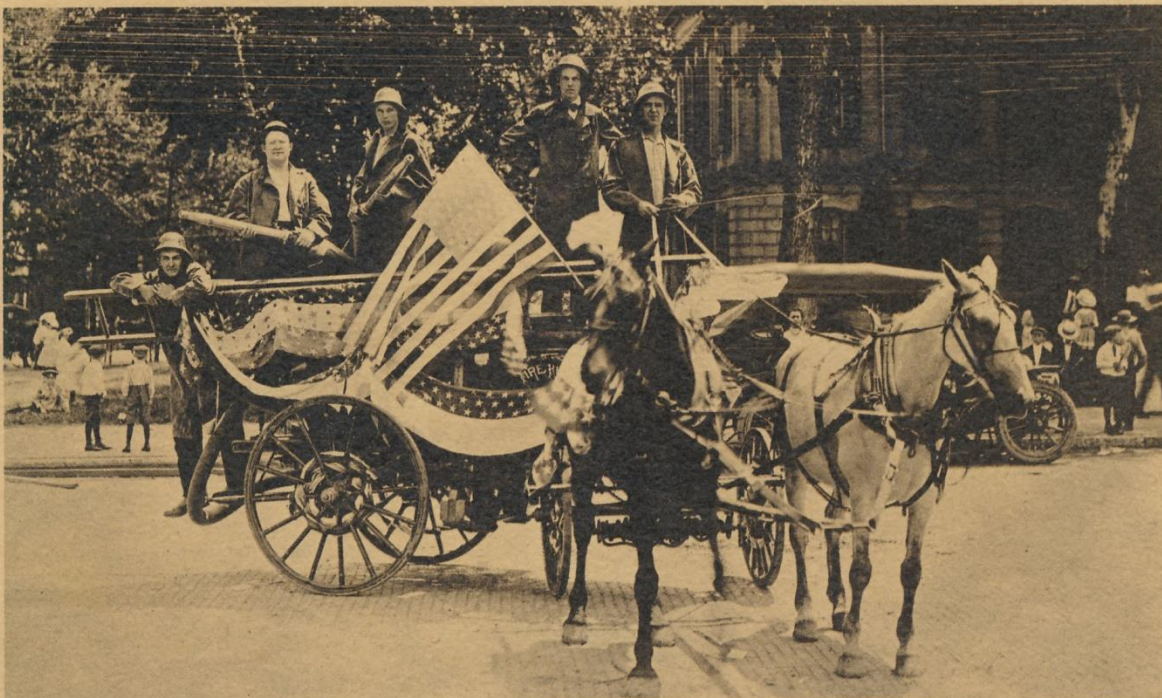


10 1/2 x 8

A Nostalgic Look At Salem's Past

by Clyde 'Blue' Crane



A collection of articles reprinted from the
Salem Times-Commoner

Price: \$2.50

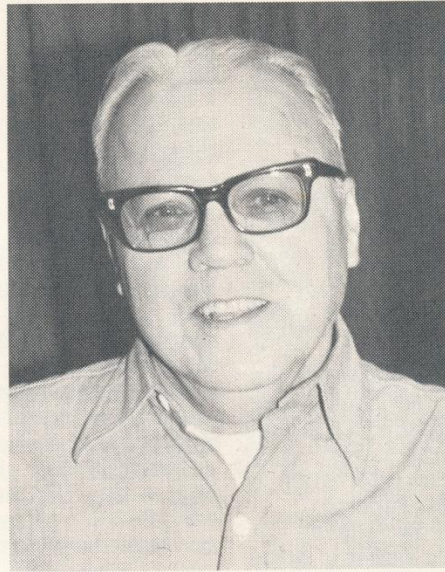
A message from the publisher . . .

When Clyde "Blue" Crane began submitting articles for publication in the Salem Times-Commoner, we had no idea that they'd be as popular as they are. During the past year we've had many requests for a book of Clyde's articles. We knew such a project would be expensive and time consuming but we felt it would be worthwhile and appreciated by our many readers.

After discussing it with Mr. Crane, we mutually agreed that we would publish the book as cheaply as possible and sell it for as small a price as possible. The price of this book will only partially defray the printing costs and neither Mr. Crane nor the Times-Commoner will profit from it. We are publishing it as a community service in an effort to preserve an important part of Salem's past.

We would like to thank Mr. Crane for his dedicated work in recording a bit of Salem's history. Also, we extend a special thanks to the many people who have submitted old photographs for publication in the Times-Commoner. You'll find many of these pictures in the back of this book. We hope you enjoy it.

Salem Times-Commoner



About the author . . .

Clyde "Blue" Crane

Clyde "Blue" Crane was born in Salem, Illinois on October 13, 1909, the son of Berthold and Stella Bryant Crane.

Mr. Crane owes his unique nickname to his grandfather. When Clyde was born he was presented to his grandfather who jokingly remarked, "He looks just like my old blue mule!"

As a life-long resident of Salem, Clyde has taken a keen interest in the city. He has grown up with Salem, watching it evolve from a dusty farm town to oil boom town and on to its present prosperity. He was an employee of the Brown Shoe Company for 32 years and was an active member of its softball and baseball teams. He helped get the present softball field built and has managed youth league baseball. Mr. Crane has served as the superintendent of Bryan Park and swimming pool. He was a driver for the Salem Fire Department and was a member of Company I, 130th Infantry as well as serving in the South Pacific during World War II.

Clyde also found time to serve on the Salem City Council for 12 years. He was a deputy sheriff of Marion County and for 15 years, a custodian in the Salem Grade School System.

Mr. Crane was married on August 31, 1935 to Dorleen Davis, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davis of Salem. They have one son, Harry, who is married to Andrea Beck Crane and one grandson, Jason. Clyde and his wife reside in Glenwood Acres #2, Apartment 61, Salem.

This time the winners ate crow

Back about 1939 I recall one of the experiences some called a sport.

At that time there was an over abundance of crows. These crows were very much like the starlings of today, only crows were much larger.

The big difference between crows and starlings was that the crows would always roost in the countryside while the starlings are most always found roosting in town or close to town.

The Sportsmen's club was formed back about 1937 or 1938 in Salem and the members were very active and interested in all phases of sports.

The crow shoots, as they were called in those days, were a big thing and it wasn't any trouble at all to find 15 or 20 men and boys to go out at night to kill crows. It had been debated and

sometimes argued whether some of us men really liked to hunt crows or used this as an alibi to get away from our wives for a night, but instead of it being a night out on the town, it was a night out in the countryside.

The members of the Sportsmen's club were divided into two teams and a contest was held to see which side could kill the most crows. The score was kept by turning in the crow's feet to the referee who kept the score of each side. The prize for the winning side or team was for the losing team to feed the winners at a dinner prepared and served by the losers.

I was fortunate to be on the winning side and if I remember correctly the late William Bill Dietrich was leader of the losing side and Bill's wife and

some of the other wives of the losers served a big feed for all up in the circuit courtroom in the courthouse.

It was a marvelous feed. The main meat course was what everyone at the time thought was chicken salad made into sandwiches, with all the trimmings. Potato salad, celery, radishes, lettuce, etc.

We all ate till we couldn't eat any more, then, Bill, who was president of the club, made a short talk and then asked if all enjoyed the dinner?

All said yes and gave the women who prepared it a big hand. Then Bill asked his wife to tell everyone what kind of meat was used to make the sandwiches, and boy, was everyone surprised. Guess what it was? Yep, you are right, it was crow

meat.

Mrs. Dietrich and some of the other wives had cooked the breasts of the crows and ground up the meat with pickles, mayonnaise and olives, etc. and it really was delicious.

It was legal to kill crows back then, but now it isn't legal to shoot them.

There were so many crows then that the farmers would beg us to come out and kill the crows. Many may think that it was cruel to do this, but the farmers sure welcomed the help it gave to them in saving their corn crops.

Some of our friends who are in the picture have gone on to happy hunting grounds and I am hoping sometime to have another get together with them all up there.

God bless you all.



THIS IS A PICTURE of the 1939 members of the Salem Sportsmen's club who participated in a crow hunt, which resulted in winners being secretly served crow meat at a banquet afterward. It was legal then to kill crows and farmers would ask the sportsmen to hunt crows on their lands. Clyde Crane identifies those in the picture as follows, first row, left to right: Ollie Asselmier, unknown, Biz Turner, "Blue" Crane,

Darwin Davis, Glen Marlow, Ralph Maroney, Fred Groff, Dutch Myers, L. L. "Cotton" Meyers, Jean Nichols and Ben Jourdan. Second row, Carl Beard, Jim Koelker and Harry Atwood. Third row, unknown, Arnie Peeler, Pat Gregory, Claude Denham, Paul Sterling, Poke Brubaker, Herb Fear, Clint Alen and Bob Rogers. (photo by BENKE)

Many thrills for a small town boy

Mr. and Mrs. Castle lived in a large rambling one-story home on West Whittaker street, directly facing South Castle street. To me as a young boy, this was one of the most beautiful and fascinating homes I had ever seen.

The place was well-cared for as they had a man to care for the yard and flowers and a lady to care for the house. Mrs. Castle (I believe her name was Belle) had a beautiful garden of flowers and shrubs. It was indeed a pleasure to walk the pathways of this beautiful and well-kept garden.

I can remember Mrs. Castle was a teacher of painting, and a good one, too. I am sure there are still some living who took lessons from her. I know two who did, Mrs. Naomi Everts and my wife, Dorleen.

I recall just directly in front of the Castle home at the very south end of Castle street, there was a big thorn tree right in the middle of the street. If you went east on Whittaker you would go on the left side of the tree; if you turned west you went on the right side of the tree.

On the west side of Castle street from Whittaker street north to West Church street was all open pasture except on the corner of Church and Castle where the home of Ora Kretzer stood. At the south edge of the Kretzer lot stood a huge tree -- and carnivals used to set up in this pasture and the ferris wheel was set-up by the big tree. I took my first ferris wheel ride there and I can remember the top of the ferris wheel was high enough you could look right down on the top of this big tree. Quite a

thrill for me as a small child.

Just south of where this large tree was located now is located the home of Mr. Fisher and his wife. Mr. Fisher has a garden in back of his home and as he was digging in his garden he found an old coin and I wouldn't be at all surprised that this coin was lost there when the carnivals were operating there.

Some may remember the store on South Castle. This store was built by my mother and step-father and we lived on the second floor. Occasionally it fell my lot to wait on the customers. The first time I saw my wife, she came into the store with a penny to buy candy. She told me in later years she always wanted to buy a nickel sucker, but she would only have a penny. I told her she should have

told me then. I would have given her a nickel sucker. This store was later operated by Ed Purcell, then by Jim Brown.

I have written previously about Sam Davidson. I would like to recount one of the experiences I had with Mr. Davidson.

Sam had a fine mare which had a young colt. The colt was still nursing. Sam wanted to breed the mare to a horse owned by a Mr. Duncan in Mt. Vernon, Sam asked me to ride the mare to Mt. Vernon with the colt. I was 11-years-old, but I rode the mare down the old Mt. Vernon road to Mt. Vernon. The trip took all day, having to stop about every mile or two to let the little colt feed or nurse and stop at a farm house to water and rest the mare and colt.

Mr. Duncan took me to the C&EI depot and I rode the train that night back to Salem. It was a wonderful experience for me and I thought I was rich. Mr. Davidson paid me five dollars for this trip. Sam was a fine man.

Mr. Davidson had one of the finer homes in Salem in the early days at the corner of West Main street and South Castle where the Tinco station blew up. It was a very beautiful home with a nice winding walk from Main street leading back to the house. On the back of this large lot Mr. Davidson built a store. "How many of you remember this store?"

I remember the story was told on Sam, and I am sure it was only a story, but it seems that Sam had an excessive amount of toilet tissue which in those days was



THE ORIGINAL Castle home on West Whittaker street facing South Castle street, Mrs. Belle Castle is standing in front of her home. This home at this time was one of the show places of Salem. It burned about 1920. They

rebuilt on the same site. The new home was later bought by Robert Booher and is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. William Smith who operate the B and H Home Improvement company.

something not too many people bought as we usually used the catalogue. Sam was going to have a sale on this toilet tissue and so the story goes. Sam had a man working for him and Sam gave this man a roll of this tissue and told him to go around the neighborhood and stop at each house and give them one little square of this tissue to advertise the tissue, but as the story was told the man refused to do this and Sam asked the man why he would refuse? The man calmly replied, "If I can't give them enough to use, I will not do it." It was never revealed just how Sam did with his sale on toilet tissue.

Just west of the Davidson home was the home of one of Salem's most prominent citizens, J. E. "Whoopy" McMackin -- where a mighty fine family was raised. This home was where the Baptist church is now located.

Do any of you remember that Mr. Joe Plummer lived on the corner where the Baptist church's parking lot is now? On the back of this lot behind his home Mr. Plummer operated a small store? Yes he did and I have bought many, many ice cream cones there at this store.

Next door west of the Plummer home was the home of the Aikman family and some may remember the Aikman girl. She sure was a beautiful girl and won many talent and beauty contests. One was put on by the Globe paper in St. Louis and Miss Neola Aikman was the winner and Salem was very proud of her.

Speaking of ice cream cones, how many of you remember one of the best ice cream places that Salem ever had? Gussed yet? Well, it was

Gardener, poet, friend of kids

One of the older citizens of Salem was Frank Clark, gardener and friend of kids.

Mr. Clark lived in the southeast part of Salem on South Marion street just south of the old M & I railroad. Mr. Clark, or Frank as he was known to his friends, was a man whose great interests in life were his faith in God, his family, his home and his concern for others.

Mr. Clark was a great lover of flowers and this was one of his great ambitions to create and raise some of the most beautiful flowers anyone had ever seen. His flower garden was the envy of most of the people in the town and many traveled to Salem just to see his flower garden.

Mr. Clark lived in a large home which is presently occupied by Mr. Doss and family and this place, which back then was considered a farm, had many acres of land and on the east side of his property there was a creek which ran through his pasture. This

is what is known as Town creek.

As an example of the kind man that Mr. Clark was and the love he had for others, "and especially young people," he constructed, "at his own expense," a small dam across this creek to create a small pond just so we young kids could have a place to swim. I know that there are many, many boys around my age and younger have spent many a happy hour swimming in this nice pond.

To show that Mr. Clark was a lover of children, he had the dam built so as the water couldn't get more than four feet deep with the thought in mind to keep any child from drowning and to my knowledge there was never a drowning in this old swimming hole. This is where I learned to swim. First I did what we call a mud crawl and eventually learned to swim right there. Thanks, Mr. Clark. This old swimming place was known to all of us as the

SLU.

There was a nice hill just south of the house and was used by all in the winter when snow was on to slide down on our sleds.

Mr. Clark was sort of a religious man and he was a very accomplished poet and he would spend many hours in his flower garden composing and writing poems and if I may say so, he was very good at this, too.

I have submitted copies of poems that Mr. Clark composed and wrote to the Times-Commoner. If there is anyone who would like copies of his poems, they can have them by just contacting me.

The poems were furnished to me by Darwin Page and Cletis Bollinger.

In later years, Mr. Clark sold his farm and moved to North Marion street here in Salem and here he continued his hobby and love for raising flowers by building a greenhouse where he kept and developed many

located at the corner of North Pearl street and West Schwartz and was operated by Mr. Balwin and his family. This ice cream was homemade and it was so good.

Now get this and you probably won't believe it, but it is the truth, I have seen people lined up for almost a half a block waiting to buy this ice cream, which was hand-packed and delicious. I have seen as many as six people working in this place waiting on customers.

Many of you know Mrs. June Murphy who lives at

Glenwood Acres #1. She was one of this fine family, and speaking of Mrs. Murphy, June to me, we were in the same room at Central school and she sat right in front of me, and she had long blond hair in a pigtail which hung down her back, long enough to lay on my desk.

Many of you remember the old-time desks. They had ink wells in them, yes you guessed it, I put June's pigtail in my inkwell and boy did I get in trouble with a capital T!

Remember, June? Good clean fun!

The ice cream place

was on the north end of where the Country Gardens uptown store is now located.

How many remember the fine gentleman who lived with his family on West Main at the corner of North Pearl where the Country Gardens uptown is now? I will enlighten you about them in my next writing.

Tune in next time and we will try and remember some more nice things about Salem. Thanks and God bless you all.

lovely flowers and roses.

The Clark family members were great workers of the church and their home was always open to the visiting ministers who came to preach in the church. Miss Jennie, as she was known to everyone, was a tireless worker in the church and gave her entire interest to the church.

The Baptist church was the Clark family's church. Miss Jennie as she was known I believe has a Sunday School class named in her honor at the Salem First Baptist church.

I wasn't really as close to Frank Clark as some others were, but I can

truthfully say that he was a fine, considerate man whose every thought was to do something for other people. I am sure Mr. Clark and his family are reaping the rewards of their unselfish lives here on earth.

—LEADING—

It seems but yesterday that you and I strolled through the pasture and woodland dell.

I led you on rough places, gently took your hand to help you on the ways I knew so well.

I taught you laughter of the breeze and brook, the joys of flowers and skies and trees.

The love song of the robin and the thrush, the

sweets of honey and the stings of bees.

But yesterday you toddled by my side, today, I need you, as you did me then.

To teach me the joys and beauties today; it is yesterday I would live again.

Lead me over rough places and through the wood, and on 'till I come to the deep, cold river.

And there holding your strong, young hand in mine my weary heart shall not falter or quiver.

Holding your hand in mine I shall step into the stream; your courage and faith will follow I know.

To the brink, and it will not be so hard if you lead me as far as you can go.

Then trusting in a higher power than man, I will pass out and on, beyond today.

Await your coming at the farther shore, where I again -- will lead the way.

Tom Scopes

I just want to tell you about a Guy; a machinist, that works on the C. and E. I.

He has a good word and a pleasant smile, and it will do you good to chat him awhile.

In his own creation, he finds a joy, like a child would do in a new found toy.

He loves his work, like he loves a song; and he works and sings, the whole day long.

You would dream a dream and smile a smile as Tom kept talking all the while.

You'd dream of love in flowers and brook, in a shady nell and quiet nook.

Learning to love and hope and sing, hunting a joy in everything.

And all the world enjoying the sun and God a talking to everyone.

And you'd be happy and learn to sing, about the world and joy and spring.

You'd learn the song and know the theme, that God is Love and Life a dream.

I meant to talk of Tom and his lathe, strange how things run together that way.

Just a mingling and blending together, like a Happy Heart and sunny weather.

Miss Leola Aikman

We heard you lisp your baby way, we watched you grow from day to day.

Your winning way became an art -- in all good work you took apart.

You entered our life, our heart, and soul, and glided on to a higher goal.

You gave us hope and love anew -- and Salem, Leola, is proud of you.

The Globe chose well, the fairest lass, no fairer beauty could surpass.

And doubly sweet to those who know and catch a glimpse of the soul aglow.

The world to face you smile with pride, your own true self, no flaws to hide.

Your winning way, so pure and true -- why would not Salem be proud of you.

When Harry Is Away

The little teddy bear lies forsaken and alone, there is no one to hold him tight.

A dreadful silence hangs over our home -- for Harry is away tonight.

The old cow missed him at milking time, and the neighbor boy over the way.

Kept whistling and shouting out under the tree for Harry to come and play.

The old dog meets every boy down the road, he greets them with joy



MR. AND MRS. FRANK CLARK, who will be remembered by many of Salem's older residents -- for their extraordinarily beautiful flowers, his poetry and their kindness to young and old.

and delight.
 Mistaken he returns to
 the house and whines,
 there is no one to play
 with tonight.
 And father, he sits with
 his head in his hands on
 the step by the kitchen
 door.
 For it brings to his mind
 the sorrow and pain if
 Harry shouldn't come
 back -- no more.

