryear.”