The Hound Pup

I received a letter the
 other day from the boy,
 my boy who is far
 away.
 Inquiring about the old
 hound pup with which
 he used to play.
 "Now, Dad," said he, "I
 think a lot of that old
 pup --
 Take care of him and
 never give him up.
 He went with me thru
 childhood, he followed
 me high and low.
 Through the sultry heat
 of summer and
 winter's ice and snow.
 We have hunted the
 woods together, he led
 in many a chase.
 And leaped the highest
 fences with subtle,
 easy grace.
 When I left home that
 morning I took him to
 the brook.
 And we sympathized
 together in a grassy,
 shady nook.
 I told my joys and sor-
 rows, told him my
 hopes and fears.
 And we leaped with joy
 together, and I bathed
 him in my tears.
 Now I love that ugly
 creature as only a boy
 knows how.
 How I long to see the dear
 old farm and milk the
 Jersey cow.
 And have the old hound
 meet me down there by
 Cory Stark's.
 And hear the kids that
 pass me say, "That
 hound is Harry
 Clark's."
 For I am proud of that old
 pup and he is proud of
 me.
 And when I can I'm com-

They burnt the Kaiser at Main and Broadway!

There was con-
 siderable talk this past
 Memorial day about the
 East Lawn cemetery not
 being mowed.

I remember when the
 cemetery was only about
 half as large as it is today
 (in acres) and there was
 only the one entrance on
 East Main street. It was
 a beautiful entrance with
 a boardwalk on one side
 of the drive and the drive
 was lined with beautiful
 shade trees. The entire
 cemetery was just full of
 beautiful trees, maple
 and pine, mostly.

In those days everyone
 had to care for their own
 lot and I can remember
 my mother and my aunt
 would hitch up the buggy
 and drive out to the
 cemetery and while they
 cleaned off the lot with a
 hand sickle (didn't have
 a mower), I would play.

Most people took very
 good care of their
 cemetery lots and seem-

ed to be proud of keeping
 them nice. The eastern
 half of the present
 cemetery, then was
 grown in woods mostly.

I can remember, when
 I was quite young, about
 World War I. I can
 remember standing in
 front of our home on
 South Castle street and
 seeing the planes flying
 overhead. Some thrill for
 me as I had never seen a
 plane before. I remember
 when the war ended there
 were several people
 celebrating uptown and I
 remember that they
 burned a dummy made
 up as the Kaiser in the
 middle of the intersection
 of Main street and Broad-
 way. I can remember
 walking home from town
 that night and we cut
 through the block where
 Yohe's Laundry is now
 over toward Central
 school, and as I was
 walking in this block the
 shot from the shotguns of

the celebrants were com-
 ing down as thick as rain.

I remember in the old
 days Mr. Hull owned a
 building on the north part
 of this block and there
 was an enormous well by
 this building. I guess this
 well was all of 12 feet
 across. This building was
 used for storing purposes
 and the night it burned
 down there were many,
 many matches stored
 there and they sure made
 quite a fire.

In the open space in
 this block there used to
 be tent shows quite often,
 showing all kinds of stage
 performances, quite
 good, too. There were
 also carnivals that show-
 ed there quite often also,
 and I can remember
 quite vividly on a Satur-
 day night, my mother
 gave me 25 cents and I
 went to the carnival and
 had a good time and
 would you believe it? I
 came home that night

ing home that old
 hound pup to see."

Why Don't You Write

Why don't you write the
 old folks, their hair is
 turning gray.
 Their hearts are sad and
 lonely since you have
 gone away.
 The house seems big and
 lonesome, the music
 hushed and still.
 Your places there are va-
 cant that no one else
 can fill.
 They look in vaine for let-
 ters, they pray for you
 to write.
 They are lonely, oh, so
 lonely, why don't you
 write tonight.
 Why don't you write to
 the old folks, just send
 a line back home.
 Father and mother are

lonely, just living there
 alone.

So many things to remind
 them of the joys of
 bygone days.
 When the sun of hope was
 shining and you were
 one of the rays.
 The sun will soon be
 sinking, then twilight
 and the night.
 Their hearts are sad and
 lonely, why don't you
 write tonight.
 Why don't you write to
 the old folks, their day
 will soon be over.
 The dear, old home will
 vanish and never will
 be more.
 The place would be so
 dreary without the old
 folks there.
 With only vacant
 firesides and memories
 clustered fair.

So write them a long,
 long letter, turn up the
 flickering light.
 Cheer up their hearts a
 little -- why don't you
 write tonight.
 They sit alone by the
 firelight, they watch
 the embers glow.
 As they have watched
 together so many years
 ago.
 Before you came to cheer
 them, before you went
 away.
 Before the sun was set-
 ting, before their hair
 turned gray.
 Those hopes and dreams
 and memories are pic-
 tured in the light.
 You are in every picture
 -- why don't you write
 tonight.

with a dime! Be hard to do that these days, wouldn't it?

How many of you remember when they laid the large paving bricks on East and West Main streets? I'm sure some of you remember what a sight it was to watch the two big fellows lay those bricks. They could lay those bricks faster than one man could carry them to them to lay. I just happened to be on West Main street where South Castle enters West Main at lunch time and one of the big fellows took time out to eat lunch. He went in the little store on the corner, where the blow-up was (Hall's station), got two quarts of buttermilk, drank them both and went right back to work. I believe they were paid by the number of bricks they laid in a day.

Don't see too many work that way in these times.

Sure made a nice street when finished.

I have written some about the old Central school, but there was one thing about the old building that I didn't mention and this was an extension about 36 inches wide that ran completely around the old part of the building and us kids would go up the fire escape and climb up on this ledge and walk completely around the building. Dangerous! I didn't have brain one. We would use this method to slip into basketball games that were played on the third floor of the school.

One other pleasurable memory I recall about Central school was the well that was at the southeast corner of the school. I believe that was one of the sweetest water wells in Salem.

The reunion is just over and I suppose it was a success and probably

many had a most enjoyable time, but as I think back when I was a young boy. We operated an eating stand at the reunion and we went out on Sunday and stayed all week, only went back home to take a bath and get some clean clothes.

Most everyone who had a part in the running of the reunion then stayed out there all week. We all stayed in tents (small ones) rented by the week and, boy was it fun! I remember Mr. Harry Etter was the city electrician and he and Mrs. Etter had a tent next to ours, as Mr. Etter had to be there close in case something went wrong with the electric power.

The reunion was just that. It was a week when people who had gone from Salem to other cities for employment would take their vacations to come back to the reunion at Salem to meet and talk to old acquaintances. I suppose that is still done, but probably not on as large a scale as in bygone days.

I took my first airplane ride at the reunion. The plane's landing field was on the north side of West Boone street. This is now Jean McMackin's subdivision. The pilot gave me a free ride to throw out some handbills over the reunion grounds.

What young boy or girl wouldn't enjoy a free plane ride? I sure did.

Bye for this time. May God bless you all.

When kids made their own toys

I can remember back when I was a young boy (almost 11 or 12 years old) I lived with my grandparents as they practically raised me. I was an orphan at 13 years when my mother died and my father passed away when I was two years old. My grandfather teamed here in Salem, hauling coal, plowing gardens and anything to make a dollar.

I remember getting up at 3 o'clock in the morning and starting to Odin to get there early and get in line to load the wagons and get back to Salem by 11 o'clock, get unloaded and back to Odin for the second load every day. The road from Salem to Odin in those days was a dirt road and people usually ordered their coal in the fall and winter and that was when this road was the worst.

We had two teams and two wagons and we would load one ton and a half on each wagon and the roads were very bad and there was one spot about 1/4-mile west of the "what is now called Texas corner." This place was so bad we would have to use both teams on one wagon to pull 1 1/2 tons and the wagon through this bad place.

In those days the prevailing price for hauling a ton of coal from Odin to Salem was \$1.00, so you see we made \$1.50 for a driver, team and wagon to haul 1 1/2 tons of coal from Odin to Salem. Two teams and wagon and driver made \$3 a trip, two trips a day with two teams, two wagons and two drivers made a very large sum of \$6 a

day, from 3 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening. Not bad wages, eh?

I have seen it so cold that I would walk from Salem to Odin and back to Salem to keep warm. My grandfather would heat bricks and wrap them in burlap bags to keep his feet warm as he wasn't able to walk as I could.

Many times we would stop at the Texas corner when Lamont's circus was wintering there and get warm by their big pot-bellied stoves.

I am sure most of you who are my age or even older can remember that when we were young we who were of the poorer class, if we had anything to play with, we would create these things ourselves and make them ourselves and there just wasn't any end to the wonderful things that were created for our playing pleasures.

South of our home on South Castle was an open block and we erected what we called a flying jenny. It was simply a solid post buried in the ground upright standing above the ground about three feet or so with a 2"x12" board about 10 feet long, a hole bored in the center of the board with a bolt an inch around driven in the center of this upright post.

Two kids would sit on the ends of this board, with a small board nailed across this 2x12 to hold onto, and then someone would push them around real fast and to make the flying jenny go faster and run longer we put axle grease on top of the post.

We even at one time had a homemade ferris wheel with four seats on it, about 12 feet tall, some fun, turned by a large crank.

Another homemade toy, we would take part of a barrel stave and nail it across the end of a stick or board about two inches wide and three or four feet long and get a small wheel and roll this wheel with this hoop and stick.

The skateboard of today isn't new; it is just a different version of the skooter we used to make as kids. The difference was in the wheels, because we used wheels from roller skates nailed under a board about four or five inches wide and three feet long, and the other difference was our scooters had an upright board at the front that you could hold on to and really scoot. 'Course it was better if you lived on a street that had concrete walks.

We kids who were poor didn't have store-bought sleds for snow and ice. The sleds we had were mostly from scrap lumber with wood runners and these sleds wouldn't slide too freely, but if we could find an old buggy wheel, iron tire or any strip of metal we would nail this on the underside of the wood runners and if you had this type of sled you were the envy of the other kids.

Kite flying back then was one of the great fun past-times. We made our own kites and we had some real good ones, too. We would have contests to see who could put their kite out the farthest and I have seen some out as far as ¼ mile.

As kids we were always up at either Bachman's store or McMackin's store as they usually had yard sticks and these were just the thing for sticks from which to use making kites.

An admiring glance at some of Salem's finest

I recall a man who many may remember. He was a fine gentleman, and always had a good word and smile for everyone, Joe Admire.

Mr. Admire was the tax assessor for Salem township and a good one, too. The story has been told about Joe assessing a place here in Salem. As Joe was standing in the yard questioning the owner about different things and writing down the information, four or five dogs were playing around his feet and at the end of the questionnaire he had to ask a final question. As Joe kicked the dogs off his feet he said to the owner, "No dogs eh?" Quite a politician!

Another good man of Salem was J. E. "Whoopy" McMackin. I wonder how many remember when Whoopy was mayor, that he built Salem's first swimming pool?

Yes, it is true; he built it in the northeast part

of what was then a beautiful park, but this beautiful park of yesteryears has been turned into a city dump. Too bad the officials who do control the city now can't see any farther than the end of their noses and restore this Tully Park to some of its original beauty. Too bad "Whoopy" isn't here today. He would see that something progressive rather than degressive was done. Wake up people of Salem, we need to keep our parks beautiful for our children, not make city dumps out of them.

Another good man of Salem was Joe Schwartz. The nice swimming pool in Bryan park was built during Mr. Schwartz's time as mayor of Salem. Mr. Schwartz also served as the official weatherman here in Salem, keeping records of weather for many, many years.

Giving an apple to each school child was a tradition of the Schwartz brothers for many years

and later carried on by Joe Schwartz's daughter, Christine DeLinck. We kids always looked forward to our free apples.

Robert Hancock was a jovial, well-liked man and he knew the first name of every man in Marion county, I believe. Bob was quite a jokester. One time Bob had a barbeque at his place at the east edge of Salem and invited several of his farmer friends, and one of them (I won't mention any names) was the guest of honor to this barbeque pig feast.

But what this honored guest didn't know was that Bob and a couple of other fellows had swiped the pig from this farmer's farm and invited him to eat his own pig. Bob later told this person about it and paid him for the pig. Anything for a good laugh, that was Bob Hancock's way of life.

How many of you remember the Salem Ice Plant? At one time

I am sure these people always wondered just what we were measuring to need so many yard sticks, but confidentially I think they had an idea what we were using them for and nice people, both Bachmans and McMackins.

Another great past-time in winter was ice skating and one of the popular places for us kids to skate was Pruden's pond, just west of Boyce's Super market close to the B & O railroad. I am sure many of the fellows such as Ed-

die Relfe, Ben Jourdan, Bob Bachman and many others, remember the shinny games we had on this pond. The puck was a beat-up and bent-up tin can and, boy, would it hurt if it hit you. Our clubs were usually a small sapling cut off just a little under the ground with part of the root, usually crooked. This made a good shinny club.

Course we always had a nice big fire to warm by, and our skates were the kind that would clamp on the sole and heel and we would use

either leather straps or rope to tie them on securely. Someone in the bunch would usually have a file and we would sharpen our skates while warming by the fire.

Mr. Pruden was a very nice man and didn't care for us using the pond. He just said, "be careful with the fence so my cattle won't get out on the railroad." Great man, Mr. Pruden.

Well, so long for this time. Hope you enjoy reading this. More about the old days next time.

God bless you all.

this was one of Salem's most valuable industries, back before automatic refrigerators.

I can see the ice wagons now pulled by the old gray horses going up and down the streets of Salem, with such fellows as Roy and Oral Sollis, Mr. Brunner, Bill Peters, Tubby Mills and Nelson Page and many more, looking for the square cards in the front windows that told how much ice was wanted that day.

Another great thing happened to Salem back in about 1905 or 1906. The C&EI railroad decided to move their repair shops from St. Elmo to Salem. A number of local citizens purchased from landowners and gave to

the railroad a strip of land two miles in length and 1,000 feet wide to be used for the yards and switching trains. In addition to establishing repair shops here, the company decided to make Salem a division of the line, creating much more employment for the Salem area.

How many remember that Salem and the surrounding area was in the heart of the Red Top hay producing section of Illinois? The hay was used to feed livestock and much of the seed was shipped to Europe every year. Some of the seed was used in making dye for coloring fabric.

I have worked many a day in the fields of hay,

cutting, raking, baling, threshing and all for 50¢ a day.

Salem at one time had a coal mine in the southwest part of town. This mine was approximately 900 feet deep and the coal from this mine was so good that after burning there were no clinkers at all.

How many remember the old Central school before modern plumbing was put in the building?

Just south of the original building there were two small buildings that were the rest rooms or toilets as they were called in those days, one for the girls and one for the boys.

Another function of the school yard was the

gathering place for some of the best marble players I ever saw, and they were really good. Some of you older people of my age may remember the good times we had at the old Central school playgrounds -- good clean fun, maybe a scuffle once in a while, but nothing serious.

I know some of you remember the basketball court that was on the third floor of Central school. There were four iron posts that were in the playing court. These were padded, but I have seen many a player knocked silly when running into these posts, mostly visiting players as our Salem players were used to playing



OFFICERS AND Non-Commissioned Officers of Co. I, 130th Infantry, 1932, left to right: 1st row, Lt. Thomas Spencer, Captain Owen Adams, Lt. Harold M. Bigelow, Sgt. William Bill Frakes. 2nd row, Charles Redmond, Maurice Brunner, Byron Kagy, Raymond Horn, Gene Kirk, Lucian (Red)

Johnson, Fred Wimberly. 3rd row, Robert Whittaker, William "Bill" Hunt, Roscoe Justice, William T. "Bill" Fielder, Hugh Gambill, Arthur Gambill, Lawrence Decker, Louie Beasley. This picture from collection of pictures of Co. I belonging to Thomas (Tom) Spencer.

around these posts. I can't remember all the boys' names who played in this old gym, but some were Tommy Crittendon, Frank Stonecipher, Hearn, Pickett, Jess Rodden, Howard Cope, Lillard Schoonover, Basil Wilson, Dave Whitson, Edwin Finn, Herschel Peace, Bob Merz and many others.

It wouldn't be fair if we didn't mention one of our trusted friends who served at Central school. I am referring to the janitor who was there for many, many years, Jim Donoho. Jim was a good and great friend to all the kids that attended Central school. Two other janitors that I remember were John Phillips and Tom Asbury.

One of the outstanding teachers at Central school was Miss Mary Burns. It seemed that when Central school was torn down, that a part of our lives was done away with, but life must go on. I suppose that is progress. There were many more great teachers at Central school in the old days, namely Miss McMurray, Jesse Cattell Davidson, Mrs. Mathews, Mrs. Spencer, Miss Phillips and many more I can't think of off hand.

Another institution that was an integral part of Salem was Company I., which was started in Salem November 21, 1921, under command of Omar J. McMackin, who was the first commander. The lieutenants were Harold M. Bigelow and Andy Noles and the first sergeant was John Simer. Co. I's first home was upstairs in the McMackin building on East Main, where Wisniewski's music store is now. The second home of the company was in the old skating rink building on East Main by the town creek. Next the

A life saver during depression

50 years of Brown Shoe factory are recalled

I like to believe that one of the greatest benefits that Salem and the surrounding towns ever received, and I might add at a time when something was really needed to stimulate this area, was the acquisition of the Brown Shoe Factory that was opened here in Salem in 1925.

Many still remember that employment in Salem and surrounding area was practically at zero level and there just wasn't any work to be found.

Through the combined efforts of the officials of Salem, business places, banks and many individuals, donations supplied the required money and the donation of the land by the Schwartz brothers made the dream come true. For some 50 years the Brown Shoe company provided employment for many, many men and women of Salem and the surrounding communities.

Many there are in Salem and the surrounding neighborhoods that can testify to the fact that a substantial part of what

they have today was derived from working in the Salem Brown Shoe Factory plant.

There were good times when most were making good wages and there were hard times when the wages were very slim. But even when times were slow, there was always a little something coming in.

We survived through the depression days when sometimes the checks were very small but as small as some of the checks were there was enough to sustain life, maybe just beans and cornbread, but something, and we should be so thankful to God for what we had because there were so many, many who were not as fortunate as we, because they had nothing.

I know many may have forgotten those hard, hard times during the depression, but I believe the ones who did live through it can better appreciate the good things we have today and we can only hope that we may never have to go

through another experience of the likes of the depression.

There were some ambitious people who worked in the Salem plant who went on to be a part of the business life of Salem. I can recall a few. Ed Brubaker worked in the cutting room at the plant and went on to be one of Salem's finest jewelers and raised a wonderful family. Another who worked in the cutting room was Herb Fear, who has been successful in oil leasing, etc. Herb also raised a nice family.

Hallie Seiber and Elston Seiber have also made a success in business in Salem in the garage and service station business -- both raising nice families.

Archie Purcell has been successful in the real estate and building business and Archie's sons have gone on even to greater fields in these enterprises.

Bud Boyles and his wife have been successful in business here in Salem. I remember, and do you remember the little restaurant they ran

company moved back uptown upstairs over Sweney's drug store. While uptown the drilling was done in the streets.

The next home of Co. I was in a new building which is now occupied by the Moose club.

I am submitting a picture of the officers and non-commissioned officers taken in 1932 which is the year that I joined Co. I.

I can recall the times that we had to go to camp and the fun we had along with the work we had to perform. These camps in those days were held at Camp Grant at Rockford, Illinois.

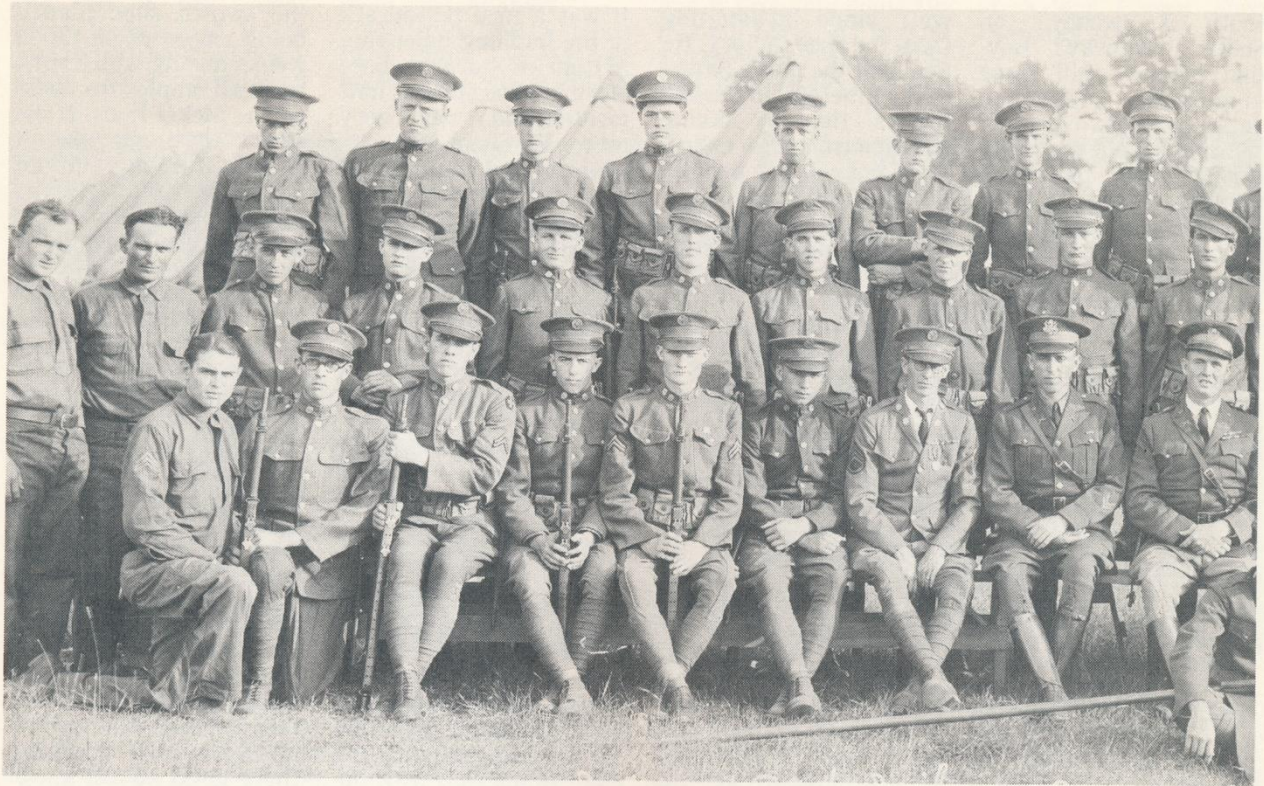
Charles McMackin, I remember was a bugler for the company for some time.

The picture I am submitting was loaned to me

by Thomas Spencer who was one of the excellent officers of Co. I. along with Harold Bigelow, who along with many who served in Co. I., have gone on to the great reunion in God's world.

Hope you enjoy these memories as much as I do writing about them. If you do, call the Times-Commoner or myself.

Thanks and God bless you all.



*Co. I, 130th Infantry, at Camp Grant,
August, 1928*

(Photo loaned by Elmo Knapp)

south of Sweney's on South Broadway? Boy, that delicious chili, those homemade pies and delicious sandwiches!

Bud, you and your wife should go back in business and serve the same delicious delicacies. Bud and his wife also ran a cocktail lounge on South Broadway.

John McMackin also graduated from the shoe factory to owner of a thriving business in the hardware business, McMackin's Hardware.

There are also Gerald Penrod and his wife who now operate Shoe Land. They also were former shoe workers. Good ones, too.

Louie Gruenkemeyer, another graduate of the shoe industry, is also doing well in the industry field of Salem being an important cog in one of Salem's fine industries, ACCO.

Arthur Currie has done

well since graduating from the shoe factory. He has kept the name Salem in the limelight in the collectors' field by having the license plate collectors' convention here in Salem bringing collectors from all over the United States. To climax this he was elected president of this large organization. Right on, Arthur, nice going.

Glenna Strong ran a thriving and successful shoe repair business here in Salem after serving several years in the employment of the Salem shoe plant. Glenna's brother, George, also ran a restaurant and lounge just east of the old shoe plant on the street next to the B&O railroad on West Mitchell street in the 200 block.

Harry Derocher, who was an assistant superintendent at the Salem plant, was another who ran a good business in Salem. Remember it?

It was a nice restaurant in the building belonging to Charles Starnes where Norm's shoe store is now located, and it was a very nice and clean place in which to eat and at that time was one of the well-frequented places where people gathered to drink their morning coffee. Good coffee, too.

There were probably some others that I have forgotten. If so, I trust they will forgive me for not mentioning them.

There were good times and also there were bad times during the period of operation of the Salem shoe plant.

One of the bad times and I am sure one of the difficult and anxious times was during the efforts of the workers of the Brown Shoe company to organize into a union for the purpose of having the right to bargain with the company for wages and working conditions.

This effort resulted in

the Brown shoe plant's being closed down for 13 weeks during which time most all employees walked the picket lines. It did seem at times that it would all be in vain, but at long last the company did recognize the union and all were very glad to return to work.

One of the better things that happened for the Salem plant was when Brown Shoe decided to manufacture the famous Air-Step shoe here in Salem. This gave quite a lift to the Salem plant and workers, as this particular shoe was a good shoe and was also in great demand.

There are so many who are still living and many who have passed on that contributed to the many, many years of success that the shoe factory had in Salem and probably there is no way of knowing the amount of dollars put into this community, but we who had a part in



BAT BOYS, front row. 2nd row, left to right, William "Bill" Fink, superintendent, Clyde "Blue" Crane, Louie Gruenkemeyer, Sam Murdock, Donald Davis, Doc Brubaker, William "Bill" Smith, John McMackin, assistant

superintendent. 3rd row, left to right, Raymond Bunnell, Franklin "Buck" Buchanan, Crawford Hawley, Bill Hancock, Gene "Stinky" Davis, Herb Fear, Claude Denham, Warren "J.P." Morgan.

the life of the Salem plant, thank God for it and the wonderful friendships that developed

from working there.

There is much more than could be written about the Salem plant

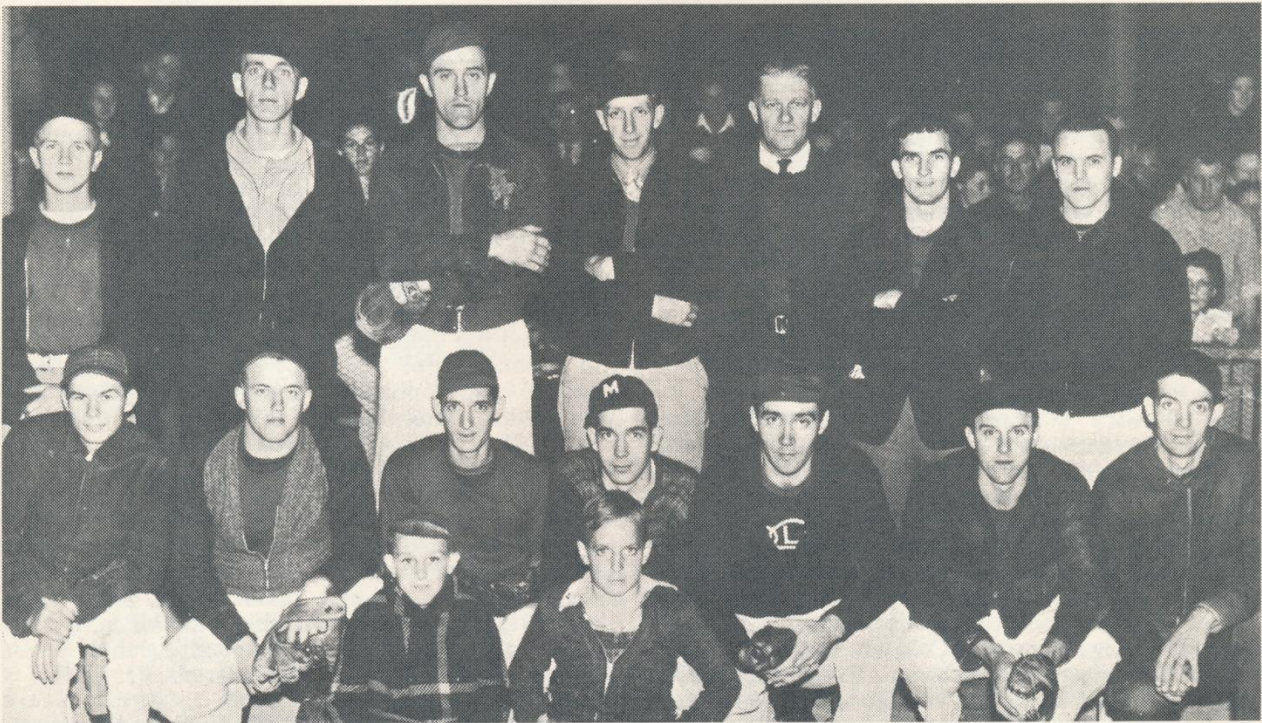
and it probably could fill a small book and maybe someday someone will do just that -- write a history

of Salem Brown Shoe company plant.



THIS PICTURE was taken about the year 1950 and the event was the presentation of 25-year service pins to all in the picture for 25 years of continuous service in the Brown Shoe company plant in Salem. Most of the ones in the picture are still living. From left to right, first row seated, Clara Shaeffer, Martha Potter, Leah Booher Thomas,

Gladys Tipton, Velma Edwards, Ruth Smith, Olive Connely and Charlie Collier. Second row, Lillie Philbrook, Gladys Carpenter and Edna Draper. Third row, Newt Chapman, William Blank, Hershel Potter, Omar Wilcoxon, Roy Shaffer, Hallie Albert, Robert Elwell, Clyde "Blue" Crane, Harry Sechrest and Roy Howard.



BAT BOYS, front row, left to right, Jug Head Black, Jim Fink. 2nd row, left to right, Frank Pashalek, Doc Brubaker, Crawford Hawley, John Maroney, Doc Wood, Sam Murdock, Pete Robinson. 3rd row, left to right, Billy

Hawkins, Louie Gruenkemeyer, Paul Sterling, Carl Robinson, Walter Wehmeyer, manager, Donald Davis, Clyde "Blue" Crane.

Oldtimer takes us on

A tour of a wonderful town

Good memories of a wonderful town and people:

I mentioned in a former article published in this paper the old mill that stood just south of the present B&O station on the west side of South Broadway. Do you remember the name of the flour that was made at this mill? It was **Rising Sun** and one of the miller's name was **Maxfield**. I believe his first name was **Seth**.

Let us go on south to where the Porter Lumber Yard was and where the Farm Service is now, I failed to mention that concrete blocks were made in the south part of this lumber yard next to the present Missouri Pacific tracks. Do you remember the little passenger train that ran south everyday and returned every evening? This train was called the **Mike & Ike** for Missouri and Illinois, I suppose.

How many remember the name of the engineer of this train? His name was **Mike Fitzgerald**. This train would pull into the station in the evening headed east and then the hostler, as he was named, would back the train west to the **Wye** located where the Egyptian Concrete industry is now, and turn the train around and the following morning back the train to the station on South Broadway headed west, ready for another run south and back.

One of the men I remember who was hostler of this wonderful train was a **Mr. Garrison**, the father of **Doc Garrison** of this city. I can remember some very hotly contested marble games that we used to have on the platform of

this railroad station, and, of course, a few fights or disputes over the games.

How many of you remember **Jim Moffett** and his sister, **Fannie**? Their home was just east of the M&I depot on South Washington street and just south of the present **Midwest Feed Company**? Do you remember that **Salem** once had a cigar factory? That is true. **Jim Moffett** always smoked cigars and he had a building by his home in which he made cigars. Do you know the name of the cigar he manufactured? The name of the cigar was -- **Jim's Best**.

South of the M&I tracks and east of South Washington over to South Marion street and down to Lake street was all or mostly apple trees and was called the **Orchard**. I have spent many a happy day playing down in the **Orchard**. We would sharpen the end of a stick and put a green apple on the end of it and we would have green apple fights -- some of the boys I remember most were the **Page boys**, the **Townsend boys**, the **Fry boys**, the **Campbell boys** and of course all these families has some very beautiful girls also!

Some old timers who resided in the **Orchard** were **Frank Lakin**, **Frank Clark**, **Otto Stage** and **M. Barnhill**. **Frank Clark** was quite a poet and somewhat of a religious man. I will present some of his poems if the **Times-Commoner** will print them. They are really very good. He also raised some very beautiful flowers.

I remember back in the **Clark pasture** there was a nice hill and you could always find quite a group

of boys, girls and some grown folks sliding down this hill when there was snow on the ground -- on sleds.

I know most of you will also remember **Lenny's Hill** north of the B&O railroad back of the large home on South Marion street at the end of East Locust street. My, the wonderful times that were spent on this hill! I have seen as many as 100 to 150 people using this hill for sledding.

Getting back to the B&O depot -- lots of you probably remember the carnivals that played the **Soldiers' and Sailors' reunion** and at that time traveled by train on flat cars. In those days the wagons were unloaded and loaded on the siding track just east of the depot. This attracted quite large crowds to see this done. They used elephants to push and pull the wagons on and off the flat cars and then the men in **Salem** who owned teams would pull the wagons out to **Bryan park** and this was sure something to see.

Omar Estes, one of **Salem's** fine gentlemen was the contractor who contracted the unloading and loading of the wagons and spotting them on the **Soldiers' and Sailors' Reunion** grounds, these wagons were pulled by teams of horses and mules. Some of the men who furnished these teams were **Clarence Brinkerhoff**, **Frank Blair**, **Harry Purcell**, **Sunny Davis**, **Chauncey Metcalf**, **Ora Crane**, **Frank Davis**, **Alfred Crane** and I am sure there were others that I can't think of just now.

Let us stroll up South Broadway just south of the old city hall where

there was a place I could never forget, the **Bijou** or the **Orpheum Theater**. This was ran by the **Fulks Brothers**. This old theater was sure something and the shows they had were pretty good and a ticket was only a nickel. Silent pictures were shown with music by **Pearl Cantrell**.

Just south of this theater was an eating place run by a man named **Max Crossett**. **Max** was a very jovial fellow, and while in the restaurant business I am told that he prepared a wonderful salad dressing. Do any of you know the name of this salad dressing? It is on the market today, one of the nation's best selling salad dressings. The name, "**Miracle Whip**," salad dressing so I have been told.

Across the street north of the city hall was another restaurant. Do you remember who ran it? **Jim Halfacre**, and he sure served a great hamburger. **Jim** was the father of **Theodore Halfacre** who lives in **Salem**.

Just north of **Halfacre's** restaurant was an electric shop run by a **Mr. Bridgeford**. Later it was run by a **Mr. Finley**. North of this shop was **McHaney's** barber shop. I remember in the old days **Mr. McHaney's** shop would never close on Saturday night until the last customer was taken care of. There were some real tall tales told while waiting their turns for haircuts. Price 25¢.

Just north of **McHaney's** barber shop was a little bitty space in which a man by the name of **Friday Charlton** ran a shoe shining parlor, remember this? **Friday**

used one of the small kerosene one burner heaters for heating this small room, it seems that the heater got very dirty and blacked up the entire inside of the room but Friday didn't know this and he came outside and he looked like a Black man just covered with this black and everyone thought he had sold his place to someone else.

How many of you remember the bakery just north of McHaney's barber shop? The name of the bakery was Garbee's Bakery -- nice home baked bread and many other delicacies to eat.

How many remember Cash Verner who operated a pool hall just north of Garbee's bakery?

Next north was the Old Marion County Democrat paper run by Mr. Roberts, father of Charles Roberts. Next north do you remember the place of business ran by Joe Plummer. It was a nice place where you could get an ice cream cone and other good things like candy. Mr. Plummer also had various machines you could play for a penny, like, test your strength, a shocking machine and many others.

Just north of Mr. Plummer's place was one of Salem's finer barber shops operated by Mr. Ed Duncan and Oscar Sullens, I believe it was in this shop where Duard Duncan started his training to become a barber.

On the corner was the Old National Bank, then west of the bank was Pruden's grocery and Meat Market. Some of the old timers who worked in Mr. Pruden's store were Cleveland Bail, Effie Hines, Mr. Copsey, Pete Crane, and Bob Merz. The two boys who ran the delivery wagons were Jess Riggs and his

brother Spike Riggs -- or Harry, whichever you prefer.

In later years in where Pruden's store was Mr. Parks ran a drug store and soda fountain and this was later Vick's Drug Store.

Bachmann's Furniture was next, and do you remember what used to occupy the building which is now the west part of Bachmann's store? Bet you can't guess -- "Whoopy" McMackin, father of Jean, John and Jim, ran a hardware store in this building. This was way back when I was really young. I believe around the year 1919 or 1920 Mr. McMackin moved his store to the north side of Main street, which I will tell you about later.

Next building west do you remember what occupied this space back in the old days? One of the great gathering places in Salem at that time -- guessed yet? "Hanes Cafe" -- nice place to eat -- real coffee and homemade pie -- yum, yum, good.

Next west was a barber shop run by a man named Earl Monroe.

It was in this barber shop where I got my first uptown haircut, also one of Salem's best known men shined shoes in this shop. Know who? It was Frank Stonecipher.

Hane's Cafe and the barber shop was in the space which is now occupied by Western Auto -- formerly owned by Storments, Hershel Storment's folks.

Do you remember what used to be in the next building west on Main street? Give up? It was "Sweeney's Drug store." I can remember in the store there was a small space with a wooden fence, as such. This was off limits only to some of the older gentleman of the community, such as

Quinn Lewis, Harper Sweeney Sr., Mr. Merritt and many others I can't think of off hand. This is where many a yarn was told or spun.

In the old days where Shoeland is located now there was at one time a 5 and 10¢ store which was operated by a Mr. Greengrove, if my memory serves me correctly; and they had a son named Willie. At that time the old lumber yard was across the street west and us boys would get Willie in a marble game in the lumber yard, win his marbles and he would run across the street to the store, get a pocketful of marbles, return and lose them also.

I know his father always wondered if he sold that many marbles.

Just south at the corner of West McMackin street and South Walnut there used to be a log cabin, and at one time Howard Watson and wife lived in this place.

I believe this house was the home of Howard Watson's father and mother and I am sure Howard and Verna's oldest girl Eloise was born in this house. I think Eloise and her husband now live in Oklahoma.

Do you remember back of the old city hall was a little grocery store? Do you remember who ran this store? Mr. Eidelman. He was a fine gentleman. My wife used to pick radishes from the garden, when she was a little girl and tie them in bunches and sell them to Mr. Eidelman for 5¢ a bunch. Good money back then.

In this section of Salem back in those days where the State License Examiner's building and the Cable T. V. company are located was the Johnson Livery Stable where horses and rigs or buggies could be rented.

After the Livery Stable closed a Mr. John Gossett ran a shop, fixing wagon wheels, sharpening lawn mowers and doing general repair work. In the south half of this building was a blacksmith shop run by Shorty Holland.

Across the street in the building which used to be Kohrig's Bakery, there was a garage, can you remember the make of car this garage sold? Remember the old Moon Auto? I believe I am correct on this.

On north where Booher's Tin Shop is now located was a blacksmith shop ran by Mr. Robbins. On north on South Walnut street at the corner of South Walnut and West McMackin street used to be a large building that was a garage operated by Lee Schroeder, do you remember the cars sold here? Would you believe the Durant and Star?

Also on this corner before this garage was built in the old lumber yard building was a blacksmith shop operated by a man and a good friend of mine, Redis Crain. Redis was a brother of Roy and Raymond Crain, formerly of Salem.

After this garage that was in this building closed down it was remodelled and converted to a theater I think the name of it was the Globe Theater.

I can recall in the office of the old lumber yard that was at the corner where the National Bank is now located there was a small restaurant and I remember this is where I drank my first bottle of soda pop with a piece of delicious pie. In later years Mr. Herman Austin, former Mayor of Salem, ran a service station and general repair shop here on this corner.

How many of you wonderful people

remember the bus line that the Austin Brothers ran from Salem to Centralia? Do you remember when Salem had a bus system that ran all over town every day?

Do you remember that Salem once had a potato chip factory? I believe it was located on West Main street about where the fish and chips restaurant is now located, "Long John Silvers."

I believe I will halt at this point, hoping that if this is printed that many of the nice people of Salem will enjoy reading and recalling some of these wonderful memories of our wonderful town or city which ever you prefer. I hope if you tire of reading these articles you will be kind enough to say so. It isn't my intention to bore you with these memories but my desire to share them with you. If you like, or dislike, please let your feelings be known to me or the Times-Commoner newspaper.

Thanks -- "God Bless You All."

When Christmas meant new mittens, monkey on a string

Rapidly approaching is to me one of the most important times of the years and it is a time we should all stop and think about the wonderful occasion that happened 2,000 years ago, the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The times are so different in our day as to what they were in the time of Christ that I just thought it would be interesting to compare the Christmas time of today with the Christmas times of the years of my youth.

One of the first Christmas days that I remember was a visit my mother and myself made to my aunt's home. We went by train on the B&O to Iuka where we were met by my uncle and aunt.

There was a big snow on the ground and they came to Iuka in a sleigh pulled by two horses. The snow was deep -- about even with the fence tops. We made it out to the farm and that Christmas Eve we enjoyed ourselves by popping corn, cracking nuts and eating apples.

The Christmas tree was one that had been cut down by the creek in the pasture. The decorations on the tree, of course, were all homemade as there wasn't any decorations to be bought in those days. Popcorn was strung on string and wound around the tree and other decorations were usually stars, angels and other things that were cut out of pasteboard or heavy paper then colored with crayons. There weren't any electric lights for the tree and usually the only light on the tree might be a candle, but this was usually frowned on as it

was too dangerous because of fire.

The presents, (what few there were,) were placed under the tree then we were off to bed early.

Presents then usually consisted of things that were handmade, such as crocheted scarfs, mittens, socks and if one was really lucky, maybe a sweater. There was sometimes a sled which was homemade from wood with wood runners -- there weren't usually many shoes given as presents, the practical gift of that nature was usually a pair of rubber boots, one of the proudest times of my life was the Christmas I got a pair of red rubber boots and boy did I strut!

One of the important events I remember was an annual program for Christmas which was held in the church. As I look back, I wonder about the patience of the people who planned these programs and had to struggle with us kids, boys and girls, getting us to learn the pieces we would recite. Boy, the patience they had!

There was always a large Christmas tree on the platform at the front of the church and I can remember the anxious moments most of us kids experienced as we would wait for Santa to give out the presents that were under the tree. Some good Christian persons always saw to it that each child received a present. God bless them for this -- no child was ever forgotten.

The Sunday before Christmas was always a day we kids anxiously waited for and usually there was good atten-

dance for Sunday school as this was the time that a treat was given out to all the children attending. This treat usually consisted of a paper bag with an orange, apple and a assortment of candies. And if there were those children who were sick or were absent for other reasons, their treats were always taken to them.

I suppose there are a few churches that still carry on these activities, but not as many as in the days of my youth.

One of the traditional customs that is still carried on is the Santa Claus that roams the uptown and shopping places of Salem. I well remember one of the nicest Santas back in days gone by. He was Ned Pace, a more jovial and happy hearted man I ever knew.

I well remember the first store bought toy I ever received for Christmas. It was a string with a little monkey on it. You would fasten one end up in the top of a door and then pull on the bottom end of the string and this little monkey would really scoot up the string, then loosen the string and down he would come. I well remember the fun I had with this toy and how heartbroken I was when it was broken beyond repair. How many remember this kind of toy?

Back years and years ago we would have more snow than we do now and we would have long ropes on our sleds and tie on behind the buggies or wagons for a free ride.

I remember some boys of Salem who had a big bob sled and they would tie it behind a Model T Ford and really have a

ball riding around the streets of Salem. Do you remember some of these boys?

Some of them were Paul Sweney, Jr., Bud Merritt, Charles McMackin III, John Duffy and there were others, but remember that in those days there weren't as many cars as there are today and I wouldn't advise trying this today as much traffic as there is in Salem these days.

In comparing the Christmas times of yesteryears with the Christmas times of present years, there is a great difference in respect to the things that were available in bygone days to give as presents. As I mentioned before, most of the presents that were given then were handmade and these gifts were treasured and cared for, to make them last as long as possible, the warranty on these gifts was the warranty of love given with love.

Whereas today there is such a vast quantity of things from which to make our selections of gifts to give our loved ones and friends for Christmas, it is almost unimaginable. I wonder, do we appreciate these gifts as much as we did those made with loving hand and more than likely given at a sacrifice?

We have much to be thankful for in these times, freedom of most all phases of life. Disregarding whether Christmas was better in olden days or in present days, the most important thing is that God gave us Christmas, because the greatest thing that ever happened in time, happened on this day, the birth of Christ. Let us all be thankful. Merry Christmas to all. God bless you.

United community effort

Many Salemites had jobs, security during depression

I think the depression started really before 1929. I can remember that I would go up town on designated days when a big truck would bring in flour, cornmeal and other staples and I would stand in line with a sack and wait my turn to get our allotment and then carry it home on my shoulder -- we were thankful to get it, too.

I was working at the Brown Shoe Factory during 1929 and 1930, which was, I believe, the worst part of the Depression.

Wages then were very low. Many, many days when we were fortunate to get to work we would maybe only earn 50¢ for 9 to 12 hours time spent in the plant. We would ask to go home, but the boss would say no, and if we didn't do as they said, there was always someone else waiting outside to take your place.

The turning point for working people was when President Roosevelt had Congress put in the N.R.A. (National Recovery Act), I believe, in 1933. This act forced factories and all other places to pay the minimum of 30¢ an hour if they kept you on the job. This was a great help to the working men and women.

Times were extremely rough for many years, soup and bread lines were a very common sight then, especially in the large cities.

Salem was very fortunate to have had the Brown Shoe Factory dur-

ing those very lean years. We didn't earn very much, but it was enough to keep from starving.

I remember when the talk first started about getting a Shoe Factory here in Salem and there was much excitement over the prospect of getting the plant here. I was still in school and my grandparents and aunt, who were raising me, had very little money. But they subscribed to pay a certain pledge toward raising the amount required to have the factory located here in Salem.

Many, many more good people of like circumstances helped as much as they possibly could to get this place of employment to locate here in Salem.

I know some of you remember the building of the plant. One thing I remember of the construction was the digging of the deep basement in which the coal furnace and boiler were located.

In those days, there weren't any backhoes or bulldozers or mechanical equipment to dig with so the hole was dug with men, teams and dirt slips. For those who don't know what a dirt slip was, I will explain. It was a piece of metal equipment shaped somewhat the shape of one handled scoops, (used to scoop coffee beans or sugar etc.) only this was larger with a handle on each side and the leading edge was sharp. One man drove the team and another man would load

the scoop, then the driver would drive out of the hole and dump the dirt at a certain designated place. I had the distinct pleasure of driving my uncle's team during the digging of this hole.

I remember the big dance that was staged before the opening of the Salem plant. Quite some shindig! I believe the Schwartz families donated the land on which to build the Salem plant. Thanks, Schwartz family, you did your share. The Salem plant started out making plain shoes -- nothing fancy and the shoes all had leather heels.

The starting wage paid back then at the Salem plant averaged about \$6 a week, which consisted of six days a week and nine hours a day. This averaged out at about a little over 11¢ an hour.

I remember the first week that I went on piece work, I made \$12 and I thought I was sitting on top of the world.

We had some wonderful superintendents at the Salem plant, namely William Finks, known to most of us as "Bill," the name he preferred to be called by. Mr. Finks or "Bill" was one of the prime movers of organized baseball and softball in Salem as he was instrumental in getting the Brown Shoe company to sponsor teams in both these sports.

Bill Finks was a man you could talk to about any problem and he was always willing to help you in anyway he could.

He always had time for you, no matter how busy he was. He was a great man -- one of the best and admired friends that I ever had.

Mr. Gruenkemeyer, (father of Louis Gruenkemeyer) was another great superintendent at the Salem plant -- a man who came up through the ranks, so to speak. A great friend to all, including myself.

Walter Wehmeyer was another great super who also came up through the ranks of shoemaking. Walter was manager of the Salem All Star soft-

ball team. I believe that the Salem All Star teams only lost two or three games played in a three-year period.

There were good times and some bad times during the late 30s and 40s.

Many of the older employees remember the rough times experienced during the ordeal of trying to organize a union in the Brown plants. At one time the plant was on strike for 13 weeks, night and day.

We kept a fire burning south of the plant next to the B&O railroad and one of the nice things I

remember was that all the time during the strike, Kohrig's Bakery furnished fresh doughnuts for the pickets to eat.

One very good thing that came out of the union organizing Brown Shoe plants was the pension plan, which was a plan set up to subsidize the Social Security pension. This pension paid by Brown Shoe company, I know, has been a great help to many, many employees who have retired, many who are still living and many of our shoe worker friends

who have since gone on to Glory.

Salem has been very fortunate to have people who desired these places of employment that we have and were willing to sacrifice their time and money to help obtain them. Salem is growing and we should be thankful, but we should always be alert so that our city stays not only progressive, but clean and safe. We can have this type of city if we will only keep alert and watchful for good clean government. Thanks -- God bless you all.



FRONT ROW, Jug Head Black, Burkett girl, Jim Finks. 2nd row, Burkett girl, Simmons girl, Helen Howe, Dorothy Leuty, Louise (Black) Wilson, Elanor Purcell and Charlotte Rogers. 3rd row, Claude Denham, manager, Lucy

"Denham" Hayden, Doris Stubblefield, Audrey Somers and Ralph "Red" Maroney, coach. This girls' softball team was the forerunner of the Salem All Star Girls' softball team.

Fond memories of a Salem boy

I can remember back when we were kids, we went swimming in the coal mine pond that was located where the Egyptian Concrete Co. is now located in the wye where the Old Southern Railroad used to turn their trains around and the Old Engine house stood west of the pond. This engine house was large enough for two engines, one passenger engine and one freight engine. These engines were serviced here each night by the hostler who filled the water tanks and also filled the coal tenders having them ready for the next day's run.

The engines took on water just west of where South Broadway crossed the present Missouri Pacific tracks.

On South Broadway, north of the railroad, was the Porter lumber yard, run by C. A. Porter. One of the men who worked in this lumber yard was the late Earl Crane known by all as "Peeling."

Just north of the lumber yard was the old Salem Electric Light Plant. There was a pond just west of the light plant from which water was drawn to generate steam for the turbines in the plant. I have spent many happy hours fishing in this pond. Never caught much but had fun trying.

Just north of the light plant was the old mill which operated for years and years until the boiler blew up and the mill was never reconstructed or operated again. Just west of the old mill was the freight house on the B&O railroad -- from which freight was unloaded from railroad box cars and hauled all over town. Harry Purcell was one who had a dray wagon

pulled by horses. Harry was helped a lot by his son, "Punkin." I believe there was another man by the name of Greely Rose who also did freight hauling.

In those days automobiles were shipped in by large box cars which had extra wide side doors. The cars were driven out of the box cars and then driven down a ramp at the west end of the unloading platform. West of the freight house at Maple street was a large shed where cement was unloaded from railroad cars and stored. On west at Franklin street crossing there was a stock pen where stock was unloaded and loaded from railroad cars. There were many western horses sold here at this stock pen.

Across the street west were coal sheds by the track where coal was unloaded from coal cars and stored to be later distributed around Salem by team and wagon. At that time coal was used extensively for heating. Just west of the coal sheds were pile after pile of railroad ties that farmers would cut and bring into town and sell to the railroad. A little farther west on the north side of the tracks was the B&O water tank. A large wooden tank from which the trains took on water as the engines at this time were all steam driven. I have gone swimming in this old water tank many times. Just across from the water tank on the south side of the tracks was the old coal mine shaft that had been abandoned for many years.

Getting back to South Broadway, which in those days south of the B&O tracks was a dirt street down to the Old

Southern track where on the east side of Broadway was the Southern railroad depot. In those days South Broadway ended at the Southern Railroad tracks.

There were also coal sheds on the south side of these tracks from which many men with teams and wagons hauled and delivered coal in Salem and vicinity. My grandfather Alfred Crane was one of these men. Also others were Harry Purcell, Sunny Davis, Frank Davis, Brinkerhoff, Chauncey Metcalf and others.

Omar Estes was one of the larger coal dealers in those days. I remember south of the Old Southern tracks between South Washington street and South College street was all a very large pasture. I remember at one time there was a circus set up in this big field and the elephants all broke loose and they found them, or most of them in what was then known as Rainey's Lake, which is presently the Salem Country Club Lake. Where the Southern Gardens Shopping Center is now was all apple orchard and there was a cider press mill just about where the grocery store is located now. I have gone there many times with my grandfather to get cider. The road that runs along the west side of the present fairgrounds in those days was called the Mile lane. When I was a young boy I plowed the ground where the County Fairgrounds are now located and planted it in corn and on the western part of the fairgrounds along Mile lane we harvested Red top hay. This was part of the old Matt Wells' place.

I don't remember this but was told by Mrs. Eva

White that from the Southern railroad, south to the Matt Wells' home which was located just south of the present Lake street, there was a wooden walk built especially for walking down to the Wells' home.

How many of you know that the city dump used to be down at the site of the present Sewer Disposal Plant?

Getting back north of the B&O railroad west of the B&O depot -- at or between South Maple and College street south of West Whittaker street stood the old apple house.

This was quite an industry in those days, owned by the Schwartz Brothers. Here the apples were hauled in from the orchards and in one large building the apples were peeled, cored, washed and then were hauled out to other buildings for drying. The drying buildings were two-story buildings. The sliced apples were scattered on screens on the second floor of these buildings, and on the first floors were stoves that produced much heat and the heat would rise and dry the apples. The apples after drying were then placed in barrels ready for shipping. The barrels used for shipping the apples were made and assembled in another building on these grounds and were then shipped out on the B&O railroad. Quite an operation. My mother worked in this apple processing plant, peeling apples. This whole operation was owned and operated by the Schwartz Brothers who owned many apple orchards southeast of Salem from where the apples were hauled by team and wagon into the apple house. This industry was on the site

where the Old Brown Shoe Plant now stands.

How many remember the old mill that stood at the corner of East Main street and Shelby street at the corner of the cemetery? This mill used to grind grain for many, many people of this area. Also the old iron bridge that then crossed the creek on East Main street.

Let us go a little farther east, do you remember the little stores on the north side of the street just before you got to the C&EI railroad? I believe one of them was run by Ingrams and not sure about the other one maybe Robbins.

Do you remember the old wooden depot that stood on the north side of Main street west side of the tracks? This depot now is used as a home at the corner of East Oglesby and North Marion streets. How many of you remember when the C&EI ran a small train down to Main street from the yards to haul the men from the yards to town and went from town out to the yards where they worked?

How many of you remember the name this little train was called? It was called "the Herdy."

Getting back toward uptown, do you remember the garage that was on East Main street about where Maude's restaurant is and the name of the garage? And what was the name of the car sold there? Perriman's garage and the car was Willy's Knight.

Across the street in the building presently occupied by Illinois Power Company a little earlier, was the home of the first M. E. Church South. Later this church moved to a location on South Washington street at the corner of Locust street.

Wonderful people who made Salem home

I sit and think and try to recall from my memory some of the wonderful people who have contributed to Salem.

One person I recall was Sam Davidson who lived on West Main street. Mr. Davidson was a great man. He had a saying maybe some of you remember. "Says 'E', says 'I'", was one of his favorite sayings.

The story was told (and probably it was only a story), but I will try to repeat it. Most of the older generation remembers Mr. Harry Etter. Well, it seems as the story goes that one day Sam was going across the street uptown and Mr. Etter came speeding down the street in his Model T and hit Sam and knocked him

down. Well, Mr. Etter stopped quickly and looked out the car window back at Sam lying in the street and very loudly yelled, "Look out, Sam," and Sam lying on the street said very calmly, "Says 'E', says 'I', what are you going to do, Harry, backup?"

Just west of Mr. Davidson's place on West Main street lived a family named Aikman. They had a lovely daughter named Leola and she was sure a beautiful and talented girl. She gained some recognition, winning a beauty contest I believe put on by the St. Louis Globe.

Of course, you couldn't go down West Main street and leave out one of our great citizens. You would certainly have to mention Mr. John C. Martin who

certainly contributed very much to Salem.

Most of you knew Mr. Martin was a little hard of hearing. Well, a story had been told about him (and I suppose it was only a story). It seems a fellow went into the bank to get a loan, and he was referred to Mr. Martin, who was president. The fellow went into Mr. Martin's office and was asked by Mr. Martin what he wanted.

The fellow said, "I want to borrow two hundred dollars." Mr. Martin leaned over his desk and said, "Eh, what did you say?" The fellow said without hesitation, "I want to borrow five hundred dollars." Mr. Martin eased back in his chair and calmly said, "I heard you the first time."

While talking about the

This church is the present Trinity Methodist church located on West Boone street.

Let us stroll down Main street west for about two blocks. Do you remember the Bledsoe lumber yard that occupied the part of the block where the National Bank and parking lot now is? The lumber yard delivered by team and wagon and my father Berthold Crane drove the team and wagon delivering material around town.

In those days the fire wagon was pulled by horses and when the alarm sounded the first one there with a team got to pull the fire wagon to the fire and by my father working so close to the fire station he was lucky

to get to pull the fire wagon quite often. It was considered quite an honor to do this.

Just west of the lumber yard was a very beautiful home owned by the Hays family. Around the home was a metal fence, very beautiful. In back of this lovely home was the stable where beautiful driving horses buggies, and surreys with fringe on top were kept. Across the street on West Main was the home of Doc Spencer. Old Doc was quite a personality and a good dentist too. Just east of the Spencer home was Martin's Equipment place where, buggies, surreys, wagons, harnesses and etc. were sold and on the corner was Martin's grocery

store and in back of the grocery store on North Walnut, Martin ran a feed store. How many remember the scales in the street at the side of Martin's store? Just north of Martin's feed store where Tresslar's parking lot is now located was a nice home of two of Salem's finer gentlemen. Do you remember who they were? Give up? They were the Fulks brothers who at one time operated the old Bijou Theater on South Broadway next to the old fire station. Across the street east where the Moose club is now located Clarence Brinkerhoff ran a livery stable and had a coal yard at the north side of this livery stable.

Martin's, Mr. Jack Martin was one of the prime movers in the campaign to obtain the Brown Shoe factory (the initial building) for Salem. This was one of the greatest achievements ever accomplished for our city. This factory opened here in Salem in June, 1925, and it wasn't many years until it was too small and an addition was added onto the west end of the original building. I believe at one time this factory employed 850 people. I believe the name of the first superintendent was Mr. Rohloff.

This factory was sure a lifesaver for Salem during the depression years. We didn't make much, but enough to buy some flour and beans and corn meal. In those days a dollar was worth 100 cents, if you could get hold of the dollar.

There were some really good people who worked at the old shoe factory and I know many are still living who remember the tough days in the 1930's. Times were really tough in those days and I am sure many are still living who do remember the days before N.R.A., that we were forced to stay in the plant even if there wasn't any work. Many were the days one was lucky to earn as much as 50 cents and sometimes put in as many as 10 or 12 hours in a day to earn it.

I still have a Brown Shoe factory check in a frame paid to me in one week for 15 cents. When N.R.A. came into being, if we didn't have any work, they would send us home so they wouldn't have to pay us the 30 cents an hour that the law required the company to pay.

But Salem was still lucky to have had the shoe factory here during

those depression days. We couldn't buy much, but we were able to get through some very tough times.

I would like to say here that I started to work at the shoe factory in 1925 at the great salary of 12½ cents an hour and my wife started at the wage of 13 cents per hour. Not much, but something.

In later years, another great industry hit Salem and pushed everything into the background. The discovery of oil in the Salem oilfield was sure a great boom to Salem and the surrounding territory.

I believe the discovery of oil was made on June 21, 1938, on the E. Tate lease in the Lake Centralia area. This well was drilled by the Texas company and started one of the greatest drilling booms every experienced in this country. By 1940 this area was the largest producing unit in the United States. I believe the peak production of the field came in 1940; 259,000 barrels daily in March of 1940.

I recall two great men who were superintendents of the Salem shoe plant. William "Bill" Finks was a great man and a good friend when anyone was in trouble. Mr. Finks was one of the first to get softball going strong here in Salem by getting Brown Shoe company to back both softball and baseball teams; and he was one of the team's strongest rooters also.

Walter Wehmeyer was another superintendent who was very active in the promotion of softball here in Salem. Mr. Wehmeyer managed the Salem All Star softball team and it was a good one, too. Such players as Doc Wood, Stinky Davis, Sam Murdock, Herb Fear, Doc Brubaker, Louie Gruenkemeyer, Donald Davis, Dick

Broom, Crawford Hawley, Pete Robison, Jimmy Ryan and yours truly; and probably some others I have missed.

Salem was fortunate to have had two mayors who were very instrumental in promoting softball in Salem. I remember when Herb Fear, Jimmy Ryan, Paul Sterling and myself attended the council meeting when Omar J. McMackin was mayor, before World war II, and asked the city council if they would permit a softball field to be built in Bryan Park, where it is presently located.

The mayor and council said if there was room there, they would help us in any way they could. It was a great thing for the City of Salem. I have seen crowds at games estimated at 3,000 people.

Later when Herman Austin was mayor, he and his council and the city built the bleacher seats at the softball field. Both Mr. Austin and Mr. McMackin were ardent fans and supporters of the softball in the beginning years of the sport in Salem. They are both departed from this life, but as for me and many other young men and women who benefited from the good clean fun we had at the softball field these men made possible, we say thank you both for all you did. God bless you both.

Salem had a pretty good All Star girls' softball team also, managed by me and the late Claude Dunham, consisting of such players as Mary Beal, sister of Mrs. Sam Murdock; Louise Black, wife of Hack Wilson; Charlotte Gaston, wife of the late Thad Rogers; Lucy Denham, now wife of Robert Hayden; Ruth Biogi of Odin, Mrs. John

Howe, Fonda Wheat, Mildred Dunn, Jim Somers' sister, Audrey, and a Simmons girl (I can't recall her first name), and some others I probably can't recall.

How many remember the little hard road that ran north on Vail street by where the skating rink is now? This road was an experimental road of concrete, nine (9) feet wide. It ran for one (1) mile north and stopped. I can remember there weren't many cars then and groups of young boys and girls would take a record player and dance on this concrete road.

Almost every summer a skating rink under a tent would set up in the park across this little road from where the present skating rink is and, oh, the fun everyone had.

How many of you remember the skating rink on East Main street? It was just west of the bridge on north side of Main, where Dr. Perry's and other officers are now located. This building was later converted to a factory, I believe a pants factory, and I think it was run by Mr. Somers. This factory later moved east of the C.&E.I. railroad on the north side of the highway.

God bless you all.

Paving of Main Street, USA

(Pictures -- Courtesy of Lora Roberts and Harper Sweney.)

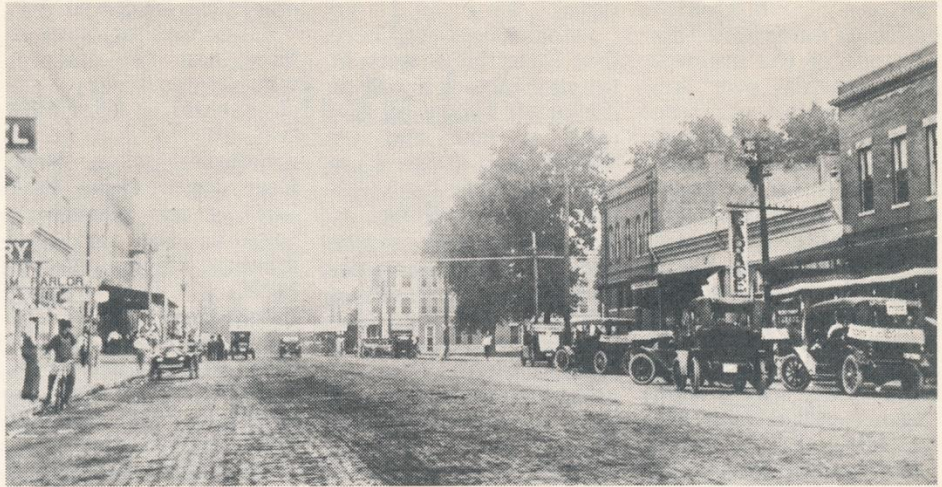
Picture #1 shows Main street in Salem as it was with the old paving bricks, back about 1914. These old paving bricks served well until the new paving project came along about 1935.

I imagine almost everyone in Salem took advantage of the opportunity to get some of the old paving bricks when they were torn up to make way for the new paving project of East and West Main street. Looking at this picture you can get the idea of the look of the cars of that era. There was even a garage uptown on Main street, about where Maude's restaurant is now. I believe it was Periman's Garage.

Picture #2 shows the head man, H. C. Clark, of H. C. Clark Construction Co. of Peoria, Ill., along with one of the men who laid the bricks on the new paving project. I am not sure but I think he was an Indian. He and his partner could sure lay those bricks. There were six (6) men carrying bricks to these two men and the six men could not keep these two men busy.

Picture #3. This is a scene of the preparation of the base of the new Main street paving project. This scene is on West Main street in the block where Chapman's Decorating is located looking west. You will notice the north half of the street. The concrete base has already been finished and the large mixer is on the finished concrete and the south side is being poured as the men in the foreground get the base finished for pouring the concrete.

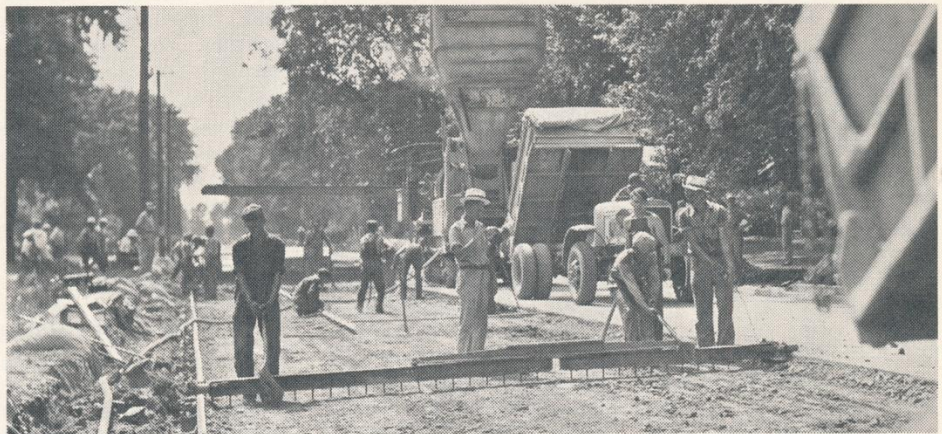
The dump truck in



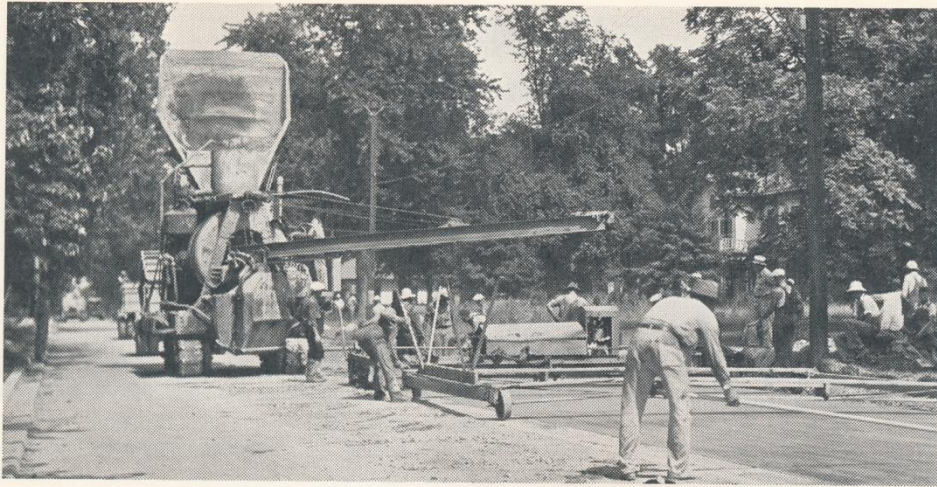
Picture 1



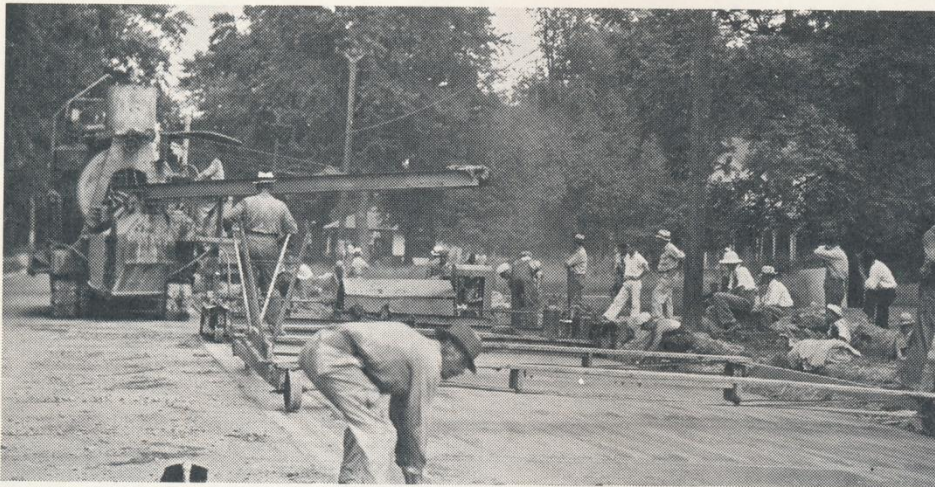
Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6

lower right hand corner has dumped rock or ballast which the men are smoothing out to conform to the contour of the roadway, then the concrete is poured to make the base on which the large paving bricks are laid. You will notice that the dump truck has just dumped its load of rock, cement and sand into the large hopper or lift and the lift is being raised up to dump the contents into the huge mixer which will mix water to form the wet concrete.

Picture #4. In this picture you are looking at the other end of the huge mixer. Notice the large lift that has just dumped its load into the mixer. You will notice it is wide enough that the trucks just back into it and dump their load.

The long beam you see in the picture is for the large conveyor bucket that can be seen up close to the concrete mixer between the forms for the concrete base. The machine with the small wheels on it had an apparatus under it that worked back and forth, thus smoothing out the concrete then the man in foreground gave it the finishing touch.

Picture #5. You can see by looking at this picture that it took more than just bosses and laborers to accomplish the finished product. There was never any job of this magnitude ever finished without the direct supervision of the sidewalk engineers and this project had many of us.

Picture #6. This is another scene of the work proceeding on West Main street.

Picture #7. This scene is part of the 100 block of West Main street. Some very familiar places can be seen in this picture, namely, Hanes' cafe on the south side of Main street which was one of

the better eating places in Salem in those days. The Coca-Cola sign you see was Vick's Drug store. There was a nice fountain service in this drugstore. How many of you remember Wilkie who worked in this store? He would usually give anyone who came into the store a squirt of perfume or cologne for what reason no one ever knew. Was there a reason, Wilkie?

You can see on the other side of the street was the Candy Kitchen and also where the Schlitz sign was Roop and Kirkwood's Billiard Parlor.

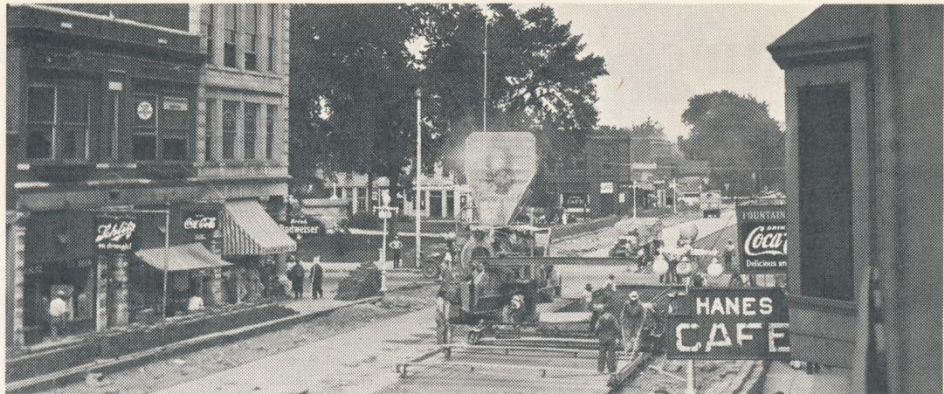
Picture #8. Another scene of 100 block of West Main street. You can see the canopy of the old Lyric Theater and notice piled on the walk the large bricks. Notice in front of Bachman's store. Do you remember these beautiful street lights? You can also see the bank corner engineers overseeing the work being done.

The dump trucks are waiting to back up to the mixer to dump their loads of rock, sand and cement to lay another strip of concrete, as you will see in the next picture.

Picture 9. This scene shows the huge mixer at the corner of Main street and Walnut street. You can see one of the dump trucks has just dumped its load into the huge hopper which is raising to dump the rock, sand and cement into the mixer. The building in upper left corner was Musgrove's Goodyear Tire Shop and gas station. This was a good business back then.

This spot was later taken over by Herman Austin, who ran a service station on this corner for many, many years.

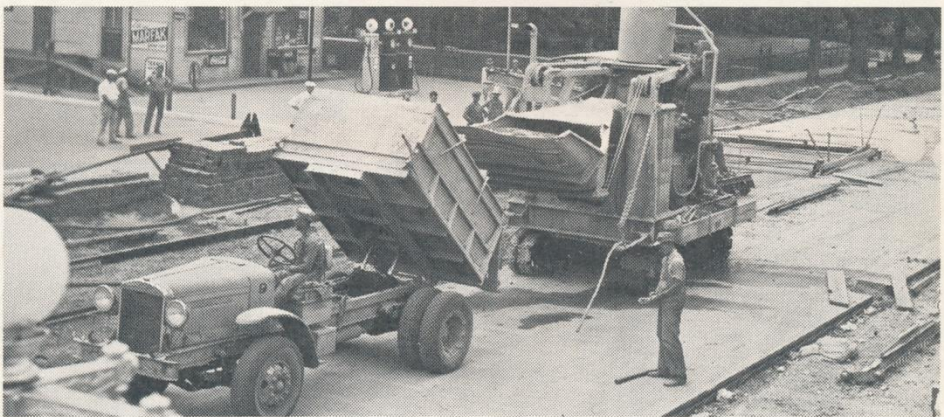
If you will look closely you will see the stately Hays' home with the



Picture 7



Picture 8



Picture 9

wrought iron fence around it. Shortly after this picture was taken this property was used to build the present day post office of Salem.

The corner where Austin's station was is now the home of the

Salem National bank.

Glancing back to picture no. 1, seeing how Main street looked then and then looking at Main street of Salem today, we can see the paving project of Main street in Salem was the beginning

of a larger and more prosperous city.

My question to all of you is was it better then in 1914 or do you think it is better today?

Thanks, and God bless you.

Hard times / one room school

I like to sit around home and think of some of the good times of years gone by and one of the good memories I like to recall are the great times that I experienced while pursuing my education and being thankful for the wonderful school buildings and good teachers that I was fortunate enough to have during my tenure of learning.

I sometimes wonder if the young people seeking education in the present times realize how fortunate they are to have so very, very many good things today, compared to the hard times that were had back in the days of the old country schools.

I do believe that it is very important to preserve the memories and traditions of the old country schools.

The country schools were institutions of learning unsurpassed by anything today in the sense that the teachers were what I would call a special breed due to the many complexities of their jobs.

In the country schools there was only one teacher and this person not only was required to teach, but was responsible for getting to school early to build a fire in the stove used to heat the one room. This job required carrying in the fuel for the stove which could be either wood or coal and carrying out ashes and seeing that the school room was swept and kept comparatively clean.

Most country schools were one room buildings and as you came in the front door there was a small vestibule or cloak room where coats were hung and with a shelf on which the children's lunches were kept. Most

schools had a cupola above the front entrance where the school bell hung.

It was considered an honor and a great privilege to be permitted to ring this school bell.

There was usually an inner door and when you walked through this door you entered one of the greatest institutions of learning there ever was.

Some of the country schools had single desks and seats and others would have desks and seats that would accommodate two pupils, and this is where some of the skills of the teacher would come in handy, selecting two children who were compatible to each other to share this double desk and seat. I personally think they did a remarkable job.

But this was only one small task the teacher had to do. The school was comprised of eight grades, "I repeat, eight grades in one room," and this one teacher taught all eight grades.

Remarkable don't you think?

And there were some very smart students that came out of these small one room school houses and went on to make their mark in the history and molding of our city, county, state and nation.

There were many of the scholars in the higher grades that the teacher would choose to trust with help in teaching of students in the lower grades and I think this prompted everyone to do their very best in learning as it was considered a great honor to be picked for this teaching chore.

I am sure it made the ones picked very proud and gave them something to remember and talk about in the later

years of their lives.

Of course, the school buildings were used for various other functions other than school, social and otherwise. I am sure many of you remember the great times that were had at the pie suppers held at the school houses. You would work all summer and winter saving what you thought would be enough money to buy your best girl's pie so you could eat with her, only to have some other boy who happened to have a dime more than you, buy her pie, and boy would you be crest-fallen!

Schools were also used for other functions such as elections.

I remember my wife's aunts, uncle and mother were all teachers in country schools. Many of you remember the Skinner family. These of the Skinner family were teachers in rural schools, Mrs. Bertha Skinner Gaston, Mrs. Lula Skinner Davis, Mrs. Elizabeth Skinner Joines, Mrs. Minnie Skinner Avery and John Skinner.

I recall when John Skinner taught a country school, the older boys were determined to run John off his job and John was just as determined to stay. The big boys would slip on top of the schoolhouse at night and stuff old rags and burlap sacks in the chimney and when John would build a fire in the morning, the smoke would back up in the school room.

But John wouldn't give up and finally the boys realized.

I believe that the country school is a heritage of this great country of ours that should be kept alive, not just for us who have seen and lived through this era of history, "because we have seen these things and know

their importance" but they should be preserved so that the young people of today and their children will have the opportunity to see these wonderful places of learning just as they were when our fathers, mothers, grandmothers and grandfathers used these for the great knowledge they acquired.

We have this opportunity now to help preserve one of these wonderful places of learning. The opportunity is here!!!

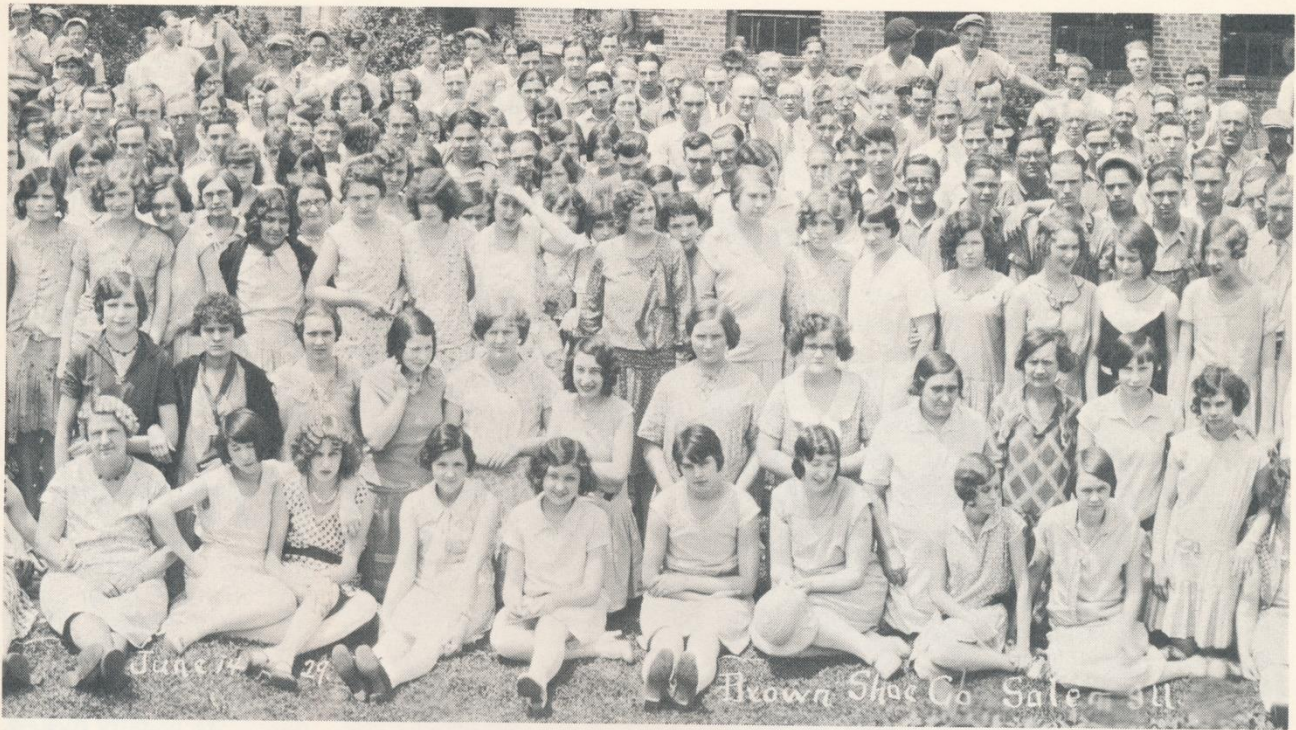
East Nation school which still stands on Route 37, south of Salem, has been donated for this purpose to preserve it for posterity and a location here in Salem has been promised on which to put this schoolhouse permanently. Please, people of this part of Illinois, let us not pass up this wonderful opportunity to acquire and to preserve one of these great houses of learning to be restored just as it was back in the older days. We will never forgive ourselves if we do not give our grandchildren and their children the chance to see and observe just how things were in the old country schools, the learning techniques and difficult ways that were used back then to obtain an education "IMPORTANT." What would we say to our grandchildren or great-grandchildren if they should ask, "Grandpa or Grandma, what was school like when you went to school?" If we can get this project finished you will not have to try and explain to them you can just take them and show them the real thing. Friends, this is a worthwhile project. If we do accomplish this goal we can always say, "I had a part in preserving this part of our 'Heritage.' This is our great chance-let us not muff it.



*Rare photo of
Salem Brown Shoe
employees in 1929*

IN THINKING back over the years I recalled to memory an occasion in 1929 of a picture being taken of the entire personnel who worked at the Brown Shoe company. I was sure that I had such a picture, but I searched everywhere in our home to no avail.

One evening while my wife and I were visiting our sister-in-law, Mrs. Madeline Davis, I mentioned that I would love to find someone who had one of these pictures. Madeline spoke right up and said, "Why I have one of them myself," and she very graciously



loaned the picture to me to be run in the Times-Commoner. My purpose was to bring back some of the very fond memories of working and association with so many wonderful people, some who are still living and many who have gone on to their reward

in the hereafter. I just wonder how many persons, you who are in this picture, can recognize and identify? I do not know all, but I know several. I believe at about this time in the operation of the plant there were about 650 to 700 people employed

there. Notice the nice automobiles in the picture, Model A LFords, and a Dodge and even a Model T Ford. Notice the small building on the corner, this was an ice cream stand. Later "Doc" Clunningham built a fine home on this corner. The building

across the street was a restaurant. In later years this was operated by the Hayden boys. Thanks much, Madeline, for the use of this wonderful picture. Sure brings back many fond memories.

Of school days, work, play And the good ol' summertime!



THIS IS A picture of Clyde "Blue" Crane's grandfather and uncle. Alfred Crane, the grandfather, is on the left and Ora Crane, uncle, is on the right. The field is just north

of where the Salem gas plant is now located. The railroad in the picture is what is now the Missouri-Pacific or the old Southern railroad.

I have written about the rural schools and I would like to recall some of the things that occurred during the time that I attended the Salem schools, some of the friends of mine who also attended Salem schools, some of the good times we had, and other occasions during summertime.

One of the annual happenings that we all looked forward to was that no matter what the weather was we would always go barefooted on the first day of May. This custom satisfied two things. It helped our ego and our parents were glad because it saved shoe leather and stockings.

One of the things I recall was the jobs we kids always looked forward to for summer. It was taking milk cows down to the pasture each

morning about 7 o'clock and then returning them about milking time, or 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In those days people had all kinds of stock, poultry, etc., in town.

This large pasture was south of what is now the Missouri-Pacific railroad. Then it was called the Mike and Ike. And this pasture was where the Simonds plant is now located and extended west about ½ mile and south about the same distance, owned by Sam Davidson.

As some of you remember, Sam had a race horse named Salem Boy and in order to train Salem Boy, Sam built a race track in this pasture where Salem Boy got most of his exercising and training. Mr. Davidson sure was proud of his horse and also of Salem; therefore, the name for

his horse, Salem Boy.

Some of the other boys who drove cows to this pasture were Bennie Jourdan, Burdette "Joe" Davis, Carter Stonecipher, Granny Stonecipher, Don Huddleston, and myself. Some of the families who pastured their milk cows there were Mr. Russel, husband of Jack Martin's daughter; Mr. Brown, grandfather of Jim Brown who used to be in the grocery business here in Salem; Frank Davis, father of my wife; Alfred Crane; and Mr. Mike Fitzgerald, engineer of the Mike and Ike passenger train.

Many were the times that Mr. Fitzgerald would almost have to stop the train to let us kids get the cows off the track. Of course, the pay for this work was high. We received \$1.00 a

month per cow and that was seven days a week. Pretty good wages for a kid, don't you think so?

One other thing I recollect so vividly about the days back then, and I am sure there are many of you about my age did the same thing, was the picking blackberries. Our family was large and us boys were required to pick enough blackberries to can 300 quarts to last through the winter and this also included the pies and cobblers made during berry season. After the 300 quarts were canned, we could sell some usually for 5 cents a quart. We usually picked on Mr. Hester's farm, southwest of Salem and I have picked many a gallon of blackberries where I-57 cuts through the Hester farm.

We always hurried home when we would get the tub full of berries so we could go swimming in the old coal mine pond to wash off the chiggers we had collected in the berry patch.

You older people remember the large field that lay south of the Mike and Ike tracks between South College street and South Washington street. Mr. C. A. Porter owned this land and would rent parts of it to people for farming. My grandfather, Alfred Crane, and my uncle, Ora Crane, used to farm the part of this large field where the Salem gas plant is now located and where the tank company was, and they planted it in stock peas.

How many of you have eaten stock peas? We ate lots of them and they weren't bad either, with a good sized piece of what we called sow-belly cooked with them, corn bread

and raw onions or horseradish. Very good!

I am submitting a picture of my grandfather and uncle, taken while they were plowing this field. Almost anytime you would see my grandfather around town in his wagon, you were sure to see from two to six or eight kids riding on the wagon. He loved children and was very tolerant of them.

I am sure many of you remember when the city streets were mostly dirt streets and the grading of the streets was done by a grader pulled by a team and I have ridden many hours on this grader which had a seat on the front end for the driver of the team and a platform on the rearend where the grader man operated the blade. Do any of you remember the name of the man who graded the streets way back then? His name was Bill Sullens and I must admit he did a better job then with the old horsedrawn grader than is done today, even with all their modern equipment. Show me one street in Salem that drains properly and I will show you ten that do not drain at all. Not so back when people took pride in their work.

I remember one of the industries of Salem in the old days was the apple drying done at the site we called the apple house. I am reminded of my mother working in this apple house. She peeled apples and back then they would have to stand up and work. But one of the Schwartz brothers, Frank to be specific, wanted to put in stools so the women could sit down, but Joe didn't think they could afford them. I am told that Frank got tired of waiting for Joe to come around to his way of thinking; so Frank bought the stools himself.

But I believe later that Joe paid his share of the cost.

The old apple house even after it closed down in later years served many purposes. The Lamont circus set up on the east part of the old apple house grounds and many happy times were spent at the circus. Phelan Haines was ringmaster. Earl Haines was driver of the band wagon and Mr. Baker was the circus clown. This was back when the circus traveled by wagons. I was caught a few times trying to slip under the tent sides. How many of you back then were caught trying to slip into the circus?

Another purpose the old apple house grounds served was a place to play baseball. We made our own balls by taking a small rubber ball for the center then winding twine string around and around the rubber center until the ball was the size we wanted it to be. All of us kids was very careful to save all the twine string we got hold of.

We had a team that was called the Southside, which consisted of such players as Harry Purdue, Jim Marcum, Curt Henson, Joe Davis, Carter Stonecipher, Everett Crain, Ben Jourdan, Buck Asbury, Marshal Goostree and others I can't recall just off hand. Our enemies were a team called Northside, consisting of such players as: Theodore "Big Dutch" Hilgeford, Maurice Horsman, Wayne "Little Dutch" Hilgeford, the Bunnell boys, a Retherford boy, Tubby Mills and others I can't recall at this time, but we had some great times.

My grandfather used to ask, who is playing who today? Is the Northside playing the Southside or is the Southside playing the Northside?

First airport is now county fairgrounds

I believe that the first airport that Salem had was where the Marion County fairgrounds are located now. I think one of Salem's early pilots used this field in his training to be an RAF fighter pilot. His name was Phil Leckrone. Salem's airport was named Leckrone Field in honor of Phil, who lost his life during World War II over the English Channel.

When I was young, about 12 years old, I put in a crop of corn in the north end of the present fairgrounds, plowed the field with a team and walking plow, planted and cultivated it all.

I remember one day while turning at the east end of the field I got my foot in the way and the plow ran over it, cutting my foot. My wife's brother, Joe Davis, was there and continued plowing while I went and had my foot wrapped up. Oh, yes, we went barefooted.

When shucking the corn in the field my two cousins always took one row and I took one row which always was the down row. This was the row the wagon ran over and broke the stalks down. South of the old Well's place where the fair cattle sheds are now was a field of red top hay

Great times and great clean fun. Not too many of us had ball gloves back then, usually only the catcher and maybe the first baseman. But we sure had fun.

So long. God bless you all.

which we always harvested each year.

Some oldtimers may remember that the first city dump was just north of the city disposal plant. If this ground could be dug up today, the people who collect old bottles could have a field day.

How many remember the time the westbound passenger train derailed at the crossing of the B&O and C&EI railroads? One of the cars stopped, leaning against the tower building and the operator on duty at the time, thinking the tower building was going to fall over, jumped out the window onto the ground. I think the operator on duty was Elwood Joines.

Many of you remember the old ice plant north of the tower on the old C&EI. This was sure a busy place back before large trucks came along.

During the fruit seasons many, many refrigerator cars were iced here at the ice plant. Each car had a compartment in each end into which large cakes of ice were put until these compartments were full to keep the fruit from spoiling while in shipment.

Usually this was a 24 hour job during the fruit harvesting seasons.

I previously mentioned the concrete block house on West Whittaker street (it is still standing.) This place was just back of Cleve Bail's home which was on South College.

In this concrete house, concrete blocks were made in metal molds then taken from the

molds and placed on little narrow gauge cars that ran on a small track (like railroad tracks), then when a car was loaded, it was pushed into a separate room where there was heat to quick dry cure the blocks. As soon as they were dry they were pushed outside and placed in stacks, waiting for sale.

Once Ruth Bail was playing at this block house and someone pushed the car over Ruth's foot which happened to be on the rail. She sure was lucky that the car wasn't loaded or she might have suffered a severe injury; bad enough as it was.

Just south across the alley from the Bail's home on South College was a grand old lady. She was Harry Goldsboro's grandmother. She made the most delicious biscuits you ever sunk a tooth into and it seemed she always seemed to have plenty. Anyone who went down the alley, she usually had a kind word for them and a biscuit if you wanted one. Just south of this home, close to the B&O railroad was a huge tree and I believe every kid in that part of town and some older folks had their initials carved on this tree.

Just west of the concrete block house lived William Bill Sullens and on the south end of his property was a large barn painted black and the entire south end of this barn was a large sign advertising Mail Pouch tobacco.

Across the alley from this barn was a small home facing on South Franklin street. One of Salem's finest was born in this house. Know who it was? It was me, "Blue" Crane. That is where my grandfather came to see me when I was born, took one look at me and said, "by jove, he

looks just like my old blue mule." The nickname stuck and I have it still today.

Getting back to South College street, just south of Harry Goldsboro's grandmother's place, did you know that way back there the railroad depot stood on the north side of the tracks? Yep, it did!

On the west a block on the south side of the tracks at South Franklin used to be the stock pens where many wild Mustangs and mules were shipped in by rail. Earl and Phelan Hanes used to break many of these wild horses at this stock pen. Many cattle were shipped to and from this stock pen. Back in those days this was a thriving business.

My grandfather's home was 430 South Castle street at the corner of West Locust. South of Locust street the block used to be empty. We had a garden there, but several times before, houses were built in this block. Lamont's circus used to set up and show there in the spring before taking to the road.

Grandpa had a barn in back and there was a well there with a water trough and they would bring the animals from the circus over and water them at the well.

I well remember Omar Eddings bringing the elephant over for water and picking me up and placing me on the elephant and I rode it back over to the circus tents. That was my first and only ride on an elephant. Of course, Mr. Lamont gave us all passes to the circus for the use of grandpa's water.

Mr. Jim Castle owned this block and a good portion of the land or lots on South Castle street. The street was named for Colonel Castle.

God bless you all.

Days long gone but not forgotten

In this article I want to mention a few places that probably some of you may remember more vividly that I do.

Many years back in the building where Black and Yolton's Insurance is now located, there was a grocery store run by a Mr. Tarter, father of Buck Tarter, who lives on West Main street. Mr. Tarter sold out to Mr. Howell and then Mr. Clarence Chance bought from Mr. Howell. Eddie Chance worked in this store for many years.

I remember one of the meat cutters who worked in this store. Do you? It was Marvin Bryant who married one of Mrs. Eva White's sisters. Marvin also did butchering for people in Salem and vicinity. We always had at least three hogs we raised for winter meat and Marvin did our butchering.

Many of you remember Dr. Spencer who had a dentist place on the second floor of this business. Dr. Spencer was said to have the reputation of making the best dentures in this part of the country. Just east of this building, about two or three doors, was Rudolph's Cleaning and Pressing Shop. I believe one of the Squibb girls worked there for many years.

Many of you probably don't remember this but way back there where Perry's Jewelry store is now used to be an open space that ran through to the alley and this space had benches in it for seats and outdoor movies were shown here. This was before the Lyric Theater opened.

One of the better known places in the old days was the Lyric Theater just east of Rudolph's Shop. Silent movies were featured in those days with mostly western shows and comedy. There was always music by piano. I can remember some of the nice ladies who played the piano, Pearl Cantrell, Libbie Washburn and Beatrice Frakes. I believe that at one time this theater was managed by Ed Barenfanger, father of Lewis Barenfanger.

Just east, next door, there used to be an A. and P. grocery store. I believe that Ted Dietrich ran this store at one time. In the building where the Salem Building and Loan Office was located, Jack Jones operated a three-chair barber shop, with a shoe shining chair. Later Ed and Duard Duncan bought this shop and operated it for many years.

One of Salem's former citizens who graduated from Salem high school with a straight A average shined shoes in this shop while attending high school here in Salem. Know who? He was Darwin Davis, son of the late H. B. "Joe" Davis and Mrs. Madeline Davis who still lives here in Salem. Darwin now lives in Victoria, Texas and is Chemical Research manager for the DuPont company in Victoria.

In the west half of the building, which is now Irwin's Furniture store, back about 1920, J. E. "Whoopy" McMackin ran a hardware store here, helped by his sons, Jean, John and Jim.

"Whoopy" was a good and kind man never turning down anyone who was in need.

Do you remember what occupied the east side of Irwin's Furniture store? Remember the candy kitchen? Oh, what fond memories I have of this place! I used to take my wife there for ice cream sundaes. Their candies were homemade, produced right in the back of the store and very good, too. I believe the first family I remember who ran the candy kitchen was named Cherikos, if my spelling is correct. Later the Pete Paus family bought this place and ran it for many years and then Mr. Paus moved to North Broadway where the flower shop is now located by the bridge. He operated this place for many years.

On the second floor of this building some very prominent men had offices and businesses. Some I remember were old Doc Porter who had his office up there for many, many years. Doc was a wonderful man. Basil Wilson had a law office up there also, and remember one of Salem's finest tailors? Yes, it was Joe Bauman. Joe also had his living quarters up there also. I think also at one time Doc Wood had an office there also. I might be mistaken but I think Charlie Vursell had an office up there also.

Of course, you remember the Old State Bank that was on the corner of Main and Broadway?

One of the memories I have of this building was the offices of the C. and E. I. railroad which were located on the third floor, where the crews for the various trains were made up and put on the "board." There was an employee that had the title of "Call Boy" and it was his duty to see that

the men of these various train crews were notified what train and what time they were to report on duty. To me this was very interesting, in those days. In the north part of the bank building was a nice grocery and meat market. A Mr. Schudy ran the meat market and their hamburger was two pounds for a quarter on specials.

In later years, Mr. Harry Mueller ran this grocery store. How many of you remember that Mr. Mueller invented the carton in which you carry your soda pop home from the store? It is true. One of our parks in Salem is named Mueller Park. Nice people, the Muellers.

Just north of the bank building was a large vacant lot where the fast food store is now located. Every spring and summer there would be different tent shows, medicine shows, and also there was a Chautauqua show that came each summer and boy, the fun we kids used to have at these shows. No charge, all free, good clean fun.

On the corner of Broadway and West Schwartz, if my memory serves me correctly, was a long frame building. There were several business places here in this building, but one I remember was operated by Mr. Morris, father of John Morris. Mr. Morris had an office there and I believe he was a distributor for cigars. He was a fine citizen of Salem and raised a fine family.

Across the street north on the corner where the Standard station is located, back in the early days, was located Salem's first hospital owned and operated by the Rainey brothers, George S. Rainey M.D. and Warren D. Rainey M.D. The superintendent

was Olive Webster. This place was later converted to Salem's first funeral home operated by McMackins (Omar).

Do you remember the little concrete block building that stood where Hardee's is now? It was used way back there for a photography shop, later there was a little store in there and I believe the last business in there was a restaurant ran by a fellow named George.

On north on Broadway where the Elk's home is now, was the fine home of Charles Hull. This home was later purchased by Salem Women's Club for their first home.

Do you remember the old creamery that was located on East Rogers street? Those were the days. I have walked out there many times with a gallon syrup bucket to get a gallon of milk or buttermilk -- and I do mean buttermilk -- and the man who operated the place would always give us a cup of cool milk.

One of the men who operated this old creamery was the grandfather of Robert "Bob" Bush, Eldorus Andrew Tully one of the finer gentlemen of Salem in days gone by.

How many remember what the street was called that runs east from Broadway (presently Olive street) east across the little wooden bridge over the creek north of the trailer court? It was called "Lover's Lane."

In reference to the candy kitchen, I have been reminded by Nelson Page that the first family to operate this business was named Kokonas. I hope I spelled his name right. Thanks, Nelson. I do appreciate people reminding me of things I do not include in my writing and it doesn't hurt my feelings in any way. Thanks. -- Until next time. --

I will knock off for this time. If you have any suggestions, please call me or the Times-Commoner. God bless you all.

Shinny games, swiped lunch

And the building of C&EI reservoir

Continuing with our memories about the days of our youth going to high school where the junior high school is now located -- just northwest of the sty that we used to cross over the fence was a small pond in the south end of Mueller park and we kids used to play shinny on this pond when it was frozen over. We had some good clean fun and many a shin was skinned in these shinny games.

Down at the little creek there was a big log that laid across the creek and this was used as a bridge across the creek and many, many times someone would slip off the log and into the creek. Some would go back home and others would go on to school and go in the furnace room and dry off.

I admit that I, and probably some others, slipped off the log a few times that were not an accident, just an excuse to go back home and get out a half a day of school. Did some of you readers ever do this?

Where Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Tubbs' home is located now there used to be an old building standing. In fact, it was an old depot, and this building was used for teaching manual training. In those days there wasn't any cafeteria and you either brought a lunch or you went home for lunch.

Nelson Page and myself and a boy named Sammy Leshner almost always brought our lunch. Sam's father worked on the railroad and he always brought a big fine lunch, roast beef sandwiches, deviled

eggs, cake or pie, and Nelson and myself usually had just butter and jelly or egg sandwiches. We all three would eat on the porch of this building and either Nelson or myself would tease Sam and while Sam was chasing one of us the other one would swipe some of Sam's lunch. Then we would divide with the other one.

Sam was a pretty plump lad so I don't think he missed it too much. In no cafeteria days, how many remember the Rays who lived across the street south of the junior high? Mrs. Ray made sandwiches and chili and sold candy bars in the front room of their home and it was all real good, too. The boys' names I remember were Zeke and Neal and I think there was another one but I don't recall the names.

In those days the gym at the high school (junior high now) was one of the best gyms in the state and many of the better tournaments were held here in Salem. Salem had some very good teams back then.

High school football teams and the track teams played and practiced where Tully park is now as Salem did not have athletic fields in those days.

How many remember the plans the City of Salem had for the street that is now named Oak Park Drive, but in the old days was named Frisco avenue?

The city's plan was to run a street from uptown straight from uptown all the way out to the C&EI

yards. The survey was even made for this street and a 70-foot right of way was set up but trouble developed and the plan for the street was dropped.

How many remember before the C&EI reservoir was built that there used to be a wooden walk that crossed the creek where the bridge is now at the north end of the C&EI reservoir? That is true and how many remember at the west end of this board walk was a little building. This building was called Bungalow Bill's place.

Some of you may recall when the C&EI reservoir was built. The contractor that built the reservoir had some of the later equipment, big tractors and machines to dig dirt and move the dirt out which was used to make the dam at the south end of the reservoir. The work was almost finished, but the machinery was still standing in the bottom of the reservoir and it came a big rain. It was what old-timers called a frog strangler. Boy did it rain, and the next day all you could see was the tops of these big machines. They finally got the machinery out, or at least I think they did.

One of the favorite swimming holes for everyone was on the west side of the reservoir just north of the dam. It was called the stump, and boy, was it ever deep!

How many recall the building of Route 50 east of Salem? It started at the C&EI tracks and went all the way east to Vincennes, Indiana. The rocks, cement and sand were shipped into Salem

on the C&EI railroad on the east side of the tracks. North of route 50 was where all this material was stockpiled.

The grading for this highway was done with horses and mules pulling graders and dirt slips and most all was done by horsepower and manpower.

There were several local men of Salem who owned teams that worked on this project with teams.

Britt Hines, Chauncey Metcalf and Frank Davis worked on this road all the way to Vincennes, Indiana. I remember they lived in a tent and Mrs. Hines did the cooking and Britt had a Model-T Ford and they drove home to Salem each Friday night and drove back Sunday evening to work another week on this highway.

The material used for mixing the concrete was loaded on small dump trucks at the site by the C&EI railroad and hauled to a large cement mixer and dumped in a large hopper which was raised and dumped in one end of the mixer and then mixed with water and came out the other end as cement which made the concrete road.

I remember riding on these open cab trucks and boy, was it dusty and dirty! Some of the drivers of these trucks were Harvey Leshner, Milford Stratton, Jess Riggs, Ed Daniels and many others I can't recall at this time. Sure a great improvement for this part of Illinois. Hope to bring more later. So long for now. God bless you all.

Recollections of old time doctors North College and Broadway

As promised I will enlighten you about the family who lived at the corner of West Main street and North Pearl street. The family name was Porter, Dr. C. A. Porter to be exact.

"Doc" was a great man and a wonderful family doctor. He once had an office on the second floor of the building that burned where Irwin's furniture store is located now. Dr. Porter also lived on the corner where the Community State bank is located now. He had an office there in his home.

"Doc" never seemed to get in a hurry. He always took time to talk to his patients asking, "how is your family?" And finally he would get around to asking about your trouble and after he talked to you and examined you he would almost use the same soothing and comforting words, "I have just the right little preparation for your trouble."

Then he would reach up on one of the shelves and take down a big black bottle, dust it off and give you a small bottle of the most awful tasting medicine, and maybe a little package of pills and amazingly they seemed to work. His fee usually depended on your income and as most of his patients were poor it was usually 50 cents and seldom over a dollar.

Bless you, "Doc," wherever you are.

Another doctor lived on Main street at the corner of College and Main where the Salem Building and Loan is now located. This was a beautiful brick home which has been moved to

North Pearl street. One memory I have of this fine home was the tennis court behind the house about where the home of John and Ruth Hadley is now. I have spent several hours with others watching young "Doc" Logan, "Doc" Pribble and many others play tennis on this clay court.

Tennis is one game I never had the pleasure of learning to play.

North College street got its name from the college that was located at about 801 North College, about where the home of Ben Baggett is located now.

Back in the early days, I can remember there weren't any houses on

North College on the west side of the street past the 400 block until you got out to where the college was located. All west of College street was just a large pasture.

Just north of the large two-story house which served as the college, about where Don Livesay's home is located at the crest of the hill off College street, stood a log cabin. My Grandmother Bryant lived in this cabin and I can remember as a small boy my mother (Stella Bryant Crane) would walk from South Castle out there to visit my grandmother.

There was a fence all along there and I can

vividly remember the wire gate we would unfasten to walk up the hill to the log cabin. How many of you remember this cabin? I spent many pleasant hours playing under the old iron bridge that crossed the creek on West Boone street.

One of the families who lived in the big house where the college was located was a newlywed couple, fine citizens of Salem, who raised a fine family. They were Herschel Crane and his nice wife.

When Herschel, Lucian and the rest of the Crane family moved to Salem from Raccoon township, the roads were really muddy and some of you



IN CLYDE CRANE'S article above, reference is made to North Broadway of years ago. In the above view, North Broadway at the bridge is shown as it was in 1908 or 1909, and before the concrete walk on the west side crossed Town creek. People on foot used the road bridge. The house in the foreground is the former Bigelow residence at Oglesby street. The sign at the bridge

reads "Pace's Piano Parlor, organs and sheet music, singing and talking machines, Salem." "Singing" is misspelled. The sign at the left reads, "The Real Attraction. Our greater values in clothing, shoes, furnishings for all. H. S. Painkinsky." The picture was provided by Charles L. McMackin. All the areas north of the bridge once were referred to as "Broadway Heights."

remember North Broadway was dirt from Olive street on north, and Lucian Crane led one of their cows all the way to Salem and the mud on North Broadway at this time was knee deep on the cow.

Back then, Bryan park was owned by Charles Hull and over in the park was an old house. The story is told that some of the men of Salem would slip over to this house and gamble. Mr. Hull had a herd of goats then that he pastured in this grove and woods where the park is now.

Speaking of North Broadway, I remember when the carnivals came in on the B&O railroad and the wagons would be unloaded at the depot and pulled out to the Bryan park with teams of horses and mules and some of the heavier wagons would have two teams to pull them up the North Broadway hill.

When leaving and going down this hill the team hitched to a wagon could not hold back these heavy wagons, so there was a large piece of iron as wide as the rear wagon wheel hooked to the wagon with a chain in front of the rear wheel. Before starting down this hill this piece of iron was placed in front of the wheel and the wheel would roll up on this iron piece and would slide down the hill on this iron piece serving as a brake.

Once the chain broke and the wagon careened down the hill and almost killed the team that was hitched to the heavy wagon.

When North Broadway was paved all the grading and hauling of rock, sand, bricks, etc. was done with teams and wagons.

Compared to North Broadway of today, back then North Broadway was much more beautiful

-- seemed that people in those days took more personal pride in the way the walks and streets looked.

How many of you remember the accident that happened at the top of the hill on North Broadway?

Remember when the Greyhound bus ran into the front of the large two-story house that stood on the west side of the street where the little brick house now stands?

The driver came around the curve and didn't straighten out and rammed into the house. I believe that the late Tom Riste, his wife, Gladys, and family lived there at the time of the accident.

This home I believe was the home in which Gladys was raised owned by her parents Mr. and Mrs. Pace.

I think in later there was a service station operated in front of this home.

I believe one of the operators of this station was the late Stony Vogt Jr. who at one time was Chief of Police in Salem.

Do you remember the path that led from what was then the high school south through the woods to a log across the creek and on to the sty over the fence where East Olive street and the present North Jefferson street intersect?

Back then there wasn't any North Jefferson street north of North Alley. We kids had a lot fun playing in these woods especially along the cliff west of Mr. Brinkerhoff's house.

More next time. God bless you all.

Salem businesses of yester-year

Across the street from the present fire station location on the corner of Broadway and McMackin was a store owned by Charles Hull and I believe operated by a gentleman named Knisley. In later years this building was converted to a restaurant operated I believe first by Alvie Cooper and they had family style eating, all you could eat for a quarter. Later this restaurant was operated by Fred and Mabel Kelly and on the second floor of this building were rooms that were rented for sleeping.

Just south of this building was a store and meat market that was run by a Mr. John Redfearin.

Just south of this store was another small building where I believe that Belle McCastle ran a restaurant in conjunction with the Broadway Hotel located just south of this restaurant. I think in later years this Broadway Hotel was run by Mr. McHaney, father of Alonzo McHaney who now resides with his wife in Glenwood Acres 2 in Salem.

Across the street north on the corner where the Times-Commoner is now located was a general store operated by John W. White. This store had a delivery service which was common back in those days. I believe two of the delivery boys were Floyd Leshner and Harvey Leshner. In those days there were rooms on the second floor which were rented out for living quarters. In later years this location became the I.G.A. store operated by

Charles Vursell in the grocery part and Charles Jones operated the meat department and he had a meat cutter by the name of Leo Mendenhall, who later ran his own business on South Marshall street.

These gentlemen later moved to North Jefferson street and operated the I.G.A. store there for many years.

Next door north was the 5 and 10 cent store operated by J. W. "But-ton" White and his wife Eva, who still resides in the home place on North Jefferson street. Mrs. White is a wonderful lady and still has an excellent memory.

Next to the 5 and 10 cent store north was Holmes' paint and wallpaper store operated by Bill and Jake Holmes. Jake and Bill were painters and paper hangers by trade.

How many remember the theater that was on the second floor above these two businesses? It was named the "Broadway Theater." Salem's new opera house. H. E. White and Company with only first class attractions. This is where I attended my first theater attraction. This space was later occupied by Booher's Tin Shop and Metal Shop. At one time north of Holmes' was the N. Merz and Son Steam and Hot Water Heating, Plumbing and Pipe Fitting business. I believe that at one time a Mr. Andrews that ran the Salem Ice Plant operated a Plumbing business in this block.

There were also two barber shops that I remember operating in

this block back in those days. One was operated by Ed Duncan and Oscar Sullens who later moved across the street west, and the other shop was operated by Mr. Easley, the father of Harry, and Pearl Easley who still live in Salem.

In the little space behind just south of Sweney's Drug store was a little store operated by one of Salem's older and finer gentlemen a Mr. Day.

Do you remember the business that operated where the present Sweney's Drug store is now? It was Wallace's Novelty store, the candy store of Salem, postcards of quality, fancy China, souvenirs and toys. Just east of Sweney's in the building now occupied by the Leader run by Mr. and Mrs. Flack, Charlie Cruse ran a very good hardware store. Later Mr. Cruse moved to the new building where the present McMackin Hardware now is located. In the building now occupied by Bernhardt's clothing, if I am not mistaken there was a store run by the name William Kaufman and sons, suits ready made or tailor made, clothiers since 1894 The HUB. I believe in later years this store was run for many years by Sig and Henry Kaufman.

Do you remember the jeweler and watch repairman who was in Sweney's Drug store? Mr. Hart a fine gentleman. In the building where the Fabric shop is now back in the old days was a drug store run by Red Storment, a nice gentleman. The jeweler and watch repairman in Storement's drug store was Skeet Storment, a very nice man. Red Storment's wife, a daughter of Mr. William Pruden still resides on East Main

street, a very fine lady.

I remember two brands of cigarettes Red sold. One was Sunshine and the other was Cubebs. How many know why people smoked the Cubeb cigarettes? You old railroad men remember what meeting hall was on the floor above Storment's Drug store do you not? The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, B. of R. T. Mr. Rohrbough operated a hardware store where Wisniewski's music store is now. This store was later the Ross and Paul Hardware store.

Next door east for many, many years a Lady's Wear store was operated by the Meyer's family. One of the old time stores was on the corner of East Main street and South Washington. In front of this store was one of the old metal watering troughs where people would water their horses or mules when they came to town to trade, and along the entire east side of this store there was a hitching rack where people tied up their driving or riding stock while trading in Salem. This store was the Salem Mercantile Co. Department store. Everything for everybody. J. H. Vawter, president and manager, S. N. Finn, vice president, R. C. Hays, secretary and treasurer. Directors were Reuben C. Hays, J. H. Vawter, A. R. Williams, J. B. Orntzen, Charles Lamont, J. E. Bryan and S. N. Finn.

This store in later years was run by the James brothers, very fine gentlemen. Across the street was McMackin's Furniture store. McMackin not only sold all kinds of furniture and wallpaper but also at that time was the only undertaking establishment in Salem. Their embalmer I believe was a

fine gentlemen by the name of Neal Crossett and in those days there were no funeral parlors, so the embalmers came to the home with their equipment and did the embalming right in the home and the body stayed in the home until taken to the church for the funeral. How many remember when the post office was in the building now occupied by the Illinois Power Company? I believe the post mistress at that time was a Mrs. Webster.

I believe at one time where Bohrer's Plumbing shop is now there was a bakery operated by a Mr. Feltman, fine man and prominent figure in Salem.

I believe way back the Old Republican printing shop and newspaper occupied the building where the Drapery shop is now.

Of course on the corner was one of the fine hotels of Salem, the East Main Hotel.

I can't remember this but in the block just east of the hotel a Mr. S. E. Davidson was a dealer -- automobiles, high class driving horses and Shetland ponies, garage and sales stable.

On North Jefferson street northeast of where the Pathel apartments are, did you know that at one time there was a brick kiln where bricks were made? True, and there was a narrow two rail track that ran up to East Main street.

Speaking of East Main street did you know that way back from about where Wallace used to run the garage on east the walk was made out of wood -- yep that's true.

I remember on the corner where the Star station is now, Max Crossett used to run an eating joint. Max always had a bunch of fish fried up, sitting up on the counter

and the boys would catch Max turned around looking the other way, then swipe some fish. I know many mother wondered why the pockets of their boys' clothes were so greasy.

Where the Montgomery Ward order store is now there used to be a Kroger store in this building.

I mentioned previously about Perriman's garage being along about where Maude's restaurant is and I believe two other makes of cars they sold were Overlands and Jacksons.

In later years where the garage was, Mr. Wilson, father of John McMackin's first wife operated a fine bakery there. We used to walk up there from high school and buy cream puffs and other sweets for our lunch. I believe in later years John Taylor operated this bakery and I think one of his workers was Max Pruden, father of John and Herb Pruden.

In the building there where the Western Auto store used to be a one time I believe that was a Clover Leaf store or Clover Farm store.

Where the Boston store is now way back there was a grocery store I believe was owned by Lee and Howell. Their bookkeeper was Effie Hines, fine lady and a first class store. I believe this store was originally located on South Broadway about where the old Marion County Democrat newspaper was located.

Before I go on I would like to correct a mistake I made in a former article. I said that Effie Hines was bookkeeper for Mr. William Pruden's store, but I goofed. The right lady who kept books for Mr. Pruden was Edna Kretzer, sorry about that Edna. Please forgive me.

On the corner where Norm's Shoe store is now was once the American

Express Office. The deliveries way back, from the Express Office were made by horse and wagon and if you remember the old horse would stand at the side of the building hitched to the delivery wagon by the hour and if you remember in front of where the Slim Gym place is now, on the corner there was an iron watering trough and I have seen this horse when he would get thirsty just walk angling across the street to the water trough and drink his fill and then walk back across the street to continue waiting. I can't explain what it was, unless it was some intuition the horse had, but this horse seemed to know what time he was supposed to leave to meet the different trains and he would leave the corner to go to meet the train. I suppose someone watched him closely as there was usually a driver on the wagon and if not the horse went to the station and positioned the wagon by himself. The horse did this many times.

Later this was converted into a restaurant. I remember two of the families who ran this restaurant, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Starnes and Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeRocher. Just north of the restaurant Mr. Fischer ran a barber shop for many years. I believe if I am not mistaken Edgar Tate also worked in this shop. This shop is now Hawkin's Barber Shop.

I believe way back there about where Larimer's is now was a restaurant that was run by the Burkett boys.

Just north of this a Mr. Charles D. Merrett ran a printing and artistic shop.

On north on the corner of North Washington and

E. Schwartz streets do you remember the old telephone building? Back when the operator would say -- number please -- I remember a fine lady who worked in this office. She was Mrs. Tubbs, wife of Elmer Tubbs. This was many years before dial phones came on the scene.

Do you remember the name of the first telephone company in Salem? It was Commercial Telephone and Telegraph Company. Mr. Charlie Hull ran one of the first telephone systems in Salem and Mr. Harry Etter was his superintendent and general repair man, and in later years, Mr. Etter was head of the Salem Electric Light System.

Of course many of you can remember the old Park Hotel. This was really one of the elegant places of Salem back in the days gone by.

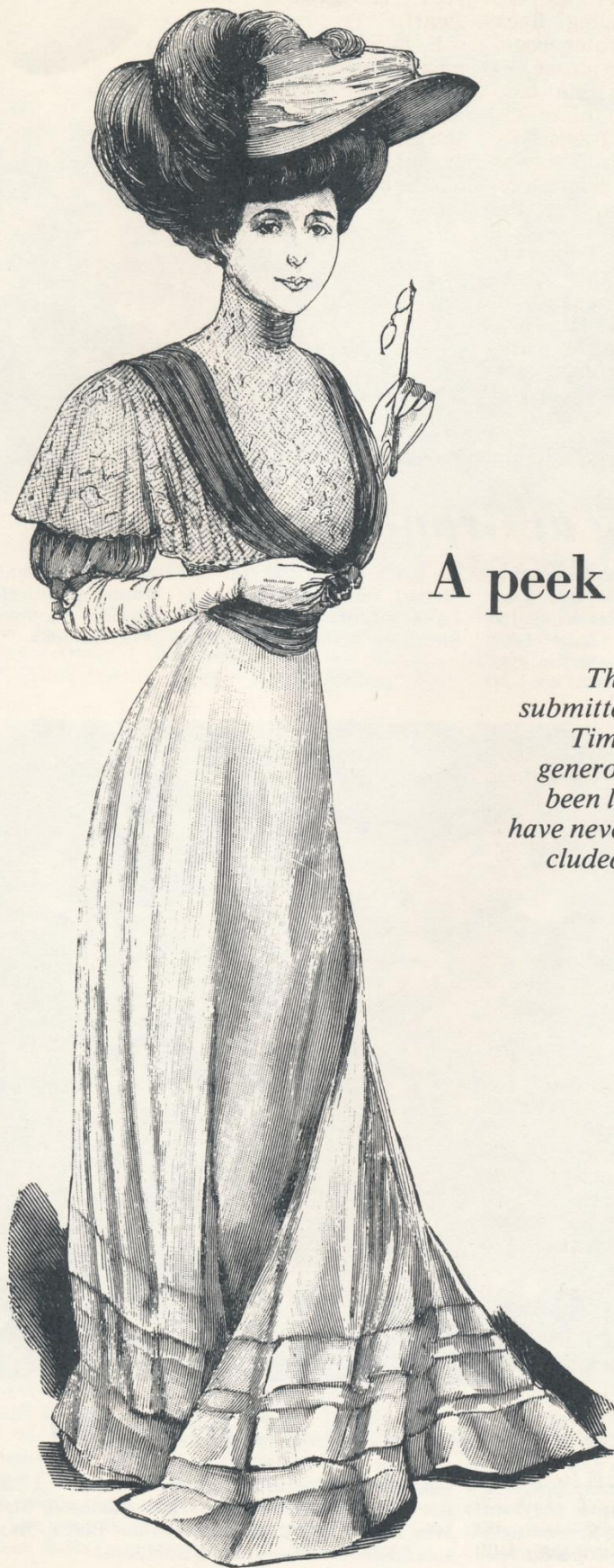
It was where people who ate out in those days would patronize, for the Park Hotel had a very nice dining room, served very good food. This was attested to by the many railroad men who roomed and ate there.

My mother worked several years in the Park Hotel in the dining room and kitchen.

In those days there were very few cars and traveling salesmen would travel from town to town by railroads and they were met at the stations by Hacks "drawn by horses, later motorized" and transported to the various hotels. I remember one well known boy of Salem who worked at the Park Hotel as a, what is known now as a Red Cap. His name is Sam Murdock. Another of Salem's men who worked there as a desk clerk was Carl Robinson, and I believe this is where he became acquainted with a very fine

girl who he later married. Her name was Pearl.

I failed to mention another hotel that stood north on Washington street on the spot where the present Marion County jail is. Remember it? The Saint James Hotel.



A peek at the past . . .

The following pictures have been submitted for publication in the Salem Times-Commoner by many of our generous readers. Most of them have been locked away over the years and have never been published. We have included them in this book to preserve them for posterity.



Family meeting at Grandma Campbell's

THIS PICTURE WAS taken at the home of "Grandma Campbell" in 1900. Gathered for a reunion were, left to right, front row, Cleta Howe Stowers, Ivan Howe, and Vernice Middleton and in buggy, Floyd Middleton, Ethel Littrell Linder, Lora Littrell Bartley. In the back row are Rose Simmons Howe, L.

E. (Tib) Howe, Emmitt Middleton, Effie Simmons Middleton, Jennie Wood, Luella Simmons Littrell, William Lawson Littrell, Mary Emma Simmons Campbell, Emery Simmons, Arthur Campbell and Alva Simmons.



Phelps school students in 1929-1930

THE PHELPS SCHOOL class picture of 1929-30 was provided this newspaper by Mr. and Mrs. Junior Bryant. In the front row are Harvey Leckrone, Ernest Rogers and Ferriss Bell. Middle row: Mike Michisko, Betty Stevenson, Fern Steven-

son, Richard Leckrone, Junior Bryant and Sammie Bell. Back row: Blossom Bell, Darlene Robinson, Gladys Bryant, Miss Myrtle Kagy, teacher, Juanita Black, Maxine Stevenson, Helen Albert and Leona Robinson.



1938 Salem All Star softball team

THIS PICTURE of the Salem All Star softball team of 1938 was furnished by Sam Murdock. Pictured, left to right, first row, Mayor Omar J. McMackin, Crawford Hawley, Clyde "Blue" Crane, Donald "Sloppy" Davis, William "Bil-

ly" Hawkins, Sam Murdock, Doc Brubaker and Doctor Cunningham. Second row, Walter Wehmeyer (manager), Carl Robinson, Louis "Louie" Gruenkemeyer, Pete Robinson, John Maroney and Warren "J.P." Morgan.



Board of supervisors for Marion county, 1898

THIS PHOTOGRAPH was taken in 1898 in the sheriff's office in the northwest corner of the Marion county courthouse which was built in 1855. Shown are county officials and members of the board of supervisors. The individual numbered 1, upper left, standing in the back row, was the sheriff, Matthew B. Wells. Seated in front of him, No. 2, was Isaac B. Betts, county clerk, and in the front row seated, No. 3, is John W. Larimer. Both Betts and Larimer served as Mayors of Salem, Betts from 1890 to 1891, and Larimer from

1892 to 1893. According to former Mayor Charles McMackin, who loaned this photo to the Times-Commoner, photographs of every Salem mayor, except two, are now on display in the city council room at city hall. Needed are pictures of Dr. D. K. Green, who served as mayor 1869-70, and C. R. Rogers, who served 1901-2. Altogether there have been 38 mayors, including the present mayor, John R. Jones, since 1865. Others shown in the picture are not identified, but perhaps someone can provide identification.

Recall good old golden rule days



COULD THIS PHOTO have provided inspiration for the first school bus? Students at East Nation school shown here were from the year 1915-16 and eight of them are pictured mounted on the horse which provided transportation for the teacher, Ethel Farthing. On the horse are Marguerite Peters, Willie Peters, Rupert Williams, Pearl

Easley, unknown, Merle Lloyd, Goldie Lee, unknown, and Retha Williams. In front are Lowell Parker, unknown, Bessie Parker, Florence Williams, Geneva Lloyd, Mabel Lloyd and Huldah Peters. The old East Nation school building has been moved to Salem and is to become a museum.

ROSA FARTHING Thurman, Ethel Farthing and Pearl Farthing Anderson, three Salem sisters each shown here as they were during their early teaching positions, were teachers in the East Nation one-room schoolhouse which was moved from its original site southwest of Salem to the Salem community high school campus. Mrs. Thurman, top, began her teaching career there in 1903 which was the second year in the school's history. Her sister, Ethel, center, taught there in 1915 and another sister, Pearl, bottom, taught her first year of school there in 1916. The school was moved to the SCHS site by the Marion County Retired Teachers' association to be preserved and visited by future generations.



FOURTEEN STUDENTS attended East Nation school in 1916. Shown here are the students of Ethel Farthing. In front row, left to right, are William Peters, Retha Williams, Rupert Williams, Pearl Easley. Second row, Golda Lee, Murle Lloyd, Margaret Peters, Florence Williams and Lovell Parker. Back row, Bessie Parker, Huldah Peters, Geneva Lloyd, Mabel Lloyd and the teacher, Ethel Farthing.



Early East Nation school

PEARL FARTHING Anderson is shown here with students of East Nation school for the term 1916-17. The term was her first teaching assignment. Students were not identified.



Old-time preacher

BILLY SIMER, an old-time Christian preacher, here is shown in this undated photograph provided by Mrs. P. C. "Bill" Fyke. The minister lived near Omega and is buried in the Lovell's Grove cemetery.



Oilfield memories

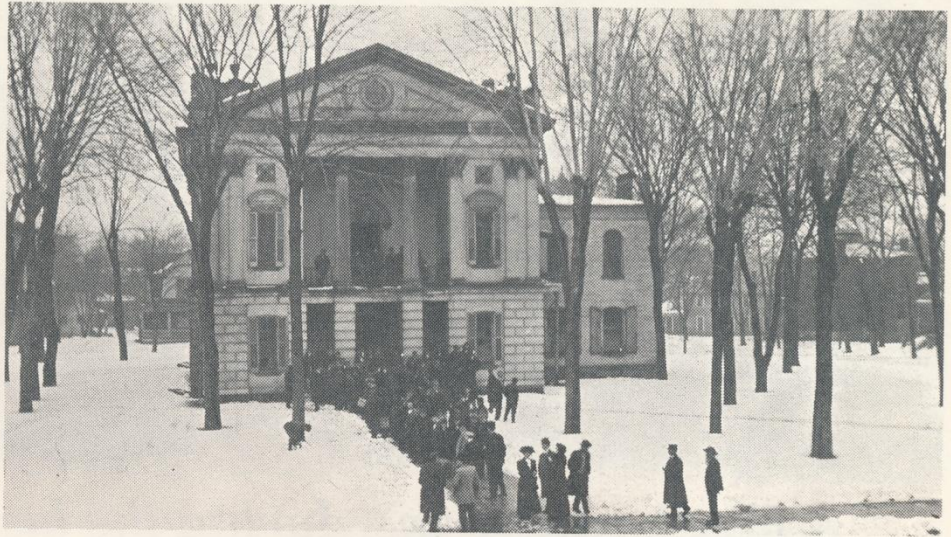
TIMES HAVE CHANGED, and so has L. R. "Red" Young, who is shown here on the Jetti lease in Salem township during 1939 when the great Salem oil boom was well underway.



HERE "RED" is shown with framework of a 5,000-barrell tank built for a pipeline at Sandoval during 1941.

Old courthouse, going, going, gone

PREDECESSOR to the present Marion county courthouse built in 1855, stood intact for the last time in 1903, with the new structure ready for use in 1910. (Photos provided by Charles McMackin)



THE OLD COURTHOUSE on the way down. According to Charles McMackin it took approximately three years for the complete razing and clearing job to be done.



THE WORK OF DEMOLITION was just about finished when this photograph was taken. Grace Methodist Church may be seen in the background.





A family gathering during the last century

IN THE YEAR 1896 this picture, owned by George E. Ross of Sandoval, was taken. The four ladies in the front row are sisters, the daughters of William and Rachel (McClelland) Johnson. They are the granddaughters of Lt. Alexander McClelland, a Revolutionary War veteran. Their great-grandfathers, Rev. Benjamin Courson and Lt. Col. John McClelland,

also were patriots in that war. Front row: Fred Francis, Susan Francis, Catherine (Mrs. Andrew) Shanafelt, Lavina (Mrs. Felix G.) Ross, Julia Deadmond and Henderson Deadmond. Back row: Tilda Holstlaw, Sam McClelland, Kina McClelland, Isaac Shanafelt, Sarah Shanafelt, Martha Meredith and John R. McClelland.



Yard party—Early 1900's

SEATED - LEFT TO RIGHT. Charlie Merrit, Mrs. Joe Schwartz, C. L. McMackin, Mrs. McMackin, Mrs. Alice Pace, Mrs. Lulu Hull, Mrs. Crossett.
STANDING - LEFT TO RIGHT. Bob Pace, Joe

Schwartz, Mrs. Rainey, Dr. Rainey, Charles Hull, Carrie Merritt, Mrs. Larimer, John Larimer, Mr. Sweney, Mrs. Sweney, Mr. Crossett.



Over a century of farming

PICTURED ARE ISAAC I. Shanafelt and his son, Forrest Shanafelt. They owned and farmed the land on both sides of Highway 50 at the Death Valley bridge west of Salem for

over a century (1850-1970).

(Photo provided by George E. Ross of Sandoval)



Familiar scene of 50 years ago

THIS WAS A FAMILIAR scene 50 years ago on many a farm throughout the Salem area, this one taken by a photographer 53 years ago in 1925. Shown are Jabe Wilkins, Bessie Holt and Rena Holt on a farm between Iuka

and Kell, south of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. The photo was loaned to the Times-Commoner by Pearl Thomas of Salem.



Lioness club members in 1946

MEMBERS OF THE Salem Lioness club are shown at a formal meeting of the organization during the year in which it was founded. Attending the 1946 meeting were, left to right, Stella Logan, Mildred Williams, Elaine Paul, Sara Pearce, Larry

Allen, president, Angline Black, Mary Margaret Miller, Constance Hancock, Ruby Bertram and Pauline David. This picture was provided courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Paul and Clyde "Blue" Crane.



It was a cold day for Fairview in 1912

FAIRVIEW SCHOOL students posed for this picture one week before Christmas, December 18, 1912. Their apparel and poses indicate that it was a typical cold southern Illinois winter day. Teacher of the school that year was Emil Oldfield. Students are, front row, left to right, Bud Adams, Marie McMeen, Robert England, Thelma Martin, Helen Richardson, Reed Henry and Tom Nelms. Frank Fyke is

pictured alone in second row. In third row are Gladys Murray, Ethel Martin, Ross Henry, Inez McMeen, Harold Boles, Donald Richardson, Irene Martin, P. C. "Bill" Fyke and Ella Adams. In the last row are Robert Carr, Earl Fyke, Olive Richardson, Queen Adams, the teacher Emil Oldfield, Orville Fyke, Beulah Fyke, Elsie Martin and Ufa "Jum" Boles. (Photo courtesy of Bill Fyke.)



Only two men among Sexton employees

THIS IS A picture of the old Sexton Manufacturing company which was located in Salem at the corner of South Maple and West Church streets. Men's BVD's

were made there when this picture was taken in 1930, forty-nine years ago. Only two men were employed there, Orville Shoemaker, to the left of the picture, who was the

machinist and kept the sewing machines in order for the girls. The other was the day man or custodian, Alonzo (Barney) McHaney. His father, "Mac" Mc-

Haney, served in this capacity also. (Submitted by Goldie English, third from left in the first row, who was the office girl at the time.)





Omega school teachers in the 40's

RUBY LINTON was the teacher for the Omega one-room school in 1941 and she is shown here with 22 students of that term. Students are, front row, left to right, Geneva Eblin, JoAnn Fields, Mary Jo Wantland, Betty Lou Simer, Lavern Crutchfield, Margaret Millican, Herma Jean Lewis, Betty

Wantland, Hilda See, Hazel Jean Prather and Ella Mae See. Second row, Marvin Young, Clyde Wagoner, Bill Jenkins, Eugene Fields (deceased), Elbert Prather (deceased), Eugene Baker, Bob Marlow, Ted Marlow, Carroll Lewis and Chester Lewis.



TEACHER FOR Omega school back in 1942 was Mrs. Myra Simmons. She is shown here with her students, front row, left to right, Keith Wimberly, Bob Marlow, JoAnn Fields, Marie Mulvaney, Hazel Jean Prather, Betty Lou Simer, Geneva

Eblin, Don Eblin, Erma Jean See, and Herma Jean Lewis. Back row, Chester Lewis, Ted Marlow, Carroll Lewis, Vivian Rose, Eugene Baker, Lavern Crutchfield, Hilda See and Bill Jenkins.



John Burton family portrait of 1918

THIS PORTRAIT of the John Burton family of Iuka was taken in 1918 and was submitted to the Times-Commoner by Pearl Thomas of Salem. In the photo are, front row, Pearl Thomas, Sherla Burton, Grace Senter, Fannie Burton, Thenie Link, Angie Young, Josie Holt, Bobbie Wilkins, Lovell

Burton, unknown, and an unidentified woman. Children seated in front are Ida Holt and Verda Burton. Back row, Harry Senter, Rev. Mitchell, Dr. Luther Holt, J.D. Burton, Roy Thomas and son, Gleason, J.A. Thomas, Lester Link and Everett Link.



Salem harriers of 44 years ago

THIS PICTURE OF members of the 1934-35 Salem high school track team was furnished by Lee Cantrell, one of the members, who now resides at 5573 Hardwick drive, Columbus, Ohio. The photo was taken on the north side of the present Junior High school building. Team members are as follows: front row, left to right, Harold Hayes, John Featherly, Lyle Thurman, Bernard Williams, Almos Geibe,

Bill Sullens, Louis Gruenkemeyer, Hall Wellman, Maurice Powless, Gene Yolton, Lee Cantrell, Leon Scott. Second row, Curtis Smith, Paul Currie, John Kagy, Elmer Southward, Dale Broom, unknown, Arthur Brinson, Neil (Pug) Sullens and Kenneth McHaney. Third row, James Rogers, manager; O. B. Riegel, coach; and Tom Riste, manager.



Who went to Bell school in 1895?

HALLIE SEIBER asks the help of Times-Commoner readers in identifying members of the Bell school classes shown here. He believes the picture was taken about the year 1895 as his father, seen at far right in back row, was a member of the school group. His father, Samuel J. Seiber was

born in 1879. Shown in the second row is Melinda Seiber, pictured with light jumper, who later was married to a Myers. On her right is Wayne Seiber. All are now deceased. Teacher of the one-room school was W. J. Alvis.



Sandoval photograph in 1918

THIS 1918 photograph has wording on it saying the men pictured were employees of the coal mine at Sandoval, but it is believed the picture might have been taken at a saw mill there. At upper left is the

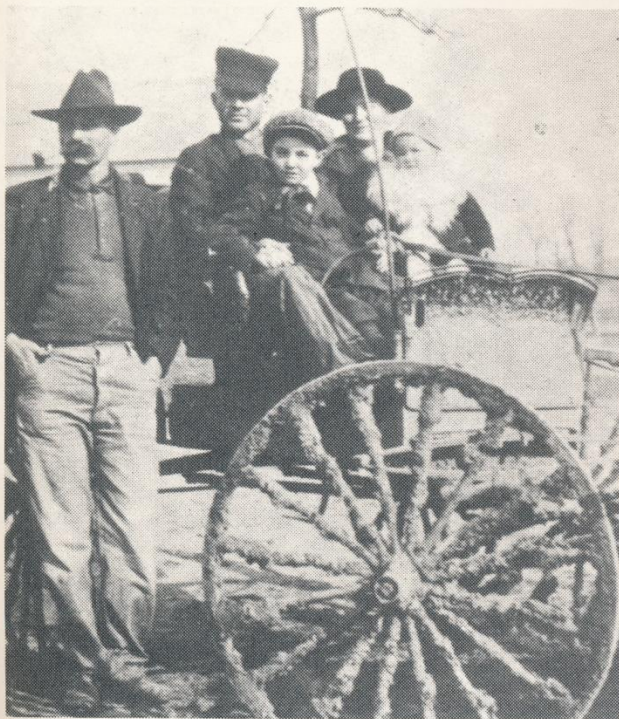
late Harvey Leshar, father of Mrs. Robert Jones of Salem. He was a brother of the late Clarence Leshar of Salem. Fourth from left is Dell Stratton. Others are unidentified. The photo was loaned by Mrs. Jones.



Old time Lewellen family photos

THE LEWELLENS gathered for this photograph in 1916. Seated, left to right, are Alice Luttrell Lewellen, William Lewellen holding Vera Lewellen, and

Harold Henne. Standing, Ruth Coyer, Edith Chapman Lewellen, Frank Lewellen, Ethel Lewellen Henne, Albert Henne and Homer Lewellen.



AT SNOWVILLE SCHOOL, south of Iuka, this photo was taken in 1917 of Bill Lewellen, Albert and Ethel Lewellen Henne and children, Harold and Ruth Henne.

Copies of this book have been donated to the following:
Illinois State Historical Library • Southern Illinois University (Carbondale) Library • University of Illinois Library • Bryan-Bennett Library, Salem • Salem Junior
High School Library • Salem High School Library



Remember?

- *when they burnt the Kaiser at Broadway and Main?*
- *pie suppers in one room schoolhouses?*
- *when the embalmer made house calls?*
- *going barefoot on the first of May?*
- *when the winners ate crow?*
- *Salem's cigar factory, potato chip factory or pants factory?*
- *when Salem had a full time bus service?*
- *the old apple drying house?*
- *when "Miracle Whip" salad dressing was invented in Salem?*
- *when softball games drew 3,000 spectators?*
- *when wild horses were "broke" in Salem?*
- *a Salemite who invented the cardboard soda carton?*
- *the Star, Willy Knight, Jackson, Durant, Overland, or Moon Auto? — They were all automobiles sold in Salem. Or how about the boys with nicknames like Big Dutch, Tubby, Whoopy, Red, Stinky, Buck, Shorty, Peeling, Skeet, Punkin, Sloppy, Pearl Street and Pug?*

You'll find out even more about Salem by reading this book. Enjoy!

Salem Times-Commoner

